

Prodan, Matthew FIN:EX

From: Ash, Christine GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2016 11:48 AM
To: Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Fraser, John Paul GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Vasey, Jeff OHCS:EX; Platts, Robin GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: Courthouse campers

Importance: High

We've been advised by MO that Mt. Edwards will not be ready until Feb. 23rd so MO advises that the flyer that will be distributed to campers say they have until Feb 25th to be gone.

That way there will be some place for them to go instead of just moving to another camping location.

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

Prodan, Matthew FIN:EX

From: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2016 4:17 PM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: Tent City Notice

Hi there – the only wording in here that jumped out at me is this sentence:

s.13

From: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2016 1:02 PM
To: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Tent City Notice

fyi

From: Fellows, Brian MTIC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2016 12:18 PM
To: Greathead, Leah R JAG:EX; Bevan, Sarah JAG:EX; Burbee, Jon MTIC:EX
Cc: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Tent City Notice

Everyone

Please find attached the updated Flyer with comments from our GCPE group (Tasha Schollen). We can review this as the source document for our meeting later this afternoon.

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: Tuesday, February 2, 2016 11:21 AM

To: Ahmed, Sarf MTIC:EX; Facey, Nick MTIC:EX; Plecas, Bobbi PREM:EX
Cc: Fellows, Brian MTIC:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Koolsbergen, Nick GCPE:EX; Ash, Christine GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Tent City Notice

Hello Sarf,

It's my understanding that MNGD will announce two new shelters on Friday and recommend that this be issued after that news release is issued. I have tracked some suggested edits within.

Thanks,
Tasha

s.13,s.14

Page 04

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14

Prodan, Matthew FIN:EX

From: Ash, Christine GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2016 4:30 PM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Koolsbergen, Nick GCPE:EX; Fraser, John Paul GCPE:EX
Cc: Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Zilkie, Heidi GCPE:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX; Anderson, Maryann GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX; Heinze, Laura R GCPE:EX; Belanger, Matthew GCPE:EX; Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX
Subject: Announcement for Friday, Feb 5th
Attachments: Flyer - revised Feb 4 Draft 5 JV.docx; MA-Feb5_Final.pdf; NR_VictoriaAdditionalShelter_Draft7_BCH update2.docx; QA_BCH_Victoria_Additional_Shelter_Draft 6.docx
Importance: High

Attached are materials for tomorrow, pending last minute changes from MO/MRC.

- Media Advisory (word doc and .PDF version) (out at 9:30 a.m.)
- NR (out at 10:45'ish)
- Flyer final (delivered to campers at 10:45'ish)
- Q/As for MRC (with some from MCFD, MTICS included)

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

Page 06 to/à Page 07

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s.14;s.13

Feb. 5, 2016

MEDIA ADVISORY – Ministry of Natural Gas Development and Responsible for Housing

VICTORIA – Minister Responsible for Housing Rich Coleman will hold a conference call to discuss new transitional housing options in Victoria and next steps for campers at the courthouse.

Event Date: Friday, Feb. 5, 2016

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Dial-In Information:

Toll-free number to join the call: 1 877 353-9184

Participant pass code: 28549#

Contact:

Sandra Steilo

Media Relations

250 952-0617

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
[release number]
Feb. 5, 2015

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

Additional temporary shelter and housing coming to Greater Victoria

VICTORIA – The Province will provide an additional 88 units of transitional housing and shelter, as well as 40 rent supplements for campers currently residing at the Victoria courthouse lawns.

Thirty-eight transitional housing units will be offered at the Mt. Edwards Court Care Home at 1002 Vancouver Street, which will be operated by the Victoria Cool Aid Society. The Province has purchased the building from the Baptist Housing Society for \$3.65 million. The housing units will open near the end of February for approximately 12 months, and units will be rented for \$375 per month. Island Health will also provide clinical support services at the site.

An additional 50 shelter units will be available at the Victoria Youth Custody Centre building at 94 Talcott Road in View Royal and operated by Our Place Society. Campers will be provided with three meals per day and have the option of setting up tents outside in the courtyard, which can accommodate at least 20 tents. The View Royal shelter will be open for approximately six months.

