



COR/2024/04532-001

July 19, 2024

Dear Applicant:

**Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015 (Our File #: TI/094/2024)**

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On May 6, 2024, the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure received your request for access to the following records:

**All emails/sent received re the encampment, tent city, Colonial Building, and Bannerman Park by the Minister, Deputy Minister, and Assistant Deputy Ministers from January 1, 2024, to present.**

I am pleased to inform you that a decision has been made by the Deputy Minister for Transportation and Infrastructure to provide to provide access to some of the requested information. Access to the remaining records, and/or information contained within the records, has been refused in accordance with the following exceptions to disclosure, as specified in the **Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015 (the Act)**:

**Policy advice or recommendations - s.29(1)(a) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information that would reveal advice, proposals, recommendations, analyses or policy options developed by or for a public body or minister.**

**Disclosure harmful to individual or public safety - s.37(1)(b) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information, including personal information about the applicant, where the disclosure could reasonably be expected to interfere with public safety.**

**Disclosure harmful to personal privacy - 40(1) The head of a public body shall refuse to disclose personal information to an applicant where the disclosure would be an unreasonable invasion of a third party's personal privacy.**

As required by 8(2) of the Act, we have severed information that is unable to be disclosed and have provided you with as much information as possible. In accordance with your request for a copy of the records, the appropriate copies have been enclosed.

Please be advised that you may appeal this decision and ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the decision to provide partial access to the requested information, as set out in section 42 of the Act (a copy of this section of the Act has been enclosed for your reference). A request to the Commissioner must be made in writing within 15 business days of



the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Commissioner. Your appeal should identify your concerns with the request and why you are submitting the appeal.

The appeal may be addressed to the Information and Privacy Commissioner is as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner  
2 Canada Drive  
P. O. Box 13004, Stn. A  
St. John's, NL. A1B 3V8

Telephone: (709) 729-6309  
Toll-Free: 1-877-729-6309  
Email: [commissioner@oipc.nl.ca](mailto:commissioner@oipc.nl.ca)

You may also appeal directly to the Supreme Court Trial Division within 15 business days after you receive the decision of the public body, pursuant to section 52 of the Act (a copy of this section of the Act has been enclosed for your reference).

Please be advised that this request may be published on the [Completed Access to Information Requests](#) website. Requests will be posted when possible, but no sooner than three business days after a response is sent electronically, or five business days where a response is sent by mail. Please note that requests for personal information will not be posted online. Additional details regarding the process for publishing requests online can be found [here](#).

If you have any further questions, please contact me by telephone at 709-327-6577 or by email at [ATIPP-TI@gov.nl.ca](mailto:ATIPP-TI@gov.nl.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angela McIntyre".

**Angela McIntyre**  
ATIPP Coordinator

## Policy advice or recommendations

**29.** (1) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information that would reveal

- (a) advice, proposals, recommendations, analyses or policy options developed by or for a public body or minister;
- (b) the contents of a formal research report or audit report that in the opinion of the head of the public body is incomplete and in respect of which a request or order for completion has been made by the head within 65 business days of delivery of the report; or
- (c) draft legislation or regulations.

(2) The head of a public body shall not refuse to disclose under subsection (1)

- (a) factual material;
- (b) a public opinion poll;
- (c) a statistical survey;
- (d) an appraisal;
- (e) an environmental impact statement or similar information;
- (f) a final report or final audit on the performance or efficiency of a public body or on any of its programs or policies;
- (g) a consumer test report or a report of a test carried out on a product to test equipment of the public body;
- (h) a feasibility or technical study, including a cost estimate, relating to a policy or project of the public body;
- (i) a report on the results of field research undertaken before a policy proposal is formulated;
- (j) a report of an external task force, committee, council or similar body that has been established to consider a matter and make a report or recommendations to a public body;
- (k) a plan or proposal to establish a new program or to change a program, if the plan or proposal has been approved or rejected by the head of the public body;



- (l) information that the head of the public body has cited publicly as the basis for making a decision or formulating a policy; or
  - (m) a decision, including reasons, that is made in the exercise of a discretionary power or an adjudicative function and that affects the rights of the applicant.
- (3) Subsection (1) does not apply to information in a record that has been in existence for 15 years or more.

**Disclosure harmful to individual or public safety**

**37.** (1) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information, including personal information about the applicant, where the disclosure could reasonably be expected to

- (a) threaten the safety or mental or physical health of a person other than the applicant; or
- (b) interfere with public safety.

(2) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant personal information about the applicant if the disclosure could reasonably be expected to result in immediate and grave harm to the applicant's safety or mental or physical health.

### Disclosure harmful to personal privacy

**40.** (1) The head of a public body shall refuse to disclose personal information to an applicant where the disclosure would be an unreasonable invasion of a third party's personal privacy.

(2) A disclosure of personal information is not an unreasonable invasion of a third party's personal privacy where

- (a) the applicant is the individual to whom the information relates;
- (b) the third party to whom the information relates has, in writing, consented to or requested the disclosure;
- (c) there are compelling circumstances affecting a person's health or safety and notice of disclosure is given in the form appropriate in the circumstances to the third party to whom the information relates;
- (d) an Act or regulation of the province or of Canada authorizes the disclosure;
- (e) the disclosure is for a research or statistical purpose and is in accordance with section 70 ;
- (f) the information is about a third party's position, functions or remuneration as an officer, employee or member of a public body or as a member of a minister's staff;
- (g) the disclosure reveals financial and other details of a contract to supply goods or services to a public body;
- (h) the disclosure reveals the opinions or views of a third party given in the course of performing services for a public body, except where they are given in respect of another individual;
- (i) public access to the information is provided under the *Financial Administration Act* ;
- (j) the information is about expenses incurred by a third party while travelling at the expense of a public body;
- (k) the disclosure reveals details of a licence, permit or a similar discretionary benefit granted to a third party by a public body, not including personal information supplied in support of the application for the benefit;
- (l) the disclosure reveals details of a discretionary benefit of a financial nature granted to a third party by a public body, not including
  - (i) personal information that is supplied in support of the application for the benefit, or

- (ii) personal information that relates to eligibility for income and employment support under the *Income and Employment Support Act* or to the determination of income or employment support levels; or
- (m) the disclosure is not contrary to the public interest as described in subsection (3) and reveals only the following personal information about a third party:
  - (i) attendance at or participation in a public event or activity related to a public body, including a graduation ceremony, sporting event, cultural program or club, or field trip, or
  - (ii) receipt of an honour or award granted by or through a public body.

(3) The disclosure of personal information under paragraph (2)(m) is an unreasonable invasion of personal privacy where the third party whom the information is about has requested that the information not be disclosed.

(4) A disclosure of personal information is presumed to be an unreasonable invasion of a third party's personal privacy where

- (a) the personal information relates to a medical, psychiatric or psychological history, diagnosis, condition, treatment or evaluation;
- (b) the personal information is an identifiable part of a law enforcement record, except to the extent that the disclosure is necessary to dispose of the law enforcement matter or to continue an investigation;
- (c) the personal information relates to employment or educational history;
- (d) the personal information was collected on a tax return or gathered for the purpose of collecting a tax;
- (e) the personal information consists of an individual's bank account information or credit card information;
- (f) the personal information consists of personal recommendations or evaluations, character references or personnel evaluations;
- (g) the personal information consists of the third party's name where
  - (i) it appears with other personal information about the third party, or
  - (ii) the disclosure of the name itself would reveal personal information about the third party; or
- (h) the personal information indicates the third party's racial or ethnic origin or religious or political beliefs or associations.

