

For immediate release  
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## **EXTREME WEATHER RESPONSE WRAPS SEASON, HIGHLIGHTING IMPORTANCE OF DAY SPACES IN CALGARY'S HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE**

Calgary, AB – Calgary Homeless Foundation (CHF), in partnership with The City of Calgary and more than 20 community organizations, is marking the conclusion of the 2025–26 Extreme Weather Response (EWR) season, which wrapped on March 31.

Now in its fourth year, EWR is a coordinated, citywide response that runs from December through March to keep individuals experiencing homelessness safe during periods of extreme cold weather while connecting them to essential services and housing pathways. The program includes seasonal day spaces, transportation to emergency shelters, distribution of critical winter supplies, and connections to support services.

During the 2025–26 EWR season:

- 32,324 visits were recorded at seasonal day spaces
- 3,632 shuttle trips transported individuals safely to emergency shelters
- 99,680 essential winter items were distributed through outreach teams
- 11,768 connections were made to housing, mental health, recovery, tax, and legal supports

“Extreme Weather Response continues to be a vital tool in Calgary’s homelessness response system,” said Bo Masterson, Vice President of Stakeholder Engagement at Calgary Homeless Foundation. “Providing spaces for warmth is not just about weather; it's about relationships and vital connections to services that support people on a path from homelessness to appropriate housing.”

Day spaces were consistently utilized throughout the EWR season, even as Calgary experienced only 18 days below –20°C, highlighting their critical role as trauma-informed, trusted, low-barrier points of safety, warmth, and connection.

“Day spaces and Extreme Weather Response are part of a broader, more coordinated approach to public safety while serving vulnerable individuals,” said Kay Choi, Director of Partnerships, City of Calgary. “What began as a winter response has shown us the value of welcoming, low-barrier spaces year-round where people can stay safe, meet basic needs, and connect to services.”

The 2025–26 Extreme Weather Response was delivered in partnership with frontline agencies including Woods Homes, Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary (AFCC), Distress Centre Calgary at Journey Church, The Mustard Seed, and The Salvation Army, alongside system partners such as the Calgary Drop-In Centre, Alpha House, Hope Mission, Inn From the Cold, Calgary Police Service, Calgary Fire Department, and Calgary Transit. This season’s wrap-up underscores the growing importance of year-round Day Spaces, building on the success of seasonal EWR initiatives.

As part of that evolution, Journey Church, in partnership with Distress Centre Calgary and The Mustard Seed, both seasonal EWR locations, expanded last year to offer year-round day space programming. These spaces provide consistent, daytime access to supports throughout the year, including:

- Safe, welcoming places to rest
- Meals, beverages, clothing, and hygiene supplies
- Access to showers and laundry at select locations
- Connections to housing workers, health supports, and referrals to additional services

“These year-round spaces build on the trust established through seasonal programming,” said David Conrad, Senior Director of Community & Volunteer Engagement at The Mustard Seed. “They offer stability beyond the winter months and play an essential role in Calgary’s homelessness response.”

CHF coordinates these day space initiatives in close collaboration with The City of Calgary to ensure services are responsive, data-informed, and aligned with the city’s broader homelessness strategy.

As Calgary continues to strengthen year-round daytime supports, Extreme Weather Response remains a critical seasonal component, helping protect lives during colder months, while reinforcing pathways toward housing and stability.

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**About Calgary Homeless Foundation:**

Calgary Homeless Foundation guides the fight against homelessness. Fueled by this purpose, we envision the day when homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring – perhaps an episode in someone’s life, but never a condition that defines it. Working in alignment with governments and collaboratively with service providers and community partners, we help translate complex system needs into coordinated, efficient ground-level action that maximizes the impact of every resource and creates lasting pathways out of homelessness.

We are uniquely positioned to observe the many challenges facing our city and strengthen the entire sector through strategic leadership, forward-thinking capacity development, and hands-on, day-to-day support.

Our comprehensive data centre reveals the full picture of homelessness in our community, enabling us to anticipate challenges and identify effective solutions. And we unite diverse stakeholders around shared goals and help address complex situations that no single agency can solve alone.

Our collective approach and focus on learning and evaluation equip us to address homelessness across our city while keeping the people experiencing it at the heart of our work.

When the system works better together, more people find their way home. Learn more at [www.calgaryhomeless.com](http://www.calgaryhomeless.com).