

From: Fredette, Denis MTIC:IN
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 8:34 AM
To: Guthrie, Rebecca MTIC:EX; 'colin.brown@vicpd.ca'
Cc: Lawrence, Joanne MTIC:IN; 'neilt@beeclean.net'; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Onsite Assisted Cleanup - Media & Public Enquiries

Good morning folks. I have been informed that a large bin (construction site size) has been delivered to the rear parking lot of 850 Burdett, as per my plan of yesterday. Bee Clean will be monitoring it daily and have it emptied as needed. This will be replacing the 4 yard bins that we have been working with so far. 2 additional portable toilets will be delivered sometime today to cover New Year's Day and they will be removed Saturday. I think that we have done as much as we can for these folks for now. I will be going to the site on Monday to follow-up and see if anything needs attention. Thank you folks. Happy New Year and have a great week-end.

Regards

Please note new e-mail address

Denis Fredette
Facility Manager, FMZ 106

Brookfield GIS Workplace Solutions Inc.
23-3318 Oak Street
Victoria, BC V8X 1R1
T: 250 889 4371 | F: 250 952 3868
denis.fredette@wsi.brookfieldgis.com
www.brookfieldgis.com

BrookfieldGIS
Workplace Solutions Inc.

From: Guthrie, Rebecca MTIC:EX [mailto:Rebecca.Guthrie@gov.bc.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2015 2:03 PM
To: Denis Fredette; 'colin.brown@vicpd.ca'
Cc: Joanne Lawrence; 'neilt@beeclean.net'; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Onsite Assisted Cleanup - Media & Public Enquiries

Thank you to everyone who assisted with this cleanup request. Greatly appreciate the fast turnaround and cooperative approach.
Rebecca

From: Denis Fredette [mailto:Denis.Fredette@wsi.brookfieldgis.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2015 1:54 PM
To: Guthrie, Rebecca MTIC:EX; 'colin.brown@vicpd.ca'
Cc: Lawrence, Joanne MTIC:IN; 'neilt@beeclean.net'; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Onsite Assisted Cleanup - Media & Public Enquiries

Hello folks. 850 Burdett garbage situation, the encampment has been cleaned as well as it can be, as per my update phone call to Rebeca and Joanne earlier today. The 4 yard dumpster is full again and there is still a lot of garbage to

dump. So tomorrow morning, there will be a construction bin brought in. I'm not sure what size it is but it is at least 4 times the size of the one we have now. This bin should see us through to Monday.

I don't know if this is common knowledge or not but the cleaners, while walking around the encampment heard that they (the campers) are planning a new camp at Millenium Park and/or St-Ann's. Just thought I'd pass this on.

Regards

Please note new e-mail address

Denis Fredette
Facility Manager, FMZ 106

Brookfield GIS Workplace Solutions Inc.
23-3318 Oak Street
Victoria, BC V8X 1R1
T: 250 889 4371 | F: 250 952 3868
denis.fredette@wsi.brookfieldgis.com
www.brookfieldgis.com

BrookfieldGIS
Workplace Solutions Inc.

From: Guthrie, Rebecca MTIC:EX [<mailto:Rebecca.Guthrie@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 9:31 PM
To: Denis Fredette; 'colin.brown@vicpd.ca'
Cc: Joanne Lawrence; 'neilt@beeclean.net'; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Onsite Assisted Cleanup - Media & Public Enquiries

Hi All – please note phone numbers below for Joanne should there be any media enquiries tomorrow (thx Joanne).

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 4:44 PM
To: Guthrie, Rebecca MTIC:EX
Subject: RE: Onsite Assisted Cleanup - Media & Public Enquiries

Thx Rebecca - For media inquiries, BeeClean is also welcome to provide my phone numbers below, which may be easier. Media should have these numbers already but just in case. Best, Joanne

Joanne Whittier
Communications Manager
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
office: 250-387-0172 / cell: 250-893-5650

From: Guthrie, Rebecca MTIC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 4:15 PM
To: Fredette, Denis MTIC:IN; 'colin.brown@vicpd.ca'
Cc: Lawrence, Joanne MTIC:IN; 'neilt@beeclean.net'; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: Onsite Assisted Cleanup - Media & Public Enquiries

Hi All,
In response to the question you raised this afternoon Neil regarding how the BeeClean employee can respond to any public or media enquiries – I can confirm the following suggested response below:

Members of the Public:

"If you have any questions regarding this property please contact the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizen Services, Assistant Deputy Minister Office (ADMO): iws.admo@gov.bc.ca"

Media Enquiries:

"If you have any questions regarding this property please contact Joanne Whittier: Joanne.Whittier@gov.bc.ca"

Please note, this information should not be distributed widely but only if and when a question is raised.

Let me know if you have any questions,
Rebecca

From: Guthrie, Rebecca MTIC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 1:24 PM
To: Fredette, Denis MTIC:IN; 'colin.brown@vicpd.ca'
Cc: Lawrence, Joanne MTIC:IN; 'neilt@beeclean.net'
Subject: Onsite Assisted Cleanup - Contacts & Next Steps

Hi Dennis/Colin – by way of this email please find contact details below:

Colin Brown	Victoria PD	Staff Sergeant	colin.brown@vicpd.ca	s.22
Denis Fredette	WSI	Facility Manager	denis.fredette@wsi.brookfieldgis.com	250 889 4371

BeeClean agreed to conduct an onsite assisted cleanup at the encampment.

Summary of Next Steps:

- Vic PD to advise campers of scheduled assisted onsite cleanup Wednesday, Dec 30 (late morning)
 - o Campers to be informed today by VicPD
 - o Campers to be informed first thing tomorrow morning by VicPD
- BeeClean to meet Vic PD representatives at campsite area prior to scheduled clean up
- Denis will coordinate arrangements with Colin & Bee Clean representatives (sorry I only have neil's email, please forward to Clifford)

This is intended to be a one-time assisted clean up – should further assisted clean-up's be required then another ad-hoc request can be confirmed.

Think this covers everything – please let me know if I missed anything.
Thanks, Rebecca

Rebecca Guthrie | Director, Asset Portfolio
Asset Management Branch | Real Property Division | Shared Services BC
Ministry of Technology Innovation & Citizen Services
Ph: 250.889.3993 | **e:** rebecca.guthrie@gov.bc.ca



ASSET MANAGEMENT
A BRANCH OF SHARED SERVICES BC

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Please consider the environment before printing this email - Help save our planet.

Veuillez songer à l'environnement avant d'imprimer le présent courriel – Aidez-nous à protéger notre planète.

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From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 3:25 PM
To: 'Gregor Craigie'; VASS, KEITH
Subject: RE: Attn: Gregor Craigie

Hi there – Keith, as discussed, unfortunately we were not able to confirm someone for the show tomorrow. However, please find below background information that you can attribute to the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' services or alternatively, a ministry spokesperson. Best, Joanne

Best, Joanne

Background information:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been at the courthouse site on a regular basis, working with the campers to provide information about shelters and other services available in the Victoria area.
- In addition, representatives from the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services have been to the site on a number of occasions in December and January.
- While the Ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, there are an increasing number of health and safety issues as the site is not suitable for camping.
- Information was provided to campers requesting that they work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter.
- The Ministry views this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition and will give the campers reasonable time to move.

Information on shelter and housing options:

- Last year, the Province invested over \$19 million to support affordable housing for more than 5,100 low-income households in Victoria.
- Forty rent supplements have been made available to help any campers in need of housing find a place to stay in the private market.
- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, the province has provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.
- There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.

For information about services and supports for the homeless in Victoria, please visit:
www.housingmattersbc.ca/docs/fs_Homeless%20Supports_Victoria.pdf

To see a map of permanent and temporary shelters in B.C., please visit:
http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Emergency_Housing/Map

From: Gregor Craigie [mailto:gregor.craigie@cbc.ca]
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 11:47 AM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: VASS, KEITH
Subject: Re: Attn: Gregor Craigie

Hi Joanne,

Thanks again for the BG last week.

Would Minister Virk be available to do a radio interview on CBC Victoria this week, on the subject of the homeless camp? If so, he could speak to me on ON THE ISLAND, or on our afternoon show ALL POINTS WEST?

I've cc'd Keith Vass who is producing the afternoon show.

cheers,
Gregor

On Wed, Jan 6, 2016 at 1:24 PM, Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX <Joanne.Whittier@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Gregor: nice to see you this morning. As discussed, please find below some background information regarding the campers at the Victoria Courthouse.

Best, Joanne

Background Information:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been working with the campers to provide information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.

For more information about services and supports for the homeless in Victoria, please visit:

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Joanne Whittier

Communications Manager

Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

office: 250-387-0172 / cell: 250-893-5650

From: Gregor Craigie [mailto:gregor.craigie@cbc.ca]

Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 11:33 AM

To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX

Subject: Lines on camp?

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Gregor Craigie

Host, On The Island

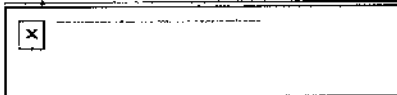
CBC Radio One

Victoria, BC

(250)360-2227

@GregorCraigie

<http://www.cbc.ca/ontheisland/>



From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 4:12 PM
To: 'megan.thomas@cbc.ca'
Subject: Attn: Megan Thomas, CBC Radio News Victoria

Hi Megan: please find below background information in response to your inquiry regarding the campers at the Victoria Courthouse. I have also included some information from the Ministry responsible for Housing on shelter/housing options. Regards, Joanne

Background information:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been at the courthouse site on a regular basis, working with the campers to provide information about shelters and other services available in the Victoria area.
- In addition, representatives from the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services have been to the site on a number of occasions in December and January.
- While the Ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, there are an increasing number of health and safety issues as the site is not suitable for camping.
- Information was provided to campers requesting that they work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter.
- The Ministry views this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition and will give the campers reasonable time to move.

Additional information on shelter and housing options:

- Outreach workers continue to assess the needs of those remaining at the camp to determine who is in need of housing.
- Forty rent supplements have been made available to help any campers in need of housing find a place to stay in the private market.
- Last year, the Province invested over \$19 million to support affordable housing for more than 5,100 low-income households in Victoria.
- In addition to the new shelter, there are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.
- These spaces are activated by the community depending on weather conditions. The average occupancy rate has been 66% this winter.

For information about services and supports for the homeless in Victoria, please visit:
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Joanne Whittier
Communications Manager
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 2:52 PM
To: 'alawrence@cheknews.ca'
Subject: Attn: April Lawrence, CHEK News

Hi April, please find below background information in response to your inquiry regarding the campers at the Victoria Courthouse. I understand you have posed a few additional questions to the Ministry responsible for Housing. For convenience, we have added their information below as well.

Best, Joanne

Background information:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been at the courthouse site on a regular basis, working with the campers to provide information about shelters and other services available in the Victoria area.
- In addition, representatives from the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services have been to the site on a number of occasions in December and January.
- While the Ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, there are an increasing number of health and safety issues as the site is not suitable for camping.
- Information was provided to campers requesting that they work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter.
- The Ministry views this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition and will give the campers reasonable time to move.

Information on shelter and housing options:

- Last year, the Province invested over \$19 million to support affordable housing for more than 5,100 low-income households in Victoria.
- Forty rent supplements have been made available to help any campers in need of housing find a place to stay in the private market.
- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, the province has provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.
- There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.

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Joanne Whittier
Communications Manager
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 2:28 PM
To: 'rwatts@timescolonist.com'
Subject: Attn: Richard Watts, Times Colonist

Hi Richard: please find below background information in response to your inquiry regarding the campers at the Victoria Courthouse.

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.
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- While the Ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, there are an increasing number of health and safety issues as the site is not suitable for camping.
- Information was provided to campers requesting that they work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter.
- The Ministry views this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition and will give the campers reasonable time to move.

Information on shelter and housing options:

- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, the province has provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.
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From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 2:25 PM
To: 'yvonne.raymond@bellmedia.ca'
Subject: Attn: Yvonne Raymond, CTV

Hi Yvonne: please find below background information in response to your inquiry regarding the campers at the Victoria Courthouse.

Best, Jo

Background information:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
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Information on shelter and housing options:

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Joanne Whittier
Communications Manager
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
office: 250-387-0172 / cell: 250-893-5650

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, January 10, 2016 11:59 AM
To: 'Zahra Premji'
Subject: Attn: Zahra Premji - CTV
Attachments: Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse_Jan_2016.docx

Hi Zahra: as discussed, please find below background information in response to your inquiry about the campers at the Victoria Courthouse.

Best, Joanne

Joanne Whittier
Communications Manager
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
office: 250-387-0172 / cell: 250-893-5650

Background information:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been working with the campers to provide information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.
- Representatives from the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services spoke with the campers on January 6.
- While the Ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, a growing number of campers over the past month has created an increasing number of health and safety concerns; making the courthouse property not a viable location for campers.
- Information was provided to campers on January 8 requesting the campers work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter.
- The Ministry views this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition and will give the campers reasonable time to move.
- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, the province has provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.
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Ministry of
Technology, Innovation
and Citizens' Services

8 January, 2016

TO: Campers on Victoria Courthouse Lands

FROM: The Province of BC, Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

SUBJECT: Information on shelter options and request to leave courthouse lands

We are writing to encourage campers at the Victoria Courthouse to work with the homeless outreach workers on-site to make arrangements for alternate shelter.

While the Province appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, a growing number of campers over the past month has created an increasing number of health and safety concerns, making the courthouse property not a viable location for campers.

To help with the transition, Our Place and the Victoria Cool Aid societies are available to work with campers to connect you with shelter and support services such as health care and counselling.

Our Place Society is now operating a new 24/7, 40-bed transition house at 1240 Yates Street that can provide many of you with shelter, meals and other supports. Campers are encouraged to work with support workers and to take advantage of this shelter space.

You can also find out about the new transitional house by calling Don Evans, Executive Director, Our Place Society at 250-388-7112.

We would appreciate your cooperation as the Province sees this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition.

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 8:42 PM
To: 'tips@cheknews.ca'
Subject: Attn: Ben O'Hara, CHEK
Attachments: Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse_Jan_2016.docx

Hi Ben: please find below background information in response to your inquiry about the campers at the Victoria Courthouse.

Best, Joanne

Joanne Whittier
Communications Manager
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
office: 250-387-0172 / cell: 250-893-5650

Background information:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been working with the campers to provide information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
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For information about services and supports for the homeless in Victoria, please visit:
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http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Emergency_Housing/Map

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 2:18 PM
To: 'dirk.meissner@thecanadianpress.com'
Subject: Attn: Dirk Meissner, Canadian Press

Hi Dirk: please find below background information in response to your inquire regarding the campers at the Victoria Courthouse.

Best, Jo

Background information:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
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Joanne Whittier
Communications Manager
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
office: 250-387-0172 / cell: 250-893-5650

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Saturday, January 9, 2016 11:59 AM
To: 'jwbell@timescolonist.com'
Subject: Attn: Jeff Bell at Times Colonist
Attachments: Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse_Jan_2016.docx

Hi Jeff: please find below background information in response to your inquiry about the campers at the Victoria Courthouse. The flyer is attached.

Best, Joanne

Joanne Whittier
Communications Manager
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
office: 250-387-0172 / cell: 250-893-5650

Background information:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been working with the campers to provide information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.
- Representatives from the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services spoke with the campers on January 6.
- While the Ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, a growing number of campers over the past month has created an increasing number of health and safety concerns; making the courthouse property not a viable location for campers.
- Information was provided to campers on January 8 requesting the campers work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter.
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- There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.
- These spaces are activated by the community depending on weather conditions. The average occupancy rate has been 66% this winter.

For information about services and supports for the homeless in Victoria, please visit:
www.housingmattersbc.ca/docs/fs_Homeless%20Supports_Victoria.pdf

To see a map of permanent and temporary shelters in B.C., please visit:
http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Emergency_Housing/Map

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 4:42 PM
To: 'jason.hallman@bellmedia.ca'
Subject: Attn: Jason Hallman at CTV Vancouver Island
Attachments: Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse_Jan_2016.docx

Hi Jason: please find below background information in response to your inquiry about the campers at the Victoria Courthouse.

Best, Joanne

Joanne Whittier
Communications Manager
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
office: 250-387-0172 / cell: 250-893-5650

Background information:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
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http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Emergency_Housing/Map

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 3:17 PM
To: 'editor@vicnews.com'
Subject: Attn: Pamela Roth at Victoria News

Hi Pamela – please find below background information in response to your inquiry.

Best, Joanne

Joanne Whittier
Communications Manager
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
office: 250-387-0172 / cell: 250-893-5650

Background Information:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
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http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Emergency_Housing/Map

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 1:21 PM
To: 'Zahra Premji'
Subject: interview request

Hi Zahra: nice meeting you this morning. As discussed, please find below background information in response to your questions.

Best, Joanne

Background Information:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been working with the campers to provide information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.

For more information about services and supports for the homeless in Victoria, please visit:
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Joanne Whittier
Communications Manager
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
office: 250-387-0172 / cell: 250-893-5650

-----Original Message-----

From: Zahra Premji [<mailto:Zahra.Premji@bellmedia.ca>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 10:43 AM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Urgent: interview request

Hi Joanne,

Hoping to have something in to us (an interview or statement) no later than 2 pm.

Thanks so much,

Zahra

Zahra Premji | Reporter
CTV Vancouver Island | m^{s.22} | zahra.premji@bellmedia.ca
1420 Broad Street

vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX [mailto:Joanne.Whittier@gov.bc.ca]

Sent: January-06-16 10:42 AM

To: Zahra Premji

Subject: Re: Urgent: interview request

Hi Zara - what is your deadline today?

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 6, 2016, at 10:25 AM, Zahra Premji <Zahra.Premji@bellmedia.ca<mailto:Zahra.Premji@bellmedia.ca>> wrote:

Hi Joanne,

Hope you're doing well!! Happy New Year!

I'm working on a story today about the tent city on the courthouse lawn. Now that a temporary shelter has opened for 40 people to move from tent city we wanted to inquire what's next for the lawn? The province had said in December that eventually it would make a move to either move everyone left off or something to that effect. Just wondering if we can get an update? Either an interview, or a statement for today.

Thanks so much,

Zahra

Zahra Premji | Reporter

CTV Vancouver Island | m 250.516.3046 | zahra.premji@bellmedia.ca<mailto:zahra.premji@bellmedia.ca>
1420 Broad Street
Victoria, BC V8W 2B1

vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca<<http://www.vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca/>>

<<http://www.ctv.ca/>>

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 3:18 PM
To: 'Liam Britten'
Cc: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Attn: Liam Britten, CBC Radio Vancouver

Hi Liam – in response to your outstanding question, the Ministry responsible for Housing has provided the following:

- Outreach workers continue to assess the needs of those remaining at the camp to determine who is in need of housing.
- Forty rent supplements have been made available to help any campers in need of housing find a place to stay in the private market.
- In addition to the new shelter, there are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.
- These spaces are activated by the community depending on weather conditions. The average occupancy rate has been 66% this winter.

From: Liam Britten [mailto:liam.britten@cbc.ca]
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 2:52 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Attn: Liam Britten, CBC Radio Vancouver

Thanks!

On Mon, Jan 11, 2016 at 2:46 PM, Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX <Joanne.Whittier@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Liam: as discussed, specifics around timing and other next steps have not been confirmed at this point. I will check in with the Ministry responsible for Housing regarding the additional question you posted on the phone.
Joanne

From: Liam Britten [mailto:liam.britten@cbc.ca]
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 2:41 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Attn: Liam Britten, CBC Radio Vancouver

Thanks, Joanne, but I'm still wondering about next steps. Will the province order the campers to move at some point? What is a "reasonable time" to move?

On Mon, Jan 11, 2016 at 2:38 PM, Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX <Joanne.Whittier@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Regards, Joanne

Background information:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been at the courthouse site on a regular basis, working with the campers to provide information about shelters and other services available in the Victoria area.
- While the Ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, there are an increasing number of health and safety issues as the site is not suitable for camping.
- Information was provided to campers requesting that they work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter.
- The Ministry views this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition and will give the campers reasonable time to move.

Information on shelter and housing options:

- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, the province has provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.
- There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.
- These spaces are activated by the community depending on weather conditions. The average occupancy rate has been 66% this winter.

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Joanne Whittier

Communications Manager

Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

office: 250-387-0172 / cell: 250-893-5650

From: Liam Britten [mailto:liam.britten@cbc.ca]

Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 2:02 PM

To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX

Subject: CBC request

Hi Tasha, Liam from CBC Vancouver here. Just wondering if the government has any further comment about the campers on the Victoria courthouse lawn. Why did the message encouraging them to move on come today? Will the government be forcefully removing campers? Does the government believe there are enough housing options in Victoria to house these campers?

Please email me back with a response, or you can call me at 604 662 6498. I will be in the office until 8, but it would be great to hear back by about 6.

Thanks!

--

Sincerely,

Liam Britten

CBC Radio

--

Sincerely,

Liam Britten

CBC Radio

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Sincerely,

Liam Britten

CBC Radio

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Sincerely,

Liam Britten

CBC Radio

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 1:22 PM
To: 'alawrence@cheknews.ca'
Subject: Attn: April Lawrence - CHEK News

Hi April: please find below background information in response to your inquiry regarding the campers at the Victoria Courthouse.

Best, Joanne

Background Information:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been working with the campers to provide information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
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From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 3:15 PM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: media request CBC Radio Gregor Craigie - interview request for tomorrow 7:50 a.m. On the Island

Hi there – our Minister is not able to do this interview. Would MRC be available?

Date/Time: Jan/11/11:47 a.m.

Deadline @ today

Media: CBC Radio

Reporter: Gregor Craigie

Topic: campers at Victoria Courthouse

Background: CBC Radio looking for a representative from the province for a live interview tomorrow on **CBC Radio On the Island** regarding press conference held by campers today at 11 a.m. demanding more money and solutions to the issue of homelessness. Campers indicated that they will resist efforts to have them moved. Together Against Poverty (TAPS) said they will provide a lawyer if the ministry goes forward with an injunction.

Interview date/time/format: CBC Radio On the Island Jan. 12/ 7:50 a.m./7 minute live interview with Gregor Craigie.

Note: Don Evans, Executive Director, Our Place will be speaking with CBC Radio All Points West this afternoon.

Questions: What is the plan for the property? Where does the ministry go from here now that campers have indicated they will refuse to leave the site?

Recommended response:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.
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- Information was provided to campers requesting that they work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter.
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- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, the province has provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.
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From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 2:06 PM
To: 'rwatts@timescolonist.com'
Subject: Att: Richard Watts
Attachments: Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse_Jan_2016.docx

Hi Richard: attached is the flyer that was provided to the campers at the Victoria Courthouse last week. Will follow up with background information as discussed.

Regards, Joanne

Joanne Whittier
Communications Manager
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
office: 250-387-0172 / cell: 250-893-5650

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 4:53 PM
To: Facey, Nick MTIC:EX; Reddy, Brandon MTIC:EX
Cc: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: update Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp
Attachments: Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse_Jan_2016.docx

Hi there – brief update/wrap up on where we are at with the courthouse issue as of this afternoon:

Following Wed, when staff went to the campsite with Don from Our Place to speak with the campers during their 10 a.m. healing circle, the flyers were handed out to the campers this a.m. and posted around the perimeter of the camp. It was relatively peaceful – although S.22 made a point of taking copies of the flyer and ripping them up. No media onsite today.

The campers have indicated that they will be forming a collective response to the flyer.

Staff spoke with the fire department and Victoria Police again this afternoon. There had been a plan to have the fire department go down the campsite at 1 p.m. today to distinguish/remove the burn barrel, which is causing a lot of smoke and is of significant concern to residents. Efforts to do so were not successful - there was an organized resistance and a decision was made (by fire department and police) not to enrage the campers by proceeding.

However, the fire department's position is that the fire/s are in contravention of municipal bylaws and a solution needs to be found.

Of note, VicPD reported that there were some high-risk youth accessing and staying on the site this week. They have been in touch with MCFD about this - their GCPE shop is aware.

Response Points:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been working with the campers to provide information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.
- Representatives from the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services spoke with the campers on January 6.
- While the Ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, a growing number of campers over the past month has created an increasing number of health and safety concerns; making the courthouse property not a viable location for campers.
- Information was provided to campers on January 8 requesting the campers work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter.
- The Ministry views this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition and will give the campers reasonable time to move.
- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, the province has provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.

- There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.
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From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 8:11 AM
To: Facey, Nick MTIC:EX; Reddy, Brandon MTIC:EX
Subject: FYI - courthouse campers

Hi there – FYI:

- There is a circle at the camp that meets M-F at 10 a.m. Plan is for a rep from MTICS (it will be Jon and Brian) to attend this circle today., along with Don, the Exec Director at Our Place to talk to the campers.
- The flyer will be distributed the day following by the Sheriff's office. There may be an opportunity for Our Place to facilitate having one or two of the campers help in distributing the flyer.
- Our Place is working to move 4-6 campers per day to the new shelter (those who have indicated they would like to go), which is the best approach to helping them get settled without disruption.
- It is acknowledged that some campers will not agree to leave and that some are individuals who have been banned from local-area shelters.
- VicPD have noted some of the campers may have housing to go to already but not most.

Staff have asked that I be presented in the event media are around. If that is the case, I will coordinate any response with Housing.

Will give you an update after the discussion with the campers. Jo

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 6:12 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Beaupre, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: Flagging CTV clip - campers planning press conference Monday

CTV Van Island is reporting that the campers have a press conference planned for Monday. Does not say what time. Our staff will connect with Don at Our Place to see if he knows.

CIVI (CTV Two Victoria)
CTV News Live @ 5
08-Jan-2016 17:04

Copyright

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2016 3:02 PM
To: 'Yvonne.Raymond@bellmedia.ca'
Subject: Attn: Yvonne Raymond - CTV Vancouver Island

Hi Yvonne: as discussed earlier today, please find below background information in response to your inquiry regarding the campers at the Victoria Courthouse and the new shelter.

Regards, Joanne

Background information:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been working with the campers to provide information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped they take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new shelter will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.

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Joanne Whittier
Communications Manager
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
office: 250-387-0172 / cell: 250-893-5650

ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry: Technology, Innovation and
Citizens' Services

Date: Nov. 27, 2015

Minister Responsible: Hon. Amrik Virk

Created by Government Communications and
Public Engagement

Victoria Courthouse Campers

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- The B.C. Government is aware that some people have taken shelter overnight at the Victoria Courthouse property.
- Government has been working closely with the Victoria Police Department, the City of Victoria and community outreach organizations to identify a solution to the situation.
- The Province provides a range of supportive housing options for individuals without shelter.
- BC Housing works with local non-profit providers to find housing for people identified as homeless at the camp.
- Outreach workers also determine if any of the people at the camp need any support services, such as mental health and addictions services.
- Last year, the Province invested over \$19 million to support affordable housing for more than 5,100 low-income households in Victoria.
- Since 2001, we have developed or preserved more than 420 subsidized or supportive housing units in Victoria.

If asked about the City of Victoria's motion to request \$75,000 from BC Housing:

- The Province is aware of the City's request for funding and additional support; we are considering options that will provide more permanent shelter for these individuals.

BACKGROUND:

On Nov. 26, 2015, a motion was brought to Victoria City Council and passed unanimously, requesting \$75,000 to go towards 40 new rent supplements requested by Pacifica Housing for the Streets to Homes program. There was also a request BC Housing for \$75,000.

The motion was passed to provide \$75,000 from the City's Strategic Objectives Fund to provide 40 rent supplements, however the motion was passed contingent on the City receiving additional funding from partners including BC Housing.

This money would expand the Streets to Homes Program which provides rent supplements to those who need it most.

On Nov. 23, 2015, media inquired as to the Province's intended plan in response to an increasing number of homeless campers tenting at the Victoria Courthouse grounds.

There are approximately 20 campers currently set up at the courthouse lawn.

Media reports that a loophole exists whereby campers can stay at the property without having to leave by 7a.m. because the property is privately owned by the province. Overnight campers in city parks are required to abide by a local city parks bylaw that requires them to not camp between the hours of 7a.m. and 7p.m.

The Cool Aid Society has met with the campers, and identified some of them as having been barred from shelters for behavioral reasons. Other campers have been identified as not wanting to stay in shelters for various reasons.

There are two shelters located close to the encampment, both are operating at close to capacity each night.

- The Victoria Cool Aid society's downtown community centre has 40 beds, and is open 7 nights a week
- Our Place Society operates a 40-bed shelter at first metropolitan church, which is also open 7 nights a week

EWR shelters in Victoria will be activated in the case of cold or wet weather, providing additional spaces for people who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness

Following a court ruling in 2009, homeless campers have been allowed to stay in Victoria parks as long as they pack up their tents and move every morning. In this case however, the courthouse lawn belongs to the Province and that rule does not apply.

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 1:12 PM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: For approval - Media Requests - Various - Courthouse Campers

Thanks Darren.

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 1:07 PM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: For approval - Media Requests - Various - Courthouse Campers

Yes, that is accurate.

Thanks
Darren

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 1:06 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Cc: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: For approval - Media Requests - Various - Courthouse Campers

Hi Paul,

Wondering if you are okay with the yellow highlight below in terms of it being an accurate reflection of the frequency with which Housing has been to the Courthouse site? The green highlight is with MTICS for approval.

Thanks,
T

Date/Time: Jan. 11/12:50pm

Deadlines @ 2:30/3 p.m.

Media: Canadian Press

Reporter: 250-418-4779, Dirk.Meissner@thecanadianpress.com

Topic: Campers at Victoria Courthouse

Background: Reporter is looking for comment regarding a press conference held by campers at the Victoria Courthouse at 11 a.m. today demanding more money and solutions to the issue of homelessness. Campers indicated that they will resist efforts to have them moved. Together Against Poverty (TAPS) said they will provide a lawyer if the ministry goes forward with an injunction. Have let all three reporters know the ministry would likely provide background information.

Questions: Is there a deadline for when they will be asked to leave? Is eviction an option?

Recommended response:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
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http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Emergency_Housing/Map

Date/Time: Jan. 11/12:50pm

Deadline @ 2-2:30 p.m.

Media: CHEK news

Reporter: April Lawrence, 250-415-8168, alawrence@cheknews.ca

Questions: The tent city campers held a press conference this morning basically saying they would refuse to move if the province sought an injunction to force them out. They vowed to fight it through the courts. Does the Ministry have any response to this and is there any kind of timeline? Also they were saying that nobody from the Province has ever actually come down there to talk to them. Could you clarify?

Recommended response:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
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- **In addition, representatives from the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services have been to the site on a number of occasions in December and January.**
- While the Ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, there are an increasing number of health and safety issues as the site is not suitable for camping.
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Date/Time: Jan. 11/12:50pm

Deadline @ 3:30 p.m.

Media: CTV

Reporter: Yvonne Raymond, 250-661-2072, yvonne.raymond@bellmedia.ca

Questions: Interested in next steps at the site and the provinces response to concerns from the campers, which include: a lack of consultation, alleged band-aid approaches to homelessness (like the creation of a temporary shelter rather than multi-dimensional solutions that recognize one solution doesn't fit all).

Recommended response:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
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From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 24, 2015 12:12 PM
To: 'McGregor, Scott'; 'Katie Hamilton'; 'Bridget Frewer'
Subject: RE: Media 1100 VicPD

Hi Scott,

Thank you for sharing this update. We haven't had any media requests to this point but thought I would share our messaging with all of you nonetheless.

It is always a concern when an incident of this nature occurs. The Victoria Police Department is investigating and it would be inappropriate to comment any further on the incident itself.

The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to facilitate the opening of a temporary shelter that will provide daily meals, laundry and other support services to homeless people, including those camping at the courthouse property.

The Victoria Courthouse property is not an appropriate housing option for anyone. Once the shelter opens during the first week of January, the Province will give the campers time to move to the shelter. For issues of health and safety, it's hoped they take advantage of the dry, safe location that the shelter will offer.

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

From: McGregor, Scott [mailto:scott.mcgregor@vicpd.ca]
Sent: Thursday, December 24, 2015 11:47 AM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Katie Hamilton; 'Bridget Frewer'
Subject: Fw: Media 1100 VicPD

Fyi

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Rutherford, Matthew <matthew.rutherford@vicpd.ca>
Sent: Thursday, December 24, 2015 11:40 AM
To: McGregor, Scott
Cc: MacIntyre, Mark
Subject: RE: Media 1100 VicPD

All done the media interviews. Going to finishing up a couple of things, s.22
s.22

majority of questions focused on it this will cause the camp to shut down and I continued to answer that we are working with the province and the city. I had to once again explain that the police are not just going in and shutting it down because it is private property and we are working with the province.

They did ask about VicPD pressure on the province and I answered that we are working with them, and having meetings to come up with a solution.

That was the majority of the interview.

Have a great Christmas (the media, aside from global in Vancouver, don't have a news cast tomorrow or newspaper printed !!!!).

Matt



Matt Rutherford
Public Affairs
Victoria Police Department
850 Caledonia Avenue
Victoria, BC, V8T 5J8
250-995-7294
www.vicpd.ca

From: McGregor, Scott
Sent: Thursday, December 24, 2015 10:59 AM
To: 'Bridget Frewer'; Jason Johnson
Cc: Katie Hamilton; Rutherford, Matthew
Subject: RE: Media 1100 VicPD

Thanks Bridget. I passed them onto Matt for him to coordinate with you. I think he may have not had a chance to do that before they showed up here. He just reported to me that it was only the TC and they didn't even ask the broader questions. Their focus was on the stabbing. I suspect that the broader questions may come from the television and radio media.

Scott

From: Bridget Frewer [<mailto:bfrewer@victoria.ca>]
Sent: Thursday, December 24, 2015 10:49 AM
To: Jason Johnson; McGregor, Scott
Cc: Katie Hamilton
Subject: RE: Media 1100 VicPD

Hi Scott,
My direct lines are below if you'd like to call.

Bridget Frewer
Citizen Engagement Advisor
Citizen Engagement and Strategic Planning
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6

T 250.361.0545 C 250.217.1943



From: Jason Johnson
Sent: Thursday, December 24, 2015 10:17 AM
To: Scott McGregor
Cc: Bridget Frewer; Katie Hamilton
Subject: Media 1100 VicPD
Importance: High

Hi Scott:

Here is Bridget's contact information to touch base before media on the stabbing at the court house property this morning.

Cheers,

Jason Johnson
City Manager
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6

T 250.361.0202 F 250.361.0248



This message, together with any attachments, is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed. It may contain information that is confidential and prohibited from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination or copying of this message or any attachment is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify the original sender immediately by telephone or by return email and delete this message along with any attachments, from your computer.

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 1:04 PM
To: Burbee, Jon MTIC:EX; Fellows, Brian MTIC:EX
Cc: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: For approval - Media Requests - Various - Courthouse Campers

Importance: High

Hi Jon and Brian,

I understand that this messaging is signed off, however, I recall Graeme being at the site in December so have tweaked a line in **Green below** for your review. Would you say this is accurate? I don't want to say that we've been to the site twice if it's actually been more than that.

I will run the yellow highlight by Housing.

Thanks,

T

Date/Time: Jan. 11/12:50pm

Deadlines @ 2:30/3 p.m.

Media: Canadian Press

Reporter: 250-418-4779, Dirk.Meissner@thecanadianpress.com

Topic: Campers at Victoria Courthouse

Background: Reporter is looking for comment regarding a press conference held by campers at the Victoria Courthouse at 11 a.m. today demanding more money and solutions to the issue of homelessness. Campers indicated that they will resist efforts to have them moved. Together Against Poverty (TAPS) said they will provide a lawyer if the ministry goes forward with an injunction. Have let all three reporters know the ministry would likely provide background information.

Questions: Is there a deadline for when they will be asked to leave? Is eviction an option?

Recommended response:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been at the courthouse site on a regular basis, working with the campers to provide information about shelters and other services available in the Victoria area.

- While the Ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, there are an increasing number of health and safety issues as the site is not suitable for camping.
- Information was provided to campers requesting that they work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter.
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Information on shelter and housing options:

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Date/Time: Jan. 11/12:50pm

Deadline @ 2-2:30 p.m.

Media: CHEK news

Reporter: April Lawrence, 250-415-8168, alawrence@cheknews.ca

Questions: The tent city campers held a press conference this morning basically saying they would refuse to move if the province sought an injunction to force them out. They vowed to fight it through the courts. Does the Ministry have any response to this and is there any kind of timeline? Also they were saying that nobody from the Province has ever actually come down there to talk to them. Could you clarify?

Recommended response:

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Date/Time: Jan. 11/12:50pm

Deadline @ 3:30 p.m.

Media: CTV

Reporter: Yvonne Raymond, 250-661-2072, yvonne.raymond@bellmedia.ca

Questions: Interested in next steps at the site and the provinces response to concerns from the campers, which include: a lack of consultation, alleged band-aid approaches to homelessness (like the creation of a temporary shelter rather than multi-dimensional solutions that recognize one solution doesn't fit all).

Recommended response:

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From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 12:57 AM
To: Facey, Nick MTIC:EX
Cc: Fellows, Brian MTIC:EX; Hughes, Bette-Jo MTIC:EX; Ahmed, Sarf MTIC:EX
Subject: Re: Sudden Death at the encampment

I haven't heard anything from police.

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 29, 2015, at 12:19 AM, Facey, Nick MTIC:EX <Nick.Facey@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Just saw on ctv Twitter there are 4 more overdoses in Victoria - any more at the campsite?

Nick Facey,
Chief of Staff
for the Hon. Amrik Virk
Minister of Technology, Innovation & Citizens' Services
Government of BC

On Dec 27, 2015, at 2:23 PM, Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX <Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Brian,
Just left you a message. Feel free to give me a call at s.22 when you get a chance.
That's a landline. I won't get your call if you phone my cell as I am out of cell range but am still operating off wifi.

Thanks,
T

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 27, 2015, at 2:11 PM, Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX <Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Brian,
I will give you a call - s.22

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 27, 2015, at 12:21 PM, Fellows, Brian MTIC:EX <Brian.Fellows@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Tasha
We may want to have a quick discussion on this incident. I can be available when you are free.

in discussion with vic PD today they are dealing with numerous overdoses in Victoria not just at the Courthouse. We will increase the garbage detail and washroom cleaning and unless I hear otherwise our position should remain consistent.

Brian

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "McGregor, Scott"
<scott.mcgregor@vicpd.ca>
Date: December 26, 2015 at 12:44:28 PM PST
To: "rebecca.guthrie@gov.bc.ca"
<rebecca.guthrie@gov.bc.ca>, "Fellows, Brian MTIC:EX" <Brian.Fellows@gov.bc.ca>, "Lisa MTIC:EX Koorbatoff"
<Lisa.Koorbatoff@gov.bc.ca>, Roger Butcher
<rbutcher@bchousing.org>, "Sykes, Graeme MTIC:EX" <Graeme.Sykes@gov.bc.ca>, "Jon MTIC:EX Burbec" <Jon.Burbee@gov.bc.ca>, "Williams, Leslie J MTIC:EX"
<Leslie.Williams@gov.bc.ca>, "Cavanaugh, Lynda A JAG:EX"
<Lynda.Cavanaugh@gov.bc.ca>, "Holden, Virginia OHCS:EX"
<Virginia.Holden@gov.bc.ca>, Tasha Schollen
<Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Manak, Del" <del.manak@vicpd.ca>
Subject: Sudden Death at the encampment

Good afternoon,

The police and the Coroners Service are investigating a Sudden Death that occurred in a tent at the courthouse this morning. An adult male is reported to have overdosed and died. At this juncture it does not appear to be as a result of foul play so the investigation will rest with the Coroners Service.

Tasha Schollen had been advised.

The media contacted Mayor Lisa Helps and asked to interview her on the incident. She agreed to conduct an interview at her house which I understand is underway right now.

I briefed her in advance and cautioned her about commenting on the death as the Coroners Service should be the only agency doing so.

It is anticipated that the media will ask if this will precipitate the removal of the campers from

the site. To that she agreed with me can only be commented on by the Province.

Please call me if you have any questions of concerns.

Scott

s.22

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

This message, together with any attachments, is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed. It may contain information that is confidential and prohibited from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination or copying of this message or any attachment is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify the original sender immediately by telephone or by return email and delete this message along with any attachments, from your computer.

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 24, 2015 11:21 AM
To: Facey, Nick MTIC:EX; Reddy, Brandon MTIC:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX
Subject: Courthouse Messaging

Hi guys, status quo at the courthouse, except that additional port-a-potties have been installed at the courthouse property for Xmas day. Vic PD is doing media avail as we speak on a scheduled basis with media. They will say that they are working with the Province and City.

It is always a concern when an incident of this nature occurs. The Victoria Police Department is investigating and it would be inappropriate to comment any further on the incident itself.

The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to facilitate the opening of a temporary shelter that will provide daily meals, laundry and other support services to homeless people, including those camping at the courthouse property.

The Victoria Courthouse property is not an appropriate housing option for anyone. Once the shelter opens during the first week of January, the Province will give the campers time to move to the shelter. For issues of health and safety, it's hoped they take advantage of the dry, safe location that the shelter will offer.

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 24, 2015 11:07 AM
To: Hughes, Bette-Jo MTIC:EX
Subject: FW: Messaging

For your review please Bette Jo.

From: Fellows, Brian MTIC:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 24, 2015 11:03 AM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Cc: Guthrie, Rebecca MTIC:EX; Koorbatoff, Lisa MTIC:EX
Subject: Re: Messaging

This looks fine Tasha, thanks.
Brian

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 24, 2015, at 11:00 AM, Schoilen, Tasha GCPE:EX <Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hello,
Here is the messaging for your review/input.

It is always a concern when an incident of this nature occurs. The Victoria Police Department is investigating the incident and it would be inappropriate to comment on the incident itself. The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to facilitate the opening of a temporary shelter that will provide daily meals, laundry and other support services to homeless people, including those camping at the courthouse property.

The Victoria Courthouse property is not an appropriate housing option for anyone. Once the shelter opens during the first week of January, the Province will give the campers time to move to the shelter. For issues of health and safety, it's hoped they take advantage of the dry, safe location that the shelter will offer.

