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message from BC Housing

I was very pleased to be able to attend Premier Campbell’s announcement last Friday at Lookout Emergency Aid Society’s Yukon Shelter. It was a fitting location to announce, among other things, that most emergency shelters across the province will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This is an important step in implementing our program review and in integrating shelters into the housing continuum and moving people out of the cycle of homelessness.



The Emergency Shelter Program capital and operating funding also announced Friday by Premier Campbell is significant too. All over the province, capital improvements are now being made. Kitchens are being renovated; sprinkler systems installed; shower and laundry facilities improved... and additional overnight staff and funding for more wage parity have been made possible with the additional operational funding. These are all vital steps forward in your efforts to provide safe and secure surroundings for your clients.

Homelessness Action Week is off to a great start! I encourage everyone to participate in events happening in their communities as we take steps in our fight against homelessness.

Sincerely,

Michael Anhorn,  
Manager, Emergency Shelter Program

### 24/7 emergency shelters

On October 12, Premier Gordon Campbell announced several new and expanded measures to end homelessness. Of the most significance to Emergency Shelter Program funded agencies is the news that most of you will be funded to allow you to stay open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Being open during the daytime will allow you to serve as a link to more stable and permanent forms of housing and supports. Staff will be able to help clients connect with employment and other support services that are required to maintain stable housing.

Shelters in major urban centres (Victoria, Greater Vancouver, Kelowna and Prince George) will be converted to 24/7 full-service operation this winter. Shelters in other areas of the province will make the transition as soon as possible. We do recognize, however, that some shelters will not have the physical space or service capacity to be open 24 hours a day. We will continue to support your current operations.

### Additional funding for shelters

Premier Campbell also announced the Province is providing \$2.4 million to 39 emergency shelters across the province as a combination of one-time capital funding (\$1.13 million) and on-going annual operating funding (\$1.29 million).

The capital funding will go toward a range of building repairs and the purchase of equipment. Some shelters will be buying new laundry and kitchen appliances, beds, mattresses and lockers, while others will carry out renovations and improve security features and systems. This is the first time this type of funding has been provided by the Province to emergency shelters.

The operating funding will be used primarily to provide for additional overnight staff and will also be used to create more wage parity. In addition, some beds that are currently available will receive government funding for the first time.

The shelters selected for the funding were those determined to be in greatest need and that could benefit the most. While we recognize there are needs in many shelters, we will keep track of all requests as we have the ability to address them in the future.

### Program Review update

Emergency Shelter Program Manager Michael Anhorn will be visiting communities throughout the province to discuss the implications of the Program Review directly with funded agencies. The first stops on the tour will be in locations most immediately affected by the announcement of 24/7 emergency shelters. Please plan to attend the meeting in your area. Dates and locations will be announced shortly and we hope that, even with the short notice, agencies will be able to attend.

### Shelter management reporting

BC Housing is gathering data about the different reporting systems and requirements used by funded agencies to submit their statistics. Lily Nimi, an IT Business Analyst at BC Housing, will be visiting a number of shelters and agencies over the next few months in order to gather this information and better understand your day-to-day activities.

## Homelessness Action Week

Homelessness Action Week is off to a great start! This year's theme is Focus on Solutions. Community events are planned between now and October 21 in seven communities throughout the province including many of interest to shelter operators and agencies.

For more information on Homelessness Action Week: [www.stophomelessness.ca](http://www.stophomelessness.ca).

## BCNPHA annual conference

A reminder that the BC Non-Profit Housing Association's annual conference is coming up November 19-21 at the Best Western Richmond Hotel & Convention Centre.

The theme for this year is "Opportunity Knocks!" Information on workshops and guest speakers (including Minister responsible for Housing Rich Coleman and keynote speaker Tim Larose, Executive Director of New Life Mission in Kamloops) is now available online. The BCNPHA encourages you to register soon to get the workshops you want.

For more information: [www.bcnpha.ca](http://www.bcnpha.ca).

## Revised MCFD Handbook for Action on Child Abuse and Neglect

Shelter agencies that work with families will want to know about the Ministry of Children and Family Development's revised handbook. Service providers play an integral role every day in preventing child abuse and neglect through their regular contact with children and families.

To download a copy of the handbook:

[www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/child\\_protection/pdf/handbook\\_action\\_child\\_abuse.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/child_protection/pdf/handbook_action_child_abuse.pdf).

Contact MCFD to see if a social worker is available to give an orientation on how to get the most out of the handbook.

- Vancouver Coastal Region: 604-660-2433
- Fraser Region: 604-615-1381
- Vancouver Island Region: 250-952-4707
- Interior Region: 250-371-3650
- Northern Region: 250-565-4367

## Changes to Persons with Disabilities Designation Application

Effective July 1, 2007, a chiropractor or nurse practitioner may act as an assessor for the purpose of completing section 3 of the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) Designation Application. The addition of chiropractors and nurse practitioners will allow for more specialized assessors to complete section 3, as well as expanding options for clients – the intent of the addition is to improve service delivery and expand client access to government services.

For more information: [www.eia.gov.bc.ca/factsheets/2004/pwd.htm](http://www.eia.gov.bc.ca/factsheets/2004/pwd.htm).

