

July 11, 2025

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

Re: Indigenous Advisory Council Support for Temporary Village Initiative

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

On behalf of the City of Thunder Bay's Indigenous Advisory Council, we write to express our strong support for the Temporary Village initiative, including the recommended site – 114 Miles Street - identified by Administration. This initiative represents a necessary and compassionate step toward addressing the urgent needs of those living unsheltered in our community.

Indigenous community members are disproportionately represented among those experiencing homelessness in Thunder Bay. This is not because of individual failings, but rather the result of systemic failures, intergenerational trauma, and the ongoing impacts of colonization. The legacy of residential schools, broken treaties, and displacement continues to affect the health and wellbeing of Indigenous peoples across Canada, including here in our city.

In supporting the Temporary Village, we also affirm our collective responsibility to uphold the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action – particularly those that call upon all levels of government to close the gaps in health, housing, and social outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. Providing access to safer, more stable shelter options rooted in dignity and cultural safety is part of that responsibility. This initiative is a local opportunity to put those principles into practice.

We understand that a timely decision by Council is required to move this initiative forward and to ensure readiness ahead of colder weather. We urge you to act without delay, recognizing that the risks of inaction fall most heavily on the city's most vulnerable.

The Indigenous Advisory Council stands ready to support this work through ongoing guidance and engagement, and we welcome continued collaboration to ensure this initiative honours the principles of reconciliation, equity, and respect.

Miigwetch,

City of Thunder Bay Indigenous Advisory Council