

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BC Housing Extends Cowichan's Temporary Warming Shelter Operations to End of April

DUNCAN, BC - The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD), in partnership with the City of Duncan and Municipality of North Cowichan, along with BC Housing and community partners, has confirmed the extension of the Temporary Warming Shelter to remain open through April 30, ensuring continued access to safe, indoor shelter during the early spring period.

The Temporary Warming Shelter originally opened in late November 2025 as a 24-bed, 24-hour facility to support individuals experiencing homelessness through the winter months. The shelter, funded by BC Housing and developed through collaboration between the CVRD, the City of Duncan, the Municipality of North Cowichan, the Cowichan Housing Association, and service providers, was intended to operate through March 31.

Seasonal conditions are improving, but temperatures and weather remain unpredictable, posing health and safety risks for people without secure shelter. This extension ensures that individuals experiencing homelessness continue to have access to a warm, safe indoor space as spring approaches.

"The decision to extend the Temporary Warming Shelter reflects our commitment to public safety and compassion," said Kate Segall, Chair of Cowichan Valley Regional District. "We appreciate the province recognizing the need to extend operations through April and providing a funding extension. This allows us to maintain that same focus on safety, stability, and community well-being as we transition out of winter."

The shelter continues to operate under the same model established at opening, offering stable accommodation, washroom access, and connections to outreach, housing, and support services. The consistent operation of the shelter helps reduce uncertainty for shelter users and supports coordinated service delivery within the community.

The CVRD acknowledges the efforts of shelter staff, service providers, volunteers, and community partners, whose support has been essential throughout the shelter's operation. The Regional District remains committed to working with local governments, First Nations, BC Housing, and community agencies on both immediate responses and longer-term solutions to address homelessness in the Cowichan region.

Community members with questions about shelter operations or the extension are encouraged to contact the CVRD directly.

- 30 -

For more information, please contact:

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