

COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR IN SQUAMISH SELECTED AS A SPOTLIGHT EVENT FOR NATIONAL CAMPAIGN

One night. One walk. A stronger, more connected community

Squamish, February 19, 2026 – On February 28, 2026, Squamish Helping Hands Society will be connecting their partners, neighbors, and supporters through its third annual Coldest Night of the Year fundraising walk.

In 2025, Squamish Helping Hands walked in solidarity with 2,102 community supporters who created 55 teams on and off-site to raise an astonishing \$101,368. Currently in 2026, 43 teams, 25 sponsors, and 156 walkers have raised \$53,500.

Everyone in Squamish and beyond is invited and encouraged to join in to help people experiencing hunger, hurt, and homelessness in our region. This family-friendly walk around Squamish's downtown relies on teams formed by individuals, clubs, companies, and community groups who raise funds through individual donations to complete the two or five-kilometer route. Participating in Coldest Night of the Year is simple: start a team, volunteer, or donate.

The Squamish Coldest Night of the Year is scheduled to take place alongside 225 walks in cities, towns, and communities across Canada. This year, national organizers will be shining their spotlight on Squamish and have commissioned local photographer Alex Eggermont to capture the event to showcase Squamish's community spirit across the country.

“Coldest Night of the Year is more than a fundraiser though the money raised is incredibly important for our programs and services,” said Amber Cowie, Director of Fund Development and Partnership with Squamish Helping Hands. “Every year, the evening is a powerful and beautiful moment of connection between so many different kinds of people in our community and we'd love for our whole town to experience it especially now that we have a chance to showcase our community on a national level.”

The donations raised will be directed towards the Squamish Food Bank, which has seen a ten percent rise in visits from 2024 to 2025, and critical services

offered by Squamish Helping Hands to help people move from homelessness to being housed.

The Squamish walk starts at Junction Park, 37950 Cleveland Ave and ends at Howe Sound Inn and Brewing with a light meal made of rescued food provided by Squamish Helping Hands. Registration opens at 4pm and community members are invited to gather for pre-event festivities in the park before the walk begins at 5pm. With sponsored rest stops at intervals along the route, walkers will enjoy warm drinks and delicious snacks before gathering in the cozy pub for dinner.

Everyone who raises over \$150 (or \$75 for youth) will be given an iconic Coldest Night of the Year toque.

For further information, contact:

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