

West Kelowna Winter Shelter

Temporary Use Permit

West Kelowna City Council
December 10, 2019



Pathways Into Homelessness

Homelessness is a complex issue and there are a number of factors that may cause an experience of homelessness:

- Poverty
- Lack of access to affordable housing
- A traumatic event or personal crisis
- Mental health and/or substance use concerns



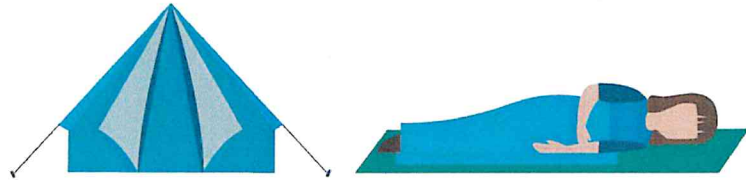
Homelessness in West Kelowna...



WEST KELOWNA

72 People experiencing homelessness

2018 Westside Point-In-Time Count



There are currently no shelter spaces available this winter for people who need a safe, warm place to sleep.

What is a temporary winter shelter?

The primary focus for shelters is to bring people indoors to:

- get warm
- access food
- Support people with the goal of helping them access housing



Shelters provide access to a temporary bed or mat.

1160 Stevens Road– New temporary winter shelter

The proposed plan:

- Four trailers plus a storage container on the existing empty lot at 1160 Stevens, including: up to 40 beds as well as lounge/eating area and OPS space; and showers and toilets facilities
- Open in early 2020 and close March 31st
- 24 hours per day, seven days a week



Up to 40 temporary shelter beds for people experiencing homelessness to be managed by West Kelowna Shelter Society

Why was this site chosen?

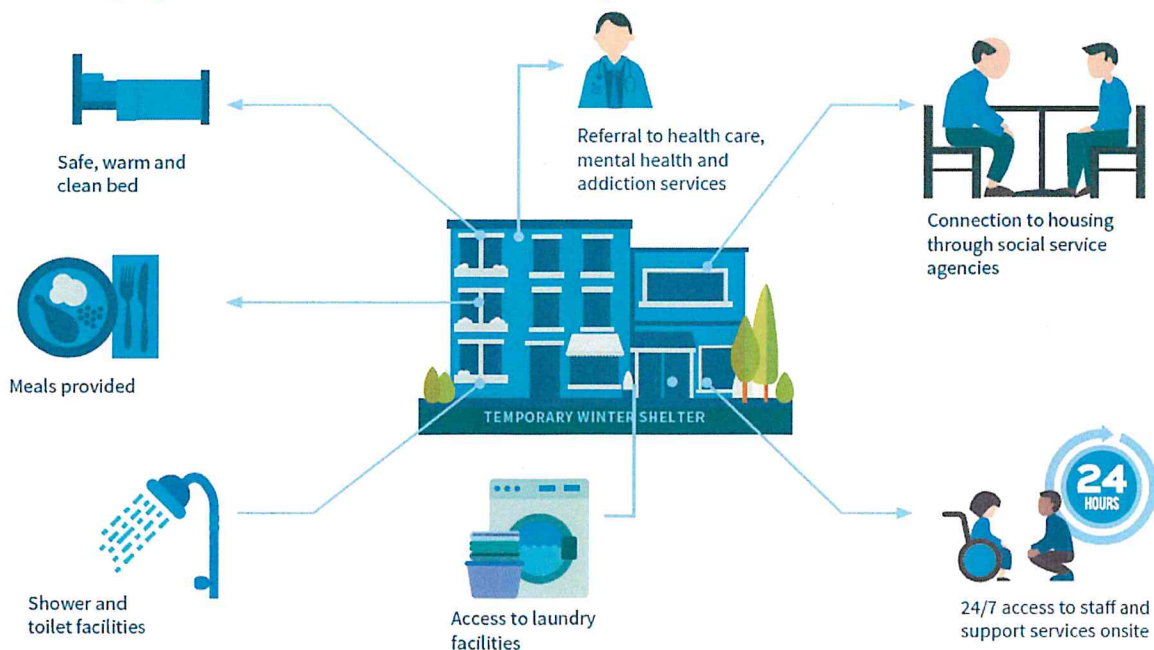
The City of West Kelowna reviewed and suggested several available locations with BC Housing to determine the best possible fit for a temporary winter shelter, as there is not an extensive inventory of available lots. Review included:

- Site that could accommodate the appropriate trailers
- Utilities connections available
- Close to public transit
- Accessible to the existing community and social services
- And other neighbourhood factors
- Ensuring the site wasn't too close to residential areas and schools

Why isn't more permanent housing being considered?

- BC Housing, with support from the City of West Kelowna, has been working to respond to an urgent need for shelter for people experiencing and at risk of homelessness in the community.
- A temporary winter shelter would provide a safe and warm space to bring people experiencing homelessness inside during the cold winter months.
- BC Housing is working with the City of West Kelowna and Westbank First Nation on plans for safe, secure housing for Westside residents.

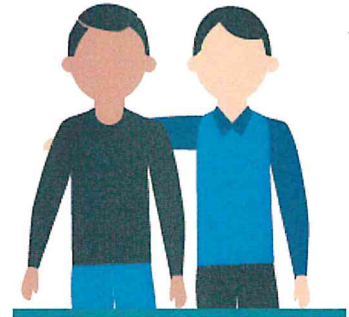
What supports would be provided?



Who would stay here?

People who stay here need to:

- Be over the age of 19
- Have a history of homelessness or be at risk of homelessness
- Westside residents will be prioritized



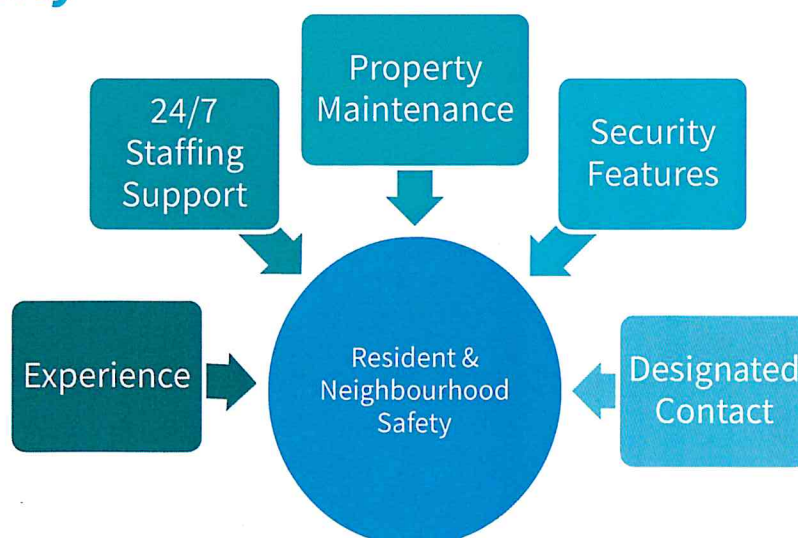
1160 Stevens Road – New temporary shelter

- People will have in/out abilities
- No visitors are allowed to the shelter
- Pets are welcome (governed by RDCO bylaws)
- Covered outdoor amenity space for shelter residents (monitored)
- Place for people who choose to use to do so safely

Project Partners

BC Housing	Pays for lease, construction and operations
West Kelowna Shelter Society	Manages the shelter, provide support to shelter guests, manage the building, serve as primary point of contact with community
Interior Health	Referral to health care, mental health and addiction services based on individual needs
Municipality	Review and suggested site location and Municipal approval process

Successfully Integrating Temporary Winter Shelter into the Community



Questions?