



COMMUNITY LIVING  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

# RESIDENTIAL OPTIONS PROJECT MID-POINT OVERVIEW

(Progress as of 15-Jan-07)



## RESIDENTIAL OPTIONS PROJECT MID-POINT OVERVIEW

The Residential Options Project (ROP) was officially launched in September 2006. This report summarizes the progress of the project team as of January 2007. Phase one of the project is on track for completion by the end of March 2007.

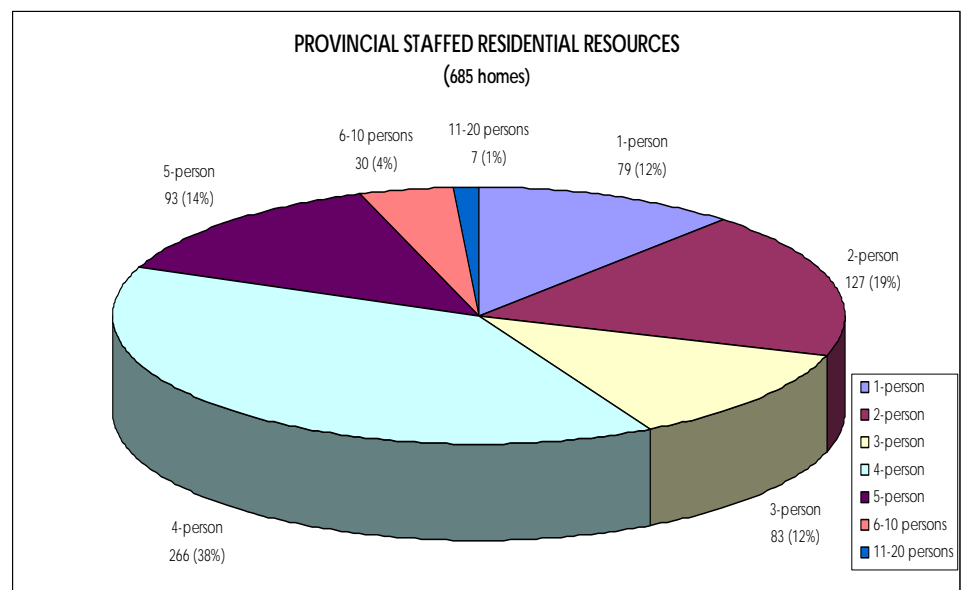
### INITIAL RESPONSE TO THE PROJECT

Several themes have surfaced through our initial consultation and work thus far:

- The initial anxiety that surrounded the project dissipated as we met with individuals, families, and service providers throughout the province
- Many individuals and families have expressed their appreciation for the support they receive from existing service providers
- The majority of people are pleased that someone is reviewing their family member's situation and appreciate being able to speak to someone about their situation. Comments range from "thank you for taking an interest in my opinions" to "thank you for being ever vigilant"
- Individuals and families require additional information about residential services. Most are eager to hear about the array of options so they can be confident that they are making an informed decision about this type of support.
- The community continues to require clear and transparent information about this and other CLBC initiatives

### A SNAPSHOT OF STAFFED RESIDENTIAL RESOURCES IN BC

The ROP team has made an effort to capture an accurate picture of staffed residential resources within the province. Of the 685 staffed homes involved with this review, 43% accommodate three people or less, 52% accommodate four or five individuals, and 5% have six or more individuals residing in the home.



The data below helps to enrich the understanding of staffed homes on a regional basis.

RESOURCE TYPE	Interior	Vancouver Coastal	Vancouver Island	Surrey, Delta, Richmond	Fraser	Upper Fraser	North	TOTAL
1-person	12	5	15	1	10	22	14	79
2-person	23	12	34	14	12	4	28	127
3-person	15	13	17	5	22	2	9	83
4-person	47	46	51	37	50	24	11	266
5-person	13	31	14	5	16	9	5	93
6-10 person	9	1	5	7	1	4	3	30
11-20 person	5	0	0	1	1	0	0	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>685</b>

## PROGRESS AS OF 15-JAN-07

Of the 1,427 individuals with whom we have completed the review process, 72 (5%) have been referred to planning and 50 (4%) are anticipated to move this fiscal year. There are another 55 (4%) who have been identified for follow-up at a later date.

