

May 1, 2025

Thunder Bay City Council
City of Thunder Bay
500 Donald Street East
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 5V3

RE: Letter of Support – Temporary Shelter Village Initiative at Kam River Heritage Park

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

On behalf of Thunder Bay Counselling, I am writing to express our support for the City of Thunder Bay's Temporary Shelter Village Initiative, including the location at Kam River Heritage Park recommended by City Staff and approved by City Council.

As an organization that provides services to address a broad range of issues, including mental health, substance use health, trauma and financial issues, we recognize the urgent need for rapid, human-rights-based responses to unsheltered homelessness in our community. Many of our clients live in poverty, lack stable housing and food security, and live in at-risk situations.

We believe the Temporary Shelter Village represents a compassionate, pragmatic step forward in addressing the growing crisis. In particular, we support the Village's emphasis on:

- Providing low-barrier, 24/7 transitional shelter with enhanced safety and dignity
- Offering wraparound supports that connect residents to housing, healthcare, and social services
- Creating a managed environment that reduces the risks associated with unmanaged encampments
- Supporting a coordinated approach among service providers, the City, and emergency services
- Locating the Village near essential services that many unsheltered residents already access and rely on, ensuring familiarity, continuity of care, and improved service connection

We understand that any change comes with challenges. However, the status quo is unsustainable and leaves too many without safe options, including both individuals living unsheltered and the broader community.

We respectfully urge City Council to ratify Kam River Heritage Park as the Temporary Shelter Village's location and to continue supporting solutions that reflect the values of dignity, inclusion, and care.

Sincerely,



Nancy Chamberlain, CEO



May 2nd, 2025

Thunder Bay City Council
City of Thunder Bay
500 Donald Street East
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 5V3

RE: Letter of Support – Temporary Shelter Village Initiative at Kam River Heritage Park

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

On behalf of Alpha Court Non-Profit Housing Corporation, I am writing to express our support for the City of Thunder Bay's Temporary Shelter Village Initiative, including the location at Kam River Heritage Park recommended by City Staff and approved by City Council.

As an organization that provides housing and support to people experiencing mental health and addiction challenges in the city of Thunder Bay, we recognize the urgent need for rapid, human-rights-based responses to unsheltered homelessness in our community.

We believe the Temporary Shelter Village represents a compassionate, pragmatic step forward in addressing the growing crisis. In particular, we support the Village's emphasis on:

- Providing low-barrier, 24/7 transitional shelter with enhanced safety and dignity
- Offering wraparound supports that connect residents to housing, healthcare, and social services
- Creating a managed environment that reduces the risks associated with unmanaged encampments
- Supporting a coordinated approach among service providers, the City, and emergency services
- Locating the Village near essential services that many unsheltered residents already access and rely on, ensuring familiarity, continuity of care, and improved service connection

We understand that any change comes with challenges. However, the status quo is unsustainable and leaves too many without safe options, including both individuals living unsheltered and the broader community.

We respectfully urge City Council to ratify Kam River Heritage Park as the Temporary Shelter Village's location and to continue supporting solutions that reflect the values of dignity, inclusion, and care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Latour".

Nicole Latour RSW, MPH
Executive Director



Canadian Mental
Health Association
Thunder Bay
Mental health for all

Association canadienne
pour la santé mentale
Thunder Bay
La santé mentale pour tous

200 Van Norman Street / 200, rue Van Norman, Thunder Bay, ON, P7A 4B8
Tel/Tél. : 807 345-5564 | Fax/Télé. : 807 345-4458 | info@cmha-tb.on.ca



May 2, 2025

Thunder Bay City Council
City of Thunder Bay
500 Donald Street East
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 5V3

RE: Letter of Support – Temporary Shelter Village Initiative at Kam River Heritage Park

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

On behalf of Canadian Mental Health Association Thunder Bay Branch, I am writing to express our support for the City of Thunder Bay's Temporary Shelter Village Initiative, including the location at Kam River Heritage Park recommended by City Staff and approved by City Council.

Our organization enhances and promotes the mental health of individuals, families, and communities through advocacy, education, and mental health services. Our focus is on supporting individual recovery and promoting mental wellness, with a commitment to providing quality services for all residents of Northwestern Ontario. We recognize the urgent need for rapid, human-rights-based responses to unsheltered homelessness in our community.

