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NEWS RELEASE**

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**NANAIMO MEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE RECEIVES FUNDING FOR SHORT TERM
EMERGENCY TRANSITION HOUSING**

Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre is pleased to announce that we have received funding from the United Way -- Nanaimo to provide Family Crisis Emergency Housing Services for men who have to leave a home in a crisis situation, with or without their children; for men or women who live elsewhere, and need a place in Nanaimo to visit with their children; and for youth who have to leave their home due to domestic problems and don't meet criteria for housing under other agency guidelines.

Until this funding came into place, men who are caregivers or who are facing domestic violence situations simply have no place to go. They have often found themselves having to leave children with an abuser or having to stay in a violent situation, with no resources available. Although Nanaimo has a transition house for those fleeing domestic violence, it is simply unavailable to male victims of domestic violence or fathers and their children fleeing spousal violence.

Canada's Centre for Justice Statistics, a branch of Statistics Canada, in their year 2005 report , informs that 7% of women and 6% of men were the victims of spousal violence in the last five years. Some experts even indicate that, due to differences in the way men and women report violence, the actual figures for men may be even higher.

Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre is one of only a very few resources or support services for men in Canada. Currently the State of California is being sued by a group of men who believe they have been discriminated against by the State, as transition housing has only been given to women in state funded transition houses there.

Theo Boere, the executive director of the Men's Resource Centre, comments, "We are very grateful to receive this funding from the United Way. It has always been clear to us that men need these kinds of resources too. While the statistics are not clear, we have had numerous men coming to us asking for support, and we know that it is certainly needed. We know that men often don't report that they have been assaulted, and sometimes don't even realize that they are the victims of spousal abuse. This is part of the legacy of being male"

Men, non custodial women, and youth who are in need of housing support are urged to contact the Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre at 716-1551, or the Crisis Line at 754-4447. Information on this and other programs at the Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre can be obtained at www.nanaimomen.com.