

Homeless support

Steps in the right direction

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Staff Reporters

A few hours in the rain can go an awfully long way.

That is the message that will be sent this Saturday, when teams of walkers will gather in cities across Canada – 82 in all, including White Rock, Surrey and Cloverdale – for the Coldest Night of the Year walk, which raises money to combat homelessness.

White Rock's event, hosted by Sources Community Services, has always been one of the organization's most important fundraisers.

And this year, the event holds even more significance, since Sources' Newton-based homelessness-prevention services lost about \$200,000 in annual government funding last month.

Now, the community organization is aiming to cover the lost funds itself, through fundraisers and pledge drives like Coldest Night.

This weekend, participants will walk a two-, five- or 10-km route, with teams raising money through pledges. Since 2011, the Coldest Night of the Year has raised \$4.9 million across Canada.

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Jim Heuving (left), executive pastor at Pacific Community Church in Cloverdale, along with church volunteers, prepare a meal for the needy. The church – along with dozens of other organizations, including Sources in White Rock – will be holding a Coldest Night of the Year walk on Feb. 27.

Evan Seal photo