We believe the Temporary Shelter Village represents a compassionate, pragmatic step forward in addressing the growing crisis. In particular, we support the Village's emphasis on:

- Providing low-barrier, 24/7 transitional shelter with enhanced safety and dignity
- Offering wraparound supports that connect residents to housing, healthcare, and social services
- Creating a managed environment that reduces the risks associated with unmanaged encampments
- Supporting a coordinated approach among service providers, the City, and emergency services
- Locating the Village near essential services that many unsheltered residents already access and rely on, ensuring familiarity, continuity of care, and improved service connection

We understand that any change comes with challenges. However, the status quo is unsustainable and leaves too many without safe options, including both individuals living unsheltered and the broader community.



Canadian Mental
Health Association
Thunder Bay
Mental health for all

Association canadienne
pour la santé mentale
Thunder Bay
La santé mentale pour tous

200 Van Norman Street / 200, rue Van Norman, Thunder Bay, ON, P7A 4B8
Tel/Tél. : 807 345-5564 | Fax/Télé. : 807 345-4458 | info@cmha-tb.on.ca



We respectfully urge City Council to ratify Kam River Heritage Park as the Temporary Shelter Village's location and to continue supporting solutions that reflect the values of dignity, inclusion, and care.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Stubbings
Acting CEO
CMHA Thunder Bay
tstubbings@cmha-tb.on.ca
807-345-5564

May 1, 2025

Thunder Bay City Council
City of Thunder Bay
500 Donald Street East
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 5V3

RE: Letter of Support – Temporary Shelter Village Initiative at Kam River Heritage Park

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

On behalf of the Elizabeth Fry Society of NWO, I am writing to express our support for the City of Thunder Bay's Temporary Shelter Village Initiative at the location of Kam River Heritage Park recommended by City Staff and approved by City Council.

As an organization that would be a close neighbour to this project and currently supports women and gender diverse individuals leaving incarceration, those unhoused in our community and those at risk, we recognize the urgent need for rapid, human-rights-based responses to unsheltered homelessness in our community.

At EFSNWO we have recently developed housing specifically for this population and it is proven that with a compassionate human rights based approach, individuals when supported are able to take control of their lives.

We believe the Temporary Shelter Village represents a compassionate, pragmatic step forward in addressing the growing crisis. In particular, we support the Village's emphasis on:

- Providing low-barrier, 24/7 transitional shelter with enhanced safety and dignity
- Offering wraparound supports that connect residents to housing, healthcare, and social services
- Creating a managed environment that reduces the risks associated with unmanaged encampments
- Supporting a coordinated approach among service providers, the City, and emergency services
- Locating the Village near essential services that many unsheltered residents already access and rely on, ensuring familiarity, continuity of care, and improved service connection

We understand that any change comes with challenges. However, the status quo is unsustainable and leaves too many without safe options, including both individuals living unsheltered and the broader community.

We respectfully urge City Council to ratify Kam River Heritage Park as the Temporary Shelter Village's location and to continue supporting solutions that reflect the values of dignity, inclusion, and care.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Martin-Executive Director and Systemic Advocate

LindsayMartin@efsnwo.com

(807)631-9065



Ka-Na-Chi-Hih
Healing Lodge

May 1st, 2025

Thunder Bay City Council
City of Thunder Bay
500 Donald Street East
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 5V3

RE: Letter of Support – Temporary Shelter Village Initiative at Kam River Heritage Park

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

On behalf of Ka-Na-Chi-Hih Healing Lodge, I am writing to express our support for the City of Thunder Bay's Temporary Shelter Village Initiative, including the location at Kam River Heritage Park recommended by City Staff and approved by City Council.

As an organization that provides cultural healing and services to rebuild hope, meaning, belonging, and purpose to indigenous men and women within the age range of 18-29 facing homelessness, mental health, and addiction challenges, we recognize the urgent need for rapid, human-rights-based responses to unsheltered homelessness in our community.

