



## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Out of the Rain shelter opens for youth**

VICTORIA, BC – The Out of the Rain shelter is once again opening its doors to help homeless youth during the year's coldest months. The seasonal shelter opens tomorrow, Oct. 15, and will serve youth aged 15-25 from 9:00 p.m. – 8:00 a.m. every day until April 15, 2016.

Shelter services are provided by community agencies, faith-based organizations, businesses, and individual volunteers, through a coalition that is led and coordinated by local charity Beacon Community Services.

“As we move closer to winter, hundreds of youth will be desperate for a safe, dry, warm place to sleep,” says Beacon CEO Bob Boulter. “The Out of the Rain shelter gives that to as many 30 people a night. Staff and volunteers also offer support and guidance around some of the issues that led youth to the streets, and direct youth to community resources that can help improve their lives over the longer term.”

Each night, the shelter rotates among host sites in an effort to maximize resources. Two trained shelter staff work at the shelter and volunteers serve as shelter helpers or drop off a hot cooked meal for the youth. Meals are typically donated by volunteer groups which commit to provide one meal per month.

The youth shelter opened in the winter of 1998 and has run every winter since. Last year, Out of the Rain served approximately 250 youth.

Established on the Saanich Peninsula in 1974, Beacon Community Services has evolved to become one of BC's largest non-profit social services organizations. It serves more than 6,000 clients across the CRD, including through programs and services in: Child, Youth and Family Services; Counselling and Mental Health Services; Employment and Training Programs; Housing, Assisted Living and Licenced Dementia Housing; Adult/Senior's Recreation Services; Volunteer Services; and Home Support Care. Many community programs – including Out of the Rain -- are supported by funds from Beacon's seven thrift store operations.

For more information about Beacon Community Services, please see [www.beaconcs.ca](http://www.beaconcs.ca) For more information about Out of the Rain, see [www.outoftherainvictoria.ca](http://www.outoftherainvictoria.ca)

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