Both facilities will also provide a range of support services to provide the campers with access to more stable, long-term housing, including rent supplements that will be administered by Pacifica Housing. These facilities are in addition to the 40 spaces at the former Boys and Girls Club that were made available this past December.

Both facilities are expected to be open by Feb. 23.

These 88 units of transitional housing and shelter are in addition to the 147 year-round homeless shelter spaces, 125 extreme weather shelter spaces and 145 temporary shelter spaces available in Victoria.

Both non-profit housing operators will hold public information sessions for each location, where community members will be invited to voice their concerns. Dates and locations are still being determined.

Provincial representatives are delivering a notice to each of the campers this morning to advise them that they must vacate the courthouse property by Feb. 25 due to safety concerns and to advise them of alternative housing options now available to them.

Quotes:

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

“These additional units of indoor and outdoor shelter spaces and transitional housing will serve as an important step towards addressing homelessness in Victoria. We know that once people

no longer need to worry about a warm and safe place to stay, they can move towards finding more permanent, stable housing.”

Mayor Lisa Helps, City of Victoria

“We're happy to see this much-needed investment in affordable housing in Victoria. We look forward to working with the Province and the neighbourhood to determine the best long-term use for the facility.”

Mayor David Screech, View Royal

“The homeless issue is truly a regional problem, and we believe that all jurisdictions must be part of the solution. With that philosophy, we are prepared to support Victoria and BC Housing’s initiative to use the youth custody centre as a facility for the homeless on a temporary basis. Victoria and BC Housing have shown great leadership in bringing forward these solutions.”

Don McTavish, Senior Manager, Victoria Cool Aid Society

“Cool Aid is excited to have this opportunity to house and support 40 people who are today homeless. We appreciate the support of the Province and look forward to working with the new residents, Cathedral School and neighbours to ensure this housing program integrates successfully into the neighbourhood.”

Don Evans, Executive Director, Our Place Society

“We are excited to offer people an opportunity to focus on their health needs. This state-of-the-art facility can deliver secure and stable shelter with access to food, hot showers, laundry and programs. The members of tent city have been asking for a place where they can still camp outdoors, but with access to the necessities they need. This facility delivers that and more.”

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, including more than 970 of those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Learn More:

To learn more about provincial programs and services to address homelessness in Victoria, please visit: www.bchousing.org and 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 Contact:

Sandra Steilo
Media Relations
Ministry of Natural Gas Development and Ministry Responsible for Housing
250 952-0617

Jenny Lee-Leugner
BC Housing
604 439-4195

Questions and Answers for

Honourable Rich Coleman

Minister of Natural Gas Development,

Minister Responsible for Housing and Deputy Premier

Victoria additional shelter spaces

Feb. 5, 2016

1. Why is BC Housing purchasing the Mt. Edwards Court Care Home building and utilizing the Youth Custody Centre?

We recognize that there's an increased need for safe and secure shelter spaces in Victoria. By directly purchasing the Mt. Edwards Court Care Home and opening shelter spaces in View Royal, we can help transition the campers at the Victoria courthouse into supportive housing.

In addition, BC Housing has allocated 40 rent supplements, which will help people make the transition into longer-term housing.

2. Where will the new shelters be located?

One shelter will occupy part of the Youth Custody Centre building at 94 Talcott Road in View Royal for approximately six months. It will be a 24/7 shelter, offering daily meals and a gateway into housing and support services

The other building is Mt. Edwards Court Care Home, located at 1002 Vancouver Street. It will provide transitional housing for approximately for 12 months and individuals will pay \$375 monthly rent.

3. How much is the Mt. Edwards Court Care Home being purchased for?

The Mt. Edwards Court Care Home was purchased for \$3.65M.

4. How much funding will the Province provide to operate the new shelters?

The operating budget for Mt. Edwards is an estimated \$1.29M for 12 months.

The operating budget for Youth Custody Centre is currently being finalized.

The operating funding will allow each provider to hire the necessary staff, equipment, furniture and supports needed.

5. When will the shelters open?

We expect both shelters to be operational by Feb. 23.

6. How many spaces will be available?

There will be 38 units of transitional housing at Mt. Edwards Court Care Home.

The View Royal shelter will provide a total of 50 shelter spaces, which includes approximately 20 outdoor camping spaces for those who choose to remain outside.

