

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NEWS RELEASE**

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**NANAIMO MEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE OFFERS SHORT TERM EMERGENCY
TRANSITION HOUSING**

Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre wishes to advise the community of the availability of Emergency Housing Services.

This service is provided for men who have to leave a home in a crisis situation, with or without their children; for men or women who live elsewhere, and need a place in Nanaimo to visit with their children; and for youth who have to leave their home due to domestic problems and don't meet criteria for housing under other agency guidelines.

As one of the elements in our changing societal norms surrounding domestic violence, men are somewhat more likely now than in the past to report domestic abuse against them or their children. Men who are caregivers or who are facing domestic violence situations often have no place to go. They have often found themselves having to leave children with an abuser or having to stay in a violent situation, with no resources available. Although Nanaimo has a transition house for those fleeing domestic violence, it is simply unavailable to male victims of domestic violence or fathers and their children fleeing spousal violence.

The Men's Centre is also keenly aware of the possible effects of divorce and separation on children involved. This program provides a solution to the dilemma faced by non-custodial fathers and mothers who are visiting their children in Nanaimo, and have no place to stay during their visit

Theo Boere, the executive director of the Men's Resource Centre, comments: "It has always been clear to us that men need these kinds of resources too. While the statistics are not clear, we have had numerous men coming to us asking for support, and we know that it is certainly needed. At this point we do not have a shelter building, but we can arrange short-term accommodation"

Men, non custodial women, and youth who are in need of housing support are urged to contact the Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre at 716-1551, or the Crisis Line at 754-4447. Information on this and other programs at the Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre can be obtained at www.nanaimomen.com.