

## The Salvation Army to Serve Thanksgiving Meals to Those in Need

**Vancouver, B.C. (October 11, 2018)** – This Thanksgiving season, over 2500 men, women, children and seniors across the province will come through the doors of The Salvation Army kitchen to receive a hot meal to celebrate.

Historically the holiday is a time to gather with friends and family in celebration, but sadly half a million British Columbians go hungry every day, with a growing number of those being employed, single parent families and seniors.

"Today, poverty isn't always easy to see," says Salvation Army spokesperson Mike Leland. "Sadly, a growing number of the people we serve are employed; many of them are single mothers who have children. Seniors are also a group that has grown dramatically over the past couple of years. This is the new reality of poverty in B.C."

In Vancouver, staff and volunteers will serve over 1,100 traditional Thanksgiving meals at Harbour Light located in the Downtown Eastside. The meals are funded by the generosity of private donations from the public.

"Our goal is to not only provide our neighbours in the downtown eastside community with a nutritious hot meal, but also with a sense of hope," says local spokesperson Jim Coggles. "What an amazing privilege it is for us as at The Salvation Army to provide this meal, a hand of friendship, and a place of community and support for those in need."

The Salvation Army in British Columbia has offered practical, compassionate support and nutritious meals to the public for more than 100 years. By meeting needs and giving people hope, we transform people's lives.

To support, people can make a donation to The Salvation Army by calling 1 800 SAL ARMY, donating online at salvationarmy.ca or by contacting your local Salvation Army office. Donations of non-perishable food items are appreciated.

WHAT: Thanksgiving Dinner

WHEN: Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 11am - 2pm

WHERE: Vancouver Harbour Light 119 E. Cordova St.

**DETAILS:** Full Thanksgiving Meal: turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberry sauce, veggies, pie, etc. cooked by

our staff and served by volunteers.

Special Voting Opportunity - City of Vancouver election voting for eligible voters

Nurses from Vancouver Coastal Health giving influenza vaccinations

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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 non-governmental direct providers of social services in the country. Working in 400 communities across Canada and more than 120 countries around the world, we provide practical, compassionate support to meet basic human needs. By giving people hope, we transform lives of British Columbians today and every day.

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salvationarmy.ca