7. Who is eligible to stay at the View Royal shelter?

The shelter will serve people at the camp and others who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Shelters like the one at View Royal have low barriers to entry. The reason we do this is to better serve the most vulnerable and those who do not have access to other services.

8. What is the plan regarding the housing of vulnerable youth in care sharing the same shelter with homeless people?

A tent city and a homeless shelter are not suitable permanent housing options for youth.

Ministry of Children and Family Development social workers are committed to working with youth in care that may move to the new homeless shelter to facilitate their return to safe and appropriate accommodations where the youth can receive necessary support services.

These efforts to return children and youth to safe environments usually require ongoing attempts and engagement on the part of social workers.

It is important to remember that while MCFD is committed to providing the most appropriate level of services, the ministry has no legal authority to confine a child or youth in a foster care placement, nor can the ministry restrain or forcibly remove any youth from a location, even if that location is in a shelter, or tent city.

9. Is it really in the best interest of the youth in custody who use the unit to frequent a location/property shared with a homeless shelter?

The temporary overnight holding unit (formerly the Centre's admissions and discharge unit) is fully self-contained with its own entrance and exit and will not be affected by the addition of new tenants on the site.

There are no security concerns with the addition of the new tenants on the site as that portion of the facility is also separate and fully secure.

It is important to note that the temporary overnight holding unit was only utilized approximately 3 times per month during the last six months of 2015, and is empty and closed the majority of the time.

When a youth does require the use of the temporary overnight holding unit, they are accompanied and supervised by a ministry staff member and/or member of BC Sheriff's Services, and most stays are for a duration of 24 hours or less.

10. Who is eligible to stay at Mt. Edwards Court Care Home?

Similar to the shelter, the Mt. Edwards Court Care Home will serve people at the camp and others who are homeless or at risk of homelessness who are vulnerable and in need of access to support services.

11. Will there be low-barrier housing at Mt. Edwards?

No. The Mt Edwards housing will **not** be low-barrier. It will be transitional supportive housing.

12. Neighbours have expressed concern about the Mt. Edwards housing being located next to a school. How can you be certain there is no risk to children at the school?

The Operator will have support staff on site 24/7. Additional security staff will also supervise the area between the school and the Mt. Edwards building. There will also be security cameras indoors and outdoors along Rockland Avenue, across from the school.

Neighbours near the shelter at the former Boys and Girls Club initially raised similar concerns but, to date, there have been no recorded security issues in the community.

In fact, the school's principal has said that "Day to day, the kids don't see any real evidence of the fact that there's a shelter in the building aside from a security guard outside."

13. What sort of consultation will you be doing with neighbours and the school?

The Non-Profit Housing Providers and BC Housing will be holding information sessions in both communities to answer questions and address their concerns. Dates and locations for those sessions are still being determined.

14. Are you likely to make any changes to address their concerns, or is this a *fait accompli*?

We will listen to their concerns and address them as best we can. A neighbourhood agreement will be developed by Cool Aid. This will include weekly meetings with community representatives, including the school and Victoria Police Department. Any neighbourhood concerns can be addressed through this process.

15. What type of support services will be available at the View Royal shelter?

The shelter will provide essential services to meet clients' immediate needs. This includes accommodation, nutritious meals, security and basic hygiene. It will also provide gateway services to help break the cycle of homelessness by connecting clients to community and health services, as well as more stable housing.

16. Who will operate the different facilities?

The View Royal shelter will be operated by Our Place Society, and the Mt. Edwards shelter will be operated by Victoria Cool Aid Society.

The Portland Hotel Society may provide assistance as needed, because they have expertise with homeless populations, specifically the hardest to house.

Pacifica Housing will oversee all rent supplements.

17. How long will the facilities be open for?

Both shelters are temporary: the View Royal shelter will be open for approximately six months, and the Mt. Edwards shelter will be open for at least one year.

18. What do you expect will happen to the people in these facilities when they close?

Individuals at these sites will be offered more permanent housing situations. The idea of these two facilities is to achieve that. And if you look at the shelter at the former Boys and Girls Club in Victoria, we've already had three people move from that shelter into long-term housing.

19. It's been reported that the Victoria Cool Aid Society was to purchase Mt. Edwards. Is that still an option?

BC Housing received permission from the Victoria Cool Aid Society to take over their purchase of sale agreement from Mt. Edwards. The Society will operate the temporary shelter and may have an option to purchase the facility in the future.

