



## **NEWS RELEASE**

April 22, 2016

### **Earth Day is Every Day at Beacon**

VICTORIA, BC – This year marks the 25th anniversary of Earth Day! Celebrated every April 22, Earth Day is the largest environmental event in the world. The goal is to foster and celebrate environmental respect, action and behavior change that lessens our impact on the earth.

In keeping with the Earth Day mandate, Beacon Community Services has steadily increased its environmental responsibility over many years, from recycling paper, plastic and metal at various Beacon facilities, to using environmentally-friendly cleaning products and practices. Energy improvements at Beacon's Wakefield Manor and Marguerite Court helped the environment and also lowered hydro costs, which helped keep rents stable for low-income tenants. More recently, Beacon undertook the next phase and began a food waste management program.

Beacon Community Services contracted Waste Management Canada to assess our waste streams and develop the right recycling and disposal solution for its various locations. At SHOAL Centre in Sidney, food preparation and delivery is essential to both the buildings' residents and Beacon's public Dining Room and Catering operations. With lunch and dinner service seven days a week, numerous catered functions, and a busy Tuck Shop operating Monday to Friday, lots of food scraps formerly found their way into the trash. Now, through Waste Management, they are picked up and composted.

Established on the Saanich Peninsula in 1974, Beacon Community Services has evolved to become one of BC's largest non-profit social services organizations. Beacon serves about 10,000 clients in the Greater Victoria and outer Gulf Island areas, including in the fields of: Child, Youth and Family ; Counselling and Mental Health; Employment and Training ; Affordable Housing; Assisted Living and Licenced Dementia Care; Adult/Senior's Recreation Services; Volunteer Services; and Home Support and other health care services.

Many community programs are funded by proceeds from Beacon's thrift shop operations, where more than 650,000 donated items are reused/recycled for sale every year.

To learn more about Beacon Community Services visit: [www.beaconcs.ca](http://www.beaconcs.ca)

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