NOT IN MY BACKYARD?
RESIDENT PERCEPTIONS ON SUPPORTIVE SOCIAL HOUSING

Jenna Hagen, Sally Haynes, & Jack Freedman

13 400
Applicants are on the BC housing waitlist for social housing

1 in 3
Renter households spend 30% or more of their gross income on housing costs.

5
There are currently 5 supportive social housing complexes in Nanaimo.

Introduction
The Uplands Drive Social Housing Complex was completed in 2014. This 39 unit complex houses men and women who were either homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The Uplands Drive complex is classified as supportive housing with staff on-site 24/7.

Social Housing: Rent subsidized housing for low income individuals.

Supportive Social Housing: Affordable housing paired with programs for substance abuse and mental illness.

Objective
When the City of Nanaimo first proposed the plan to construct the Uplands Drive complex, there was significant push back from the community. Our goal was to explore whether the perspectives of the surrounding residents has changed since the complex has been occupied.

Methodology
Qualitative and quantitative was obtain through a series of directed interviews. Researchers went door to door in the neighborhoods surrounding the complex. Out of the approximately 150 households visited, 57 households completed interviews. Participants were asked to provide basic demographic information, opinions on their neighborhoods, and thoughts on the Uplands Drive Social Housing complex.

Preliminary findings
It appears that most of the concerns voiced prior to the construction of the Uplands Drive Social Housing complex have not come to fruition. After over a year of occupancy, only 14% of households surveyed still had concerns about the complex.

Q.: Were you concerned about the complex when it was proposed?

Yes 77%
Concerned 14%
No 22%

Q.: How do you feel about the complex now?

Not Concerned 80%
Concerned 14%