We believe the Temporary Shelter Village represents a compassionate, pragmatic step forward in addressing the growing crisis. In particular, we support the Village's emphasis on:

- Providing low-barrier, 24/7 transitional shelter with enhanced safety and dignity
- Offering wraparound supports that connect residents to housing, healthcare, and social services
- Creating a managed environment that reduces the risks associated with unmanaged encampments
- Supporting a coordinated approach among service providers, the City, and emergency services
- Locating the Village near essential services that many unsheltered residents already access and rely on, ensuring familiarity, continuity of care, and improved service connection

We understand that any change comes with challenges. However, the status quo is unsustainable and leaves too many without safe options, including both individuals living unsheltered and the broader community.

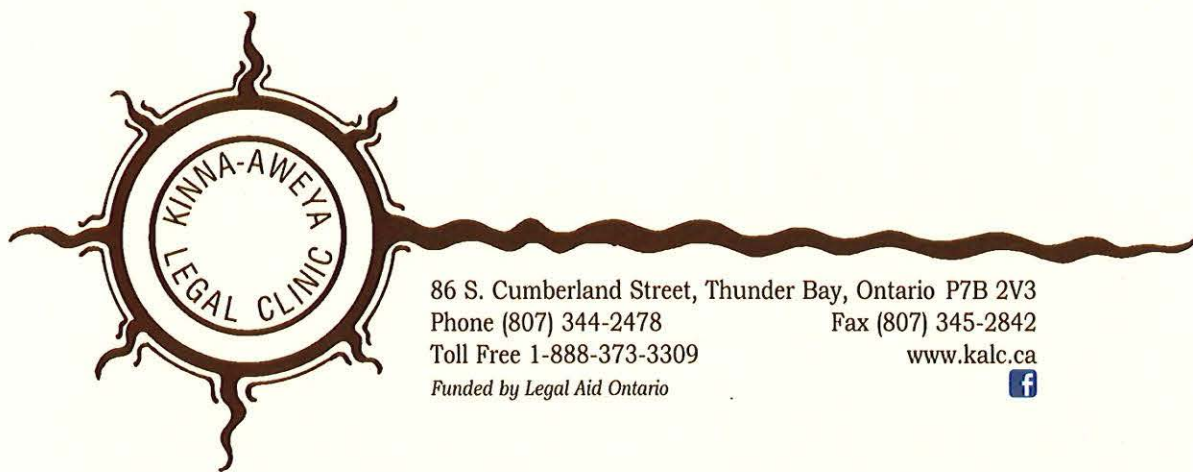
We respectfully urge City Council to ratify Kam River Heritage Park as the Temporary Shelter Village's location and to continue supporting solutions that reflect the values of dignity, inclusion, and care.

Sincerely,

Sean Moore
smoore@kanachihih.ca
807-700-9162
Director of Treatment Services
Ka-Na-Chi-Hih Healing Lodge

Ka-Na-Chi-Hih
100 Anemki Dr. Suite 102
Fort William First Nation
Thunder Bay, ON P7J 1A5

kanachihih.org



May 2, 2025

Thunder Bay City Council
City of Thunder Bay
500 Donald Street East
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 5V3

RE: Letter of Support – Temporary Shelter Village Initiative at Kam River Heritage Park

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

On behalf of **Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic**, I am writing to express our support for the City of Thunder Bay's Temporary Shelter Village Initiative, including the proposed location at Kam River Heritage Park, as recommended by City Staff and approved by City Council.

As a legal clinic that provides poverty law services and advocates for the rights and dignity of individuals experiencing marginalization and housing insecurity, we recognize the urgent need for rapid, human-rights-based responses to unsheltered homelessness in our community.

