

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE
44 East Cordova Street, Vancouver Tel: 681-8480
December 1995

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Monday 10:30-5 Tues. 11:30-5 Weds. 10:30-5	Thurs. 10:30-5 Fri. 10:30-5 Sun. 12:00-5	LUNCH SERVED DAILY AT 12:30			1 1:30 RAFFLE 2:00 Video	2
3 1:30 Video 2:00 Work on the garden plot in Strathcona	4 1:30 AIDS Van 2:00 Video - Searching for my Children 2:00 Christmas Decorations paint doughworks 5:00 Learn. Group	5 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Christmas cards make your own 3:00 City Lights Tour 3:00 Steering Meeting	6 1:00 Law Student 1:30 Beading 5:00 Volunteer Dinner	7 DECORATION DAY 1:30 Law Student 2:00 Christmas Decorations Dolls with Anne 5:00 Women Surviving Together	8 1:30 RAFFLE 2:00 Dolls continued 2:00 Video	9
10 1:30 BINGO	11 1:30 AIDS Van. 2:00 Christmas Decorations with Julie 5:00 Learn. Group CHRISTMAS DINNER TICKETS AVAILABLE	12 1:30 Women's Voice 1:30 Work on the garden plot 2:00 Guest Speaker on Legal Information 5:00 Employment and Lifeskills Training Workshop	13 1:00 Kathy the nurse 1:00 Law Student 1:30 Beading 1:30 Theater Outing CLOTHING ROOM CLOSED	14 1:30 Law Student 2:00 Christmas Corsages 5:00 Women Surviving Together	15 1:30 RAFFLE 2:00 Hanukkah Sharing 2:30 Video 5:00 Holiday Clean up	16
17 1:30 Video 1:30 Work on the garden	18 1:30 AIDS Van. 2:00 Dreamcatchers and Medicinewheels 5:00 Learn. Group	19 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Museum of Anthropology 2:30 Happy Birthday! 5:00 Steering Meeting	20 CHEQUE DAY CENTRE OPEN 1:00 Law Student	21 CLOSED WRAPPING AND PREP DAY	22 CHRISTMAS DINNER AND CELEBRATION	23 Dinner Clean up
24 1:30 BINGO CLOTHING ROOM OPEN 31 1:30 Video	25 HAPPY HOLIDAYS! WE ARE OPEN!! 12 - 5 Present exchange	26 1:30 Women's Voice 3:00 City Lights Tour	27 1:30 Beading 2:00 BC Benefits Workshop - The 'NEW' welfare plan 5:00 Volunteer Rest and Relaxation Time	28 2:00 Ceramics 5:00 Women Surviving Together	29 CENTRE CLOSED	30

... canceled or set up on another date - make sure to check "Update sheet" on the front chalk board***

... free events around to

HAPPY HOLIDAYS, HAPPY HOLIDAYS, HAPPY HOLIDAYS - NOT IF THE GOVERNMENT CAN HELP IT!! WE ARE NOT GOING TO LET THEM SCROOGE US. THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF GREAT STUFF PLANNED AT THE CENTRE FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON. TWICE AS MANY CRAFT WORKSHOPS AND OF COURSE SEASONAL CELEBRATIONS. WE WILL ALSO BE SHARING IN HANUKKAH WHICH IS THE HIGH HOLIDAY FOR JEWISH COMMUNITIES. WE ARE OUR OWN BIG FAMILY HERE LET'S CELEBRATE TOGETHER AND REMEMBER WHAT CHRISTMAS REALLY MEANS.