20. Will the Mt. Edwards building need to be re-zoned for this purpose?

This temporary use of the building for transitional housing will not be subject to rezoning. For future longer-term use, discussions with the City, neighbours, Cool Aid and other stakeholders may be required, but that will depend on the ultimate use of the building, and the Province will fully comply with that zoning process. The Victoria Mayor and Council are fully supportive of this action.

21. How much has BC Housing invested in Victoria this winter on temporary shelters?

This winter, the Province has provided \$425,000 for a 40-bed temporary winter shelter at the Boys and Girls Club on Yates Street, as well as \$184,000 for a 40-bed temporary winter shelter at the First Metropolitan United Church.

These shelters are in addition to 147 year-round homeless shelters spaces and 125 extreme weather shelter spaces available in Victoria.

22. Why is the city receiving so much funding compared to other municipalities in need?

We always try to work closely with individual municipalities to identify their specific needs, and funding will vary. In this case, we understand the concerns raised by the people at the Victoria courthouse campsite, and recognize the need for immediate housing solutions in the region.

23. What happens to the current youth that are housed at the Youth Custody Centre?

The Custody Centre is only minimally functional at this time. There will be no impact on the youth, as the campers will be housed in the gym and court yard.

24. Were there no other options other than to purchase the Youth Custody Centre?

The priority right now is to house the homeless campers as soon as possible. That's what we have been working towards, and these are the best options we have currently.

We are also looking at longer-term options for stable housing solutions for vulnerable individuals.

25. Can you be more specific about the longer-term options for stable housing solutions for vulnerable individuals?

We will also be providing funding for 40 rent supplements that can be used towards long-term opening in the private market. Rent supplements provide individuals with the ability to choose where they want to live that best meet their needs. Additionally, the Province is working closely with our non-profit housing providers to find other longer-term housing solutions in the Victoria area.

Flyer and next steps for campers

26. When will campers be notified to vacate the property?

The Province has issued a flyer to Victoria Courthouse campers, giving them notice that they will be required to vacate the property and remove all personal property, no later than Feb. 25, 2016.

After that date, any remaining personal property, including semi-permanent structures may be removed by the Province.

Public health and safety are of our utmost priority, and an increasing number of safety risks to the campers and the general public require us to dismantle the campsite.

27. What happens to the campers if they refuse to leave and who will ensure they do leave?

Campers will have 21 days to pack up their belongings and find alternate shelter. To help with the transition, Our Place and the Victoria Cool Aid societies are available to connect the campers to shelter and support services such as health care and counselling.

Staff from Cool Aid and Our Place will be available on site to provide access to housing options and other supports.

If campers do not vacate the site by Feb. 25, 2016, they could be subject to enforcement under section 10 of the Trespass Act.

It is our hope that campers will leave on their own volition and access the shelter services that are available to them.

28. Safety, health and neighbour concerns were raised months ago, so why has it taken the Province so long to finally evict the campers?

The Province wanted to ensure that there was enough shelter space available to campers before requiring them to leave.

Last month, we announced the opening of a temporary shelter on Yates St. and today we are announcing that two additional shelters will be opening up to accommodate the remaining campers.

We understand that concerns have been expressed by some neighbours in the area and we appreciate their patience over the past few months as we sought out alternate housing arrangements for people.

29. What kind of health and safety risks have you been seeing there?

While the ministry appreciates the complex issues facing campers at the site, an increasing number of health and safety issues have been present at the site and it is in no way suitable for camping.

Police have responded to some very serious criminal incidents that include drug overdoses, and stabbing incidents. There have also been fire concerns and general health concerns that include an absence of food preparation and storage facilities as well as bathrooms.

30. Has the Province filed for an injunction, and if so, what are the timelines around that?

The Province will look at all options, but for now, our main concern is getting these people into safe and secure facilities.

The process of securing an injunction is to obtain a court order that requires people, by law, leave the Courthouse property.

A court would decide whether to hear the injunction application and the Province would ask that it be heard expeditiously.

31. What is the Province going to do if these campers go to St. Ann's to sleep, then what?

St. Ann's Academy is private property that is owned by the Province.

Signage at the site prohibits 24 hour camping.

