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February 20, 2020

NWC ANNOUNCEMENT

RE: Mountainview Emergency Shelter Operations

The Board of Directors of the Hamilton-Wentworth Chapter of Native Women (o/a Native Women's Centre) after a great deal of thought and consideration has made a strategic decision to streamline programs and services to align more within our mission and vision. This was a very difficult decision to come to, we (Native Women's Centre) strive to focus not only on the healing and well-being of our community but also, on honouring one's individual life journey. As a result, we (Native Women's Centre) will cease the operation of Mountainview emergency women's shelter, effective June 30, 2020.

Mountainview provides 15 emergency shelter beds for single homeless women experiencing crisis. We (Native Women's Centre) will continue working closely with our dedicated homeless-serving agency partners to engage with individuals experiencing homelessness. There will be no impact to operations of Mountainview leading up to the June 30, 2020 closure date.

It is important to note, this closure does not affect the operations and/or other programs and services delivered by the Native Women's Centre Violence Against Women Shelter or Honouring the Circle Transitional Housing Program.

Our goal is to ensure that there is no gap in services or for the women who are using the 15 emergency shelter beds during this transition. This decision will help Native Women's Centre better honour our original mandate and responsibility to the community and providing us the opportunity to make the greatest impact for the individuals and community we work so passionately to serve.

We have notified the City of Hamilton of this decision; they will work with existing community partners to develop temporary, interim programming to continue operation of the 15 shelter beds and ensure there is no gap in services.

For any questions or concerns, please contact Linda Sandy, Executive Director at ed@nativewomenscentre.com.

Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully,

Janice Lewis-Deeley
Janice Lewis-Deeley
NWC Board President