

THE WCR LEARNING COMMUNITY

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Twelve containers are dropped into place as construction begins on Canada's first multi-family recycled shipping container housing project. Photo by Jason Payne, *The Vancouver Sun*

Shipping containers become homes

Adapted from *The Vancouver Sun*

Level 2

We have seen these huge boxes before.
They are large and strong.
We call them containers.
These boxes are strong.
They are made out of metal.
People use them for many things.

A new use for containers

For the first time in Canada, 12 containers will become something very different. The big boxes will become new homes for women

in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. Six of the containers will be for women over 55 years old. The others will be new homes for younger women.

New apartments

Atira Women's Resource Society owns the land for the new homes. Other apartments for women are next door. That project is called Imouto House. Imouto means "little sister" in Japanese. Women ages 16 to 24 stay there. Atira hopes the older women will help the younger women. The older women will become **mentors**.

How boxes become apartments

The new apartments will be in two parts. Each part will be three containers high. Each part will be two containers wide.

Each will have a bathroom, kitchen and laundry. The homes will be warm. They will have windows. And inside they will look and feel like real apartments.

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Funding

The new homes will be ready in April.
Each woman will pay \$375 rent.
The City of Vancouver gave money to the project.
Other groups also helped.
People donated four containers.
Two were donated during the Summer Olympics in 2010.
Later, other companies donated two more.
The Imouto House project paid for the other eight containers.
Each container cost the Imouto House \$3,000 each.

Vocabulary:

- **mentors:** wise or trusted counsellors or teachers, usually people older

Links:

Atira Women's Resource Society:

<http://www.atira.bc.ca/>

Imouto Housing for Young Women:

http://www.cmhc.ca/en/inpr/afhoce/sust/sust_117.cfm

The Street to Home Foundation:

<http://www.streetohome.org/>