

FOR MORE INFORMATION

or to express any comments or concerns about the program

YOU CAN CONTACT

For: First United Church

Contact: Rev. Joan McMurtry

Phone: (604) 531-4850

Email: revjoan@telus.net

For: Hyland House

Contact: Peter Fedos, Program Manager

Phone: (604) 599-8900

Email: shelteradmin@shawcable.com



Further information on this Program is available by visiting the following web sites:

Extreme Weather Program BC Housing

www.bchousing.org/programs/ESP/shelter/operators/Extreme_Weather

Greater Vancouver's Shelter Program

www.lookoutsociety.bc.ca

Also:

www.firstunitedchurchwhiterock.com

www.options.bc.ca

About the Organizations

Hyland House -OPTIONS- has worked with homeless people since 1993 including people in the White Rock and South Surrey. It currently provides homeless services and mobile outreach services for the White Rock/South Surrey area. The Hyland House Program continues to strengthen existing relationships with homeless people in the White Rock/South Surrey area.

OPTIONS has experience operating cold wet weather and extreme weather shelters in Surrey since 1997. It is an experienced and established service provider that operates a number of programs in the White Rock area such as Whale House and all the of the Semi Independent Living Units for Mental Health in White Rock.

First United Church has served the community of White Rock and area for over fifty years. It is committed to partnering with the community in creating a better world. We are pleased to work together to provide temporary shelter for our most vulnerable neighbours. Our vision statement is "God's Spirit reaching out"

“safe and warm”



**FIRST UNITED CHURCH
AND HYLAND HOUSE**
“EXTREME WEATHER RESPONSE”
FOR WHITE ROCK / SOUTH SURREY

Temporary Shelter

on a cold night

for up to 10 people

19 yrs and over

from 11 PM to 7 AM

“a safe and warm place to sleep”

(when an official cold weather alert is called!)



Location:

First United Church

(corner of Centre Street and Buena Vista Avenue – across from the White Rock Library)

OVERVIEW

In the White Rock/South Surrey community we've spent winters observing people sleeping in cars and in the parks when there is serious danger of freezing and we've not known what to do.



Our response to this need will be in the form of a "Temporary Extreme Weather Shelter Program". It will be operated in partnership between First United Church in White Rock and Options Services to Communities Society – Hyland House Shelter Services Program.

- First United Church will provide the location and volunteers for the extreme weather response.
- OPTIONS: Services to Communities Society through Hyland House Emergency Shelter Program will provide two experienced homeless shelter staff to work at the site during the extreme weather openings.

Goal: to prevent homeless people from freezing or becoming ill by providing a safe and warm place to sleep for the night.



WHAT IS THE BC EXTREME WEATHER RESPONSE PROGRAM?

- It is funded by the Provincial Government and is run through B.C. Housing.
- Each local community makes its own decision when to activate an Extreme Weather Response.

In general, a response is activated when weather conditions are thought to be severe enough to present a substantial threat to the life or health of homeless persons.



Acute winter weather conditions of heavy wind, rain, snow and temperatures of zero and below, will trigger a response.

This response is a "crisis" response. It is not intended as a substitute for year-round shelters or for a long-term affordable housing. The program only funds time-limited, temporary shelter beds needed during extreme weather conditions.

HOW WILL PEOPLE WHO NEED SHELTER FIND OUT AND OR BE REFERED?

Self refer (get to know on their own about the program through word of mouth and posters)
or
People from organizations will seek them out or are available for referral: Mental Health, Surrey/White Rock hospitals,

RCMP, Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance, and local community social service agencies.

Hyland House will take referrals for the Extreme Shelter during the day prior to the evening opening.
* An Outreach Worker is designated to seek out the "homeless" in our White Rock, South Surrey area.



HOW WILL PEOPLE GET THERE AND HOW WILL THEY LEAVE?

- On their own or bus or by help from service provider
- In the morning, on their own or by bus
- Bus tickets will be provided

Hyland's Mobile Outreach Worker Services and referral contacts will be offered to people who used the shelter. Hyland House will attempt to connect people who want to find more secure accommodations or get help in other areas with local resources or community groups.

Cleanup inside and outside (if necessary) every morning by volunteers

Likely operational for 6 to 10 nights from November through to March

"nonreligious and nonjudgmental"