



## City of KAWARTHA LAKES POLICE SERVICE

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*File Ref. No.*

February 13, 2024  
Municipal Council  
Kawartha Lakes, ON

Dear Municipal Council Members,

Subject: Support for a Human-Rights Based Approach to Encampment Response

On behalf of the Kawartha Lakes Police Service, I am writing to express our support of a human-rights based approach to responding to encampments in our community. As members of the law enforcement community, we recognize that the complexity of homelessness is not merely a law enforcement issue, but a multifaceted social concern that requires a comprehensive response.

We fully understand the importance of ensuring the safety, dignity, and well-being of all individuals in our community, including those experiencing homelessness. In this context, a human-rights based approach acknowledges the needs, rights, and voices of people in encampments while working collaboratively with social service providers, public health officials, and community organizations to create solutions that respect human dignity while following the rule of law.

As a police service, our commitment to human rights is a cornerstone of our daily interactions with the community. Our role in addressing encampments is not simply enforcement, but also facilitation of a process that allows for dignity, respect, and collaboration. We are committed to responding to calls for service from our community and engaging with individuals in encampments in a manner that reflects these values, by prioritizing outreach, education, and resources, ensuring public safety for all.

A collaborative, human-rights based approach will lead to long-term positive outcomes for individuals in encampments, and ultimately for our entire community.

We look forward to continuing to serve our community with dignity and respect. Together, we can build a stronger, more compassionate community for everyone.

Sincerely,

Kirk Robertson  
Chief of Police  
Kawartha Lakes Police Service

*ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE*