

# Women's Housing Foundation

**A safe place to land — for women in crisis, and the families who love them.**

The Women's Housing Foundation exists for the woman who has nowhere left to turn. She may be a mother watching her child disappear into addiction. She may be carrying a grief no one around her can name. She may be sleeping somewhere unsafe tonight. Our work is simple to say and hard to do: give her a place, give her time, and give her someone who will not give up on her.

## 1 The Crisis We Answer

We are re-igniting the Women's Housing Foundation to meet needs that quietly go unspoken in our own communities.

- **Mothers facing a child's addiction.** Parents who have watched a son or daughter move from prescription painkillers to fentanyl, and who have no one to talk to about it without shame.
- **Families carrying an overdose death.** Grief after a loss of this kind is isolating. It needs witnesses, not sympathy cards.
- **Women in the aftermath of suicide.** Those considering it, those who survived an attempt, and those left behind by a partner or child who died this way.
- **Women in unsafe or unstable housing.** Fleeing violence, leaving a lease they cannot afford, or one bad month away from losing their home.
- **Older women living on very little.** Widowed, on a pension, facing rising costs alone.

**4**

people a day died of toxic  
drugs in BC in the first half of  
2026 (preliminary)

**18,000+**

deaths in British Columbia  
since the public health  
emergency was declared in  
2016

**~16**

opioid toxicity deaths every day  
across Canada

**3rd**

leading cause of avoidable  
death in Canada

Sources: BC Coroners Service preliminary data, 2026; Public Health Agency of Canada; Statistics Canada (Aug 2026).

None of these women need a lecture. They need a door that opens.

### A STORY WE CARRY WITH US

**Rick Couronne lost two children to fentanyl.**

**Eric was 17.** Rick found him on the couch in the family living room. White. Cold to the touch. His father was the one who found him.

**Christen was 23.** She died in a home, doing fentanyl.

Two children. Two different houses. Two different years. Both poisoned by a street supply that has taken an uncountable number of our neighbours — and both died the way the great majority of these deaths happen: not as strangers in an alley, but indoors, behind a closed door, in a home.

No parent expects to outlive a child once. No parent can prepare for it twice. Rick has lived through what we are describing on this page, and it is why he is part of this.

We tell this story because it is ordinary in a way that should stop us. If that can happen to Rick — twice — it can happen to anyone reading this.

## 2 What We Are Building

A place in **Vernon, British Columbia** — a residence for **respite** and support, where women in need can stay for a defined period, rest, and rebuild with guidance rather than alone.

**Respite** is the heart of it. Not a permanent institution — a breathing space. A woman might arrive for a weekend, a

fortnight, or a season. She gets a bed, a kitchen, quiet, and a person in her corner who knows how to help her find the services she needs. When she is stronger, she leaves on her own terms.

#### LOCATION

**Vernon, BC**

#### PURPOSE

**Respite & Support**

### 3 Why Vernon

This is where the need walked into the room. Vernon and the surrounding North Okanagan have been hit hard by the toxic drug supply — small towns often are, because services are thin and everyone knows everyone. At the same time, a property tied to this community was lost to fire, and a family there has already paid the price we describe above.

So the location isn't a strategy on a map. It's the place we were given a reason to build.

### 4 The Fire

On **19 June 2026**, fire destroyed the residential building at **5708–5710 Rimer Road, Vernon, BC**. The loss was total. The structure could not be saved, and the site now stands cleared — the photographs below are of the property as it is today.

We are building the respite residence on that ground. A house that burned becomes a house that shelters. We cannot think of a better use for the land, or a better answer to what happened there.



**The property today.** The building at 5708–5710 Rimer Road following the fire of 19 June 2026.

**Total loss.** Only the chimney and framing remained; the structure was not saveable.

**The site.** Personal belongings and debris recovered from the property in the aftermath.

### 5 How the Foundation Funds This

Every dollar raised is directed to the Vernon respite residence — the build itself, and the support services a woman receives once she is through the door.

- **Individual and corporate gifts.** One-time, or pledged over the construction period.
- **Building in partnership.** Local trades, suppliers and material donors who want their work to mean something.
- **In-kind contributions.** Furniture, appliances, furnishings and professional services.
- **Cause-linked sales.** A portion of proceeds from real estate and home-build transactions directed to the Foundation.

**A note on giving.** The Women's Housing Foundation is a registered Alberta non-profit (incorporation #5124107961). Please speak with us directly regarding receipting and the tax status of your gift before you give — we would rather answer that question up front than after the fact.

**To help rebuild, or to talk to us about a woman in need — call.**

Your call is confidential. If you are asking on someone else's behalf, that is enough to start.

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