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 24, 2015 9:06 AM
To: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Cc: Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX; Ash, Christine GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: VicPD News | VicPD Investigating Stabbing and are Requesting the Public's Assistance

Hi – my ministry has a meeting at 10am with Vic PD et al on this. Will be getting messaging together. Vic PD avail for interviews from 11am- noon

Messaging:

- under police investigation
- For issues of health and safety – the courthouse isn't a longterm housing solution
- that's why a shelter is opening the first week of January
- *NEED info per 10am call as to what further steps being taken to ensure safety of campers *



File # 15-58095

Date: Thursday, December 24, 2015

VicPD Investigating Stabbing and are Requesting the Public's Assistance

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Page 053

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Copyright

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2015 3:08 PM
To: 'alawrence@cheknews.ca'
Subject: FW: Temporary homeless shelter

Hi April,

Here is a response on background as discussed. I hope this helps.
Thanks,
Tasha

Can you tell me what will happen with the remaining courthouse campers once the new shelter opens in January? Will they have to go?

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2015 12:32 PM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Cc: Ash, Christine GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Temporary homeless shelter

Hi Tasha, see the request below on the homeless camp at the courthouse, reporter is asking what happens with remaining campers- is this something you can address?

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: April Lawrence [<mailto:alawrence@cheknews.ca>]
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2015 12:28 PM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Temporary homeless shelter

Hi again,

Can you tell me what will happen with the remaining courthouse campers once the new shelter opens in January? Will they have to go?

April Lawrence

Reporter
CHEK News
office: (250) 480-3700
cell: (250) 415-8168
alawrence@cheknews.ca

On Mon, Dec 21, 2015 at 9:57 AM, Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX <Sandra.Steilo@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi April, I believe the city is issuing something, but I would confirm with them,

Thanks

Sandra Steilo

250-952-0617

From: April Lawrence [mailto:alawrence@cheknews.ca]
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2015 9:54 AM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Temporary homeless shelter

Good morning Sandra,

I saw in our Friday story that there was supposed to be an announcement this morning regarding the new homeless shelter? Is this happening today? I'm covering the story today so any new info would be helpful.
Thanks.

April

April Lawrence

Reporter

CHEK News

office: (250) 480-3700

cell: (250) 415-8168

alawrence@cheknews.ca

On Thu, Dec 17, 2015 at 9:46 AM, Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX <Sandra.Steilo@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi April, Minister Coleman might be in Victoria tomorrow morning, and have some time to chat about Victoria homelessness. Do you have a camera available at the leg? I'm looking at times and can be in touch to confirm something later if that is possible,

Sandra Steilo

250-952-0617

From: April Lawrence [mailto:alawrence@cheknews.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2015 3:43 PM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Temporary homeless shelter

Thanks Sandra.

April Lawrence

Reporter

CHEK News

office: (250) 480-3700

cell: (250) 415-8168

alawrence@cheknews.ca

On Tue, Dec 1, 2015 at 3:34 PM, Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX <Sandra.Steilo@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi April, sorry for the delay here, these are the details I have from the ministry responsible for housing.

The Province will provide approximately \$380,000 to fund a new 40-bed temporary shelter with the city of Victoria and Island Health. We are looking at locations and hope to have one identified shortly. Timing will depend on any modifications required and zoning. Discussions are taking place with a potential operator, and we anticipate the shelter will operate 24/7 and provide meals and other supports.

Shelter staff will assess people once they have been moved to the shelter, and relocate them to appropriate housing and health services. This shelter will operate until the end of April and be in addition to the 150 year-round homeless shelter spaces in Victoria, as well as the 145 shelter spaces that open during extreme weather.

The Province also recently provided \$184,000 to Our Place to open a new 40-bed winter shelter.

Thanks

Sandra Steilo

250-952-0617

From: April Lawrence [mailto:alawrence@chekevents.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2015 11:00 AM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Temporary homeless shelter

Great thank you. Story is for today so 2pm would be a reasonable deadline. We have the Minister on tape from yesterday, but if he's still in town and wanted to add more we would of course love an interview.
Thanks.

April

April Lawrence

Reporter

CHEK News

office: (250) 480-3700

cell: (250) 415-8168

alawrence@chekevents.ca

On Tue, Dec 1, 2015 at 10:58 AM, Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX <Sandra.Steilo@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi April, will look into this for you. What's your deadline? are you looking for an interview with the Minister or phone call?

Sandra Steilo

250-952-0617

From: April Lawrence [mailto:alawrence@chekevents.ca]

Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2015 10:56 AM

To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX

Subject: Temporary homeless shelter

Hi Sandra,

We heard from the Minister yesterday that the province, the City of Victoria, and Island Health are working to create a new 24/7 homeless shelter to accommodate people camping outside of the courthouse. We are following up on this today and looking for a few more details:

How much would the shelter cost?

When does the province hope to have it open?

What are some possible locations?

Who would provide meals? Other services?

Is this just a temporary solution? How long would it be open?

Would it be open to everyone? (couples, people with addictions, etc)

Thanks.

April

April Lawrence

Reporter

CHEK News

office: (250) 480-5700

cell: (250) 415-8168

alawrence@chekeews.ca

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 24, 2015 9:49 AM
To: Indridson, Ian GCPE:EX; McLintock, Barbara J JAG:EX
Cc: McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Heads up - campers

Merry Christmas!

-----Original Message-----

From: Indridson, Ian GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 24, 2015 9:49 AM
To: McLintock, Barbara J JAG:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Cc: McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Heads up - campers

Cheers - Merry Christmas to you as well!

-----Original Message-----

From: McLintock, Barbara J JAG:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 24, 2015 9:48 AM
To: Indridson, Ian GCPE:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Cc: McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Heads up - campers

Even better news, thanks for passing it on Ian.
And Merry Christmas to you all.

-----Original Message-----

From: Indridson, Ian GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 24, 2015 9:39 AM
To: McLintock, Barbara J JAG:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Cc: McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Heads up - campers

Yes - and suspect in custody.

-----Original Message-----

From: McLintock, Barbara J JAG:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 24, 2015 9:39 AM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Indridson, Ian GCPE:EX
Cc: McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Heads up - campers

I hear it was a stabbing with the -person likely to survive. Thank heavens

-----Original Message-----

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 24, 2015 8:35 AM
To: Indridson, Ian GCPE:EX
Cc: McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX; McLintock, Barbara J JAG:EX

Subject: Re: Heaus up - campers

Thanks Ian.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Dec 24, 2015, at 8:27 AM, Indridson, Ian GCPE:EX <ian.indridson@gov.bc.ca> wrote:
>
> Police tape around part of Vic courthouse camp and many cops. CTV here.
>
> Sent from my iPhone .

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 24, 2015 8:41 AM
To: Hughes, Bette-Jo MTIC:EX; Facey, Nick MTIC:EX; Reddy, Brandon MTIC:EX
Subject: FW: Heads up - campers
Importance: High

FYI - Does anyone have any further details on this?

-----Original Message-----

From: Indridson, Ian GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 24, 2015 8:27 AM
To: McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX
Cc: McLintock, Barbara J JAG:EX
Subject: Heads up - campers

Police tape around part of Vic courthouse camp and many cops. CTV here.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2015 3:06 PM
To: Ahmed, Sarf MTIC:EX; Fellows, Brian MTIC:EX
Subject: CHEK Final

Here is where we landed. Approved by MO and NGD

Deadline @ 3pm

Media: CHEK

Reporter: April Lawrence, 250-480-3700, cell: 250-415-8168

Topic: Victoria Courthouse Campers

Background: Reporter looking for background information. City of Victoria has confirmed it will pursue a shelter with full services for the Victoria Courthouse campers at 1240 Yates St. The matter will go to a public hearing at 7pm on Dec. 30.

Questions:

Can you tell me what will happen with the remaining courthouse campers once the new shelter opens in January? Will they have to go?

Suggested Response:

The BC Government is pleased to provide funding to a temporary shelter that will provide daily meals, laundry and other support services to people camping at the Victoria Courthouse property. It is our understanding that the City of Victoria will hold a public hearing about the proposed Yates Street location on Dec. 30. The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations. Once the shelter opens during the first week of January, the Province will give the campers time to move to the shelter. For issues of health and safety, its hoped they take advantage of the dry, safe location that the shelter will offer.

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2015 3:05 PM
To: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Ash, Christine GCPE:EX; Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Cc: McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: For Review: Media Request - CHEK - Victoria Courthouse Campers

Thanks...sorry Kel...Didn't mean to forget you.

From: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2015 3:05 PM
To: Ash, Christine GCPE:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Cc: McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: For Review: Media Request - CHEK - Victoria Courthouse Campers

Keeping kel looped in

Matt Gordon
Assistant Deputy Minister
Corporate Priorities & Communications Operations
Government of British Columbia
250 356.7398 office | 250 896.4923 mobile

From: Ash, Christine GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2015 3:02 PM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: For Review: Media Request - CHEK - Victoria Courthouse Campers

I think that's an appropriate response Tasha. Thanks for sharing.

Chris Ash
Communications Manager | Ministry of Natural Gas Development
ph: 250-952-0623 cell: 250-812-3616
email to: christine.ash@gov.bc.ca

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2015 3:00 PM
To: Ash, Christine GCPE:EX; Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX
Subject: For Review: Media Request - CHEK - Victoria Courthouse Campers
Importance: High

Hi Chris and Sandra,
Here is the response we'll provide to CHEK. Any concerns?

Deadline @ 3pm

Media: CHEK

Reporter: April Lawrence, 250-480-3700, cell: 250-415-8168

Topic: Victoria Courthouse Campers

Background: Reporter looking for background information. City of Victoria has confirmed it will pursue a shelter with full services for the Victoria Courthouse campers at 1240 Yates St. The matter will go to a public hearing at 7pm on Dec. 30.

Questions:

Can you tell me what will happen with the remaining courthouse campers once the new shelter opens in January? Will they have to go?

Suggested Response:

The BC Government is pleased to provide funding to a temporary shelter that will provide daily meals, laundry and other support services to people camping at the Victoria Courthouse property. It is our understanding that the City of Victoria will hold a public hearing about the proposed Yates Street location on Dec. 30. The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations. Once the shelter opens during the first week of January, the Province will give the campers time to move to the shelter. For issues of health and safety, its hoped they take advantage of the dry, safe location that the shelter will offer.

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2015 2:11 PM
To: Fellows, Brian MTIC:EX
Cc: Williams, Leslie J MTIC:EX
Subject: RE: Media Request - CHEK - Victoria Courthouse Campers

Tweaked...okay to go to Sarf?

From: Fellows, Brian MTIC:EX
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2015 2:02 PM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Cc: Williams, Leslie J MTIC:EX
Subject: RE: Media Request - CHEK - Victoria Courthouse Campers

Tasha

Would like to discuss if you have 5 minutes. Although the communication is accurate the concern I have is that our response will lead to further questions about those campers not willing to leave to go to the shelter once it opens.
Brian

Brian Fellows | Assistant Deputy Minister
Real Property Division | Shared Services BC
Ph: 250 893-3327 | **e:** Brian.Fellows@gov.bc.ca | **m:** PO Box 9412, Stn Prov Govt, Victoria BC V8W 9V1



Ministry of
Technology, Innovation
and Citizens' Services

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2015 1:39 PM
To: Fellows, Brian MTIC:EX
Cc: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Williams, Leslie J MTIC:EX
Subject: Media Request - CHEK - Victoria Courthouse Campers

Hi Brian,
For your review and suggestions.

Deadline @ 3pm

Media: CHEK

Reporter: April Lawrence, 250-480-3700, cell: 250-415-8168

Topic: Victoria Courthouse Campers

Background: Reporter looking for background information. City of Victoria has confirmed it will pursue a shelter with full services for the Victoria Courthouse campers at 1240 Yates St. The matter will go to a public hearing at 7pm on Dec. 30.

Questions:

**Can you tell me what will happen with the remaining courthouse campers once the new shelter opens in January?
Will they have to go?**

Suggested Response:

The BC Government is pleased to provide funding to a temporary shelter that will provide daily meals, laundry and other support services to people camping at the Victoria Courthouse property. It is our understanding that the City of Victoria will hold a public hearing about the proposed Yates Street location on Dec. 30.

The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations. Once the shelter opens during the first week of January, the Province will give the campers time to move to the shelter. For issues of health and safety, the courthouse property is not suitable for permanent residence and campers will be expected to take advantage of the dry, safe location that the shelter will offer.

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2015 2:54 PM
To: Facey, Nick MTIC:EX; Reddy, Brandon MTIC:EX
Cc: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: For Approval: Media Request - CHEK - Victoria Courthouse Campers

Okay to go on background?

Deadline @ 3pm

Media: CHEK

Reporter: April Lawrence, 250-480-3700, cell: 250-415-8168

Topic: Victoria Courthouse Campers

Background: Reporter looking for background information. City of Victoria has confirmed it will pursue a shelter with full services for the Victoria Courthouse campers at 1240 Yates St. The matter will go to a public hearing at 7pm on Dec. 30.

Questions:

Can you tell me what will happen with the remaining courthouse campers once the new shelter opens in January? Will they have to go?

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The BC Government is pleased to provide funding to a temporary shelter that will provide daily meals, laundry and other support services to people camping at the Victoria Courthouse property. It is our understanding that the City of Victoria will hold a public hearing about the proposed Yates Street location on Dec. 30.

The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations. Once the shelter opens during the first week of January, the Province will give the campers time to move to the shelter. For issues of health and safety, the courthouse property is not suitable for permanent residence and campers will be expected to take advantage of the dry, safe location that the shelter will offer.

Only if pressed on timing and whether an injunction will be sought:

The Province will provide campers with the time required to transition to the supports and services they need. Should some campers choose not to utilize the services offered to them, the BC Government will re-assess the situation and consider its next steps.

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2015 1:52 PM
To: Facey, Nick MTIC:EX; Reddy, Brandon MTIC:EX
Subject: FW: Media Request - CHEK - Victoria Courthouse Campers

In draft/approvals...

Deadline @ 3pm

Media: CHEK

Reporter: April Lawrence, 250-480-3700, cell: 250-415-8168

Topic: Victoria Courthouse Campers

Background: Reporter looking for background information. City of Victoria has confirmed it will pursue a shelter with full services for the Victoria Courthouse campers at 1240 Yates St. The matter will go to a public hearing at 7pm on Dec. 30.

Questions:

- Can you tell me what will happen with the remaining courthouse campers once the new shelter opens in January? Will they have to go?

Suggested Response:

The BC Government is pleased to provide funding to a temporary shelter that will provide daily meals, laundry and other support services to people camping at the Victoria Courthouse property. It is our understanding that the City of Victoria will hold a public hearing about the proposed Yates Street location on Dec. 30.

Once the shelter opens during the first week of January, the Province will give the campers time to move to the shelter. For issues of health and safety, the courthouse property is not suitable for permanent residence and campers will be expected to take advantage of the dry, safe location that the shelter will offer. Any campers who do not move their belongings from the courthouse property will be asked to cease camping there. The Province continues to work closely with the Victoria Police Department, the City of Victoria and service providers.

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2015 1:35 PM
To: Williams, Leslie J MTIC:EX
Cc: Fellows, Brian MTIC:EX
Subject: RE: Flyer

Thanks Leslie!

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

From: Williams, Leslie J MTIC:EX
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2015 1:16 PM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Cc: Fellows, Brian MTIC:EX
Subject: Flyer

Hi Tasha, Here's the latest:

<< File: 103621_Assoc_DM_Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse_Dec_16_15.docx >>
Leslie Williams | Manager, Divisional Operations | Office of the Assistant Deputy Minister
Real Property Division | Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Ph: 250-952-8346 | e: Leslie.Williams@gov.bc.ca | m: PO Box 9412, Stn Prov Govt, Victoria BC V8W 9V1

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2015 12:33 PM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Cc: Ash, Christine GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Temporary homeless shelter

Will do, thanks.

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2015 12:32 PM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Cc: Ash, Christine GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Temporary homeless shelter

Hi Tasha, see the request below on the homeless camp at the courthouse, reporter is asking what happens with remaining campers- is this something you can address?

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: April Lawrence [<mailto:alawrence@cheknews.ca>]
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2015 12:28 PM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Temporary homeless shelter

Hi again,

Can you tell me what will happen with the remaining courthouse campers once the new shelter opens in January? Will they have to go?

April Lawrence
Reporter
CHEK News
office: (250) 480-3700
cell: (250) 415-8168
alawrence@cheknews.ca

On Mon, Dec 21, 2015 at 9:57 AM, Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX <Sandra.Steilo@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi April, I believe the city is issuing something, but I would confirm with them,

Sandra Steilo

250-952-0617

From: April Lawrence [mailto:alawrence@cheknews.ca]
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2015 9:54 AM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Temporary homeless shelter

Good morning Sandra,

I saw in our Friday story that there was supposed to be an announcement this morning regarding the new homeless shelter? Is this happening today? I'm covering the story today so any new info would be helpful. Thanks.

April

April Lawrence

Reporter

CHEK News

office: (250) 480-3700

cell: (250) 415-8168

alawrence@cheknews.ca

On Thu, Dec 17, 2015 at 9:46 AM, Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX <Sandra.Steilo@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi April, Minister Coleman might be in Victoria tomorrow morning, and have some time to chat about Victoria homelessness. Do you have a camera available at the leg? I'm looking at times and can be in touch to confirm something later if that is possible,

Sandra Steilo

250-952-0617

From: April Lawrence [mailto:alawrence@cheknews.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2015 3:43 PM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Temporary homeless shelter

Thanks Sandra.

April Lawrence

Reporter

CHEK News

office: (250) 480-3700

cell: (250) 415-8168

alawrence@cheknews.ca

On Tue, Dec 1, 2015 at 3:34 PM, Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX <Sandra.Steilo@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi April, sorry for the delay here, these are the details I have from the ministry responsible for housing.

The Province will provide approximately \$380,000 to fund a new 40-bed temporary shelter with the city of Victoria and Island Health. We are looking at locations and hope to have one identified shortly. Timing will depend on any modifications required and zoning. Discussions are taking place with a potential operator, and we anticipate the shelter will operate 24/7 and provide meals and other supports.

Shelter staff will assess people once they have been moved to the shelter, and relocate them to appropriate housing and health services. This shelter will operate until the end of April and be in addition to the 150 year-round homeless shelter spaces in Victoria, as well as the 145 shelter spaces that open during extreme weather.

The Province also recently provided \$184,000 to Our Place to open a new 40-bed winter shelter.

Thanks

Sandra Steilo

250-952-0617

From: April Lawrence [mailto:alawrence@cheknews.ca]

Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2015 11:00 AM

To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX

Subject: Re: Temporary homeless shelter

Great thank you. Story is for today so 2pm would be a reasonable deadline. We have the Minister on tape from yesterday, but if he's still in town and wanted to add more we would of course love an interview. Thanks.

April

April Lawrence

Reporter

CHEK News

office: (250) 480-3700

cell: (250) 415-8168

alawrence@cheknews.ca

On Tue, Dec 1, 2015 at 10:58 AM, Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX <Sandra.Steilo@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi April, will look into this for you. What's your deadline? are you looking for an interview with the Minister or phone call?

Sandra Steilo

250-952-0617

From: April Lawrence [mailto:alawrence@cheknews.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2015 10:56 AM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: Temporary homeless shelter

Hi Sandra,

We heard from the Minister yesterday that the province, the City of Victoria, and Island Health are working to create a new 24/7 homeless shelter to accommodate people camping outside of the courthouse. We are following up on this today and looking for a few more details:

How much would the shelter cost?

When does the province hope to have it open?

What are some possible locations?

Who would provide meals? Other services?

Is this just a temporary solution? How long would it be open?

Would it be open to everyone? (couples, people with addictions, etc)

Thanks.

April

April Lawrence

Reporter

CHIEK News

office: [\(250\) 480-3700](tel:2504803700)

cell: [\(250\) 415-8168](tel:2504158168)

alawrence@cheknews.ca

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2015 9:10 AM
To: Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Incident in relation to the Courthouse encampment

FYI

From: Burbee, Jon MTIC:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2015 7:38 AM
To: Fellows, Brian MTIC:EX
Cc: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Sykes, Graeme MTIC:EX; Guthrie, Rebecca MTIC:EX
Subject: FW: Incident in relation to the Courthouse encampment

Brian,

In addition to this incident, there were two other items of note from Vic PD yesterday. They have confirmation that the youth at risk is at the camp right now. Secondly, the campers' are now challenging the legitimacy of Vic PD on site and have asked the Province to communicate to the campers that we've asked the police to be there.

One other item under development is that emergency services are contingency planning response scenarios to health or fire emergencies on site. In such an unregulated and chaotic environment, it's on a matter of time that an incident will occur. **s.22**

s.22

I'm in

communication with Stephanie Melville at Court Svcs and the Sherrif Svc.

Jon

From: McGregor, Scott [<mailto:scott.mcgregor@vicpd.ca>]
Sent: December 17, 2015 7:24 AM
To: Burbee, Jon MTIC:EX; Jason Johnson (jjohnson@victoria.ca)
Cc: O'Connor, Dan; MacIntyre, Mark; Ing, Steve; XT:Manak, Del LCLB:IN; Elsner, Frank; khamilton@victoria.ca
Subject: Incident in relation to the Courthouse encampment

Good morning Jon and Jason,

I wanted to advise you of an incident that occurred last night in relation to the encampment at the Courthouse. This was reported on the overnight bulletin:

General Remarks quiet nightshift. Only thing of note is the camp at the court house. **s.22**
s.22

s.22

This is a good example that given the current events surrounding the camp, tempers between campers and neighbors are getting high and something bad is going to happen. *(The editorializing is from the On-duty Watch Commander).*

I can update further at our telephone conference meeting today at 1:30 PM. I wanted to let you know in advance in the event that you receive direct complaints or inquiries from the media. We did not report out on this to the media.

INITIALS,
Scott



Inspector Scott McGregor
Focused Enforcement Team
Victoria Police Department
850 Caledonia Avenue
Victoria, BC, V8T 5J8
Desk: 250-995-7388

s.22

Scott.mcgregor@vicpd.ca

www.vicpd.ca

This message, together with any attachments, is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed. It may contain information that is confidential and prohibited from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination or copying of this message or any attachment is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify the original sender immediately by telephone or by return email and delete this message along with any attachments, from your computer.

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2015 11:37 AM
To: Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX
Attachments: 103621_Assoc_DM_Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse.docx



Ministry of
Technology, Innovation
and Citizens' Services

_____, 2015

TO: Campers on Victoria Courthouse Lands

FROM: The Province of BC, Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

The Provincial Government is the owner of the Victoria Courthouse Lands, which is the grass area bounded by Courtney, Quadra and Burdett Street. This is not a City Park.

Over the past month, campers have spent many nights sleeping on the Courthouse Lands and the number of occupants and tents has steadily grown. Personal belongings and tents now cover the majority of the grass area. There is concern that with time, the situation of so many people with a variety of needs living in close proximity will lead to risks to the safety of campers. The Provincial Government recognizes that campers have chosen this location for a variety of reasons; however, this camp is not a suitable solution. We are in close contact with outreach workers, health care providers, shelters, City staff, income assistance workers, police, courthouse staff, and numerous other concerned citizens and we would like to provide you with a number of options that are available.

The Province is committed to helping each and every camper. We will ensure that outreach workers will continue to connect with you with the support services options, including health care, counselling and shelter. The Province will open a new 40 bed 24/7 shelter (**location to be confirmed in this letter once determined**) and we encourage campers to consider this option. The Province also provides a range of other supportive housing options elsewhere in Victoria for individuals without shelter; information on these shelters will be provided by on-site counsellors

In the end, this camp is not a sustainable solution. Our society has better options available, run by people who care about your health and wellbeing. We ask that campers cease camping at this location and remove your property from the Courthouse Lands.

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2015 4:06 PM
To: Facey, Nick MTIC:EX; Reddy, Brandon MTIC:EX; Jacobson, John MTIC:EX; Ahmed, Sarf MTIC:EX
Cc: Fellows, Brian MTIC:EX; Burbee, Jon MTIC:EX
Subject: New shelter opening soon in Victoria - 7:45am News Release Friday
Attachments: 2015MNGD0087-002126.pdf
Importance: High

Hi everyone,

Natural Gas Development and Housing news release on camper shelter is going out at 7:45am tomorrow. See attached.

Minister Coleman will be on CBC's On the Island at 8:10 a.m. and CFX1070 at 8:50 a.m. to discuss it.

I'm getting some messaging together as the inevitable question to us will be whether we will seek an injunction for the campers who refuse to leave.

I'll circulate that tomorrow morning once we see what MRC says.

Any concerns, please let me know,
Thanks,
T

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2015MNGD0087-002126
Dec. 18, 2015

Ministry of Natural Gas Development
and Responsible for Housing
City of Victoria

New shelter opening soon in Victoria

VICTORIA – People who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Victoria will soon have access to a new winter shelter.

The B.C. government will provide \$400,000 in operating funding plus \$25,000 toward start-up costs for a 40-bed shelter that will be open 24/7 and provide three meals per day. The City of Victoria will provide \$75,000 in rent supplements and the United Way will contribute \$25,000.

Our Place will operate the shelter. Shelter staff will assess people once they arrive, relocate them to appropriate housing and refer them to health services.

The Province and the City of Victoria are working to finalize a suitable location for the shelter, which once opened, will operate until the end of April 2016.

The B.C. government and the city have been working together to identify housing solutions for people living at the homeless camp at the Victoria courthouse property. Outreach workers continue to attend the camp to make sure the campers are aware of the services available to them.

The new shelter will be in addition to the 150 year-round homeless shelter spaces in Victoria, as well as the 145 shelter spaces that are available during extreme weather. The Province also recently provided \$184,000 to Our Place to open a 40-bed overnight shelter at First Metropolitan United Church.

Quotes:

Rich Coleman, Minister of Natural Gas Development and Minister Responsible for Housing –

"We'll be encouraging people who need housing at the camp to take advantage of the new shelter, once it opens. By getting into a shelter, these people can put themselves in a better position to stabilize their situation, have any health needs assessed and begin the process towards moving to more stable, permanent housing."

Mayor Lisa Helps, City of Victoria –

"The funding for this shelter will provide much needed services to Victoria's most vulnerable citizens. We are grateful that we can expand our shelter capacity this year by 40 beds, and get people inside into warm safe spaces, so we can then connect them more permanent housing that will serve them beyond the winter months."

Don Evans, executive director, Our Place Society –

"This new shelter will operate under the premise that individuals who come through our doors will find a safe space with comfort, support and an opportunity to transition their lives. We look forward to working with BC Housing, the City of Victoria, and our community partners in this step towards permanent housing for the people of Victoria who need it most."

Patricia Jelinski, CEO, United Way Greater Victoria –

"United Way is here to support our community in times of need, serving our most vulnerable citizens today and working with our partners to find long term and sustainable solutions. The proposed facility will address the immediate needs of the community by providing shelter to those who are currently sleeping outdoors, and the funding we are providing will also assist in connecting people with the services they need to be successful in more permanent housing. We are pleased to be working with BC Housing, the City of Victoria, Our Place and our community partners to improve the lives of our citizens and to build a strong and caring community for all."

Quick Facts:

- Since 2001, the B.C. government has invested \$4.4 billion to provide affordable housing for low-income individuals, seniors and families.
- This year, more than 102,500 B.C. households will benefit from provincial social housing programs and services.
- The Province provided approximately \$213 million last year to support more than 13,200 emergency shelter spaces, subsidized housing units and rent supplements for those who were homeless across British Columbia.
- Last year, the Province invested over \$19.7 million to provide subsidized housing and rent supplements for more than 5,100 Victoria households.

Learn More:

For more information about services and supports for the homeless in Victoria, please visit:
www.housingmattersbc.ca/docs/fs_Homeless%20Supports_Victoria.pdf

To see a map of permanent and temporary shelters in B.C., please visit:
http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Emergency_Housing/Map

Media Contacts:

Rajvir Rao
BC Housing
604 439-8583

Katie Hamilton
City of Victoria
khamilton@victoria.ca
250 217-8343

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2015 3:46 PM
To: Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX; McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX
Cc: Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Indridson, Ian GCPE:EX; Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: 103621_Assoc_DM_Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse

That's pretty cool!

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

From: Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2015 3:38 PM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX
Cc: Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Indridson, Ian GCPE:EX; Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: 103621_Assoc_DM_Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse

I read police took dozens of hot chocolates down there late one night or early morn. Think I saw it as a tweet.

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2015 3:36 PM
To: Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX; McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX
Cc: Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Indridson, Ian GCPE:EX; Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: 103621_Assoc_DM_Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse

It was merely awareness re: policing piece for you ☺

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

From: Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2015 3:32 PM
To: McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Cc: Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Indridson, Ian GCPE:EX; Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: 103621_Assoc_DM_Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse

Hi Tash - No need to hear from me I think, especially after your convo with Woolley

From: McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2015 3:29 PM

TO: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX

Cc: Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Indridson, Ian GCPE:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX; Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX

Subject: FW: 103621_Assoc_DM_Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse

Hi Tash, checked with our program area and they defer to your staff on this. No suggested changes.

From: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX

Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2015 2:37 PM

To: McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX

Cc: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX

Subject: Fwd: 103621_Assoc_DM_Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse

Adding Caroline (who has Court Services).

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX" <Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca>

Date: December 8, 2015 at 2:35:09 PM PST

To: "Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX" <Paul.Woolley@gov.bc.ca>, "Ash, Christine GCPE:EX"

<Christine.Ash@gov.bc.ca>, "Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX" <Tiffany.Nelson@gov.bc.ca>, "Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX" <Donna.Sitter@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: "Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX" <Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca>, "Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX"

<Joanne.Whittier@gov.bc.ca>, "Woods, Emily GCPE:EX" <Emily.Woods@gov.bc.ca>, "Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX" <Matt.Gordon@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: 103621_Assoc_DM_Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse

Hello,

My program area has asked that we run this letter by your shops for feedback and input. The intention is to distribute it to the campers at the Victoria Courthouse Property as soon as Dec. 15th.

Paul and Chris – you'll see that there is some housing-related information that is outstanding. I'm not sure if the shelter that MRC announced will be ready by next week. If not, are there other shelters that campers could be referred to?

The contact phone numbers as you'll see have yet to be populated by my ministry – although it's been suggested so that campers have somewhere to call for further info.

If you are able to get your feedback/edits back to me by end of day tomorrow, that would be much appreciated.

Thanks,

Tasha

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2015 12:28 PM
To: Burbee, Jon MTIC:EX; HOLD 2016 JAN 25 Phillips, Keith J JAG:EX; Goodman, Sara JAG:EX
Cc: Chen-Mack, Betty JAG:EX; Williams, Leslie J MTIC:EX; Koorbatoff, Lisa MTIC:EX; Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Courthouse Campers

Hi there – yes, please send any media queries my way and I'll handle them from here.

Thanks,

T

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

From: Burbee, Jon MTIC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2015 12:15 PM
To: Phillips, Keith J JAG:EX; Goodman, Sara JAG:EX
Cc: Chen-Mack, Betty JAG:EX; Williams, Leslie J MTIC:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Koorbatoff, Lisa MTIC:EX
Subject: RE: Courthouse Campers

Keith,

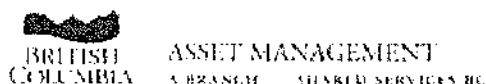
Further to my last, all inquiries from the general public are to be directed as indicated below. All *media* inquiries are to be directed to our GCPE Communications Director, Tasha Schollen.

Regrets on any confusion on this.

Should the DAG have any other general inquiries I encourage these to be directed as a first stop to either Betty Chen-Mack, Facilities Management ED, or Lisa Koorbatoff, Shared Services Director of Client Services for the Justice Sector as they will be current with the general nature of the latest developments.

Regards,

Jon Burbee | Executive Director | Asset Management Branch | Shared Services BC
Ph: 250 213-7439 | **e:** Jon.Burbee@gov.bc.ca | **m:** PO Box 9412, Stn Prov Gov, Victoria BC V8W 9V1



From: Burbee, Jon MTIC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2015 10:19 AM

From: Phillips, Keith J JAG:EX; Goodman, Sara JAG:EX
Cc: Chen-Mack, Betty JAG:EX; Williams, Leslie J MTIC:EX
Subject: Re: Courthouse Campers

MTICS is the lead on this. Please direct to the RPD ADMO 's office.

Jon

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Phillips, Keith J JAG:EX
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2015 10:01
To: Goodman, Sara JAG:EX; Burbee, Jon MTIC:EX
Subject: Courthouse Campers

Hi Sara and Jon:

DAG is getting calls (press) on this matter. I am asked to advise as to who has the communications lead – Min Coleman's office or MCIT and could we have the contact name, please?

Thanks both.

K

Keith J. Phillips
Barrister and Solicitor
Aboriginal Law and Litigation Group
Ministry of Justice
1405 Douglas Street, 3rd Floor
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9J5
250-356-6523

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 4:18 PM
To: Facey, Nick MTIC:EX
Subject: FW: MTICS Media Request - CBC - Victoria Courthouse Campers

Second request that requires signoff...

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 3:33 PM
To: Facey, Nick MTIC:EX
Cc: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Ash, Christine GCPE:EX; Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX
Subject: MTICS Media Request - CBC - Victoria Courthouse Campers

Okay to go on background?

Even though only CBC has asked...because CTV previously asked about port-a-potties (and we said we weren't considering installing any) I would like to let them know that they are now there.

Deadline @ ASAP

Media: CBC

Reporter: Megan Thomas, megan.thomas@cbc.ca, 250 414-4707

Topic: Courthouse Tent City

Background: The reporter is following up on the tent city at the courthouse. She's noticed port-a-potties on the property.

Questions: I notice there are port-a-potties on the property, did the Province order them?

Suggested Response:

"In an effort to address immediate health and safety concerns, on Friday the Province arranged for the delivery of two port-a-potties and a number of garbage receptacles for refuse. We continue to work closely with the Victoria Police Department, the City of Victoria and service providers on a solution for the campers."

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 3:50 PM
To: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Ash, Christine GCPE:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: MTICS Media Request - CBC - Victoria Courthouse Campers

Neither did I – program and MO did not tell me. I have had a chat with them about keeping me apprised of things so we can get ahead of things

From: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 3:46 PM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Ash, Christine GCPE:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: MTICS Media Request - CBC - Victoria Courthouse Campers

Didn't realize we had delivered port-a-potties. When will we know the results of the 75K ask?

Emily

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 3:33 PM
To: Facey, Nick MTIC:EX
Cc: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Ash, Christine GCPE:EX; Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX
Subject: MTICS Media Request - CBC - Victoria Courthouse Campers

Okay to go on background?

Even though only CBC has asked...because CTV previously asked about port-a-potties (and we said we weren't considering installing any) I would like to let them know that they are now there.

Deadline @ ASAP

Media: CBC

Reporter: Megan Thomas, megan.thomas@cbc.ca, 250 414-4707

Topic: Courthouse Tent City

Background: The reporter is following up on the tent city at the courthouse. She's noticed port-a-potties on the property.

Questions: I notice there are port-a-potties on the property, did the Province order them?

Suggested Response:

in an effort to address immediate health and safety concerns, on Friday the Province arranged for the delivery of two port-a-potties and a number of garbage receptacles for refuse. We continue to work closely with the Victoria Police Department, the City of Victoria and service providers on a solution for the campers.”

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 2:51 PM
To: Fellows, Brian MTIC:EX; Burbee, Jon MTIC:EX
Cc: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: MTICS Media Request - CBC - Victoria Courthouse Campers

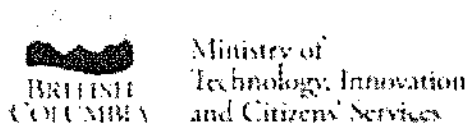
Super, thanks.

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

From: Fellows, Brian MTIC:EX
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 2:51 PM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Burbee, Jon MTIC:EX
Cc: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: MTICS Media Request - CBC - Victoria Courthouse Campers

Thanks Tasha, yes this is fine.
Brian

Brian Fellows | Assistant Deputy Minister
Real Property Division | Shared Services BC
Ph: 250 893-3327 | **e:** Brian.Fellows@gov.bc.ca | **m:** PO Box 9412, Stn Prov Govt, Victoria BC V8W 9V1



From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 2:50 PM
To: Burbee, Jon MTIC:EX; Fellows, Brian MTIC:EX
Cc: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: MTICS Media Request - CBC - Victoria Courthouse Campers

Thanks very much Jon.

Brian are you okay with the wording below? If so, I'll send to Sarf next.

Cheers.

From: Burbee, Jon MTIC:EX
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 2:49 PM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX

CC: Fellows, Brian MTIC:EX, Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX

Subject: RE: MTICS Media Request - CBC - Victoria Courthouse Campers

Tasha,

Here's a minor edit. This is the phrase used by senior City staff in their request to MTICS staff.

Jon

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX

Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 2:35 PM

To: Burbee, Jon MTIC:EX

Cc: Fellows, Brian MTIC:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX

Subject: MTICS Media Request - CBC - Victoria Courthouse Campers

Hi Jon,

Is this language acceptable and accurate? Even though only CBC has asked...because CTV previously asked about port-a-potties (and we said we weren't considering installing any) I would like to let them know that they are now there.

Date/Time: Nov. 30/1:50pm

Deadline @ ASAP

Media: CBC

Reporter: Megan Thomas, megan.thomas@cbc.ca, 250 414-4707

Topic: Courthouse Tent City

Background: The reporter is following up on the tent city at the courthouse. She's noticed port-a-potties on the property.

Questions: I notice there are port-a-potties on the property, did the Province order them?

Suggested Response:

"In an effort to address immediate health and safety concerns, on Friday the Province arranged for the delivery of two port-a-potties and a number of garbage receptacles for refuse. We continue to work closely with the Victoria Police Department, the City of Victoria and service providers on a solution for the campers."

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 4:06 PM
To: 'Megan Thomas'
Subject: RE: Victoria Courthouse Campers Issue

Hi Megan,

In response to your question, in an effort to address immediate health and safety concerns, on Friday the Province arranged for the delivery of two port-a-potties and a number of garbage receptacles for refuse. The Province continues to work closely with the Victoria Police Department, the City of Victoria and service providers on a solution for the campers.

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

From: Megan Thomas [<mailto:megan.thomas@cbc.ca>]
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 12:56 PM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Victoria Courthouse Campers Issue

Hi Tasha,

I see that there are now port-o-potties for the campers at the courthouse. Did the province install those?

Thanks,
Megan

Megan Thomas
Reporter
CBC Victoria
Phone: 250 414-4707
Cell: 250 661-6185

On Thu, Nov 26, 2015 at 3:22 PM, Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX <Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Megan,

Unfortunately I do not have anyone who can do the interview that you are seeking. I know that a statement doesn't help you much, however, I'm sharing it with

you because it's what other media are also getting today. There's really been no new developments.

Attributable to a B.C. Government spokesperson. Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks,

T

"The B.C. Government is in talks with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property and we continue to work closely with the Victoria Police Department. The Province provides a range of supportive housing options for individuals without shelter. BC Housing works with local non-profit providers to find housing for people identified as homeless at the camp. Outreach workers also determine if any of the people at the camp need any support services, such as mental health and addictions services. Last year, the Province invested over \$19 million to support affordable housing for more than 5,100 low-income households in Victoria. Since 2001, we have developed or preserved more than 420 subsidized or supportive housing units in Victoria."

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director

Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

Government Communications and Public Engagement

Phone: [250-387-3134](tel:250-387-3134) | Cell: [250-889-1121](tel:250-889-1121)

From: Megan Thomas [mailto:megan.thomas@cbc.ca]

Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 11:07 AM

To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX

Subject: Re: Victoria Courthouse Campers Issue

Hi Tasha,

Would it be possible to arrange an radio interview with the minister regarding the campers at the Victoria law courts? We could make time on either our afternoon show today or our morning show tomorrow. Or if someone else from the ministry is speaking on the issue, that would work for us as well.

Thanks,

Megan

Megan Thomas
Reporter
CBC Victoria

Phone: 250 414-4707
Cell: 250 661-6185

On Wed, Nov 25, 2015 at 4:52 PM, Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX <Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Megan,

There is really no update to offer, aside from today's meeting between the province and the city. Sorry for the delay...

Statement from a B.C. Government spokesperson:

"Today the B.C. Government met with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property. The Province has no plan to consider the placement of a port-a-potty on the property. We continue to also work closely with the Victoria Police Department."

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director

Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

Government Communications and Public Engagement

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 1:28 PM
To: 'Megan Thomas'
Subject: RE: Victoria Courthouse Campers Issue

Hi Megan,
Let me look into this for you...get back to you asap.

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

From: Megan Thomas [<mailto:megan.thomas@cbc.ca>]
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Megan Thomas
Reporter
CBC Victoria
Phone: 250 414-4707
Cell: 250 661-6185

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you because it's what other media are also getting today. There's really been no new developments.

Attributable to a B.C. Government spokesperson. Let me know if you need anything else.

THANKS,

T

"The B.C. Government is in talks with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property and we continue to work closely with the Victoria Police Department. The Province provides a range of supportive housing options for individuals without shelter. BC Housing works with local non-profit providers to find housing for people identified as homeless at the camp. Outreach workers also determine if any of the people at the camp need any support services, such as mental health and addictions services. Last year, the Province invested over \$19 million to support affordable housing for more than 5,100 low-income households in Victoria. Since 2001, we have developed or preserved more than 420 subsidized or supportive housing units in Victoria."

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director

Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

Government Communications and Public Engagement

Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

From: Megan Thomas [mailto:megan.thomas@cbc.ca]

Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 11:07 AM

To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX

Subject: Re: Victoria Courthouse Campers Issue

Hi Tasha,

Would it be possible to arrange an radio interview with the minister regarding the campers at the Victoria law courts? We could make time on either our afternoon show today or our morning show tomorrow. Or if someone else from the ministry is speaking on the issue, that would work for us as well.

Thanks,

Megan

Megan Thomas
Reporter
CBC Victoria

Phone: 250 414-4707
Cell: 250 661-6185

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Hi Megan,

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Statement from a B.C. Government spokesperson:

"Today the B.C. Government met with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property. The Province has no plan to consider the placement of a port-a-potty on the property. We continue to also work closely with the Victoria Police Department."

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director

Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

Government Communications and Public Engagement

Phone: 250-387-3134

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, November 27, 2015 4:04 PM
To: Watts, Richard (Times-Colonist)
Subject: Re: Victoria Courthouse Camping Issue

Hi Richard,
Sorry for the delay in responding, s.22 . No new developments today.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 27, 2015, at 2:51 PM, Watts, Richard (Times-Colonist) <RWatts@timescolonist.com> wrote:

Hi Tasha:
I'm just checking to see if anything has happened on the Courthouse campsite today.
I'm writing a short story on the nearby Anglican church. The minister is getting set to preach on the subject this Sunday.
Richard.

