

Umbrella Society for Addictions and Mental Health

1. Provide clarity regarding the raising of the house and did this renovation provide the six new rooms?

To the best of our knowledge, the house was renovated five or six years ago by the owners, the previous operators. We don't really know if the previous basement was more than a crawl space. We do know that raising the house did provide the space for six bedrooms, two shower/bathrooms, and a laundry room. Also included in the renovation was a new electrical service, on-demand hot water and a new furnace, along with some seismic upgrading - the structure is now bolted to the foundation.

2. Will the labour required for the new fencing and other garden construction be resourced through residents of the home?

Some residents work full-time, and some are attending school full-time, but there is interest among some of the remaining residents in taking part in the project. There are strong ethical considerations at play here, so if residents are employed on the project, their compensation will be at close to market rate, and WorkSafeBC premiums will be paid on their behalf.

There is a substantial waiting list to get into Foundation House. We do not wish to have to address the perception that those selected to be residents had somehow been coerced into doing more than the most very basic of household chores as a condition of their tenancy.

3. Have you investigated whether the materials and supplies required for the construction can be donated?

We have not begun to explore that idea yet, but we do commit to doing so if our request for funding is successful. Whether or not a building supply centre will provide anything at no cost remains to be seen, but we expect that we can access a substantially discounted contractor's rate.