

## **Inn from the Cold to be out in the cold Organization issues urgent plea for downtown office space**

**Calgary** – Inn from the Cold, the only place in Calgary where homeless families can go for emergency shelter, will be out in the cold on March 15, 2006. The not-for-profit organization, which must leave its current premises at 117 – 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW due to a massive renovation, is finding it extremely difficult to find suitable space in the hot Calgary real estate market.

Eric Mailloux, Inn from the Cold President, says the Inn has searched diligently for a new location for the past 18 months. The nature of its operations requires a downtown location and with the hot commercial real estate market, nothing suitable has been found.

“We are in a crisis situation and are turning to Calgarians for their help,” Mailloux says. “We have exhausted all possibilities and need approximately 5,000 square feet of office or converted retail space downtown immediately. Unfortunately, with the current state of the real estate market, we are finding it almost impossible to find space. We hope that by making our community aware of our situation, someone will come forward with suitable space.”

Mailloux adds that the Inn is not looking for donated space. It has raised limited funds that can be used toward the purchase of a building. The Inn is also willing to rent suitable space.

Inn from the Cold provides emergency shelter and other programs to homeless families and others in need. Every day, guests arrive at the Inn office where they are assigned to an Inn for the night. Through its network of 70 churches and organizations, Inn from the Cold keeps families together and provides shelter for them every night of the year.

The location is important because guests either walk to the Inn or rely on public transportation. The office needs to be close to other social service agencies, such as CUPS, that are also located in the downtown core. The Inn works with many other organizations to help families break free from homelessness and needs to remain connected and accessible to this very important network.

“We are meeting a vital need in our city,” says Mailloux. “In 2005, we helped 223 homeless families. Where else will they go to access temporary emergency shelter, as well as the programs and services they need to rebuild their lives?”

For more information on Inn from the Cold and its office requirements, please call 263-8384.