



## For Immediate Release

### Private partnership provides new homes for most vulnerable

*New Yew House provides a home for five young adults to live independently*

(February 11, 2011 - Vancouver) Some of Vancouver's most vulnerable citizens will have a new place to call home with today's grand opening of the Vancouver Resource Society's Yew House in Kerrisdale.

"Yew House shows how much not-for-profit societies like VRS can accomplish by taking a micro-P3 approach to building housing and by partnering with associations like the Independent Contractors and Businesses Association," said VRS Executive Director Ken Fraser. "This new home was built without government money and provides a home for young adults who'd otherwise end up in an institutional setting.

Yew House cost more than \$1 million and incorporates cutting edge technologies like fire-proof wood, rapid air filtration, and zone heating to make it safer and more comfortable for residents. The facility has room for up to five young adults and is designed so they can live independently.

Original home on the property was bought by VRS in 1970s and used as group home. It had outlived its usefulness due to changes in group home policies and the need to modernize the building.

"Yew House is an outstanding example of what can be achieved when organizations come together for a common cause," said Kevin Krueger, B.C.'s Minister of Social Development. "A \$1 million capital investment by the private sector allows government resources to be targeted on delivering services to the vulnerable citizens who need them most."

Yew House residents will be young adults who have transitioned from Ministry of Children and Families care to Community Living BC support. The funding for their support helps operate the facility, and pays for the around-the-clock support and care they receive. Each resident has their own room that is decorated as they see fit, while they share laundry facilities (designed for their use), a living room, and kitchen area.

VRS works with a variety of private partners to acquire and renovate homes, buildings, and apartments around the Metro Vancouver area to house young adults with special needs. The Independent Contractors and Businesses Association has been working in partnership with VRS since 1999, and all proceeds from ICBA's annual golf tournament support VRS. ICBA also connected one of its members – North Vancouver based Stonecroft Management – to oversee the construction of Yew House.

"VRS is a great organization for any company or association to partner with," said Steve Lornie, ICBA board member and President and CEO of Stonecroft. "VRS has seen a need in the market and meeting that need makes sure that some of the most vulnerable people in B.C. have a place to call home."

**About VRS ([www.vrs.org](http://www.vrs.org))** *The Vancouver Resource Society, founded in 1972, develops housing with programs to support the values, goals and objectives of more than 170 clients in the Greater Vancouver area. Operational funding comes from contracts with Community Living B.C. and Vancouver Coastal Health.*

**About ICBA ([www.icba.ca](http://www.icba.ca))** *ICBA services and represents B.C.'s construction sector. ICBA's 1,100 members – who include both the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) and residential construction sectors - are involved in virtually all major capital projects in British Columbia.*

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## **Backgrounder**

### **Key Facts – Yew House**

- The new \$1 million facility was specially designed to meet the needs of medically fragile young adults who would likely end up in an institution rather than in the community.
- Yew House is one of the first homes in B.C. built with specially treated wood that will prevent the spread of fire. Other special features in the home include an air filtration system that cycles air every seven minutes, zoned climate control, and laundry and kitchen facilities designed for use by people in wheelchairs.
- The first two residents have moved in and there is room for a total of five young adults with complex care issues.
- The residents are young adults who have transitioned from Ministry of Children and Families supported care to Community Living BC support.
- ICBA helped fund the house with money raised at its annual golf tournaments, and co-ordinated the contractors who built the house.
- The original home on the property was bought by VRS in 1970s and used as group home. It had outlived its usefulness due to changes in group home policies and the need to modernize the building.

### **Key Facts – Vancouver Resource Society**

- VRS provides housing and care to approximately 150 people in Vancouver and Burnaby.
- VRS formed in 1972 as a resource and information centre for people with disabilities.
- The Society purchased its first home in 1976 through a program offered by CMHC.
- Blair Court, the first community integrated apartment model for VRS, opened in Kitsilano in 1989.
- ICBA teamed up with VRS in 1999 to develop an annual program to upgrade and improve VRS homes.
- The Real Estate Foundation of B.C. partners in 2005 in the financing of a 25-unit building purchased by VRS in Fraser Heights.
- The City of North Vancouver invests in the financing of a 28-unit building purchased in 2010 by VRS in North Vancouver.

### **Key Facts – ICBA**

- Founded in 1975, the Independent Contractors and Businesses Association (ICBA) services and represents B.C.'s construction sector.
- ICBA's 1,000 members -- who include the multi-family residential and Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) construction sectors -- are involved in virtually all major capital projects in British Columbia.
- Since its founding, ICBA has been the champion of open tendering and fair treatment for all contractors.
- ICBA members have earned a reputation for delivering quality products, of any size, on time and within budget.
- ICBA's key focus is to provide members with all their human resources solutions, including affinity programs, health and insurance benefits.

## Backgrounder Continued

### Key Facts – CLBC

- Community Living BC (CLBC) is a provincial crown agency that delivers supports and services to eligible adults with developmental disabilities and their families in British Columbia.
- CLBC is mandated under the Community Living Authority Act and reports to the Ministry of Social Development.
- CLBC currently supports more than 12,700 individuals with developmental disabilities through a network of 3,200 contracted service providers.
- CLBC's Personalized Supports Initiative (PSI) was introduced in February 2010 to provide services to a new group of adults. The PSI supports adults who have a diagnosis of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD – officially referred to as Pervasive Developmental Disorder) plus significant limitations in adaptive functioning.
- CLBC is working to create communities where people with developmental disabilities have more choices about how they live, work and contribute.
- CLBC provides a range of support services for adults using either residential or family and day support services, or both.
- As of March 31, 2010:
  - 5,495 adults were receiving residential and community inclusion services
  - 7,220 adults were receiving respite, community inclusion, and/or support for individuals and families.
- CLBC supports eligible adults to live as fully and independently as possible in the community. Funding and the type of support provided depend upon the individual's current disability-related needs, support preferences and preferred home environment.
- CLBC supports eligible adults in a range of residential arrangements, including:
  - *Supported living*: provides individuals living independently in the community with assistance in daily living. Supported living is available to individuals who own, lease or rent their own homes and includes outreach support and cluster living. Outreach support provides hourly support to individuals. Within cluster living, an on-site contractor provides ongoing support to a group of individuals who have homes close to one another (typically within the same apartment building).
  - *Shared living*: an arrangement in which an adult with a developmental disability shares a home with someone who is contracted to provide ongoing support. The home is the primary residence of both the individual being supported and the person offering support. Shared living includes home sharing and live-in support. Within home sharing, the contractor owns, leases or rents the home. Within live-in support, the individual being supported owns, leases or rents the home.
  - *Staffed residential*: Support for daily living is provided to an individual or group of individuals by a team of staff who rotate through the home accordingly to an established schedule that includes overnight hours.