(5) In determining under subsections (1) and (4) whether a disclosure of personal information constitutes an unreasonable invasion of a third party's personal privacy, the head of a public body shall consider all the relevant circumstances, including whether

- (a) the disclosure is desirable for the purpose of subjecting the activities of the province or a public body to public scrutiny;
- (b) the disclosure is likely to promote public health and safety or the protection of the environment;
- (c) the personal information is relevant to a fair determination of the applicant's rights;
- (d) the disclosure will assist in researching or validating the claims, disputes or grievances of aboriginal people;
- (e) the third party will be exposed unfairly to financial or other harm;
- (f) the personal information has been supplied in confidence;
- (g) the personal information is likely to be inaccurate or unreliable;
- (h) the disclosure may unfairly damage the reputation of a person referred to in the record requested by the applicant;
- (i) the personal information was originally provided to the applicant; and
- (j) the information is about a deceased person and, if so, whether the length of time the person has been deceased indicates the disclosure is not an unreasonable invasion of the deceased person's personal privacy.

### **Access or correction complaint**

**42.**(1) A person who makes a request under this Act for access to a record or for correction of personal information may file a complaint with the commissioner respecting a decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request.

(2) A complaint under subsection (1) shall be filed in writing not later than 15 business days

(a) after the applicant is notified of the decision of the head of the public body, or the date of the act or failure to act; or

(b) after the date the head of the public body is considered to have refused the request under subsection 16(2).

(3) A third party informed under section 19 of a decision of the head of a public body to grant access to a record or part of a record in response to a request may file a complaint with the commissioner respecting that decision.

(4) A complaint under subsection (3) shall be filed in writing not later than 15 business days after the third party is informed of the decision of the head of the public body.

(5) The commissioner may allow a longer time period for the filing of a complaint under this section.

(6) A person or third party who has appealed directly to the Trial Division under subsection 52(1) or 53(1) shall not file a complaint with the commissioner.

(7) The commissioner shall refuse to investigate a complaint where an appeal has been commenced in the Trial Division.

(8) A complaint shall not be filed under this section with respect to

(a) a request that is disregarded under section 21;

(b) a decision respecting an extension of time under section 23;

(c) a variation of a procedure under section 24; or

(d) an estimate of costs or a decision not to waive a cost under section 26.

(9) The commissioner shall provide a copy of the complaint to the head of the public body concerned.

### **Direct appeal to Trial Division by an applicant**

**52.** (1) Where an applicant has made a request to a public body for access to a record or correction of personal information and has not filed a complaint with the commissioner under section 42, the applicant may appeal the decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request directly to the Trial Division.

(2) An appeal shall be commenced under subsection (1) not later than 15 business days

(a) after the applicant is notified of the decision of the head of the public body, or the date of the act or failure to act; or

(b) after the date the head of the public body is considered to have refused the request under subsection 16(2).

(3) Where an applicant has filed a complaint with the commissioner under section 42 and the commissioner has refused to investigate the complaint, the applicant may commence an appeal in the Trial Division of the decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request for access to a record or for correction of personal information.

(4) An appeal shall be commenced under subsection (3) not later than 15 business days after the applicant is notified of the commissioner's refusal under subsection 45(2).

**From:** Doug Pawson <dpawson@wecanendit.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 2, 2024 6:24 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA); Julia M. Mullaley  
**Cc:** Doody, Alan  
**Subject:** Re: Meeting with Task Force on Friday Dec 15th at 3pm

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Minister,

In terms of our ongoing work, EHSJ continues to working with NLHC and Income Supports to ensure those who've been identified at the two encampments , along with other shelters and rough sleeping locations, are connected to case management, where individuals have agreed to complete an intake and consent form, which allows EHSJ to facilitate the matching of individuals to supports (case management, housing, etc) through Coordinated Access. In addition, EHSJ matches individuals and families experiencing homelessness with our funded positions - 17 positions across 10 agencies, with those who are in shelter, encampments and rough sleeping as the main priorities.

We've also re-issued an RFP for housing-focused supports which will be in place for April 1, 2024, coinciding with our fiscal year and the start of our new agreements with Reaching Home. These positions will be focused on finding housing and the maintenance of housing in smaller teams, with focus on supporting clients through a harm reduction, trauma informed and person-centred approaches and training that is offered ongoing by EHSJ with community partners. EHSJ is undertaking this approach to case management, as per the direction of the Community Advisory Board and with guidance from colleagues across the country who are funding similar approaches.

All of EHSJ's work supports the implementation of the Government of Canada's directives per Reaching Home, which require communities to participate in Coordinated Access and HIFIS (Homeless Individuals and Families Information System), to develop a comprehensive understanding of all those experiencing homelessness in our community.

That's it from an EHSJ side, Julia, I'm not sure if there's any more you'd want to add - shelter standards having a housing-focussed approach?

I hope this helps.  
 Doug

**Doug Pawson, MPhil, MBA**  
 Executive Director  
 Pronouns: He/Him  
 E: [dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com) | C: 709.770.4902  
[f wecanendit709](#) | [ehsj709](#)  
[wecanendit.com](#) | [Newsletter](#)

**END HOMELESSNESS**  
**ST. JOHN'S #WECANENDIT**

*With deep respect and gratitude, we acknowledge the land on which we gather as the ancestral homelands of the Beothuk, whose culture has been lost forever and can never be recovered. We also acknowledge the island of Ktaqmkuk (Newfoundland) as the*

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*unceded, traditional territory of the Beothuk and the Mi'kmaq. We acknowledge Labrador as the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Innu of Nitassinan, the Inuit of Nunatsiavut, and the Inuit of NunatuKavut. We recognize all First Peoples who were here before us, those who live with us now, and the seven generations to come. As First Peoples have done since time immemorial, we strive to be responsible stewards of the land and to respect the cultures, ceremonies, and traditions of all who call it home. As we open our hearts and minds to the past, we commit ourselves to working in a spirit of truth and reconciliation to make a better future for all.*

**Inclusion and Diversity:** We believe that the wide array of perspectives resulting from diversity and inclusion allows organizations to be more effective; we are committed to diversity and inclusion in our programs and services. We are also dedicated to greater diversity and inclusion within our own organization and strive to provide equal opportunity to people of all races, ethnicities, religions, genders, sexual orientations, and abilities.

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**From:** Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 2, 2024 1:58 PM  
**To:** Doug Pawson <dpawson@wecanendit.com>; Julia M. Mullaley <JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca>  
**Cc:** Doody, Alan <alandoodo@gov.nl.ca>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Meeting with Task Force on Friday Dec 15th at 3pm

You don't often get email from johnabbott@gov.nl.ca. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL E-MAIL - Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links]

Doug and Julia  
Are you able to collaborate on a response for me to send to [REDACTED] Thanks.  
John G. Abbott  
Minister and MHA  
St. John's East-Quidi Vidi District  
Email: JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca  
Office Phone: (709) 729-3678  
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** January 2, 2024 at 9:42:49 AM MST  
**To:** "Abbott, John (MHA)" <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>, mayor@stjohns.ca, Doug Pawson <dpawson@wecanendit.com>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Meeting with Task Force on Friday Dec 15th at 3pm

Hi Folks,

Any updates on effort to house folks from Tent City or to escalate the case management capacity for folks down there?

We have a few folks that are persistently staying there, and also folks coming back out of the shelter system. Nothing has changed much since the task force was formed and I am wondering if there is a plan for the next few weeks?

Yours,

[REDACTED]

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Merry Christmas everyone,

I was at tent city earlier and last night there was 6 that slept there. We are hearing reports that Safe Haven has asked several to leave last night and that they will be at tent city tonight. I will be checking in again later this evening and early tomorrow. I will provide an update.

