



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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VIHA COMMITS FUNDING FOR LIVING ROOM PROGRAM

DUNCAN – Adults and youth with mental health issues and those at risk of homelessness will have a Living Room they can call their own when the Canadian Mental Health Association's (CMHA) new Warmland Housing project opens its doors in Duncan in January 2010. The Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) has committed \$145,362 to fund staffing for the Living Room Program at the site. The Living Room is a daytime drop-in program that will provide a safe, home-like environment and will aim to connect at-risk adults and youth with support and access to community agencies.

"We are delighted to work in partnership with the CMHA and BC Housing on this exciting project," said Howard Waldner, VIHA's Chief Executive Officer (CEO). "Warmland House and the Living Room Program will provide an opportunity to help those who may not have readily accessed mental health and/or addiction services before."

VIHA is committed to the ongoing work with the communities in the Cowichan Valley region to improve mental health and addictions services.

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