



City Provides \$115K for Mobile Showers and Outreach

Date: Friday, December 4, 2020

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — The City will provide \$115,420 in grants to ensure people sheltering outdoors in Victoria have access to showers and outreach services such as warm meals and clothing, until the end of March 2021.

“The ongoing pandemic has reduced access to indoor shelters and supports for people experiencing homelessness and has laid bare the many gaps in our social fabric,” said Mayor Lisa Helps. “We’re grateful to the federal and provincial governments for the Restart funding so we can provide basic hygiene services to people who need them the most.”

The City is receiving more than \$6.5 million from the provincial and federal governments through the COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant for Local Governments. Due to physical distancing requirements, shelters are not able to offer the same number of beds they normally do and there are no extreme weather shelter beds available this winter at all, leaving more people than usual outside during the winter months. To help meet their needs, the City is allocating funds from the federal-provincial Restart funding to initiate a one-time grant program to deliver mobile hygiene and other social services. The grant was open to not-for-profit organizations and informal groups.

The Salvation Army will receive \$86,520 to establish a mobile shower trailer that will be circulate five days per week to various sheltering locations. The Umbrella Society for Addictions and Mental Health will also receive \$22,400 to deliver community care services and meals to Victoria’s vulnerable population and \$6,500 for a community care tent that can manage donated goods and provide basic health services.

In addition to the Emergency Social Services Grant, the City also invested funding for expanded shower hours at Our Place Society on Pandora Avenue to 13 hours daily, seven days a week and has had public washrooms in parks open 24/7 with enhanced cleaning to ensure everyone sheltering in parks has access to safe hygiene.

The City continues to work closely with BC Housing, Island Health and the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness, the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness and other service agencies to find people indoor shelter spaces and increase access to supports.

ATTACHMENT: Photo of Mobile Shower Trailer

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For More Information:

Bill Eisenhauer

Head of Engagement

Cellular: 250.858.1061

beisenhauer@victoria.ca