Thank you,



Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 24, 2023, at 2:59 PM, [redacted] wrote:

John, Danny, and Doug,

Beyond the tent city discussion, it would be great if you guys could keep [redacted] and I in the loop on any initiatives if you can.

We are trying to help solve this crisis from a community angle, and the more we know, the more we are able to coordinate and get there. I think we are mostly all trying to achieve the same end result.

Merry Christmas! 🎄 🎄 🎄 🎄



On Dec 24, 2023, at 12:06, [redacted] wrote:

Hi all,

I was there a while ago and was told 4. I will be as previously mentioned checking in daily and will update.

I think it's important to note that a couple of regular residents maybe spending time with family and friends over the next few days. So I anticipate the numbers being somewhat fluctuating over the holidays.



Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 24, 2023, at 1:12 PM, [redacted] wrote:

Hi Folks,

I asked tent city for change for numbers and I was told by volunteers there was 5 last night.

Do you want a contact number for someone there John. Or is it easiest to go through [redacted]?

Yours,



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[Redacted]

On Dec 24, 2023, at 08:01, [Redacted] wrote:

Thank you for the update John. I will be checking in each day with residents so if anything changes I will update on my end.

Merry Christmas to all and I pray that 2024 we see the changes that are needed to address our current issues. Hope everyone has a wonderful holiday and a Happy New Year.

Thank you,

[Redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 24, 2023, at 9:14 AM, Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)> wrote:

Just dropped by site this morning. Two folks stayed last night. Will continue to offer services.

John G. Abbott  
Minister and MHA  
St. John's East-Quidi Vidi District  
[Email: JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)  
Office Phone: (709) 729-3678  
Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 23, 2023, at 11:05 PM, [Redacted] wrote:

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Merry Christmas folks,

If you need a contact with tent city for change then let us know and we'll find a reliable and reasonable volunteer contact for you over the holidays.

Yours,

[Redacted]

On Dec 23, 2023, at 11:25, Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)> wrote:

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There will be staff visiting site on Dec 23, 24 and 27th  
and into rest of next week.

John G. Abbott  
Minister and MHA  
St. John's East-Quidi Vidi District  
[Email: JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)  
Office Phone: (709) 729-3678  
Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 23, 2023, at 11:19 AM,

wrote:

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Hi folks,

Can you provide an update for us in what the plan is?

On Dec 15, 2023, at 11:26, Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)> wrote:

Hi  
Thank you for your email.  
Look forward to discuss the matters you raise at our meeting this afternoon at 3pm.  
All the best.

**JOHN G. ABBOTT, M.H.A.**  
District of St. John's East-Qudi-Vidi  
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
Phone: (709) 729-3678  
[Email: johnabbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:johnabbott@gov.nl.ca)

**From:**  
**Sent:** Friday, December 15, 2023 8:55 AM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Cc:**

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[mayor@stjohns.ca](mailto:mayor@stjohns.ca); Doug Pawson  
<[dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com)>;  
George, Bradley  
<[bradleygeorge@gov.nl.ca](mailto:bradleygeorge@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Meeting with Task  
Force on Friday Dec 15th at 3pm

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

We had a few people leave tent city yesterday to go to shelter and we had a few come back to tent city, and we triaged some people to shelter who had nowhere to go & who lost their housing last week. I hadn't seen them at Tent City before yesterday.

Do you have any updates for [REDACTED] and I this morning? Any advances? Any commitments?

It seems we need something to give the public and involved parties a little bit more faith that we are going to be solving issues, and not just repeating failures here. What is it going to be?

Feel free to reach out by phone if you'd rather chat that way.

[REDACTED]

On Dec 13, 2023, at 15:45, Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]  
The Task Force and officials are meeting on Friday afternoon. Hoping you and others can join us at 3 pm.  
Location: Executive Boardroom, West Block, Confederation Building. Please come to the Visitors Entrance on north side of building to park and enter.  
There will be someone from my office to greet you.

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**JOHN G. ABBOTT, M.H.A.**  
District of St. John's East-Qudi-Vidi  
Minister of Transportation and  
Infrastructure  
Phone: (709) 729-3678  
Email: [johnabbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:johnabbott@gov.nl.ca)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 11, 2023  
5:02 PM  
**To:** Doug Pawson  
<[dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com)>  
**Cc:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
<[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>; [mayor@stjohns.ca](mailto:mayor@stjohns.ca); Julia M. Mullaley  
<[JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca](mailto:JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Tent City solutions

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Sounds good Doug,

I'm hearing that many confed based tenters who became house have zero supports. I doubt it's zero, but I'll look forward to more info tomorrow. I have some specifics from our volunteers that I can share and just to generalize....they don't appear to be promising as a basis of any future efforts. Ideally julia or someone can alleviate these concerns as they really are the reason unhoused individuals got together to start the initial protest. I've been speaking to the person who started it all and he's now facing eviction.

[REDACTED]

On Dec 11, 2023, at 16:32, Doug Pawson  
<[dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com)> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Just off the phone with Julia from

NLHC now. We're cross-referencing our lists as to who is connected and their locations. We're doing this frequently as it is, and we'll chat about it tomorrow morning. There are supports being made available to folks at Colonial/Confederation and across the shelter system, so if there's specific items you're looking we can chat about how that is being done.

I'll also share some of my specific requests that I'm hearing from partners about the current location/practices that make it difficult for supports to meaningfully engage when services are showing up to support. No surprise as we discussed it Saturday at the location, but the level of intoxication is a real concern. We'll chat about how to support that tomorrow morning.

Also just wanted to re-iterate, and I know you know this, so bear with me, I can share aggregate information (ie number of folks connected to supports) but I'm not able to share personal information on individuals, as it violates our consent form that folks sign.

See you in the morning!

Cheers,  
Doug

**Doug Pawson, MPhil, MBA**  
Executive Director  
Pronouns: He/Him  
E: [dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com) | C: 709  
.770.4902  
<[Outlook-trmtjc2f.png](#)>  
[wecanendit709](#) |  
<[Outlook-ua2rbk2a.png](#)>  
[ehsj709](#)  
  
<[Outlook-butxbcfcd.png](#)>  
[wecanendit.com](#) |  
<[Outlook-n0ir3cge.png](#)>

[Newsletter](#)

&lt;Outlook-toofiayj.png&gt;

*With deep respect and gratitude, we acknowledge the land on which we gather as the ancestral homelands of the Beothuk, whose culture has been lost forever and can never be recovered. We also acknowledge the island of Ktaqmkuk (Newfoundland) as the unceded, traditional territory of the Beothuk and the Mi'kmaq. We acknowledge Labrador as the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Innu of Nitassinan, the Inuit of Nunatsiavut, and the Inuit of NunatuKavut. We recognize all First Peoples who were here before us, those who live with us now, and the seven generations to come. As First Peoples have done since time immemorial, we strive to be responsible stewards of the land and to respect the cultures, ceremonies, and traditions of all who call it home. As we open our hearts and minds to the past, we commit ourselves to working in a spirit of truth and reconciliation to make a better future for all.*

**Inclusion and Diversity:** We believe that the wide array of perspectives resulting from diversity and inclusion allows organizations to be more effective; we are committed to diversity and inclusion in our programs and services. We are also dedicated to greater diversity and inclusion within our own organization and strive to provide equal opportunity to people of all races, ethnicities, religions, genders, sexual orientations, and abilities.

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**From:** [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 11, 2023  
4:18 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
<[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Cc:** Doug Pawson  
<[dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com)>; [mayor@stjohns.ca](mailto:mayor@stjohns.ca) <[mayor@stjohns.ca](mailto:mayor@stjohns.ca)>;  
Julia M. Mullaley  
<[JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca](mailto:JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Tent City solutions

You don't often get email  
from [REDACTED] [Learn  
why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL E-MAIL - Exercise caution  
when opening attachments or clicking  
on links]

Great,

Thanks John.

