

## Greater Victoria — Park Sheltering Move in Strategy

**What:** The purpose of this document is to share information on how people can move into 24/7 temporary indoor sheltering spaces as a pathway to permanent housing.

**Who:** BC Housing, contractors, funded outreach agencies and the City of Victoria will be supporting your move into indoor sheltering sites.

### Indoor Sheltering Sites

#### What to expect when you are offered indoor sheltering accommodations:

- For individual offers into indoor accommodations, you will be contacted directly through outreach.
- For high volume moves into indoor accommodations, you will receive a Shelter Referral Card with your name, your offered indoor accommodation, your move-in date and move in deadline.
  - To accept your placement in this shelter, you must arrive at the shelter and check in with the shelter staff before your move-in deadline, indicated on the front of the card.
- BC Housing will coordinate move ins and work with outreach partners from a range of organizations to support individuals through this transition.

#### What We Know:

- To be considered for future BC Housing subsidized or supportive housing opportunities, you must submit an application to the Supportive Housing Registration Service. If you have already applied and aren't sure if your application is still active, there is no harm in reapplying to ensure you are on the list for an offer of indoor shelter. To apply:
  - Check in with any outreach service providers in the park to see if they can support you with a housing application, such as: Housing Action Response Team (HART), Peers Resource Society, MSDPR Community Integration Specialists (Income Assistance & PWD workers)
  - **Housing Assistance:** Phone 604-433-2218 or Toll-Free Number: From anywhere in B.C. 1-800-257-7756 for information.
  - **Apply online:** <https://www.bchousing.org/housing-assistance/housing-with-support/supportive-housing>
- If you turn down an invitation to move indoors and decide to remain outside, you may still be considered for future shelter or housing opportunities. There is no guarantee of another opportunity, but your application will remain valid and will be considered as vacancies are available in the BC Housing system.
- Once everyone identified as sheltering outdoors through the housing application process has been offered a 24/7 **indoor** sheltering space (as a pathway to permanent housing), Victoria City Council has stated it will be ending 24/7 camping, and you would need to take your tent down every morning.
- At this time, BC Housing will not be acquiring further motel spaces

#### What We Don't Know:

We expect other sheltering opportunities to become available in the coming weeks. We don't know where these will be. We don't think there will be more motel rooms available after Capital City Centre. We do not have any details on the number of units or where they will be.

### Park Sheltering Orders

Daytime sheltering in parks will end on May 1, 2021 as a result of bylaw changes adopted on March 18, 2021 by Victoria City Council. The decision comes amid an unprecedented effort to move people inside through an ongoing partnership between the Province, BC Housing, the City and service providers. The change means the previous bylaw requirement will come back into effect and shelters will not be allowed in parks between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., effective May 1.