Should campers violate this rule, security will ask them to leave.

If they refuse to leave, campers could be subject to enforcement under section 10 of the Trespass Act.

32. Could the campers tent at the Legislature grounds and if not, why?

Camping is not permitted at the Legislature grounds. The Legislature is critical to the operation of government, for which there is a higher level of security.

Prodan, Matthew FIN:EX

From: Burbee, Jon MTIC:EX
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2016 9:07 AM
To: McGregor, Scott; Paul Bruce; Douglas Carey (DCarey@victoria.ca) (DCarey@victoria.ca); Jason Johnson; Colleen Mycroft (cmycroft@victoria.ca); Holden, Virginia OHCS:EX; 'rbutcher@bchousing.org'; XT:HLTH Stanwick, Richard; Erikson, Lise M MCF:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Don Evans Evans (Don@ourplacesociety.com); Wharton, Peter JAG:EX
Cc: Koorbatoff, Lisa MTIC:EX; Sykes, Graeme MTIC:EX; Fellows, Brian MTIC:EX
Subject: Advance Notification - Vacate Notice
Attachments: Flyer No 2 - 5 Feb 15.pdf

Good day all.

Please find enclosed the final version of the notice that will be distributed this morning. This notice will be distributed in coordination with other announcements related to this file later this morning.

Regards, and I look forward to our teleconference this afternoon at 4.

Jon

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

February 5, 2016

TO: Campers on Victoria Courthouse Lands

FROM: The Province of British Columbia

SUBJECT: Notice to Leave Courthouse Lands

This notice is issued under section 4 of the Trespass Act with respect to the Victoria Courthouse lands located behind the Courthouse between Blanshard, Courtenay and Quadra Streets and Burdett Avenue. All camping at this location must cease and all tents and other personal property must be removed by no later than February 25, 2016.

While the Province appreciates the complex issues you face, an increasing number of serious incidents have arisen in connection with the current encampment on the Courthouse lands that pose an ongoing unacceptable risk to public safety. The risks are to campers, as well as to the general public.

Campers on the Courthouse lands will need to make alternate arrangements for shelter as soon as possible. To help with the transition, Our Place Society and Cool Aid Society, working with BC Housing, is available to work with you to connect you with shelter and other government support services such as health care and counselling.

Staff from Cool Aid and Our Place will be available on site to provide access to housing options and other supports.

The Province will be providing an additional 88 units of transitional housing and shelter, as well as 40 rent supplements for campers currently residing at the Victoria courthouse lawns. This will include 38 transitional housing units at the Mt. Edwards Court Care Home at 1002 Vancouver Street (operated by the Victoria Cool Aid Society) and 50 shelter units in the Victoria Youth Custody Centre building at 94 Talcott Road in View Royal (operated by Our Place Society).

Campers who prefer to remain outdoors have the option of setting up tents in the courtyard at the View Royal shelter, which can accommodate at least 20 tents.

Semi-permanent structures at the courthouse site need to be dismantled and the land needs to be restored.

If campers do not vacate the site by February 25, 2016 they could be subject to enforcement under applicable law.

Prodan, Matthew FIN:EX

From: Ash, Christine GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2016 10:53 AM
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Koolsbergen, Nick GCPE:EX; Fraser, John Paul GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Vasey, Jeff OHCS:EX
Subject: FW: Final package - Victoria
Attachments: 2016MNGD0003-000168.pdf; Flyer - Feb 5 final.docx
Importance: High

Finals here.

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

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2016MNGD0003-000168
Feb. 5, 2016

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

Additional temporary shelter and housing coming to Greater Victoria

VICTORIA – The Province will provide an additional 88 units of transitional housing and shelter, as well as 40 rent supplements for campers currently residing at the Victoria courthouse lawns.

Thirty-eight transitional housing units will be offered at the Mount Edwards Court Care Home at 1002 Vancouver St., which will be operated by the Victoria Cool Aid Society. The Province has purchased the building from the Baptist Housing Society for \$3.65 million. The housing units will open in the coming weeks for approximately 12 months, and units will be rented for \$375 per month. Island Health will also provide clinical support services at the site.

