

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2019**



## **CEO Don Evans leaves Our Place Society**

### ***Nation-wide search begins for replacement***

**VICTORIA, B.C.** – It is with regret that today the Our Place Society Board of Directors announces that CEO Don Evans is leaving the organization.

Evans has tirelessly led Our Place over the last seven years in a period that saw unprecedented expansion in shelters, transitional homes, employment advocacy, and addiction treatment for our community’s most vulnerable citizens.

In tendering his resignation, Evans wrote: “I am very proud of what Our Place has accomplished over the past 7+ years for our family members with new addiction recovery, employment, education, and healthcare services. These important achievements have taken a tremendous amount of dedication and hard work by a lot of people, and I am very grateful to everyone on my team, our partners, and supporters in the community who stepped forward to contribute and assist in helping others.”

He added: “In my own life’s journey, I have learned that it’s important to know when to start and when to stop as there will always be more to do in this field of work. It’s time for me to take a break to recharge my batteries, and then see how I can contribute to the community in a new way.”

The Board has great faith in all of the Our Place staff and volunteers, and will be working closely with the organization’s talented leadership and management teams to ensure the daily operation of Our Place Society is not adversely affected. A nation-wide search for a new CEO is already taking place.

“The Board appreciates Don’s leadership and his unwavering commitment, knowing that Our Place has benefitted greatly from his efforts throughout the capital region,” said Board Chair Ernie Quantz. “Don is a true champion of the complex issues of homelessness, and leaves behind many important legacies. We wish him the very best.”

For over 50 years, Our Place has been a unique inner-city community centre serving Greater Victoria’s most vulnerable: working poor, impoverished elderly, mentally and physically challenged, addicted and the homeless. Individuals and businesses provide much of the financial support for its programs and services. Our Place provides over 1,000 meals per day, plus 1,200 snacks, hot showers, education, job skills, health care, addiction recovery services, donated clothing, counseling and outreach services; plus 45 transitional housing units and over 140 shelter spaces. Most importantly, Our Place provides a sense of hope and belonging to our neighbours in need.

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