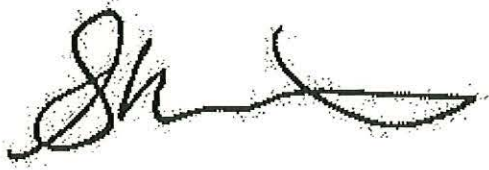
We believe the Temporary Shelter Village represents a compassionate and practical step forward in addressing this crisis. In particular, we support the Village's emphasis on:

- Providing low-barrier, 24/7 transitional shelter with enhanced safety and dignity
- Offering wraparound supports that connect residents to housing, healthcare, and legal/social services
- Creating a managed environment that reduces the risks associated with unmanaged encampments
- Supporting a coordinated approach among service providers, the City, and emergency services
- Locating the Village near essential services that many unsheltered residents already access, ensuring familiarity, continuity of care, and improved service connection

We acknowledge that change can be difficult. However, the current situation is untenable and leaves too many community members without safe and stable options. We urge City Council to

ratify Kam River Heritage Park as the site of the Temporary Shelter Village and to champion solutions grounded in dignity, inclusion, and care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SR', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sarah Racine
Housing Systems Navigator

May 1, 2025

Thunder Bay City Council
City of Thunder Bay
500 Donald Street East
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 5V3

RE: Letter of Support – Temporary Shelter Village Initiative at Kam River Heritage Park

Dear Mayor Boshcoff and Members of City Council,

On behalf of Matawa First Nations Management, I am writing to express our support for the City of Thunder Bay's Temporary Shelter Village Initiative, including the location at Kam River Heritage Park recommended by City Staff and approved by City Council.

As an organization that provides a variety of services in both Thunder Bay and our First Nations – primary care and mental health, homeless navigation, education, training, and housing, we recognize the urgent need for rapid, human-rights-based responses to unsheltered homelessness in our community.

We believe the Temporary Shelter Village represents a compassionate, pragmatic step forward in addressing the growing crisis. In particular, we support the Village's emphasis on:

- Providing low-barrier, 24/7 transitional shelter with enhanced safety and dignity
- Offering wraparound supports that connect residents to housing, healthcare, and social services.
- Creating a managed environment that reduces the risks associated with unmanaged encampments.
- Supporting a coordinated approach among service providers, the City, and emergency services
- Locating the Village near essential services that many unsheltered residents already access and rely on, ensuring familiarity, continuity of care, and improved service connection.


We understand that any change comes with challenges. However, the status quo is unsustainable and leaves too many without safe options, including both individuals living unsheltered and the broader community. Matawa Education has worked with the City of Thunder Bay on the Seven Youth Inquest into Environmental Safety along the Kam River; this should assist the City and partners to address the safety and cultural issues.



We respectfully urge the City Council to ratify Kam River Heritage Park as the Temporary Shelter Village's location and to continue supporting solutions that reflect the values of dignity, inclusion, and care.

Sincerely,

MATAWA FIRST NATIONS MANAGEMENT

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Nate', is positioned above the printed name.

Dr. Sharon L. Nate, Hon. B.Ed, Hon. EdD
Chief Executive Officer



May 1, 2025

Thunder Bay City Council
City of Thunder Bay
500 Donald Street East
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 5V3

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council:

RE: Letter of Support – Temporary Shelter Village Initiative at Kam River Heritage Park

On behalf of Anishnawbe Mushkiki, I am writing to express our support for the City of Thunder Bay's *Temporary Shelter Village Initiative*, including the location at Kam River Heritage Park recommended by City Staff and approved by City Council.

As an organization that provides holistic primary care, mental health services and disease prevention programming to the Indigenous population in Thunder Bay, we recognize the urgent need for rapid, human-rights-based responses to unsheltered homelessness in our community. We believe the Temporary Shelter Village represents a compassionate, pragmatic step forward in addressing the growing crisis. We support the Village's emphasis on:

- Providing low-barrier, 24/7 transitional shelter with enhanced safety and dignity
- Offering wraparound supports that connect residents to housing, healthcare, and social services
- Creating a managed environment that reduces the risks associated with unmanaged encampments
- Supporting a coordinated approach among service providers, the City, and emergency services
- Locating the Village near essential services that many unsheltered residents already access and rely on, ensuring familiarity, continuity of care, and improved service connection

We understand that any change comes with challenges. However, the status quo is unsustainable and leaves too many without safe options, including both individuals living unsheltered and the broader community.

