

Red Road Lodge struggles to stay financially afloat

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For seven years, Kevin Anderson slept in downtown shelters and binged on alcohol with the money he earned from construction jobs.

The 37-year-old said he didn't have a place to live since he blew all his money on booze. That changed last April when a worker at Siloam Mission noticed his sketches and told him about Red Road Lodge. Anderson has since moved into the Main Street facility to focus on his art while he receives medical treatment for a rare form of blood cancer.

"It's like a sanctuary," he said while working on his latest animated sketch he plans to sell in an adjacent gallery.

Anderson is one of 45 residents temporarily living at Red Road Lodge, a transitional housing facility on Main Street that offers mental health and addictions support to the homeless. The facility was formerly the Occidental Hotel, and the portion of the building that was once home to one of the roughest bars in town has become an art studio and resource centre.

Red Road Lodge CEO Richard Walls said the provincial government stepped in to provide \$150,000 in emergency funding so the facility can remain open until March. Earlier this year, a community advisory board decided not to renew the Red Road Lodge's annual \$110,000 grant from the Homelessness Partnering Strategy. The lodge had asked for \$400,000 to hire more support staff.

For more on this story, [click here](#).

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