



## TOWN OF GIBSONS

PO Box 340  
474 South Fletcher Road  
Gibsons BC | VON 1V0

T 604-886-2274

F 604-886-9735

info@gibsons.ca

www.gibsons.ca

---

### Town of Gibsons to Host Winter Shelter Operations Following Salvation Army Fire

**November 21, 2019** – The Town of Gibsons announced today that it will host an overnight temporary (winter) shelter with room for up to 15 people, beginning December 1. The shelter will be located in the bottom level of the Arts Building at 464 South Fletcher Road, which is commonly known as the Marine Room. Gibsons' Council approved leasing the space to RainCity Housing for the purposes of operating a temporary winter shelter on November 5, 2019.

*“Originally, staff and Council contemplated using the Marine Room as a daytime supplement to Gibsons’ overnight shelter, which was to be operated by the Salvation Army,” said Mayor Bill Beamish. “But when a recent fire at the Salvation Army’s premises ruled out their ability to provide overnight shelter, it became clear that we needed to do more.”*

The Province, through BC Housing, is providing funding for RainCity Housing to operate the shelter, as well as funding to install a shower.

*“These spaces will offer people experiencing homelessness a safe and warm place to stay while we work to build long-term housing in the community,” said Nicholas Simons, MLA for Powell-River Sunshine Coast. “Thank you to the Town of Gibsons and RainCity Housing for partnering with the Province to help provide shelter and support to our neighbours who are in need.”*

RainCity Housing has operated temporary winter shelter services in Gibsons since early 2018 and will provide a minimum of two BCGEU staff members to be onsite at all times. The shelter will be open from 6pm to 8am, 7 days per week beginning December 1, 2019; the lease is set to expire on March 31, 2020. The Town will receive \$500 per week for use of the space.

*“This location is ideal in many ways,” said Isaac Malmgren, Associate Director at RainCity Housing. “A number of our regular shelter residents frequent the library during the daytime hours and have relationships with service providers and local community. The site is also close to the downtown area and readily accessible by transit.”*

The winter shelter solution comes just in time, as recent evening temperatures have been cool.

*“Many in the community have been asking when we’ll be able to welcome people back inside,” said Malmgren. “Gaining the support of the Town with the use of the Marine Room enables us to get back on schedule and get the doors open as quickly as possible.”*

- 30 -

For more information, please contact:

Emanuel Machado

CAO, Town of Gibsons

Email: emachado@gibsons.ca

Phone: 604.886.2274