



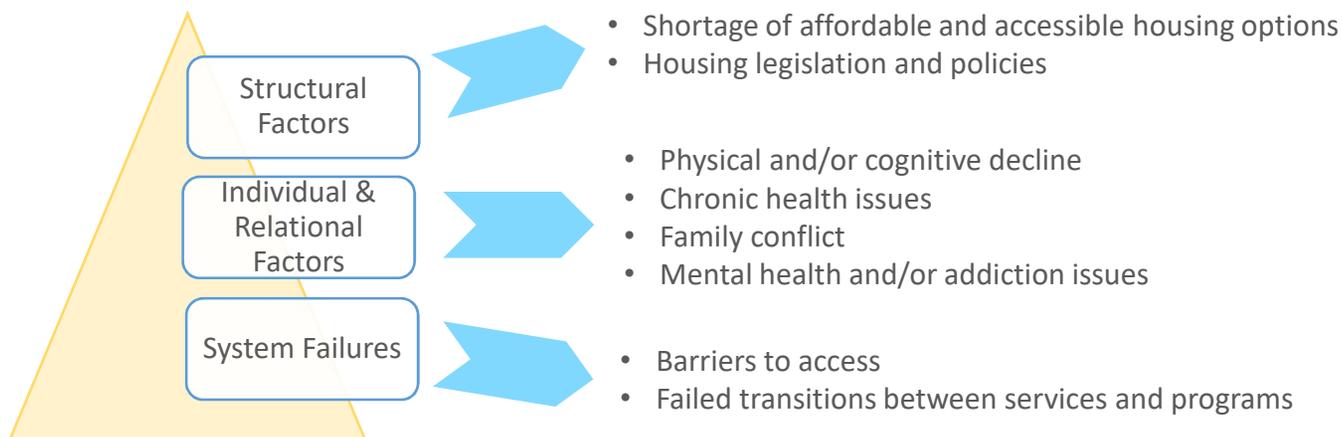
SENIORS HOUSING LAB

The Challenge Statement: What might enable low-income senior renters in multi-unit buildings to retain their housing, age in the right place and thrive?

Why now?

In Metro Vancouver, the region's rental market threatens the housing security of low-income tenants at an unprecedented extent. Increasing numbers of older tenants are at-risk of losing their housing due to rent escalation, low vacancy rates, and fixed incomes. More than other renters struggling today, seniors are often living alone, on low and fixed incomes, and are at-risk of being socially isolated and in poor health. Many are at risk of eviction because they cannot access the services and supports they need to age in place.

What factors are leading to housing instability for seniors?



Who is most at risk?

- Women 85+
- Live-alone seniors
- Recent immigrants
- Aboriginal seniors
- Seniors with mobility limitations and/or chronic illness

The risk of homelessness exists for over 15,000 senior-led households in Metro Vancouver (2016 census)



The Seniors Housing Lab was launched to create space for collaborative discussions and the co-design and testing of solutions. We will first explore the current individual and collective efforts to contribute to change and deepen our collective understanding of the many facets and complexities of the issue. In our second workshop, lab participants will form small teams around topics where passion, capacity and resources are linked. We will work with emerging ideas, gather information from the field, and iterate to develop a portfolio of 4-10 initiatives that will be refined and implemented over the remaining workshops.

Where to intervene?



Preventing Homelessness

Programs to support seniors at imminent risk of homelessness, or who have recently become homeless.



Housing Stabilization

Initiatives and supports for vulnerable seniors to enhance their well-being in stable and appropriate housing.



Removing Barriers

Fixing policy and procedural barriers within and between institutions to enhance access and improve outcomes.



Eviction Prevention

To keep senior renters in their homes, there are multiple points of intervention within the eviction process, including supporting and educating building managers, advocacy and support from service providers and ensuring tenants know their rights.



Proactive Policies

There are opportunities to effect change on many structural levels including legislation and policy, such as poverty reduction strategies, investments in affordable housing and combating ageism.

Aging in the right place