

Monthly Bulletin

February 2024



NEWS, INITIATIVES, AND EVENTS

Designated Supportive Living (DSL) Operations

We are celebrating our 1st anniversary of DSL operations!! The program houses and cares for thirty of the region's most vulnerable people. We are proud of the achievements and maturing operations borne of our partnership with SE Health. Unfortunately, our celebration is tempered by the ongoing challenges that are delaying the opening of the secure unit in the still-new wing.

The facility delivers publicly funded DSL care to the region and helps keep seniors close to their loved ones and supports in the community longer. The first floor will be operated as a secure dementia wing, once our partners are able to stabilize their staffing model, which is difficult due to the very tight labour and housing markets here in the Bow Valley region. We continue to work with SE Health on recruitment and retention strategies, including a collaboration on employee housing that officially opens to staff on March 1, 2024!

BVRH Employee Housing

We started to offer a small amount of housing to staff over the last few years and are excited to announce that we will expand the program in 2024 with housing on the Bow River Lodge site and a future house purchase off site. The very tight labour market, along with high costs of housing faced by our employees and the fact that we must maintain critical staffing levels to serve our vulnerable residents requires us to remain able to compete for qualified workers. At the same time, our vision statement and one of strategic goals seek to improve supports, including some housing options, for our employees, because we are an employer of excellence!

PROGRAM OCCUPANCY RATES

Bow River Lodge - NSL	93%
Bow River Lodge – DSL	45%
Cascade House	79%
Bow River Homes	100%
Mount Edith House	100%
Community Housing	100%
Rent Supplement	100%

SPECIAL PROJECTS

This is Home (Phase 3+)

Considering stubborn uncertainty in the interest rate markets, rising construction costs and challenges aligning GOA and CMHC funding, we will submit our project proposal to Alberta Seniors, Community, and Social Supports in 2024. This will allow us to develop greater certainty toward future capital and operational sustainability.

These projects, if approved, will refresh much of our Community and Seniors' Independent Housing stock while adding different types and affordability levels of housing to the region in Canmore and perhaps elsewhere. We hope that the GOA will appreciate and be able to approve the opportunity here and that we will be able to collaborate with them, the Town of Canmore, and ideally other Housing Agencies to address some of the housing crisis in the Bow Valley.

RESOURCES

- If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, please call **911**.
- For 24/7 nurse advice and general health information for Albertans information on diseases, treatments, staying well, and healthcare services dial **811**.
- For 24/7 community program & service information, including affordability programming in the Bow Valley dial **211**.
- If you or someone you know is thinking about suicide, call or text **988**.

ABOUT BOW VALLEY REGIONAL HOUSING

Bow Valley Regional Housing (BVRH) is a Housing Management Body (HMB) serving the Government of Alberta and the Bow Valley Region. HMB operational funding sources vary. Tenants pay accommodation fees. Those fees are subject to affordability limits, which prevent them from fully covering the costs of operations. Provincial grants and municipal ratepayer requisitions subsidize seniors lodge deficits, while the province also subsidizes deficits in independent seniors and community housing.

As the HMB for the Bow Valley region, BVRH is responsible for social housing, as well as affordable supportive living accommodation for seniors throughout Kananaskis Country, the Bow Corridor, the MD of Bighorn, and all of Banff National Park, an area covering about 13,500 square kilometers.

All told, we currently house, or help to house approximately 500 residents of the Bow Valley in eight permanent housing projects encompassing 33 separate buildings.



More information is available on our website at www.bvrh.ca