



NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
December 11, 2018**

Burnaby Opens New Warming Centres

Burnaby, BC – To help ensure the safety of all Burnaby citizens during the winter months, effective December 12, Burnaby will open two warming centres from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. daily, with a third to open on December 14, and a fourth scheduled to open soon after. Operated by the City, warming centres are open overnight to provide safe, warm spaces in which people can take refuge.

Burnaby's warming centres are located near transit and other services. They will augment the Lookout Housing and Health Society's Extreme Weather Response Shelter services, which are open during extreme weather alerts.

The two centres that will open on Wednesday, December 12, with the hours of 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. daily, are:

- Kensington Pitch and Putt Fieldhouse at 5889 Curtis Street
- Swangard Stadium's Hospitality Room/North Concourse at 3883 Imperial Street (at Kingsway & Boundary Road)

A third warming centre will open on Friday, December 14, with the hours of 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. daily:

- City Operations Centre, 5970 Beresford Street

The fourth centre, with location to be confirmed, will open in the following week.

Open to all until the end of March 2019, these shelters are the result of a motion passed by City Council on November 26, 2018 to provide warming centres to help ensure the safety of all Burnaby citizens.

"These centres offer much-needed warmth, shelter and resources – and can help save lives – which is why Council moved quickly on this," says Mayor Mike Hurley. "They will help some of our most vulnerable residents, and will keep them as safe and warm as possible during extreme winter temperatures."

Along with basic shelter for the night, Burnaby's warming centres provide washroom facilities, mats, tables and chairs, hot beverages and snacks, and space for people's belongings.

The Lookout Housing and Health Society also provides shelter during extreme weather alerts at Westminster Bible Chapel at 7540 Sixth Street, with a backup location at Burnaby Alliance Church at 8611 Armstrong Avenue.

Quick Facts – Warming Centres:

- are open to the public (with everyone welcome)
- are operated by City staff who provide needed services, site supervision
- follow established guidelines and standards to maintain a safe environment, with safety protocols and a code of conduct in place for those using the centres
- have up to three staff on site at all times, plus security staff, as deemed necessary allow no alcohol or drug use.

To find out more about Burnaby's new warming centres and other helpful links, please visit www.burnaby.ca/warmingcentres or contact: 604-294-7944 (City Hall Information Desk).

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For additional information, contact:

Office of the Mayor
mayor@burnaby.ca

Note: A media tour of a warming centre will take place on Friday, December 14, at 10 a.m. For details, contact: 604 294-7101.