

News Release

January 8, 2018

Update on City of Toronto homelessness services

City of Toronto staff continue to actively monitor and respond to the need for homelessness services across the city. Providing sufficient services for everyone who requests them remains the focus.

With increased demand for services during the recent extreme cold weather period in Toronto, services continued to be busy yesterday and overnight. Warming Centres were opened on a temporary basis as an extra precaution and the warming centre services at Regent Park Community Centre will remain available until further notice while the Metro Hall warming centre services will now end.

As the overflow warming centre service established Saturday, January 6 at Wellesley Community Centre was not required (there was one person there at 4 a.m. Sunday morning), services there were ended on Sunday and the facility was returned to its primary purpose of community-based programming.

At 4 a.m. this morning:

Warming centres

- Metro Hall, 31 people on site. Capacity is 50.
- Regent Park Community Centre, 59 people on site. Capacity is 180.

Moss Park Armoury

- 53 people on site. Capacity is 100.

Winter respite drop-ins

- All sites were busy and there were spaces for everyone who requested service.
- 88 people were at the Better Living Centre Site. Capacity is 200.

Last night, outreach teams were once again supported by dedicated paramedic teams. They encountered 20 individuals, one of whom accepted an offer of service. A team checked in at the Moss Park Safe Injection Site and one person accepted the offer of service. Teams again received many concerned citizen calls and the City thanks the public for their support.

During an Extreme Cold Weather Alert additional services are available that focus on getting and keeping vulnerable residents inside. These include additional shelter beds, notification to community agencies to relax any service restrictions, availability of transit tokens in some drop-ins, and overnight street outreach and transportation to services.

Call 311 for service locations and information updates or check

<http://www.toronto.ca/homelesshelp>.

The Extreme Cold Weather Alert has now ended, but City staff continue to closely monitor service usage and quickly respond to service demands as appropriate.

Toronto is Canada's largest city, the fourth largest in North America, and home to a diverse population of about 2.8 million people. It is a global centre for business, finance, arts and culture and is consistently ranked one of the world's most livable cities. For information on non-emergency City services and programs, Toronto residents, businesses and visitors can visit <http://www.toronto.ca>, call 311, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, or follow us on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/TorontoComms> and on Instagram at <http://www.instagram.com/cityofto>.

- 30 -

Media Contact: Pat Anderson, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, 416-397-4328, Patricia.Anderson@toronto.ca