

# Addiction recovery for women finally available on Vancouver Island

Thanks to Our Place Society, women on Vancouver Island can access recovery without leaving their families behind

Addiction-related issues can have a devastating impact on individuals, families and communities. Finding the right recovery program can be difficult, especially on Vancouver Island, where historically limited options have made the process even harder, particularly for women, as these options have been nearly nonexistent.

For many years, the only options for long-term recovery have been on the mainland. This forced women to leave their families, children and support systems behind to take this crucial step. Returning home from recovery programs then meant leaving their newly formed recovery support systems behind and increasing their risk of relapse to rejoin

their families and community. A nearly impossible choice.

As of last month, women on Vancouver Island no longer have to choose between their health and their family. Thanks to the recently opened New Road's Women's Therapeutic Recovery Community run by Our Place Society, there are now 20 long-term beds to support women, two-spirit and gender-diverse people in recovery right here in their own community.

"At New Roads, women on the Island will finally have access to the treatment that they need and deserve without the heartbreaking choice of leaving everything behind. The barriers that I once faced will no longer be barriers for



**Our Place, BC government officials, media representatives and Jango the recovery dog met to officially open and tour the new space. PHOTO COURTESY OF OUR PLACE SOCIETY.**

them and for that I am so grateful," says manager of the new facility, Lee Sundquist, whose own recovery journey inspired her to pursue a career supporting others going through the same.

The program at New Roads runs parallel to the already established and well-respected men's program. Residents stay for a duration of 9 months to 2 years, participating in daily activities to promote their health, regulate their emotions and re-integrate with society. These activities include clinical counselling, employment skill-building, regular exercise and wellness habit-building, special opportunities like equine therapy and daily recovery meetings. The success rates of

the program are very high for the sector and the community welcomes back graduates for celebrations regularly.

For so many women, recovery means making the difficult decision to separate from their children until they can provide a stable, loving home. Family reunification with families and children will be a cornerstone of the new program and Our Place Society has already begun planning for a dedicated facility for this purpose in the future.

The construction of New Roads Therapeutic Recovery Community was made possible entirely by donations to Our Place Society, with operating costs supported by the province.

*To learn more about New Roads and donate to support addiction recovery on Vancouver Island, visit [ourplacesociety.com/donate](http://ourplacesociety.com/donate). You can also follow Jango the Recovery Dog and his work at the Therapeutic Recovery Community on Instagram at [@jangotherecoverydog](https://www.instagram.com/jangotherecoverydog).*

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**Hope and Belonging**

Transformation isn't instant - it happens one step at a time. At Our Place we provide a structured path from survival to stability, from housing to health and employment, and from recovery to independence. Each person's path is their own, but we walk alongside people, ensuring they have the support to thrive.



**Dodd's Furniture and Mattress is among the many donors who made the new facility possible.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF OUR PLACE SOCIETY.