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

The **Christmas Dinner** will be on **Friday, Dec. 22 starting at 12:00**. There will be 4 seatings and tickets are available **Mon. Dec. 11** from the front desk (you do not need a ticket for the dinner but giving out tickets help us manage the dinner). There will be turkey with the fixings and presents and food baskets and singing and entertainment and.....In preparation for Christmas we will be **Decorating on Thurs. Dec. 7 all day**. And we will be closed all day for **Wrapping and Prep, Thurs. Dec. 21** to wrap all the presents and get cooking!! On **Christmas Eve, Sun. Dec. 24** we will be having a **special Christmas Bingo**, there will also be baked goodies. We are open as usual on **Christmas Day is Gift Exchange day**, on this day you can bring in the gifts that you got, that you don't really want, and exchange them with other women it will be fun there will also be music and goodies. Throughout the month we will also be having mini tours of the city to see the light decorations around the city.

There will be a special presentation on **Fri. Dec. 15 at 2:00**. At this time of the year those of us who are Jewish celebrate **Hanukkah**. There will be a woman who will come in to talk about Hanukkah, what it is, what it means and how Hanukkah is celebrated in Jewish Communities.

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

There will be **Ornament Painting**, the dough ornaments that were made last month are ready for painting!! **Mon. Dec. 4 at 2:00**. Just in time for decoration day. On Decoration Day, **Thurs. Dec. 7 2:00** Anne will be coming out of the kitchen to show us how to make dolls. **Decorative Dolls** will continue on **Fri. Dec. 15 at 2:00**. On **Mon. Dec. 11 at 2:00** there will be another session with **Julie to make more decorations** and learn other skills not only to make Christmas stuff. The **Christmas Message** workshop is back again this year, on **Thurs. Dec. 14 at 2:00**, you will need to sign up and the sign up sheet will be up the first week of Dec. On the **Mon. Dec. 18th at 2:00** there will be a **Dreamcatchers and Medicinewheel workshop** it isn't really Christmassy but you can make a special dreamcatcher or medicinewheel for the season. Of course there will be **Reading every Wed.** at 1:30 except cheque day.

ACTIVITIES

As mentioned before there will be **Tours of the City Lights** scheduled for **Tue. Dec 5 and 26 at 3:00** there will probably be more added through the month on an impromptu basis. This depends on the Out of Centre Volunteers who have time to drive. Take the opportunity to see the city and the wonderful decorations of the season. On **Wed. Dec. 13 at 1:30** we will be going to see the Festive Comedy, **It's Blowing Glowing and Growing in Bowen**, at the Arts Club Theater this is a tea and biscuit matinee where you can meet and talk to the actors. Our monthly visit to the **Museum of Anthropology** will be on **Tue. Dec 19 at 2:00**. There will be a special Holiday display at the Museum, we will have a sandwich snack on the trip as well.

THE CENTRE GARDEN PLOT

At this time of the year one doesn't really think of working in the garden but we have to prepare the ground now and plant some stuff now in preparation for spring. There will be working outings once a week to the gardens to dig and hoe and weed!! If you are interested in some fresh air and good exercise come on out we will meet here at **1:30 on Sun. Dec. 3 and 17 and Tue. Dec. 12**. Give it a try you may find that you have a green thumb.

WORKSHOPS

This month there is only one workshop planned but it is really important because of the changes that have happened to welfare. The **Employment and Lifeskills Training Workshop** is on **Tue. Dec. 12 at 5pm** a meal is included. Find out about the kinds of training programs available and how to get enrolled. We will also cover different employment and lifeskills strategies and discuss how to make the changes in our lives we want.

REGULAR PROGRAMMING

AIDS - Margareth from AIDS Vancouver will be here every **Mon.** At 1:30 except on Christmas to answer any question that you may have about AIDS also to offer support and resource references to those who are HIV.

Learning Group - The Group meets every **Monday** night at 5:00, a meal is served, to help with the different issues associated with learning. This is where you can improve your memory, math and writing skills and other learning areas.

Women's Voice - **Tuesdays** at 1:30 come out and make your opinions heard. This is where Centre users can have their say in what they want from the Centre. If you are unhappy about something about the Centre or if you are really pleased that something is happening let us know. We can make changes only if we know what the problems are.

