



24 Hour Distress Line  
604-872-3311  
Toll Free: 1-866-661-3311

Web-Based Hotline for Youth  
[www.youthinbc.com](http://www.youthinbc.com)

Community Education  
604-872-1811

For Immediate Release  
December 15, 2008

## News Release

### Crisis Centre loses funding in face of financial melt-down Appeals for extra support during busy holiday season

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, Canada – As a result of the global economic meltdown, the Crisis Intervention & Suicide Prevention Centre of BC is bracing for its toughest holiday season yet and is appealing to the public for support.

The financial crisis has hit hard at the Crisis Centre's revenues. "Many of our major gift donors and corporate supporters are no longer in a position to contribute at the same levels they have in the past," notes Kaman Ng, Director of Development. "We hope that, with a bit of extra support from our community of individual donors, we will be able to keep our vital services in operation."

The holiday season is when many people need the Crisis Centre's services most. Feelings of loneliness, worry, and sadness tend to be accentuated during the holidays when there is a perceived pressure to feel joy and to spend time with family and friends.

"The holidays can be a really tough time," says Liz Robbins, Clinical Coordinator. "Those who don't have family close by or who have recently lost a loved one will often feel their loneliness and grief more acutely during this season. Traveling, entertaining guests, and spending extra time with family can all be extremely stressful. When you add the extra layer of the global economic crisis, I think this year is going to be even harder for a lot of people."

When many other services are closed for the holidays, the Crisis Centre's lines remain open. Volunteers, supported by a small team of staff, respond to calls 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

"The Crisis Centre's distress line provides an emotional safety net when other mental health and social service agencies are closed, or people are turned away," says Robbins. "We are there to support people wanting to talk about a range of topics: relationship problems, work issues, abuse, addictions, loneliness, stress, and suicide."

Donations can be made to the Crisis Centre online at [www.crisiscentre.bc.ca](http://www.crisiscentre.bc.ca) or by phone at 604-872-1811.

**About the Crisis Centre** Since 1969, the Crisis Intervention & Suicide Prevention Centre of BC (Crisis Centre) has provided caring emotional support to people in distress. As a safe place to turn to when there seems to be no hope, the Crisis Centre is operated by 300+ front line volunteers and a small team of professional staff who support and empower troubled individuals to see their own strengths and options, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In 2007, the Crisis Centre impacted more than 47,000 lives across BC through its 24/7 Distress Services, Online Chat Service for Youth ([www.youthinbc.com](http://www.youthinbc.com)), and Youth Suicide Prevention & Stress Management Workshops.

#### Crisis Centre Services

**24/7 Distress Line:** 604-872-3311 or 1-866-661-3311 (toll free)

**Web-based hotline for youth:** [www.YouthInBC.com](http://www.YouthInBC.com)

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**Media Contact:** Alexis Martis, Fund Development & Communications Coordinator  
P. 604-872-1811 ext. 228 | M. 604-764-7741 | E. [amartis@crisiscentre.bc.ca](mailto:amartis@crisiscentre.bc.ca)