

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre Desperate For Permanent Funding

Nanaimo, BC – April 20, 2007 – The Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre has been providing services for men, women and families in Nanaimo for five years and is yet to receive permanent funding from either the Provincial or Federal Governments.

"Most of our funding has come on a project by project basis." says the men's centre Executive Director, Theo Boere, "If we don't get permanent funding soon we may have to close our doors".

"Ten men every day commit suicide in Canada and countless others are suffering from stress, depression, and problems with divorce and family breakdown." says Boere "Yet, even though women's groups in British Columbia have received \$48 million from the Ministry of Community Services and hundreds of millions from other provincial and federal ministries, men's groups have received almost nothing. It doesn't make any sense. We are not against positive discrimination towards women, but this situation is leading towards many negative impacts towards men."

In the past five years the Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre - one of only three men's centres in Canada - has provided programs including: individual counseling and group sessions for men and women, divorce and separation support, anger management programs, emergency housing, and education and training services. They have also produced newsletters, booklets and instructional video tapes. The centre is also in partnership with Malaspina University-College to research male depression and suicide.

"We are not like the radical men's groups such as Fathers for Justice; we only use peaceful means and dialogue to get our message across.", says Boere, "And our message is that men in our community and men around the world need centres like ours desperately. Happier men mean happier families and happier kids. There are huge benefits to our entire society when men do get help. One of men's problems is that they do not like to ask for help. Well, we are certainly asking now."

Contact: John Westwood, Communications Director, Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre –
Phone: 250-753-8345 Cell: 250-619-6717 Email: jcwestwd@telus.net
Or Theo Boere, Executive Director , Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre 250-716-1551 –
Email: theo@nanaimomen.com
Or Dr. Anne Leavitt, Dean of Social Sciences, Malaspina University-College – Phone:
250-740-6391 Email: leavitta@mala.bc.ca

#