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX [<mailto:Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca>]

Sent: November-26-15 3:16 PM

To: Watts, Richard (Times-Colonist)

Subject: RE: Victoria Courthouse Camping Issue

Hi Richard,

It's status quo from our vantage point. Nothing new to report but if that changes, I will let you know.

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

From: Watts, Richard (Times-Colonist) [<mailto:RWatts@timescolonist.com>]

Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 3:11 PM

To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX

Subject: RE: Victoria Courthouse Camping Issue

Hi Tasha:

Anything to report today on the Courthouse campsite?

Richard.

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX [<mailto:Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca>]

Sent: November-25-15 4:51 PM

To: Watts, Richard (Times-Colonist)

Subject: Victoria Courthouse Camping Issue

Hi Richard,

There is really no update to offer, aside from today's meeting between the province and the city.

Sorry for the delay...

Statement from a B.C. Government spokesperson:

"Today the B.C. Government met with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property. We continue to also work closely with the Victoria Police Department."

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, November 27, 2015 5:51 AM
To: Facey, Nick MTIC:EX; Ingram, Geoff MTIC:EX
Subject: Fwd: TNO: Editorial - Booting campers is not the answer - Times Colonist (Victoria)

Calls to not to oust the campers from the courthouse property to another park but for prov'l and fed'l gov'ts to step up and house them.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: <tno@gov.bc.ca>
Date: November 27, 2015 at 5:29:12 AM PST
To: Undisclosed recipients;;
Subject: TNO: Editorial - Booting campers is not the answer - Times Colonist (Victoria)

Booting campers is not the answer
Times Colonist (Victoria)
27-Nov-2015
Page A16
By Editorial

Copyright

Page 102

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Copyright

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 3:47 PM
To: Ahmed, Sarf MTIC:EX
Cc: Fellows, Brian MTIC:EX; Burbee, Jon MTIC:EX
Subject: RE: For Approval: MTICS Media Requests - Various - Victoria Courthouse Campers

Thanks everyone.

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

From: Ahmed, Sarf MTIC:EX
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 3:43 PM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Cc: Fellows, Brian MTIC:EX; Burbee, Jon MTIC:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: For Approval: MTICS Media Requests - Various - Victoria Courthouse Campers

Fine w me too. Thx

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 3:07 PM
To: Ahmed, Sarf MTIC:EX
Cc: Fellows, Brian MTIC:EX; Burbee, Jon MTIC:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: For Approval: MTICS Media Requests - Various - Victoria Courthouse Campers

Good afternoon Sarf, the media messaging is signed off by Jon, Brian, the MO and BC Housing/Nat'l Gas Dev.

Seeking your signoff please and thanks.

1.

Deadline @ asap

Media: CHEK

Reporter: Mary Griffin, 250-213-8979

Topic: Victoria Courthouse Campers

Background: Reporter would like an on-camera interview, wondering what the next steps are with the campers.

Questions: Anything new on this today? What are the next steps?

Suggested Response:

"The B.C. Government is in talks with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property and we continue to work closely with the Victoria Police Department. The Province provides a range of supportive housing options for individuals without shelter. BC Housing works with local non-profit providers to find housing for people identified as homeless at the camp. Outreach workers also determine if any of the people at the camp need any support services, such as mental health and addictions services. Last year, the Province invested over \$19 million to support affordable housing for more than 5,100 low-income households in Victoria. Since 2001, we have developed or preserved more than 420 subsidized or supportive housing units in Victoria."

2.

Deadline @ asap

Media: CBC

Reporter: Megan Thomas, megan.thomas@cbc.ca, 250 414-4707

Topic: Victoria Courthouse Campers

Background: The reporter would like the minister or a ministry representative to speak on the afternoon talk show today or the morning show tomorrow for 5-7 minutes about the campers and what will be done about them in light of neighbour complaints.

Questions: Any developments with respect to the campers? How long is the province prepared to allow the campers to stay on the property? What about local residents who are complaining about noise, feces and break-ins?

Suggested Response:

"The B.C. Government is in talks with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property and we continue to work closely with the Victoria Police Department. The Province provides a range of supportive housing options for individuals without shelter. BC Housing works with local non-profit providers to find housing for people identified as homeless at the camp. Outreach workers also determine if any of the people at the camp need any support services, such as mental health and addictions services. Last year, the Province invested over \$19 million to support affordable housing for more than 5,100 low-income households in Victoria. Since 2001, we have developed or preserved more than 420 subsidized or supportive housing units in Victoria."

3.

Deadline @ asap

Media: Global

Reporter: Kylie Stanton, 250-415-1789, kylie.stanton@globalnews.ca

Topic: Victoria Courthouse Campers

Background: Reporter would like a statement. Says she is playing catch-up on this issue.

Questions: Any new developments today?

Suggested Response:

"The B.C. Government is in talks with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property and we continue to work closely with the Victoria Police Department. The Province provides a range of supportive housing options for individuals without shelter. BC Housing works with local non-profit providers to find housing for people identified as homeless at the camp. Outreach workers also determine if any of the people at the camp need any support services, such as mental health and addictions services. Last year, the Province invested over \$19 million to support affordable housing for more than 5,100 low-income households in Victoria. Since 2001, we have developed or preserved more than 420 subsidized or supportive housing units in Victoria."

4,

Deadline @ 3pm

Media: CTV

Reporter: Robert Buffam, 250-507-6715, Robert.Buffam@bellmedia.ca

Topic: Victoria Courthouse Campers

Background: Reporter would like to interview Minister Virk about this issue but will take a statement. Specifically whether the Province intends to have the tenters removed from the area and whether it has any plans for these people to get subsidized or affordable housing?

Questions:

Suggested Response:

"The B.C. Government is in talks with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property and we continue to work closely with the Victoria Police Department. The Province provides a range of supportive housing options for individuals without shelter. BC Housing works with local non-profit providers to find housing for people identified as homeless at the camp. Outreach workers also determine if any of the people at the camp need any support services, such as mental health and addictions services. Last year, the Province invested over \$19 million to support affordable housing for more than 5,100 low-income households in Victoria. Since 2001, we have developed or preserved more than 420 subsidized or supportive housing units in Victoria."

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, November 27, 2015 12:05 PM
To: Facey, Nick MTIC:EX; Ingram, Geoff MTIC:EX
Cc: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Latest on Tent City at Vic courthouse

FYI

From: Ash, Christine GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, November 27, 2015 11:53 AM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX; Gill, Manjit MNGD:EX; Hirji, Keivan MNGD:EX
Cc: Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX; Anderson, Maryann GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX; Platts, Robin GCPE:EX
Subject: Latest on Tent City at Vic courthouse

Latest from BC Housing on Victoria Courthouse tent city request for funding. IN being updated.

A few points:

- Despite the timeliness of the City of Victoria's motion, the request for funding came from Pacifica Housing over a month ago.
- Motion was to provide \$75K from the City's Strategic Objectives Fund to provide 40 rent supplements, which is conditional on additional funding from partners like BC Housing.
- Pacifica will administer the rent supplements.
- It is not solely for the campers at the Courthouse. Rent supplements will be assessed according to need. This will potentially open up shelter beds and support services for those campers, or if they demonstrate need, they will receive the rent supplement.
- According to the Streets to Homes program, the amount of supplements will vary up to \$450. The entire program costs \$7,500 per person, per year to provide rent supplements and comprehensive case management support.
- Eligibility to be a part of the Streets to Home program are:
 - Must be homeless
 - Must exhibit chronic or episodic homelessness
 - Must have significant barriers to finding stable housing such as mental health issues, substance abuse, etc..
- The program is geared towards individuals (as opposed to families).
- Motion at Council was passed unanimously to request funding.

Chris Ash
Communications Manager | Ministry of Natural Gas Development
ph: 250-952-0623
cell: 250-812-3616
email to: christine.ash@gov.bc.ca

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 3:53 PM
To: 'Robert Buffam'
Subject: RE: CTV Questions re: Campers on Courthouse Lawn

Hi Robert,
Our focus is in seeking solutions through talks with the city, police and service providers.

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Buffam [<mailto:Robert.Buffam@bellmedia.ca>]
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 3:22 PM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: CTV Questions re: Campers on Courthouse Lawn

Thanks Tasha.

One more specific question:

Does the Province intend to seek an injunction (or any other enforcement means) to have the campers removed from the property?

Rob

Robert Buffam
Reporter

<http://www.ctv.ca>
1420 Broad Street
Victoria, BC V8W 2B1
Canada

250-507-6715 m

robert.buffam@bellmedia.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX [<mailto:Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: November-26-15 3:20 PM
To: Robert Buffam
Subject: RE: CTV Questions re: Campers on Courthouse Lawn

Hi Robert,

Sorry for the delay....here is a statement that can be attributed to a B.C. Government spokesperson. Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks,

T

"The B.C. Government is in talks with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property and we continue to work closely with the Victoria Police Department. The Province provides a range of supportive housing options for individuals without shelter. BC Housing works with local non-profit providers to find housing for people identified as homeless at the camp. Outreach workers also determine if any of the people at the camp need any support services, such as mental health and addictions services. Last year, the Province invested over \$19 million to support affordable housing for more than 5,100 low-income households in Victoria. Since 2001, we have developed or preserved more than 420 subsidized or supportive housing units in Victoria."

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services Government
Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Buffam [<mailto:Robert.Buffam@bellmedia.ca>]
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 2:13 PM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: CTV Questions re: Campers on Courthouse Lawn

Great. Thanks.

I look forward to getting the statement asap.

Rob

Robert Buffam
Reporter

<http://www.ctv.ca>
1420 Broad Street
Victoria, BC V8W 2B1
Canada

250-507-6715 m

robert.buffam@bellmedia.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX [<mailto:Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: November-26-15 1:49 PM
To: Robert Buffam
Subject: RE: CTV Questions re: Campers on Courthouse Lawn

Hi,
Minister isn't in Victoria today...I'm working on getting a statement together and will send to you asap.

Thanks Rob.

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Buffam [<mailto:Robert.Buffam@bellmedia.ca>]
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 1:40 PM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: CTV Questions re: Campers on Courthouse Lawn

Hi Tasha,

I'm down at the leg for an interview now. Is the Ministry free anytime soon. Conversely, is there a comment that you can seem me on this issue.

Thanks,
Rob

Sent from my iPhone

> On Nov 26, 2015, at 12:21 PM, Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX <Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

>
> Hi Robert,
> I'll see if the minister is available and will be in touch with you, soonest.
>
> Thanks,
> Tasha
>
> Sent from my iPhone
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> On Nov 26, 2015, at 11:36 AM, Robert Buffam
> <Robert.Buffam@bellmedia.ca<<mailto:Robert.Buffam@bellmedia.ca>>> wrote:
>
> Hi Tasha,
>
> I'm a reporter with CTV News Vancouver Island. I'm doing a story about the growing number of campers on the lawn at the Victoria Courthouse. I would like to interview Minister Virk about this issue. Specifically whether the Province intends to have the tenters removed from the area and whether it has any plans for these people to get subsidized or affordable housing?
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> I would like to do an interview today. If that is not possible, please provide me with a comment on behalf of the Ministry and the Provincial Government on this issue.
>
> I can be reached at this email or at 250-507-6715. My deadline is approximately 3 pm.
>
> Thanks,
> Robert Buffam
>
>
> Robert Buffam | Reporter
>
> CTV Vancouver Island | m 250-507-6715 |
> robert.buffam@bellmedia.ca<<mailto:robert.buffam@bellmedia.ca>>
> 1420 Broad Street
> Victoria, BC V8W 2B1
> Canada

>
>
> <image001.jpg><<http://www.ctv.ca/>>
>
>

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 3:23 PM
To: 'Mary Griffin'
Subject: Statement about the campers

Importance: High

Hi Mary,

Sorry for the delay....here is a statement that can be attributed to a B.C. Government spokesperson. As I texted earlier, there's been no new developments from here.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks,

T

Attributable to a B.C. Government spokesperson:

"The B.C. Government is in talks with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property and we continue to work closely with the Victoria Police Department. The Province provides a range of supportive housing options for individuals without shelter. BC Housing works with local non-profit providers to find housing for people identified as homeless at the camp. Outreach workers also determine if any of the people at the camp need any support services, such as mental health and addictions services. Last year, the Province invested over \$19 million to support affordable housing for more than 5,100 low-income households in Victoria. Since 2001, we have developed or preserved more than 420 subsidized or supportive housing units in Victoria."

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 3:22 PM
To: 'Megan Thomas'
Subject: RE: Victoria Courthouse Campers Issue

Hi Megan,

Unfortunately I do not have anyone who can do the interview that you are seeking. I know that a statement doesn't help you much, however, I'm sharing it with you because it's what other media are also getting today. There's really been no new developments.

Attributable to a B.C. Government spokesperson. Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks,

T

"The B.C. Government is in talks with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property and we continue to work closely with the Victoria Police Department. The Province provides a range of supportive housing options for individuals without shelter. BC Housing works with local non-profit providers to find housing for people identified as homeless at the camp. Outreach workers also determine if any of the people at the camp need any support services, such as mental health and addictions services. Last year, the Province invested over \$19 million to support affordable housing for more than 5,100 low-income households in Victoria. Since 2001, we have developed or preserved more than 420 subsidized or supportive housing units in Victoria."

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Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

From: Megan Thomas [<mailto:megan.thomas@cbc.ca>]
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 11:07 AM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Victoria Courthouse Campers Issue

Hi Tasha,

Would it be possible to arrange an radio interview with the minister regarding the campers at the Victoria law courts? We could make time on either our afternoon show today or our morning show tomorrow. Or if someone else from the ministry is speaking on the issue, that would work for us as well.

Thanks,
Megan

Megan Thomas
Reporter
CBC Victoria
Phone: 250 414-4707
Cell: 250 661-6185

On Wed, Nov 25, 2015 at 4:52 PM, Schollen, Tasha GCPF:EX <Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Megan,

There is really no update to offer, aside from today's meeting between the province and the city. Sorry for the delay...

Statement from a B.C. Government spokesperson:

"Today the B.C. Government met with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property. The Province has no plan to consider the placement of a port-a-potty on the property. We continue to also work closely with the Victoria Police Department."

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director

Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

Government Communications and Public Engagement

Phone: 250-387-3134

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 3:20 PM
To: 'Robert Buffam'
Subject: RE: CTV Questions re: Campers on Courthouse Lawn

Hi Robert,

Sorry for the delay....here is a statement that can be attributed to a B.C. Government spokesperson. Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks,

T

"The B.C. Government is in talks with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property and we continue to work closely with the Victoria Police Department. The Province provides a range of supportive housing options for individuals without shelter. BC Housing works with local non-profit providers to find housing for people identified as homeless at the camp. Outreach workers also determine if any of the people at the camp need any support services, such as mental health and addictions services. Last year, the Province invested over \$19 million to support affordable housing for more than 5,100 low-income households in Victoria. Since 2001, we have developed or preserved more than 420 subsidized or supportive housing units in Victoria."

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services Government
Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Buffam [<mailto:Robert.Buffam@bellmedia.ca>]
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 2:13 PM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: CTV Questions re: Campers on Courthouse Lawn

Great. Thanks.

I look forward to getting the statement asap.

Rob

Robert Buffam
Reporter

<http://www.ctv.ca>
1420 Broad Street
Victoria, BC V8W 2B1
Canada

robert.buffam@bellmedia.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX [<mailto:Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca>]

Sent: November-26-15 1:49 PM

To: Robert Buffam

Subject: RE: CTV Questions re: Campers on Courthouse Lawn

Hi,

Minister isn't in Victoria today...I'm working on getting a statement together and will send to you asap.

Thanks Rob.

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services Government
Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Buffam [<mailto:Robert.Buffam@bellmedia.ca>]

Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 1:40 PM

To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX

Subject: Re: CTV Questions re: Campers on Courthouse Lawn

Hi Tasha,

I'm down at the leg for an interview now. Is the Ministry free anytime soon. Conversely, is there a comment that you can seem me on this issue.

Thanks,
Rob

Sent from my iPhone

> On Nov 26, 2015, at 12:21 PM, Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX <Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

>

> Hi Robert,

> I'll see if the minister is available and will be in touch with you, soonest.

>

> Thanks,

> Tasha

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

> On Nov 26, 2015, at 11:36 AM, Robert Buffam

<Robert.Buffam@bellmedia.ca<<mailto:Robert.Buffam@bellmedia.ca>>> wrote:

>

> Hi Tasha,

>

> I'm a reporter with CTV News Vancouver Island. I'm doing a story about the growing number of campers on the lawn at the Victoria Courthouse. I would like to interview Minister Virk about this issue. Specifically whether the Province intends to have the tenters removed from the area and whether it has any plans for these people to get subsidized or affordable housing?

>
> I would like to do an interview today. If that is not possible, please provide me with a comment on behalf of the
Ministry and the Provincial Government on this issue.
>
> I can be reached at this email or at 250-507-6715. My deadline is approximately 3 pm.
>
> Thanks,
> Robert Buffam
>
>
> Robert Buffam | Reporter
>
> CTV Vancouver Island | m 250-507-6715 |
> robert.buffam@bellmedia.ca<<mailto:robert.buffam@bellmedia.ca>>
> 1420 Broad Street
> Victoria, BC V8W 2B1
> Canada
>
>
> <image001.jpg><<http://www.ctv.ca/>>
>
>

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 3:19 PM
To: 'kylie.stanton@globalnews.ca'
Subject: Statement

Importance: High

Hi Kylie,

Sorry for the delay....here is a statement that can be attributed to a BC Government spokesperson. Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks,

T

"The B.C. Government is in talks with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property and we continue to work closely with the Victoria Police Department. The Province provides a range of supportive housing options for individuals without shelter. BC Housing works with local non-profit providers to find housing for people identified as homeless at the camp. Outreach workers also determine if any of the people at the camp need any support services, such as mental health and addictions services. Last year, the Province invested over \$19 million to support affordable housing for more than 5,100 low-income households in Victoria. Since 2001, we have developed or preserved more than 420 subsidized or supportive housing units in Victoria."

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Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 3:16 PM
To: 'Watts, Richard (Times-Colonist)'
Subject: RE: Victoria Courthouse Camping Issue

Hi Richard,

It's status quo from our vantage point. Nothing new to report but if that changes, I will let you know.

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

From: Watts, Richard (Times-Colonist) [<mailto:RWatts@timescolonist.com>]
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 3:11 PM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Victoria Courthouse Camping Issue

Hi Tasha:

Anything to report today on the Courthouse campsite?

Richard.

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX [<mailto:Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: November-25-15 4:51 PM
To: Watts, Richard (Times-Colonist)
Subject: Victoria Courthouse Camping Issue

Hi Richard,

There is really no update to offer, aside from today's meeting between the province and the city. Sorry for the delay...

Statement from a B.C. Government spokesperson:

"Today the B.C. Government met with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property. We continue to also work closely with the Victoria Police Department."

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 1:23 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: MTICS Media Requests - Various - Victoria Courthouse Campers

You bet. Thanks Pdubs.

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 1:21 PM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: MTICS Media Requests - Various - Victoria Courthouse Campers

Good with it on our end. If you want to finalize, can you ask your MO to check with ours? I sent it their way, but haven't heard back.

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 1:16 PM
To: Facey, Nick MTIC:EX; Ingram, Geoff MTIC:EX
Cc: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: MTICS Media Requests - Various - Victoria Courthouse Campers

In draft/approvals...

1.

Deadline @ asap

Media: CHEK

Reporter: Mary Griffin, 250-213-8979

Topic: Victoria Courthouse Campers

Background: Reporter would like an on-camera interview. Wondering what the next steps are with the campers.

Questions: Anything new on this today? What are the next steps?

Suggested Response:

"The B.C. Government is in talks with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property and we continue to work closely with the Victoria Police Department. The Province provides a range of supportive housing options for individuals without shelter. BC Housing works with local non-profit providers to find housing for people identified as homeless at the camp. Outreach workers also determine if any of the people at the camp need any support services, such as mental health and addictions services. Last year, the Province invested over \$19 million to support affordable housing for more than 5,100 low-

income households in Victoria. Since 2001, we have developed or preserved more than 420 subsidized or supportive housing units in Victoria."

2.

Deadline @ asap

Media: CBC

Reporter: Megan Thomas, megan.thomas@cbc.ca, 250 414-4707

Topic: Victoria Courthouse Campers

Background: The reporter would like the minister or a ministry representative to speak on the afternoon talk show today or the morning show tomorrow for 5-7 minutes about the campers and what will be done about them in light of neighbour complaints.

Questions: Any developments with respect to the campers? How long is the province prepared to allow the campers to stay on the property? What about local residents who are complaining about noise, feces and break-ins?

Suggested Response:

"The B.C. Government is in talks with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property and we continue to work closely with the Victoria Police Department. The Province provides a range of supportive housing options for individuals without shelter. BC Housing works with local non-profit providers to find housing for people identified as homeless at the camp. Outreach workers also determine if any of the people at the camp need any support services, such as mental health and addictions services. Last year, the Province invested over \$19 million to support affordable housing for more than 5,100 low-income households in Victoria. Since 2001, we have developed or preserved more than 420 subsidized or supportive housing units in Victoria."

3.

Deadline @ asap

Media: Global

Reporter: Kylie Stanton, 250-415-1789, kylie.stanton@globalnews.ca

Topic: Victoria Courthouse Campers

Background: Reporter would like a statement. Says she is playing catch-up on this issue.

Questions: Any new developments today?

Suggested Response:

"The B.C. Government is in talks with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property and we continue to work closely with the Victoria Police Department. The Province provides a range of supportive housing options for individuals without shelter. BC Housing works with local non-profit providers to find housing for people identified as homeless at the camp. Outreach workers also determine if any of the people at the camp need any support services, such as mental health and addictions services. Last year, the Province invested over \$19 million to support affordable housing for more than 5,100 low-income households in Victoria. Since 2001, we have developed or preserved more than 420 subsidized or supportive housing units in Victoria."

4.

Deadline @ 3pm

Media: CTV

Reporter: Robert Buffam, 250-507-6715, Robert.Buffam@bellmedia.ca

Topic: Victoria Courthouse Campers

Background: Reporter would like to interview Minister Virk about this issue but will take a statement. Specifically whether the Province intends to have the tenters removed from the area and whether it has any plans for these people to get subsidized or affordable housing?

Questions:

Suggested Response:

"The B.C. Government is in talks with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property and we continue to work closely with the Victoria Police Department. The Province provides a range of supportive housing options for individuals without shelter. BC Housing works with local non-profit providers to find housing for people identified as homeless at the camp. Outreach workers also determine if any of the people at the camp need any support services, such as mental health and addictions services. Last year, the Province invested over \$19 million to support affordable housing for more than 5,100 low-income households in Victoria. Since 2001, we have developed or preserved more than 420 subsidized or supportive housing units in Victoria."

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Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 12:21 PM
To: Robert Buffam
Subject: Re: CTV Questions re: Campers on Courthouse Lawn

Hi Robert,
I'll see if the minister is available and will be in touch with you, soonest.

Thanks,
Tasha

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 26, 2015, at 11:36 AM, Robert Buffam <Robert.Buffam@bellmedia.ca> wrote:

Hi Tasha,

I'm a reporter with CTV News Vancouver Island. I'm doing a story about the growing number of campers on the lawn at the Victoria Courthouse. I would like to interview Minister Virk about this issue. Specifically whether the Province intends to have the tenters removed from the area and whether it has any plans for these people to get subsidized or affordable housing?
I would like to do an interview today. If that is not possible, please provide me with a comment on behalf of the Ministry and the Provincial Government on this issue.
I can be reached at this email or at 250-507-6715. My deadline is approximately 3 pm.

Thanks,
Robert Buffam

Robert Buffam | Reporter
CTV Vancouver Island | m 250-507-6715 | robert.buffam@bellmedia.ca
1420 Broad Street
Victoria, BC V8W 2B1
Canada

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 11:28 AM
To: Megan Thomas
Subject: Re: Victoria Courthouse Campers Issue

Hi Megan,
I will submit a request for you, no problem.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 26, 2015, at 11:14 AM, Megan Thomas <megan.thomas@cbc.ca> wrote:

Hi Tasha,

Would it be possible to arrange an radio interview with the minister regarding the campers at the Victoria law courts? We could make time on either our afternoon show today or our morning show tomorrow. Or if someone else from the ministry is speaking on the issue, that would work for us as well.

Thanks,
Megan

Megan Thomas
Reporter
CBC Victoria
Phone: 250 414-4707
Cell: 250 661-6185

On Wed, Nov 25, 2015 at 4:52 PM, Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
<Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Megan,

There is really no update to offer, aside from today's meeting between the province and the city. Sorry for the delay...

Statement from a B.C. Government spokesperson:

"Today the B.C. Government met with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property. The Province has no plan to consider the placement of a port-a-potty on the property. We continue to also work closely with the Victoria Police Department."

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director

Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

Phone: 250-387-3134

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2015 4:53 PM
To: 'desk@checknews.ca'
Subject: Attention: Tess

Hello Tess,

There is really no update to offer, aside from today's meeting between the province and the city. Sorry for the delay...

Statement from a B.C. Government spokesperson:

"Today the B.C. Government met with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property. We continue to also work closely with the Victoria Police Department."

T

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2015 4:52 PM
To: 'Megan Thomas'
Subject: Victoria Courthouse Campers Issue

Hi Megan,

There is really no update to offer, aside from today's meeting between the province and the city. Sorry for the delay...

Statement from a B.C. Government spokesperson:

"Today the B.C. Government met with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property. The Province has no plan to consider the placement of a port-a-potty on the property. We continue to also work closely with the Victoria Police Department."

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2015 3:55 PM
To: Facey, Nick MTIC:EX; Ingram, Geoff MTIC:EX
Cc: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: MTICS Media Requests - Various - Victoria Courthouse Campers

Okay to send 3 statements from a ministry spokesperson?

1.
Deadline @ asap

Media: CHEK

Reporter: Tess VanStraten, 250-885-75, desk@checknews.ca

Topic: Victoria Courthouse Homeless Campers

Background: Reporter would like an on-camera interview.

Questions: What is the province going to do about this tent city, neighbours are getting frustrated and tired of loud noises, garbage and using the space as bathroom.

Suggested Response:

"Today the B.C. Government met with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property. We continue to also work closely with the Victoria Police Department."

2.
Deadline @ ASAP

Media: CBC

Reporter: Megan Thomas, megan.thomas@cbc.ca, 250 414-4707

Topic: Courthouse Tent City

Background: The reporter is following up on the tent city at the courthouse. The reporter would like an interview.

Questions: Any developments with respect to the campers? Will the province consider setting up a port-a-potty on the site so that it's kept clean?

Suggested Response:

"Today the B.C. Government met with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property. The Province has no plan to consider the placement of a port-a-potty on the property. We continue to also work closely with the Victoria Police Department."

3.

Deadline @ asap

Media: Times Colonist

Reporter: Richard Watts, 250-995-4435, rwatts@timescolonist.com

Topic: Victoria Courthouse Homeless Campers

Background: Reporter would like an interview but will accept a statement. Reporter says that more campers are arriving to the property and that they intend to form a committee.

Questions: Any new developments today?

Suggested Response:

"Today the B.C. Government met with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property. We continue to also work closely with the Victoria Police Department."

Tasha Scholten | Communications Director
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2015 3:24 PM
To: Ahmed, Sarf MTIC:EX
Cc: Fellows, Brian MTIC:EX; Burbee, Jon MTIC:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: MTICS Media Request - Various - Victoria Courthouse Campers

Hello Sarf,

We have three media requests - please note the second response mentions port-a-potty based on the question asked.

Jon and Brian have reviewed these. Seeking your review/approval now, thanks.

Deadline @ asap

Media: CHEK

Reporter: Tess VanStraten, 250-885-75, desk@checknews.ca

Topic: Victoria Courthouse Homeless Campers

Background: Reporter would like an on-camera interview.

Questions: What is the province going to do about this tent city, neighbours are getting frustrated and tired of loud noises, garbage and using the space as bathroom.

Suggested Response:

"Today the B.C. Government met with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property. We continue to also work closely with the Victoria Police Department."

Deadline @ ASAP

Media: CBC

Reporter: Megan Thomas, megan.thomas@cbc.ca, 250 414-4707

Topic: Courthouse Tent City

Background: The reporter is following up on the tent city at the courthouse. The reporter would like an interview.

Questions: Any developments with respect to the campers? Will the province consider setting up a port-a-potty on the site so that it's kept clean?

Suggested Response:

Today the B.C. Government met with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property. The Province has no plan to consider the placement of a port-a-potty on the property. We continue to also work closely with the Victoria Police Department."

Deadline @ asap

Media: Times Colonist

Reporter: Richard Watts, 250-995-4435, rwatts@timescolonist.com

Topic: Victoria Courthouse Homeless Campers

Background: Reporter would like an interview but will accept a statement. Reporter says that more campers are arriving to the property and that they intend to form a committee.

Questions: Any new developments today?

Suggested Response:

"Today the B.C. Government met with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property. We continue to also work closely with the Victoria Police Department."

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2015 2:45 PM
To: Burbee, Jon MTIC:EX
Cc: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: MTICS Media Request - Various - Victoria Courthouse Campers

Importance: High

Hello,

Three requests – is there anything more that we can say than what is below? Please note some responses are slightly different based on the question asked.

Deadline @ asap

Media: CHEK

Reporter: Tess VanStraten, 250-885-75, desk@checknews.ca

Topic: Victoria Courthouse Homeless Campers

Background: Reporter would like an on-camera interview.

Questions: What is the province going to do about this tent city, neighbours are getting frustrated and tired of loud noises, garbage and using the space as bathroom.

Suggested Response:

"Today the B.C. Government met with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property. We understand the need to keep the property clean and safe for use by all members of the public. To date, the temporary residents are initiating all clean up themselves and keeping things relatively tidy. We continue to work closely with the Victoria Police Department."

Deadline @ ASAP

Media: CBC

Reporter: Megan Thomas, megan.thomas@cbc.ca, 250 414-4707

Topic: Courthouse Tent City

Background: The reporter is following up on the tent city at the courthouse. The reporter would like an interview.

Questions: Any developments with respect to the campers? Will the province consider setting up a port-a-potty on the site so that it's kept clean?

Suggested Response:

"Today the B.C. Government met with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property. We understand the need to keep the property clean and safe for use by all members of the public. To date, the temporary residents are initiating all clean up themselves and keeping things relatively tidy. The Province has no plan to consider the placement of a port-a-potty on the property. We continue to work closely with the Victoria Police Department."

Deadline @ asap

Media: Times Colonist

Reporter: Richard Watts, 250-995-4435, rwatts@timescolonist.com

Topic: Victoria Courthouse Homeless Campers

Background: Reporter would like an interview but will accept a statement. Reporter says that more campers are arriving to the property and that they intend to form a committee.

Questions: Any new developments today?

Suggested Response:

"Today the B.C. Government met with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property. We understand the need to keep the property clean and safe for use by all members of the public. We continue to work closely with the Victoria Police Department."

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2015 2:40 PM
To: 'Bhinder Sajan'
Subject: RE: CTV News request re: homeless camp at courthouse

No problem.

From: Bhinder Sajan [<mailto:Bhinder.Sajan@bellmedia.ca>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2015 2:32 PM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: CTV News request re: homeless camp at courthouse

Okay...so everyone is right.
Gotcha, thanks!
Bhinder

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX [<mailto:Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2015 2:29 PM
To: Bhinder Sajan
Subject: RE: CTV News request re: homeless camp at courthouse

Hi Bhinder,
The land is government owned and not subject to the city's park bylaw, therefore considered to be private land.

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134

From: Bhinder Sajan [<mailto:Bhinder.Sajan@bellmedia.ca>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2015 2:06 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: CTV News request re: homeless camp at courthouse

Hey Joanne,

I am trying to piece together whether the land the campers are on – is private land or publicly owned land?
I've heard police and the mayor refer to it as private land.
Yet, I've also heard the province owns the land.
Are you able to clarify?
Thanks
Bhinder

Bhinder Sajan | Victoria & Legislative Reporter

Cell 250.418.5207 | Office 250.383.2460 | Email bhinder.sajan@bellmedia.ca | @BhinderSajan

CTV Vancouver News



From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2015 2:05 PM
To: 'Megan Thomas'
Subject: RE: CBC News Request

Hi Megan,

I am not optimistic that I will have someone to go on camera today. Also, I understand that you have reached out to Court Services Branch at the Ministry of Justice. My ministry is leading on the government response, so please come to me with any questions.

I think you were interested in whether we would consider accommodating a port-a-potty, is that right?

Tasha Schollen | Communications Director
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

From: Megan Thomas [<mailto:megan.thomas@cbc.ca>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2015 11:17 AM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: CBC News Request

Hi Tasha,

We are continuing to follow this story today. Is there anyone from the ministry who I can speak with about the discussions with the city and police?

Thanks,
Megan

Megan Thomas
Reporter
CBC Victoria
Phone: 250 414-4707
Cell: 250 661-6185

On Tue, Nov 24, 2015 at 4:13 PM, Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX <Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

That's right, no plans.

From: Megan Thomas [mailto:megan.thomas@cbc.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2015 4:07 PM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: CBC News Request

ok, thanks. So still no plans to seek an injunction, as per yesterday's statement?

Megan Thomas
Reporter
CBC Victoria

Phone: [250 414-4707](tel:2504144707)
Cell: [250 661-6185](tel:2506616185)

On Tue, Nov 24, 2015 at 4:04 PM, Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX <Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hello Megan,

Apologies that this took as long as it did. Here is a statement in response to your query about the homeless camp at the Victoria Courthouse property. It can be attributed to a statement from a B.C. Government spokesperson or a Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services spokesperson.

"The B.C. Government recognizes the importance of keeping the Victoria Courthouse property clear and ensuring safe access by the public. We continue to work closely with the Victoria Police Department and the City of Victoria to find a long-term solution."

Thanks,

Tasha

From: Megan Thomas [mailto:megan.thomas@cbc.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2015 2:40 PM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: CBC News Request

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 1:48 PM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Platts, Robin GCPE:EX
Subject: 103621_Assoc_DM_Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse_FINAL
(2)
Attachments: 103621_Assoc_DM_Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse_FINAL
(2).docx

Better?



Ministry of
Technology, Innovation
and Citizens' Services

_____, 2015

TO: Campers on Victoria Courthouse Lands

FROM: The Province of BC, Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

SUBJECT: Information on shelter options and request to leave courthouse lands

Over the past months, the number of campers at the Victoria Courthouse Lands, which is owned by the B.C. Government, has steadily grown to _____. The area includes ~~include~~ the grassy area bounded by Courtney, Quadra and Burdett Street.

While the province appreciates the complex issues facing ~~many of the people~~ campers at the site, due to health and safety concerns, the courthouse property is not a long-term solution.

~~at the site, the courthouse property is not a long-term option for your housing needs. There is concern that campers find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.~~

For this reason, we are encouraging campers ~~are encouraged to seek to work with our assistance from support homeless outreach workers who have been on site and are there to help with~~ make alternate housing arrangements.

~~In addition, outreach workers from the Our Place Society and the Victoria Cool Aid Society societies are also available to connect campers with support services such as health care and counselling services.~~

Our Place Society is now operating a new 24/7, 40--bed transition house at 1240 Yates Street that will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week that ~~that can provide many of you with provides shelter,~~ meals and other supports. Campers are encouraged to take advantage of this shelter space until while support workers work with you to find longer-term housing solution ~~options can be found.~~

Please recognize that there are ~~There are better options available, run by people here to help you who can assist you with your health and wellbeing. while we work with you to return the~~ We ask that campers vacate this location and remove all personal property from the courthouse lands as soon as possible to their original condition and purpose.

~~The province will be taking steps to return the courthouse lands to their original condition and your cooperation will be appreciated.~~ We look forward to your ongoing cooperation and encourage you to find out more about the

~~For more information on the new transitional facility, campers may by calling contact:~~ Don Evans, Executive Director, Our Place Society at 250-388-7112

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2016 10:42 AM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX; Hirji, Keivan MNGD:EX
Subject: Campers at Victoria Courthouse
Attachments: 103621_Assoc_DM_Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse_Dec_16_15.docx

Draft Flyer attached that would go to campers once the shelter is open.

Summary from MITCS:

- Currently about 110-120 campers on the site. MITCS working with a service provider to ensure on-going garbage collection. VicPD will assist to ensure this is done safely.
- Was a fatal overdose at the courthouse on Dec 26 and a stabbing on Xmas Eve. Was also a non-fatal overdose reported yesterday. For context, there have been about 7 other overdoses around Victoria in the past week. Some of the campers have indicated they will be looking for alternative camping sites as a result of the recent activity but there has been no confirmation.
- BC Housing and the City of Victoria working on negotiating a lease of the new shelter.
- The City of Victoria is planning a public information session tomorrow evening regarding the new shelter on Yates Street.
- *Target date for opening of the new shelter is Jan. 2
- Once the shelter is operational, MITCS will have a flyer distributed to the campers (draft attached) requesting they vacate and providing assurance they will be offered alternate housing arrangements.
- MITCS also working with legal regarding potentially having an injunction in place in the event some of the campers choose not to go to the new shelter.



Ministry of
Technology, Innovation
and Citizens' Services

_____, 2015

TO: Campers on Victoria Courthouse Lands

FROM: The Province of BC, Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

SUBJECT: INFORMATION ON SHELTER OPTIONS AND DIRECTION TO LEAVE
COURTHOUSE LANDS

The B.C. Government is the owner of the Victoria Courthouse Lands, which includes the grassy area bounded by Courtney, Quadra and Burdett Street. The Courthouse performs a necessary function in our society.

Over the past month, the number of campers has steadily grown. There is concern that campers find housing and services to improve their safety, health and wellbeing.

~~Each individual camper will be offered alternate housing arrangements.~~ The B.C. Government is in close contact with outreach workers, health care providers, shelters, City of Victoria staff, income assistance workers, police and courthouse staff to assist campers with alternate housing arrangements. In addition, outreach workers from the Our Place Society and the Victoria Cool Aid Society are available to connect campers with support services such as health care and counselling services and can be contacted on site.

The B.C. Government is opening a new 40 bed shelter at 1245 Yates Street that will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and provide meals and other supports. Campers are encouraged to take advantage of this shelter space until long-term housing options can be found. The Province provides a range of other housing options in Victoria for people without shelter; information on these options is available from outreach workers.

To conclude, the courthouse property is not a sustainable solution for your needs. There are better options available, run by people who can assist you with your health and wellbeing. We ask that campers cease camping at this location, utilize the available better options and remove your property from the Courthouse Lands.

For more information, campers may contact: Don Evans, Executive Director, Our Place Society
250-388-7112

Page 006 to/à Page 014

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.3

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 1:56 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX
Subject: Feedback flyer
Attachments: 103621_Assoc_DM_Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse_FINAL (2).docx

A few thoughts on the flyer. Important that we call housing shelter, as unless we are future focused, as initially shelter is being offered – housing would come a bit later... ☺ Trust this helps.



Ministry of
Technology, Innovation
and Citizens' Services

_____, 2015

TO: Campers on Victoria Courthouse Lands

FROM: The Province of BC, Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

SUBJECT: Information on shelter options and request to leave courthouse lands

Over the past months, the number of campers at the Victoria Courthouse Lands, which is owned by the B.C. Government, has steadily grown to _____. The area includes include the grassy area bounded by Courtney, Quadra and Burdett Street.

While the province appreciates the complex issues facing many of the people campers at the site, due to health and safety concerns, the courthouse property is not a long-term solution.

at the site, the courthouse property is not a long-term option for your housing needs. There is concern that campers find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.

For this reason, we are encouraging campers are encouraged to seek to work with our assistance from support homeless outreach workers who have been on site and are there to help with make arrangements for alternate housing arrangements shelter.

In addition, outreach workers from the Our Place Society and the Victoria Cool Aid Society societies are also available to connect campers with support services such as health care and counselling services.

Our Place Society is now operating a new 24/7, 40--bed transition house at 1240 Yates Street that will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week that that can provide many of you with provides shelter, meals and other supports. Campers are encouraged to take advantage of this shelter space until while support workers work with you to find longer-term housing solution options can be found.

Please recognize that there are There are better options available, run by people here to help you who can assist you with your health and wellbeing. while we work with you to return the We ask that campers vacate this location and remove all personal property from the courthouse lands as seen as possible to their original condition and purpose.

~~The province will be taking steps to return the courthouse lands to their original condition and your cooperation will be appreciated.~~ We look forward to your ongoing cooperation and encourage you to find out more about the

~~For more information on the new transitional facility, campers may~~ by calling contact: Don Evans, Executive Director, Our Place Society at 250-388-7112

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2016 10:02 AM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX
Cc: Hirji, Keivan MNGD:EX
Subject: For Review: Our Place Draft NR

Our Place is planning to put out an NR when the new shelter opens on Tuesday. Would the Minister like a quote? Draft below for consideration...

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016

Our Place opens My Place Transitional Home

Forty homeless people will have 24/7 access to food, shelter and support

VICTORIA, B.C. - Our Place will open a new 24/7 transitional housing facility on Tuesday, Jan. 5 to house 40 homeless campers from tent city.

The temporary facility will be located at 1240 Yates Street and will remain open until April 30, 2016.

"The campers at Victoria's court house are wary of shelters," says Don Evans, executive director of Our Place, "so we are excited to offer this unique transitional home that will meet so many of their needs."

Our Place has hired experienced staff to make this home a one-of-kind space. Residents will have privacy, mental health and addiction support, hot meals, showers, programming, income opportunities, and the ability to work one-on-one with housing support workers to secure permanent housing.

"We are committed to working with our community partners, such as Our Place, to make sure services are provided for people who are homeless, especially during the winter months," says Rich Coleman, Minister Responsible for Housing. "The services and supports offered at this shelter will give those in need a chance to stabilize and begin the process of rebuilding their lives."

"We'll be working with the new residents to build a community of support and belonging," adds Evans. "We've found in our other transitional housing that when we provide people with a safe and secure home, it makes a huge difference in their physical and emotional well-being."

The facility will be staffed around the clock with both security and support staff.

John Bertram, who is camping at the courthouse tent city, is looking forward to having a safe, dry home with his wife. He sees the facility as a positive "stepping stone" on the path to permanent housing.

Our Place is working with its community partners, including Pacifica Housing, Island Health, the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and the provincial government to ensure the best outcomes for the residents and the community.