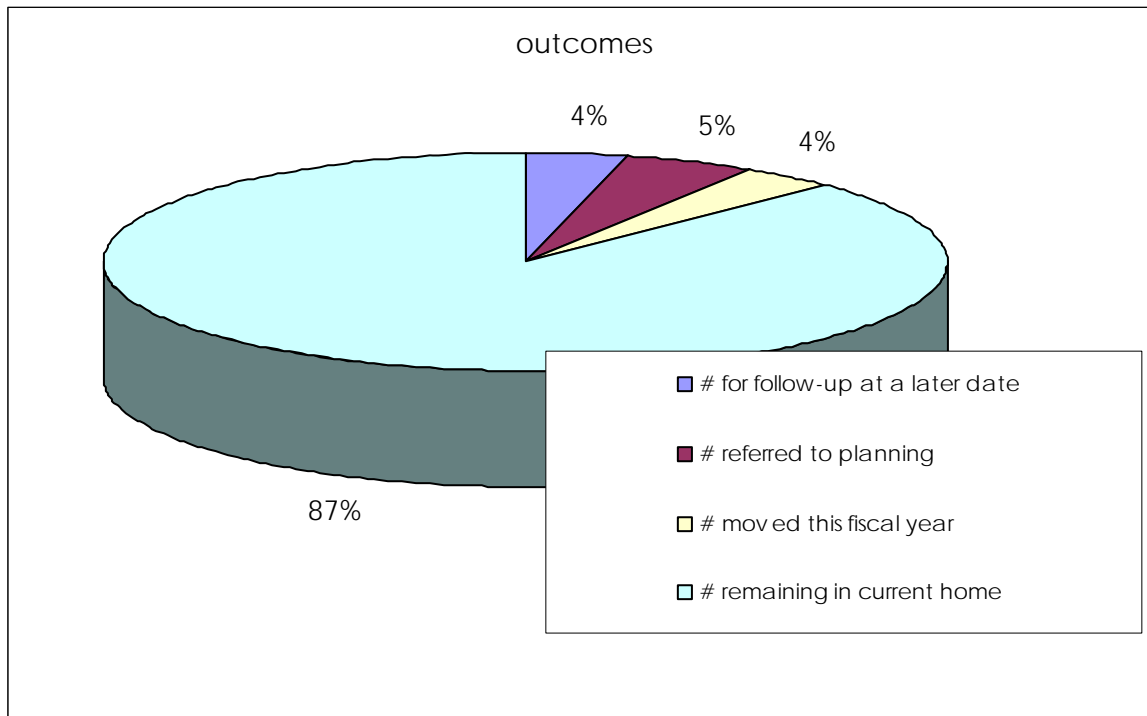
### PROVINCIAL DATA (aggregate)

	complete	remaining	total	% complete
# of agencies contacted	184	6	190	96.8%
# of individual profiles complete	1,817	677	2,494	72.8%
# of individuals contacted	1,427	1,067	2,494	57.2%
# of families contacted	1,235	1,210	2,445	50.5%
# for follow-up at a later date	55			
# referred to planning	72			
# anticipated to move this fiscal year	50			
# remaining in current home	1,250			

- Currently, group homes are the only option available to individuals in smaller communities. We anticipate greater movement in these communities once service providers have an opportunity to develop new models of residential service. The ROP team will assist in the development of initiatives to support movement within certain regions.
- We have met several individuals who are potential candidates for an alternative placement, but are not proceeding at this time. These individuals have been flagged for future follow-up. In some cases, the individual and family may require more information/time to make a decision. In other cases, the individual and family disagree on the best alternative and need support to reach a decision. In other cases, the community may simply lack the resources at the present time to support an alternative placement. The [Service Provider Transformation Grant](#) and other initiatives will encourage change within certain regions.