Law Student - There will be a law student in on **Wed. Dec 6, 13 and 20 at 1:00** as well as **Thurs. Dec. 7 and 14 at 1:30**. They are here to help with all your legal needs if they can't help you they will know who can. This includes help with Welfare, MSP, handicapped etc. If you have any questions don't hesitate to ask them. They have tons of information.

Women Surviving Together - This is a support group for women in the Downtown Eastside that meets every **Thursday** night at 5:00. We have a meal and a circle. This is where women can come for support on all kinds of issues, and talk about the problems they are experiencing or have overcome. It's a place to share and get stronger.

Raffles - We have a raffle every **Friday** at 1:30. Through the week we get donations that are not clothes that women may 'win' on **Fridays**. You need to enter your name during lunch before the raffle.

Bingo - There is Bingo every other **Sunday**, this month it is on **Dec. 10 and 24** from 1:30. It is a fun way to spend the afternoon without spending money at 'real' Bingo. Who knows you might even win some cool stuff. Christmas Eve is a special Bingo!

New Rules to Welfare Law

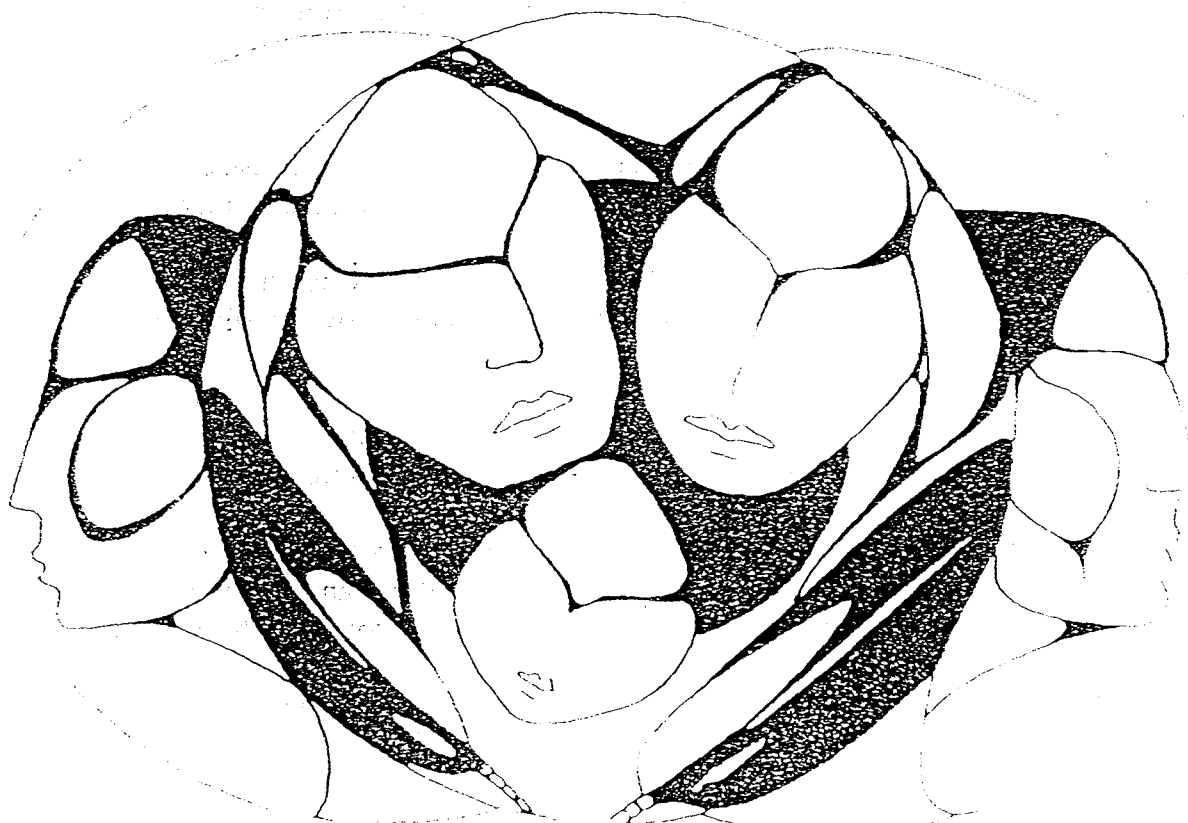
- please also refer to "Jean's Analysis of BC Benefits... and Roll up"