We respectfully urge City Council to ratify Kam River Heritage Park as the Temporary Shelter Village's location and to continue supporting solutions that reflect the values of dignity, inclusion, and care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Micheal Hardy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Micheal Hardy

Executive Director

May 2, 2025

Thunder Bay City Council
City of Thunder Bay
500 Donald Street East
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 5V3

RE: Letter of Support – Temporary Shelter Village Initiative at Kam River Heritage Park

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

On behalf of NorWest Community Health Centres, I am writing to express our support for the City of Thunder Bay's Temporary Shelter Village Initiative, including the location at Kam River Heritage Park recommended by City Staff and approved by City Council.

As an organization, NorWest Community Health Centres is concerned with improving the health and well-being of community members who are impacted by systemic barriers, food insecurity, homelessness, poverty, and on a daily basis we witness the complex challenges individuals are facing. NorWest Community Health Centres alongside numerous partner organizations in Thunder Bay are operating the HART Hub in an effort to address these challenges by offering an integrated approach to care which includes housing, addictions, treatment supports, and access to primary health care. We believe that investments in the health and wellbeing of community members includes the provision of safe and supportive care. We recognize the urgent need for rapid, human-rights-based responses to unsheltered homelessness in our community. NorWest Community Health Centres, through the Emergency Treatment Fund will be providing Outreach Team that will work closely with the encampment response team.


We believe the Temporary Shelter Village represents a critical, compassionate, and pragmatic step forward in addressing the growing crisis. We particularly endorse the following core features:

- Low-barrier, 24/7 transitional shelter that prioritizes safety, dignity and cultural responsiveness.
- On site wraparound supports that link residents to primary care, mental health and addictions services, housing, and income supports.
- Creating a managed environment that reduces the risks associated with unmanaged encampments
- A coordinated systems approach involving service providers, municipal leadership, and emergency responders.
- Locating the Village near essential services that many unsheltered residents already access and rely on, ensuring familiarity, continuity of care, and improved service connection

We recognize that innovative solutions may prompt concern, but maintaining status quo is not a viable or ethical options. Leaving individual unsheltered perpetuates suffering, strains health and social services and emergency systems. The Village is a step towards a more inclusive, caring and resilient Thunder Bay- a vision we share with City Council.

We respectfully urge City Council to ratify Kam River Heritage Park as the Temporary Shelter Village's location and to continue supporting upstream solutions that are grounded in compassion, inclusion and collaboration.

Sincerely,



Juanita Lawson, CEO
NorWest Community Health Centres

Thunder Bay (main office)

525 Simpson Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7C 3J6
Tel: 807-622-8235
Fax: 807-622-3548

Longlac

99 rue Skinner Avenue.
CP/PO Box 910
Longlac, ON P0T 2A0
Tel: 807-876-2271
Fax: 807-876-2473

Armstrong

PO Box 104
Armstrong, ON P0T 1A0
Tel: 807-583-1145
Fax: 807-583-1147

Mobile Units

Tel: 807-626-8474
Toll Free: 1-866-357-54545

Kakabeka Site

Unit A-4785, Hwy 11/17
Kakabeka Falls, ON P0T 1W0
Tel: 807-473-5528
Fax: 807-473-4584



May 1, 2025

Thunder Bay City Council
City of Thunder Bay
500 Donald Street East
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 5V3

RE: Letter of Support – Temporary Shelter Village Initiative at Kam River Heritage Park

As the Executive Director of Shelter House, it's my belief that I should be offering compassionate and dignified care, while also advocating for my job not to have to exist. While this might not happen in my lifetime, I believe in supportive and innovative initiatives that move us in the right direction. On behalf of Shelter House, I want to express my support for the proposed temporary village initiative at Kam River Park. As an organization that works directly with our community members who are experiencing houselessness every day, we recognize the critical need for innovative, dignified, and immediate housing solutions. The temporary shelter village model offers exactly that.

Temporary shelter villages can play an essential role in bridging the gap between unsheltered homelessness and permanent housing. These transitional communities provide secure, low-barrier, private, and weather-resistant shelter. At the same time, it will offer wraparound supports for housing, healthcare, and social services. These supports are vital for transitioning from temporary housing to permanent. At the same time, this village will help to mitigate the risks associated with unmanaged encampments.

At Shelter House, we have seen firsthand how challenging it can be to connect individuals to services when they are sleeping unsheltered. The temporary shelter village will give the unhoused a safer place to stay, enabling them to focus on healing, employment, and long-term housing solutions.

