

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BC Housing will fund a temporary winter shelter in heart of Cowichan region

DUNCAN, BC — The Cowichan Valley Regional District is proud to announce that BC Housing has confirmed funding for a temporary winter shelter for the Cowichan region for the 2025/2026 winter season.

A local working group, comprised of the CVRD, City of Duncan, Municipality of North Cowichan (MNC), and the Cowichan Housing Association (CHA), has worked over the last year with BC Housing to secure funding for a temporary winter shelter, which will operate at 140 Trans-Canada Highway, Duncan (the Ramada Inn site), from November 15, 2025, through March 31, 2026. Supported by a Temporary Use Permit (TUP) issued by the City of Duncan, and subject to final budget and operating agreement approval, the shelter will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, providing up to 24 spaces for individuals experiencing homelessness during the winter months.

“This announcement brings tremendous relief and hope to our community, as homelessness continues to be one of the most urgent challenges in the Cowichan region,” said Kate Segall, Chair of the CVRD Board of Directors. “Unlike our previous emergency warming centre, which opened only during extreme weather, this new 24/7 shelter will offer safety, warmth, and dignity every day through the harshest months of the year. We are deeply grateful to BC Housing for their funding commitment, and to all the local partners whose dedication made this possible.”

A local working group, comprised of the CVRD, City of Duncan, Municipality of North Cowichan (MNC), and the Cowichan Housing Association (CHA), continues to collaborate closely with BC Housing to finalize details for the upcoming season.

Beyond the temporary winter shelter, the CVRD, through Emergency Management Cowichan, will continue to support smaller communities and community organizations across the region in activating emergency warming centres as needed during extreme conditions.

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For more information on this release, please contact:

Kris Schumacher
Manager, Communications & Engagement
250.701.2631
kris.schumacher@cprd.bc.ca