

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bowen Island Resilient Community Housing Society (BIRCH) Announces Ground Breaking of Hemlock Hill Village – A New Affordable Housing Development on Bowen Island

Bowen Island, BC – [May 29, 2026] – The Bowen Island Resilient Community Housing Society (BIRCH) and Lookout Housing and Health Society (Lookout) are proud to announce the official groundbreaking of Hemlock Hill Village, a new affordable housing development at 1033 Miller Road, taking place on May 29, 2026. The project name is inspired by the neighbourhood as it once appeared on early local maps.

This 25-unit mixed income affordable housing project represents a significant step forward in addressing Bowen Island's need for accessible rental housing. In partnership with the Province, through BC Housing, the Municipality of Bowen Island, and with the strong support of community members, Hemlock Hill Village will provide much needed homes while strengthening community connection.

Twenty-five thoughtfully designed homes will include studios, one-bedroom, two-bedroom, and three-bedroom units to meet diverse housing needs. Community focused features will include an open courtyard and exterior corridors designed to encourage connection among residents and neighbours. Lookout will operate the building, bringing over 50 years of experience managing safe and affordable housing with supportive services.

"This is an important milestone in addressing the need for affordable housing on Bowen Island," said David McCullum, Board Chair of BIRCH. "We are proud to reach this stage and grateful for the support of our partners who have helped make this project possible."

"We are proud to see Hemlock Hill Village move into construction," said Shayne Williams, CEO of Lookout. "This development reflects what is possible when community, government, and non-profit partners come together with a shared commitment to creating safe and inclusive housing."

BIRCH and Lookout extend special thanks to the Municipality of Bowen Island and the Province, through BC Housing, for their leadership and support in advancing this project.

"Having a home in the community you care about makes a real difference in people's lives," said Christine Boyle, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs. "This project is part of how we're working with partners to build more homes for seniors and families with low to moderate incomes, so people can find housing that meets their needs at every stage of life."

"Having the right home means stability and peace of mind for seniors" said Susie Chant, Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors' Services and Long-Term Care. "These homes on Bowen Island

will help seniors remain a part of their community. This project reflects the broader work underway across B.C. to support people as they age.”

BIRCH and Lookout continue to work closely with BC Housing, CitySpaces Consulting, Converge Construction, and Boni Maddison Architects as construction begins.

The Province, through BC Housing, has provided approximately \$4.3 million dollars toward this project through the Community Housing Fund.

About BIRCH:

The Bowen Island Resilient Community Housing Society (BIRCH) is a local non-profit dedicated to developing and managing affordable housing that meets the diverse needs of Bowen Island residents. Through collaboration with community partners, BIRCH envisions a connected and resilient future where all islanders have access to safe and affordable homes.

About Lookout Housing and Health Society:

With over five decades of experience, Lookout Housing and Health Society provides housing, support, and health services to individuals in need across British Columbia. Their expertise ensures that Hemlock Hill Village will be a safe and well managed community for residents.

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