

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019**



## **Our Place Strengthens Leadership Team**

### ***New Chief Operating Officer appointed***

**VICTORIA, B.C.** – Our Place is excited to announce the appointment of Linda McLean in the position of Chief Operating Officer.

With over 25 years of experience, Linda McLean joins Our Place from Calgary where she has worked in leadership positions within a broad range of organizations including Calgary Drop In & Rehab Centre, The Calgary Homeless Foundation, and Inn from the Cold, a large Calgary agency providing shelter, support, and housing for the city’s most vulnerable children and their families. Linda has extensive experience in working with mental health and addictions and community-based health programs, and holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in Social Anthropology. Currently, she is completing a Master of Social Work Degree.

“Our Place has come such a long way in the last 50 years when we first offered a place of respite, hot coffee and day-old doughnuts for people struggling with homelessness,” said Chief Executive Officer Don Evans. “Today, Our Place provides transitional housing and shelter for over 150 people, plus serves almost one million snacks and nutritious meals every year to those living in poverty. Alongside food and shelter, we are running over 60 programs and services in five separate locations, which meant it was time to reorganize our executive team to be as efficient as possible without losing our heart.”

Alongside this appointment, the Our Place Board of Directors has changed Don Evans’ title from Executive Director to Chief Executive Officer.

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 100 shelter spaces. Most importantly, Our Place provides a sense of hope and belonging to our neighbours in need.

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