

# OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

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## **News Release**

March 8, 2019

### **UBCIC congratulates DEWC on the opening of their 24-hour shelter on International Women's Day**

(Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver, B.C. – March 8, 2019) This International Women's Day, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) has cause not only to celebrate the perseverance and indomitable strength of women who have waged and won countless battles for equal rights, but the achievements and contributions of Downtown Eastside Women's Centre's (DEWC).

Upholding the spirit of female empowerment that drives International Women's Day forward, DEWC has officially transitioned their Emergency Drop-In Night Shelter into a 24-hour daily shelter. This shelter will provide a space of support and safety for women of the Downtown Eastside community who face the risks of violence and homelessness.

Elaine Alec, UBCIC's Women's Representative, lauds DEWC's actions, stating "Congratulations to the Vancouver Downtown Eastside Women's Centre on the official opening and transition to a 24-hour shelter which will provide safe space to our most vulnerable. It is important to ensure that safety and resources are available at all times, and we hold up the Downtown Eastside women who have advocated and committed themselves to fighting for basic human rights and giving voice to those who feel voiceless. On International Women's Day it is so important to hold up and recognize those women whose lives have been dedicated to women's safety and healing."

Like DEWC and the women we celebrate today worldwide, UBCIC will continue championing for a pathway forward for Indigenous women and girls that is founded on compassion, understanding, and equality.

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