

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Beacon Community Services Supports Moving Forward with Extreme Weather Warming Centre in Partnership with the Town of Sidney

Victoria, BC - January 22, 2026 - With below-freezing temperatures affecting Greater Victoria, Beacon Community Services has confirmed its support for moving forward with an extreme weather warming centre in Sidney.

Beacon's Board of Directors has approved a **seasonal overnight warming centre operated by Beacon Community Services**, to be located in the Nell Horth Room on property owned by the Town of Sidney. Beacon is pleased with this decision and views it as a collaborative step to support vulnerable community members during periods of extreme cold.

The Town of Sidney has currently activated its Emergency Weather Response Plan, including increased RCMP wellness checks and volunteer outreach, as part of its response to current conditions.

"This decision reflects the urgency of winter conditions and the need for practical, community-based solutions," said Tricia Sexton-Earl, Chief Executive Officer of Beacon Community Services. "We're pleased to work with the Town of Sidney to operate a warming centre that prioritizes safety, dignity, and coordination with existing emergency responses."

"The Town of Sidney appreciates Beacon Community Services' expertise and partnership in helping provide a safe, warm space for people experiencing homelessness during extreme winter weather. Over the past year, residents have made it clear that supporting the most vulnerable in our community matters deeply to them", said Cliff McNeil-Smith, Mayor of the Town of Sidney.

The warming centre will operate during extreme cold events and provide a safe indoor space with seating, washroom access, and light refreshments. Eligible operating costs are expected to be reimbursed by the Province.

Further details on activation and operations will be shared as they are finalized.

Beacon Community Services

Beacon Community Services was formed in 1974 when a small group of volunteers established the Citizens' Advisory Committee to help address social issues in Saanich Peninsula communities. Today, with nearly 300 staff and 600 volunteers, Beacon serves Southern Vancouver Island and the outer Gulf Islands. A wide range of community programs and services makes Beacon's portfolio continue supporting people of all ages, while strengthening communities, and transforming lives. Learn more at www.beaconcs.ca

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