

## Two city housing projects win support

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Two innovative housing projects in Courtenay have secured one-time grant support from the provincial government.

The Bee's Nest - a four-bedroom supportive recovery home for men with addictions - will get \$19,360 to create two new bedrooms so it can expand its services.

And the Comox Valley Understanding Men housing project will receive \$12,000 for its five-unit supportive transitional housing project for men who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless.

The money will pay for upgrades, renovation, staff education and training, computer equipment and furniture.

The grants, from the province's Housing Endowment Fund, were announced yesterday by housing and social development minister Rich Coleman.

"Both grants for Courtenay support a housing model of peer support and maintenance of a stable and supportive atmosphere for their residents," he said.

The grants have been welcomed by Shawn Wilson, vice-chair of the Comox Valley Commission to End Homelessness.

"While these grants don't cover ongoing funding, they do provide a one-time boost to two important local projects and that is very welcome.

"The Commission was active behind the scenes in introducing B.C. Housing to the projects and we are pleased the province has now offered this practical support," he added.

The \$250 million Housing Endowment Fund was set up by the provincial government two years ago.

Money generated from its investments is used to fund new ideas to help particular housing needs of the province in innovative ways.