

## Understanding Greater Vancouver's Shelter System




1. Year-round Shelter Beds	
<b>Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide temporary accommodation for homeless individuals and families.</li> <li>• Provide support services such as food, clothing, counselling and referrals to other services or longer term housing.</li> </ul>
<b>Funding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BC Housing</li> <li>• National Homelessness Initiative in partnership with the Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness (RSCH) and Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee (AHSC).</li> <li>• Others (Health Authorities, private funders)</li> </ul>
<b>Regional Bed Count</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximately 675 year-round shelter beds in Greater Vancouver.</li> </ul>
2. Cold/Wet Weather Shelter Beds (Seasonal)	
<b>Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operated and funded on a seasonal basis during the winter months, generally from October/November to March/April.</li> <li>• May include beds and mats on the floor.</li> <li>• Support services are provided on a much more limited basis than in year-round shelters.</li> </ul>
<b>Funding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BC Housing</li> <li>• National Homelessness Initiative in partnership with the RSCH and AHSC.</li> <li>• Others (Health Authorities, private funders)</li> </ul>
<b>Regional Bed Count</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximately 290 CWW shelter beds and mats provided during each cold/wet weather season in Greater Vancouver.</li> </ul>
3. Extreme Weather Response Shelter Spaces	
<b>Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides extra shelter spaces for homeless people during periods of extreme winter weather (as defined by each community).</li> <li>• Heavily dependent on volunteers with very few support services provided.</li> <li>• A crisis response not intended as a substitute for year-round and Cold/Wet Weather shelters or for long-term affordable housing.</li> </ul>
<b>Funding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BC Housing</li> <li>• National Homelessness Initiative in partnership with the RSCH and AHSC.</li> <li>• Others (Health Authorities, private funders)</li> </ul>
<b>Regional Bed Count</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximately 400 additional shelter spaces. Seven EWR plans are in place covering 11 Greater Vancouver municipalities.</li> </ul>

Shelter Spaces by Community (Oct 2006)*	
<b>Vancouver</b>	Year-round <b>515</b> CWW <b>194</b> Total <b>709</b>
<b>Surrey</b>	Year-round <b>59</b> CWW <b>38</b> Total <b>97</b>
<b>North Shore</b>	Year-round <b>25</b> CWW <b>20</b> Total <b>45</b>
<b>New Westminister</b>	Year-round <b>45</b> CWW <b>6</b> Total <b>51</b>
<b>Maple Ridge</b>	Year-round <b>23</b> CWW <b>30</b> Total <b>53</b>
<b>Richmond</b>	Year-round <b>7</b> CWW <b>3</b> Total <b>10</b>
<b>Regional Total</b>	Year-round <b>674</b> CWW <b>291</b> Total <b>965</b>

\* Excludes transition houses.



## Regional Coordination of the Response to Homelessness in Greater Vancouver

 <p><b>Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness</b></p>	<p>The Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness developed and oversees the implementation of the Regional Homelessness Plan for Greater Vancouver. The Regional Homelessness Plan has guided the provision of services and shelter to people who are homeless or at-risk of homeless in Greater Vancouver since 2000. The RSCH includes over 40 members representing service providers, community-based organizations and all levels of government.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Contact: Regional Homelessness Unit, <a href="mailto:Judy.Roberts@gvrd.bc.ca">Judy.Roberts@gvrd.bc.ca</a> 604-451-6065</i></p>
 <p><b>Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee</b></p>	<p>The Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee is an inclusive committee of organizations working to coordinate the regional response to homelessness in the Aboriginal community. The AHSC makes funding recommendations under the National Homelessness Initiative's Urban Aboriginal Homelessness funding stream. These organizations also play an important role in the Extreme Weather Response.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Contact: Lu'ma Native Housing Society, <a href="mailto:homeless@lnhs.ca">homeless@lnhs.ca</a> 604-876-0736</i></p>
 <p><b>Cold/Wet Weather Strategy</b> <a href="http://shelternetbc.ca/cwws.htm">shelternetbc.ca/cwws.htm</a></p>	<p>The Greater Vancouver Cold/Wet Weather Strategy (CWWS) is a regional network of organizations working to meet local shelter needs during the winter, from October to April. The CWWS meets year-round to ensure these spaces are available during winter months. These organizations provide approximately 290 seasonal beds and mats each winter. The CWWS initiated the Extreme Weather Response in 2002.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Contact: James Pratt, <a href="mailto:james@prattconsulting.ca">james@prattconsulting.ca</a> 250-920-7826</i></p>
 <p><b>Extreme Weather Response</b></p>	<p>The Extreme Weather Response is an emergency response to prevent harm to homeless people resulting from extreme winter weather. Extreme weather programs in 11 Greater Vancouver municipalities add approximately 400 beds and mats for use during extreme weather periods.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Contact: Mary MacDougall, <a href="mailto:extremeweather@privacemail.com">extremeweather@privacemail.com</a> 604-603-5019</i></p>