An additional 50 shelter units will be available at the former Victoria Youth Custody Centre building at 94 Talcott Rd. in View Royal and operated by Our Place Society. Campers will be provided with three meals per day and have the option of camping in the courtyard, which can accommodate at least 20 tents. The View Royal shelter will be open for approximately six months and the Mt. Edwards one for approximately 12 months.

These facilities will also provide a range of support services to provide the campers with access to more stable, long-term housing, including rent supplements that will be administered by Pacifica Housing. These units are in addition to the 40 spaces at the former Boys and Girls Club that were made available in December.

Both facilities are expected to be operational by Feb. 23, 2016.

These 88 units of transitional housing and shelter are in addition to the 147 year-round homeless shelter spaces, 125 extreme weather shelter spaces and 145 temporary shelter spaces available in Victoria.

Both non-profit housing operators will hold public information sessions for each location, where community members will be invited to voice their concerns. Dates and locations are still being determined.

Provincial representatives are delivering a notice to each of the campers this morning to advise them that they must vacate the courthouse property by Feb. 25 due to safety concerns and to advise them of the additional housing options.

Quotes:

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

“We have created these additional living spaces and are providing support services to help homeless individuals take an important step to find permanent, stable housing. I hope that

people take this opportunity to make meaningful changes in their lives.”

Mayor Lisa Helps, City of Victoria –

“We're happy to see this much-needed investment in affordable housing in Victoria. We look forward to working with the Province and the neighbourhood to determine the best long-term use for the facility.”

Mayor David Screech, View Royal –

“The homeless issue is truly a regional problem, and we believe that all jurisdictions must be part of the solution. With that philosophy, we are prepared to support Victoria and BC Housing’s initiative to use the youth custody centre as a facility for the homeless on a temporary basis. Victoria and BC Housing have shown great leadership in bringing forward these solutions.”

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“Cool Aid is excited to have this opportunity to house and support 40 people who are today homeless. We appreciate the support of the Province and look forward to working with the new residents, Cathedral School and neighbours to ensure this housing program integrates successfully into the neighbourhood.”

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“We are excited to offer people an opportunity to focus on their health needs. This state-of-the-art facility can deliver secure and stable shelter with access to food, hot showers, laundry and programs. The members of tent city have been asking for a place where they can still camp outdoors, but with access to the necessities they need. This facility delivers that and more.”

Quick Facts:

- The Province has invested more than \$176 million over the past five years toward approximately 5,000 units of subsidized housing and rent supplements in Victoria.
- In 2014-15, the B.C. government invested more than \$19 million to provide subsidized housing and rent supplements for more than 5,100 households in Victoria. This includes providing support for more than 2,200 senior households and more than 1,300 family households.
- There are nearly 150 year-round homeless shelter spaces available in Victoria.
- Last winter, more than 145 additional shelter spaces were available across Greater Victoria to increase emergency shelter space when extreme weather conditions threatened the safety and health of individuals.
- The daytime drop-in centre at Our Place operates with \$500,000 in funding from the B.C. government. In addition, the Province provided \$125,000 in one time funding to help Our Place stay open longer.
- 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, including more than 970 of those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Learn More:

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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

Media Contacts:

Sandra Steilo	Jenny Lee-Leugner
Media Relations	BC Housing
Ministry of Natural Gas Development and	604 439-4195
Responsible for Housing	
250 952-0617	

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



Ministry of
Technology, Innovation
and Citizens' Services

February 5, 2016

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FROM: The Province of British Columbia
SUBJECT: Notice to Leave Courthouse Lands

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Staff from Cool Aid and Our Place will be available on site to provide access to housing options and other supports.

The Province will be providing an additional 88 units of transitional housing and shelter, as well as 40 rent supplements for campers currently residing at the Victoria courthouse lawns. This will include 38 transitional housing units at the Mt. Edwards Court Care Home at 1002 Vancouver Street (operated by the Victoria Cool Aid Society) and 50 shelter units in the Victoria Youth Custody Centre building at 94 Talcott Road in View Royal (operated by Our Place Society).

Campers who prefer to remain outdoors have the option of setting up tents in the courtyard at the View Royal shelter, which can accommodate at least 20 tents.

Semi-permanent structures at the courthouse site need to be dismantled and the land needs to be restored.

If campers do not vacate the site by February 25, 2016 they could be subject to enforcement under applicable law.

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