

From: **"Mochrie, Paul"**
To: **"Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"**
Date: 2024-04-05 9:46:20 AM
Subject: Question re: Dugout/adjacent public space

Good morning Mayor and Council

Due to staff vacation leaves over spring break, we did not include a response to the following question in most recent weekly response to Council questions. Given additional questions regarding this matter, we are sharing now outside of the usual cycle.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Margaret.wittgens@vancouver.ca and we will provide a response through the weekly Q&A.

Many thanks,
Paul

Question: The Dugout

Could I please get an update on the outreach support worker position funded by council?

When is the contract up, how is it going, what are they doing to connect people to services, etc.?

I've asked about this before – it doesn't appear that it is having much impact on helping to manage the public realm outside the Dugout. I am not satisfied with how this is going.

I am particularly concerned about this photo showing people sitting/passed out with their legs in the roadway.

Response:

The Dugout, located at 59 Powell St, provides supportive safe space to the homeless and residents of the DTES. Staff are aware of the ongoing concerns related to the outdoor management of the location and are in regular contact with the Dugout about this.

CoV has supported the Dugout recently by funding:

- Core Support Grants and a Rent Subsidy Grant (2023 & 2024)
- One-time Homelessness Services Grants to fund staffing for a six-month pilot to conduct referral to other services and spaces in DTES (hired Oct 2023, concluding end of April 2024)
- One-year one-time grant (2023) to build capacity including: strategic plan implementation and supplemental support to enhance programming and community relations and additional hours for key staff and contractor.
- UBCM funds until June 2024, 4 hours/day of Mission Possible Neighborhood Programming which provides micro cleaning, proper disposal of used syringes, referrals, wellness checks, de-escalation & liaison with other service providers.

Staff have heard from the Dugout team that:

- Increase in staff hours and the one time funded referral position has allowed Dugout staff to be more present outside the building and encourage clients indoors or redirect to additional/other services such as Aboriginal Front Door and Evelyn Saller Center.
- Mission Possible & United We Can continue to manage lines, gatherings and garbage/food waste. Service data shared by Mission Possible demonstrates consistent need for their services.
- Dugout staff have installed cameras and are continuously monitoring outdoor space so they can address gathering, open drug use & smoking immediately.
- With warmer weather, and limited outdoor gatherings spaces, more individuals are congregating on the corner to the east of the Dugout.
- Ongoing need for washroom access. Dugout provides washroom services and closest nearby washroom access is at Victory Square.

Additional Support: Living Balance has been supplementing services with private cleaning efforts.

Staff have shared with the Dugout the recent safety concerns raised related to individuals sitting on the curb with their

legs extended into the road right of way. With the current construction, Powell St. is partially closed, the area has limited traffic and those vehicles are typically moving very slowly. Regardless the Dugout has been requested to address this as part of their outdoor management to ensure ongoing safety.

ACCS Leadership met last week with local business/building owners and will continue to work collaboratively to support the outdoor management.

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷm̓ Óm (Musqueam), ʔəR̓R̓Ōwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.