Our Place is a unique inner-city community centre serving Greater Victoria's most vulnerable: working poor, impoverished elderly, mentally and physically challenged,

addicted and the homeless. Individuals and businesses provide the majority of financial support for its programs and services. Our Place provides over 1,600 meals per day, hot showers, education, job skills, free clothing, counseling and outreach services, plus 45 transitional housing units. Most importantly, it provides a sense of hope and belonging to our neighbours in need.

-30-

For further information, please contact:
Grant McKenzie, Director of Communications
Director
T: 250-388-7112 ext. 225
Cell: 250-217-2406
Email: grantm@ourplacesociety.com

Don Evans, Executive
Our Place Society
Cell: 778-977-4921
Email: don@ourplacesociety.com

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2016 11:57 AM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: 103621
_Assoc_DM_Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse_Dec_16_15
Attachments: 103621_Assoc_DM_Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse_Dec_16_15.docx

Jo, a few suggested edits from us attached. Can you please let us know what the game plan is for distribution?

We'd like to ensure MRC is somewhere we can get reporters to him if necessary, so thinking earliest it could go is mid-morning Wednesday, but if you could keep the lines of communication open in terms of the final version and recommended timing, would be greatly appreciated...



Ministry of
Technology, Innovation
and Citizens' Services

_____, 2015

TO: Campers on Victoria Courthouse Lands

FROM: ~~The Province of BC, Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services~~

SUBJECT: INFORMATION ON SHELTER OPTIONS AND DIRECTION TO LEAVE
COURTHOUSE LANDS

The B.C. Government is the owner of the Victoria Courthouse Lands, which includes the grassy area bounded by Courtney, Quadra and Burdett Street. The Courthouse performs a necessary function in our society.

Over the past month, the number of campers has steadily grown. There is concern that campers find housing and services to improve their safety, health and wellbeing.

~~Each individual camper will be offered alternate housing arrangements.~~ The B.C. Government is in close contact with outreach workers, health care providers, shelters, City of Victoria staff, income assistance workers, police and courthouse staff to assist campers with alternate housing arrangements. In addition, outreach workers from the Our Place Society and the Victoria Cool Aid Society are available to connect campers with support services such as health care and counselling services and can be contacted on site.

~~The B.C. Government~~ Our Place is opening a new 40 bed shelter at 1245 Yates Street that will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and provide meals and other supports. Campers are encouraged to take advantage of this shelter space until long-term housing options can be found. ~~The Province~~ B.C. government provides a range of other housing options in Victoria for people without shelter; information on these options is available from outreach workers.

To conclude, the courthouse property is not a sustainable solution for your needs. There are better options available, run by people who can assist you with your health and wellbeing. We ask that campers cease camping at this location, utilize the available better options and remove your property from the Courthouse Lands.

For more information, campers may contact: Don Evans, Executive Director, Our Place Society
250-388-7112

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 11:30 AM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX
Cc: Hirji, Keivan MNGD:EX; Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX
Subject: FW: Campers at Victoria Courthouse
Attachments: 103621_Assoc_DM_Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse_Dec_16_15.docx

The latest according to MITCS.

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 11:25 AM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX
Subject: Campers at Victoria Courthouse

Hi Paul: fyi - there was a call this a.m. with reps from the City of Victoria, BC Housing and VicPD regarding the campers at the Victoria Courthouse. Wanted to make sure that you have the latest and to ask that you keep us apprised on anything from your end regarding the new shelter. There is follow up call on Thursday – I will send you any updates. s.22 so please let me know if you have any questions or anything new. Thx much - Jo

Summary:

- Currently about 110-120 campers on the site. MTICS working with a service provider to ensure on-going garbage collection. VicPD will assist to ensure this is done safely.
- Was a fatal overdose at the courthouse on Dec 26 and a stabbing on Xmas Eve. Was also a non-fatal overdose reported yesterday. For context, there have been about 7 other overdoses around Victoria in the past week. Some of the campers have indicated they will be looking for alternative camping sites as a result of the recent activity but there has been no confirmation.
- BC Housing and the City of Victoria working on negotiating a lease of the new shelter.
- The City of Victoria is planning a public information session tomorrow evening regarding the new shelter on Yates Street.
- *Target date for opening of the new shelter is Jan. 2
- Once the shelter is operational, MTICS will have a flyer distributed to the campers (draft attached) requesting they vacate and providing assurance they will be offered alternate housing arrangements.
- MTICS also working with legal regarding potentially having an injunction in place in the event some of the campers choose not to go to the new shelter.



Ministry of
Technology, Innovation
and Citizens' Services

_____, 2015

TO: Campers on Victoria Courthouse Lands

FROM: The Province of BC, Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

SUBJECT: INFORMATION ON SHELTER OPTIONS AND DIRECTION TO LEAVE
COURTHOUSE LANDS

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Each individual camper will be offered alternate housing arrangements. The B.C. Government is in close contact with outreach workers, health care providers, shelters, City of Victoria staff, income assistance workers, police and courthouse staff to assist campers with alternate housing arrangements. In addition, outreach workers from the Our Place Society and the Victoria Cool Aid Society are available to connect campers with support services such as health care and counselling services and can be contacted on site.

The B.C. Government is opening a new 40 bed shelter at 1245 Yates Street that will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and provide meals and other supports. Campers are encouraged to take advantage of this shelter space until long-term housing options can be found. The Province provides a range of other housing options in Victoria for people without shelter; information on these options is available from outreach workers.

To conclude, the courthouse property is not a sustainable solution for your needs. There are better options available, run by people who can assist you with your health and wellbeing. We ask that campers cease camping at this location, utilize the available better options and remove your property from the Courthouse Lands.

For more information, campers may contact: Don Evans, Executive Director, Our Place Society
250-388-7112

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 11:31 AM
To: 'rrao@bchousing.org'
Cc: Freeman, Donna BCHM:EX
Subject: FW: Campers at Victoria Courthouse
Attachments: 103621_Assoc_DM_Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse_Dec_16_15.docx

s.22

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 11:30 AM
To: 'Donna Freeman'
Subject: FW: Campers at Victoria Courthouse

Hi Donna,

s.22 can you keep me posted on developments on your end please...Thanks!

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 11:25 AM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX
Subject: Campers at Victoria Courthouse

Hi Paul: fyi - there was a call this a.m. with reps from the City of Victoria, BC Housing and VicPD regarding the campers at the Victoria Courthouse. Wanted to make sure that you have the latest and to ask that you keep us apprised on anything from your end regarding the new shelter. There is follow up call on Thursday - I will send you any updates. s.22 so please let me know if you have any questions or anything new. Thx much - Jo

Summary:

- Currently about 110-120 campers on the site. MTICS working with a service provider to ensure on-going garbage collection. VicPD will assist to ensure this is done safely.
- Was a fatal overdose at the courthouse on Dec 26 and a stabbing on Xmas Eve. Was also a non-fatal overdose reported yesterday. For context, there have been about 7 other overdoses around Victoria in the past week. Some of the campers have indicated they will be looking for alternative camping sites as a result of the recent activity but there has been no confirmation.
- BC Housing and the City of Victoria working on negotiating a lease of the new shelter.
- The City of Victoria is planning a public information session tomorrow evening regarding the new shelter on Yates Street.
- *Target date for opening of the new shelter is Jan. 2
- Once the shelter is operational, MTICS will have a flyer distributed to the campers (draft attached) requesting they vacate and providing assurance they will be offered alternate housing arrangements.
- MTICS also working with legal regarding potentially having an injunction in place in the event some of the campers choose not to go to the new shelter.



Ministry of
Technology, Innovation
and Citizens' Services

_____, 2015

TO: Campers on Victoria Courthouse Lands

FROM: The Province of BC, Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

SUBJECT: INFORMATION ON SHELTER OPTIONS AND DIRECTION TO LEAVE
COURTHOUSE LANDS

The B.C. Government is the owner of the Victoria Courthouse Lands, which includes the grassy area bounded by Courtney, Quadra and Burdett Street. The Courthouse performs a necessary function in our society.

Over the past month, the number of campers has steadily grown. There is concern that campers find housing and services to improve their safety, health and wellbeing.

Each individual camper will be offered alternate housing arrangements. The B.C. Government is in close contact with outreach workers, health care providers, shelters, City of Victoria staff, income assistance workers, police and courthouse staff to assist campers with alternate housing arrangements. In addition, outreach workers from the Our Place Society and the Victoria Cool Aid Society are available to connect campers with support services such as health care and counselling services and can be contacted on site.

The B.C. Government is opening a new 40 bed shelter at 1245 Yates Street that will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and provide meals and other supports. Campers are encouraged to take advantage of this shelter space until long-term housing options can be found. The Province provides a range of other housing options in Victoria for people without shelter; information on these options is available from outreach workers.

To conclude, the courthouse property is not a sustainable solution for your needs. There are better options available, run by people who can assist you with your health and wellbeing. We ask that campers cease camping at this location, utilize the available better options and remove your property from the Courthouse Lands.

For more information, campers may contact: Don Evans, Executive Director, Our Place Society
250-388-7112

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 11:18 AM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Courthouse camp update

Maybe update our KM, and we can share with MITCS. The highlighted sections should likely just stay in the background for now.

From: Rajvir Rao [<mailto:rrao@bchousing.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 9:53 AM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Holden, Virginia OHCS:EX; Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Cc: Donna Freeman
Subject: RE: Courthouse camp update

As requested, update form Roger.

At the meeting yesterday MTICS is awaiting approval of the notice they have developed to hand out to the campers, should be coming this afternoon. Also someone from MTICS will be invited to the speaking circle to let the campers know a notice will be coming. The Sheriffs with support from VICPD & Our Place will distribute the notices. Our place is opening the shelter this afternoon and have identified a number of campers who have indicated they want to come. They will be taking 5 to 6 people a day wanting to give them the chance to settle in. Will have all 40 by Friday, not all the campers want to go to a shelter, rather stay camping. MTICS will have to make a decision to apply to the courts for an injunction at some point, this could be challenged and could take anywhere from 4 to 6 weeks and then go back to the court for an enforcement order only then can VICPD get involved in moving people off the site.

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX [<mailto:Darren.Harbord@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: January-05-16 9:31 AM
To: Rajvir Rao
Subject: RE: Courthouse camp update

Thanks!

From: Rajvir Rao [<mailto:rrao@bchousing.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 9:16 AM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Courthouse camp update

Waiting on a response. Will get back to you shortly.

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX [<mailto:Darren.Harbord@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: January-05-16 8:44 AM
To: Rajvir Rao; Holden, Virginia OHCS:EX
Cc: Donna Freeman; Dominic Flanagan; Paul Woolley; Sandra Steilo
Subject: RE: Courthouse camp update

Hi all, wondering if there's an update this morning regarding the remaining 60 or so campers.

We expect media to ask the question today – we'll need to have a line or two prepared for the Minister.

Thanks

Darren

From: Rajvir Rao [mailto:rrao@bchousing.org]
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2016 11:52 AM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Cc: Donna Freeman; Holden, Virginia OHCS:EX; Dominic Flanagan
Subject: RE: Courthouse camp update

Hi Darren,

Here is a brief update on the camp:

- Outreach workers are still visiting the site daily, also on Tuesday & Thursdays they hold a talking circle hosted by one of the service providers
- We have heard the same numbers between 100 & 120
- No we don't know how many people have housing, we have heard about 5 have housing and a number are visiting from outside Victoria
- None at this time, our Housing Provider, who has the rent sup's is working with a number of private landlords to seek units, also once they are at the shelter we will have a better understanding of who these people are and what are their needs to help them find housing

As for what we are doing with the remaining campers, BC Housing is meeting with Shared Services this afternoon to determine how to approach moving the campers along and are looking at if space is available at other shelters. Some campers do not want to be housed in a shelter and want to continue to sleep in their tents, which may cause a problem for the City if they go back camping in City parks.

Hope this helps.

Rajvir

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 6:07 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: Fw: Edited

My MO asked for a few more tweaks. Here you go.

We are writing to encourage campers at the Victoria Courthouse to work with the homeless outreach workers on-site to make arrangements for alternate shelter.

While the province appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, a growing number of campers over the past month has created an increasing number of health and safety concerns, making the courthouse property is no longer a viable location for campers.

To help with the transition, Our Place and the Victoria Cool Aid societies are available to work with campers to connect you with shelter and support services such as health care and counselling.

Our Place Society is now operating a new 24/7, 40-bed transition house at 1240 Yates Street that can provide many of you with shelter, meals and other supports. Campers are encouraged to work with support workers and to take advantage of this shelter space.

You can also find out about the new shelter by calling Don Evans, Executive Director, Our Place Society at 250-388-7112.

We would appreciate your cooperation as the Province sees this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 1:05 PM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX
Subject: FW: Final version - Flyer for Distribution at Victoria Courthouse
Attachments: Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse_Jan_2016.docx

Fyi

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 12:28 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Subject: ~~Final version - Flyer for Distribution at Victoria Courthouse~~

Hi Paul – here is the final with the edits discussed yesterday eve. Distribution is confirmed for tomorrow. MTICS staff will be onsite at 10 a.m. to post and hand out the flyer. Campers are aware that this is planned.

Thx - Jo

From: Burbee, Jon MTIC:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 12:16 PM
To: 'rbutcher@bchousing.org'; Miller, Brenda L JAG:EX; jtinney@victoria.ca; Jason Johnson (jjohnson@victoria.ca); khamilton@victoria.ca; Holden, Virginia OHCS:EX; McGregor, Scott; Don Evans Evans (Don@ourplacesociety.com)
Cc: Fellows, Brian MTIC:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Sykes, Graeme MTIC:EX; Williams, Leslie J MTIC:EX; Wharton, Peter JAG:EX; Goodman, Sara JAG:EX; Mason, Tyna JAG:EX
Subject: Advance Notice - Flyer Distribution at Victoria Courthouse

Good day,

As previously discussed, the intention of the Province is to distribute a written notice (known as "the flyer") to the occupants of the tented city at the Victoria Courthouse Lands. This notice will reinforce previous communications regarding the provision and development of solutions to the needs of the campers, but also signal that the end intent is to restore the property to the original use at a future unspecified time.

The distribution of this flyer will occur tomorrow at the Healing Circle gathering which takes place at approximately 10:00 am by means of posting notices to the camp entrances, at other prominent locations such as the portable, toilets, and by physical distribution to healing circle attendees by myself and my colleague Graeme Sykes. A representative from the Sherriff service will also be present.

Regards,

Jon Burbee | Executive Director | Asset Management Branch | Shared Services BC
Ph: 250 213-7439 | **e:** Jon.Burbee@gov.bc.ca | **m:** PO Box 9412, Stn Prov Gov, Victoria BC V8W 9V1



ASSET MANAGEMENT
A BRANCH OF SHARED SERVICES BC



Ministry of
Technology, Innovation
and Citizens' Services

8 January, 2016

TO: Campers on Victoria Courthouse Lands

FROM: ~~The Province of BC, Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services~~

SUBJECT: Information on shelter options and request to leave courthouse lands

We are writing to encourage campers at the Victoria Courthouse to work with the homeless outreach workers on-site to make arrangements for alternate shelter.

While the Province appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, a growing number of campers over the past month has created an increasing number of health and safety concerns, making the courthouse property not a viable location for campers.

To help with the transition, Our Place and the Victoria Cool Aid societies are available to work with campers to connect you with shelter and support services such as health care and counselling.

Our Place Society is now operating a new 24/7, 40-bed transition house at 1240 Yates Street that can provide many of you with shelter, meals and other supports. Campers are encouraged to work with support workers and to take advantage of this shelter space.

You can also find out about the new transitional house by calling Don Evans, Executive Director, Our Place Society at 250-388-7112.

We would appreciate your cooperation as the Province sees this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition.

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2016 10:57 AM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: For review KM_Campers VCH_DRAFT
Attachments: KM_Campers VCH_DRAFT.doc

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2016 10:54 AM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: For review KM_Campers VCH_DRAFT

Hi there – Paul, as discussed, please let me know if there is anything you can add from your end. Thx much! Jo

KEY MESSAGES

Confidential

Campers – Victoria Courthouse

DRAFT

- The Province is working with the City of Victoria, Victoria police and community service organizations to help the campers transition to a temporary shelter that opened on Jan. 2.
 - The shelter will offer daily meals, laundry and other support services to the campers.
-
- The Victoria courthouse property is private property and it is owned by the Province.
 - Campers are being asked to dismantle their tents and remove their belongings as soon as possible.
 - For issues of health and safety, it is expected that they take advantage of the dry, safe location that the shelter will offer, because the Victoria Courthouse property is not an appropriate housing option for anyone.

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 12:45 PM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Cc: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_05_16

Can you work this into the note, and then send me a clean copy and sent it to Sandra too so she can process a couple existing asks. Let's recommend background on these Sandra, given the Minister is unavailable.

From: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 12:41 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_05_16

Here's our lines:

"The Ministry of Education will not provide extra funds to the Victoria school district.

This situation should be covered from the contingency funds that school districts like Victoria set aside as part of their annual budgeting. As of June 30, 2015 the Victoria school district had an operating surplus of close to \$22 million.

Contingency funds are meant for unexpected facility or other operational costs in any given year. Any additional expenditures the district feels are necessary would be the district's decision and responsibility."

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 11:48 AM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_05_16

Maybe add in your thoughts to our newly minted note and we can all use it on a go forward?

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 11:42 AM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_05_16

Updated KM on the courthouse homeless camp. Still working with Housing to determine the plan for the remaining campers.

VICTORIA COURTHOUSE HOMELESS CAMP

Topic: A group of homeless people have set up camp outside the Victoria courthouse. On Jan. 5, Our Place opened a new, 40-bed shelter. The Province is providing \$400,000 in operating funding plus \$25,000 toward start-up costs.

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the courthouse.
-
- Outreach workers have been working with the campers to provide information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
 - For issues of health and safety, it's hoped they take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new shelter will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
 - The new shelter is in addition to the 150 year-round homeless shelter spaces in Victoria, as well as the 145 shelter spaces that open during extreme weather.
 - The Province also recently provided \$184,000 to Our Place to open a new 40-bed winter shelter at First Metropolitan United Church.

Jan. 5, 2016

Background:

There are about 110-120 campers at the site.

Our Place will be taking 5 to 6 people a day to the new shelter to give them the chance to settle in. The 40-bed shelter is expected to be fully occupied by Friday, Jan. 8. Outreach staff will then determine the needs of the remaining campers.

It's not yet known how many of the remaining campers will need housing. It's believed some campers have housing and some are visiting from outside of Victoria.

BC Housing is also working with Pacifica Housing to use rent supplements to help campers find housing in the private market, however the vacancy rate in Victoria is posing a challenge.

The Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services (MTICS) will be distributing a flyer to the campers requesting they vacate and providing assurance they will be offered alternate housing arrangements.

MTICS will have to make a decision to apply to the courts for an injunction. This could be challenged and take anywhere from 4 to 6 weeks.

Court ruling:

Following a court ruling in 2009, homeless campers have been allowed to stay in Victoria parks as long as they pack up their tents and move every morning. In this case however, the courthouse lawn belongs to the province and that rule does not apply.

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 1:03 PM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_05_16
Attachments: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_05_16.docx

Updated KM attached. Thanks all for your input!

VICTORIA COURTHOUSE HOMELESS CAMP

Topic: A group of homeless people have set up camp outside the Victoria courthouse. On Jan. 5, Our Place opened a new, 40-bed shelter. The Province is providing \$400,000 in operating funding. The Victoria School District has asked the Province and the city to cover \$44,000 in estimated security costs. The shelter is located near Central Middle School.

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the courthouse.
-
- Outreach workers have been working with the campers to provide information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
 - For issues of health and safety, it's hoped they take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new shelter will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.

School District Security Costs:

- The Province will not provide extra funds to the Victoria school district.
- This situation should be covered from the contingency funds that school districts like Victoria set aside as part of their annual budgeting.
- As of June 30, 2015 the Victoria school district had an operating surplus of close to \$22 million.

Jan. 5, 2016

Background:

There are about 110-120 campers at the site.

Our Place will be taking 5 to 6 people a day to the new shelter to give them the chance to settle in. The 40-bed shelter is expected to be fully occupied by Friday, Jan. 8. Outreach staff will then determine the needs of the remaining campers.

It's not yet known how many of the remaining campers will need housing. It's believed some campers have housing and some are visiting from outside of Victoria.

BC Housing is also working with Pacifica Housing to use rent supplements to help campers find housing in the private market, however the vacancy rate in Victoria is posing a challenge.

The Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services (MTICS) will be distributing a flyer to the campers requesting they vacate and providing assurance they will be offered alternate housing arrangements.

MTICS will have to make a decision to apply to the courts for an injunction. This could be challenged and take anywhere from 4 to 6 weeks.

Court ruling:

Following a court ruling in 2009, homeless campers have been allowed to stay in Victoria parks as long as they pack up their tents and move every morning. In this case however, the courthouse lawn belongs to the province and that rule does not apply.

VICTORIA COURTHOUSE HOMELESS CAMP

Topic: On Jan. 8, MTICS distributed a flyer to the campers requesting they work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter. This follows the opening of a new, 40-bed temporary shelter on Yates Street. The shelter is expected to be full by Wednesday, Jan. 13.

- The Province encourages the remaining campers to seek assistance from outreach workers who have been on site daily providing information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
-
- 40 rent supplements have also been made available to help any campers in need of housing find a place to stay in the private market.
 - Including the new shelter on Yates Street, we have provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.
 - There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.
 - These spaces are activated by the community depending on weather conditions. The average occupancy rate has been 66% this winter.

Jan. 8, 2016

Background:

Before the new shelter opened, there were about 110-120 campers at the site.

It's not yet known how many of the remaining campers need housing. Outreach staff are in the process of determining the needs of the remaining campers.

- It's believed about 5 of campers have housing.
- Some campers are visiting from outside of Victoria.
- Some have been barred from shelters for behavioral reasons.
- Others have been identified as not wanting to stay in shelters for various reasons.

The Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services (MTICS) will have to make a decision to apply to the courts for an injunction. This could be challenged and take anywhere from 4 to 6 weeks.

Court ruling:

Following a court ruling in 2009, homeless campers have been allowed to stay in Victoria parks as long as they pack up their tents and move every morning. In this case however, the courthouse lawn belongs to the province and that rule does not apply.

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 7:51 AM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX; Hirji, Keivan MNGD:EX
Subject: Fw: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_08_16_DRAFT

Appears things are proceeding to arm injunction.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX <Joanne.Whittier@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 6:33 AM
To: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Cc: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_08_16_DRAFT

Hi Emily - from MTICS, we have background information that we have been providing So far, the outlets that have been following the story have been ok with this. I don't anticipate our response will change as a result of the campers news conference this am. If the ministry gets an injunction in place (which is being worked on) that will change things. Will double back to you later this am to discuss. Jo

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 11, 2016, at 6:02 AM, Woods, Emily GCPE:EX <Emily.Woods@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Paul & Jo,

What is the proposed comms plan in reaction to the campers' 11 am press conference today?
Is either Min available or will the current statement stand?

Thanks,
Emily

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 2:18 PM
To: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX
Subject: Fw: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_08_16_DRAFT

Fyi

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX <Darren.Harbord@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 2:04 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_08_16_DRAFT

Paul, Our Place expects the shelter to be full by next Wednesday, Jan. 13.

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX

Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 11:44 AM

To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX

Subject: RE: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_08_16_DRAFT

Update from Housing on moving people to the shelter:

According to our Victoria office, there were 16 people moved to Our Place as of yesterday morning with more to come in the afternoon. They report there have been some issues with getting people settled into the shelter. Our office will follow up with them today to get an update and I'll pass that info on to you as soon as I hear back.

Housing confirms 40 rent supps are available for the remaining campers – none have been handed out yet – outreach staff are still in the process of determining remaining campers' needs.

- The Province encourages the remaining campers to seek assistance from outreach workers who have been on site daily providing information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
- 40 rent supplements have also been made available to help any campers in need of housing find a place to stay in the private market.
- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, we have provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.
- There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.
- These spaces are activated by the community depending on weather conditions. The average occupancy rate has been 66% this winter.

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 1:13 PM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX
Subject: FW: Media Request: Canadian Press, CTV VI: SD61 costs and Victoria shelter
Attachments: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_05_16.docx

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 1:06 PM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX; Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX; Hirji, Keivan MNGD:EX
Cc: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request: Canadian Press, CTV VI: SD61 costs and Victoria shelter

Reporters looking for comment on SD61 claims- story below- ok to send the below on background? MoEd has provided the response- KM attached.

Date/Time: Jan. 5

Deadline: asap

Media/Reporter: Dirk Meissner, Canadian Press

Phone: 250-384-4912

Media/Reporter: Scott Cunningham, CTV VI

Phone: 250-414-6568

Topic: SD61 costs

Request: reporters heard last night that the school district estimates they will need to spend an additional \$44,000 in cleaning the area around the site of the new Victoria homeless shelter. They are looking for the province to pay for that additional cost. Reporters wondering if there is provincial comment or a plan in place to pay for those costs out of the money the province is providing for the shelter.

Suggested Response:

- ~~The Province will not provide extra funds to the Victoria school district.~~
- If there are any additional costs, they should be covered from the contingency funds that school districts like Victoria set aside as part of their annual budgeting.
- As of June 30, 2015 the Victoria school district had an operating surplus of close to \$22 million.

Story:

05-Jan-2016 12:03

Copyright

VICTORIA COURTHOUSE HOMELESS CAMP

Topic: A group of homeless people have set up camp outside the Victoria courthouse. On Jan. 5, Our Place opened a new, 40-bed shelter. The Province is providing \$400,000 in operating funding. The Victoria School District has asked the Province and the city to cover \$44,000 in estimated security costs. The shelter is located near Central Middle School.

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the courthouse.
-
- Outreach workers have been working with the campers to provide information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
 - For issues of health and safety, it's hoped they take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new shelter will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.

School District Security Costs:

- The Province will not provide extra funds to the Victoria school district.
- This situation should be covered from the contingency funds that school districts like Victoria set aside as part of their annual budgeting.
- As of June 30, 2015 the Victoria school district had an operating surplus of close to \$22 million.

Jan. 5, 2016

Background:

There are about 110-120 campers at the site.

Our Place will be taking 5 to 6 people a day to the new shelter to give them the chance to settle in. The 40-bed shelter is expected to be fully occupied by Friday, Jan. 8. Outreach staff will then determine the needs of the remaining campers.

It's not yet known how many of the remaining campers will need housing. It's believed some campers have housing and some are visiting from outside of Victoria.

BC Housing is also working with Pacifica Housing to use rent supplements to help campers find housing in the private market, however the vacancy rate in Victoria is posing a challenge.

The Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services (MTICS) will be distributing a flyer to the campers requesting they vacate and providing assurance they will be offered alternate housing arrangements.

MTICS will have to make a decision to apply to the courts for an injunction. This could be challenged and take anywhere from 4 to 6 weeks.

Court ruling:

Following a court ruling in 2009, homeless campers have been allowed to stay in Victoria parks as long as they pack up their tents and move every morning. In this case however, the courthouse lawn belongs to the province and that rule does not apply.

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 2:13 PM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Media Request - CBC Radio Vancouver - campers at Victoria Courthouse

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 2:12 PM
To: Facey, Nick MTIC:EX; Reddy, Brandon MTIC:EX
Cc: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: ~~Media Request - CBC Radio Vancouver - campers at Victoria Courthouse~~

Hi Nick – one more request on the campers. Plz let me know if these are good to go. Thx! Jo

Date/Time: Jan/11/2:10 p.m.

Deadline @ 6 p.m.

Media: CBC Radio Vancouver

Reporter: Liam Britten/liam.britten@cbc.ca/604-662-6498

Topic: campers at Victoria Courthouse

Background: CBC Radio Vancouver

Questions: Wondering if the government has any further comment about the campers on the Victoria courthouse lawn? Why did the message encouraging them to move on come today? Will the government be forcefully removing campers? Does the government believe there are enough housing options in Victoria to house these campers?

Recommended response:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been at the courthouse site on a regular basis, working with the campers to provide information about shelters and other services available in the Victoria area.
- While the Ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, there are an increasing number of health and safety issues as the site is not suitable for camping.
- Information was provided to campers requesting that they work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter.
- The Ministry views this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition and will give the campers reasonable time to move.

Information on shelter and housing options:

- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, the province has provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.
- There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.
- These spaces are activated by the community depending on weather conditions. The average occupancy rate has been 66% this winter.

For information about services and supports for the homeless in Victoria, please visit:

www.housingmattersbc.ca/docs/fs_Homeless%20Supports_Victoria.pdf

To see a map of permanent and temporary shelters in B.C., please visit:

http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Emergency_Housing/Map

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 11:19 AM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Media request - CHEK News - Victoria Courthouse Campers

Let's ensure the tone of the messaging is similar to below, which MO provided as feedback yesterday.

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 10:46 AM
To: Facey, Nick MTIC:EX; Reddy, Brandon MTIC:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Fraser, John Paul GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Jacobson, John MTIC:EX
Subject: Media request - CHEK News - Victoria Courthouse Campers

Hi Nick – CHEK doing a story on the campsite at the Victoria Courthouse. They will be speaking with Don from Our Place onsite at 12:30 today. Recommend same response provided to CTV Vancouver Island yesterday.

Date/Time: Jan/5/10:00 a.m.

Deadline @ 2 p.m.

Media: CHEK

Reporter: April Lawrence/250-480-3700/ alawrence@cheknews.ca

Topic: campers at the Victoria Courthouse

Background: Reporter doing a story on the new 40-bed shelter on Yates Street. Reporter will be talking to Our Place (the operator of the shelter) at 12:30 today as approximately 6 people are moved off the campsite. Reporter wants to know what happens to those campers who are not transitioned to the shelter.

Questions:

- Today is the day homeless campers start to move into the new shelter on Yates. Is there anyone available to speak today on what will happen with the remaining campers who refuse to go?
- Will they be able to stay or will they be kicked off the property? Is there a timeline? And what happens with the items left behind by the people who do move?

Recommended Response

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been working with the campers to provide information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped they take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new shelter will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.

For more information about services and supports for the homeless in Victoria, please visit:
www.housingmattersbc.ca/docs/fs_Homeless%20Supports_Victoria.pdf

To see a map of permanent and temporary shelters in B.C., please visit:

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 1:20 PM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: media requests x 2 CTV Vancouver Island and CBC Radio Gregor Craigie

FYI

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 12:20 PM
To: Facey, Nick MTIC:EX; Reddy, Brandon MTIC:EX
Cc: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: ~~media requests x 2 CTV Vancouver Island and CBC Radio Gregor Craigie~~

Hi Nick – as discussed two media outlets were at the meeting with the campers this morning and both would like response from the province. Gregor is doing something for his show tomorrow, he'd like to have someone on but understands we may only be providing background info at this point. Responses below.

Date/Time: Jan/6/11 a.m.

Deadline @ 2 p.m.

Media: CTV Vancouver Island
CBC Radio Gregor Craigie

Reporter: CTV - Zahra Premji^{s.22} Zahra.Premji@bellmedia.ca
CBC radio gregor.craigie@cbc.ca

Topic: campers at the Victoria Courthouse

Background CTV: Reporter doing a story on the campers at the Victoria Courthouse. Looking for an interview or statement from the province. Reporter attending a healing circle at the campsite this a.m. where MITCS staff members were present to speak with the campers, along with the Mayor of Victoria and the Executive Director of Our Place.

Questions - CTV:

- Now that a temporary shelter has opened for 40 people to move from tent city we wanted to inquire what's next for the lawn?
- The province had said in December that eventually it would make a move to either move everyone left off or something to that effect. Just wondering if we can get an update?

Recommended response:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been working with the campers to provide information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped they take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new shelter will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.

For more information about services and supports for the homeless in Victoria, please visit:
www.housingmattersbc.ca/docs/fs_Homeless%20Supports_Victoria.pdf

To see a map of permanent and temporary shelters in B.C., please visit:
http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Emergency_Housing/Map

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 1:36 PM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX
Subject: FW: media requests x 2 CTV Vancouver Island and CBC Radio Gregor Craigie

FYI

From: Facey, Nick MTIC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 1:14 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Reddy, Brandon MTIC:EX
Cc: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: ~~Re: media requests x 2 CTV Vancouver Island and CBC Radio Gregor Craigie~~

good

From: Joanne Whittier <Joanne.Whittier@gov.bc.ca>
Date: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 at 12:19 PM
To: Nick Facey <nick.facey@gov.bc.ca>, Brandon Reddy <Brandon.Reddy@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Woods, Emily GCPE:EX" <Emily.Woods@gov.bc.ca>, Matt Gordon <Matt.Gordon@gov.bc.ca>, Paul Woolley <Paul.Woolley@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: media requests x 2 CTV Vancouver Island and CBC Radio Gregor Craigie

Hi Nick – as discussed two media outlets were at the meeting with the campers this morning and both would like response from the province. Gregor is doing something for his show tomorrow, he'd like to have someone on but understands we may only be providing background info at this point. Responses below.

Date/Time: Jan/6/11 a.m.

Deadline @ 2 p.m.

Media: CTV Vancouver Island
CBC Radio Gregor Craigie

Reporter: CTV - Zahra Premji/250-516-3046/Zahra.Premji@bellmedia.ca
CBC radio gregor.craigie@cbc.ca

Topic: campers at the Victoria Courthouse

Background CTV: Reporter doing a story on the campers at the Victoria Courthouse. Looking for an interview or statement from the province. Reporter attending a healing circle at the campsite this a.m. where MITCS staff members were present to speak with the campers, along with the Mayor of Victoria and the Executive Director of Our Place.

Questions - CTV:

- Now that a temporary shelter has opened for 40 people to move from tent city we wanted to inquire what's next for the lawn?
- The province had said in December that eventually it would make a move to either move everyone left off or something to that effect. Just wondering if we can get an update?

Recommended response:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been working with the campers to provide information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped they take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new shelter will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.

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http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Emergency_Housing/Map

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 2:03 PM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Cc: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Media Requests x 4 - Courthouse Campers

Importance: High

Send them our updated lines.

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 2:01 PM
To: Facey, Nick MTIC:EX; Reddy, Brandon MTIC:EX
Cc: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Requests x 4 - Courthouse Campers
Importance: High

Hi Nick: CP, CHEK, CTV and TC all looking for info on the campers. Background info below for approval. I have one more that I will send in an additional email. Jo

Date/Time: Jan. 11/12:50pm

Deadlines @ 2:30/3 p.m.

Media: Canadian Press

Reporter: 250-418-4779, Dirk.Meissner@thecanadianpress.com

Topic: Campers at Victoria Courthouse

Background: Reporter is looking for comment regarding a press conference held by campers at the Victoria Courthouse at 11 a.m. today demanding more money and solutions to the issue of homelessness. Campers indicated that they will resist efforts to have them moved. Together Against Poverty (TAPS) said they will provide a lawyer if the ministry goes forward with an injunction. Have let all three reporters know the ministry would likely provide background information.

Questions: Is there a deadline for when they will be asked to leave? Is eviction an option?

Recommended response:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been at the courthouse site on a regular basis, working with the campers to provide information about shelters and other services available in the Victoria area.

- While the Ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, there are an increasing number of health and safety issues as the site is not suitable for camping.
- Information was provided to campers requesting that they work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter.
- The Ministry views this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition and will give the campers reasonable time to move.

Information on shelter and housing options:

- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, the province has provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.
- There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.
- These spaces are activated by the community depending on weather conditions. The average occupancy rate has been 66% this winter.

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Date/Time: Jan. 11/12:50pm

Deadline @ 2-2:30 p.m.

Media: CHEK news

Reporter: April Lawrence, 250-415-8168, alawrence@cheknews.ca

Questions: The tent city campers held a press conference this morning basically saying they would refuse to move if the province sought an injunction to force them out. They vowed to fight it through the courts. Does the Ministry have any response to this and is there any kind of timeline? Also they were saying that nobody from the Province has ever actually come down there to talk to them. Could you clarify?

Recommended response:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been at the courthouse site on a regular basis, working with the campers to provide information about shelters and other services available in the Victoria area.
- In addition, representatives from the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services have been to the site on a number of occasions in December and January.
- While the Ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, there are an increasing number of health and safety issues as the site is not suitable for camping.
- Information was provided to campers requesting that they work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter.
- The Ministry views this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition and will give the campers reasonable time to move.

Information on shelter and housing options:

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http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Emergency_Housing/Map

Date/Time: Jan. 11/12:50pm

Deadline @ 3:30 p.m.

Media: CTV

Reporter: Yvonne Raymond, 250-661-2072, yvonne.raymond@bellmedia.ca

Questions: Interested in next steps at the site and the provinces response to concerns from the campers, which include: a lack of consultation, alleged band-aid approaches to homelessness (like the creation of a temporary shelter rather than multi-dimensional solutions that recognize one solution doesn't fit all).

Recommended response:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been at the courthouse site on a regular basis, working with the campers to provide information about shelters and other services available in the Victoria area.
- While the Ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, there are an increasing number of health and safety issues as the site is not suitable for camping.
- Information was provided to campers requesting that they work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter.
- The Ministry views this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition and will give the campers reasonable time to move.

Information on shelter and housing options:

- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, the province has provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.

- There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.
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www.housingmattersbc.ca/docs/fs_Homeless%20Supports_Victoria.pdf

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http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Emergency_Housing/Map

Date/Time: Jan. 11/1:56 pm

Deadlines @ 4 p.m.

Media: Times Colonist

Reporter: Richard Watts / rwatts@timescolonist.com/250-580-5211

Topic: Campers at Victoria Courthouse

Background: Reporter is looking for comment regarding a press conference held by campers at the Victoria Courthouse at 11 a.m. today demanding more money and solutions to the issue of homelessness. Campers indicated that they will resist efforts to have them moved. Together Against Poverty (TAPS) said they will provide a lawyer if the ministry goes forward with an injunction. Have let all three reporters know the ministry would likely provide background information.

Questions: Is there a deadline for when they will be asked to leave? Are there any plans to evict the campers?

Recommended response:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been at the courthouse site on a regular basis, working with the campers to provide information about shelters and other services available in the Victoria area.
- While the Ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, there are an increasing number of health and safety issues as the site is not suitable for camping.
- Information was provided to campers requesting that they work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter.
- The Ministry views this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition and will give the campers reasonable time to move.

Information on shelter and housing options:

- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, the province has provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.
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- These spaces are activated by the community depending on weather conditions. The average occupancy rate has been 66% this winter.

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http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Emergency_Housing/Map

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 2:14 PM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Media Requests
Attachments: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_05_16.docx;
ATT00001.htm

Good to go.

From: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 2:12 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: Fwd: Media Requests

We are good to go with the revised version. Thx.

Reporters looking for comment on SD61 claims- story below- ok to send the below on background? MoEd has provided the response- KM attached.

Date/Time: Jan. 5

Deadline: asap

Media/Reporter: Dirk Meissner, Canadian Press

Phone: 250-384-4912

Media/Reporter: Scott Cunningham, CTV VI

Phone: 250-414-6568

Topic: SD61 costs

Request: reporters heard last night that the school district estimates they will need to spend an additional \$44,000 in cleaning the area around the site of the new Victoria homeless shelter. They are looking for the province to pay for that additional cost. Reporters wondering if there is provincial comment or a plan in place to pay for those costs out of the money the province is providing for the shelter.

Suggested Response:

- ~~The Province will not provide extra funds to the Victoria school district.~~
- If there are any additional costs, they should be covered from the contingency funds that school districts like Victoria set aside as part of their annual budgeting.
- As of June 30, 2015 the Victoria school district had an operating surplus of close to \$22 million.

Story:

CKNW (Vancouver)

05-Jan-2016 12:03

Copyright

VICTORIA COURTHOUSE HOMELESS CAMP

Topic: A group of homeless people have set up camp outside the Victoria courthouse. On Jan. 5, Our Place opened a new, 40-bed shelter. The Province is providing \$400,000 in operating funding. The Victoria School District has asked the Province and the city to cover \$44,000 in estimated security costs. The shelter is located near Central Middle School.

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the courthouse.
-
- Outreach workers have been working with the campers to provide information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
 - For issues of health and safety, it's hoped they take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new shelter will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.

School District Security Costs:

- The Province will not provide extra funds to the Victoria school district.
- This situation should be covered from the contingency funds that school districts like Victoria set aside as part of their annual budgeting.
- As of June 30, 2015 the Victoria school district had an operating surplus of close to \$22 million.

Jan. 5, 2016

Background:

There are about 110-120 campers at the site.

Our Place will be taking 5 to 6 people a day to the new shelter to give them the chance to settle in. The 40-bed shelter is expected to be fully occupied by Friday, Jan. 8. Outreach staff will then determine the needs of the remaining campers.

It's not yet known how many of the remaining campers will need housing. It's believed some campers have housing and some are visiting from outside of Victoria.

BC Housing is also working with Pacifica Housing to use rent supplements to help campers find housing in the private market, however the vacancy rate in Victoria is posing a challenge.

The Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services (MTICS) will be distributing a flyer to the campers requesting they vacate and providing assurance they will be offered alternate housing arrangements.

MTICS will have to make a decision to apply to the courts for an injunction. This could be challenged and take anywhere from 4 to 6 weeks.

Court ruling:

Following a court ruling in 2009, homeless campers have been allowed to stay in Victoria parks as long as they pack up their tents and move every morning. In this case however, the courthouse lawn belongs to the province and that rule does not apply.

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 2:13 PM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: media request CBC Radio Gregor Craigie - interview request for tomorrow 7:50 a.m. On the Island

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 2:05 PM
To: Facey, Nick MTIC:EX; Reddy, Brandon MTIC:EX
Cc: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: ~~media request CBC Radio Gregor Craigie - interview request for tomorrow 7:50 a.m. On the Island~~

Hi Nick – CBC Radio looking to have a provincial rep on tomorrow morning. Please let me know? Thx - Joanne

Date/Time: Jan/11/11:47 a.m.

Deadline @ today

Media: CBC Radio

Reporter: Gregor Craigie

Topic: campers at Victoria Courthouse

Background: CBC Radio looking for a representative from the province for a live interview tomorrow on **CBC Radio On the Island** regarding press conference held by campers today at 11 a.m. demanding more money and solutions to the issue of homelessness. Campers indicated that they will resist efforts to have them moved. Together Against Poverty (TAPS) said they will provide a lawyer if the ministry goes forward with an injunction.

Interview date/time/format: CBC Radio On the Island Jan. 12/ 7:50 a.m./7 minute live interview with Gregor Craigie.

Note: Don Evans, Executive Director, Our Place will be speaking with CBC Radio All Points West this afternoon.