We are committed to collaborating with city officials, partner agencies, and village leadership to ensure the success of this project. Housing the homeless will require all of our efforts to truly make a difference and get people out of dangerous and unhealthy situations. While a temporary village isn't a silver bullet, it's a good first step that can and should be augmented by making sure that residents are well-supported to find sustainable permanent housing and continuing healthcare.

We understand that any change comes with challenges. However, the status quo is unsustainable and leaves too many without safe options, including both individuals living unsheltered and the broader community.

We respectfully urge City Council to ratify Kam River Heritage Park as the Temporary Shelter Village's location and to continue supporting solutions that reflect the values of dignity, inclusion, and care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Carlin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brendan Carlin
Executive Director
Telephone: (807) 623-8264
Mobile (807)251-7644
Email: brendan.carlin@shelterhouse.on.ca



ST. JOSEPH'S CARE GROUP

Care
Compassion
Commitment

May 1, 2025

Mayor and Council
City of Thunder Bay
500 Donald St. East
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 5K4

Subject: Letter of Support for the Temporary Shelter Village Initiative at Kam River Heritage Park

Dear Mayor and Council,

On behalf of St. Joseph's Care Group, I am writing in support for the City's Temporary Shelter Village Initiative, including the location at the Kam River Heritage Park as recommended by City Staff and approved by City Council.

We believe the Temporary Shelter Village represents a compassionate approach in addressing a growing crisis. In particular, we support the Village's emphasis on:

- Providing low-barrier, 24/7 transitional shelter with enhanced safety and dignity
- Offering wraparound supports that connect residents to housing, healthcare, and social services
- Creating a managed environment that reduces the risks associated with unmanaged encampments
- Supporting a coordinated approach among service providers, the City, and emergency services
- Locating the Village near essential services that many unsheltered residents already access and rely on, ensuring familiarity, continuity of care, and improved service connection

At St. Joseph's Care Group, we stand ready to contribute to the efforts of this plan through access to our full continuum of care for mental health and addiction services including, safe sobering, withdrawal management, supportive housing, treatment and mental health outpatient services.

We encourage City Council to ratify Kam River Heritage Park as the Temporary Shelter Village location and we look forward to working alongside the municipality and other community partners to ensure its successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Andrea Docherty
Vice President, Clinical and Community Health
St. Joseph's Care Group
Andrea.Docherty@tbh.net
807-624-1752



Thunder Bay District Health Unit

MAIN OFFICE

999 Balmoral Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6E7
Tel: (807) 625-5900
Toll-Free in 807 area code
1-888-294-6630
Fax: (807) 623-2369

GERALDTON

P.O. Box 1360
510 Hogarth Avenue, W.
Geraldton, ON P0T 1M0
Tel: (807) 854-0454
Fax: (807) 854-1871

MANITOUWADGE

1-888-294-6630

MARATHON

P.O. Box 384
Marathon High School
building,
14 Hemlo Drive, Suite B
Marathon, ON P0T 2E0
Tel: (807) 229-1820
Fax: (807) 229-3356

RED ROCK

P.O. Box 196
Superior Greenstone District
School Board Learning Centre
46 Salls Street
Suite #2
Red Rock, ON P0T 2P0
Tel: (807) 886-1060
Fax: (807) 886-1096

TERRACE BAY

P.O. Box 1030
19 Hudson Drive, Suite 100
Terrace Bay, ON P0T 2W0
Tel: (807) 825-7770
Fax: (807) 825-7774

TBDHU.COM

May 2, 2025

Thunder Bay City Council
City of Thunder Bay
500 Donald Street East
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 5V3

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

RE: Letter of Support – Temporary Shelter Village Initiative at Kam River Heritage Park

On behalf of the Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU), I am writing to express our support for the City of Thunder Bay's Temporary Shelter Village Initiative, as recommended by City Staff and approved by City Council.

