



## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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### ***Lookout Housing and Health Society Enhances Mental Health Services with New Funding from TD Bank Group***

**VANCOUVER, BC** – Lookout is thrilled to announce a three-year pledge from TD Bank Group (TD) totaling \$300,000 to support the Lookout Housing and Health Society Affordable Housing Program. Funded through the TD Ready Commitment, this pledge will directly support access to free, low-barrier mental health services for individuals transitioning from homelessness into housing, and from transitional housing into permanent housing. This initiative aims to address the critical need for wrap around mental health supports for vulnerable populations during challenging life transitions.

This funding will eliminate barriers to housing by creating access to a broad range of mental health programs tailored to the unique needs of those in the process of working towards stabilization. This funding will also dramatically increase the opportunity for more people, and specifically those who would not otherwise be able to afford mental health services, to get the added support needed to successfully obtain and maintain housing through the development of coping skills, empowerment, education and ultimately, safety.

"We're so proud to team up with Lookout to ensure vulnerable people in our community have greater access to critical, comprehensive mental health services throughout their housing journey," said Gary Aulakh, Pacific Region AVP of Real Estate Secured Lending, TD Bank Group. "Through the TD Ready Commitment, our corporate citizenship platform, we're supporting organizations focused on helping those in precarious housing situations transition to stable housing and independent living."

Lookout Society will leverage this funding to expand and enhance housing support services to include counselling, peer support groups, peer programs and psychiatry, tailored to the unique needs of individuals in transition. Lookout Society has been supporting vulnerable populations in residential services for over 50 years. The organization merged with The Mood Disorder Association of BC (MDABC) in 2017, becoming the mental health branch of the organization. MDABC, which operates entirely through donations, provides a broad range of traditional and non-traditional services recognizing that mental health treatment is not one-size-fits-all. MDABC programs specialize in supporting vulnerable populations, and this grant from TD will strengthen our ability to have a far greater impact on those in need across the Lower Mainland.

"We are beyond grateful for TD's commitment to addressing the mental health needs of individuals transition to housing," said Shayne Williams, CEO of Lookout. "This funding will enable us to expand our services and reach those who need it, when they need it most, ultimately creating the ability to change the trajectory of people's lives. "



The impact of this collaboration extends beyond financial support; it reflects a shared vision of creating communities where everyone has the opportunity to have a home and an opportunity to thrive.

For further questions please contact Megan Kriger at [megan.kriger@lookoutsociety.ca](mailto:megan.kriger@lookoutsociety.ca) or (604) 255-0340.

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### **About Lookout Society**

Founded in 1971, The Lookout Housing and Health Society operates 66 sites that span 19 communities in Metro Vancouver the Fraser Valley and Victoria.

Lookout cares for vulnerable people 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, assisting with housing and health solutions. Lookout provides services to over 3000 people every day through its 101 health and social programs and houses over 3855 people each night in shelters, transitional, supportive and affordable housing.

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