Data below illustrates outcomes for the 1,427 individuals for whom an interview has been completed:



An unexpected outcome of this project has been the rekindling of past relationships between individuals living in staffed resources and important persons with whom they had lost contact. An important safeguard built into the process has been to look for trusted advisors to assist individuals in decision-making. Particularly when an individual has no known family, interviewers have made a determined effort to find someone who knows and cares for the person and ensure their best interests are served. The following is perhaps the most dramatic of many examples:

*Interviewer Colleen Ellis visited the local Band Office to ask for volunteers to assist three individuals of aboriginal heritage who had no known family. In doing so, an elder told Colleen that her daughter, who had the same name, died decades ago while in care. Within days, it became apparent that the mother had been misinformed. During the Christmas week, members of the family received a truly remarkable gift. They were reunited. Since then, Colleen has facilitated the reunion of another member of the band with his brother.*

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

1. Information for individuals and families about quality staffed homes and various home living options by sharing local experiences is a priority.
  - ROP staff are highlighting those agencies where exceptional support is provided or where interesting approaches are being taken



- Regional workshops for families highlighting successful changes will be held in the spring
  - Development of a resource book of successful stories for families
  - Development of catalogue of successful, person-centred approaches taken by service providers- clustering, home ownership, etc.
2. Ensure co-ordination and timely responses for individuals and families referred to planning.
  3. Revisit and support agencies that expressed interest in potential transformation of traditional services.
  4. Track and advise quality service offices on transformations as requested.
  5. Follow-up with families and individuals who have expressed possible future interest in alternatives.

## INDIVIDUAL OUTCOMES

At the age of 29, Darrin has become the very proud owner of a beautiful, new home in Langford. Along with his parents, Diana and Gary, he has purchased one of four homes in a brand new subdivision under Langford's affordable housing plan. Under this plan, developers are required to sell 10% of homes they build for \$150,000. This represents huge savings off the \$290,000 market value for homes in that area.

Although they missed the initial application deadline, Diana was determined that Darrin was going to have his own home and immediately reapplied. They received good news last September and Darrin officially moved into his new home in December of 2006. Within the home, he receives the care he requires through a rotation of workers from Integra Support Services, Ltd. who live in the home with him. Through this innovative new model of service, Darrin and his family fully participate in deciding who supports him.

Since moving from his family home, Darrin has had a variety of living arrangements that required him to conform to the rules and culture of that particular setting. When he joined Integra, things began to change. He now has a personal support network to ensure that all planning revolves around his needs and goals for the future. Darrin has strong personal values that include freedom of movement, contact with family, and a desire to have a dog. He prefers to be supported by friends close to his own age rather than by supervisors. His support network and his new home respect these ideals. He has settled into his home and proudly welcomes visitors with coffee and a tour. "It's wonderful to see how comfortable and at ease he is, knowing that he'll never have to move again," says Diana. He's looking forward to adding flowers to his garden this spring and having his family over for dinner.

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Amber is a 23-year-old woman who enjoys a very full life in the Cowichan Valley. She lived for many years in a series of different group settings in Victoria. As she got older, it became increasingly apparent that this was not an ideal situation. She is very sensitive to her environment and to those around her. She was far away from her family and was not compatible with many of the individuals with whom she was living. Her mother, Maureen,



recognized that Amber needed something different and advocated for her to move to a family care situation that would bring her closer to her home.

The transition was challenging and took a great deal of perseverance, but Amber has now settled into her new life with an amazing caregiver named Chris. Maureen visits at least once a week and has seen big changes in her daughter. Amber spends more time in the community and enjoys riding, swimming, and hiking on her trailrider. She is meeting new people and feels understood. Amber seems secure and has even taken a couple of steps with her caregiver's assistance. She and Chris recently piled into her van (the one with "AMS VAN" on the licence plate) for Amber's first road trip. They visited Chris' sister and her golden retriever puppies in the Slocan Valley. Amber will be getting a trained companion dog when her puppy is ready to leave its mother. These are all huge steps. For Amber, the destination has been worth the journey!

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Sometimes, the subtle details make all the difference. This became immediately apparent when we had the opportunity to meet Aaron and Mel at their funky West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue apartment in Vancouver.

Pacific Coast Community Resources, Inc. acquired two side-by-side apartments in a great neighbourhood. They removed the adjoining wall and supported Aaron and Mel to move into the separate suites. Although both use wheelchairs and have significant medical needs, the pair feel very at home in this contemporary building. The polished cement, burnished copper, and open concept industrial design ceilings ensure that wheelchair tracking systems are indistinguishable from the intended industrial design.

Pacific Coast provides staff 24 hours a day and seven days per week, but the homes undoubtedly belong to Aaron and Mel. The suites are warm and busy, full of all those things that are important to the roommates. They are close to their families and Granville Island. They are in their community every day and have many acquaintances. Aaron and Mel live rich, enjoyable lives. Kudos go out to the agency for going the extra mile and thinking outside the box.