

Access to Permanent Housing Committee

c/o 64 Lindsay Street South, Lindsay On K9V 2M2

February 6th, 2025

Mayor and Members of Council

Subject: Support for the Encampment Response Policy

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

I am writing to you as Chair of the Access to Permanent Housing Committee to express my strong support for the Encampment Response Policy that is being presented for Council's approval.

This policy reflects a compassionate, human-rights-based approach to addressing encampments in our community—an approach that is not only necessary but also aligned with best practices for responding to homelessness.


As our city faces an escalating affordable housing crisis, we recognize that encampments are not a choice but a last resort for individuals who have been left without access to safe, stable, and affordable housing. Criminalization or displacement without viable alternatives only exacerbates the challenges faced by those experiencing homelessness and does not resolve the underlying issue: the severe shortage of permanent, affordable housing.

The Access to Permanent Housing Committee strongly supports this policy's commitment to prioritizing housing-first principles, and collaboration with service providers. We recognize that ensuring adequate housing solutions, along with appropriate social and health support, is essential to fostering long-term stability for individuals experiencing homelessness.

We urge the Council to approve this policy and demonstrate leadership in implementing a humane, effective, and rights-based approach to encampments. Furthermore, we call on all levels of government to continue investing in deeply affordable housing and support services to address the root causes of homelessness in our community.

Thank you for your commitment to finding meaningful solutions to this crisis.

Sincerely,



Zita Devan
Chair, Access to Permanent Housing Committee
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A local initiative comprised of individual volunteers and organizations interested in housing issues who undertake activities, to advance the provision of a person's right to safe, appropriate, affordable and accessible housing in the City of Kawartha Lakes since 1986.