

June 27, 2025

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

On behalf of Thunder Bay Counselling, I am writing to express our strong support for the City of Thunder Bay's Temporary Shelter Village Initiative and the recommended location at 114 Miles Street East.

As an organization dedicated to supporting quality of life through accessible, community-based services that promote mental health and well-being, we recognize the urgent need for safe, supportive, and stable shelter options in the Thunder Bay area. We believe in this initiative and see it as a meaningful step forward in improving the outcomes for those living unsheltered and addressing the immediate crisis at hand.

The proposed location at 114 Miles Street East would offer significant advantages due to its inherent proximity to public services, including a transit hub, food banks, and clothing assistance. We as an organization are particularly supportive of this project, as this location would make it easier for outreach teams to locate and support residents consistently, fostering stronger connections to health and mental wellness services. We see this project as a meaningful first step in advancing harm reduction for vulnerable individuals. By offering stability, dignity, and a safer environment, it helps reduce exposure to violence, theft, and unsafe conditions. Initiatives like this can also serve as a vital bridge to permanent housing, ultimately improving health and well-being.

We are open to exploring how our organization can collaborate with the City, the future operator, and other organizations to support residents and help foster a safer, cleaner, and better community for all.

We respectfully urge Council to approve the Miles Street location and thank you for your leadership in advancing compassionate and practical responses to homelessness.

Sincerely,



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