



## **CENTRE OF HOPE MOVES ITS OPERATIONS TO MARSHALL HOUSE PROPERTY**

FORT MCMURRAY, AB, March 24, 2020 – As of Tuesday, March 24, 2020 the Centre of Hope (COH) will be moving its daytime drop-in centre to the Marshall House property. The goal of COH is to move their entire operation to Marshall House, but in light of the Covid-19 pandemic that may take a little longer.

Wood Buffalo Housing (WBH) has been in discussions with the COH for weeks to explore the possibility of COH moving its operations to Marshall House.

“It really is a win-win for all parties,” says Henry Hunter, President and CEO of WBH, “and we are very excited that we could make it work. They were in need of a new building and we needed a tenant. We are thankful to the COH and Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo for working with us to get Marshall House back in service as a supportive space for the most vulnerable people in this community.”

It will take some time to get things setup and running, but the goal for the next few weeks is to have the drop-in centre opened on the ground floor and to utilize the second and third floors for isolation of homeless people who may need to self-isolate.

“This is a great example of the collaborative spirit that exists in this community, particularly during challenging times,” says Rosie Keating, Executive Director of the COH. “Centre of Hope has been a long-standing partner on the community plan to end homelessness, and we are excited for the potential that exists in this new space. As we embark on amalgamating our programs, we are eager to foster and enhance our service delivery to improve the quality of life for the individuals experiencing near or chronic homelessness.”

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