

**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
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**Dundarave Festival Celebrates the 10th Anniversary of  
the Lookout Society's North Shore Shelter with  
"Forest of Miracles" Christmas Tree Decorating Party**

WEST VANCOUVER B.C., November 14 2016 — In response to increasing housing insecurity and homelessness on the North Shore, the Dundarave Festival is hosting an enormous open air Christmas tree decorating party to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Lookout Society's North Shore Shelter, Saturday November 26, Noon to Dusk at Dundarave Beach. This kicks off the Festival's 2016 season, four Saturdays of free Christmas merriment on the beach.

West Vancouver Firefighters will "plant" over 100 Christmas trees on Dundarave Beach, 8:00 - 10:00 am, Saturday November 19th.

The Dundarave Festival is the principal celebration of arts and culture in West Vancouver through the holidays, presenting four Saturdays of free concerts set in the Forest of Miracles — the largest outdoor display of Christmas trees in coastal British Columbia. Since 2008, the "Forest of Miracles" has raised over \$275,000 in charitable donations to the Lookout Society's North Shore Shelter.

"We have to recognize that people who are struggling to find stable housing, or indeed have lost their housing, are still members of our community," said the Dundarave Festival's Michael Markwick. "We cannot have a sustainable, inclusive and vibrant community without them. The North Shore Shelter has helped many of them find permanent solutions to homelessness."

"As the only low barrier year-round shelter in the North Shore, the 45 beds we have are almost always full. This year alone we have had to turn away people from our shelter 1,762 times because we did not have room," says Shayne Williams, Executive Director for the Lookout Society. "There are many faces of homelessness, including women, men, families and seniors. Each person comes to us with a different story and a different situation, but their needs are all the same: securing safe and stable housing."

"We're proud of the work the Dundarave Festival is doing to celebrate the true spirit of West Vancouver," said West Vancouver Mayor Michael Smith. "I invite families, mayors, and councillors from across the North Shore to join us as we celebrate the Lookout Shelter's ten years of service to the most vulnerable members of our community. We should all be grateful for the opportunity the Festival has created to help us end homelessness one person at a time. Everyone should get a tree, or make a donation to celebrate the work of the North Shore Shelter."

"In five days, one choir—Burstin With Broadway—has raised over \$1600 for the Shelter," said Markwick. "This generosity shows that ending homelessness is a priority for our community."