


**From:** "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>  
**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"  
**CC:** "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"  
"Pickard, Gail" <Gail.Pickard@vancouver.ca>  
**Date:** 10/31/2019 8:55:23 AM  
**Subject:** Upcoming NR - Winter Shelters

Dear Mayor and Council,

A total of 329 shelter spaces, including 91 reopened temporary shelter beds, will be available as of November 1 as part of the City of Vancouver and the Government of B.C.'s winter response strategy. Funded by the provincial government and the City, temporary shelters are a life-saving measure to ensure people have a warm, dry place to sleep during the city's coldest, wettest months.

This winter will have the highest number of temporary shelter spaces ever opened in the city. More than 230 of the shelter beds were in operation last winter and have remained open thanks to continued operating funding from the provincial government. Temporary shelters are one of four initiatives taken by the City and Province to ensure people in Vancouver have a place to keep warm during the winter months:

- **Permanent shelter beds:** There are more than 900 available across the city. The majority of these beds are open year-round and operate on a 24/7 basis.
- **Temporary shelters:** From November 1, 2019, a total of 329 temporary shelters remain open every night throughout the winter.
- **Extreme weather response shelters:** Up to 160 spaces, funded by the provincial government, are available when Extreme Weather Response alerts are issued by the Homelessness Services Association of BC. These are based on criteria including temperature near zero, heavy rainfall and high winds. Alerts are shared with service providers, TransLink, and numerous other partners who can inform people who are experiencing homelessness.  
[Learn more about the Extreme Weather Response Program](#) 
- **Warming centres:** The City activates warming centres in extreme cold weather as a life-saving measure when the temperature reaches -5°C or below (or it feels like -5°C or below). These sites are in addition to Extreme Weather Response shelters, and temporary shelters. Warming centres provide approximately 100 spaces but they can accommodate anyone who wants to come inside during extreme cold.

Those looking for shelter space can call 2-1-1 to check availability or find a full list of shelters online. Community centres and other public buildings are also available during their open hours as spaces to warm up. The News Release will be distributed shortly.

Best,  
Sadhu

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Pronouns: he, him, his



*The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.*