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## Real solutions remain lacking

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Friday's announcement by the province to create 50 supportive housing units in Nanaimo made for a great photo opportunity, but provided little else to progress social housing issues here.

The announcement's timing is suspect on two fronts. First, a provincial election is coming and second, people from 38 units in Ladysmith recently received eviction notices because the park's owner wants to redevelop.

The kicker is that the province also ignored legislation that would have protected these people, and 2,500 other mobile homeowners in Nanaimo, from being evicted from their homes. Never mind the province has also reduced moving compensation by thousands of dollars.

Responsibility is now left to municipalities to create bylaws that protect people who rent pads, but own their own manufactured homes. Nanaimo has no such bylaws, leaving mobile home residents protected only through weak rezoning laws.

What's more, Nanaimo's policy of not allowing rented units to be turned into condo fees if vacancy rates are below 3.5 per cent only protects apartment renters, not manufactured homeowners.

Many of these people are seniors on fixed incomes. They have neither the strength nor the means to relocate.

The province also owes cities some help.

One-time grants are not enough to assist cities already overburdened with non-core responsibilities.

With one-time grants, the province is kissing and running. That is intolerable when dealing with society's vulnerable.

The provincial government has a long way to go in providing social housing if they can't even protect people who already have homes.

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