Other changes to note:

1. Hardship rules have changed Oct. 30/95.
 - a) people who get hardship "may" have to pay it back
 - b) people who quit or are fired can't get hardship unless losing the job wasn't their fault
 - c) to prove that losing a job wasn't your fault you have to be in a legal process like an appeal or court case
 - d) if you're on a strike or locked out, you have to prove that your union can't pay for your living expenses before you can get hardship
 - e) someone on Gain for Handicapped who gets a job, loses it, and is eligible for U.I., can only get hardship. Before, they could automatically go back to Gain for Handicapped
 - f) people on hardship can get money UP TO regular welfare rates. Before, they got regular welfare rates
2. Appeal System changes effective Dec. 1st
 - a) looks like you will only have 7 days to appeal a decision your worker makes. Before, you had 30 days. You also have to have chosen your nominee for the appeal tribunal within these 7 days.
 - b) The Ministry has created a new Appeal Review Board to review decisions that tribunals make. The people on the board will be hired and paid by the Ministry
3. Crisis Grant changes effective Aug. 4/95
 - a) crisis grants will only be given to people on these two conditions:
 - i) you have to have additional expenses because of sudden and unforeseen circumstances
 - ii) you have to have used up all other sources of money and community resources (ie. food banks, clothing donations, etc) The ministry also wants you to run around different places and get three letters saying you cannot find what you are needing there. Talk about wasting time!
 - b) if you ask for "too many" crisis grants, the Ministry will administer you.
4. Asset levels as of Oct. 30/95
 - a) single people under 55 with no dependents can only have \$500. Before it used to be \$2500
 - b) childless couples under 55 can only have \$1000. Before it was \$5000.
5. Basically, the new changes to come in Dec and the new year suggest that there are too many employable people on welfare! The Ministry blames it on people getting in the welfare "trap" and becoming "dependent". The Ministry does not see the causes of

employable people on welfare because there are no jobs. For people 19 to 24 years of age, they will no longer be able to "just" be on welfare. With the proposed changes these people must work, go to school, or be in training to get income assistance. Is the Ministry going to provide these people with bus passes, telephone service, work/school clothes?

In the BC Benefits - Renewing Our Social Safety Net draft #6 dated Oct /95, the Ministry writes, **"The vast majority of British Columbians support income assistance programs that help people get back on their feet. They want a system that focuses on moving welfare recipients into jobs. They don't expect government to create jobs - that's the role of the private sector."** The government talks about jobs like they are available, and the government also shows that they do not feel responsible to create jobs for the people.



WELFARE

WE NEED IT!
THEY GET IT!
WHO ARE THEY?

LARGE CORPORATIONS LIKE:
IMPERIAL OIL NORANDA INC.
HOLLINGER INC. THOMSON CORPORATION

WHAT DO THEY GET?

**\$ 40 BILLION IN DEFERRED TAXES!!!!!!
THAT'S CORPORATE WEALTHFARE!!**

INSTEAD OF MAKING THESE CORPORATIONS PAY UP
THE FEDS ARE TAKING BENEFITS AWAY FROM YOU.

PROTEST THE WELFARE CUTS!
TAKE ACTION NOW!

COME TO VICTORY SQUARE PARK
AT HASTINGS AND CAMBIE
THURSDAY DECEMBER 7TH
12:00 NOON

DON'T BE SILENCED!!!!



