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of Canada's Reaching Home:
Canada's Homelessness Strategy



MEDIA RELEASE
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New Veteran Homelessness Program to be Launched in the Regional District of Nanaimo

United Way BC works with local service providers to invest \$1.3 million

Nanaimo, B.C. – Veterans in the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) who are experiencing homelessness or are at imminent risk of losing their housing will soon have access to new, targeted supports through the **Veteran Homelessness Program (VHP)**.

Funded by Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada, the Veteran Homelessness Program provides funding through March 2028 to support veterans with housing stability, rent supplements, clinical counselling and wraparound services. **United Way British Columbia** (United Way BC) has been selected as the fund holder for the Regional District of Nanaimo and will work in partnership with local service providers to deliver the program across urban and rural, including oceanside communities.

More than **\$1.3 million** will be invested locally to help veterans move out of homelessness or prevent housing loss before a crisis occurs.

The Veteran Homelessness Program is a federal initiative designed to address the unique pathways into homelessness that veterans face, as well as the barriers they may encounter when accessing support. In the RDN, the program will focus on helping veterans secure and maintain stable housing, improving affordability through rent supplements, providing wraparound supports such as case management and mental health services, and preventing homelessness through early intervention.

The program serves former members of the **Canadian Armed Forces (CAF)** or the **Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)** who are experiencing homelessness or are at imminent risk of homelessness, including those who are precariously housed. Veteran status for rent supplements is confirmed by Veterans Affairs Canada, while self-declaration may be used to access wraparound services when documentation is not immediately available.

Funding will be distributed through agreements with local social service organizations and aims to support housing search and placement, housing set-up costs, prevention and shelter diversion, health and substance-use supports, basic needs assistance, minor capital improvements, and outreach to veterans who may be isolated or hesitant to seek help.

"Every Veteran deserves a safe, stable place to call home," said the Honourable Stephanie McLean, Secretary of State (Seniors). "Through the Veteran Homelessness Program, our government is working with

trusted partners to ensure Veterans in the Regional District of Nanaimo have access to housing and the supports they need to regain stability and security.”

“This funding gives our community an opportunity to design supports for veterans that are respectful, practical, and grounded in local realities,” said Naomi Woodland, Director, Housing Initiatives at United Way BC. “By working together, we can reduce barriers and ensure veterans have access to the housing and supports they’ve earned.”

Funding allocation will begin in 2026, with a focus on quickly supporting veterans in housing need while strengthening longer-term outreach and engagement across the region.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Additional information can be found at: <https://uwbc.ca/program/housing/>

About United Way British Columbia

United Way BC helps build healthy, caring, and inclusive communities across our province. We strengthen vital connections that support people in need with a focus on emergency response, kids and youth, seniors, mental health, food security, and housing.

uwbc.ca

Interviews are available. Please contact:

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