

MEDIA ADVISORY

Encampment Incident Shows Need for Community Solutions

Risks of violence and cold wet weather make encampment residents vulnerable; community collaboration is required to help solve the problem

December 11, 2025, Squamish, British Columbia: In the early morning of December 10, 2025, a targeted altercation occurred outside in the 37000 block of Third Avenue. Following the arrival of the Squamish RCMP, an individual was taken to the hospital to be treated.

As part of a community-wide team to address homelessness and a lack of resources in the region, Squamish Helping Hands (SHH) has been fully collaborating with the active investigation of Squamish RCMP to ensure its staff, participants, and volunteers are safe.

“We have ten known encampments where people shelter outside in Squamish. Encampments are caused by many factors and systemic issues, including a lack of affordable housing, entrenched poverty, institutional trauma, addiction, and complex mental health disorders,” says SHH executive director, Lori Pyne. “It is critical that we work together to find real answers to these issues without stigmatizing or blaming one organization or a group of people already facing dire circumstances.”

SHH works hard to meet the basic needs of people experiencing homelessness in the community. Programming includes daily meals, medical treatment, and emergency shelter beds. Unfortunately, from September to November 2025, there were 71 people turned away from the emergency shelter due to lack of beds. According to the [Point In Time Homeless Count](#), there are currently 125 people experiencing homelessness in Squamish and 48 known encampment residents meaningfully engaged with the SHH team.

While SHH does not control or manage encampments, it does have an outreach team who provide on-site and supported care for individuals to help address public safety issues in encampments such as violence, spread of infection and disease, fire control, and waste management.

“Incidents like this are a call to action regarding the deep need for concerted and compassionate care for people experiencing homelessness in our town,” said Pyne. “This is a community problem that requires community solutions.”

SHH partners with many organizations in the Sea to Sky region to ensure our community is safe and healthy for all. SHH convenes a monthly Community Action Team (CAT) with members from Vancouver Coastal Health, Sea to Sky Community Services, the District of Squamish, Bylaw Services, RCMP, Integrated First Nations RCMP, to address urgent issues and find solutions for encampment residents and unhoused people.

“When we help the most vulnerable people in our community, everyone benefits,” said Pyne. “Squamish becomes safer when everyone is supported.”

For more information, please contact:

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About Squamish Helping Hands Society:

Squamish Helping Hands Society extends a range of compassionate and trauma-informed programs and services from its 4-story building in downtown Squamish. Named Under One Roof, Squamish Helping Hands offers shelter and transitional housing, food security programs, outreach, harm reduction, drug poisoning response, and wellbeing services. As a not-for-profit charity, it relies on grants and donated financial and in-kind contributions to operate. The COVID-19 pandemic, toxic drug supply and affordability crisis have intensified the need for its programs and services. Squamish Helping Hands aims to double its operations to better serve the rapidly growing community and continue to navigate demands on staff, volunteers, and resources.

Ways to Give and Support Squamish Helping Hands:

- Become a program partner to help deliver wrap around care
- Donate cash or in-kind services
- Volunteer for the food bank and in the kitchen at Under One Roof
- Raise funds through community events or campaigns
- Support and advocate for more dedicated resources in Squamish
- squamishhelpinghands.ca/ways-to-give

Additional Resources

- [Encampments | Canadian Human Rights Commission](#)
- [Point-In-Time Homeless Count](#)