



July 9th, 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 on Miles St

As the Executive Director of Shelter House, I carry a deep belief: we must offer compassionate, dignified care to our most vulnerable — and we must also work toward a future where shelters like ours are no longer necessary. That may not happen in my lifetime, but I will never stop pushing for bold, humane, and immediate solutions that move us closer to that goal.

That's why I am proud to voice Shelter House's full support for the proposed temporary shelter village at Miles Street.

Every day, we walk alongside community members who are experiencing the raw, relentless realities of homelessness. We see the cold, the fear, the trauma. We also see the courage it takes just to survive another day. What they need is not more waiting — they need safety, stability, and support now. The temporary village model offers exactly that.

These villages are more than shelter — they are hope made tangible. They offer privacy, protection from the elements, and, most importantly, connection to the essential wraparound supports that help people reclaim their lives: housing workers, healthcare, mental health supports, and community. This kind of safe, low-barrier environment can be the first moment someone feels truly seen, respected, and able to imagine a different future.

We know from experience that reaching people while they are sleeping rough is incredibly difficult. When someone has no safe place to be, everything else — healing, treatment, employment, even trust — becomes almost impossible. A village on Miles Street gives people that place. It offers the chance to stabilize, rebuild, and move forward.


We also know this: doing nothing is not neutral. The status quo is not working. It leaves far too many people suffering in the shadows, and communities straining to respond without the tools they need. Change can be uncomfortable — but so is walking past another person sleeping in a doorway, knowing we could have done something.

This village is not a silver bullet. But it is a first step, and one we must take together — with proper supports in place to guide residents toward permanent housing, healthcare, and a path forward.

Shelter House is ready to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our partners, with the city, and with those who will call this village home. Together, we can create a future where no one is left behind and where every person has a place to belong.

We respectfully urge City Council to ratify Miles St. 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.

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