



PRESS RELEASE

OUT OF THE COLD SHELTER OPENS IN MIRAMICHI

Miramichi Housing Solutions Inc. has opened a 20 bed Out of the Cold Shelter at the Lindon Recreation Centre to ensure those experiencing chronic homelessness have a safe and warm place to sleep during extreme weather.

"Miramichi Housing Solutions is proud to be part of a partnership with the City of Miramichi and Department of Social Development in quick efforts to get a much needed out of the cold shelter up and running," said Whitney Foran, acting executive director.

"Our organization works hard throughout our community and surrounding areas to assist those who are experiencing homelessness. We have received great support and feedback from community members since Miramichi Housing Solutions Inc. opened its doors in 1998 as former Miramichi Youth House Inc."

The shelter will be open Sunday to Friday from 8:30 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. and on Saturday from 11:30 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. and is expected to remain open until mid-April. Clients using the shelter will have to follow the rules set in place by Miramichi Housing Solutions Inc.

The usage of this facility will not displace any current user groups.

"The City of Miramichi is pleased to have partnered with the Department of Social Development and Miramichi Housing Solutions Inc. to get this shelter open so quickly," said Mayor Adam Lordon. "We know there is an urgent need in our community for more shelter space, and this temporary solution will help ensure those living rough have a safe place to spend the night this winter while we continue to advocate and work with the province for permanent long-term solutions for shelters and affordable housing."

Miramichi MLA Michelle Conroy says this shelter is a great step forward to help those that are homeless and agrees with Mayor Lordon that more needs to be done to provide accessibility to affordable housing and mental health and addiction services.

"I'm very pleased to have this shelter open up our for our homeless. It is hard to lay down in a warm bed at night knowing there are so many in the community that are sleeping in this cold. This is a growing problem and a significant concern in the community."

For more information please contact: Gail Harding Communications Officer, City of Miramichi gail.harding@miramichi.org W. 506.623.2075