

## Winter Warming Stations

Winter Emergency Response (WER) is a collaborative community effort within the Tri-Municipal region to create a temporary, emergency weather response intended to mitigate risk for unsheltered residents within the region who are vulnerable to serious, critical, or potentially fatal health impacts as a result of cold weather exposure.

The Winter Emergency Response (WER) was first developed for the 2019-2020 winter season. A committee consisting of municipal and community organizations and groups was assembled with the goal of having a collaborative plan in place by November 2020. The committee was comprised of:

- City of Spruce Grove – Protective Services & Community Social Development
- RCMP
- Engage Church
- Spruce Grove Community Church
- Congregational Christian Fellowship Church
- Tri-Region Pay Forward Kindness Society
- TransAlta Tri Leisure Centre
- Rotary Club of Spruce Grove
- Spruce Grove Public Library

WER includes two regional programs - the Late Night Cafe and daytime Warming Centres. Transportation is available to and from each program when required. Trained professional staff will work collaboratively with community partners and local enforcement to support the safety for all.

The programs run from November through March; they are activated when the wind chill reaches -20 Degrees (Celsius) or colder for 4-6 hours as per Environment Canada forecasts.

The Warming Centres, when activated, operate from 10AM to 4PM from rotating locations across the Tri-Municipal region. The program provides daytime warming spots, hot meals, access to cold weather supplies, advocacy/referral to other programs, and coordination with existing services. This program is overseen by the Spruce Grove Community Church, operated by the Cyrus Centre and is supported by regional churches, community groups, and volunteers. Locations have been donated by regional partners and selected after careful consideration of functionality, access, and availability. Holy Trinity will be hosting on Tuesdays when the wind chill temperature drops below -20°C.

Unsheltered residents reside across the Tri-Municipal Region and they access services and support across our region.

To access these programs, call 780-306-1699 or email [werc@sprucegrove.church](mailto:werc@sprucegrove.church).

For more information, donations or to volunteer, contact: 780-306-1699 or email [werc@sprucegrove.church](mailto:werc@sprucegrove.church).

WER works collaboratively with many community organizations and is advised by the WER Advisory committee. For more information on WER and the advisory committee visit <https://www.sprucegrove.org/community/homelessness/winter-emergency-response>.

The program is looking for volunteers for both the Daytime and Overnight. Please follow the link to sign up or scan QR code.

<https://app.betterimpact.com/Application?OrganizationGuid=0dcee80d-1865-4426-b98a-52d9bd3836a6&ApplicationFormNumber=1>

