

Bill Binfet



# Seniors' Housing Blossoms in Beautiful Penticton!

*Bill Binfet is a Director and Vice President of the Penticton Senior Citizens and Veterans Housing Society and the Christopher Housing Society.*

**P**enticton, located 250 miles east of Vancouver in the beautiful Okanagan Valley, is nestled between lakes Okanagan and Skaha.

On the edge of Canada's only desert, the city boasts several main industries, including wine, fruit, logging, and tourism. It is also a popular area for retirement; more than

50 percent of the population is over 60 years of age.

At present, Penticton has 4 seniors' residences and 2 senior activity centres. One of these centres, Abbott Towers, is owned by the Penticton Senior Citizens and Veterans Housing and Recreation Society. Administered by the Christopher Housing Society

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of Penticton, the centre was built in 1984 and is valued today at over \$16,000,000.

The society is comprised of businesspeople from the community and the complex, who meet once a month.

Abbott Towers is a low-income housing complex for seniors, age 55 and over, who are in need. This apartment complex has 97 suites—1- and 2-bedroom and handicapped.

Monthly rents range from \$474 to \$564.

It is subsidized by the provincial and federal governments. Rent is based on the tenant's income. Heat,





electricity, and air conditioning are included; the tenant is responsible for his or her phone and cable TV.

A recent study showed that seniors spend up to 75 percent of their time in their suite each day. Some lose contact with family, friends, and society in general.

In addition, studies show that elder abuse and fraud are on the upswing. A move is afoot to have seniors better take care of themselves through association with their peers and other groups in the community. This will be accomplished through liaison with Interior Health, social

agencies, the RCMP, Local Crime Prevention, and many other agencies. The idea is to have these social groups active in the complex, with the tenants association involved and leading the way. ▲

**Bill Binfet, DBA, BSc (BBA); CI TT, is a Notary Public who has been practising in Penticton since 1989. His main areas of practice are Wills, Powers of Attorney, and Real Estate.**

Voice: 250 492-3110  
bbinfet@notaries.bc.ca