

## Warming Centre for Parksville

With funding assistance from Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR), a warming centre will be operated by Risebridge at 223 Mills Street in Parksville, supported by resolution of Council at a special meeting held on December 21. The warming centre will be open during an extreme weather emergency to accommodate up to thirty guests with a ratio of one staff to ten guests.

Under the Assistance to Shelter Regulation, extreme weather conditions in the Fraser Region, the Vancouver Coastal Region and the Vancouver Island region are defined based on the forecast from Environment Canada. EMCR funded warming centres may be established when extreme weather conditions exist, as outlined in the Assistance to Shelter Regulation.

The Risebridge organization operates a similar warming centre facility in Nanaimo, managed by staff and volunteers. A warming centre:

- Is a safe, supportive space for people to periodically visit to warm up.
- Protects the most vulnerable from extreme cold weather by decreasing the risk to human life from cold temperatures.
- Not designed for sleeping as there are no beds and is not a substitute for an overnight shelter.
- Meals are not provided, but warm drinks and snacks are available.

### Quote Mayor Doug O'Brien

"This has been an extremely arduous process and with the result Council wished for. The City appreciates the willingness of Risebridge to operate this warming centre in Parksville and the temporary provincial funding from Emergency Management and Climate Readiness. The City will continue to work with the province in an effort to secure further funding."

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### For more information:

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