



BC Housing



Notice Of Community Meeting

City Property at 1240 Yates Street to be
used for Short-term Emergency Shelter

Community Meeting

Wednesday, December 30, 2015
at 7:00 p.m.
1240 Yates Street, Gymnasium

Please note that the City of Victoria plans to lease a vacant City property located at 1240 Yates Street to BC Housing and Our Place to operate an emergency winter shelter, for four months. Work is underway to open the shelter the first week of January.

Our Place will operate the shelter to offer 24/7 support services, storage, laundry and daily meals, to 40 people without homes, until April 30, 2016. BC Housing has allocated \$400,000 in funding for a new temporary shelter for the cold, winter months. In addition, the United Way of Greater Victoria is contributing \$25,000, and the City will invest up to \$45,000 to upgrade the facility for its temporary use.

The City expects the shelter operator to work closely with all neighboring properties, residents and the City, to listen to concerns, and mitigate impacts to the neighbourhood. This community meeting will provide an opportunity for residents and neighbours to learn more about the shelter operation and share thoughts or concerns so they can be addressed. Representatives from the City of Victoria, BC Housing, and Our Place will be present. A neighbourhood agreement and committee will be established based on the ideas and input of the neighbours and operators on how the temporary shelter can be provided while minimizing impacts to the neighbourhood.

Earlier in the fall, the City of Victoria consulted the community about how best to create shelter for those without homes. The majority of respondents to an online survey and attendees at a 'sheltering solutions' workshop supported expanding existing shelters, or using existing vacant buildings for temporary shelters, over expanding options for sheltering in City parks.

The shelter is temporary, for up to four months. The long term future of the property at 1240 Yates Street is actively being explored and is being considered as part of the City's real estate strategy moving forward.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

City of Victoria

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