[REDACTED]

On Dec 11, 2023, at 16:18, Abbott, John  
(MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]  
Thank you for your email. I've asked  
Julia Mullaley (NLHC) to respond on  
my behalf as she has the details.  
Julia will call you to discuss.

**JOHN G. ABBOTT, M.H.A.**  
District of St. John's East-Qudi-Vidi  
Minister of Transportation and  
Infrastructure  
Phone: (709) 729-3678  
Email: [johnabbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:johnabbott@gov.nl.ca)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 11, 2023  
2:05 PM  
**To:** Doug Pawson  
<[dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com)>; [mayor@stjohns.ca](mailto:mayor@stjohns.ca); Abbott, John (MHA)  
<[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** Tent City solutions

---

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Hi Mayor Breen, Minister Abbott and Doug,

What supports are being made available to people once they get into the shelters?

We have a small network of volunteers who are still in communication with folks from the Confederation building protest, and these folks are still not getting supports they need. Some of them are in threat of losing the housing they've been given. At least one has been served an eviction notice.

We were able to help CSSD and End homelessness get three people out to various shelters over the weekend from colonial building, but I'd like to know that they are accessing supports alongside that housing.

Can you folks please clarify this tomorrow when we meet up?

I can't speak for anybody else but myself but it's clear that we need to find out what this "solution" on the horizon is.

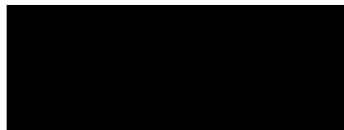
Thanks,

Also, thanks for sending the folks down here with the bin. That was very helpful.

They down to Christmas is moving pretty fast so let's try to figure out if there's a way we can all work together on this.

Supports are going to play an enormous role in this.

Yours,



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**From:** Julia M. Mullaley <JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 3, 2024 6:03 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting with Task Force on Friday Dec 15th at 3pm

Will do.

---

**From:** Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 3, 2024 3:08 PM  
**To:** Julia M. Mullaley <JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: Meeting with Task Force on Friday Dec 15th at 3pm

Julia  
Good information that I want to keep as part of our Task Force plan of short, medium and longer term solutions including the Comfort Inn. As for [REDACTED] latest email can we condense the reply to how we are dealing currently with those at the Colonial bldg site and those who may be coming back after being at a shelter if that is the case (i.e. once placed at a shelter what supports are we providing to keep them there or elsewhere other than them going back to a tent). Thanks.

John G. Abbott  
Minister and MHA  
St. John's East-Quidi Vidi District  
Email: [JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)  
Office Phone: (709) 729-3678  
Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 3, 2024, at 10:02 AM, Julia M. Mullaley <[JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca](mailto:JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca)> wrote:

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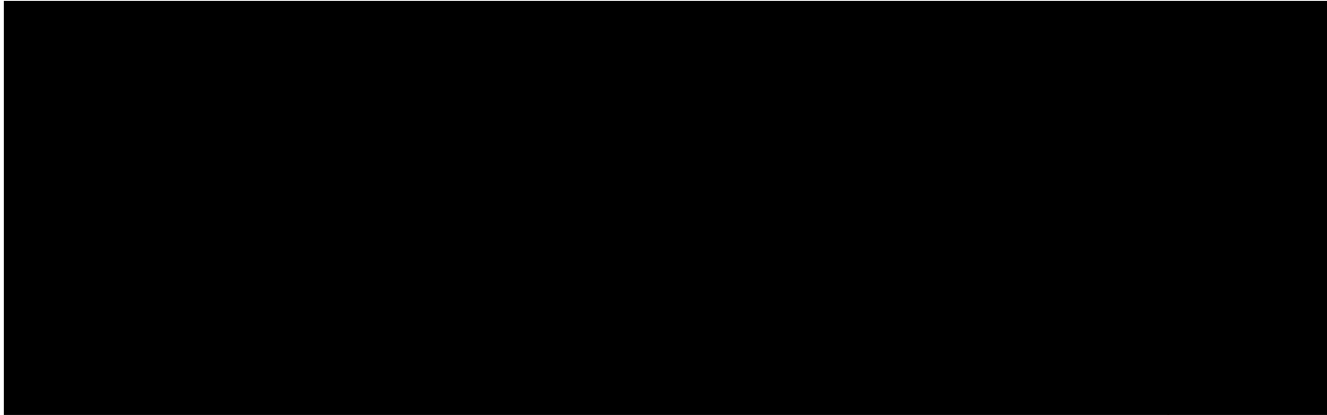
Minister, please find below a suggested response that contains Doug's comments from yesterday evening and a few added comments at the end from us.

---

thank you for your email.



s.29(1)(a)



s.29(1)(a)

**From:** Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 2, 2024 1:58 PM  
**To:** Doug Pawson <[dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com)>; Julia M. Mullaley <[JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca](mailto:JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca)>  
**Cc:** Doody, Alan <[alanddoody@gov.nl.ca](mailto:alanddoody@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Meeting with Task Force on Friday Dec 15th at 3pm

Doug and Julia  
Are you able to collaborate on a response for me to send to [REDACTED] Thanks.  
John G. Abbott  
Minister and MHA  
St. John's East-Quidi Vidi District  
Email: [JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)  
Office Phone: (709) 729-3678  
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** January 2, 2024 at 9:42:49 AM MST  
**To:** "Abbott, John (MHA)" <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>, [mayor@stjohns.ca](mailto:mayor@stjohns.ca), Doug Pawson <[dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Meeting with Task Force on Friday Dec 15th at 3pm

Hi Folks,

Any updates on effort to house folks from Tent City or to escalate the case management capacity for folks down there?

We have a few folks that are persistently staying there, and also folks coming back out of the shelter system. Nothing has changed much since the task force was formed and I am wondering if there is a plan for the next few weeks?

Yours,

[REDACTED]

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On Dec 25, 2023, at 3:22 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Merry Christmas everyone,

I was at tent city earlier and last night there was 6 that slept there. We are hearing reports that Safe Haven has asked several to leave last night and that they will be at tent city tonight. I will be checking in again later this evening and early tomorrow. I will provide an update.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 24, 2023, at 2:59 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

John, Danny, and Doug,

Beyond the tent city discussion, it would be great if you guys could keep [REDACTED] and I in the loop on any initiatives if you can.

We are trying to help solve this crisis from a community angle, and the more we know, the more we are able to coordinate and get there. I think we are mostly all trying to achieve the same end result.

Merry Christmas! 🎄 🎄 🎄 🎄

[REDACTED]

On Dec 24, 2023, at 12:06, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi all,

I was there a while ago and was told 4. I will be as previously mentioned checking in daily and will update.

I think it's important to note that a couple of regular residents maybe spending time with family and friends over the next few days. So I anticipate the numbers being somewhat fluctuating over the holidays.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 24, 2023, at 1:12 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Folks,

I asked tent city for change for numbers and I was told by volunteers there was 5 last night.

Do you want a contact number for someone there John. Or is it easiest

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to go through [REDACTED]?

Yours,

[REDACTED]

On Dec 24, 2023, at 08:01, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] wrote:

Thank you for the update John. I will be checking in each day with residents so if anything changes I will update on my end.

Merry Christmas to all and I pray that 2024 we see the changes that are needed to address our current issues. Hope everyone has a wonderful holiday and a Happy New Year.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 24, 2023, at 9:14 AM, Abbott, John (MHA)  
<[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)> wrote:

Just dropped by site this morning. Two folks stayed last night. Will continue to offer services.

