

From: **"Singh, Sandra"**  
To: **"Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"**  
Date: 2/13/2024 2:20:17 PM  
Subject: Update: Federal Housing Advocate's Report on Encampments in Canada

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Hello Mayor and Council,

You may have seen in the media that the Federal Housing Advocate has released a report on encampments across Canada: <https://www.housingchrc.ca/en/publications/upholding-dignity-and-human-rights-federal-housing-advocates-review-homeless>. Staff are reviewing the report and will provide an assessment once we have time to review. It is important to note that there was no engagement with City staff by the Advocate's office leading to this report, which was disappointing. However, we are always open to new perspectives as we constantly evolve our response to encampments and so will review the report with interest.

We ask that you consider referring media requests to [media@vancouver.ca](mailto:media@vancouver.ca). Staff have composed the following holding message as we review the report.

The City looks forward to reviewing the report and recommendations by the Federal Housing Advocate and acknowledges urgent action is needed by all levels of government to address the ongoing homelessness crisis. The City will be in a position to provide comments once it has thoroughly reviewed the document.

The City of Vancouver's current response to homelessness continues to be to work in partnership with the Province and Federal governments to build long-term supportive and social housing, and to enable the delivery of emergency shelters as an interim response and bridge to housing. The City also operates Provincially-funded hygiene services and low-cost food services for people experiencing homelessness. In recognition of the homelessness crisis, the Park Control By-law allows people without housing to shelter overnight in parks provided that shelters come down in the morning so that parks can be used by the whole community during the day.

The City has made significant investments to support people experiencing homelessness, far more than any other municipality in the region. Between 2018 and 2023 alone, the City committed over 30 sites to create 750 supportive housing units and approximately 2,500 units of social housing. Between 2020 and 2023, the City supported the creation of 443 new shelter spaces – 346 year-round and 97 seasonal. This work is ongoing with over \$600M in the current 4-year capital plan dedicated to creating new and preserving existing affordable housing.

Vancouver has only 25% of the region's overall population but 50% of the region's population of people experiencing homelessness and, in terms of operational units and spaces, as of 2023 Vancouver had over 75% of the region's operating shelter spaces, over 77% of the region's supportive housing units, 50% of the region's social housing. Moving forward, to address homelessness, more investment in these services and resources across the metro region is required so that there are sufficient shelter spaces and supportive and social housing options in every lower mainland community.

We will provide a staff assessment as soon as feasible.

Thank you,

Sandra

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*The City of Vancouver acknowledges the unceded homelands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Seɬ//wítulh (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.*