## The cost of homelessness

According to a report from the Sheldon Chumir Foundation for Ethics in Leadership, homelessness is costing Canadian taxpayers \$4.5 billion to \$6 billion a year. In the report, *Shelter: Homelessness in a Growth Economy*, author Gordon Laird recommends the development of a long-term, strategic approach to the issue.

Download a copy of the report: [www.chumirethicsfoundation.ca/files/pdf/SHELTER.pdf](http://www.chumirethicsfoundation.ca/files/pdf/SHELTER.pdf).

## Home is where it starts

The City of Toronto's Streets to Homes Program recently conducted a study on the effectiveness of the "housing first" approach to ending street homelessness. The preliminary findings of its 2007 post-occupancy research were presented at the National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference in Washington D.C. in July. (Note: BC Housing's approach is to provide a broad range of options along the housing continuum from shelters to living independently.)

Read the findings: [www.toronto.ca/housing/pdf/news-housingfirst-report.pdf](http://www.toronto.ca/housing/pdf/news-housingfirst-report.pdf).

## agency profile

### Ksan House Society: Creating transitional housing units

Homelessness is increasing everywhere in our province. But Terrace, located in B.C.'s northwest, is still in a major economic downturn and its effects are creating unprecedented poverty. The impact on the community's only shelter, Ksan House Society's Terrace Emergency Shelter, has been hard.

"In 1995, the year the shelter opened, we had 1,350 bed days; by 2006, there were 3,500-plus," said the society's Executive Director, Carol Sabo. "The stats are unbelievable; our old maximums are our new minimums." The shelter has 14 beds (six of which used to be cold wet weather and have now become full-time). It provides short-term housing for stays of up to 14 days, mostly for men, but can also take families and youth.

Recognizing the need to offer the community more, Ksan House Society applied for and received funding under the Provincial Homelessness Initiative (PHI) to build a second-stage transitional shelter. This will allow some clients to stay for up to six months and receive support services. The shelter's 14 beds will also be relocated to this new site.

"The new shelter will have an additional six independent units for the hard to house and four beds for high-risk clients," said Carol. The support services that will be offered will be based on the same successful model the society is using at its transition house for women and children fleeing abusive relationships that opened 18 months ago and which also received funding under PHI. At the new shelter, community partners will provide services in such a way that clients will feel comfortable with the providers and know them on a first-name basis rather than as intimidating government authorities.



*At the society's annual community Thanksgiving dinner clients, former clients and their families and community supporters come together for dinner.*

"PHI allows you to use support models that work in your own community, rather than a packaged 'one-model-fits-all' approach," said

Carol.

The society also has plans for the existing Terrace Emergency Shelter, which was built in 1954. “We’re thinking about opening it as a hostel,” said Carol. “It wouldn’t need a lot of staff or security and it would create additional revenue to offset the cost of the programs we run.”

## tips and tools

### How to write fundraising proposals

Whether applying for additional funding from BC Housing or approaching a business or foundation, shelter agencies need to know how to put together a case that makes your application stand out. The following are some basic steps to follow in any proposal you submit for consideration.

- Clearly state your goals and the community’s need.
- Demonstrate how the goals of the potential funder match your goals and the community’s need.
- Avoid, as much as possible, focusing on your agency’s needs and instead focus on the solution you offer.
- Be concise.
- Present your proposal neatly and professionally. Proposal documents should be typed, single-spaced and never smaller than 11-point font.
- If the funder provides guidelines for grant applications or request for proposals, follow these exactly. Organize your proposal in the order listed in the application and guidelines.

### What to include in a fundraising or grant proposal

- Cover letter
- Description of your organization (who, what, where, when, why)
- Needs assessment
- Goals and objectives
- Methodology
- Plan for evaluation
- Budget
- Organization’s qualifications
- Conclusion
- Appendices

Resources are available online to assist with proposal writing. Google the subject or check fundraising association sites.

## new faces



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## quotes from the street

“Thank you for this house – and all those who work here. Thank you for providing safety to a mind that needed external foundation to find inner peace. Thank you for understanding. Your compassion. Your willingness to see me whole and completely. Thank you for providing a space so I didn't fall completely on my face. Thank you for holding my hand while walking along my path of healing. Thank you for helping me see my reflection in the mirror. Thank you for your willingness to learn more about MPD [Multiple Personality Disorder]. Thank you for being my friends and my family. Thank you for not judging me and being kind to me. Thank you for helping me learn which path is right for me on my journey by letting me make my own decisions and for guiding me as I walk along my path of life.... Thank you for holding out your hand, thank you all for your beauty and strength. For the ability to help others to grow and glow. For the good food, showers and sheets, for the beds and the blankets and places to sleep. For not discriminating or judging all people no matter what situation they're in. THANK YOU AGAIN.”

- **N.O.W. Canada client, Kelowna**

Please share quotes from your clients with us so we can all remember why we do the work we do. Submit your quotes to the editor: [glunde@bchousing.org](mailto:glunde@bchousing.org).

## HOUSING MATTERS

[www.bchousing.org](http://www.bchousing.org)

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