John G. Abbott  
Minister and MHA  
St. John's East-Quidi Vidi District  
[Email: JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)  
Office Phone: (709) 729-3678  
Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 23, 2023, at 11:05 PM,  
[REDACTED] wrote:

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Merry Christmas folks,

If you need a contact with tent city for change then let us know and we'll find a reliable and reasonable volunteer contact for you over the holidays.

Yours,

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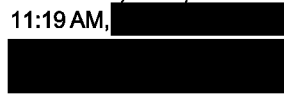
On Dec 23, 2023, at 11:25, Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)> wrote:



There will be staff visiting site on Dec 23, 24 and 27th and into rest of next week.

John G. Abbott  
Minister and MHA  
St. John's East-Quidi Vidi District  
[Email: JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)  
Office Phone: (709) 729-3678  
Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 23, 2023, at 11:19 AM,



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Hi folks,

Can you provide an update for us in what the plan is?



On Dec 15, 2023, at 11:26, Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)> wrote:

Hi 

Thank you for your email.

Look forward to discuss the matters you raise at our meeting this

afternoon at 3pm.  
All the best.

**JOHN G. ABBOTT,  
M.H.A.**  
District of St. John's  
East-Qudi-Vidi  
Minister of  
Transportation and  
Infrastructure  
Phone: (709) 729-3678  
Email:  
[johnabbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:johnabbott@gov.nl.ca)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, December  
15, 2023 8:55 AM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
<[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)  
>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
[mayor@stjohns.ca](mailto:mayor@stjohns.ca);  
Doug Pawson  
<[dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com)>; George,  
Bradley  
<[bradleygeorge@gov.nl.ca](mailto:bradleygeorge@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Meeting  
with Task Force on  
Friday Dec 15th at 3pm

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content is safe.

Good morning,

We had a few people leave  
tent city yesterday to go  
to shelter and we had a  
few come back to tent city,  
and we triaged some  
people to shelter who had  
nowhere to go & who lost  
their housing last week. I

hadn't seen them at Tent City before yesterday.

Do you have any updates for [REDACTED] and I this morning? Any advances? Any commitments?

It seems we need something to give the public and involved parties a little bit more faith that we are going to be solving issues, and not just repeating failures here. What is it going to be?

Feel free to reach out by phone if you'd rather chat that way.



On Dec 13, 2023, at 15:45,  
Abbott, John (MHA)  
<[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>  
wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]  
The Task Force and officials are meeting on Friday afternoon. Hoping you and others can join us at 3 pm. Location: Executive Boardroom, West Block, Confederation Building. Please come to the Visitors Entrance on north side of building to park and enter. There will be someone from my office to greet you.

**JOHN G. ABBOTT,  
M.H.A.**  
District of St. John's  
East-Qudi-Vidi  
Minister of  
Transportation and  
Infrastructure

Phone: (709) 729-3678

Email: [johnabbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:johnabbott@gov.nl.ca)

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday,  
December 11, 2023 5:02  
PM

**To:** Doug Pawson  
<[dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com)>

**Cc:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
<[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>; [mayor@stjohns.ca](mailto:mayor@stjohns.ca);  
Julia M. Mullaley  
<[JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca](mailto:JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca)>

**Subject:** Re: Tent City  
solutions

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Sounds good Doug,

I'm hearing that many confed based tenters who became house have zero supports. I doubt it's zero, but I'll look forward to more info tomorrow. I have some specifics from our volunteers that I can share and just to generalize....they don't appear to be promising as a basis of any future efforts. Ideally julia or someone can alleviate these concerns as they really are the reason unhoused individuals got together to start the initial protest. I've been speaking to the person who started it all and he's

now facing eviction.



On Dec 11, 2023, at 16:32,  
Doug Pawson  
<[dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com)> wrote:

Hi 

Just off the phone with Julia from NLHC now. We're cross-referencing our lists as to who is connected and their locations. We're doing this frequently as it is, and we'll chat about it tomorrow morning. There are supports being made available to folks at Colonial/Confederation and across the shelter system, so if there's specific items you're looking we can chat about how that is being done.

I'll also share some of my specific requests that I'm hearing from partners about the current location/practices that make it difficult for supports to meaningfully engage when services are showing up to support. No surprise as we discussed it Saturday at the location, but the level of intoxication is a real concern. We'll chat about how to support that tomorrow morning.

Also just wanted to re-iterate, and I know you know this, so bear with me, I can share aggregate information (ie number of folks connected to supports) but I'm not able to share personal information on individuals, as it violates our consent form that folks sign.

See you in the morning!

Cheers,  
Doug

**Doug Pawson, MPhil,  
MBA**  
Executive Director  
Pronouns: He/Him  
E: [dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com) | C: 709.770.4902  
<Outlook-trmtjc2f.png>  
[wecanendit709](mailto:wecanendit709) |  
<Outlook-ua2rbk2a.png>  
[ehsj709](mailto:ehsj709)

<Outlook-butxbcfd.png>  
[wecanendit.com](http://wecanendit.com) |  
<Outlook-n0ir3cge.png>  
[Newsletter](#)  
<Outlook-toofiayj.png>

*With deep respect and gratitude, we acknowledge the land on which we gather as the ancestral homelands of the Beothuk, whose culture has been lost forever and can never be recovered. We also acknowledge the island of Ktaqmkuk (Newfoundland) as the unceded, traditional territory of the Beothuk*

*and the Mi'kmaq. We acknowledge Labrador as the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Innu of Nitassinan, the Inuit of Nunatsiavut, and the Inuit of NunatuKavut. We recognize all First Peoples who were here before us, those who live with us now, and the seven generations to come. As First Peoples have done since time immemorial, we strive to be responsible stewards of the land and to respect the cultures, ceremonies, and traditions of all who call it home. As we open our hearts and minds to the past, we commit ourselves to working in a spirit of truth and reconciliation to make a better future for all.*

**Inclusion and**

**Diversity:** We believe that the wide array of perspectives resulting from diversity and inclusion allows organizations to be more effective; we are committed to diversity and inclusion in our programs and services. We are also dedicated to greater diversity and inclusion within our own organization and strive to provide equal opportunity to people of all races, ethnicities, religions, genders, sexual orientations, and abilities.

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---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday,  
December 11, 2023 4:18  
PM

**To:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
<[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>

>  
**Cc:** Doug Pawson  
<[dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com)>; [mayor@stjohns.ca](mailto:mayor@stjohns.ca) &t;[mayor@stjohns.ca](mailto:mayor@stjohns.ca)>; Julia M. Mullaley  
<[JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca](mailto:JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca)>

>  
**Subject:** Re: Tent City  
solutions

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opening attachments or  
clicking on links]

Great,

Thanks John.

[REDACTED]

On Dec 11, 2023, at 16:18,  
Abbott, John (MHA)  
<[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>  
wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]  
Thank you for your email. I've asked Julia Mullaley (NLHC) to respond on my behalf

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as she has the details.  
Julia will call you to  
discuss.

**JOHN G. ABBOTT,  
M.H.A.**  
District of St. John's  
East-Qudi-Vidi  
Minister of  
Transportation and  
Infrastructure  
Phone: (709) 729-3678  
Email: [johnabbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:johnabbott@gov.nl.ca)

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday,  
December 11, 2023 2:05  
PM

**To:** Doug Pawson  
<[dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com)>; [mayor@stjohns.ca](mailto:mayor@stjohns.ca); Abbott, John  
(MHA)  
<[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>  
>

**Subject:** Tent City  
solutions

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organization. Do not  
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content is safe.

Hi Mayor Breen, Minister  
Abbott and Doug,

What supports are being  
made available to people  
once they get into the  
shelters?

