

Burnaby Homelessness Extreme Weather Heat Summary

Presentation to Burnaby City Council

October 3, 2022

The Society to End Homelessness in Burnaby



Extreme Weather Heat Response 2022

The Extreme Weather Heat Response (EWHR) was operated the Society to End Homelessness in Burnaby during times of Extreme Heat ** during **June 1 - September 30th, 2022**.

We operated the EWHR at 2 outdoor locations in Burnaby:

- **South Burnaby** location - Civic Square (Mckay Ave & Central)
- **North Burnaby** location - Kensington Park (Fell Ave & Frances St.)

Extreme Weather Heat – Weather Criteria

Extreme Weather is **defined as conditions deemed severe enough to present a substantial threat to the life and/or health of the public.**

Heat Alert

Issued when 2 or more consecutive days of daytime maximum temperatures are **expected** to reach **29°C or warmer**.

Heat Warning (notice that an Extreme Weather Heat Response is in effect)

Issued when 2 or more consecutive days of daytime maximum temperatures are certain or imminent or **have reached** 29°C or warmer. The Warning will open cooling resources for the public.

Extreme Weather Heat Response - 2022 Season

We were open **23** days in total

First Day Open - June 25th

The longest consecutive time we were open for was **7 days** between **July 25 to July 31**.

Hottest Day - July 29th with daytime temperatures reaching **35°C**

On average we were open **3 days per week** in August

Burnaby Cooling Centres

- **South Location: Burnaby Civic Square**
 - At Central & McKay Avenue
- **North Location: Kensington Park**
 - At Fell Avenue & Frances St.
- **Hours open: 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.**
- Open to all members of the public including people experiencing homelessness
- Minimal-Barrier & Pet friendly



EWHR – Supplies & Services

What we offered:

- Water, food, sunscreen, hand-held fans/misters, hand sanitizers, cooling cloths, hygiene & harm reduction supplies
- Misting station
- Portable Toilets (supplied by the City of Burnaby at Civic Square)
- Tents with tables & chairs
- Free Wifi



Services Provided:

- **Peer Outreach** from the **Burnaby Community Action Team** (BCAT)
 - Reached out to the homelessness population both neighbourhoods to inform the community about our services
 - Gave out harm reduction supplies
- **Integrated Homeless Action Response Team** (IHART) from **Fraser Health**
 - Provided everything from wound care to harm reduction
 - Social Worker
- **Progressive Housing**
 - Helped guests find shelter space

Extreme Weather Heat Response - Outputs

EWHR 2022	Civic Square	Kensington Park
<i>EWHR Days Open</i>	23	23
Unique # Served	1,247	1,369
# Families Served	50	41
# People Homeless <small>(not unique Civic Square; unique at Kensington)</small>	584	92
% People Homeless	36.2%	6.9%

Daily Statistics

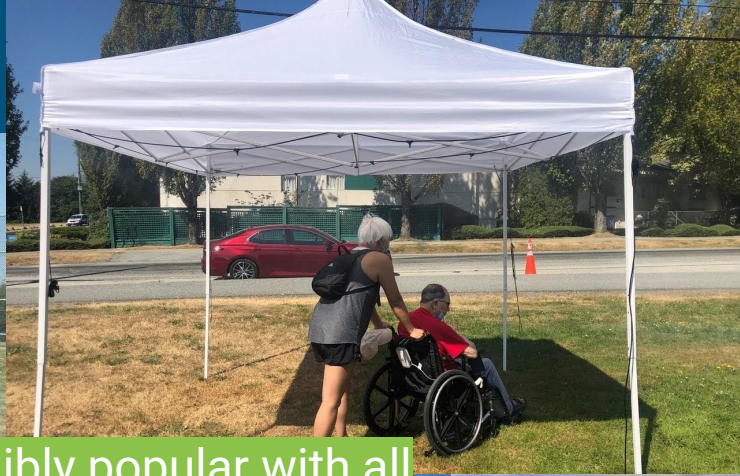
EWHR 2022	Civic Square	Sat, Jun 23	Sun, Jun 26	Mon, Jun 27	Mon, Jul 25	Tue, Jul 26	Wed, Jul 27	Thu, Jul 28	Fri, Jul 29	Sat, Jul 30	Sun, Jul 31	Sat, Aug 06	Sun, Aug 07	Mon, Aug 08	Tue, Aug 09	Tue, Aug 16	Wed, Aug 17	Thu, Aug 18	Tue, Aug 23	Wed, Aug 24	Thu, Aug 25	Tue, Aug 30	Wed, Aug 31
EWHR Days Open	23	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Unique Nbr Served	1,257	33	36	46	51	47	51	32	43	32	69	59	63	63	62	79	112	68	55	35	67	71	37
# Served twice	5	0	1	4																			
# Served 3+ times	0	0	0	0																			
# Families Served	50	3	3	8	2	4	4	3	2	3	2	1	0	2	6	0	3	0	0	2	1	0	1
# People Homeless (not unique Civic Sq; unique at Kensington)	551	6	1	9	25	20	17	15	15	17	37	19	27	36	33	49	58	35	24	15	30	46	17
% People Homeless	41.2%	18.2%	2.8%	19.6%	49.0%	42.6%	33.3%	46.9%	34.9%	53.1%	53.6%	32.2%	42.9%	57.1%	53.2%	62.0%	51.8%	51.5%	43.6%	42.9%	44.8%	64.8%	45.9%