Anti-Poverty Workshops

*with Michelle Deslaurier
from End Legislated Poverty*

Workshop #1

Government Changes and Cuts to
Welfare, Health and Education

Friday, November 24, 1995
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Workshop #2

What Causes Poverty?

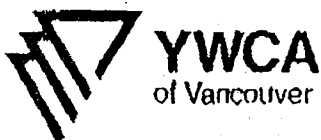
Wednesday, December 6, 1995
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

*Childcare, Bus Tickets and Lunch are provided.
Workshops are free.*

Location:

*YWCA Crabtree Corner
101 East Cordova*

Call Winnie at 689-2808 to pre-book child care and to sign-up.



Sponsored by the Parent Action Group of the Downtown
Eastside Children's Coalition/YWCA Crabtree Corner

VOLUNTEER NEWS

vol.1 no.3

December is probably the busiest time of the year for volunteers. There is so much to do in preparation for Christmas and the New Year. The Centre depends on the volunteers for a smooth and enjoyable Christmas. Here is a list of the kinds of work that need to be done for the Holiday Season. Sign up sheets will be up in the first week of December on the Volunteer Board.

HOLIDAY CLEAN UP - FRIDAY DEC. 15 5PM - 10PM

We will be washing the walls, dusting, getting rid of 'stuff' and doing minor repairs in the Centre, for example fixing the rotting cabinet in the shower room. After painting the Centre we decided that we wanted to maintain the Centre by having a cleaning party every 2 months. Believe or not it has been two months since we painted. Time flies! After we clean we will have a meal and relax with a video or something. It was fun the last time we cleaned, hard work but very satisfying.

WRAPPING AND PREP DAY - THURSDAY DEC. 21 NOON - 5PM

The little elves will be hard at work in the kitchen and through out the Centre to get ready for our Christmas Party for over 300 women!! If you are a Kitchen volunteer speak with Anne about arrangements for Prep day and Dinner day. Volunteers are need to help with all the wrapping there will be two shifts 12 - 3pm and another from 2pm - 5pm. We will need 10 women at each shift. We will be having Pizza for lunch and eggnog through the day. We will also be setting out the tables and getting the Centre all decked out for the Christmas Dinner on Friday.

CHRISTMAS DINNER AND CELEBRATION - FRIDAY DEC. 22 11AM - 5PM

The dinner starts at noon but volunteers are asked to come in at 11am to help with the preparations. We will need door people, servers, cleaners, present elves etc. For the busiest day in the year!! We will also need help in putting the place together again after the dinner.

AFTER DINNER CLEAN UP - SATURDAY DEC. 23 NOON - 4PM

If we don't have time to do a real cleanup after the dinner we will come in on Saturday. If it gets all cleaned up on Friday we will be coming in. More information as news comes.

CHRISTMAS DAY - MONDAY DEC. 25 - In case you forgot

We will need some help as there will only be 2 staff on today. This is the day women can come in and exchange their gifts with other women for something that they want.

**LOTS OF VOLUNTEER HOURS AVAILABLE IF YOU NEED HOURS.
TALK TO CYNTHIA ABOUT IT.**

NOW FOR SOME REALLY FUN STUFF

VOLUNTEER DINNER - WEDNESDAY DEC. 6 5PM

OLE! It is Mexicana night. Deb will be making the dinner again and we will be having Mexican!! Burritos, Nachos, refried beans and all kinds of great stuff!! Are there any suggestions for activities for the evening. Let Cynthia know if you have a brain wave.

VOLUNTEER REST AND RELAXATION TIME - WEDNESDAY DEC. 27 5PM

After Christmas rest party. Out of Centre Volunteers will be doing everything there will be a meal and we will play BINGO!! You deserve it after all the hard work that you will be doing during the Christmas week!!!

BUSINESS

Women have been **changing the names on the volunteer sign up sheet**. That is not a good thing because it causes confusion and women no longer know when they are working. The sign up sheet will now be located in Cynthia's office pinned on the wall just above the desk. If you need to make changes please talk to Cynthia first.

