
BACKGROUND

2008HSD0071-001390
Sept. 15, 2008

Ministry of Housing and Social Development

GATEWAY VERNON SHELTER

Operated by the John Howard Society – North Okanagan/Kootenay Region of B.C., the Gateway Vernon Shelter at 2800 33rd Street in Vernon will provide 25 emergency shelter beds for men and women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The two-storey building is a low-barrier shelter and will provide 13 beds for men and 12 beds for women with separate and secure sleeping quarters.

The shelter will operate around the clock and offer full support services, such as counselling and job training. The John Howard Society – North Okanagan/Kootenay Region of B.C. will manage the men's shelter and support services and provide grounds maintenance. The Vernon and District Women's Centre will manage the women's shelter and support services as a subcontractor.

Partners and Funding:

- The Province provided \$1.2 million, the total capital cost of the development, through the Provincial Homelessness Initiative, including \$523,000 to purchase the building and property and \$632,050 for renovations.
- The Province is providing up to \$530,000 in ongoing annual operating funding through the Emergency Shelter Program.

The John Howard Society – North Okanagan/Kootenay Region of B.C.

The John Howard Society - North Okanagan/Kootenay Region of B.C. has a long history of providing services in the area. Their programs focus on crime prevention, education, rehabilitation and reintegration into the community. The society has been providing residential services to homeless and low-income men for 50 years, since their first shelter opened in 1968.

Vernon and District Women's Centre Society

The Vernon and District Women's Centre Society has been providing women's services in Vernon since 1985. They have a history of addressing crime prevention and community development from a women-centred approach. The society has also been an active community partner in creating stand-alone women's shelter services.

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