Questions: What is the plan for the property? Where does the ministry go from here now that campers have indicated they will refuse to leave the site?

Recommended response:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been at the courthouse site on a regular basis, working with the campers to provide information about shelters and other services available in the Victoria area.

- While the Ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, there are an increasing number of health and safety issues as the site is not suitable for camping.
- Information was provided to campers requesting that they work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter.
- The Ministry views this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition and will give the campers reasonable time to move.

Information on shelter and housing options:

- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, the province has provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.
- There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.
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http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Emergency_Housing/Map

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 11:56 AM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX
Subject: FW: Meeting today - courthouse campers

Update -

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 11:54 AM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX
Subject: Meeting today - courthouse campers

CTV and CBC radio (Gregor Craigie were on site), as was Mayor Helps . The conversation seemed to be civilized (a talking stick was used to give each person time to speak) although one individual became very upset at one point and we can expect this to be visible on CTV's clip. Both outlets have asked for response – spoke with both reporters while there and they appreciate that I will likely just have some background info to send them at this point; no decisions at this point in terms of timing for people to move.

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 8:50 AM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: MTICS flyer - courthouse campers

Appreciate you sharing this Joanne. s.13

s.13

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Cheers,
Paul

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 8:29 AM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX
Subject: MTICS flyer - courthouse campers

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To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Cc: Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
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Cc: Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: NR- Our Place opens My Place

Our Place NR set to go out tomorrow morning at 8.

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 8:14 AM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX
Cc: Hirji, Keivan MNGD:EX; Stello, Sandra GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: MTICS additional update - courthouse campers

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From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 8:38 AM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX
Cc: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX; Hirji, Keivan MNGD:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: MTICS flyer - courthouse campers
Attachments: 103621_Assoc_DM_Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse_FINAL (2).docx

Here's the flyer MITCS staff planned to hand out tomorrow. Haven't read it yet. ☺

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Ministry of
Technology, Innovation
and Citizens' Services

_____, 2015

TO: Campers on Victoria Courthouse Lands

FROM: The Province of BC, Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

SUBJECT: INFORMATION ON SHELTER OPTIONS AND DIRECTION TO LEAVE
COURTHOUSE LANDS

The B.C. Government is the owner of the Victoria Courthouse Lands, which includes the grassy area bounded by Courtney, Quadra and Burdett Street. The Courthouse performs a necessary function in our society.

Over the past month, the number of campers has steadily grown. There is concern that campers find housing and services to improve their safety, health and wellbeing.

The B.C. Government is in close contact with outreach workers, health care providers, shelters, City of Victoria staff, income assistance workers, police and courthouse staff to assist campers with alternate housing arrangements. In addition, outreach workers from the Our Place Society and the Victoria Cool Aid Society are available to connect campers with support services such as health care and counselling services and can be contacted on site.

The B.C. Government is opening a new 40 bed transition house at 1240 Yates Street that will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and provide meals and other supports. Campers are encouraged to take advantage of this shelter space until long-term housing options can be found. The Province provides a range of other housing options in Victoria for people without shelter; information on these options is available from outreach workers.

To conclude, the courthouse property is not a sustainable solution for your needs. There are better options available, run by people who can assist you with your health and wellbeing. We ask that campers cease camping at this location, utilize the available better options and remove your property from the Courthouse Lands.

For more information, campers may contact: Don Evans, Executive Director, Our Place Society
250-388-7112

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 8:53 AM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX
Subject: FW: MTICS flyer - courthouse campers

My feedback on the "flyer" ☺

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 8:50 AM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: MTICS flyer - courthouse campers

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Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 4:15 PM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX
Cc: Hirji, Keivan MNGD:EX
Subject: FW: MTICs update Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp

Hmmm.

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 4:05 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Cc: Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: ~~MTICs update Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp~~

We spoke with the fire department and Victoria Police again this afternoon. Efforts to distinguish/remove the burn barrel at the campsite were not successful - there was an organized resistance and a decision was made (by fire department and police) not to enrage the campers by proceeding.

However, the fire department's position is that the fire/s are in contravention of municipal bylaws and a solution needs to be found. The smoke is also of significant concern to local residents.

Of note, VicPD reported that there were some high-risk youth accessing and staying on the site this week. They have been in touch with MCFD about this. I'll let Karen and Kirsten know so they are aware. Jo

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Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 11:34 AM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Cc: Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Update: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_08_16_DRAFT

Thx Paul – update from MTICS:

The flyers were handed out to the campers and posted around the perimeter of the camp this morning. It was relatively peaceful – s.22 made a point of taking copies of the flyer and ripping them up. No media onsite.

The campers have indicated that they will be forming a collective response to the flyer.

At 1 p.m. today, the fire department will be onsite to put out the burn barrel (which has created a huge issue with nearby residents). This is expected to be a source of significant concern among the campers.

The timelines for next steps (which would be an injunction) have not been confirmed yet. Will provide info asap on this point. Jo

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To: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Update: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_08_16_DRAFT

Updated KM...

Housing confirms 40 rent supps are available for the remaining campers – none have been handed out yet – outreach staff are still in the process of determining remaining campers' needs.

- The Province encourages the remaining campers to seek assistance from outreach workers who have been on site daily providing information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
- 40 rent supplements have also been made available to help any campers in need of housing find a place to stay in the private market.
- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, we have provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.
- There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.
- These spaces are activated by the community depending on weather conditions. The average occupancy rate has been 66% this winter.

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Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 4:16 PM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: MTICs update Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp

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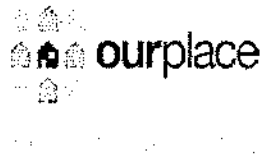
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Subject: FW: NR- Our Place opens My Place
Attachments: Our Place opens My Place.pdf

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, Jan. 4, 2016



Our Place opens My Place Transitional Home

Forty homeless people will have 24/7 access to food, shelter and support

Copyright

For further information, please contact:
Grant McKenzie, Director of Communications
T: 250-388-7112 ext. 225
Cell: 250-217-2406
Email: grantm@ourplacesociety.com

Don Evans, Executive Director
Our Place Society
Cell: 778-977-4921
Email: don@ourplacesociety.com

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From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 7:50 AM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX; Hirji, Keivan MNGD:EX
Cc: Ash, Christine GCPE:EX
Subject: Fw: Snapshot: news

FYI

Victoria Courthouse campers have a news conference schedule for this morning.

In the news:

Media coverage continues on the **tent city** at the **Victoria courthouse**. The Times Colonist, The Province and CFAX are reporting that campers aren't impressed with a **letter** from the **provincial government** suggesting the time has come for them to move on. The letter mentions the temporary, **40-bed shelter** set up on Yates Street, and suggests that **Our Place** and the **Victoria Cool Aid Society** can offer help. In response, **campers** have scheduled a **press conference** at the **courthouse** site at **11 a.m. Monday**. A statement issued by residents of what is being called "Super InTent City" said the press conference will include speakers talking against the **"one-size-fitsall"** **approach** they see the government taking to the diverse needs of **homeless** people.

CP News is reporting that Canada could see **final approval** of the first **natural gas export projects** on the **West Coast** this year. Proponents behind some of the **20 proposed liquefied natural gas** projects in **B.C.** say they should be in a position to make **final investment decisions** this year as **environmental approvals, permits and First Nations support** fall into place. The article says while a supply glut has pushed down **natural gas prices**, experts say projects remain viable. **Altacorp Capital** analyst Mark Westby says current gas prices are only one factor and sees **LNG Canada** and the **Altagas-led Douglas Channel project** as developments most likely to proceed this year. Racim Gribaa, who leads **Deloitte Canada's** LNG business, said the downturn in the resources sector presents an ideal time to start building projects. He said that despite current prices, the **future demand** for natural gas looks strong, giving Canada a chance to still play a role in the **global LNG market**.

The Vancouver Sun and CFAX are reporting that the B.C. government will formally oppose the **Trans Mountain oil pipeline** expansion in a written submission to the **National Energy Board** today. Environment Minister **Mary Polak** says the government believes that **Kinder Morgan** has failed to provide the **NEB** with an adequate plan to prevent or respond to an **oil spill**. The article references **B.C.'s five conditions** oil **pipeline projects** have to meet before they would be allowed in the province. Polak said outside of the NEB process on oil spills, the project has failed to meet any of the province's five conditions, such as obtaining **First Nations support** and providing the province a fair share of **economic benefits**. The NEB must make recommendations to the federal cabinet on the Trans Mountain project by May 20.

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Saturday, December 26, 2015 4:05 PM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX
Cc: Hirji, Keivan MNGD:EX; Ash, Christine GCPE:EX
Subject: Fw: Sudden Death at the encampment

Sad...

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Donna Freeman <dfreeman@bchousing.org>
Sent: Saturday, December 26, 2015 2:17 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Ash, Christine GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Cc: Rajvir Rao
Subject: Fwd: Sudden Death at the encampment

No other info than below from Victoria police dept.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Roger Butcher <rbutcher@bchousing.org>
Date: December 26, 2015 at 12:47:48 PM PST
To: Donna Freeman <dfreeman@bchousing.org>, Shayne Ramsay <sramsay@bchousing.org>, Craig Crawford <ccrawford@bchousing.org>, Rajvir Rao <r rao@bchousing.org>
Subject: Fwd: Sudden Death at the encampment

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "McGregor, Scott" <scott.mcgregor@vicpd.ca>
Date: December 26, 2015 at 12:44:28 PM PST
To: "rebecca.guthrie@gov.bc.ca" <rebecca.guthrie@gov.bc.ca>, "Fellows, Brian MTIC:EX" <Brian.Fellows@gov.bc.ca>, "Lisa MTIC:EX Koorbatoff" <Lisa.Koorbatoff@gov.bc.ca>, Roger Butcher <rbutcher@bchousing.org>, "Sykes, Graeme MTIC:EX" <Graeme.Sykes@gov.bc.ca>, "Jon MTIC:EX Burbee" <Jon.Burbee@gov.bc.ca>, "Williams, Leslie J MTIC:EX" <Leslie.Williams@gov.bc.ca>, "Cavanaugh, Lynda A JAG:EX" <Lynda.Cavanaugh@gov.bc.ca>, "Holden, Virginia OHCS:EX" <Virginia.Holden@gov.bc.ca>, Tasha Schollen <Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Manak, Del" <del.manak@vicpd.ca>
Subject: Sudden Death at the encampment

Good afternoon,

The police and the Coroners Service are investigating a Sudden Death that occurred in a tent at the courthouse this morning. An adult male is reported to have overdosed and died. At this juncture it does not appear to be as a result of foul play so the investigation will rest with the Coroners Service.

Tasha Schollen had been advised.

The media contacted Mayor Lisa Helps and asked to interview her on the incident. She agreed to conduct an interview at her house which I understand is underway right now.

I briefed her in advance and cautioned her about commenting on the death as the Coroners Service should be the only agency doing so.

It is anticipated that the media will ask if this will precipitate the removal of the campers from the site. To that she agreed with me can only be commented on by the Province.

Please call me if you have any questions of concerns.

Scott

s.22

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

This message, together with any attachments, is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed. It may contain information that is confidential and prohibited from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination or copying of this message or any attachment is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify the original sender immediately by telephone or by return email and delete this message along with any attachments, from your computer.

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Saturday, December 26, 2015 4:06 PM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX
Subject: Fw: Sudden Death at the encampment

See below.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

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Sent: Saturday, December 26, 2015 2:17 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Ash, Christine GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Cc: Rajvir Rao
Subject: Fwd: Sudden Death at the encampment

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Sent from my iPhone

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Cc: "Manak, Del" <del.manak@vicpd.ca>
Subject: Sudden Death at the encampment

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It is anticipated that the media will ask if this will precipitate the removal of the campers from the site. To that she agreed with me can only be commented on by the Province.

Please call me if you have any questions of concerns.

Scott

s.22

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Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 11:38 AM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX
Cc: Hirji, Keivan MNGD:EX
Subject: FW: Update: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_08_16_DRAFT

FYI – from MITCS

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 11:34 AM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Cc: Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Update: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_08_16_DRAFT

Thx Paul – update from MTICS:

The flyers were handed out to the campers and posted around the perimeter of the camp this morning. It was relatively peaceful – although S.22 made a point of taking copies of the flyer and ripping them up. No media onsite.

The campers have indicated that they will be forming a collective response to the flyer.

At 1 p.m. today, the fire department will be onsite to put out the burn barrel (which has created a huge issue with nearby residents). This is expected to be a source of significant concern among the campers.

The timelines for next steps (which would be an injunction) have not been confirmed yet. Will provide info asap on this point. Jo

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 10:44 AM
To: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Update: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_08_16_DRAFT

Updated KM...

Housing confirms 40 rent supps are available for the remaining campers – none have been handed out yet – outreach staff are still in the process of determining remaining campers' needs.

- The Province encourages the remaining campers to seek assistance from outreach workers who have been on site daily providing information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
- 40 rent supplements have also been made available to help any campers in need of housing find a place to stay in the private market.
- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, we have provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.
- There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.

- These spaces are activated by the community depending on weather conditions. The average occupancy rate has been 66% this winter.

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 2:11 PM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: Fw: updated KMs - campers at Victoria Courthouse

What might be best?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX <Emily.Woods@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 1:48 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: updated KMs - campers at Victoria Courthouse

Thanks. We'll need some messaging around what other options are available for campers if it's full – is there much room in the other shelters? And what about ppl who are barred from shelters, etc.?

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 1:42 PM
To: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: updated KMs - campers at Victoria Courthouse

Suspect yes, but will double check.

From: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 1:35 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: updated KMs - campers at Victoria Courthouse

Those look good.

Paul, will Our Place be at capacity by week's end?

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 1:19 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: updated KMs - campers at Victoria Courthouse

Hi Paul/Emily – attached are updated response points in prep for tomorrow's flyer handout at 10 a.m. Do these work ok for you? I'll be at the site in case media show up - MTICS will continue to provide background info in response to media inquiries about the campers/ the status of the property. Any questions regarding shelter/housing will go to Paul and his team. Thx much! Jo

Updated Draft

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.

- BC housing outreach workers have been working with the campers to provide information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.

If pressed about when the campers will be asked to leave and what the plans are for the property:

- Representatives from the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services spoke with the campers on January 6.
- While the Ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, a growing number of campers over the past month has created an increasing number of health and safety concerns; making the courthouse property not a viable location for campers.
- Information was provided to campers on January 8 requesting the campers work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter.
- The Ministry views this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition and will give the campers reasonable time to move.

For information about services and supports for the homeless in Victoria, please visit:
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To see a map of permanent and temporary shelters in B.C., please visit:
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Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 1:43 PM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: updated KMs - campers at Victoria Courthouse

Can you check on capacity.

From: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 1:35 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: updated KMs - campers at Victoria Courthouse

Those look good.

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From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 1:19 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: updated KMs - campers at Victoria Courthouse

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Updated Draft

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From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 1:31 PM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: updated KMs - campers at Victoria Courthouse

Thoughts?

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 1:19 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: updated KMs - campers at Victoria Courthouse

Hi Paul/Emily – attached are updated response points in prep for tomorrow's flyer handout at 10 a.m. Do these work ok for you? I'll be at the site in case media show up - MTICS will continue to provide background info in response to media inquiries about the campers/ the status of the property. Any questions regarding shelter/housing will go to Paul and his team. Thx much! Jo

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Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 4:13 PM
To: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: updated KMs - campers at Victoria Courthouse

Trying to get this sorted with BC Housing...

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 3:51 PM
To: 'Donna Freeman'; Rajvir Rao
Cc: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Holden, Virginia OHCS:EX; Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: updated KMs - campers at Victoria Courthouse

Any update from Roger on this yet?

Wondering if something like this would work re: remaining campers.

Thanks

- The Province encourages the remaining campers to seek assistance from outreach workers who have been on site daily providing information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
- Additional rent supplements have also been made available (do we know how many?) to help any campers in need of housing find a place to stay in the private market.
- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, we have provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.
- There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night. These spaces are activated by the community depending on weather conditions.

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 1:50 PM
To: Donna Freeman; Rajvir Rao
Cc: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Holden, Virginia OHCS:EX; Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: updated KMs - campers at Victoria Courthouse

Hi Donna/Rajvir. updated KMs below in preparation for the flyer going out to campers tomorrow morning at 10 a.m.

Can you confirm that the shelter will be at capacity tomorrow -- and any update on plans for remaining campers? Do we have a sense yet on how many of the remaining campers will need housing?

Thanks
Darren

Updated Draft

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.

- BC Housing outreach workers have been working with the campers to provide information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.

If pressed about when the campers will be asked to leave and what the plans are for the property (MTICS):

- Representatives from the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services spoke with the campers on January 6.
- While the Ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, a growing number of campers over the past month has created an increasing number of health and safety concerns; making the courthouse property not a viable location for campers.
- Information was provided to campers on January 8 requesting the campers work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter.
- The Ministry views this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition and will give the campers reasonable time to move.

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Ash, Christine GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2015 10:54 AM
To: Anderson, Maryann GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Victoria NR
Attachments: Draft Press Release_1240 Yates (2) (2).docx

Importance: High

Fyi... city just sent this NR out at 10:30 a.m.

Chris Ash
Communications Manager | Ministry of Natural Gas Development
ph: 250-952-0623 cell: 250-812-3616
email to: christine.ash@gov.bc.ca

City Approves Use of Vacant Property at 1240 Yates Street for Short-term Emergency Shelter

Copyright

Page 100

Withheld pursuant to/removal as

Copyright

Subject: FW: Attn: April Lawrence, CHEK News

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 2:52 PM
To: 'alawrence@cheknews.ca'
Subject: Attn: April Lawrence, CHEK News

Hi April, please find below background information in response to your inquiry regarding the campers at the Victoria Courthouse. I understand you have posed a few additional questions to the Ministry responsible for Housing. For convenience, we have added their information below as well.

Best, Joanne

Background information:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been at the courthouse site on a regular basis, working with the campers to provide information about shelters and other services available in the Victoria area.
- In addition, representatives from the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services have been to the site on a number of occasions in December and January.
- While the Ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, there are an increasing number of health and safety issues as the site is not suitable for camping.
- Information was provided to campers requesting that they work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter.
- The Ministry views this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition and will give the campers reasonable time to move.

Information on shelter and housing options:

- Last year, the Province invested over \$19 million to support affordable housing for more than 5,100 low-income households in Victoria.
- Forty rent supplements have been made available to help any campers in need of housing find a place to stay in the private market.
- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, the province has provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.
- There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.

For information about services and supports for the homeless in Victoria, please visit:

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Joanne Whittier
Communications Manager
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
office: 250-387-0172 / cell: 250-893-5650

Subject:

FW: Attn: Megan Thomas, CBC Radio News Victoria

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 4:12 PM
To: 'megan.thomas@cbc.ca'
Subject: Attn: Megan Thomas, CBC Radio News Victoria

Hi Megan: please find below background information in response to your inquiry regarding the campers at the Victoria Courthouse. I have also included some information from the Ministry responsible for Housing on shelter/housing options. Regards, Joanne

Background information:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.
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- The Ministry views this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition and will give the campers reasonable time to move.

Additional information on shelter and housing options:

- Outreach workers continue to assess the needs of those remaining at the camp to determine who is in need of housing.
- Forty rent supplements have been made available to help any campers in need of housing find a place to stay in the private market.
- Last year, the Province invested over \$19 million to support affordable housing for more than 5,100 low-income households in Victoria.
- In addition to the new shelter, there are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.
- These spaces are activated by the community depending on weather conditions. The average occupancy rate has been 66% this winter.

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Joanne Whittier
Communications Manager
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
office: 250-387-0172 / cell: 250-893-5650

Subject: FW: CBC News request

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Megan Thomas [<mailto:megan.thomas@cbc.ca>]
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 3:05 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: CBC News request

Hello Joanne,

I have another question to add to my earlier request regarding the camp site at the Victoria courthouse, although it pertains more to the housing ministry so I have copied Sandra on this note:

-with the new transitional 24/7 shelter space only having room for 40 people and about 100 people camping at the courthouse, are there any other offers of additional shelter planned for the homeless in Victoria? If so, what form would this housing take?

My deadline is 5pm today.

Thanks,

Megan Thomas
Reporter
CBC Victoria
Phone: 250 414-4707
Cell: 250 661-6185

Subject: FW: CBC News request-1

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 3:08 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: CBC News request

~~Hi Joanne, this reporter just called me and I asked her to send the q to both of us, I understand you will be sending~~
her something later today is that right? If you want to provide our stuff here, that works for us. The lines that Darren
will provide on the space available may apply well here.

From: Megan Thomas [<mailto:megan.thomas@cbc.ca>]
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 3:05 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: CBC News request

Hello Joanne,

I have another question to add to my earlier request regarding the camp site at the Victoria courthouse,
although it pertains more to the housing ministry so I have copied Sandra on this note:

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at the courthouse, are there any other offers of additional shelter planned for the homeless in Victoria? If so,
what form would this housing take?

My deadline is 5pm today.

Thanks,

Megan Thomas
Reporter
CBC Victoria
Phone: 250 414-4707
Cell: 250 661-6185

Subject: FW: CBC Radio Vancouver - follow up call

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 4:11 PM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX; Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX; Hirji, Keivan MNGD:EX
Cc: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: CBC Radio Vancouver - follow up call

~~FYI we provided the below to MTICS to respond to CBC q around Victoria shelter occupancy and space available.~~

- Outreach workers continue to assess the needs of those remaining at the camp to determine who is in need of housing.
- Forty rent supplements have been made available to help any campers in need of housing find a place to stay in the private market.
- In addition to the new shelter, there are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.
- These spaces are activated by the community depending on weather conditions. The average occupancy rate has been 66% this winter.

Subject: FW: Coleman / Globe and Mail

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 12:11 PM
To: Beaupre, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Coleman / Globe and Mail

Thanks-

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Beaupre, Darren GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 12:10 PM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Coleman / Globe and Mail

She replied with 'thanks for this' or something like that but I deleted it I think.

From: Beaupre, Darren GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 2:54 PM
To: 'Woo, Andrea'
Subject: RE: Coleman / Globe and Mail

Andrea,

The Minister is unavailable at this time as he takes a few days off for the holidays.

Below is some information available on background. Sorry again for the delay.

- The camp at the courthouse is a complex situation as many of the campers suffer from mental health and addictions issues.
- Right now, we have outreach workers at the camp every day and the campers are aware of the services available to them.
- The Province has provided \$425,000 in funding for a new winter shelter to address this situation, which will be open the first week in January. See news release [here](#).
- The shelter will be open 24/7 and we are going to encourage people at the camp who need housing to make use of the new shelter.
- We are hoping that once they get into a shelter, these people will be in a better position to stabilize their situation. That means not only assessing any health needs but also starting the process of moving towards more stable, permanent housing.
- Our Place will operate the shelter and provide three meals per day. Shelter staff will assess people once they have been moved to the shelter, and relocate them to appropriate housing and health services.

- A lease agreement is currently being worked out between the Provincial Rental Housing Corporation and the City of Victoria.
- This shelter will be in addition to the 150 year-round homeless shelter spaces in Victoria, as well as the 145 shelter spaces that open during extreme weather.
- The Province also recently provided \$184,000 to Our Place to open a new 40-bed winter shelter.

From: Beaupre, Darren GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 2:26 PM
To: 'Woo, Andrea'
Subject: RE: Coleman / Globe and Mail

Still looking into it. Apologies for delay.

From: Woo, Andrea [<mailto:AndreaWoo@globeandmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 1:18 PM
To: Beaupre, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Coleman / Globe and Mail

Hi Darren,

Any word?

Thank you,
 Andrea

From: Beaupre, Darren GCPE:EX [<mailto:Darren.Beaupre@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: December-29-15 11:41 AM
To: Woo, Andrea
Subject: RE: Coleman / Globe and Mail

Hi Andrea,

Checking for you now.

Darren Beaupre
 Government Communications and Public Engagement (GCPE)
 Ministry of Natural Gas Development
 Ph: 250-356-5892
 E-mail: darren.beaupre@gov.bc.ca

From: Woo, Andrea [<mailto:AndreaWoo@globeandmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 11:16 AM
To: Beaupre, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: Coleman / Globe and Mail

Hi Darren,

Andrea Woo from the Globe and Mail here. Looking to speak with Mr. Coleman today about the Victoria courthouse homeless encampment – can you please arrange? Will only take about five minutes.

Thank you,
Andrea



Andrea Woo Reporter

The Globe and Mail | Canada's National Newspaper

o: 604.631.6602 m: 604.379.8133 t: @AndreaWoo

350 - 969 Robson Street Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 1X5

Subject: FW: CTV,

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Scott Cunningham [<mailto:Scott.Cunningham@bellmedia.ca>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 10:49 AM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: CTV,

Hey,

As SD61 say they will be forced to siphon roughly 44,000 dollars from school funding to deal with a homeless shelter across the street, is the housing ministry the right place to start asking for response ?

SC

Scott Cunningham | Reporter/Videographer

CTV Vancouver Island | t 250-414-6568 | f 250-414-6598 | m 250-661-8630 | scott.cunningham@bellmedia.ca
1420 Broad Street
Victoria, BC V8W 2B1

vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca



[[twitter](#)] [[g+](#)] [[CTVNewsQuest](#)]

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

Subject: FW: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_05_16
Attachments: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_05_16.docx

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 1:20 PM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_05_16

Slight tweak on the messaging re: school district concerns.

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 1:20 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_05_16

Revised KM attached based on some feedback from our MO.

Jason, our MO is confirming that your MO is okay with the change.

Thanks
Darren

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 1:03 PM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_05_16

Updated KM attached. Thanks all for your input!

Subject: FW: media request CBC Radio Gregor Craigie - interview request for tomorrow 7:50 a.m. On the Island

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 3:16 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: media request CBC Radio Gregor Craigie - interview request for tomorrow 7:50 a.m. On the Island

No he's not available this week,

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 3:15 PM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: media request CBC Radio Gregor Craigie - interview request for tomorrow 7:50 a.m. On the Island

Hi there – our Minister is not able to do this interview. Would MRC be available?

Date/Time: Jan/11/11:47 a.m.

Deadline @ today

Media: CBC Radio

Reporter: Gregor Craigie

Topic: campers at Victoria Courthouse

Background: CBC Radio looking for a representative from the province for a live interview tomorrow on **CBC Radio On the Island** regarding press conference held by campers today at 11 a.m. demanding more money and solutions to the issue of homelessness. Campers indicated that they will resist efforts to have them moved. Together Against Poverty (TAPS) said they will provide a lawyer if the ministry goes forward with an injunction.

Interview date/time/format: CBC Radio On the Island Jan. 12/ 7:50 a.m./7 minute live interview with Gregor Craigie.

Note: Don Evans, Executive Director, Our Place will be speaking with CBC Radio All Points West this afternoon.

Questions: What is the plan for the property? Where does the ministry go from here now that campers have indicated they will refuse to leave the site?

Recommended response:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been at the courthouse site on a regular basis, working with the campers to provide information about shelters and other services available in the Victoria area.
- While the Ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, there are an increasing number of health and safety issues as the site is not suitable for camping.
- Information was provided to campers requesting that they work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter.
- The Ministry views this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition and will give the campers reasonable time to move.

Information on shelter and housing options:

- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, the province has provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.
- There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.
- These spaces are activated by the community depending on weather conditions. The average occupancy rate has been 66% this winter.

For information about services and supports for the homeless in Victoria, please visit:
www.housingmattersbc.ca/docs/fs_Homeless%20Supports_Victoria.pdf

To see a map of permanent and temporary shelters in B.C., please visit:
http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Emergency_Housing/Map

Subject: FW: Media Request: Canadian Press, CTV VI: SD61 costs and Victoria shelter
Attachments: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_05_16.docx

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 1:06 PM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX; Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX; Hirji, Keivan MNGD:EX
Cc: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request: Canadian Press, CTV VI: SD61 costs and Victoria shelter

Reporters looking for comment on SD61 claims- story below- ok to send the below on background? MoEd has provided the response- KM attached.

Date/Time: Jan. 5

Deadline: asap

Media/Reporter: Dirk Meissner, Canadian Press

Phone: 250-384-4912

Media/Reporter: Scott Cunningham, CTV VI

Phone: 250-414-6568

Topic: SD61 costs

Request: reporters heard last night that the school district estimates they will need to spend an additional \$44,000 in cleaning the area around the site of the new Victoria homeless shelter. They are looking for the province to pay for that additional cost. Reporters wondering if there is provincial comment or a plan in place to pay for those costs out of the money the province is providing for the shelter.

Suggested Response:

- The Province will not provide extra funds to the Victoria school district.
- This situation should be covered from the contingency funds that school districts like Victoria set aside as part of their annual budgeting.
- As of June 30, 2015 the Victoria school district had an operating surplus of close to \$22 million.

Story:

05-Jan-2016 12:03

Copyright

Subject: FW: Media Request: Canadian Press: Victoria homeless and shelter

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 9:45 AM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX; Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX; Hirji, Keivan MNGD:EX
Cc: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Media Request: Canadian Press: Victoria homeless and shelter

Hi there, following here. Dirk has made multiple requests this week to speak to the Minister- anything available this week or perhaps early next? He wants to follow on the stories he's written and talk to the Minister about the homeless issue and where things are going

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 1:06 PM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX; Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX; Hirji, Keivan MNGD:EX
Cc: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request: Canadian Press, CTV VI: SD61 costs and Victoria shelter

Reporters looking for comment on SD61 claims- story below- ok to send the below on background? MoEd has provided the response- KM attached.

Date/Time: Jan. 5

Deadline: asap

Media/Reporter: Dirk Meissner, Canadian Press

Phone: 250-384-4912

Media/Reporter: Scott Cunningham, CTV VI

Phone: 250-414-6568

Topic: SD61 costs

Request: reporters heard last night that the school district estimates they will need to spend an additional \$44,000 in cleaning the area around the site of the new Victoria homeless shelter. They are looking for the province to pay for that additional cost. Reporters wondering if there is provincial

comment or a plan in place to pay for those costs out of the money the province is providing for the shelter.

Suggested Response:

- **The Province will not provide extra funds to the Victoria school district.**
- **This situation should be covered from the contingency funds that school districts like Victoria set aside as part of their annual budgeting.**
- **As of June 30, 2015 the Victoria school district had an operating surplus of close to \$22 million.**

Story:

CKNW (Vancouver)

05-Jan-2016 12:03

Copyright

Subject: FW: Media Request: CBC on the Island: Victoria shelter

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2016 11:08 AM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX; Hirji, Keivan MNGD:EX; Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX
Cc: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request: CBC on the Island: Victoria shelter

~~Reporter looking for an interview with the Minister for his morning show this week~~

Date/Time: Jan. 4 10:40 am

Deadline: Jan. 8- times flexible morning show- show runs until 8:30 am

Media: CBC on the Island

Reporter: Gregor Craigie

Call in: 250 360-2227

Topic: Victoria shelter opening

Request: I'm wondering if he might be up for one last interview sometime this week to talk about the 40 new shelter spaces the province is funding and what's next for the campers at the Victoria courthouse.

Subject: FW: Media Request: Chek TV, Tyee: housing options for tent city

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 1:43 PM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX; Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX; Hirji, Keivan MNGD:EX
Cc: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Ash, Christine GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Media Request: Chek TV, Tyee: housing options for tent city

Better?

- Last year, the Province invested over \$19 million to support affordable housing for more than 5,100 low-income households in Victoria.
- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria to look at options to assist the campers currently situated at the courthouse.
- We encourage the remaining campers to seek assistance from outreach workers who have been on site daily providing information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
- Forty rent supplements have been made available to help any campers in need of housing find a place to stay in the private market.
- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, we have provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.

For information about services and supports for the homeless in Victoria, please visit:
www.housingmattersbc.ca/docs/fs_Homeless%20Supports_Victoria.pdf

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 1:24 PM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX; Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX; Hirji, Keivan MNGD:EX
Cc: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Ash, Christine GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request: Chek TV, Tyee: housing options for tent city

Ok to send the below?

Date/Time: Jan. 11 12:45 pm

Deadline: Jan. 11

Media/Reporter: April Lawrence

Phone: (250) 480-3700

Topic: Victoria tent city

Request: The "leaders" at tent city held a press conference this morning and they are calling for the province to engage in meaningful discussion with them about housing options. Not just building more traditional affordable housing, but creating a tent city on another government-owned piece of property, or setting up micro-housing. Are there any plans from the Ministry to look into these as possible options?

Media/Reporter: Andrew MacLeod Tyce

Phone: (250) 885-7662

Topic: Victoria tent city

Request: looking for comment on the criticism from campers that says the province has dropped the ball over the past 10 to 15 years when it comes to homelessness and focused on a 'one size fits all' approach and market solutions. Critics are saying the situation needs consistent support from the province.

Suggested response:

- **The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria to look at options to assist the campers currently situated at the courthouse.**
- **We encourage the remaining campers to seek assistance from outreach workers who have been on site daily providing information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.**
- **Forty rent supplements have been made available to help any campers in need of housing find a place to stay in the private market.**
- **Including the new shelter on Yates Street, we have provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.**

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2015 4:27 PM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Media Request: Times Colonist: Victoria homeless camp

Fyi, we're down to this for a response ☺

The Province will provide approximately \$380,000 to fund a new 40-bed temporary shelter with the city of Victoria and Island Health.

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2015 2:49 PM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX; Gill, Manjit MNGD:EX
Cc: Ash, Christine GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request: Times Colonist: Victoria homeless camp

Ok to send the below, reporter chatted with PCC on this today- TC has received the statement below already last week

Date / Time: Dec. 9 2:45 pm

Deadline: Dec.9 5 pm

Media: Times Colonist

Reporter Lindsay Kines lkines@timescolonist.com

Call in : 250-812-9877

Topic: Victoria homeless camp

Request: During an interview today with Premier, the reporter was told that the province is working to find everyone in the homeless camp at the Victoria courthouse homes, but those who don't take those homes or shelter, will eventually be asked to leave. Reporter is wondering about the timeline of when the shelter might be open and when those campers will be asked to leave the courthouse property.

Suggested Response:

The Province will provide approximately \$380,000 to fund a new 40-bed temporary shelter with the city of Victoria and Island Health. We are looking at locations and hope to have one identified shortly. Timing will depend on any modifications required and zoning. Discussions are taking place with a potential operator, and we anticipate the shelter will operate 24/7 and provide meals and other supports.

Currently outreach workers are working at the camp each day to let campers know about the support services in the community and try to connect people with the supports they need.

Subject: FW: Media Requests: TC: sd 61 costs

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Stello, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 1:33 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX
Subject: RE: Media Requests: TC: sd 61 costs

Times Colonist looking for the same info- ok to send the below?

If there are any additional costs, they should be covered from the contingency funds that school districts like Victoria set aside as part of their annual budgeting.

As of June 30, 2015 the Victoria school district had an operating surplus of close to \$22 million.

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 2:14 PM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Media Requests

Good to go.

From: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 2:12 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: Fwd: Media Requests

We are good to go with the revised version. Thx.

Reporters looking for comment on SD61 claims- story below- ok to send the below on background? MoEd has provided the response- KM attached.

Date/Time: Jan. 5

Deadline: asap

Media/Reporter: Dirk Meissner, Canadian Press

Phone: 250-384-4912

Media/Reporter: Scott Cunningham, CTV VI

Phone: 250-414-6568

Topic: SD61 costs

Request: reporters heard last night that the school district estimates they will need to spend an additional \$44,000 in cleaning the area around the site of the new Victoria homeless shelter. They are looking for the province to pay for that additional cost. Reporters wondering if there is provincial comment or a plan in place to pay for those costs out of the money the province is providing for the shelter.

Suggested Response:

- ~~The Province will not provide extra funds to the Victoria school district.~~**
- If there are any additional costs, they should be covered from the contingency funds that school districts like Victoria set aside as part of their annual budgeting.**
- As of June 30, 2015 the Victoria school district had an operating surplus of close to \$22 million.**

Story:

CKNW (Vancouver)

05-Jan-2016 12:03

Page 125

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Copyright

Subject: FW: Media Requests x 4 - Courthouse Campers

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 2:16 PM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Media Requests x 4 - Courthouse Campers

~~Thx Sandra - yes, we have a few. Here is what we are provided CHEK.~~

Date/Time: Jan. 11/12:50pm

Deadline @ 2-2:30 p.m.

Media: CHEK news

Reporter: April Lawrence, 250-415-8168, alawrence@cheknews.ca

Questions: The tent city campers held a press conference this morning basically saying they would refuse to move if the province sought an injunction to force them out. They vowed to fight it through the courts. Does the Ministry have any response to this and is there any kind of timeline? Also they were saying that nobody from the Province has ever actually come down there to talk to them. Could you clarify?

Recommended response:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been at the courthouse site on a regular basis, working with the campers to provide information about shelters and other services available in the Victoria area.
- In addition, representatives from the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services have been to the site on a number of occasions in December and January.
- While the Ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, there are an increasing number of health and safety issues as the site is not suitable for camping.
- Information was provided to campers requesting that they work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter.
- The Ministry views this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition and will give the campers reasonable time to move.

Information on shelter and housing options:

- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, the province has provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.
- There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.
- These spaces are activated by the community depending on weather conditions. The average occupancy rate has been 66% this winter.

For information about services and supports for the homeless in Victoria, please visit:
www.housingmattersbc.ca/docs/fs_Homeless%20Supports_Victoria.pdf

To see a map of permanent and temporary shelters in B.C., please visit:
http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Emergency_Housing/Map

For information about services and supports for the homeless in Victoria, please visit:
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To see a map of permanent and temporary shelters in B.C., please visit:
http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Emergency_Housing/Map

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 2:14 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Media Requests x 4 - Courthouse Campers

Hi Joanne, we have two request we're currently working on as well- this is the messaging with our MO for consideration: see you also have request from Chek:

Date/Time: Jan. 11 12:45 pm

Deadline: Jan. 11

Media/Reporter: April Lawrence

Phone: (250) 480-3700

Topic: Victoria tent city

Request: The "leaders" at tent city held a press conference this morning and they are calling for the province to engage in meaningful discussion with them about housing options. Not just building more traditional affordable housing, but creating a tent city on another government-owned piece of property, or setting up micro-housing. Are there any plans from the Ministry to look into these as possible options?

Media/Reporter: Andrew MacLeod Tyce

Phone: (250) 885-7662

Topic: Victoria tent city

Request: looking for comment on the criticism from campers that says the province has dropped the ball over the past 10 to 15 years when it comes to homelessness and focused on a 'one size fits all' approach and market solutions. Critics are saying the situation needs consistent support from the province.

Suggested response:

- **Last year, the Province invested over \$19 million to support affordable housing for more than 5,100 low-income households in Victoria.**
- **The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria to look at options to assist the campers currently situated at the courthouse.**
- **We encourage the remaining campers to seek assistance from outreach workers who have been on site daily providing information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.**
- ~~**Forty rent supplements have been made available to help any campers in need of housing find a place to stay in the private market.**~~
- **Including the new shelter on Yates Street, we have provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.**

For information about services and supports for the homeless in Victoria, please visit:
www.housingmattersbc.ca/docs/fs_Homeless%20Supports_Victoria.pdf

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 2:03 PM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Cc: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Media Requests x 4 - Courthouse Campers
Importance: High

Send them our updated lines.

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 2:01 PM
To: Facey, Nick MTIC:EX; Reddy, Brandon MTIC:EX
Cc: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Requests x 4 - Courthouse Campers
Importance: High

Hi Nick: CP, CHEK, CTV and TC all looking for info on the campers. Background info below for approval. I have one more that I will send in an additional email. Jo

Date/Time: Jan. 11/12:50pm

Deadlines @ 2:30/3 p.m.

Reporter: 250-418-4779, Dirk.Meissner@thecanadianpress.com

Topic: Campers at Victoria Courthouse

Background: Reporter is looking for comment regarding a press conference held by campers at the Victoria Courthouse at 11 a.m. today demanding more money and solutions to the issue of homelessness. Campers indicated that they will resist efforts to have them moved. Together Against Poverty (TAPS) said they will provide a lawyer if the ministry goes forward with an injunction. Have let all three reporters know the ministry would likely provide background information.

Questions: Is there a deadline for when they will be asked to leave? Is eviction an option?

Recommended response:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been at the courthouse site on a regular basis, working with the campers to provide information about shelters and other services available in the Victoria area.
- While the Ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, there are an increasing number of health and safety issues as the site is not suitable for camping.
- Information was provided to campers requesting that they work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter.
- The Ministry views this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition and will give the campers reasonable time to move.

Information on shelter and housing options:

- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, the province has provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.
- There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.
- These spaces are activated by the community depending on weather conditions. The average occupancy rate has been 66% this winter.

For information about services and supports for the homeless in Victoria, please visit:
www.housingmattersbc.ca/docs/fs_Homeless%20Supports_Victoria.pdf

To see a map of permanent and temporary shelters in B.C., please visit:
http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Emergency_Housing/Map

Date/Time: Jan. 11/12:50pm

Deadline @ 2-2:30 p.m.

Media: CHEK news

Questions: The tent city campers held a press conference this morning basically saying they would refuse to move if the province sought an injunction to force them out. They vowed to fight it through the courts. Does the Ministry have any response to this and is there any kind of timeline? Also they were saying that nobody from the Province has ever actually come down there to talk to them. Could you clarify?

Recommended response:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
 - For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
 - Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.
-
- BC Housing outreach workers have been at the courthouse site on a regular basis, working with the campers to provide information about shelters and other services available in the Victoria area.
 - In addition, representatives from the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services have been to the site on a number of occasions in December and January.
 - While the Ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, there are an increasing number of health and safety issues as the site is not suitable for camping.
 - Information was provided to campers requesting that they work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter.
 - The Ministry views this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition and will give the campers reasonable time to move.

Information on shelter and housing options:

- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, the province has provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.
- There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.
- These spaces are activated by the community depending on weather conditions. The average occupancy rate has been 66% this winter.

For information about services and supports for the homeless in Victoria, please visit:
www.housingmattersbc.ca/docs/fs_Homeless%20Supports_Victoria.pdf

To see a map of permanent and temporary shelters in B.C., please visit:
http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Emergency_Housing/Map

For information about services and supports for the homeless in Victoria, please visit:
www.housingmattersbc.ca/docs/fs_Homeless%20Supports_Victoria.pdf

To see a map of permanent and temporary shelters in B.C., please visit:
http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Emergency_Housing/Map

Date/Time: Jan. 11/12:50pm

Deadline @ 3:30 p.m.

