

10 July 2025

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



RE: Letter of Support – Temporary Shelter Village at 114 Miles Street East

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

On behalf of the John Howard Society of Thunder Bay and District 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 committed to supporting vulnerable and underhoused people in our community, we recognize the critical need for safer, supportive, and stable shelter options. We believe this initiative represents a meaningful step forward in addressing the immediate crisis and improving outcomes for those living unsheltered.

The recommended site at 114 Miles Street East offers important advantages, including proximity to services and potential for integrated support delivery. We are particularly supportive of this project and recommended location because a well-chosen location for supportive or transitional housing is essential to ensuring resident success and community impact. Ideal sites are close to essential services, public transit, and familiar community supports, making it easier for residents to access healthcare, employment, and social programs. These locations also provide pathways out of homelessness by connecting individuals to long-term housing solutions, while reducing the prevalence of unmanaged encampments. By supporting vulnerable populations in a stable, dignified environment, such housing leads to improved health outcomes, greater personal stability, and a stronger foundation for reintegration into the broader community.

Given our work in our Social Navigation program, in addition to our experience with transitional housing support, we see real potential to contribute to the success of this project. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Haynen".

Kevin Haynen
Chief Executive Officer
John Howard Society of Thunder Bay and District

(807) 623-5355

(807) 623-4191

info@jhstbay.ca

315 S. Syndicate Ave.
Thunder Bay, ON, P7E 1E2