EWHR 2022	8/31 Kensington Park	Sat, Jun 23	Sun, Jun 26	Mon, Jun 27	Mon, Jul 25	Tue, Jul 26	Wed, Jul 27	Thu, Jul 28	Fri, Jul 29	Sat, Jul 30	Sun, Jul 31	Sat, Aug 06	Sun, Aug 07	Mon, Aug 08	Tue, Aug 09	Tue, Aug 16	Wed, Aug 17	Thu, Aug 18	Tue, Aug 23	Wed, Aug 24	Thu, Aug 25	Tue, Aug 30	Wed, Aug 31	Thu, Sep 01
EWHR Days Open	23	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Unique Nbr Served	1,369	12	5	3	12	10	19	38	35	56	78	97	88	66	84	58	48	71	59	93	107	122	101	107
# Served twice	79	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	9	5	3	4	5	10	5	1	3	1	5	9	6	4	3	1
# Served 3+ times	11	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
# Families Served	41	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	2	3	2	2	2	1	2	2	4	1	3	4	2	5	1
# People Homeless (not unique Civic Sq; unique at Kensington)	88				2	2	3	3	1	3	2	5	8	1	2	4	4	5	9	10	13	5	3	3
% People Homeless	6.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	20.0%	15.8%	7.9%	2.9%	5.4%	2.6%	5.2%	9.1%	1.5%	2.4%	6.9%	8.3%	7.0%	15.3%	10.8%	12.1%	4.1%	3.0%	2.8%

Extreme Weather Heat Response - Results

- Diversity of people served: families, seniors, all genders, all ages, different ethnic backgrounds inclusive of homeless people with other residents
- People in distress were assisted to maintain their health
 - ❖ There were 9 health interventions, including 2 calls for the ambulance.
- Many incredible acts of selflessness and generosity by volunteers.
- One complaint: one citizen thought the storage pod at Civic Square was unsightly

The Misting Station



Incredibly popular with all members of the public!



Extreme Weather Heat Response - Lessons

- As the statistics show, these two cooling centres were a valuable asset to the City's Emergency Heat Response.
 - We suggest that the city invest more resources into this for the next year
- The storage pods at the cooling sites made operations smoother and easier to staff.
- Strong communications between the Society and the City led to a successful EWHR season.

Extreme Weather Heat Response - Lessons

- At the end of the season, there was donor and volunteer fatigue due to the sheer amount of days we were open in August.
- We need dedicated coordinators to maintain smooth operations at each site. Perhaps some core funding.
- More signage is needed at each site.

Extreme Weather Heat Response – Celebrate!!

- Recap: The cooling site was entirely run by volunteers, including the BCAT/CPR peers.
- Supplies were 90%+ donated
- This was a community response: inclusive and caring



Thank you everyone – because of your efforts, many were helped.

Extreme Weather Heat Response – Next Steps:

Building on Success - Requests:

1. Reopening both Cooling Centres for 2023 (especially Civic Square)
2. Assistance finding indoor space during smoke/pollution events
3. Assistance finding another location in North Burnaby
 - In recognition of transit barriers to the homeless & Burnaby's large geography to operate concurrent with existing sites

