



## PRESS RELEASE

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### ***Lookout Housing and Health Society Sakura So***

#### **VANCOUVER, BC –**

The Lookout Housing and Health Society houses 1700 people daily, serving Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island. As a minimum barrier shelter and housing provider, we work with some of society's most vulnerable, including people with chronic mental illness and multiple barriers.

We do this work, often without proper funding and resources. We pride ourselves on the legacy we have built in over a half of a century of service to our community, and feel that recent news coverage of the Sakura So reflects badly on that legacy and gives an inaccurate account of who we are and what we do.

The Sakura So is one of several residential sites Lookout owns and operates in Vancouver's Downtown East Side. This 38-unit single-room occupancy transitional residence was recently reported by Global News to be in "unlivable condition". Despite reports, the man in the Global News story is not a tenant of Lookout Housing and Health Society. He is a former tenant who was being evicted but chose to leave on his own last July. The two shared washrooms that he opened for television, and provided photos of, were washrooms that were out of order, locked and labelled as such, awaiting major repairs. The building's janitor closet was broken into, the washroom in the video appears to have been vandalized and concrete was put down the drain of one causing plumbing backups.

One of the historical heritage sites in Vancouver, the Sakura So, is in general good condition with four fully functioning, clean washrooms for residents to access. Despite limited funding, it is Lookout's top priority to ensure the safety and livability of our sites and our residents. Lookout stands committed to supporting our most vulnerable community members, providing the quality care and support we have provided for over 50 years.

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 45 sites that span 15 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 2800 people every day through its 96 health and social programs and houses over 1700 people each night in shelters, transitional, supportive and affordable housing.

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