Women who are not on any volunteer program should be allowed to sign up for shifts. Women who are on a volunteer program should sign up for as many shifts as they need and no more until later in the month. That way everyone gets a chance to sign up.

There is always things to do here and if you do not have enough hours talk to Cynthia. For those who just want to volunteer on an informal basis there is also room for that. Talk to Cynthia. Everything is possible.

On Monday Dec. 11 there will be **tickets available for the Christmas Dinner** there will be 4 seatings, noon, 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. Women working at the desk will be giving them out. There will be 50 seats at each time. Even though women do not need a ticket for dinner women with tickets will be given first priority for that time. **All women and children are welcome**, boys up to 16 years old can attend. Women can get a ticket for a friend, only 1.

It is not up to the front desk to refuse tickets. If there is a problem please speak to Cynthia. Last year there were women working on the desk that were very rude to women requesting tickets. **Everyone is welcome NO ONE will be turned away**. Please keep the holiday spirit in your hearts. Some women only come here at Christmas and we should make them feel welcome.

We will be refusing used donations as of Monday Dec. 11. The clothing room will be closed from Wednesday Dec. 13th to Sunday Dec. 24th to make room for all the presents and food hampers for the Christmas dinner. Please refer all used donations to the United Church or other organizations. We will continue to accept NEW donations to be used for Christmas presents, they will go into the clothing room until wrapping day.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION - YOUR HELP IS GREATLY NEEDED AND APPRECIATED DURING THIS TIME

HERE ARE ALL KINDS OF FREE EVENTS THAT WILL BE HAPPENING DURING THE
HOLIDAY SEASON - WATCH THE ACTIVITIES BOARD FOR MORE INFORMATION

DECEMBER 10

Variety Club Children's Christmas Party
Ticket required, for application call 669-2313
870 Granville Street 12 - 2:30pm

DECEMBER 14

Meal for Street Kids - Vancouver City Centre Church
1290 Hornby St. 6pm

DECEMBER 16

Union Gospel Mission
616 East Cordova 10:30 - 6:30pm

St. James Church
303 East Cordova 4pm

Arbutus Shopping Centre
Meal for seniors call 421-4383 - tickets needed 3pm

DECEMBER 17

Sisters of Atonement (Adults only)
385 East Cordova 12:00 - 4:30pm

Crabtree/Sheway/Ray-cam/Quest
Single parents, for application call 689-2808

DECEMBER 18

St. Andrew's Wesley Church
Burrard and Nelson 4pm

DECEMBER 23

Reel Appetites in Oppenheimer Park 1pm

DECEMBER 25

La Quena
1111 Commercial Drive (Vegetarian) 5pm

St James Church
303 East Cordova 12 - 2pm

Harbour Light
119 East Cordova 10:30 - 3pm

OPEN AROUND THE CLOCK DECEMBER 24 -26
THE DUGOUT
95 POWELL STREET

When I was a child, the world was
still so green.

Plant life all around us, nature
could be seen.

Extinction belonged to only a
selected few.

When did we stop caring? First
Nations always knew.

They tried to tell us to respect the
Earth, to treat her well,

And now the times have changed
White Society's gone to hell.

We were once all tribal, so listen
up You know it alls,

Get back in touch with Mother
Earth,

Before you take the fall.

October Willow
23, 1995 Silver
Wolff

Angela Poisan

Applications will be accepted BEGINNING on NOVEMBER 14th.

ALL persons receiving INCOME ASSISTANCE may be eligible for a gift.

To apply, applicants **MUST SHOW:**

1. **MEDICAL CARD (i.e. CARE CARD)** - for ALL family members
2. **SOCIAL INSURANCE CARD(s)**
3. **VERIFICATION OF CURRENT ADDRESS** - (e.g. hydro, phone bill etc.)

