

Understanding Metropolitan Vancouver's Shelter System

1. Year-round Shelter Beds	
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide temporary accommodation for homeless individuals and families. • Provide support services such as food, clothing, counselling and referrals to other services or longer term housing.
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Housing • Homelessness Partnering Strategy (formerly NHI) in partnership with the Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness (RSCH) and Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee (AHSC). • Others (private funders).
Regional Bed Count	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 900 year-round shelter beds in Metropolitan Vancouver.
2. Cold/Wet Weather Shelter Beds (Seasonal)	
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operated on a seasonal basis generally from October/November to March/April. • Support services are provided on a more limited basis than in year-round shelters.
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness Partnering Strategy in partnership with the RSCH and AHSC. • Private funders.
Regional Bed Count	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 100 CWW shelter beds and mats provided in Metropolitan Vancouver.
3. Extreme Weather Response Shelter Spaces	
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides extra shelter spaces for homeless people during periods of extreme winter weather. • Heavily dependent on volunteers with limited support services provided. • A crisis response to extreme weather occurrences, to augment ongoing shelter programs.
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Housing • Homelessness Partnering Strategy in partnership with the RSCH and AHSC. • Others (non-profits, private funders).
Regional Bed Count	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 600 additional shelter spaces. • 8 EWR plans are in place covering 13 municipalities.

Shelter Spaces by Community (Oct 2007) *	
Vancouver	Year-round 686 CWW 60 Total 746
Surrey	Year-round 89 CWW 0 Total 89
North Shore	Year-round 45 CWW 0 Total 45
New Westminster	Year-round 45 CWW 0 Total 45
Maple Ridge	Year-round 29 CWW 30 Total 59
Richmond	Year-round 10 CWW 0 Total 10
Regional Total	Year-round 904 CWW 90 Total 994

* Excludes transition houses.

Regional Coordination of the Response to Homelessness in Greater Vancouver

 <p>Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness</p>	<p>The Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness (RSCH) developed and oversees the implementation of the Regional Homelessness Plan for Greater Vancouver. The Plan has guided the provision of services and shelter to people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness in Metropolitan Vancouver since 2000. The RSCH includes over 40 members representing service providers, community-based organizations and all levels of government.</p> <p><i>Contact: Regional Homelessness Secretariat, Judy.Roberts@metrovancover.org 604-451-6065</i></p>
 <p>Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee</p>	<p>The Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee is an inclusive committee of organizations working to coordinate the regional response to homelessness in the Aboriginal community. The AHSC makes funding recommendations under the Homelessness Partnering Strategy's Urban Aboriginal Homelessness funding stream. These organizations also play an important role in the Extreme Weather Response.</p> <p><i>Contact: Lu'ma Native Housing Society, homelessness@lnhs.ca 604-876-0736</i></p>
 <p>Greater Vancouver Shelter Strategy</p>	<p>The Greater Vancouver Shelter Strategy (GVSS) is a regional network of organizations working together to meet the needs of people who are homeless or at risk. Activities include shelter service coordination, mentoring of new services, networking, public communication regarding available services, and preparation of evaluation reports (including annual statistical summaries) and biannual service plans.</p> <p><i>Contact: James Pratt, james@prattconsulting.ca 250-920-7826</i></p>
 <p>Extreme Weather Response</p>	<p>The Extreme Weather Response is an emergency response to prevent harm to homeless people resulting from extreme weather. Extreme weather programs in 8 Metropolitan Vancouver communities add approximately 600 shelter spaces for use during extreme weather periods.</p> <p><i>Contact: Mary MacDougall, extremeweather@privacemail.com 604-603-5019</i></p>