

February 6, 2025

City of Kawartha Lakes Council

City of Kawartha Lakes
P.O. Box 9000, 26 Francis Street,
Lindsay, ON, K9V 5R8

Dear Members of Council,

On behalf of the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH), a national charitable organization committed to ending homelessness, I am writing to express our strong support for the City of Kawartha Lakes' proposed Encampment Response Policy. We are encouraged to see the City's commitment to a housing-focused, human rights-based approach that respects the dignity, health, and safety of all people experiencing homelessness.

We believe that the City's policy, particularly the guiding principles emphasizing compassion, engagement, and a Housing First approach, demonstrates a commitment to a sustainable, effective, and human-centric approach. The CAEH promotes evidence-based, housing-focused solutions that support the long-term well-being of individuals while addressing the broader needs of the community. We know from years of experience that a Housing First response to encampments is not just the most humane approach, but also the most effective in ensuring successful transitions for individuals into permanent housing. We are particularly pleased to see the City's focus on working collaboratively with local service providers and engaging with Indigenous communities to ensure culturally appropriate support for all people, which is a critical component of any successful response to encampments.

We furthermore commend the City's recognition of the unique, individual needs of those living in encampments and its commitment to ensuring that the time spent in an encampment is minimized through the provision of safe and stable housing options. The clear emphasis on offering support and resources tailored to individuals' circumstances will be vital to ensuring their successful transition to permanent housing.

As a partner in this work, we are confident that the City of Kawartha Lakes is taking an important step toward reducing homelessness and improving the well-being of all residents, including those who have been living in encampments.

We are excited to offer our full support and expertise to the City as you move forward with implementing this policy. We stand ready to collaborate with the City's team to provide the resources and guidance

needed to ensure that the encampment response is not only effective, but sustainable and compassionate.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. We look forward to the opportunity to work with the City of Kawartha Lakes and other community stakeholders to support your efforts to end homelessness in your region.

Sincerely,



Tim Richter
President & CEO
Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness
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