Media: CTV

Questions: Interested in next steps at the site and the provinces response to concerns from the campers, which include: a lack of consultation, alleged band-aid approaches to homelessness (like the creation of a temporary shelter rather than multi-dimensional solutions that recognize one solution doesn't fit all).

Recommended response:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been at the courthouse site on a regular basis, working with the campers to provide information about shelters and other services available in the Victoria area.
- While the Ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, there are an increasing number of health and safety issues as the site is not suitable for camping.
- Information was provided to campers requesting that they work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter.
- The Ministry views this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition and will give the campers reasonable time to move.

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To see a map of permanent and temporary shelters in B.C., please visit:
http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Emergency_Housing/Map

Date/Time: Jan. 11/1:56 pm

Deadlines (@) 4 p.m.

Media: Times Colonist

Reporter: Richard Watts / rwatts@timescolonist.com/250-580-5211

Topic: Campers at Victoria Courthouse

Background: Reporter is looking for comment regarding a press conference held by campers at the Victoria Courthouse at 11 a.m. today demanding more money and solutions to the issue of homelessness. Campers indicated that they will resist efforts to have them moved. Together Against Poverty (TAPS) said they will

provide a lawyer if the ministry goes forward with an injunction. Have let all three reporters know the ministry would likely provide background information.

Questions: Is there a deadline for when they will be asked to leave? Are there any plans to evict the campers?

Recommended response:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
 - For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
 - Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.
 - BC Housing outreach workers have been at the courthouse site on a regular basis, working with the campers to provide information about shelters and other services available in the Victoria area.
-
- While the Ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, there are an increasing number of health and safety issues as the site is not suitable for camping.
 - Information was provided to campers requesting that they work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter.
 - The Ministry views this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition and will give the campers reasonable time to move.

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- There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.
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For information about services and supports for the homeless in Victoria, please visit:
www.housingmattersbc.ca/docs/fs_Homeless%20Supports_Victoria.pdf

To see a map of permanent and temporary shelters in B.C., please visit:
http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Emergency_Housing/Map

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

Subject: FW: MTICS flyer - courthouse campers
Attachments: 103621_Assoc_DM_Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse_FINAL
(2).docx

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 8:38 AM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX
Cc: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX; Hirji, Keivan MNGD:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: MTICS flyer - courthouse campers

Here's the flyer MTICS staff planned to hand out tomorrow. Haven't read it yet. ☺

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 8:29 AM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX
Subject: MTICS flyer - courthouse campers

Hi Paul – here is the update. Don from Our Place has suggested that staff ask some of the campers today for help distributing the flyer (tomorrow), which would be a more inclusive approach. Sounds like there are certain individuals who have secured a leadership role in the group. Will let you know how they respond to the suggestion. Jo

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 8:20 AM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Cc: Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: MTICS additional update - courthouse campers

Thanks Jo. If you can send us a copy of the final flyer before it is handed out, if possible, that would be appreciated. Look forward to hearing how staff make out today.

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 8:07 AM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Cc: Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: MTICS additional update - courthouse campers

FYI - We are going back to original plan, which is to have staff meet with campers today at 10:00. Our Place has let staff know that campers are expecting them today so best to meet expectations. Flyers to go out tomorrow. Jo

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 5:54 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Cc: Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: MTICS update - courthouse campers

Hi there – minor update from MTICS:

- A rep from MTICS will be at the camp this Thursday at 10 a.m. to speak with campers, along with Don from Our Place.
- The flyer will be distributed on Friday by the Sheriff's office.

Staff have asked if I can be onsite Thurs. in case there are any media present. Am happy to do so and will report out accordingly.

Thx - Jo

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2016 5:08 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Cc: Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: NR- Our Place opens My Place

Thx Paul!

Just got back from meeting at the Courthouse involving reps from the City, VicPD, Sheriff's office, BC Housing and Our Place.

Next Steps:

- There is a circle at the camp that meets M-F at 10 a.m. Plan is for a rep from MTICS to attend this circle on Wed., along with Don, the Exec Director at Our Place to talk to the campers.
- The flyer will be distributed the day following by the Sheriff's office. There may be an opportunity for Our Place to facilitate having one or two of the campers help in distributing the flyer.
- Don from Our Place noted that about 50 of the campers have self-identified as wanting to move to the new facility (My Place Transitional Home) and anticipates being able to move 4-6 per day, which is the best approach to helping them get settled without disruption.
- It was also acknowledged that some campers will not agree to leave and that some are individuals who have been banned from local-area shelters.

VicPD noted that some of the campers may have housing to go to already but not most.

City of Victoria noted that although overnight camping is allowed in some city parks with specific restrictions, this is not publicized as it takes VicPD several hours each morning to make sure that campers in city parks don't become entrenched.

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2016 4:08 PM
To: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: NR- Our Place opens My Place

Our Place NR set to go out tomorrow morning at 8.

Subject: FW: New Victoria shelter .

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Meissner, Dirk [<mailto:Dirk.Meissner@thecanadianpress.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 3:08 PM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: New Victoria shelter

Thanks Sandra. Still want to talk to minister if he's available Wednesday.

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX [<mailto:Sandra.Steilo@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 2:35 PM
To: Meissner, Dirk
Subject: RE: New Victoria shelter

Hi Dirk, wanted to get this to you, you may attribute to the Ministry responsible for Housing,- this is on the school district issue.

If there are any additional costs, they should be covered from the contingency funds that school districts like Victoria set aside as part of their annual budgeting.

As of June 30, 2015 the Victoria school district had an operating surplus of close to \$22 million.

thanks

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Meissner, Dirk [<mailto:Dirk.Meissner@thecanadianpress.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 10:50 AM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: New Victoria shelter

Hello, yes want to expand story. The city of Victoria has told me there are nuances in the funding formula I want to hash over with the minister, and today the schools want the province to pay their costs, so, overall I want to talk to him about the homeless issue and where things are going. Dirk.

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX [<mailto:Sandra.Steilo@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 10:34 AM
To: Meissner, Dirk
Subject: RE: New Victoria shelter

Hi Dirk, will look into your request, won't be available today- is there anything you wanted to chat about more specifically- or just looking to expand on your story from today?

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Meissner, Dirk [<mailto:Dirk.Meissner@thecanadianpress.com>]
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2016 11:04 AM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: New Victoria shelter

Thanks.

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX [<mailto:Sandra.Steilo@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 10:52 AM
To: Meissner, Dirk
Subject: New Victoria shelter

Hi Dirk, this should be a good start, Our Place would be another good place to look for info,

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2015MNGD0087-002126>

Sandra Steilo
Communications
BC Ministry of Natural Gas Development
and Minister Responsible for Housing
250.952.0617

Subject: FW: Tent City

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 12:54 PM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Cc: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Tent City

~~Deadline is 2 pm, so tight turnaround- here's the full request.~~

Date/Time: Jan. 11 12:45 pm

Deadline: Jan. 11 2 pm

Media/Reporter: April Lawrence

Phone: (250) 480-3700

Topic: Victoria tent city

Request: The "leaders" at tent city held a press conference this morning and they are calling for the province to engage in meaningful discussion with them about housing options. Not just building more traditional affordable housing, but creating a tent city on another government-owned piece of property, or setting up micro-housing. Are there any plans from the Ministry to look into these as possible options?

Suggested Response:

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 12:50 PM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Cc: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Tent City

I'll see what policy and BC Housing have to say about a response.

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 12:43 PM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Cc: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Tent City

This one looks like ours- thoughts here?

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: April Lawrence [<mailto:alawrence@cheknews.ca>]
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 12:41 PM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: Tent City

Hi Sandra,

The "leaders" at tent city held a press conference this morning and they are calling for the province to engage in meaningful discussion with them about housing options. Not just building more traditional affordable housing, but creating a tent city on another government-owned piece of property, or setting up micro-housing. Are there any plans from the Ministry to look into these as possible options?

Thanks.

April
April Lawrence
Reporter
CHEK News
office: (250) 480-3700
cell: s.22
alawrence@cheknews.ca

VICTORIA COURTHOUSE HOMELESS CAMP

Topic: On Jan. 8, MTICS distributed a flyer to the campers requesting they work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter. This follows the opening of a new, 40-bed temporary shelter on Yates Street.

- Last year, we invested over \$19 million to support affordable housing for more than 5,100 low-income households in Victoria.
-
- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria to look at options to assist the campers currently situated at the courthouse.
 - 40 rent supplements have been made available to help any campers in need of housing find a place to stay in the private market.
 - Including the new shelter on Yates Street, we have provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.
 - There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.
 - These spaces are activated by the community depending on weather conditions. The average occupancy rate has been 66% this winter.

Jan. 18, 2016

Background:

As of Jan. 15, there are about 100 campers at the site. Despite the new shelter opening, the camp continues to grow.

- 40 people have been moved into the shelter on Yates St. and there's a waitlist of 25 people.
- Approximately 80 of the remaining 100 campers are believed to be homeless.
- Permanent housing has been found for one couple and one individual.

The Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services (MTICS) will have to make a decision to apply to the courts for an injunction. This could be challenged and take anywhere from 4 to 6 weeks.

Court ruling:

Following a court ruling in 2009, homeless campers have been allowed to stay in Victoria parks as long as they pack up their tents and move every morning. In this case however, the courthouse lawn belongs to the province and that rule does not apply.

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2015 2:15 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Ash, Christine GCPE:EX
Subject: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Nov_25_15
_DRAFT
Attachments: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Nov_25_15
_DRAFT.docx

Paul, please see the attached KM regarding the Victoria courthouse camp.

Note that the Cool Aid Society has met with the campers, and identified some of the campers as having been barred from shelters for behavioral reasons. Other campers have been identified as not wanting to stay in shelters for various reasons.

There are two shelters located close to the camp, both of which have been close to capacity each night.

I'm waiting for BC Housing to check with staff regarding the mayor's comments in the media.

Thanks
Darren

VICTORIA COURTHOUSE HOMELESS CAMP

Topic: A group of people who are homeless have set up camp outside a Victoria courthouse. There are currently about two dozen tents at the location, which is on provincial property.

- We are working closely with the city, Island Health and local non-profit groups to address the needs of people at the camp.
 - Non-profits have met with the campers to determine their housing situations.
-

- Everyone who is in genuine need of housing is being offered somewhere to live.

Victoria Investments:

- Last year, the Province invested over \$19 million to support affordable housing for more than 5,100 low-income households in Victoria.
- Since 2001, we have developed or preserved more than 420 subsidized or supportive units in Victoria.

Shelters:

- There are nearly 150 year-round homeless shelter spaces in Victoria. Additional spaces are available during extreme weather.
- We also provided \$184,000 to Our Place to open a new 40-bed winter shelter.

Nov. 25, 2015

Background:

The Cool Aid Society has met with the campers, and identified some of the campers as having been barred from shelters for behavioral reasons. Other campers have been identified as not wanting to stay in shelters for various reasons.

There are two shelters located close to the camp, both of which have been close to capacity each night:

- The Victoria Cool Aid society's downtown community centre has 40 beds, and is open 7 nights a week.
- Our Place Society operates a 40-bed shelter at first metropolitan church, which is also open 7 nights a week.

EWR shelters in Victoria will be activated in the case of cold or wet weather, providing additional spaces to sleep for people who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness.

Court ruling:

Following a court ruling in 2009, homeless campers have been allowed to stay in Victoria parks as long as they pack up their tents and move every morning. In this case however, the courthouse lawn belongs to the province and that rule does not apply.

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 11:50 AM
To: Ash, Christine GCPE:EX
Subject: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Nov_26_15
Attachments: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Nov_26_15.docx

Updated KM.

VICTORIA COURTHOUSE HOMELESS CAMP

Topic: A group of people who are homeless have set up camp outside a Victoria courthouse. There are currently about two dozen tents at the location, which is on provincial property.

- We are working closely with the city, Island Health and local non-profit groups to address the needs of people at the camp.
 - These types of situations are complex as many of the campers suffer from mental health and addictions issues.
-

- We have outreach workers at the camp every day and the individuals are aware of the services available to them.
- There are shelter spaces available during extreme weather; however, the campers at the courthouse have chosen not access those spaces.
- The Province is looking at locations to secure space for a temporary shelter. We anticipate that the shelter would operate 24/7 and provide meals and other supports.

Victoria Investments:

- Last year, the Province invested over \$19 million to support affordable housing for more than 5,100 low-income households in Victoria.
- Since 2001, we have developed or preserved more than 420 subsidized or supportive housing units in Victoria.
- We recently provided \$184,000 to Our Place to open a new 40-bed winter shelter.

Nov. 30, 2015

Background:

The Cool Aid Society has met with the campers, and identified some of the campers as having been barred from shelters for behavioral reasons. Other campers have been identified as not wanting to stay in shelters for various reasons.

There are two shelters located close to the camp, both of which have been close to capacity each night:

- The Victoria Cool Aid society's downtown community centre has 40 beds, and is open 7 nights a week.
- Our Place Society operates a 40-bed shelter at first metropolitan church, which is also open 7 nights a week.

Extreme Weather Response (EWR) shelters in Victoria will be activated in the case of cold or wet weather, providing additional spaces to sleep for people who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness.

Update – Nov. 27:

A motion was brought to Victoria City Council on Nov. 26, and passed unanimously, requesting \$75,000 to go towards 40 new rent supplements requested by Pacifica Housing for the Streets to Homes program. There was also a request BC Housing for \$75,000.

The motion was passed to provide \$75,000 from the City's Strategic Objectives Fund to provide 40 rent supplements, however the motion was passed contingent on the City receiving additional funding from partners including BC Housing.

This money would expand the Streets to Homes Program which provides rent supplements to those who need it most.

About the allocation of rent supplements:

Pacifica will administer the rent supplements via their Streets to Homes Program.

The rent supplements are not solely for the campers at the courthouse, but will be distributed according to need in the community.

Providing rent supplements according to need will potentially open up shelter beds and support services for those campers, as others move into more permanent housing.

According to the Streets to Homes Program, the amount of supplements will vary up to \$450. The entire program costs \$7,500 per person, per year to provide rent supplements and comprehensive case management support.

Eligibility to be a part of the Streets to Home program:

Nov. 30, 2015

- Must be homeless
- Must exhibit chronic or episodic homelessness
- Must have significant barriers to finding stable housing such as mental health issues, substance abuse, etc.

Court ruling:

Following a court ruling in 2009, homeless campers have been allowed to stay in Victoria parks as long as they pack up their tents and move every morning. In this case however, the courthouse lawn belongs to the province and that rule does not apply.

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2015 12:03 PM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX; Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX
Cc: Ash, Christine GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request: CTV Vancouver Island: new shelter location (Housing)

Ok for Housing to send the below?

Date/Time: Wednesday, December 9, 10:30 a.m.

Deadline: ASAP

Media: CTV Vancouver Island

Reporter: Zahra Premji, zahra.premji@bellmedia.ca, 250.516.3046

Topic: The reporter would like to know if the new homeless shelter being built in Victoria in the former Boys and Girls Club on Yates Street is a Province initiative. She would like to speak to someone today about this.

Note: The reporter received a call from a resident that heard that the new shelter location is the former Boys and Girls Club. She is confirming if this is true. The \$380,000 is based on the previous comments the Minister had made. There is a council meeting on Thursday, December 10 and potentially a location will be finalized.

Questions & Proposed Response:

I was wondering if there was someone we could speak to about a possible new homeless shelter being built in Victoria in the former boys and girls club on Yates Street? With the province allocating \$380,000 towards housing homeless our newsroom is wondering if this is a province initiative?

The City of Victoria in consultation with the Province is in the process of determining a location for a temporary shelter in Victoria. We can confirm the \$380,000 of funding will go towards building this shelter. The 40-bed shelter will be open 24/7 and provide three meals per day.

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2015 9:31 AM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX; Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX
Cc: Ash, Christine GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request: CTV VI, CBC on the Island: Victoria update

CBC has been covering the story for the past weeks, CTV VI has a heads up from partners the announcement will be made this week

Date/Time: Dec. 15

Deadline: Dec. 18

Media: CTV Vancouver Island

Reporter: Jason

Contact #: 250-414-6500

Request: CTV has two sources confirming Victoria shelter location will be announced this week.

Date/Time: Dec. 15

Deadline: Dec. 18

Media: CBC on the Island

Reporter: Gregor Craigie

Contact #: 250-360-2227

CFAX confirming timing of the interview now likely 8:20 or 850 a.m.- could set up phoners with CTV and CBC on the Island for Friday morning as well.

Suggested Response

The Province is currently finalizing details and anticipates making an announcement on the location of the Victoria Temporary Winter Shelter on Friday.

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2015 2:49 PM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX; Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX
Cc: Ash, Christine GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request: Times Colonist: Victoria homeless camp

Ok to send the below, reporter chatted with PCC on this today- TC has received the statement below already last week

Date / Time: Dec. 9 2:45 pm

~~**Deadline:** Dec. 9 5 pm~~

Media: Times Colonist

Reporter Lindsay Kines lkines@timescolonist.com

Call in : 250-812-9877

Topic: Victoria homeless camp

Request: During an interview today with Premier, the reporter was told that the province is working to find everyone in the homeless camp at the Victoria courthouse homes, but those who don't take those homes or shelter, will eventually be asked to leave. Reporter is wondering about the timeline of when the shelter might be open and when those campers will be asked to leave the courthouse property.

Suggested Response:

The Province will provide approximately \$380,000 to fund a new 40-bed temporary shelter with the city of Victoria and Island Health. We are looking at locations and hope to have one identified shortly. Timing will depend on any modifications required and zoning. Discussions are taking place with a potential operator, and we anticipate the shelter will operate 24/7 and provide meals and other supports.

Currently outreach workers are working at the camp each day to let campers know about the support services in the community and try to connect people with the supports they need.

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 11:21 AM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Requests: Canadian Press, CTV VI: Victoria School district costs and shelter

Importance: High

Paul as discussed: deadlines today

Date/Time: Jan. 5

Deadline: asap

Media/Reporter: Dirk Meissner, Canadian Press

Phone: 250-384-4912

Media/Reporter: Scott Cunningham, CTV VI

Phone: 250-414-6568

Topic: SD61 costs

Request: reporters heard last night that the school district estimates they will need to spend an additional \$44,000 in cleaning the area around the site of the new Victoria homeless shelter. They are looking for the province to pay for that additional cost. Reporters wondering if there is provincial comment or a plan in place to pay for those costs out of the money the province is providing for the shelter.

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2015 9:14 AM
To: Barnettson, Luella MNGD:EX; Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX; Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX; Hirji, Keivan MNGD:EX
Cc: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Requests: CBC on the Island, CFAX: Victoria homeless camp shelter
Attachments: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Dec_16_15.docx

Hi Luella, for the calendar tomorrow:

Date/Time: Dec. 15

Deadline: Dec. 18- Minister to call in at 8:08 a.m.- about 10 mins live.

Media: **CBC on the Island**

Reporter: Gregor Craigie

Contact 250 360-2227

Date/Time: Dec. 15

Deadline: Dec. 18- Minister to call in at 8:48 a.m. about 8 to 10 mins live

Media: **CFAX**

Reporter: Al Ferraby

Contact 250-920-4619

Request: Victoria shelter update

VICTORIA COURTHOUSE HOMELESS CAMP

Topic: A group of homeless people have set up camp outside the Victoria courthouse. The Province will provide \$425,000 for a new, 40-bed temporary shelter.

- These types of situations are complex as many of the campers suffer from mental health and addictions issues.
 - We have outreach workers at the camp every day and the campers are aware of the services available to them.
-

New shelter:

- We are working with the city to open a new 40-bed temporary shelter.
- The Province will provide \$425,000 for the shelter which will be open 24/7 and provide three meals per day.
- The city is working to finalize a suitable location.
- Our Place will operate the shelter. Shelter staff will assess people once they have been moved to the shelter, and relocate them to appropriate housing and health services.
- This shelter will be in addition to the 150 year-round homeless shelter spaces in Victoria, as well as the 145 shelter spaces that open during extreme weather.
- The Province also recently provided \$184,000 to Our Place to open a new 40-bed winter shelter.

Dec. 16, 2015

Background:

The Cool Aid Society has met with the campers, and identified some of the campers as having been barred from shelters for behavioral reasons. Other campers have been identified as not wanting to stay in shelters for various reasons.

There are two shelters located close to the camp, both of which have been close to capacity each night:

- The Victoria Cool Aid society's downtown community centre has 40 beds, and is open 7 nights a week.
- Our Place Society operates a 40-bed shelter at first metropolitan church, which is also open 7 nights a week.

Extreme Weather Response (EWR) shelters in Victoria will be activated in the case of cold or wet weather, providing additional spaces to sleep for people who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness.

Court ruling:

Following a court ruling in 2009, homeless campers have been allowed to stay in Victoria parks as long as they pack up their tents and move every morning. In this case however, the courthouse lawn belongs to the province and that rule does not apply.

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2015 2:02 PM
To: 'scott.cunningham@bellmedia.ca'
Subject: Minister Coleman

Hi Scott, Minister Coleman is not available for an interview, please see the statement below, you may attribute to him.

The Province will provide approximately \$380,000 to fund a new 40-bed temporary shelter with the city of Victoria and Island Health. We are looking at locations and hope to have one identified shortly. Timing will depend on any modifications required and zoning. Discussions are taking place with a potential operator, and we anticipate the shelter will operate 24/7 and provide meals and other supports.

Currently outreach workers are working at the camp each day to let campers know about the support services in the community and try to connect people with the supports they need.

Shelter staff will assess people once they have been moved to the shelter, and relocate them to appropriate housing and health services. This shelter will operate until the end of April and be in addition to the 150 year-round homeless shelter spaces in Victoria, as well as the 145 shelter spaces that open during extreme weather.

The Province also recently provided \$184,000 to Our Place to open a new 40-bed winter shelter.

Thanks

Sandra Steilo
Communications
BC Ministry of Natural Gas Development
and Minister Responsible for Housing
250.952.0617

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2016 1:08 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: Perhaps we could go with this on a go forward. :)

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse
- BC Housing outreach workers have been working with the campers to provide information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped they take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new shelter will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Once the new shelter opens, the Province will give the campers reasonable time to move.

For more information about services and supports for the homeless in Victoria, please visit:

www.housingmattersbc.ca/docs/fs_Homeless%20Supports_Victoria.pdf

To see a map of permanent and temporary shelters in B.C., please visit:

http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Emergency_Housing/Map

From: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX
Sent: Sunday, December 20, 2015 9:43 PM
To: Ash, Christine GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX; Hirji, Keivan MNGD:EX
Subject: Quote

For the release tomorrow, thx:

The Province is pleased a location has been identified and individuals who require emergency shelter will be offered a warm place to stay at this time of year," said Minister Rich Coleman. "Opening this shelter will help people transition to supports and services, and ultimately to permanent housing".

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2015 3:09 PM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Ash, Christine GCPE:EX; Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX
Cc: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: 103621_Assoc_DM_Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse

Hi Tasha,

Not sure this is really my call.

Has your program people been working with ours? And, has your MO talked to ours?

If not, I can run this by them and provide feedback?

Personally, would prefer if anything needs to happen that arrangements are made for outreach workers to visit the site and talk to the campers in person about progress, rather than put out a piece of paper.

Outreach workers tell us the campers are familiar with the available services. Policy staff here are of the same opinion. I'd rather wait to do anything proactive in writing at the camp site until we have the shelter and rent supplements in place.

We are hearing the city is going back to council on Thursday with an update -- hoping to approve the location for a new shelter. As well, city staff are going to be talking with Our Place to finalize what capital improvements they will need to operate the building. That work is ongoing.

As well, the City wants an indication from us around the number rent supplements. BC Housing is still working on that piece too.

That being said, let me know if you want me to run it through approvals on this end and I will do that...

Cheers,
Paul

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2015 2:35 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Ash, Christine GCPE:EX; Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX
Cc: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: 103621_Assoc_DM_Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse

Hello,

My program area has asked that we run this letter by your shops for feedback and input. The intention is to distribute it to the campers at the Victoria Courthouse Property as soon as Dec. 15th.

Paul and Chris -- you'll see that there is some housing-related information that is outstanding. I'm not sure if the shelter that MRC announced will be ready by next week. If not, are there other shelters that campers could be referred to?

the contact phone numbers as you'll see have yet to be populated by my ministry – although it's been suggested so that campers have somewhere to call for further info.

If you are able to get your feedback/edits back to me by end of day tomorrow, that would be much appreciated.

Thanks,
Tasha

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2016 10:44 AM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Campers at Victoria Courthouse

Perhaps. You can send reporters to Sandra Steilo, and she will look into availability. As he is travelling this week, difficult to say at this point so likely best to just have any reports who call contact Our Place and contact Sandra if they are looking for MRC.

Think we are reactive on this one.

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2016 10:42 AM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Campers at Victoria Courthouse

Thx Paul! Is MRC still available to do media on Wed if province is asked for comment?

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2016 10:40 AM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Cc: Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Schoffen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Campers at Victoria Courthouse

No release, but Our Place is doing one. Draft follows. MRC will not participate (just heard)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016

Our Place opens My Place Transitional Home
Copyright

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2016 10:33 AM
To: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Campers at Victoria Courthouse

Hi there Emily: there is a meeting this afternoon at 3:30 to finalize next steps (meeting is with the City, Housing, VicPD and MTICS staff) – I will be going and will provide an update following.

The new 40-bed shelter is expected to be opening on Tuesday, following which information will be provided to the Campers. Timing for this will be confirmed this afternoon. There are currently about 110-120 campers on site.

Paul working with BC Housing to confirm whether they will issue a release once the new shelter is opened.

Will give you a follow up call shortly. Jo

From: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2016 10:26 AM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Campers at Victoria Courthouse

Hi Joanne & Paul,

Happy New Year!

Looking for an update on this issue. The target for the opening was January 2 – is the transition underway?
Any sense of the uptake from clients / next steps?

Thanks,
Emily

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX

Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 11:25 AM

To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX

Cc: Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX

Subject: Campers at Victoria Courthouse

Hi Paul: fyi - there was a call this a.m. with reps from the City of Victoria, BC Housing and VicPD regarding the campers at the Victoria Courthouse. Wanted to make sure that you have the latest and to ask that you keep us apprised on anything from your end regarding the new shelter. There is follow up call on Thursday – I will send you any updates. s.22 so please let me know if you have any questions or anything new. Thx much - Jo

Summary:

- Currently about 110-120 campers on the site. MTICS working with a service provider to ensure on-going garbage collection. VicPD will assist to ensure this is done safely.
- Was a fatal overdose at the courthouse on Dec 26 and a stabbing on Xmas Eve. Was also a non-fatal overdose reported yesterday. For context, there have been about 7 other overdoses around Victoria in the past week. Some of the campers have indicated they will be looking for alternative camping sites as a result of the recent activity but there has been no confirmation.
- BC Housing and the City of Victoria working on negotiating a lease of the new shelter.
- The City of Victoria is planning a public information session tomorrow evening regarding the new shelter on Yates Street.
- *Target date for opening of the new shelter is Jan. 2
- Once the shelter is operational, MTICS will have a flyer distributed to the campers (draft attached) requesting they vacate and providing assurance they will be offered alternate housing arrangements.
- MTICS also working with legal regarding potentially having an injunction in place in the event some of the campers choose not to go to the new shelter.

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Our Place opens My Place Transitional Home

Copyright

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For further information, please contact:
Grant McKenzie, Director of Communications
Director
T: 250-388-7112 ext. 225
Cell: 250-217-2406
Email: grantm@ourplacesociety.com

Don Evans, Executive
Our Place Society
Cell: 778-977-4921
Email: don@ourplacesociety.com

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To: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Campers at Victoria Courthouse

No. The shelter is targeted to open tomorrow.

Our Place, the service provider, is planning to put out an NR and have asked MRC for a quote. Once the shelter is open, MITCS will circulate their flier to campers. Joanne, do you have a copy you can share?

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City took a lot of heat in the community meeting last week, and my MO would like to let the service provider take the lead role with the opening and insert MRC as required.

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From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 4:54 PM
To: Rajvir Rao
Subject: Re: Campers at Victoria Courthouse

Hadn't planned on it. Did you need us to put someone in the room to assess the situation?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

Original Message

From: Rajvir Rao
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 4:48 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Campers at Victoria Courthouse

The open house tomorrow hosted by the City of Victoria about the shelter.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Dec 29, 2015, at 4:47 PM, Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.Woolley@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

>

> Event?

>

> Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

> From: Rajvir Rao

> Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 4:34 PM

> To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX

> Subject: RE: Campers at Victoria Courthouse

>

>

> Will you be at the event tomorrow?

>

> From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX [<mailto:Paul.Woolley@gov.bc.ca>]

> Sent: December-29-15 11:31 AM

> To: Rajvir Rao

> Cc: Freeman, Donna BCHM:EX

> Subject: FW: Campers at Victoria Courthouse

>

> s.22

>

> From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX

> Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 11:30 AM

> To: 'Donna Freeman'

> Subject: FW: Campers at Victoria Courthouse

>

> Hi Donna,

>

>s.22 can you keep me posted on developments on your end please...Thanks!

>

> From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX

> Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 11:25 AM

> To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX

> Cc: Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX

> Subject: Campers at Victoria Courthouse

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>

>

>

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Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2016 10:46 AM
To: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Campers at Victoria Courthouse

The City will not be supportive. And as a result, neither is MRC.

From: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2016 10:44 AM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: ~~Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX~~
Subject: RE: Campers at Victoria Courthouse

Thanks, all. You may know more after the meeting this aft, but any sense of whether we can expect city to be publically supportive of full roll-out?

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
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To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Cc: Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Campers at Victoria Courthouse

Flyer attached. I have requested one change (in track edits). Staff are also planning to add information regarding other shelters available in the Victoria area.

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From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 3:05 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Cc: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: CBC Radio Vancouver - follow up call

Darren, can you provide a suitable couple of lines.

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 3:03 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Cc: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: CBC Radio Vancouver - follow up call

He was wanting to know if this is expected to cover off everyone. Am not sure how many spaces are remaining after the 66 per cent.

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 3:00 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Cc: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: CBC Radio Vancouver - follow up call

Think we already answered that. Our existing shelters are only 66 per cent full. Correct Darren?

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 2:59 PM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Cc: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: CBC Radio Vancouver - follow up call

Hi Sandra: as discussed, this reporter has one outstanding question, which he has followed up with me on: does the province believe there will be enough shelter/housing options for all of the campers once they have moved from the Victoria Courthouse site?

Can you provide a line or two on that for me? Thx!

Date/Time: Jan/11/2:10 p.m.

Deadline @ 6 p.m.

Media: CBC Radio Vancouver

Reporter: Liam [Britten/liam.britten@cbc.ca](mailto:liam.britten@cbc.ca)/604-662-6498

Topic: campers at Victoria Courthouse

Background: CBC Radio Vancouver

Questions: Wondering if the government has any further comment about the campers on the Victoria courthouse lawn? Why did the message encouraging them to move on come today? Will the government be

forcibly removing campers? Does the government believe there are enough housing options in Victoria to house these campers?

Provided to reporter:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been at the courthouse site on a regular basis, working with the campers to provide information about shelters and other services available in the Victoria area.
- While the Ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, there are an increasing number of health and safety issues as the site is not suitable for camping.
- Information was provided to campers requesting that they work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter.
- The Ministry views this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition and will give the campers reasonable time to move.

Information on shelter and housing options:

- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, the province has provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.
- There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.
- These spaces are activated by the community depending on weather conditions. The average occupancy rate has been 66% this winter.

For information about services and supports for the homeless in Victoria, please visit:
www.housingmattersbc.ca/docs/fs_Homeless%20Supports_Victoria.pdf

To see a map of permanent and temporary shelters in B.C., please visit:
http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Emergency_Housing/Map

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 5:14 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Cc: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: CTV - campsite at Victoria Courthouse

It's Roger. They can put his name to his pick.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 4:01 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Cc: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: CTV - campsite at Victoria Courthouse

Checking

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 3:51 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Cc: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: CTV - campsite at Victoria Courthouse

Hi there - CTV would like to name the person in this image and it looks to me like Roger from BC Housing. Can you check with him about having his name on the clip?

From: Zahra Premji [<mailto:Zahra.Premji@bellmedia.ca>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 3:39 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Interview request

Hi Joanne,

Wondering if you could tell me who this is? Thanks

Zahra

Zahra Premji | Reporter

CTV Vancouver Island | m 250 516 3046 | zahra.premji@bellmedia.ca
1420 Broad Street
Victoria BC V8W 2B1

vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca



From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX [<mailto:Joanne.Whittier@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: January-06-16 1:21 PM

TO: Zahra Premji
Subject: interview request

Hi Zahra: nice meeting you this morning. As discussed, please find below background information in response to your questions.

Best, Joanne

Background Information:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been working with the campers to provide information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.

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Joanne Whittier
Communications Manager
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
office: 250-387-0172 / cell: 250-893-5650

-----Original Message-----

From: Zahra Premji [mailto:Zahra.Premji@bellmedia.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 10:43 AM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Urgent: interview request

Hi Joanne,

Hoping to have something in to us (an interview or statement) no later than 2 pm.

Thanks so much,

Zahra

Zahra Premji | Reporter
CTV Vancouver Island | m 250.516.3046 | zahra.premji@bellmedia.ca
1420 Broad Street
Victoria, BC V8W 2B1

vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX [mailto:Joanne.Whittier@gov.bc.ca]

Sent: January-06-16 10:42 AM
To: Zahra Premji
Subject: Re: Urgent: interview request

Hi Zara - what is your deadline today?

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 6, 2016, at 10:25 AM, Zahra Premji <Zahra.Premji@bellmedia.ca<mailto:Zahra.Premji@bellmedia.ca>> wrote:

Hi Joanne,

Hope you're doing well! Happy New Year!

I'm working on a story today about the tent city on the courthouse lawn. Now that a temporary shelter has opened for 40 people to move from tent city we wanted to inquire what's next for the lawn? The province had said in December that eventually it would make a move to either move everyone left off or something to that effect. Just wondering if we can get an update? Either an interview, or a statement for today.

Thanks so much,

Zahra

Zahra Premji | Reporter

CTV Vancouver Island | m 250.516.3046 | zahra.premji@bellmedia.ca<mailto:zahra.premji@bellmedia.ca>
1420 Broad Street
Victoria, BC V8W 2B1

vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca<<http://www.vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca/>>

<image001.jpg><<http://www.ctv.ca/>>

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 5:15 PM
To: Rajvir Rao
Subject: Re: CTV - campsite at Victoria Courthouse

Thx

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Rajvir Rao
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 5:13 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: CTV - campsite at Victoria Courthouse

This is Roger Butcher from BC Housing

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX [mailto:Paul.Woolley@gov.bc.ca]
Sent: January-06-16 4:01 PM
To: Rajvir Rao
Cc: Darren Harbord
Subject: FW: CTV - campsite at Victoria Courthouse

Any concerns?

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 3:51 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Cc: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: CTV - campsite at Victoria Courthouse

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Victoria, BC V8W 2R1

vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca



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Joanne Whittier
Communications Manager
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
office: 250-387-0172 / cell: 250-893-5650

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CTV Vancouver Island | m 250.516.3046 | zahra.premji@bellmedia.ca
1420 Broad Street
Victoria, BC V8W 2B1

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To: Zahra Premji

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Thanks so much,

Zahra

Zahra Premji | Reporter

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Victoria, BC V8W 2B1

vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca<<http://www.vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca/>>

<image001.jpg><<http://www.ctv.ca/>>

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 6:07 PM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX
Subject: Re: Edited

Done.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 5:28 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Edited

Yes, thx. Can you pls share??

We are writing to encourage campers at the Victoria Courthouse to work with the homeless outreach workers on-site to make arrangements for alternate shelter.

While the province appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, a growing number of campers over the past month has created an increasing number of health and safety concerns, making the courthouse property is no longer a viable location for campers.

To help with the transition, Our Place and the Victoria Cool Aid societies are available to work with campers to connect you with shelter and support services such as health care and counselling.

Our Place Society is now operating a new 24/7, 40-bed transition house at 1240 Yates Street that can provide many of you with shelter, meals and other supports. Campers are encouraged to work with support workers and to take advantage of this shelter space.

You can also find out about the new shelter by calling Don Evans, Executive Director, Our Place Society at 250-388-7112.

We would appreciate your cooperation as the Province sees this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 8:29 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Edited

No probs. Send me the final when you can.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 7:05 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Edited

Thx Paul - I'll compare this with the version signed off by my MO this aft to make sure we have all the edits in.
Appreciate all your help with this one! Jo

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 6, 2016, at 6:07 PM, Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.Woolley@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

My MO asked for a few more tweaks. Here you go.

We are writing to encourage campers at the Victoria Courthouse to work with the homeless outreach workers on-site to make arrangements for alternate shelter.

While the province appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, a growing number of campers over the past month has created an increasing number of health and safety concerns, making the courthouse property is no longer a viable location for campers.

To help with the transition, Our Place and the Victoria Cool Aid societies are available to work with campers to connect you with shelter and support services such as health care and counselling.

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You can also find out about the new shelter by calling Don Evans, Executive Director, Our Place Society at 250-388-7112.

We would appreciate your cooperation as the Province sees this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 1:31 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Final verion - Flyer for Distribution at Victoria Courthouse

Thx Jo.

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 12:28 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Subject: Final verion - Flyer for Distribution at Victoria Courthouse

Hi Paul – here is the final with the edits discussed yesterday eve. Distribution is confirmed for tomorrow. MTICS staff will be onsite at 10 a.m. to post and hand out the flyer. Campers are aware that this is planned.

Thx - Jo

From: Burbee, Jon MTIC:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 12:16 PM
To: 'rbutcher@bchousing.org'; Miller, Brenda L JAG:EX; jtinney@victoria.ca; Jason Johnson (jjohnson@victoria.ca); khamilton@victoria.ca; Holden, Virginia OHCS:EX; McGregor, Scott; Don Evans Evans (Don@ourplacesociety.com)
Cc: Fellows, Brian MTIC:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Sykes, Graeme MTIC:EX; Williams, Leslie J MTIC:EX; Wharton, Peter JAG:EX; Goodman, Sara JAG:EX; Mason, Tyna JAG:EX
Subject: Advance Notice - Flyer Distribution at Victoria Courthouse

Good day,

As previously discussed, the intention of the Province is to distribute a written notice (known as "the flyer") to the occupants of the tented city at the Victoria Courthouse Lands. This notice will reinforce previous communications regarding the provision and development of solutions to the needs of the campers, but also signal that the end intent is to restore the property to the original use at a future unspecified time.

The distribution of this flyer will occur tomorrow at the Healing Circle gathering which takes place at approximately 10:00 am by means of posting notices to the camp entrances, at other prominent locations such as the portable toilets, and by physical distribution to healing circle attendees by myself and my colleague Graeme Sykes. A representative from the Sherriff service will also be present.

Regards,

Jon Burbee
Jon Burbee | Executive Director | Asset Management Branch | Shared Services BC
Ph: 250 213-7439 | **e:** Jon.Burbee@gov.bc.ca | **m:** PO Box 9412, Stn Prov Gov, Victoria BC V8W 9V1



ASSET MANAGEMENT
A BRANCH OF SHARED SERVICES BC

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 6:32 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Beaupre, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Flagging CTV clip - campers planning press conference Monday

Think our response is the grounds are not a permanent solution. Shelter is available for anmd has been offered and the province will be take steps to return the grounds to their original condition. Something like that. Thx!

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 6:12 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Beaupre, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: Flagging CTV clip - campers planning press conference Monday

CTV Van Island is reporting that the campers have a press conference planned for Monday. Does not say what time. Our staff will connect with Don at Our Place to see if he knows.

CIVI (CTV Two Victoria)
CTV News Live @ 5
08-Jan-2016 17:04

Copyright

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2016 12:41 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: For review - response points CTV Vancouver Island - Victoria Courthouse Campers

No concerns....

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2016 12:11 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: ~~Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX~~
Subject: FW: For review - response points CTV Vancouver Island - Victoria Courthouse Campers

Plz let me know if this is ok with you. Darren was so kind as to provide the links to info in the Victoria area.

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2016 11:31 AM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: For review - response points CTV Vancouver Island - Victoria Courthouse Campers

Date/Time: Jan/4/10:42 a.m.

Deadline @ 2 p.m.

Media: CTV Vancouver Island

Reporter: Yvonne Raymond/ Yvonne.Raymond@bellmedia.ca/250-661-2072

Topic: campers at the Victoria Courthouse

Background: Reporter doing a preview of the opening of a new 40-bed shelter on Yates Street. Reporter will be talking to Our Place (the operator of the shelter) regarding logistics around when people will move in, how many, what will be offered to them. Reporter wants to know what happens to those campers that are not transitioned to the shelter and what happens next with the space.

Questions:

- I understand that the building has a 40 person capacity and that not all of the campers at the courthouse will be transitioning to the shelter. My question for the province today is what happens next with that space?
- Will the remaining campers be asked to leave?
- If so, does an injunction need to be filed?
- What's the process in terms of what's next?

Suggested Response:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.

- BC Housing outreach workers have been working with the campers to provide information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped they take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new shelter will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Once the new shelter opens, the Province will give the campers reasonable time to move.

For more information about services and supports for the homeless in Victoria, please visit:
www.housingmattersbc.ca/docs/fs_Homeless%20Supports_Victoria.pdf

To see a map of permanent and temporary shelters in B.C., please visit:
http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Emergency_Housing/Map

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 11:54 AM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_05_16

Sent it to her and Jason Keenan for input. ☺

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 11:50 AM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_05_16

Hi Jo, here's our latest KM on the courthouse camp. Let me know if you have any concerns.

The plan is for the shelter provider to bring in 5-6 campers per day and have the shelter full by Friday. Outreach staff will determine the needs of the remaining campers...we don't yet know how many of the remaining campers will be in genuine need of housing.

Thanks

Darren Harbord
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Natural Gas Development and
Responsible for Housing
250 952-0152 / 250 882-8518 (cell)

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 10:04 AM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_07_16
_DRAFT

Any vacancies on the 145?

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 9:59 AM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_07_16_DRAFT

Paul, here's the updated camp KM.

Housing confirms 40 rent supps are available for the remaining campers – none have been handed out yet – outreach staff are still in the process of determining remaining campers' needs.

- The Province encourages the remaining campers to seek assistance from outreach workers who have been on site daily providing information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
- 40 rent supplements have also been made available to help any campers in need of housing find a place to stay in the private market.
- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, we have provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.
- There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night. These spaces are activated by the community depending on weather conditions.

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 3:25 PM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_08_16_DRAFT

Thx!

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 11:44 AM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_08_16_DRAFT

Update from Housing on moving people to the shelter:

According to our Victoria office, there were 16 people moved to Our Place as of yesterday morning with more to come in the afternoon. They report there have been some issues with getting people settled into the shelter. Our office will follow up with them today to get an update and I'll pass that info on to you as soon as I hear back.

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- There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.
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From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 2:19 PM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_08_16_DRAFT

Thx!

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 2:04 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: ~~Stelle, Sandra GCPE:EX~~
Subject: RE: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_08_16_DRAFT

Paul, Our Place expects the shelter to be full by next Wednesday, Jan. 13.

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 11:44 AM
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Subject: RE: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_08_16_DRAFT

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From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 7:53 AM
To: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_08_16_DRAFT

s.22

so will have to defer to either MITCS or Don Evans, beyond background.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 6:02 AM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_08_16_DRAFT

Hi Paul & Jo,

What is the proposed comms plan in reaction to the campers' 11 am press conference today? Is either Min available or will the current statement stand?

Thanks,
Emily

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 2:18 PM
To: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX
Subject: Fw: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_08_16_DRAFT

Fyi

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX <Darren.Harbord@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 2:04 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_08_16_DRAFT

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From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 1:17 PM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: media request - courthouse camp

Cool. IF we are doing more, then we should do an NR...

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 1:11 PM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: media request - courthouse camp

FYI – from Donna:

I spoke to Shayne an hour ago and we are updating our IN on this issue. Shayne has indicated that we will be looking for another temporary facility to assist in sheltering the Victoria campers and providing additional rent supplements. He will be speaking to the City of Victoria/Mayor soon. We will need to get a bit more info before going public with this.

How about this?

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria to look at options to assist the campers currently situated at the courthouse.
- We encourage the remaining campers to seek assistance from outreach workers who have been on site daily providing information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
- 40 rent supplements have been made available to help any campers in need of housing find a place to stay in the private market.
- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, we have provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX [<mailto:Darren.Harbord@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: January-11-16 12:52 PM
To: Holden, Virginia OHCS:EX; Donna Freeman; Rajvir Rao
Subject: media request - courthouse camp
Importance: High

Hi all, please see the request below.

Thoughts on a response?

Thanks
Darren

From: April Lawrence [<mailto:alawrence@cheknews.ca>]
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 12:41 PM

To: Stern, Sandra GCP-EX
Subject: Tent City

Hi Sandra,

The "leaders" at tent city held a press conference this morning and they are calling for the province to engage in meaningful discussion with them about housing options. Not just building more traditional affordable housing, but creating a tent city on another government-owned piece of property, or setting up micro-housing. Are there any plans from the Ministry to look into these as possible options?

Thanks.

April
April Lawrence
Reporter
CHEK News
office: (250) 480-3700
cell: (250) 415-8168
alawrence@cheknews.ca

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Saturday, January 9, 2016 12:03 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: media request - Jeff Bell - TC - campers at Victoria courthouse

Thx Jo.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Saturday, January 9, 2016 11:56 AM
To: Facey, Nick MTIC:EX; Reddy, Brandon MTIC:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: media request - Jeff Bell - TC - campers at Victoria courthouse

Morning – Jeff Bell, TC, is looking for the flyer, as well as some background info on the campers. Will provide same info as sent to CTV and CHEK yesterday.

Here is the CHEK clip from last night fyi <http://www.cheknews.ca/courthouse-campers-urged-to-leave-128666/>

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 8:45 PM
To: Facey, Nick MTIC:EX; Reddy, Brandon MTIC:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: media request - CHEK - campers at Victoria courthouse

Hi there – Ben O'Hara, CHEK news wanting same update regarding campers. Have provided same info as CTV. Jo

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 4:34 PM
To: Facey, Nick MTIC:EX; Reddy, Brandon MTIC:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: media request - CTV Vancouver Island - campers at Victoria courthouse

Will provide the same background info to CTV Vancouver Island as well as a copy of the flyer per their request. Thx - Jo

Date/Time: Jan/8/4:30 p.m.

Deadline @ 5 p.m.

Media: CTV Vancouver Island

Reporter: Jason [Hallman/Jason.hallman@bellmedia.ca](mailto:Jason.hallman@bellmedia.ca)/250-414-6500

Topic: campers at Victoria Courthouse

Background: Reporter looking for an update – background OK. Has heard that the Ministry delivered flyers to the campers today and would like a copy of the flyer.

Questions: Is there an update on the campers? Is there a deadline for when they will be asked to leave?

Recommended Response

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been working with the campers to provide information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.
- Representatives from the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services spoke with the campers on January 6.
- While the Ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, a growing number of campers over the past month has created an increasing number of health and safety concerns; making the courthouse property not a viable location for campers.
- Information was provided to campers on January 8 requesting the campers work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter.
- The Ministry views this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition and will give the campers reasonable time to move.
- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, the province has provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.
- There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.
- These spaces are activated by the community depending on weather conditions. The average occupancy rate has been 66% this winter.

For information about services and supports for the homeless in Victoria, please visit:
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To see a map of permanent and temporary shelters in B.C., please visit:
http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Emergency_Housing/Map

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 3:18 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: media request - Victoria News - campers at Victoria Courthouse - reporter deadline 4 p.m.

Tis fine

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 2:53 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: ~~RE: media request - Victoria News - campers at Victoria Courthouse - reporter deadline 4 p.m.~~

Yes, looks good. Thanks

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 2:52 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: media request - Victoria News - campers at Victoria Courthouse - reporter deadline 4 p.m.

Hi there – can I add your bullets highlighted below? I think it is helpful. Plz let me know – thx much! Jo

Date/Time: Jan/8/2:45 p.m.

Deadline @ 4 p.m.

Media: Victoria News

Reporter: Pamela Roth/editor@vicnews.com/250 381-3484

Topic: campers at Victoria Courthouse

Background: Reporter looking for an update – background ok. Has been hearing from local residents considered about the number of campers and that nothing seems to be underway to address the issue.

Questions: Is there an update on the campers? Will they and when will they be asked to leave?

Suggested Response:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been working with the campers to provide information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.

- Representatives from the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens Services spoke with the campers on January 6.
- While the Ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, a growing number of campers over the past month has created an increasing number of health and safety concerns; making the courthouse property not a viable location for campers.
- Information was provided to campers on January 8 requesting the campers work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter.
- The Ministry views this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition and will give the campers reasonable time to move.
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From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 11:27 AM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Media Requests: Canadian Press, CTV VI: Victoria School district costs and shelter

Opps, here is our messaging. Jason. I believe the Ministry of Education would need to respond to the specific ask for additional funding, no?

Recommended Response

- **The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.**
- **BC Housing outreach workers have been working with the campers to provide information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.**
- **For issues of health and safety, it's hoped they take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new shelter will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.**

For more information about services and supports for the homeless in Victoria, please visit:
www.housingmattersbc.ca/docs/fs_Homeless%20Supports_Victoria.pdf

To see a map of permanent and temporary shelters in B.C., please visit:
http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Emergency_Housing/Map

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 11:25 AM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Media Requests: Canadian Press, CTV VI: Victoria School district costs and shelter
Importance: High

Jason, we got two calls on the school district funding request in the media this morning. Can we send them your way for a suitable response, as we do not really have a role in whether or not they would get any additional funding in this situation. If you need it, out top line messaging follows:

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 11:21 AM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Requests: Canadian Press, CTV VI: Victoria School district costs and shelter
Importance: High

Paul as discussed: deadlines today

Date/Time: Jan. 5

Deadline: asap

Media/Reporter: Dirk Meissner, Canadian Press

Phone: 250-384-4912

Media/Reporter: Scott Cunningham, CTV VI

Phone: 250-414-6568

Topic: SD61 costs

Request: reporters heard last night that the school district estimates they will need to spend an additional \$44,000 in cleaning the area around the site of the new Victoria homeless shelter. They are looking for the province to pay for that additional cost. Reporters wondering if there is provincial comment or a plan in place to pay for those costs out of the money the province is providing for the shelter.

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 2:24 PM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Media Requests x 4 - Courthouse Campers

Thx all. Joanne. perhaps include Sandra and Darren when you send us media requests and that way we can ensure we are all using our latest stuff. ☺

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 2:20 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Media Requests x 4 - Courthouse Campers

Our messaging on housing options has changed- this is what we have suggested to our MO- not sure we both need to get back to the reporter- once I have sign off on this, you could provide this to replace what you have below?

- **Last year, the Province invested over \$19 million to support affordable housing for more than 5,100 low-income households in Victoria.**
- **The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria to look at options to assist the campers currently situated at the courthouse.**
- **We encourage the remaining campers to seek assistance from outreach workers who have been on site daily providing information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.**
- **Forty rent supplements have been made available to help any campers in need of housing find a place to stay in the private market.**
- **Including the new shelter on Yates Street, we have provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.**

For information about services and supports for the homeless in Victoria, please visit:
www.housingmattersbc.ca/docs/fs_Homeless%20Supports_Victoria.pdf

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 2:16 PM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Media Requests x 4 - Courthouse Campers

Date/Time: Jan. 11/12:50pm

Deadline @ 2-2:30 p.m.

Media: CHEK news

Reporter: April Lawrence, 250-415-8168, alawrence@cheknews.ca

Questions: The tent city campers held a press conference this morning basically saying they would refuse to move if the province sought an injunction to force them out. They vowed to fight it through the courts. Does the Ministry have any response to this and is there any kind of timeline? Also they were saying that nobody from the Province has ever actually come down there to talk to them. Could you clarify?

Recommended response:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been at the courthouse site on a regular basis, working with the campers to provide information about shelters and other services available in the Victoria area.
- In addition, representatives from the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services have been to the site on a number of occasions in December and January.
- While the Ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, there are an increasing number of health and safety issues as the site is not suitable for camping.
- Information was provided to campers requesting that they work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter.
- The Ministry views this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition and will give the campers reasonable time to move.

Information on shelter and housing options:

- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, the province has provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.
- There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.
- These spaces are activated by the community depending on weather conditions. The average occupancy rate has been 66% this winter.

For information about services and supports for the homeless in Victoria, please visit:
www.housingmattersbc.ca/docs/fs_Homeless%20Supports_Victoria.pdf

To see a map of permanent and temporary shelters in B.C., please visit:
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For information about services and supports for the homeless in Victoria, please visit:
www.housingmattersbc.ca/docs/fs_Homeless%20Supports_Victoria.pdf

To see a map of permanent and temporary shelters in B.C., please visit:

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 2:14 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Media Requests x 4 - Courthouse Campers

Hi Joanne, we have two request we're currently working on as well- this is the messaging with our MO for consideration: see you also have request from Chck:

Date/Time: Jan. 11 12:45 pm

Deadline: Jan. 11

Media/Reporter: April Lawrence

Phone: (250) 480-3700

Topic: Victoria tent city

Request: The "leaders" at tent city held a press conference this morning and they are calling for the province to engage in meaningful discussion with them about housing options. Not just building more traditional affordable housing, but creating a tent city on another government-owned piece of property, or setting up micro-housing. Are there any plans from the Ministry to look into these as possible options?

Media/Reporter: Andrew MacLeod Tyee

Phone: (250) 885-7662

Topic: Victoria tent city

Request: looking for comment on the criticism from campers that says the province has dropped the ball over the past 10 to 15 years when it comes to homelessness and focused on a 'one size fits all' approach and market solutions. Critics are saying the situation needs consistent support from the province.

Suggested response:

- Last year, the Province invested over \$19 million to support affordable housing for more than 5,100 low-income households in Victoria.
- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria to look at options to assist the campers currently situated at the courthouse.
- We encourage the remaining campers to seek assistance from outreach workers who have been on site daily providing information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
- Forty rent supplements have been made available to help any campers in need of housing find a place to stay in the private market.

- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, we have provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.

For information about services and supports for the homeless in Victoria, please visit:
www.housingmattersbc.ca/docs/fs_Homeless%20Supports_Victoria.pdf

Sandra Steilo
 250-952-0617

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 2:03 PM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Cc: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Media Requests x 4 - Courthouse Campers
Importance: High

Send them our updated lines.

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 2:01 PM
To: Facey, Nick MTIC:EX; Reddy, Brandon MTIC:EX
Cc: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Requests x 4 - Courthouse Campers
Importance: High

Hi Nick: CP, CHEK, CTV and TC all looking for info on the campers. Background info below for approval. I have one more that I will send in an additional email. Jo

Date/Time: Jan. 11/12:50pm

Deadlines @ 2:30/3 p.m.

Media: Canadian Press

Reporter: 250-418-4779, Dirk.Meissner@thecanadianpress.com

Topic: Campers at Victoria Courthouse

Background: Reporter is looking for comment regarding a press conference held by campers at the Victoria Courthouse at 11 a.m. today demanding more money and solutions to the issue of homelessness. Campers indicated that they will resist efforts to have them moved. Together Against Poverty (TAPS) said they will provide a lawyer if the ministry goes forward with an injunction. Have let all three reporters know the ministry would likely provide background information.

Questions: Is there a deadline for when they will be asked to leave? Is eviction an option?

Recommended response:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.

- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been at the courthouse site on a regular basis, working with the campers to provide information about shelters and other services available in the Victoria area.
- While the Ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, there are an increasing number of health and safety issues as the site is not suitable for camping.
- Information was provided to campers requesting that they work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter.
- The Ministry views this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition and will give the campers reasonable time to move.

Information on shelter and housing options:

- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, the province has provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.
- There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.
- These spaces are activated by the community depending on weather conditions. The average occupancy rate has been 66% this winter.

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http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Emergency_Housing/Map

Date/Time: Jan. 11/12:50pm

Deadline @: 2-2:30 p.m.

Media: CHEK news

Reporter: April Lawrence, 250-415-8168, alawrence@cheknews.ca

Questions: The tent city campers held a press conference this morning basically saying they would refuse to move if the province sought an injunction to force them out. They vowed to fight it through the courts. Does the Ministry have any response to this and is there any kind of timeline? Also they were saying that nobody from the Province has ever actually come down there to talk to them. Could you clarify?

Recommended response:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
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http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Emergency_Housing/Map

Date/Time: Jan. 11/12:50pm

Deadline @ 3:30 p.m.

Media: CTV

Reporter: Yvonne Raymond, 250-661-2072, yvonne.raymond@bellmedia.ca

Questions: Interested in next steps at the site and the provinces response to concerns from the campers, which include: a lack of consultation, alleged band-aid approaches to homelessness (like the creation of a temporary shelter rather than multi-dimensional solutions that recognize one solution doesn't fit all).

Recommended response:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.

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http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Emergency_Housing/Map

Date/Time: Jan. 11/1:56 pm

Deadlines @ 4 p.m.

Media: Times Colonist

Reporter: Richard Watts / rwatts@timescolonist.com/250-580-5211

Topic: Campers at Victoria Courthouse

Background: Reporter is looking for comment regarding a press conference held by campers at the Victoria Courthouse at 11 a.m. today demanding more money and solutions to the issue of homelessness. Campers indicated that they will resist efforts to have them moved. Together Against Poverty (TAPS) said they will provide a lawyer if the ministry goes forward with an injunction. Have let all three reporters know the ministry would likely provide background information.

Questions: Is there a deadline for when they will be asked to leave? Are there any plans to evict the campers?

Recommended response:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
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- BC Housing outreach workers have been at the courthouse site on a regular basis, working with the campers to provide information about shelters and other services available in the Victoria area.
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Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 8:20 AM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Cc: Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: MTICS additional update - courthouse campers

Thanks Jo. If you can send us a copy of the final flyer before it is handed out, if possible, that would be appreciated. Look forward to hearing how staff make out today.

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 8:07 AM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Cc: Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: MTICS additional update - courthouse campers

FYI - We are going back to original plan, which is to have staff meet with campers today at 10:00. Our Place has let staff know that campers are expecting them today so best to meet expectations. Flyers to go out tomorrow. Jo

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 5:54 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Cc: Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: MTICS update - courthouse campers

Hi there – minor update from MTICS:

- A rep from MTICS will be at the camp this Thursday at 10 a.m. to speak with campers, along with Don from Our Place.
- The flyer will be distributed on Friday by the Sheriff's office.

Staff have asked if I can be onsite Thurs. in case there are any media present. Am happy to do so and will report out accordingly.

Thx - Jo

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2016 5:08 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Cc: Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: NR- Our Place opens My Place

Thx Paul!

Just got back from meeting at the Courthouse involving reps from the City, VicPD, Sheriff's office, BC Housing and Our Place.

Next Steps:

- There is a circle at the camp that meets M-F at 10 a.m. Plan is for a rep from MTICS to attend this circle on Wed., along with Don, the Exec Director at Our Place to talk to the campers.

- The flyer will be distributed the day following by the Sheriff's office. There may be an opportunity for Our Place to facilitate having one or two of the campers help in distributing the flyer.
- Don from Our Place noted that about 50 of the campers have self-identified as wanting to move to the new facility (My Place Transitional Home) and anticipates being able to move 4-6 per day, which is the best approach to helping them get settled without disruption.
- It was also acknowledged that some campers will not agree to leave and that some are individuals who have been banned from local-area shelters.

VicPD noted that some of the campers may have housing to go to already but not most.

City of Victoria noted that although overnight camping is allowed in some city parks with specific restrictions, this is not publicized as it takes VicPD several hours each morning to make sure that campers in city parks don't become entrenched.

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2016 4:08 PM
To: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: NR- Our Place opens My Place

Our Place NR set to go out tomorrow morning at 8.

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 4:15 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: MTICs update Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp

Thx Jo.

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 4:05 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Cc: Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: MTICs update Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp

We spoke with the fire department and Victoria Police again this afternoon. Efforts to distinguish/remove the burn barrel at the campsite were not successful - there was an organized resistance and a decision was made (by fire department and police) not to enrage the campers by proceeding.

However, the fire department's position is that the fire/s are in contravention of municipal bylaws and a solution needs to be found. The smoke is also of significant concern to local residents.

Of note, VicPD reported that there were some high-risk youth accessing and staying on the site this week. They have been in touch with MCFD about this. I'll let Karen and Kirsten know so they are aware. Jo

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 11:34 AM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Cc: Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Update: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_08_16_DRAFT

Thx Paul – update from MTICS:

The flyers were handed out to the campers and posted around the perimeter of the camp this morning. It was relatively peaceful – although s.22 made a point of taking copies of the flyer and ripping them up. No media onsite.

The campers have indicated that they will be forming a collective response to the flyer.

At 1 p.m. today, the fire department will be onsite to put out the burn barrel (which has created a huge issue with nearby residents). This is expected to be a source of significant concern among the campers.

The timelines for next steps (which would be an injunction) have not been confirmed yet. Will provide info asap on this point. Jo

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 10:44 AM
To: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Update: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_08_16_DRAFT

Updated KM...

housing confirms 40 rent supps are available for the remaining campers – none have been handed out yet – outreach staff are still in the process of determining remaining campers' needs.

- The Province encourages the remaining campers to seek assistance from outreach workers who have been on site daily providing information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
- 40 rent supplements have also been made available to help any campers in need of housing find a place to stay in the private market.
- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, we have provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.
- There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.
- These spaces are activated by the community depending on weather conditions. The average occupancy rate has been 66% this winter.

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2016 1:08 PM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX
Subject: RE: Points

Have shared.

From: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2016 1:01 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: Points

Thx

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse
- BC Housing outreach workers have been working with the campers to provide information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped they take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new shelter will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.
- Once the new shelter opens, the Province will give the campers reasonable time to move.

For more information about services and supports for the homeless in Victoria, please visit:

www.housingmattersbc.ca/docs/fs_Homeless%20Supports_Victoria.pdf

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http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Emergency_Housing/Map

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 2:41 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: question CTV

I think that is fine.

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 2:02 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: question CTV

Are you ok if I add this bullet for CTV – she is really wanting to know if we are asking everyone to leave, which is essentially what staff went to speak with the campers about today. Just making sure MO is ok with this as well.

- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on site to find appropriate shelter and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.

Background Information - provided:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been working with the campers to provide information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.

From: Zahra Premji [<mailto:Zahra.Premji@bellmedia.ca>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 1:31 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: interview request

Thanks Joanne! Great meeting you too!

Wondering if you're able to please include the response about an update as far as if the province is discussing still asking everyone else to leave now that a temporary shelter has been put in place?

Thanks!

Zahra

Zahra Premji
Reporter, CTV Vancouver Island
250.516.3046
@CTVNewsZahra

On Jan 6, 2016, at 1:21 PM, Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX <Joanne.Whittier@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Zahra: nice meeting you this morning. As discussed, please find below background information in response to your questions.

Best, Joanne

Background Information:

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been working with the campers to provide information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
- For issues of health and safety, it's hoped the campers take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new transitional housing facility on Yates Street will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.

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Joanne Whittier
Communications Manager
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
office: 250-387-0172 / cell: 250-893-5650

-----Original Message-----

From: Zahra Premji [<mailto:Zahra.Premji@bellmedia.ca>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 10:43 AM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Urgent: interview request

Hi Joanne,

Hoping to have something in to us (an interview or statement) no later than 2 pm.

Thanks so much,

Zahra

Zahra Premji | Reporter
CTV Vancouver Island | m 250.516.3046 | zahra.premji@bellmedia.ca
1420 Broad Street
Victoria, BC V8W 2B1

vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX [mailto:Joanne.Whittier@gov.bc.ca]

Sent: January-06-16 10:42 AM

To: Zahra Premji

Subject: Re: Urgent: interview request

Hi Zara - what is your deadline today?

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 6, 2016, at 10:25 AM, Zahra Premji

<Zahra.Premji@bellmedia.ca<mailto:Zahra.Premji@bellmedia.ca>> wrote:

Hi Joanne,

Hope you're doing well! Happy New Year!

I'm working on a story today about the tent city on the courthouse lawn. Now that a temporary shelter has opened for 40 people to move from tent city we wanted to inquire what's next for the lawn? The province had said in December that eventually it would make a move to either move everyone left off or something to that effect. Just wondering if we can get an update? Either an interview, or a statement for today.

Thanks so much,

Zahra

Zahra Premji | Reporter

CTV Vancouver Island | m 250.516.3046 |

zahra.premji@bellmedia.ca<mailto:zahra.premji@bellmedia.ca>

1420 Broad Street

Victoria, BC V8W 2B1

[vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca](http://www.vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca)<http://www.vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca/>

<image001.jpg><http://www.ctv.ca/>

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 11:37 AM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Update: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_08_16_DRAFT

Is the Fire Department attending because of concerns in the neighborhood? Just curious why they would go put the barrel out before a formal injunction is in place?

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 11:34 AM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Cc: Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Update: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_08_16_DRAFT

Thx Paul – update from MTICS:

The flyers were handed out to the campers and posted around the perimeter of the camp this morning. It was relatively peaceful – although s.22 made a point of taking copies of the flyer and ripping them up. No media onsite.

The campers have indicated that they will be forming a collective response to the flyer.

At 1 p.m. today, the fire department will be onsite to put out the burn barrel (which has created a huge issue with nearby residents). This is expected to be a source of significant concern among the campers.

The timelines for next steps (which would be an injunction) have not been confirmed yet. Will provide info asap on this point. Jo

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 10:44 AM
To: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Update: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_08_16_DRAFT

Updated KM...

Housing confirms 40 rent supps are available for the remaining campers – none have been handed out yet – outreach staff are still in the process of determining remaining campers' needs.

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- There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.

- These spaces are activated by the community depending on weather conditions. The average occupancy rate has been 66% this winter.

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 11:49 AM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Update: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_08_16_DRAFT

Wonderful!

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 11:38 AM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Update: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_08_16_DRAFT

I think so yes – one of the residents ended up in hospital due to the smoke. I will sit beside you at CDs s.22

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 11:37 AM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Update: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_08_16_DRAFT

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From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 1:42 PM
To: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: updated KMs - campers at Victoria Courthouse

Suspect yes, but will double check.

From: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 1:35 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: updated KMs - campers at Victoria Courthouse

Those look good.

Paul, will Our Place be at capacity by week's end?

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 1:19 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: updated KMs - campers at Victoria Courthouse

Hi Paul/Emily – attached are updated response points in prep for tomorrow's flyer handout at 10 a.m. Do these work ok for you? I'll be at the site in case media show up - MTICS will continue to provide background info in response to media inquiries about the campers/ the status of the property. Any questions regarding shelter/housing will go to Paul and his team. Thx much! Jo

Updated Draft

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the Victoria Courthouse.
- BC Housing outreach workers have been working with the campers to provide information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
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- Now that the new shelter is opened, the Province encourages campers to seek assistance from support workers who have been on-site to find appropriate housing and services for their safety, health and wellbeing.

If pressed about when the campers will be asked to leave and what the plans are for the property:

- Representatives from the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services spoke with the campers on January 6.
- While the Ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, a growing number of campers over the past month has created an increasing number of health and safety concerns; making the courthouse property not a viable location for campers.
- Information was provided to campers on January 8 requesting the campers work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter.
- The Ministry views this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition and will give the campers reasonable time to move.

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From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 2:10 PM
To: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: updated KMs - campers at Victoria Courthouse

Umm. We'll do what we can.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 1:48 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: updated KMs - campers at Victoria Courthouse

Thanks. We'll need some messaging around what other options are available for campers if it's full – is there much room in the other shelters? And what about ppl who are barred from shelters, etc.?

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 1:42 PM
To: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: updated KMs - campers at Victoria Courthouse

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From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 1:53 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Victoria Courthouse

We might be able to make Wednesday afternoon work as MRC will be back in the lower mainland. We'll see...

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 1:50 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Victoria Courthouse

Interesting – the rep from Housing on a call today (Roger Butcher, Regional Director, Van Island Region) said it was expected to open this weekend – and that the new operator (Our Place) will be on site Saturday to set up.

Will let you know what I find out on Monday as well. If Housing was open to doing a release anytime next week, we could time the hand out of notification to campers accordingly.

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 1:43 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Victoria Courthouse

So, BC Housing has not heard the shelter is opening Sunday, so stay tuned. Will let you know if I hear anything.

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 1:18 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Victoria Courthouse

Super – thx!

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 1:17 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Victoria Courthouse

Have asked Housing. Thinking Monday sometime? Stay tuned.

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 1:16 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Victoria Courthouse

I spoke to Katie around 12:30 – they are happy to be quoted in an NR if that is something Housing is open to doing. I'll see Katie again at the meeting on Monday so plz let me know your thoughts on a follow up release?

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 1:13 PM

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Victoria Courthouse

What time are you calling the City?

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 12:50 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: Victoria Courthouse

Hi Paul – per email from MG below, thoughts on Housing doing a follow up release on the opening of the new Shelter? May be an opportunity to do something joint with Our Place, the operator of the new shelter on Yates, as well as include a quote from the City.

As discussed, I have asked my MO to connect with yours to see if MRC is available to speak on this one.

FYI - there is a meeting at the Courthouse on Monday afternoon that will include reps from VicPD, Housing, the City and Our Place to confirm timing and approach for giving notification to the campers (asking them to leave). I spoke with the Comms Person at the City just now (Katie Hamilton, Director of Citizen Engagement and Strategic Planning) and she will be there as well. Will let you know how it goes.

Happy New Year! Jo

From: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 12:32 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: monday roll out re: housing

Tks – in meantime I would connect with Paul for his thoughts as well (if this hasn't already happened). My initial thoughts would be a joint release possibly by City and Housing.... Focus on the rationale behind the move (safety/services etc....). Seems a move positive/por-active measure vs it being a property issue if MTICS leads.

Matt Gordon
Assistant Deputy Minister
Corporate Priorities & Communications Operations
Government of British Columbia
250 356.7398 office | 250 896.4923 mobile

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 12:29 PM
To: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: monday roll out re: housing

Hi there Matt – still holding for my CoS to confirm he has spoken with MO at Housing to confirm spokesperson. The other thing I will do this afternoon is give the City of Victoria Comms Director a call to confirm their approach. The organization that will be operating the new 40-bed shelter is called Our Place – their lead seems to be a good spokesperson so I will ask the City about this as well.

In terms of timing, the shelter is expected to open on Saturday but the timing for the flyers to be delivered is still to be confirmed – at this point, I expect it will be mid next week. The approach in terms of provincial spokesperson will need to be nailed prior. Will keep you in the loop.

From: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 12:24 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: monday roll out re: housing

Hi, Kel de-briefed me on the issue – any update? cheers

Matt Gordon
Assistant Deputy Minister
Corporate Priorities & Communications Operations
Government of British Columbia
250 356.7398 office | 250 896.4923 mobile

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 2:02 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Victoria Courthouse

OK – we can sort it out. Won't know for sure until Monday. We will but an entry in the calendar TBC for now.

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 2:00 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Victoria Courthouse

Thx Paul – yes, I heard there were community concerns voiced regarding the new shelter.

When I spoke with Katie at the City this afternoon, her only point was they wouldn't want to lead or go joint on an NR but would be open to providing a quote; reason being that although it is their building, they are leasing it to Housing for the purpose of the shelter. She also affirmed that Don Evans, Exec. Dir. from Our Place would be a strong validator.

Just spoke with my CoS as well – he is speaking with your MO about timing next week.

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 1:51 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Victoria Courthouse

BC Housing is checking with the City to see if there is an appetite to do an NR. It's my understanding that the City took a lot of heat from residents yesterday so we will need to confirm if they will be interested.

Also is in Prince Rupert Monday and Tuesday, so we will not have a spokesperson to deal with media calls if we wind up doing anything before mid-day Wednesday.

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 1:18 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Victoria Courthouse

Super – thx!

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Have asked Housing. Thinking Monday sometime? Stay tuned.

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 1:16 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Victoria Courthouse

I spoke to Katie around 12:30 – they are happy to be quoted in an NR if that is something Housing is open to doing. I'll see Katie again at the meeting on Monday so plz let me know your thoughts on a follow up release?

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 1:13 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Victoria Courthouse

What time are you calling the City?

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 12:50 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: Victoria Courthouse

Hi Paul – per email from MG below, thoughts on Housing doing a follow up release on the opening of the new Shelter? May be an opportunity to do something joint with Our Place, the operator of the new shelter on Yates, as well as include a quote from the City.

As discussed, I have asked my MO to connect with yours to see if MRC is available to speak on this one.

FYI - there is a meeting at the Courthouse on Monday afternoon that will include reps from VicPD, Housing, the City and Our Place to confirm timing and approach for giving notification to the campers (asking them to leave). I spoke with the Comms Person at the City just now (Katie Hamilton, Director of Citizen Engagement and Strategic Planning) and she will be there as well. Will let you know how it goes.

Happy New Year! Jo

From: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 12:32 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: monday roll out re: housing

Tks – in meantime I would connect with Paul for his thoughts as well (if this hasn't already happened). My initial thoughts would be a joint release possibly by City and Housing.... Focus on the rationale behind the move (safety/services etc....) Seems a move positive/por-active measure vs it being a property issue if MTICS leads.

Matt Gordon
Assistant Deputy Minister
Corporate Priorities & Communications Operations
Government of British Columbia
250 356.7398 office | 250 896.4923 mobile

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 12:29 PM
To: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: monday roll out re: housing

Hi there Matt – still holding for my CoS to confirm he has spoken with MO at Housing to confirm spokesperson. The other thing I will do this afternoon is give the City of Victoria Comms Director a call to confirm their approach. The

organization that will be operating the new 40-bed shelter is called Our Place – their lead seems to be a good spokesperson so I will ask the City about this as well.

In terms of timing, the shelter is expected to open on Saturday but the timing for the flyers to be delivered is still to be confirmed – at this point, I expect it will be mid next week. The approach in terms of provincial spokesperson will need to be nailed prior. Will keep you in the loop.

From: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 12:24 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: monday roll out re: housing

Hi, Kel de-briefed me on the issue – any update? cheers

Matt Gordon
Assistant Deputy Minister
Corporate Priorities & Communications Operations
Government of British Columbia
250 356.7398 office | 250 896.4923 mobile

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2015 9:16 AM
To: Ash, Christine GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Can you pls send me the KM on the Vic Homeless Camp
Attachments: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Dec_01_15.docx

From: Ash, Christine GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2015 9:10 AM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: Can you pls send me the KM on the Vic Homeless Camp

Thanks.

Chris Ash
Communications Manager | Ministry of Natural Gas Development
ph: 250-952-0623 cell: 250-812-3616
email to: christine.ash@gov.bc.ca

VICTORIA COURTHOUSE HOMELESS CAMP

Topic: A group of homeless people have set up camp outside the Victoria courthouse. There are currently about two dozen tents at the location, which is on provincial property.

- These types of situations are complex as many of the campers suffer from mental health and addictions issues.
 - We have outreach workers at the camp every day and the campers are aware of the services available to them.
-

New shelter:

- We are working with the city and Island Health to open a new 40-bed temporary shelter.
- We anticipate it will be open 24/7 and provide meals and other supports.
- We are looking at locations and hope to have one identified shortly.
- Shelter staff will assess people once they have been moved to the shelter, and relocate them to appropriate housing and health services.
- This shelter will be in addition to the 150 year-round homeless shelter spaces in Victoria, as well as the 145 shelter spaces that open during extreme weather.
- The Province also recently provided \$184,000 to Our Place to open a new 40-bed winter shelter.

Dec. 1, 2015

Background:

The Cool Aid Society has met with the campers, and identified some of the campers as having been barred from shelters for behavioral reasons. Other campers have been identified as not wanting to stay in shelters for various reasons.

There are two shelters located close to the camp, both of which have been close to capacity each night:

- The Victoria Cool Aid society's downtown community centre has 40 beds, and is open 7 nights a week.
- Our Place Society operates a 40-bed shelter at first metropolitan church, which is also open 7 nights a week.

Extreme Weather Response (EWR) shelters in Victoria will be activated in the case of cold or wet weather, providing additional spaces to sleep for people who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness.

Court ruling:

Following a court ruling in 2009, homeless campers have been allowed to stay in Victoria parks as long as they pack up their tents and move every morning. In this case however, the courthouse lawn belongs to the province and that rule does not apply.

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 2:34 PM
To: 'Scott Cunningham'
Subject: RE: Hey,

Hi Scott, here you go, you may attribute to the Ministry responsible for Housing.

If there are any additional costs, they should be covered from the contingency funds that school districts like Victoria set aside as part of their annual budgeting.

As of June 30, 2015 the Victoria school district had an operating surplus of close to \$22 million.

Thanks

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Scott Cunningham [<mailto:Scott.Cunningham@bellmedia.ca>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 2:13 PM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Hey,

Thanks

Scott Cunningham | Reporter/Videographer

CTV Vancouver Island | t 250-414-6568 | f 250-414-6598 | m 250-661-8630 | scott.cunningham@bellmedia.ca
1420 Broad Street
Victoria BC V8W 2B1

vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca



Twitter: @CTVNewsScott

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX [<mailto:Sandra.Steilo@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: January-05-16 2:12 PM
To: Scott Cunningham
Subject: RE: Hey,

Still looking into it for you. hope to have something for you soon.

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Scott Cunningham [<mailto:Scott.Cunningham@bellmedia.ca>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 2:11 PM

TO: Stern, Sandra GCP-EX, Sorochan, Craig GCP-EX
Subject: Hey,

Just wondering if the ministry will have a reply for CTV news by airtime (5)?

Thank you,
SC

Scott Cunningham | Reporter/Videographer

CTV Vancouver Island | t 250-414-5556 | f 250-414-6598 | m 250-561-8630 | scott.cunningham@bellmedia.ca
1420 Broad Street
Victoria, BC V8W 2B1

vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca



Twitter: @CTVNews1801

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2015 1:11 PM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Media Request: CBC Victoria: emergency shelter

Just fyi, this is wat we're saying today

The Province is working with the City to identify a suitable location and hopes to have one identified shortly. Timing will depend on any modifications required and zoning by the city of Victoria. Discussions are taking place with a potential operator, and we anticipate the shelter will operate 24/7 and provide meals and other supports.

Currently outreach workers are working at the camp each day to let campers know about the support services in the community and try to connect people with the supports they need.

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2015 12:06 PM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Media Request: CBC Victoria: emergency shelter

Nothing new today...still waiting on city for a location.

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2015 11:53 AM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Media Request: CBC Victoria: emergency shelter

This reporter keeps checking in, last time (Friday) we didn't provide anything- anyhting more to add today? ☺

Ok to send the below just a quick update, or is the Minister available?

Date / Time: Dec. 4 2:20 pm

Deadline: Dec. 4

Media: CBC Victoria

Reporter Megan Thomas

Call in: 250 414-4707

Topic: Victoria homeless shelter

Request: I'm looking for an update on the plans to open another emergency shelter in Victoria in response to the homeless campers at the courthouse.

Has a location been found? Is there a date set to open the shelter? Who will operate it?

Is it possible to speak with someone from the ministry about this?

Suggested response:

The Province continues to look at locations and hopes to have one identified shortly. Timing will depend on any modifications required and zoning by the city of Victoria. Discussions are taking place with a potential operator, and we anticipate the shelter will operate 24/7 and provide meals and other supports.

Currently outreach workers are working at the camp each day to let campers know about the support services in the community and try to connect people with the supports they need.

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2015 12:07 PM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX; Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX
Cc: Ash, Christine GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Media Request: CBC Victoria: emergency shelter

This reporter is looking for an update today on the Victoria shelter- has been checking in regularly. Looking for an interview- will take a written update if not available.

Date / Time: Dec. 10 12 pm

~~Deadline: Dec. 10~~

Media: CBC Victoria

Reporter Megan Thomas

Call in: 250 414-4707

Topic: Victoria homeless shelter

Request: I'm looking for an update on the plans to open another emergency shelter in Victoria in response to the homeless campers at the courthouse.

Has a location been found? Is there a date set to open the shelter? Who will operate it?

Is it possible to speak with someone from the ministry about this?

Suggested response:

The Province continues to look at locations and hopes to have one identified shortly. Timing will depend on any modifications required and zoning by the city of Victoria. Discussions are taking place with a potential operator, and we anticipate the shelter will operate 24/7 and provide meals and other supports.

Currently outreach workers are working at the camp each day to let campers know about the support services in the community and try to connect people with the supports they need.

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2015 3:01 PM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX; Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX
Cc: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Media Request: CTV Vancouver Island: new shelter location (Housing)

Was this one ok for Housing to send?

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2015 12:03 PM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX; Gill, Manjit MNGD:EX
Cc: Ash, Christine GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request: CTV Vancouver Island: new shelter location (Housing)

Ok for Housing to send the below?

Date/Time: Wednesday, December 9, 10:30 a.m.

Deadline: ASAP

Media: CTV Vancouver Island

Reporter: Zahra Premji, zahra.premji@bellmedia.ca, 250.516.3046

Topic: The reporter would like to know if the new homeless shelter being built in Victoria in the former Boys and Girls Club on Yates Street is a Province initiative. She would like to speak to someone today about this.

Note: The reporter received a call from a resident that heard that the new shelter location is the former Boys and Girls Club. She is confirming if this is true. The \$380,000 is based on the previous comments the Minister had made. There is a council meeting on Thursday, December 10 and potentially a location will be finalized.

Questions & Proposed Response:

I was wondering if there was someone we could speak to about a possible new homeless shelter being built in Victoria in the former boys and girls club on Yates Street? With the province allocating \$380,000 towards housing homeless our newsroom is wondering if this is a province initiative?

The City of Victoria in consultation with the Province is in the process of determining a location for a temporary shelter in Victoria. We can confirm the \$380,000 of funding will go towards building this shelter. The 40-bed shelter will be open 24/7 and provide three meals per day.

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2015 3:24 PM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX; Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX; Hirji, Keivan MNGD:EX
Cc: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Media Request: CTV VI, CBC on the Island: Victoria update

Hi there: producers looking to confirm these shows as they are short staffed with the holiday season- could do CBC at 8:10 and CFX at 8:50 a.m. CBC will also do a pre-tape before noon Thursday for air on Friday, if that works better?

Date/Time: Dec. 15

Deadline: Dec. 18- 8:20 a.m. or 8:50 a.m. about 10 mins interview

Media: CFX

Reporter: Al Ferraby

Contact 250-920-4619

Date/Time: Dec. 15

Deadline: Dec. 18- 8:10 a.m.

Media: CBC on the Island

Reporter: Gregor Craigie

Contact 250-360-2227

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2015 11:13 AM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX; Gill, Manjit MNGD:EX
Cc: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Media Request: CTV VI, CBC on the Island: Victoria update

Just received this email from CBC on the Island-

I understand Our Place in Victoria has been chosen to operate the new 24/7 shelter space and further details may be available on Friday. Would it be possible to book the Minister for an interview with Gregor Craigie (On The Island) on Friday morning to reveal the plan?

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2015 9:31 AM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX; Gill, Manjit MNGD:EX

CC: ASH, CHRISTINE GORFEX, WOOLLEY, PAUL GORFEX, WOODS, EMILY GORFEX
Subject: Media Request: CTV VI, CBC on the Island: Victoria update

CBC has been covering the story for the past weeks, CTV VI has a heads up from partners the announcement will be made this week

Date/Time: Dec. 15

Deadline: Dec. 18

Media: CTV Vancouver Island

Reporter: Jason

Contact #: 250-414-6500

Request: CTV has two sources confirming Victoria shelter location will be announced this week.

Date/Time: Dec. 15

Deadline: Dec. 18

Media: CBC on the Island

Reporter: Gregor Craigie

Contact #: 250-360-2227

CFAX confirming timing of the interview now likely 8:20 or 850 a.m.- could set up phoners with CTV and CBC on the Island for Friday morning as well.

Suggested Response

The Province is currently finalizing details and anticipates making an announcement on the location of the Victoria Temporary Winter Shelter on Friday.

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2015 9:37 AM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Media Request: Globe and Mail: Victoria homeless camp background on housing province-wide

Checking with Housing.

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2015 8:54 AM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request: Globe and Mail: Victoria homeless camp background on housing province-wide

Looking for this by Thursday morning: is there a good comparison, maybe not 10 years,

Date/Time: Dec 1 4 pm

Deadline: Dec 3 10 a.m.