TBDHU is a public health agency committed to promoting health and addressing health inequities. We recognize our role in supporting rapid, compassionate, and rights-based responses to the growing crisis of unsheltered homelessness. We believe the Temporary Shelter Village represents a compassionate and practical step forward in addressing this growing crisis. In particular, we support the initiative's focus on:

- Providing low-barrier, 24/7 transitional shelter that prioritizes safety, dignity and stability
- Offering wraparound supports that connect individuals to housing, healthcare, and social services
- Creating a managed environment that reduces the public health and other risks associated with unmanaged encampments
- Promoting a coordinated approach among service providers, the City, and emergency services
- Locating the Village near essential services already accessed by many unsheltered residents, ensuring continuity of care, and improved service connection.

We understand that change can be challenging. However, the status quo is unsustainable and leaves too many without safe or supportive options, including those living unsheltered and the broader community.

We respectfully urge City Council to ratify Kam River Heritage Park as the site for the Temporary Shelter Village and to continue advancing evidence-informed solutions that are grounded in dignity, inclusion, and care.

Sincerely,

Dr. Janet DeMille
Medical Officer of Health/ CEO



People Advocating for Change through Empowerment Inc.

May 05, 2025

Thunder Bay City Council
City of Thunder Bay
500 Donald Street East
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 5V3

RE: Letter of Support – Temporary Shelter Village Initiative at Kam River Heritage Park

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

On behalf of P.A.C.E. – People Advocating for Change through Empowerment, I am writing to express our support for the City of Thunder Bay's Temporary Shelter Village Initiative, including the location at Kam River Heritage Park recommended by City Staff and approved by City Council.

As an organization that works very closely with the city's most vulnerable offering Peer Support, advocacy and warming/cooling shelters, we recognize the urgent need for rapid, human-rights-based responses to unsheltered homelessness in our community.

We believe the Temporary Shelter Village represents a compassionate, pragmatic step forward in addressing the growing crisis. In particular, we support the Village's emphasis on:

- Providing low-barrier, 24/7 transitional shelter with enhanced safety and dignity
- Offering wraparound supports that connect residents to housing, healthcare, and social services
- Creating a managed environment that reduces the risks associated with unmanaged encampments
- Supporting a coordinated approach among service providers, the City, and emergency services
- Locating the Village near essential services that many unsheltered residents already access and rely on, ensuring familiarity, continuity of care, and improved service connection

We understand that any change comes with challenges. However, the status quo is unsustainable and leaves too many without safe options, including both individuals living unsheltered and the broader community.

We respectfully urge City Council to ratify Kam River Heritage Park as the Temporary Shelter Village's location and to continue supporting solutions that reflect the values of dignity, inclusion, and care.

Sincerely,

Georgina McKinnon
Executive Director
P.A.C.E.

MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTIONS SUPPORT

Non-profit Charitable Organization #141014860
510 Victoria Avenue East, Thunder Bay, ON, P7C 1A7
Email: peoplechange@tbavtel.net Web: www.pace-tbav.net

Thunder Bay City Council

From P.A.C.E Client

Temporary shelter village:

Let's Get Real: It's Time to Build the City We Deserve

Every time I see a new initiative like the Temporary Shelter Village, I feel two things at once: gratitude that something is being done—and frustration that we always wait for top-down solutions before we act.

Why?

Because we rely on bureaucratic pipelines instead of grassroots action. Because we've been trained to complain louder than we collaborate. Because we're forgetting something ancient: this is our home.

The reality is this: no government plan will ever fully solve the complex layers of addiction, homelessness, trauma, and urban decay. These are human problems—and they require human hearts, not just funding proposals.

We need more than shelters. We need soul.

We need community-led action teams. Street crews. Volunteer-based security and cleanups. Mental health check-in squads. Feed programs run by neighbors, not just nonprofits. Public planning circles where every voice matters.

This is about reclaiming stewardship of our city.

What if we treated Thunder Bay like sacred ground? What if we moved like this place mattered to us? What if every citizen saw themselves as a builder, protector, and healer of the city's future?

Because here's the truth: no one is coming to save us. We're it.

And if we start now—if we plant the seeds [today](#)—then five years from now, we'll look back on this moment as the turning point. The first ripple. The birth of a movement.

Call it what you want. For me, it's the precursor to the Bootyborn—a mythic force of community guardianship, street-level stewardship, and relentless love for the place we live.

You don't have to believe in the myth to join the mission.

Just show up. Help build. Be about it.