

## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



October 23, 2024

### **The CVRD signs lease for new emergency warming centre site**

**DUNCAN, BC** – The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) Board of Directors recently approved a plan from Emergency Management Cowichan to provide emergency response warming services for the 2024/2025 winter season.

The CVRD has signed a lease to use the parking lot of the Ramada Inn on Highway 1 to operate an emergency warming centre as needed between November 15, 2024 and March 31, 2025. The emergency warming centre is anticipated to use the same weather criteria as last winter. The CVRD will be funding extra outreach staff in the downtown core and 24/7 security on the site to mitigate any effect in the use pattern for the surrounding neighbourhood.

“Our Board is committed to being proactive in providing this emergency service to the unhoused and vulnerable population in the core of the Cowichan region,” said Kate Segall, Vice Chair of the CVRD Board of Directors. “The plans for the new space will provide the respite required during extreme winter weather events, and we are grateful for the work of our staff, Lookout Housing, and our many partners to find a viable solution for this critical service.”

The emergency warming centre will be activated when temperatures is at or near 0 degrees Celsius or below, coupled with adverse weather conditions such as high wind, rain, or snow. This scenario occurred on 42 occasions during the 2023/2024 winter season. Lookout Housing and Health Society has been contracted to manage operation of the centre again this year. When activated, the centre is anticipated to be open for 12 hours overnight, with operating hours to be determined.

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*For more information, please contact:*

Kris Schumacher  
Manager, Communications & Engagement  
250.701.2631  
[kris.schumacher@cvrd.bc.ca](mailto:kris.schumacher@cvrd.bc.ca)