Media: Globe and Mail

Reporter: Justine Hunter jhunter@globeandmail.com

Topic: Victoria Homeless Camp

Request: reporter interviewed the Minister, looking for background- province-wide on the below:
Can you put together some background for me (by Thursday morning would be fine) on three programs the minister mentioned to me:

**Family rental assistance,
rent supplement for seniors, and
the supportive housing stuff.**

I don't need a huge amount, but how many people are getting aid in each of those categories how much the province spends on each program. If there is anything that you could pull together on what the province spent on housing ten years ago versus now

Suggested Response:

Last year, the Province provided financial assistance to more than 29,500 B.C. households to help make rent in the private market more affordable.

More information is available here: http://www.housingmattersbc.ca/docs/fs_Rental_Assistance.pdf

Under Housing Matters BC, the province has committed to expand rental assistance in a manner that will give people more choices.

Rental assistance programs are a better option for most households:

- They are flexible, families and individuals can choose where they want to live, and what type of housing works best for them.
- There are no wait lists. Once an application is approved benefits will flow immediately.

- They are more cost effective and provide assistance much faster than building new units. While 10,000 new units would cost \$2.5 billion and take years to complete; rental assistance for 10,000 families costs around \$50 million and is available right away.

Last year, the Province provided approximately \$213 million for more than 13,200 emergency shelter spaces, subsidized units and rent supplements to support people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness across British Columbia.

More information is available here http://www.housingmattersbc.ca/docs/fs_Homeless_Supports.pdf

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2015 9:24 AM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Media Request: Times Colonist: Victoria homeless camp

Yes, still current.

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2015 9:05 AM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request: Times Colonist: Victoria homeless camp

Times Colonist missed the event, looking for info on the Victoria shelter, Wilson's Walk- this is what I sent out at 4 pm yesterday, still current?

Date/Time: Dec 2 9 a.m.

Deadline: Dec 2 5 pm

Media: Times Colonist

Reporter: Richard Watts rwatts@timescolonist.com

Call in: 250-995-4435

Topic: Victoria Homeless Camp/Wilson's Walk

Request: reporter looking for any information on a new homeless shelter soon to open in Victoria, missed the announcement Monday.

Suggested Response:

The Province will provide approximately \$380,000 to fund a new 40-bed temporary shelter with the city of Victoria and Island Health. We are looking at locations and hope to have one identified shortly. Timing will depend on any modifications required and zoning. Discussions are taking place with a potential operator, and we anticipate the shelter will operate 24/7 and provide meals and other supports.

Shelter staff will assess people once they have been moved to the shelter, and relocate them to appropriate housing and health services. This shelter will operate until the end of April and be in addition to the 150 year-round homeless shelter spaces in Victoria, as well as the 145 shelter spaces that open during extreme weather.

The Province also recently provided \$184,000 to Our Place to open a new 40-bed winter shelter.

The Minister also announced families and those with low incomes will soon have increased access to affordable rental homes in Victoria, with construction underway on Wilson's Walk, a new 108-unit mixed income apartment building on Monday.

More information is available here.

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2015MNGD0082-001978>

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2015 9:58 AM
To: Barnettson, Luella MNGD:EX; Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX; Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX; Hirji, Keivan MNGD:EX
Cc: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Media Requests: CBC on the Island, CFA: Victoria homeless camp shelter
Attachments: KMs_CBC_CFA.docx

Adding revised KM's attached. Thx!

Hi Luella, for the calendar tomorrow:

Date/Time: Dec. 15

Deadline: Dec. 18- Minister to call in at 8:08 a.m.- about 10 mins live.

Media: CBC on the Island

Reporter: Gregor Craigie

Contact: 250 360-2227

Date/Time: Dec. 15

Deadline: Dec. 18- Minister to call in at 8:48 a.m. about 8 to 10 mins live

Media: CFA

Reporter: Al Ferraby

Contact: 250-920-4619

Request: Victoria shelter update

VICTORIA TEMPORARY WINTER SHELTER

Topic: A group of homeless people have set up camp outside the Victoria courthouse. The Province will provide \$425,000 for a new, 40-bed temporary shelter.

- The Province has committed \$400,000 in operating costs plus \$25,000 toward start-up costs, for a total \$425,000.
- ~~The 40-bed shelter will be open 24/7 and provide three meals~~
per day.
- The city is working to finalize a suitable location. Once it's up and running, it will operate until the end of April.
- Our Place will operate the shelter. Shelter staff will assess people once they have been moved to the shelter, and relocate them to appropriate housing and health services.
- This shelter will be in addition to the 150 year-round homeless shelter spaces in Victoria, as well as the 145 shelter spaces that open during extreme weather.
- We also recently provided \$184,000 to Our Place to open a new 40-bed overnight shelter at First Metropolitan United Church.

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2015 10:31 AM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX; Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX; Hirji, Keivan MNGD:EX
Cc: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Barnetson, Luella MNGD:EX
Subject: RE: Media Requests: CBC on the Island, CFA: Victoria homeless camp shelter

Hi there:

CTV and Chek producers both looking to get quick on camera interviews with the Minister today. If he is available in Victoria, could we set up times for them to send a camera?

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2015 1:08 PM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX; Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX; Hirji, Keivan MNGD:EX
Cc: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Media Requests: CBC on the Island, CFA: Victoria homeless camp shelter

Hi there, will have CTV, CHEK and the TC interested in speaking to the Minister following tomorrow's NR, could do as one offs or look at setting up a media availability in the Minister's office at about 10:30 a.m. and inviting interested media and the gallery and get everyone done at once.

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2015 11:42 AM
To: Barnetson, Luella MNGD:EX; Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX; Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX; Hirji, Keivan MNGD:EX
Cc: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Media Requests: CBC on the Island, CFA: Victoria homeless camp shelter

Could add Richard Watt at the TC to the list- he has been covering the camp over the past couple of weeks, looking for Provincial comment

Date/Time: Dec. 15

Deadline: Dec. 18- Minister could call at 8:30 a.m.

Media: Times Colonist

Reporter: Richard Watt RWatts@timescolonist.com

Call in: 250-995-4435

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2015 9:58 AM

To: Barnetson, Luella MINSD:EX, Myers, TUDIE A MINSD:EX, Gmy, Margaret MCCREY, Mary
Cc: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Media Requests: CBC on the Island, CFX: Victoria homeless camp shelter

Adding revised KM's attached. Thx!

Hi Luella, for the calendar tomorrow:

Date/Time: Dec. 15

Deadline: Dec. 18- Minister to call in at 8:08 a.m.- about 10 mins live.

Media: CBC on the Island

Reporter: Gregor Craigie

Contact 250 360-2227

Date/Time: Dec. 15

Deadline: Dec. 18- Minister to call in at 8:48 a.m. about 8 to 10 mins live

Media: CFX

Reporter: Al Ferraby

Contact 250-920-4619

Request: Victoria shelter update

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 12:45 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: MTICS Media Request - Victoria Courthouse Campers - Global

I think that's fine.

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 12:42 PM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: MTICS Media Request - Victoria Courthouse Campers - Global

Thoughts.

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 12:41 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Ash, Christine GCPE:EX
Cc: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: MTICS Media Request - Victoria Courthouse Campers - Global

Hi Paul and Chris,

Global news is playing catch-up with the courthouse story and eager to get a statement. Do you have any concerns with providing this to them? It's Kylie Stanton...

And I can always update her if anything changes...although not sure what that would be at this point.

Thanks,

T

"The B.C. Government is in talks with officials at the City of Victoria to discuss potential solutions to campers at the Victoria Courthouse property and we continue to work closely with the Victoria Police Department. The Province provides a range of supportive housing options for individuals without shelter. BC Housing is working with local non-profit providers to find housing for people identified as homeless at the camp. Outreach workers are also determining if any of the people at the camp need any support services, such as mental health and addictions services. Last year, the Province invested over \$19 million to support affordable housing for more than 5,100 low-income households in Victoria. Since 2001, we have developed or preserved more than 420 subsidized or supportive housing units in Victoria.

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 2:35 PM
To: 'Meissner, Dirk'
Subject: RE: New Victoria shelter

Hi Dirk, wanted to get this to you, you may attribute to the Ministry responsible for Housing,- this is on the school district issue.

If there are any additional costs, they should be covered from the contingency funds that school districts like Victoria set aside as part of their annual budgeting.

As of June 30, 2015 the Victoria school district had an operating surplus of close to \$22 million.

thanks

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Meissner, Dirk [<mailto:Dirk.Meissner@thecanadianpress.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 10:50 AM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: New Victoria shelter

Hello. yes want to expand story. The city of Victoria has told me there are nuances in the funding formula I want to hash over with the minister. and today the schools want the province to pay their costs. so, overall I want to talk to him about the homeless issue and where things are going. Dirk.

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX [<mailto:Sandra.Steilo@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 10:34 AM
To: Meissner, Dirk
Subject: RE: New Victoria shelter

Hi Dirk, will look into your request, won't be available today- is there anything you wanted to chat about more specifically- or just looking to expand on your story from today?

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Meissner, Dirk [<mailto:Dirk.Meissner@thecanadianpress.com>]
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2016 11:04 AM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: New Victoria shelter

Thanks.

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX [<mailto:Sandra.Steilo@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 10:52 AM

TO: Meissner, Dirk

Subject: New Victoria shelter

Hi Dirk, this should be a good start, Our Place would be another good place to look for info,

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2015MNGD0087-002126>

Sandra Steilo
Communications
BC Ministry of Natural Gas Development
and Minister Responsible for Housing
250.952.0617

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2015 3:34 PM
To: 'April Lawrence'
Subject: RE: Temporary homeless shelter

Hi April, sorry for the delay here, these are the details I have from the ministry responsible for housing.

The Province will provide approximately \$380,000 to fund a new 40-bed temporary shelter with the city of Victoria and Island Health. We are looking at locations and hope to have one identified shortly. Timing will depend on any modifications required and zoning. Discussions are taking place with a potential operator, and we anticipate the shelter will operate 24/7 and provide meals and other supports.

~~Shelter staff will assess people once they have been moved to the shelter, and relocate them to~~ appropriate housing and health services. This shelter will operate until the end of April and be in addition to the 150 year-round homeless shelter spaces in Victoria, as well as the 145 shelter spaces that open during extreme weather.

The Province also recently provided \$184,000 to Our Place to open a new 40-bed winter shelter.

Thanks

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: April Lawrence [<mailto:alawrence@cheknews.ca>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2015 11:00 AM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Temporary homeless shelter

Great thank you. Story is for today so 2pm would be a reasonable deadline. We have the Minister on tape from yesterday, but if he's still in town and wanted to add more we would of course love an interview. Thanks.

April

April Lawrence
Reporter
CHEK News
office: (250) 480-3700
cell: (250) 415-8168
alawrence@cheknews.ca

On Tue, Dec 1, 2015 at 10:58 AM, Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX <Sandra.Steilo@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi April, will look into this for you. What's your deadline? are you looking for an interview with the Minister or phone call?

Sandra Steilo

250-952-0617

From: April Lawrence [mailto:alawrence@cheknews.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2015 10:56 AM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: Temporary homeless shelter

Hi Sandra,

We heard from the Minister yesterday that the province, the City of Victoria, and Island Health are working to create a new 24/7 homeless shelter to accommodate people camping outside of the courthouse. We are following up on this today and looking for a few more details:

How much would the shelter cost?

When does the province hope to have it open?

What are some possible locations?

Who would provide meals? Other services?

Is this just a temporary solution? How long would it be open?

Would it be open to everyone? (couples, people with addictions, etc)

Thanks.

April

April Lawrence

Reporter

CHEK News

office: (250) 480-3700

cell: (250) 415-8168

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2015 11:37 AM
To: Ash, Christine GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Updated KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Dec_01_15

K, I'll clarify with Housing.

From: Ash, Christine GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2015 11:35 AM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Updated KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Dec_01_15
Importance: High

Actually, the minister said the \$380,000 would be split between BC Housing, MofH and the City so think we should break down how much each will be putting in or say the 3 entities will be funding the new shelter at a cost of \$380,000.

Chris Ash
Communications Manager | Ministry of Natural Gas Development
ph: 250-952-0623 cell: 250-812-3616
email to: christine.ash@gov.bc.ca

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2015 11:31 AM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Ash, Christine GCPE:EX; Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: Updated KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Dec_01_15

Updated to reflect further details about the new shelter.

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2015 10:55 AM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Urgent: interview request

So should BC Housing just tell CTV that that particular shelter is not from the province? I think they only want the interview if this is the new provincial emerg shelter.

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2015 10:53 AM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Urgent: interview request

No, as far as I know a decision on the location could be made by council tomorrow night. But no decision yet.

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2015 10:40 AM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Urgent: interview request
Importance: High

Do you know anything about this new shelter?

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Rajvir Rao [<mailto:rrao@bchousing.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2015 10:38 AM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX; Ash, Christine GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Cc: Jenny Lee-Leugner; Donna Freeman
Subject: FW: Urgent: interview request
Importance: High

Good Morning,

Received a request from CTV Vancouver – see below. Is the Minister available for comment today?

FYI – Shayne is not available.

Rajvir

From: Zahra Premji [<mailto:Zahra.Premji@bellmedia.ca>]
Sent: December-09-15 10:33 AM
To: Rajvir Rao
Subject: Urgent: interview request

in there Rajvir,

Hope you're doing well.

I was wondering if there was someone we could speak to about a possible new homeless shelter being built in Victoria in the former boys and girls club on Yates street?

With the province allocating \$380,000 towards housing homeless our newsroom is wondering if this is a province initiative?

If so, we would love to speak to someone today about this for a news story.

Warmest regards and thank you,

Zahra

Zahra Premji | Reporter

CTV Vancouver Island | m 250.516 3046 | zahra.premji@bellmedia.ca
1420 Broad Street
Victoria, BC V8W 2B1

vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca



From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2015 3:16 PM
To: 'Hunter, Justine'
Subject: RE: Victoria homeless camp

He is the chair of the Provincial Territorial Housing Minister's Forum.

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Hunter, Justine [mailto:JHunter@globeandmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2015 11:16 AM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Victoria homeless camp

This is great, thanks Sandra. Is there any update on the victoria shelter plan? the minister said he was hoping to find a location by the end of this week....

Justine Hunter | National Correspondent | The Globe and Mail

p: 250.220.2718 | c: 250.857.4779 | e: jhunter@globeandmail.com

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX [Sandra.Steilo@gov.bc.ca]
Sent: December 3, 2015 11:05 AM
To: Hunter, Justine
Subject: RE: Victoria homeless camp

Hi Justine, here you go:

Under Housing Matters BC, the province has committed to expand rental assistance in a manner that will give people more choices.

Rental assistance programs are a better option for most households:

- They are flexible, families and individuals can choose where they want to live, and what type of housing works best for them.
- There are no wait lists. Once an application is approved benefits will flow immediately.
- They are more cost effective and provide assistance much faster than building new units. While 10,000 new units would cost \$2.5 billion and take years to complete; rental assistance for 10,000 families costs around \$50 million and is available right away.

Last year, the Province provided financial assistance to more than 29,500 B.C. households to help make rent in the private market more affordable.

More information is available here: http://www.housingmattersbc.ca/docs/fs_Rental_Assistance.pdf

Last year, the Province provided approximately \$215 million for more than 15,200 emergency shelter spaces, subsidized units and rent supplements to support people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness across British Columbia.
 More information is available here http://www.housingmattersbc.ca/docs/fs_Homeless_Supports.pdf

Total Provincial Government funding contributions:

- 2004/05 - \$147.9M
- 2014/15 - \$402.3M

More information available here http://bchousing.org/aboutus/Reports/Service_Plan

	Family Rental Assistance (Rent Assist Families)		Rent Supplement for Seniors (Rent Assist Seniors)		Supportive Housing (Transitional supported living)	
	2004/05	2014/15	2004/05	2014/15	2004/05	
Number of Units	83	10,952	11,920	18,632	5,194	
Total Investment	\$582 K	\$58.8 M	\$16.5 M	\$43.1 M	\$35.3 M	

Note: RAP program started in 2006; Women's transition housing program was transferred to BCH in 2009.

Thanks

Sandra Steilo
 250-952-0617

From: Hunter, Justine [<mailto:JHunter@globeandmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2015 4:27 PM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Victoria homeless camp

Province wide, please! I'm just using Victoria as an example.

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX [<mailto:Sandra.Steilo@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: December-01-15 4:25 PM
To: Hunter, Justine
Subject: RE: Victoria homeless camp

Hi will do. Are you looking for Victoria or province-wide?

Sandra Steilo
 250-952-0617

From: Hunter, Justine [<mailto:JHunter@globeandmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2015 4:22 PM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Victoria homeless camp

Hi Sandra. thanks for setting up the call... now the hard work: Can you put together some background for me (by Thursday morning would be fine) on three programs the minister mentioned to me:

Family rental assistance,
rent supplement for seniors, and
the supportive housing stuff.

I don't need a huge amount, but how many people are getting aid in each of those categories how much the province spends on each program. If there is anything that you could pull together on what the province spent on housing ten years ago versus now, that would be awesome.

Cheers
Jh

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX [<mailto:Sandra.Steilo@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: November-30-15 4:35 PM
To: Hunter, Justine
Subject: RE: Victoria homeless camp

How's 10:15 a.m.?

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Hunter, Justine [<mailto:JHunter@globeandmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 4:13 PM
To: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Victoria homeless camp

Argh, normally I would say 'yes' s.22
s.22

is there any window later in the day?

My office line is 250 220 2718

Cheers
Jh

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX [<mailto:Sandra.Steilo@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: November-30-15 4:08 PM
To: Hunter, Justine
Subject: Victoria homeless camp

Hi Justine,

Minister Coleman can give you a call tomorrow on this at 8:50 a.m.- does that work for you? Let me know what number you will be at if so,
Thanks

Sandra Steilo
Communications
BC Ministry of Natural Gas Development
and Minister Responsible for Housing
250.952.0617

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2015 4:32 PM
To: 'Kines, Lindsay (Times-Colonist)'
Subject: RE: Victoria shelter timing

Not sure if you received these details last week. may help as well.

We are looking at locations and hope to have one identified shortly. Timing will depend on any modifications required and zoning. Discussions are taking place with a potential operator, and we anticipate the shelter will operate 24/7 and provide meals and other supports.

Currently outreach workers are working at the camp each day to let campers know about the support services in the community and try to connect people with the supports they need.

Sandra Steilo
250-952-0617

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2015 4:26 PM
To: 'Kines, Lindsay (Times-Colonist)'
Subject: Victoria shelter timing

Hi Lindsay: please see the response below from the ministry responsible for housing, this is all the information I have for you today.

The Province will provide approximately \$380,000 to fund a new 40-bed temporary shelter with the city of Victoria and Island Health. As soon as I have further details to confirm, will let you know.

Thanks

Sandra Steilo
Communications
BC Ministry of Natural Gas Development
and Minister Responsible for Housing
250.952.0617

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 1:02 PM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX
Cc: Hirji, Keivan MNGD:EX; Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX
Subject: Update: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_05_16
Attachments: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_05_16.docx

Updated KM attached.

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 12:45 PM
To: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Cc: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_05_16

Can you work this into the note, and then send me a clean copy and sent it to Sandra too so she can process a couple existing asks. Let's recommend background on these Sandra, given the Minister is unavailable.

From: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 12:41 PM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_05_16

Here's our lines:

"The Ministry of Education will not provide extra funds to the Victoria school district.

This situation should be covered from the contingency funds that school districts like Victoria set aside as part of their annual budgeting. As of June 30, 2015 the Victoria school district had an operating surplus of close to \$22 million.

Contingency funds are meant for unexpected facility or other operational costs in any given year. Any additional expenditures the district feels are necessary would be the district's decision and responsibility."

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 11:48 AM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_05_16

Maybe add in your thoughts to our newly minted note and we can all use it on a go forward?

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 11:42 AM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_05_16

Updated KIM on the courthouse homeless camp. Still working with Housing to determine the plan for the remaining campers.

VICTORIA COURTHOUSE HOMELESS CAMP

Topic: A group of homeless people have set up camp outside the Victoria courthouse. On Jan. 5, Our Place opened a new, 40-bed shelter. The Province is providing \$400,000 in operating funding. The Victoria School District has asked the Province and the city to cover \$44,000 in estimated security costs. The shelter is located near Central Middle School.

- The Province continues to work closely with the City of Victoria, Victoria Police Department and community service organizations to assist the campers currently situated at the courthouse.
-
- Outreach workers have been working with the campers to provide information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
 - For issues of health and safety, it's hoped they take advantage of the dry, safe location that the new shelter will offer, or other facilities in the Victoria area.

School District Security Costs:

- The Province will not provide extra funds to the Victoria school district.
- This situation should be covered from the contingency funds that school districts like Victoria set aside as part of their annual budgeting.
- As of June 30, 2015 the Victoria school district had an operating surplus of close to \$22 million.

Jan. 5, 2016

Background:

There are about 110-120 campers at the site.

Our Place will be taking 5 to 6 people a day to the new shelter to give them the chance to settle in. The 40-bed shelter is expected to be fully occupied by Friday, Jan. 8. Outreach staff will then determine the needs of the remaining campers.

It's not yet known how many of the remaining campers will need housing. It's believed some campers have housing and some are visiting from outside of Victoria.

BC Housing is also working with Pacifica Housing to use rent supplements to help campers find housing in the private market, however the vacancy rate in Victoria is posing a challenge.

The Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services (MTICS) will be distributing a flyer to the campers requesting they vacate and providing assurance they will be offered alternate housing arrangements.

MTICS will have to make a decision to apply to the courts for an injunction. This could be challenged and take anywhere from 4 to 6 weeks.

Court ruling:

Following a court ruling in 2009, homeless campers have been allowed to stay in Victoria parks as long as they pack up their tents and move every morning. In this case however, the courthouse lawn belongs to the province and that rule does not apply.

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 10:44 AM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX
Cc: Hirji, Keivan MNGD:EX
Subject: Update: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_08_16_DRAFT
Attachments: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_08_16_DRAFT.docx

Updated KM...

Housing confirms 40 rent supps are available for the remaining campers – none have been handed out yet – outreach staff are still in the process of determining remaining campers' needs.

- The Province encourages the remaining campers to seek assistance from outreach workers who have been on site daily providing information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
- 40 rent supplements have also been made available to help any campers in need of housing find a place to stay in the private market.
- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, we have provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.
- There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.
- These spaces are activated by the community depending on weather conditions. The average occupancy rate has been 66% this winter.

VICTORIA COURTHOUSE HOMELESS CAMP

Topic: On Jan. 8, MTICS distributed a flyer to the campers requesting they work with outreach workers on-site to make arrangement for alternate shelter. This follows the opening of a new, 40-bed temporary shelter on Yates Street.

- The Province encourages the remaining campers to seek assistance from outreach workers who have been on site daily providing information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
-
- 40 rent supplements have also been made available to help any campers in need of housing find a place to stay in the private market.
 - Including the new shelter on Yates Street, we have provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.
 - There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.
 - These spaces are activated by the community depending on weather conditions. The average occupancy rate has been 66% this winter.

Jan. 8, 2016

Background:

Before the new shelter opened, there were about 110-120 campers at the site.

It's not yet known how many of the remaining campers need housing. Outreach staff are in the process of determining the needs of the remaining campers.

- It's believed about 5 of campers have housing.
- Some campers are visiting from outside of Victoria.
- Some have been barred from shelters for behavioral reasons.
- Others have been identified as not wanting to stay in shelters for various reasons.

The Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services (MTICS) will have to make a decision to apply to the courts for an injunction. This could be challenged and take anywhere from 4 to 6 weeks.

Court ruling:

Following a court ruling in 2009, homeless campers have been allowed to stay in Victoria parks as long as they pack up their tents and move every morning. In this case however, the courthouse lawn belongs to the province and that rule does not apply.

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 10:44 AM
To: Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Update: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_08_16_DRAFT
Attachments: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Jan_08_16_DRAFT.docx

Updated KM...

Housing confirms 40 rent supps are available for the remaining campers – none have been handed out yet – outreach staff are still in the process of determining remaining campers' needs.

- The Province encourages the remaining campers to seek assistance from outreach workers who have been on site daily providing information on shelters and services available in the Victoria area.
- 40 rent supplements have also been made available to help any campers in need of housing find a place to stay in the private market.
- Including the new shelter on Yates Street, we have provided about \$600,000 to help open 80 new winter shelter spaces in Victoria.
- There are also 145 extreme weather shelter spaces available across Greater Victoria to make sure everyone has access to a safe, warm place at night.
- These spaces are activated by the community depending on weather conditions. The average occupancy rate has been 66% this winter.

From: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 1:29 PM
To: Myers, Tobie A MNGD:EX
Subject: Update

What do you think about doing a follow up release on the opening of the new Shelter in Victoria on Monday, if it opens this weekend? May be an opportunity to do something joint with Our Place and the the City?

MITCs tells me there is a meeting at the Courthouse on Monday afternoon that will include reps from VicPD, Housing, the City and Our Place to confirm timing and approach for giving notification to the campers (asking them to leave). Think it will be an offer to go the shelter or they will have to leave initially and the move to an injunction sometime after that...Still a little unclear to me...

From: Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2015 11:31 AM
To: Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Ash, Christine GCPE:EX; Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Subject: Updated KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Dec_01_15
Attachments: KM_BCH_Victoria Courthouse Homeless Camp_Dec_01_15.docx

Updated to reflect further details about the new shelter.

VICTORIA COURTHOUSE HOMELESS CAMP

Topic: A group of people who are homeless have set up camp outside a Victoria courthouse. There are currently about two dozen tents at the location, which is on provincial property.

- These types of situations are complex as many of the campers suffer from mental health and addictions issues.
 - We have outreach workers at the camp every day and the campers are aware of the services available to them.
-

New shelter:

- We are working with the city and Island Health to open a new 40-bed temporary shelter. It will be open 24/7 and provide meals.
- The Province will provide approximately \$380,000 to fund the shelter which will be open until the end of April.
- We hope to have a location identified by the end of this week.
- Shelter staff will assess people once they have been moved to the shelter, and relocate them to appropriate housing and health services.
- This shelter will be in addition to the 150 year-round homeless shelter spaces in Victoria, as well as the 145 shelter spaces that open during extreme weather.
- The Province also recently provided \$184,000 to Our Place to open a new 40-bed winter shelter.

Dec. 1, 2015

Background:

The Cool Aid Society has met with the campers, and identified some of the campers as having been barred from shelters for behavioral reasons. Other campers have been identified as not wanting to stay in shelters for various reasons.

There are two shelters located close to the camp, both of which have been close to capacity each night:

- The Victoria Cool Aid society's downtown community centre has 40 beds, and is open 7 nights a week.
- Our Place Society operates a 40-bed shelter at first metropolitan church, which is also open 7 nights a week.

Extreme Weather Response (EWR) shelters in Victoria will be activated in the case of cold or wet weather, providing additional spaces to sleep for people who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness.

Court ruling:

Following a court ruling in 2009, homeless campers have been allowed to stay in Victoria parks as long as they pack up their tents and move every morning. In this case however, the courthouse lawn belongs to the province and that rule does not apply.

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2015 1:13 PM
To: 'Megan Thomas'
Subject: Victoria homeless shelter

Hi Megan, the Minister is not available for an interview. Please see the update below from the Ministry Responsible for Housing.

The Province is working with the City to identify a suitable location and hopes to have one identified shortly. Timing will depend on any modifications required and zoning by the city of Victoria. Discussions are taking place with a potential operator, and we anticipate the shelter will operate 24/7 and provide meals and other supports.

Currently outreach workers are working at the camp each day to let campers know about the support services in the community and try to connect people with the supports they need.

Thanks

Sandra Steilo
Communications
BC Ministry of Natural Gas Development
and Minister Responsible for Housing
250.952.0617

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2015 3:13 PM
To: 'rwatts@timescolonist.com'
Subject: Victoria housing

Hi Richard, please see the statement below from Minister Coleman, as well as some information on the new housing being built in Victoria from Monday's event.

The Province will provide approximately \$380,000 to fund a new 40-bed temporary shelter with the city of Victoria and Island Health. We are looking at locations and hope to have one identified shortly. Timing will depend on any modifications required and zoning. Discussions are taking place with a potential operator, and we anticipate the shelter will operate 24/7 and provide meals and other supports.

Currently outreach workers are working at the camp each day to let campers know about the support services in the community and try to connect people with the supports they need.

Shelter staff will assess people once they have been moved to the shelter, and relocate them to appropriate housing and health services. This shelter will operate until the end of April and be in addition to the 150 year-round homeless shelter spaces in Victoria, as well as the 145 shelter spaces that open during extreme weather.

The Province also recently provided \$184,000 to Our Place to open a new 40-bed winter shelter.

The Minister also announced families and those with low incomes will soon have increased access to affordable rental homes in Victoria, with construction underway on Wilson's Walk, a new 108-unit mixed income apartment building on Monday.

More information is available here.

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2015MNGD0082-001978>

thanks

Sandra Steilo
Communications
BC Ministry of Natural Gas Development
and Minister Responsible for Housing
250.952.0617

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2015 3:37 PM
To: 'Sophie.rousseau@cbc.ca'
Subject: Victoria shelter

Hi Sophie, here are the details I have at this point on the Victoria shelter. You may attribute to the ministry responsible for housing.

The Province will provide approximately \$380,000 to fund a new 40-bed temporary shelter with the city of Victoria and Island Health. We are looking at locations and hope to have one identified shortly. Timing will depend on any modifications required and zoning. Discussions are taking place with a potential operator, and we anticipate the shelter will operate 24/7 and provide meals and other supports.

Shelter staff will assess people once they have been moved to the shelter, and relocate them to appropriate housing and health services. This shelter will operate until the end of April and be in addition to the 150 year-round homeless shelter spaces in Victoria, as well as the 145 shelter spaces that open during extreme weather.

The Province also recently provided \$184,000 to Our Place to open a new 40-bed winter shelter.

Thanks

Sandra Steilo
Communications
BC Ministry of Natural Gas Development
and Minister Responsible for Housing
250.952.0617

From: Steilo, Sandra GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2015 3:36 PM
To: 'pamelasroth@gmail.com'
Subject: Victoria shelter

Hi Pamela, here are the details I have at this point on the Victoria shelter. You may attribute to the ministry responsible for housing.

The Province will provide approximately \$380,000 to fund a new 40-bed temporary shelter with the city of Victoria and Island Health. We are looking at locations and hope to have one identified shortly. Timing will depend on any modifications required and zoning. Discussions are taking place with a potential operator, and we anticipate the shelter will operate 24/7 and provide meals and other supports.

Shelter staff will assess people once they have been moved to the shelter, and relocate them to appropriate housing and health services. This shelter will operate until the end of April and be in addition to the 150 year-round homeless shelter spaces in Victoria, as well as the 145 shelter spaces that open during extreme weather.

The Province also recently provided \$184,000 to Our Place to open a new 40-bed winter shelter.

Thanks

Sandra Steilo
Communications
BC Ministry of Natural Gas Development
and Minister Responsible for Housing
250.952.0617

Thorkelson, Meaghan GCPE:EX

From: Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 9:46 AM
To: Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX; Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX; Bianco, Catherine GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Fyi. Fw: 2016-01-07 Advance Notice - Flyer Distribution at Victoria Courthouse
Attachments: Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse_Jan_2016.docx

FYI guys.

From: Brouwer, Shauna JAG:EX
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 8:25 AM
To: Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX
Subject: Fyi. Fw: 2016-01-07 Advance Notice - Flyer Distribution at Victoria Courthouse

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Chen-Mack, Betty JAG:EX <Betty.ChenMack@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 3:16 PM
To: Brouwer, Shauna JAG:EX
Subject: FW: 2016-01-07 Advance Notice - Flyer Distribution at Victoria Courthouse

FYI.

From: Burbee, Jon MTIC:EX <Jon.Burbee@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 12:15
To: 'rbutcher@bchousing.org'; Miller, Brenda L JAG:EX; jtinney@victoria.ca; Jason Johnson (jjohnson@victoria.ca); khamilton@victoria.ca; Holden, Virginia OHCS:EX; McGregor, Scott; Don Evans Evans (Don@ourplacesociety.com)
Cc: Fellows, Brian MTIC:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Sykes, Graeme MTIC:EX; Williams, Leslie J MTIC:EX; Wharton, Peter JAG:EX; Goodman, Sara JAG:EX; Mason, Tyna JAG:EX
Subject: Advance Notice - Flyer Distribution at Victoria Courthouse

Good day,

As previously discussed, the intention of the Province is to distribute a written notice (known as "the flyer") to the occupants of the tented city at the Victoria Courthouse Lands. This notice will reinforce previous communications regarding the provision and development of solutions to the needs of the campers, but also signal that the end intent is to restore the property to the original use at a future unspecified time.

The distribution of this flyer will occur tomorrow at the Healing Circle gathering which takes place at approximately 10:00 am by means of posting notices to the camp entrances, at other prominent locations such as the portable toilets, and by physical distribution to healing circle attendees by myself and my colleague Graeme Sykes. A representative from the Sherriff service will also be present.

Regards,

Jon

Jon Burbee | Executive Director | Asset Management Branch | Shared Services BC
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ASSET MANAGEMENT
A BRANCH OF SHARED SERVICES BC



Ministry of
Technology, Innovation
and Citizens' Services

8 January, 2016

TO: Campers on Victoria Courthouse Lands

FROM: The Province of BC, Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

SUBJECT: Information on shelter options and request to leave courthouse lands

We are writing to encourage campers at the Victoria Courthouse to work with the homeless outreach workers on-site to make arrangements for alternate shelter.

While the Province appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, a growing number of campers over the past month has created an increasing number of health and safety concerns, making the courthouse property not a viable location for campers.

To help with the transition, Our Place and the Victoria Cool Aid societies are available to work with campers to connect you with shelter and support services such as health care and counselling.

Our Place Society is now operating a new 24/7, 40-bed transition house at 1240 Yates Street that can provide many of you with shelter, meals and other supports. Campers are encouraged to work with support workers and to take advantage of this shelter space.

You can also find out about the new transitional house by calling Don Evans, Executive Director, Our Place Society at 250-388-7112.

We would appreciate your cooperation as the Province sees this as an important step towards returning the grounds to their original condition.

From: McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX
Sent: Saturday, January 9, 2016 9:34 AM
To: Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX
Cc: Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Tent City

Great, thanks Lori.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

Original Message

From: Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX
Sent: Saturday, January 9, 2016 9:31 AM
To: McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX
Cc: Kuzminski, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Tent City

Hi Caroline,

We received an update from LSB yesterday that the residents of Tent City have been burning a fire in some type of metal barrel outside. The smoke that is coming off that fire has become bothersome to adjacent residents (those living in the area, but in surrounding homes) and complaints have been made to the police.

Both VicPD and Vic fire have visited the scene. My understanding is that they are allowing a small "spirit fire" to burn out of respect for cultural accommodation.

I wanted to flag this with you as it could attract media attention if the residents continue to complain about the fire. And of course, if it gets any larger that could be the catalyst for continued or increased complaints.

Any questions, please let me know.

Lori

Sent from my iPhone

From: McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2015 4:34 PM
To: Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Indridson, Ian GCPE:EX
Cc: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: FYI - expected protest at victoria courthouse

Will do!

From: Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2015 4:30 PM
To: Indridson, Ian GCPE:EX
Cc: McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX; Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: FYI - expected protest at victoria courthouse

Thanks! Caroline, can you give the other folks a heads up pls?

From: Indridson, Ian GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2015 4:26 PM
To: Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX
Cc: McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX; Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Subject: FYI - expected protest at victoria courthouse

Hi – Court Services just gave me this heads-up, which you may want to share with Tash (i.e., MTICs as landlord), MARR and the Energy ministry:

Aboriginal “Drums for Peace” protesters of Site C will be outside the Victoria courthouse from 12:30-4 tomorrow. No security concerns at CSB’s end; apparently these folks camped out last time in the space adjacent, where a number of homeless campers are currently. The protest coincides with a couple of related Supreme Court actions involving the Cowichan and Prophet River bands, respectively; both of these appearances are expected to conclude this week.

https://www.wildernesscommittee.org/event/drums_peace

From: Richardson, Robert C JAG:EX
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2015 4:19 PM
To: Indridson, Ian GCPE:EX
Subject: https://www.wildernesscommittee.org/event/drums_peace

Robert Richardson
Senior Business Planning and Policy Analyst
Court Services Branch, Ministry of Justice
Direct: 250.356.9566 / 250.307.0367

From: Carpenter, Elissa GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2015 5:39 PM
Subject: JAG Media Wrap - Tues. Nov 24

OUTSTANDING

WITH PROGRAM

Curt Petrovich –CBC National

Issue: Braidwood Inquiry. Reporter requests access to physical exhibits from inquiry which wrapped up in 2009.
Status: in draft. Due Friday Nov. 27 (for answer as to how to get physical access)

COMPLETED

Megan Rowney – Global (16x9)

Issue: Protection Orders. Statistical data requested.
Status: Background sent.

Estefania Duran – Global

Issue: Electronic Monitoring. Confirming status of contract.
Status: Background sent.

Andrea Woo – Globe and Mail.

Issue: Transgender inmate policy. Seeking MSA interview and background.
Status: Interview completed, background sent.

Bridgette Watts – Langara Voice

Issue: Transgender Inmate Policy. Seeking background for newspaper story.
Status: Background sent.

Roshini Nair – CKNW

Issue: Transgender Rights. Follow up to Alberta's Bill 7.
Status: Interview with MSA completed.

Wawmeesh Hamilton – CBC

Issue: End Gang Life – Seeking information about CFO grant
Status: Background sent.

Megan Thomas – CBC

Issue: Courthouse Tent City – Interview requested.
Status: Referred to MTICS for response.

FOIs TODAY

JAG-2015-52884

Regarding lobbying of the Justice Minister and Minister Office staff/ Office of the Premier staff by Mike Bailey of Western Policy Consultants for Landlord BC: Any documents sent prior to the meeting including correspondence, emails, meeting requests; Material presented to or arising from the meeting including minutes emails, information/briefing/decision notes.

Applicant: Political
IN drafted: No

JAG-2015-52445

Applicant: Media

Description - Emails referencing PrimeBC that make reference to police use of force, police-involved shootings or deaths; Any reports or summaries produced by PrimeBC or the Solicitor General's office related to above topics. (Date Range for record search from 08/11/2014 - 08-11-2015.)

Summary - Portions withheld under to s.13 and s.22. The released records include VPD concerned about changes to the mental health codes in PrimeBC. PSD emails discussing # of police shootings and stats in reference to a news story about a fatal Transit Police shooting. s.13

s.13

IN drafted: No

JAG-2015-51937

All records, emails, media strategies, event plans, logistical documents, receipts and other documents regarding BC's Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking including a planned event to showcase progress on commitments made in that plan, excluding media summaries and clippings (date range July 15-Nov 30, 2014)

Applicant: Political

IN drafted: No

Elissa Carpenter
Public Affairs Officer
Justice & Attorney General
250 387-4705 office
250 888-8118 cell
Elissa.Carpenter@gov.bc.ca

MTICS responded – response below

Date/Time: 24/November/11:20

Deadline @ ASAP

Media: CBC

Reporter: Megan Thomas, megan.thomas@cbc.ca, 250 414-4707

Topic: Courthouse Tent City

Background: The reporter is following up on the tent city at the courthouse. The reporter is pushing for an on-camera interview, and also needs background information to use in the story.

Questions: When did campers begin to show up/move in on the courthouse property?

At what point will people be asked to move on to a different location or will the tent city be allowed to remain indefinitely?

What about the basic amenities? There are no washrooms outside so are neighbours beginning to get upset by this situation?

Suggested Response:

- Referred to MTICS for response – below is the response sent

“The B.C. Government recognizes the importance of keeping the Victoria Courthouse property clear and ensuring safe access by the public. We continue to work closely with the Victoria Police Department and the City of Victoria to find a long-term solution.”

From: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2015 2:37 PM
To: McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX
Cc: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX
Subject: Fwd: 103621_Assoc_DM_Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse
Attachments: 103621_Assoc_DM_Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse.docx; ATT00001.htm

Adding Caroline (who has Court Services).

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX" <Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca>
Date: December 8, 2015 at 2:35:09 PM PST
To: "Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX" <Paul.Woolley@gov.bc.ca>, "Ash, Christine GCPE:EX" <Christine.Ash@gov.bc.ca>, "Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX" <Tiffany.Nelson@gov.bc.ca>, "Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX" <Donna.Sitter@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX" <Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca>, "Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX" <Joanne.Whittier@gov.bc.ca>, "Woods, Emily GCPE:EX" <Emily.Woods@gov.bc.ca>, "Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX" <Matt.Gordon@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: 103621_Assoc_DM_Flyer_Campers_Victoria_Courthouse

Hello,

My program area has asked that we run this letter by your shops for feedback and input. The intention is to distribute it to the campers at the Victoria Courthouse Property as soon as Dec. 15th. Paul and Chris – you'll see that there is some housing-related information that is outstanding. I'm not sure if the shelter that MRC announced will be ready by next week. If not, are there other shelters that campers could be referred to?

The contact phone numbers as you'll see have yet to be populated by my ministry – although it's been suggested so that campers have somewhere to call for further info.

If you are able to get your feedback/edits back to me by end of day tomorrow, that would be much appreciated.

Thanks,

Tasha



Ministry of
Technology, Innovation
and Citizens' Services

_____, 2015

TO: Campers on Victoria Courthouse Lands

FROM: The Province of BC, Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

The Provincial Government is the owner of the Victoria Courthouse lands, which includes the grassy area bounded by Courtney, Quadra and Burdett Street. This grassy area is not a city park, and as such, is considered private property.

Over the past month, the number of campers has increased, posing health and safety concerns. As a result, the Province requires campers to cease camping at this location between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. seven days a week. All campers are asked to remove their property from the courthouse lands during that time.

The B.C. Government is in close contact with outreach workers, health care providers, shelters, City of Victoria staff, income assistance workers, police and courthouse staff to assist campers with alternate housing arrangements. In addition to housing arrangements, outreach workers are available to connect campers with support services options such as health care and counselling services.

The Province is opening a new 40 bed shelter that will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and provide meals and other supports [Give examples from BC Housing]. (location to be confirmed in this letter once determined) Campers are encouraged to take advantage of this shelter space until long-term housing options can be found. [The Province provides a range of other supportive housing options in Victoria for people without shelter; information on these shelters is available from on-site counsellors.]

For more information, campers may contact: _____

[CONTACT INFO HERE]

Comment [STG1]: Is it just the province that provides these shelter options? Should the City of Victoria and "other service providers" be referenced? Believe these are partnerships in many cases?

Comment [STG2]: Suggest that contact numbers be made available here. If we are committed to helping people, they need to know where they can go with questions or to obtain further information.

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