

## **Success of Extreme Weather Response Program Leads to Collaborative Effort to Establish Two Year-Round Day Spaces for Calgarians Experiencing Homelessness**

Calgary, Alberta – May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Calgary Homeless Foundation, in partnership with The City of Calgary, Calgary Police Service, and United Way of Calgary and Area are proud to announce the launch of two year-round Day Spaces to support those at risk of or experiencing homelessness in Calgary.

### **What is a Day Space?**

Day Spaces provide alternatives to public spaces such as libraries, parks, and transit during the daytime hours. They aim to complement resource centres by offering a trauma-informed place for individuals to rest with a warm meal or beverage, while connecting to essential services and resources, such as connection to housing programs or shelters.

### **Extension of two Extreme Weather Response Warming Spaces to year-round Day Spaces**

In 2025, two warming spaces will be expanding to year-round Day Spaces as part of the ongoing success of the existing Extreme Weather Response (EWR) programming, further enhancing Calgary's homeless-serving sector and supports for those experiencing homelessness. During the 2024/25 cold weather season, the EWR Program recorded 37,180 visits to warming spaces at five locations, highlighting their essential role in the community.

In collaboration with key community partners, these Day Spaces will provide respite from extreme weather (such as extreme heat, cold, or smoky conditions), connections to essential resources and housing supports, and help individuals take steps toward stability, ultimately supporting their journey out of homelessness.

The first of these spaces will expand on the work currently being done by The Mustard Seed at their Community Impact Centre in Downtown Calgary. The daily capacity of this space will increase from 300 to 450, providing low barrier access for those experiencing homelessness. The Mustard Seed will build on their current EWR programming providing hygiene items, clothing, hot lunches, as well as connection to essential support services including employment coaching and housing supports.

"With over 37,000 visits recorded during the 2024–25 cold weather season, it's clear that warming spaces play a crucial role in supporting our community. Thanks to strong collaboration with Calgary Homeless Foundation, The City of Calgary, and dedicated community partners, these expanded Day Spaces will not only offer refuge from extreme weather but also connect individuals to essential resources and housing supports." - *James Gardiner, CEO, The Mustard Seed*

"The transition from the Extreme Weather Response program to year-round Day Spaces marks a significant advancement in our collective efforts to address homelessness in Calgary. This initiative reflects the strength of cross-sector collaboration and a shared commitment to supporting our most vulnerable citizens. These spaces will not only provide immediate relief and essential services but also serve as critical connection points to long-term housing and stability. Together, we are delivering meaningful progress and reaffirming our city's commitment to equity, dignity, and opportunity for all." - *Kay Choi, Director of Partnerships, The City of Calgary*

The second location will build on the existing partnership between Journey Church Warming Centre and Distress Centre Calgary. With support from experienced staff provided by Distress Centre, Journey Church will continue to offer essential services including meals and beverages, clothing items, and hygiene items. In addition, individuals can be connected to support services, including referrals to detox and applications for addictions treatment services, completion of housing assessments and housing plans, and individualized financial education and coaching services.

“We are thrilled to continue our partnership with Journey Church in launching this year-round Day Space. This collaboration is a powerful step forward in providing dignity, safety, and connection for individuals experiencing homelessness, particularly during weather events like extreme heat, wildfire smoke, and cold. With the generous support of our funders, the expertise of Distress Centre Calgary’s highly trained staff, and the dedication of the compassionate team at Journey Church, we are creating a safe, welcoming space where people can access vital wellness services, housing supports and take meaningful steps toward stability. This initiative represents what’s possible when community partners unite with a shared commitment to supporting Calgary’s most vulnerable.” - *Candice Giammarino, Director of Programs at SORCe, Distress Centre Calgary*

By connecting with individuals experiencing homelessness in these Day Spaces, experienced staff support them in working towards long-term solutions. Ultimately, this collaborative effort is aimed at reducing barriers to housing and supporting reintegration into the community, helping individuals in breaking the cycle of homelessness.

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***A representative from Calgary Homeless Foundation can be made available for interview requests on this subject based on availability. Please reach out to [media@calgaryhomeless.com](mailto:media@calgaryhomeless.com) with your request.***