

Questions and Answers about Streetlink and Swift House

What is Streetlink?

Located at 1634 Store Street, this downtown Victoria emergency shelter, originally built for 55 beds, now provides 80 beds year round and up to 95 beds during cold weather periods.

What is Swift House?

Adjoining Streetlink, Swift House, located at 469 Swift Street, provides 26 units of supportive housing.

Who operates Streetlink/Swift House?

Victoria Cool Aid Society is the non-profit operator of both Streetlink and Swift House.

Why is Streetlink being relocated to Ellice Street?

Concerns have grown over the years relating to line-ups to enter the shelter, loitering, and homeless being denied access because the shelter is full.

Lack of outside, off-street assembly space exacerbates issues relating to street loitering.

Relocating Streetlink to Ellice Street will provide approximately 80 shelter beds, 24 self-contained supportive housing units, space for 20 additional shelter beds in extreme weather conditions, plus support and transition services, and the design will address the operational challenges faced in the current downtown location.

There will also be an improvement in services offered at the new location designed to link people to more permanent housing and to help them regain their independence. These same services will be provided at the current location thank to recent changes in funding from BC Housing.

What will happen to the clients during the development?

Streetlink will remain open as a shelter until the completion of the new Ellice Street site.

What is planned for the Streetlink site once Ellice Street is operational?

The Streetlink facility will be converted to approximately 15 new supportive housing apartments, expanding on the adjoining 26 units at Swift House.

Who will operate the expanded Swift House?

Victoria Cool Aid Society will continue as the non-profit operator of Swift House.

Who will live in the new development?

The residents will be a similar population to those living in the existing supportive housing units.

When will development start? Be completed?

Construction will start once the Ellice Street development is complete, likely in the spring of 2010. It will be completed later in 2010 or in early 2011.