We have a small network  
of volunteers who are still  
in communication with  
folks from the  
Confederation building  
protest, and these folks are  
still not getting supports

they need. Some of them are in threat of losing the housing they've been given. At least one has been served an eviction notice.

We were able to help CSSD and End homelessness get three people out to various shelters over the weekend from colonial building, but I'd like to know that they are accessing supports alongside that housing.

Can you folks please clarify this tomorrow when we meet up?

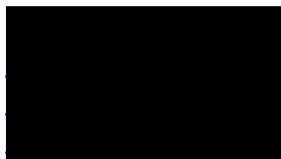
I can't speak for anybody else but myself but it's clear that we need to find out what this "solution" on the horizon is.

Thanks,

Also, thanks for sending the folks down here with the bin. That was very helpful.

They down to Christmas is moving pretty fast so let's try to figure out if there's a way we can all work together on this. Supports are going to play an enormous role in this.

Yours,



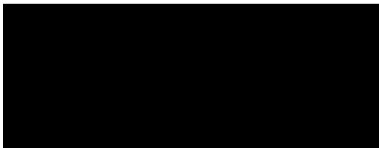
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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 13, 2024 9:58 AM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Subject:** Re: Update - Task Force

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Thanks John, hopefully the considerations go smoothly.

[REDACTED]

On Jan 12, 2024, at 14:43, Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]  
Thank you for your email.  
The staffing model is under development and size of complement will be determined on the size of population being served. For the moment I believe that the initial mix of staff will be 15 (but to be determined by NLHC, NLHS).

**JOHN G. ABBOTT, M.H.A.**  
District of St. John's East-Qudi-Vidi  
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
Phone: (709) 729-3678  
Email: johnabbott@gov.nl.ca

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 11, 2024 2:59 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>  
**Cc:** mayor@stjohns.ca; Doug Pawson <dpawson@wecanendit.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Update - Task Force

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi folks,

Thanks for continuing to further clarify the project with the Comfort Hotel, and I did hear you on VOCM today John.

I just wanted to share my concerns with you that 15 staff does not appear to be enough to provide wrap-around supports to 140 people.

The Waterloo model that I visited has 24/7 staffing with 3 shifts daily and 5 staff per shift, and this is for 50 people. This is over and above healthcare, security, pharmacy, food prep, and other providers.

Shelter residents don't necessarily have 9-5 hours when they have their own space, and I'm concerned that supports from organizations are already stretched thin in the city. Some orgs have seen caseload increases of over 600% from last year while not seeing any corresponding increase in funding. Knowing this, I don't think relying on orgs would solve issues for residents who generally need complex case management.

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Hopefully you can reconsider the staffing numbers, or maybe you know something that I don't know which makes 15 staff from 9-5 a workable number that won't result in unnecessary chaos for nearby Airport heights community residents after 5 pm.

All the best,

Yours.

██████████

On Jan 9, 2024, at 4:28 PM, Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)> wrote:

Hi ██████████

Thank you for your email. Provincial officials continue to identify solutions to the homeless population in consultation with community agencies, advocates and persons with lived experience. The Task Force will be assessing these ideas in undertaking its work over the winter. Yesterday's announcement respecting the use of a hotel with supportive services for the next 3 years along with improved integration/alignment of public and community resources are examples of new initiatives being implemented. In the meantime, folks staying in tents will continued to be offered various shelter, housing, health and related services. Once we have further work done, the Task Force will be in touch with you and others.

**JOHN G. ABBOTT, M.H.A.**

District of St. John's East-Qudi-Vidi

Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

Phone: (709) 729-3678

Email: [johnabbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:johnabbott@gov.nl.ca)

**From:** ██████████

**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 5:21 PM

**To:** Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>

**Cc:** Blundon, Chad <[ChadBlundon@gov.nl.ca](mailto:ChadBlundon@gov.nl.ca)>

**Subject:** Re: Tiny home committee

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks John,

Hope you had a great Christmas!

What are the next steps?

Will ██████████ and I be invited to any more meetings? Will we be invited to join the task force?

Thanks,

██████████

On Jan 8, 2024, at 17:07, Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)> wrote:

Hi ██████████

I am not aware of any provincial committee considering the issue of tiny homes to address the homeless challenges facing the City/province at this time.  
That being said, I will raise the issue within our Task Force to see if this is something we want to address.  
Best wishes for 2024!

**JOHN G. ABBOTT, M.H.A.**

District of St. John's East-Qudi-Vidi

Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

Phone: (709) 729-3678

Email: [johnabbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:johnabbott@gov.nl.ca)

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, January 5, 2024 2:59 PM

**To:** Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>

**Cc:** Danny Breen <[dbreen@stjohns.ca](mailto:dbreen@stjohns.ca)>; Doug Pawson <[dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com)>

**Subject:** Tiny home committee

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Hi John,

I hear the province already has a committee working on the tiny homes as a solution to homelessness.

Who is in charge of the committee?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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**From:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 18, 2024 11:49 AM  
**To:** 'Julia M. Mullaley'  
**Cc:** Melanie S. Thomas  
**Subject:** RE: Update - Task Force

Thanks for this.  
John A

**From:** Julia M. Mullaley <JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 18, 2024 10:45 AM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>  
**Cc:** Melanie S. Thomas <msthomas@nlhc.nl.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Update - Task Force

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Minister, please find below a suggested response for consideration which has also been reviewed by Doug.

---

**From:** Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 12, 2024 12:35 PM  
**To:** Julia M. Mullaley <[JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca](mailto:JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: Update - Task Force

Julia

Would you review and advise on a response. Thank you.

John A  
Minister

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 11, 2024 7:25 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>; [mayor@stjohns.ca](mailto:mayor@stjohns.ca); Doug Pawson <[dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Update - Task Force

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening everyone,

I'm looking forward to hearing more in relation to the Comfort Inn agreement. I believe that this is a step in the right direction, but there are questions that need answers.

This is my main concern/question, I can only hope is that we don't lose sight of the need for intensive 24/7 wrap around supports. After hearing that support will only be available Mon-Fri 8:30-4:30, to say I have concerns is an understatement. Can you please provide clarification on what supports will be available and to what hours these supports will be provided.

As well, I would like to see that those 4-6 individuals still residing in tent city currently be allowed to go into the shelter spaces at the Riverwalk as some residents there have already received keys to their units on Janeway Pl. it's also my understanding that as of tomorrow there will be enough space to accommodate that request. People just want a door that locks and a space that's warm. I hope this is something that will be addressed as soon as possible. People should not have to wait until spring.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 11, 2024, at 2:59 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi folks,

Thanks for continuing to further clarify the project with the Comfort Hotel, and I did hear you on VOCM today John.

I just wanted to share my concerns with you that 15 staff does not appear to be enough to provide wrap-around supports to 140 people.

The Waterloo model that I visited has 24/7 staffing with 3 shifts daily and 5 staff per shift, and this is for 50 people. This is over and above healthcare, security, pharmacy, food prep, and other providers.

Shelter residents don't necessarily have 9-5 hours when they have their own space, and I'm concerned that supports from organizations are already stretched thin in the city. Some orgs have seen caseload increases of over 600% from last year while not seeing any corresponding increase in funding. Knowing this, I don't think relying on orgs would solve issues for residents who generally need complex case management.

Hopefully you can reconsider the staffing numbers, or maybe you know something that I don't know which makes 15 staff from 9-5 a workable number that won't result in unnecessary chaos for nearby Airport heights community residents after 5 pm.

All the best,

Yours.

[REDACTED]

On Jan 9, 2024, at 4:28 PM, Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. Provincial officials continue to identify solutions to the homeless population in consultation with community agencies, advocates and persons with lived experience. The Task Force will be assessing these ideas in undertaking its work over the winter. Yesterday's announcement respecting the use of a hotel with supportive services for the next 3 years along with improved integration/alignment of public and community resources are examples of new initiatives being implemented. In the meantime, folks staying in tents will continued to be offered various shelter, housing, health and related services. Once we have further work done, the Task Force will be in touch with you and others.