If Medical **NOT** subsidized by Ministry, applicants **MUST SHOW:**

1. **MEDICAL CARD (i.e. CARE CARD)** - for ALL family members
2. **SOCIAL INSURANCE CARD(s)**
3. **VERIFICATION OF CURRENT ADDRESS** - (e.g. hydro, phone bill etc.)
4. **PROOF OF INCOME** - (e.g. copy of cheque stubs, etc.)

Those wishing to be considered, should apply to **ONLY 1** centre or agency listed.

ONLY ONE APPLICATION PER FAMILY WILL BE ACCEPTED.

SINGLES may register on **DECEMBER 1, 4 and 5th ONLY.**

The last date for applications will be **DECEMBER 5th** to allow for processing.

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**LOWER MAINLAND
CHRISTMAS BUREAU**
1370 Napier
Monday - Friday
9:30 - 4:00 p.m.
253-7191-FAX 253-6911

**KITSILANO NEIGHBOUR-
HOOD HOUSE**
2325 West 7th Avenue
Nov.16-Thurs. 9:30-12 Noon
Fri.10-12 Noon/2-4 p.m.
736-3588 - FAX. 736-3640

SALVATION ARMY
3213 Fraser Street
Monday - Friday
9:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Nov. 20 - Dec. 20
872-7676 - FAX 872-7678

**COLLINGWOOD
NEIGHBOURHOOD
HOUSE**
5288 Joyce Street
Tues. Nov. 14
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
435-0323 - FAX 451-1191

**LITTLE MOUNTAIN
NEIGHBOURHOOD
HOUSE**
3981 Main
Monday - Thursday
10:00-12:00/1:00-4:00 pm
879-7104 - FAX 879-7113

**FROG HOLLOW
NEIGHBOURHOOD
HOUSE**
2131 Renfrew
Monday - Nov. 13
8:30 - 1:30 p.m.
251-1225 - FAX 254-3764

**CEDAR COTTAGE
NEIGHBOURHOOD
HOUSE**
65 Victoria Drive
Mon-Fri. 10:30-4:30 P.M.
4-4231 - FAX 874-7169

**GORDON NEIGHBOURHOOD
HOUSE**
1019 Broughton Street
Sat. Nov. 18
Start 10:30 a.m.
683-2554 - FAX 683-4486

**SOUTH VANCOUVER
NEIGHBOURHOOD
HOUSE**
6470 Victoria
Nov. 14 - 9 - 4:30 p.m.
324-6212 - FAX 324-6116

**VANCOUVER
ORIGINAL CENTRE**
107 East Hastings
Monday - Friday
10:30-11:30/1:00-2:45

**RAYCAM COMMUNITY
CENTRE**
920 East Hastings
Tuesday & Thursday
10:00 - 12:00

LOWER MAINLAND CHRISTMAS BUREAUS - 1995

Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau
253-7191

Abbotsford Christmas Bureau
859-5749

Agassiz-Harrison Christmas Bureau
796-2585

Burnaby Christmas Bureau
299-5778

Chilliwack Christmas Bureau
792-4267

Coquitlam (Burquitlam Lions Jimmy Christmas Hamper Fund)
464-3220

Delta Christmas Bureau
946-9526

Hope Christmas Bureau
869-2466

Langley Christmas Bureau
534-2121

Maple Ridge Christmas Bureau
467-6911 until Dec. 1. Dec. 2 onwards, 467-6911/463-4943

Mission Christmas Bureau
826-3634 until Nov. 7. Nov. 8 onwards, 820-1691

New Westminster Christmas Bureau
521-2421

North Vancouver Christmas Bureau
984-9627 (as of Nov. 15)

Port Moody/Port Coquitlam (SHARE Community Services)
931-2451

Richmond Christmas Bureau
279-7035

Surrey Christmas Bureau
581-9623 - (Food Bank # 581-5443)

West Vancouver (after Dec. 1)
922-6522

White Rock Christmas Bureau
531-6494