



Memorandum

TO: Krista Power, City Clerk **FILE:**

FROM: Cynthia Olsen – Director, Strategy & Engagement
City Manager’s Office – Strategic Initiatives & Engagement

DATE: 10/15/2024 (mm/dd/yyyy)

SUBJECT: R384-2024 Enhanced Encampment Response – A Human Rights-Based Community Action Plan for Thunder Bay

MEETING & DATE: Committee of the Whole - 10/21/2024 (mm/dd/yyyy)

This Memo is to provide City Council with additional information related to R384-2024 Enhanced Encampment Response – A Human Rights-Based Community Action Plan for Thunder Bay (City Manager’s Office – Strategic Initiatives & Engagement).

The City of Thunder Bay has received letters of support from the following organizations for its work to address encampments, and for the Human Rights-Based Community Action Plan:

- District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board
- Thunder Bay District Health Unit
- St. Joseph’s Care Group
- Elevate NWO
- Noojmawing Sookatagaing Ontario Health Team
- Thunder Bay and District Mental Health & Addiction Network

Additionally, Administration provides the following update to the Financial Implication section of R384-2024:

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

Maintaining the current approach in 2024 will be funded within the approved operating budget. As previously reported, the full financial implications to support specially trained

outreach workers, and related health and safety response measures is approximately \$450,000 and will be brought forward through the 2025 Budget process.

The Action Plan requires an upfront capital investment to provide unhoused persons an alternative accommodation. The current estimate for construction of a Temporary Village is capped at \$4.0 million with additional infrastructure costs of \$1.0 million. At this time, Municipal funding is the only suitable financing source available to fund a Temporary Village. Administration is actively exploring alternative sources, however in order to deliver the proposed Action Plan, full project funding for the Temporary Village, is required.

The Renew Thunder Bay Reserve Fund could be a suitable source of financing considering the legacy impact of the current homelessness crisis in the City of Thunder Bay, especially if the City is able to leverage federal and provincial funding, reducing the required reserve fund contribution.

The current uncommitted balance of the Renew Thunder Bay Reserve Fund is approximately \$9.7 million. Several 2025 capital budget projects have been developed with requested financing from the Renew Thunder Bay Reserve Fund totalling \$4.3 million. A \$5.0 million commitment towards the Temporary Village would leave a \$0.4 million uncommitted balance in the Renew Thunder Bay Reserve Fund.

The Renew Thunder Bay Reserve Fund would be replenished as Housing Accelerator Funds (up to \$4.06 million) are received in 2025 and 2026, as well as any federal/provincial funding that is received for the Temporary Village project. Administration has a degree of confidence that funding will be made available through the province and/or the federal government since we have a compelling argument for such funding, within a human rights based and pragmatic approach.

Operating costs for the Temporary Village are not yet determined, but the municipal contributions will be capped at \$1.5 million per year. Administration would pursue grant funding to support this initiative however pending any approval, the financial impact would be included in the 2025 tax-supported budget. As further details are developed, any additional approvals required from Council will be sought.