

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Friday, Feb. 5, 2016**



## **Our Place opens Choices Transitional Home**

***Fifty homeless people will have choice of indoor or outdoor space***

**VICTORIA, B.C.** – Our Place will open a new 24/7 transitional housing facility on Tuesday, Feb. 23 to house 50 homeless campers from tent city.

The state-of-the-art facility will be located at 94 Talcott Road in View Royal and will be called Choices Transitional Home. These 50 beds will be added to the 40 currently occupied at My Place Transitional Home, 50 at the winter shelter at First Met United Church, and the 45 units of transitional housing being operated at Our Place on Pandora.

“We are excited to offer people a choice to be indoors or outdoors. This state-of-the-art facility can deliver secure and stable shelter with access to food, hot showers, laundry and programs,” says Don Evans, executive director of Our Place. “The members of tent city have been asking for a place where they can still camp outdoors, but with access to the necessities they need. The Choices Transitional Home will provide so much more.”

A public information session for the community will be held on Monday, Feb. 15 in the gymnasium of Victoria Youth Custody Centre, 94 Talcott Road. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

Our Place will be hiring experienced staff over the next two weeks to make this a safe, secure and welcoming space. Residents will have hot meals, showers, laundry, daily shuttle service to downtown Victoria, mental health and addiction support, and the ability to work one-on-one with housing support workers to secure permanent housing.

“The success of My Place Transitional Home on Yates Street should put the community of View Royal at ease,” adds Evans. “We work hard to be a good neighbour with regular meetings to listen to all concerns, and we work with the community to minimize any impact our operation may cause.”

Our Place is working with its community partners, including public health, police and government to ensure the best outcomes for the residents and the community.

Our Place is a unique inner-city community centre serving Greater Victoria’s most vulnerable: working poor, impoverished elderly, mentally and physically challenged, addicted and the homeless. Individuals and businesses provide the majority of financial support for its programs and services. Our Place provides over 1,600 meals per day, hot showers, education, job skills, free clothing, counseling and outreach services, plus 45

transitional housing units. Most importantly, it provides a sense of hope and belonging to our neighbours in need.

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