**JOHN G. ABBOTT, M.H.A.**

District of St. John's East-Qudi-Vidi  
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
Phone: (709) 729-3678  
Email: [johnabbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:johnabbott@gov.nl.ca)

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 5:21 PM

**To:** Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>

**Cc:** Blundon, Chad <[ChadBlundon@gov.nl.ca](mailto:ChadBlundon@gov.nl.ca)>

**Subject:** Re: Tiny home committee

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Thanks John,

Hope you had a great Christmas!

What are the next steps?

Will [REDACTED] and I be invited to any more meetings? Will we be invited to join the task force?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

On Jan 8, 2024, at 17:07, Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)> wrote:

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That being said, I will raise the issue within our Task Force to see if this is something we want to address.

Best wishes for 2024!

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Phone: (709) 729-3678  
Email: [johnabbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:johnabbott@gov.nl.ca)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 5, 2024 2:59 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Cc:** Danny Breen <[dbreen@stjohns.ca](mailto:dbreen@stjohns.ca)>; Doug Pawson <[dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com)>  
**Subject:** Tiny home committee

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Hi John,

I hear the province already has a committee working on the tiny homes as a solution to homelessness.

Who is in charge of the committee?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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**From:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 18, 2024 1:15 PM  
**To:** 'Julia M. Mullaley'  
**Subject:** FW: FW: Comfort Hotel

Julia  
 I let [REDACTED] know that I have forwarded his email to the team overseeing the hotel site. Would you review and consider his comments.  
 John A

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 18, 2024 1:02 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Comfort Hotel

Thank you for the information..How will security manage the rooms that are in the ground floor which have a outside door to their rooms? Aprox 40 rooms contain an outside door .? Also can we get the Metrobus moved closer to the hotel entrance so all the residents don't have to trace throughout [REDACTED] to get the bus on majors path..This would elimtate a lot of foot traffic on [REDACTED] ..I do agree the govt is doing the right thing for these people ,but we as residents need some help as such mentioned ,looking forward to your reply ..[REDACTED] Thanks

On Thu., Jan. 18, 2024, 11:57 a.m. Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]  
 Here is some background information on how the Comfort Inn is going to work as a Transitional Housing facility for next 3 years:

---

In addition to existing hotel and housekeeping staff, NLHC is partnering with the Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services and End Homelessness St. Johns to provide an appropriate 24-7 staffed housing response. This will include a range of positions providing health services such as primary care, mental health and addictions support, personal care, housing supports, and other supportive services and will also include an appropriate security presence.

Supportive and Transitional Housing provides individuals with low-barrier access to required supports and services and an important pathway to recovery. Through a team of caseworkers, clinicians, and other service providers, transitional and supportive housing initiatives can create a network of compassion and support for individuals. Providing vulnerable populations with safe, secure accommodations plus access to essential programs and services is a 'Housing First' best practice, which encourages mental health and addictions recovery. With housing stability and improved access to services, individuals are often able to move forward with their lives.

---

In essence the hotel will still operate on similar lines but with the additional clinical support as identifies above. If issues impacting the surrounding neighbours should arise, we will be prepared to address them at the outset.

Best wishes for 2024!

**JOHN G. ABBOTT, M.H.A.**  
 District of St. John's East-Qudi-Vidi  
 Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
 Phone: (709) 729-3678  
 Email: [johnabbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:johnabbott@gov.nl.ca)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 18, 2024 1:58 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Comfort Hotel

Sounds good, thank you.

On Thu., Jan. 18, 2024, 1:13 p.m. Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

I will forward your latest email to the team overseeing the hotel site for their consideration.

**JOHN G. ABBOTT, M.H.A.**

District of St. John's East-Qudi-Vidi  
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
Phone: (709) 729-3678  
Email: [johnabbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:johnabbott@gov.nl.ca)

Logo for Signature

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 18, 2024 1:02 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Comfort Hotel

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impacting the surrounding neighbours should arise, we will be prepared to address them at the outset.

Best wishes for 2024!

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District of St. John's East-Qudi-Vidi

Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

Phone: (709) 729-3678

Email: [johnabbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:johnabbott@gov.nl.ca)

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**From:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 1:12 PM  
**To:** 'Julia M. Mullaley'  
**Cc:** Blundon, Chad  
**Subject:** RE: Comfort Hotel

Julia  
 Thanks for the update.  
 Also, just finished a meeting with JPS on the issue transitioning of former inmates to the community who have no address on release and the impact on homelessness in the City/province. We had a good discussion and they plan to develop a short document to describe the issues as well as possible solutions. One topic that came forward was the possibility for them to be represented on the intake assessment team for the new Transitional Housing Hotel initiative. Would you give it some consideration and we can chat further. Thanks.  
 John A

---

**From:** Julia M. Mullaley <JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 11:06 AM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>  
**Subject:** FW: Comfort Hotel

Just wanted to send as FYI to ensure you were aware we responded and connected [REDACTED] to members of our team in case he has further questions. [REDACTED]

Julia

s.29(1)(a)

---

**From:** Melanie S. Thomas  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 10:22 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Julia M. Mullaley <JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca>; Linda P. Warford <lpwarford@nlhc.nl.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: Comfort Hotel

Good morning [REDACTED]  
 Minister Abbott asked our team to follow up with you on questions around security and access to Metrobus for the recently announced supportive transitional arrangements with a local hotel. I can advise that in addition to 24/7 hotel and community-based staffing, an appropriate security staffing model and measures will be in place in consideration of various factors including entry and exit locations. With respect to the Metrobus, our team will work with the City of St. John's Transportation Commission that oversees the operations of the Metrobus public transit service to consider any required adjustments to the transit services in this particular area. Thank you for bringing these important issues forward.

Sincerely,  
 Melanie

**Melanie S. Thomas**  
 Director, Community Partnerships and Homelessness  
 Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation  
 2 Canada Drive  
 Tel: 709-724-3293  
 Email: [msthomas@nlhc.nl.ca](mailto:msthomas@nlhc.nl.ca)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 18, 2024 1:02 PM

To: Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>  
Subject: Re: FW: Comfort Hotel

Thank you for the information..How will security manage the rooms that are in the ground floor which have a outside door to their rooms? Aprox 40 rooms contain an outside door .? Also can we get the Metrobus moved closer to the hotel entrance so all the residents don't have to trace throughout [REDACTED] to get the bus on majors path..This would elimiate a lot of foot traffic on [REDACTED] ..I do agree the govt is doing the right thing for these people ,but we as residents need some help as such mentioned ,looking forward to your reply ..[REDACTED]. Thanks

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Hi [REDACTED]

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Best wishes for 2024!

**JOHN G. ABBOTT, M.H.A.**

District of St. John's East-Qudi-Vidi

Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

Phone: (709) 729-3678

Email: [johnabbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:johnabbott@gov.nl.ca)

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**From:** Julia M. Mullaley <JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 30, 2024 10:56 AM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Cc:** Doody, Alan  
**Subject:** Re: Update - Task Force

I have asked Doug to confirm but there are the 2 that have been there for extended time that you would be aware of and a third more recently as well as a number of others that are are coming and going (and generally receptive to placements in shelters) so I have seen around the number of 6. Doug is getting back to me re yesterdays number.

