

## OCEANSIDE HOMELESS TASK FORCE AND SALVATION ARMY ANNOUNCE EXTREME WEATHER SHELTER FOR OCEANSIDE REGION

**Parksville, BC:** On behalf of the Oceanside Task Force on Homelessness, the City of Parksville is pleased to announce that the Salvation Army will operate an extreme weather response shelter for the Oceanside region.

The extreme weather shelter when activated will be partially funded by BC Housing, the Salvation Army and the Oceanside Task Force on Homelessness.

Operated by the Salvation Army and housed in the Salvation Army Church at 187 Alberni Highway, Parksville, the shelter will be open from 6 pm until 8 am on nights of inclement or extreme weather only. Clients will be provided with cots, blankets, pillows and an evening snack and breakfast.

The protocol for the Oceanside region extreme weather shelter is standard for extreme weather shelters on the Island. Implementation of the extreme weather response plan will be called when weather conditions are deemed severe enough to present a substantial threat to the life or health of homeless persons. Extreme weather conditions are defined as:

- Temperatures near zero with rainfall that makes it difficult or impossible for homeless people to remain dry
- Sleet/freezing rain
- Snow accumulation
- Sustained high winds
- Temperatures at or below minus 2 Celsius, taking into account wind chill

"We are so very fortunate that the Salvation Army has come forward as the lead in this initiative, agreeing to operate the extreme weather shelter should it be needed," said City of Parksville Councillor Sue Powell. The Oceanside Task Force on Homelessness chaired by Councillor Powell, was formed in June 2010 with representation from many organizations and service providers in the Oceanside region.

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For more information:

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