

## Media Release



### Local Thrift Store Closing Its Doors

**Nelson, B.C. (Feb 22)** – After 49 years serving the community, The Salvation Army is closing its Thrift Store.

Due to several mitigating factors, the decision was made to close the store located at 601 Vernon Street, indefinitely. The doors will close to the public on March 24<sup>th</sup> with no plans to re-open in the future.

“The decision to close the store did not come easily, and we are deeply saddened,” says Lieutenant Michelle Cale. “Several factors played into our decision, but at the end of the day it boiled down to finances. We simply cannot afford to keep the store operating, while serving the community effectively.”

Some of the factors include a decline in foot traffic and changes in the local economy, which resulted in significant drops in revenue over the past five years. In order to continue having a presence in the community, it was a necessary business decision. Moving forward, the organization will focus its efforts on operating its social service programs, which will continue to serve the community.

“Right now, our focus is going to be our team,” says Cale. “We need to ensure they are taken care of, because they’ve served this community diligently for years. We will also continue to focus on those in the community who need our help, by delivering our programs to best of our ability.”

The Salvation Army in Nelson has operated in the community for 123 years, serving with compassion and without discrimination and providing hope for those in need. Today, the Army operates several programs and services, including a family service drop-in centre, a community outreach program, spiritual services, and others.

“I would like to thank the community for years of dedicated patronage and support. We can only do the work we do, because of their ongoing support. And while this is a sad occasion, we can look to the future with optimism because we are going to continue to operate and serve this great community.”

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The Salvation Army is an international Christian organization that began its work in Canada in 1882 and has grown to become one of the largest providers of social services in the country. Working in over 56 communities in B.C. and 400 communities across Canada we provide practical, compassionate support to meet basic human needs. Our programs and services feed clothe and shelter those in need, while helping others escape violence and addiction. By giving people hope, we transform lives of British Columbians today and every day.

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