Julia

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 30, 2024, at 9:40 AM, Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca> wrote:

>

> Alan/Julia

> Do we have current count on numbers at the site? On VOCM Paddy Daly referenced the no. as 6?? as has [REDACTED]

> John A

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Julia M. Mullaley <JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca>

> Sent: Monday, January 29, 2024 7:54 PM

> To: Doody, Alan <alandoodo@gov.nl.ca>

> Cc: Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>

> Subject: Re: Update - Task Force

>

> CAUTION : This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

>

>

> That's correct Alan. I can also add that individuals continue to be offered shelter and board and lodging arrangements which have been declined. I can also advise that they have been encouraged to go to the warming Center during inclement weather.

>

> Julia

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

> On Jan 29, 2024, at 6:57 PM, Doody, Alan <alandoodo@gov.nl.ca> wrote:

>

> Good evening Minister,

> CSSS, EHSJ and Harm Reduction were on site this morning and EHSJ and CSSD costed again this afternoon. The persons at the encampment did say today they have not seen the organizers for a couple of days.

>

> Alan

> Sent from my iPhone

>

> On Jan 29, 2024, at 6:24 PM, Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca> wrote:

>

> FYI.

> Are we able to address [REDACTED] assertions. Thanks.

> John G. Abbott

> Minister and MHA

> St. John's East-Quidi Vidi District

> Email: JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca

> Office Phone: (709) 729-3678

> Sent from my iPhone

>

> Begin forwarded message:

>

> From: [REDACTED]

> Date: January 29, 2024 at 2:17:08 PM NST

> To: [REDACTED]

> Cc: "Abbott, John (MHA)" <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>, mayor@stjohns.ca, Doug Pawson <dpawson@wecanendit.com>

> Subject: Re: Update - Task Force

>

> Good afternoon everyone,

>

> I just wanted to reach out since it's been awhile and pass along some details that have come to our attention regarding tent city.

>

> - currently there are still 6 remaining people.

> - these people are reporting that there is an decrease in support provided. According to what we are being told no one from End Homelessness, income support or other services have been on site for sometime.

> -we are also aware that there is a steady decline in community support along with a decreased in donations. While donations is not a government issue, these individuals are being left with food, water and propane for days. Some of these individuals are unable to access food services at The Gathering Place for various reasons. As well, they are being denied access to the warming centres for various reasons.

> -as well, given the complexity of mental health/addictions issues residents are expressing safety concerns. While I can not get into specifics here, the need for additional resources present should be a priority.

>

> My questions are, how much longer can we expect to wait before something is done to address these individual issues? Yes, we have the Comfort Inn starting up in March, do we know if these individuals will be able to access this facility and what can we do in the meantime to support them? We are now going on 5 months of "tent city", and while many have received housing, we still have many across the province and into Labrador sleeping outside. Something immediate needs to be done to ensure these people are safe. I fear We are soon going to have a major issue safety wise or even worse. The media has also been made aware of these issues.

>

> [REDACTED]

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

> On Jan 11, 2024, at 2:59 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

>

> Hi folks,

>

> Thanks for continuing to further clarify the project with the Comfort Hotel, and I did hear you on VOCM today John.

>

> I just wanted to share my concerns with you that 15 staff does not appear to be enough to provide wrap-around supports to 140 people.

>

> The Waterloo model that I visited has 24/7 staffing with 3 shifts daily and 5 staff per shift, and this is for 50 people. This is over and above healthcare, security, pharmacy, food prep, and other providers.

>

> Shelter residents don't necessarily have 9-5 hours when they have their own space, and I'm concerned that supports from organizations are already stretched thin in the city. Some orgs have seen caseload increases of over 600% from last year while not seeing any corresponding increase in funding. Knowing this, I don't think relying on orgs would solve issues for residents who generally need complex case management.

>

> Hopefully you can reconsider the staffing numbers, or maybe you know something that I don't know which makes 15 staff from 9-5 a workable number that won't result in unnecessary chaos for nearby Airport heights community residents after 5 pm.

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>  
> All the best,

>  
> Yours.

>  
> [REDACTED]

> On Jan 9, 2024, at 4:28 PM, Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca<mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>> wrote:

>  
> Hi [REDACTED]

> Thank you for your email. Provincial officials continue to identify solutions to the homeless population in consultation with community agencies, advocates and persons with lived experience. The Task Force will be assessing these ideas in undertaking its work over the winter. Yesterday's announcement respecting the use of a hotel with supportive services for the next 3 years along with improved integration/alignment of public and community resources are examples of new initiatives being implemented. In the meantime, folks staying in tents will continued to be offered various shelter, housing, health and related services. Once we have further work done, the Task Force will be in touch with you and others.

>  
> JOHN G. ABBOTT, M.H.A.  
> District of St. John's East-Qudi-Vidi  
> Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
> Phone: (709) 729-3678  
> Email: johnabbott@gov.nl.ca<mailto:johnabbott@gov.nl.ca>

>  
>  
> From: [REDACTED]  
> Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 5:21 PM  
> To: Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca<mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>>  
> Cc: Blundon, Chad <ChadBlundon@gov.nl.ca<mailto:ChadBlundon@gov.nl.ca>>  
> Subject: Re: Tiny home committee

> CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

>  
>  
> Thanks John,

>  
> Hope you had a great Christmas!

>  
> What are the next steps?

>  
> Will [REDACTED] and I be invited to any more meetings? Will we be invited to join the task force?

>  
> Thanks,

>  
> [REDACTED]

> On Jan 8, 2024, at 17:07, Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca<mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>> wrote:

>  
> Hi [REDACTED]

> I am not aware of any provincial committee considering the issue of tiny homes to address the homeless challenges facing the City/province at this time.

> That being said, I will raise the issue within our Task Force to see if this is something we want to address.

> Best wishes for 2024!

> All redactions on this page are under s.40(1), unless otherwise noted

> JOHN G. ABBOTT, M.H.A.  
> District of St. John's East-Qudi-Vidi  
> Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
> Phone: (709) 729-3678  
> Email: johnabbott@gov.nl.ca<mailto:johnabbott@gov.nl.ca>

>  
>  
> From: [REDACTED]  
> Sent: Friday, January 5, 2024 2:59 PM  
> To: Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca<mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>>  
> Cc: Danny Breen <dbreen@stjohns.ca<mailto:dbreen@stjohns.ca>>; Doug Pawson  
<dpawson@wecanendit.com<mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com>>  
> Subject: Tiny home committee

> CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

> Hi John,

> I hear the province already has a committee working on the tiny homes as a solution to homelessness.

> Who is in charge of the committee?

> Thanks,

> [REDACTED]  
> [REDACTED]  
> [REDACTED]  
> [REDACTED]  
> "This email and any attached files are intended for the sole use of the primary and copied addressee(s) and may contain privileged and/or confidential information. Any distribution, use or copying by any means of this information is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please delete it immediately and notify the sender."

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> [REDACTED]  
> [REDACTED]  
> [REDACTED]  
> [REDACTED]  
> [REDACTED]  
> Warning: The message is from an external sender, please exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links. If the sender of the mail seems suspicious, please do not reply to it or open any links present in it. Also, please contact NLHC Helpdesk.

> Warning: The message is from an external sender, please exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links. If the sender of the mail seems suspicious, please do not reply to it or open any links present in it. Also, please contact NLHC Helpdesk.

All redactions on this page are under s.40(1), unless otherwise noted

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 30, 2024 4:24 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Cc:** Doug Pawson; [REDACTED] mayor@stjohns.ca  
**Subject:** Re: Update - Task Force

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Hi John,

It appears that's part of the email is missing, at least on my end. I can't see anything from Julia.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2024, at 3:58 PM, Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca> wrote:

Julia  
Thanks for update.  
John G. Abbott  
Minister and MHA  
St. John's East-Quidi Vidi District  
Email: JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca  
Office Phone: (709) 729-3678  
Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2024, at 3:16 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Hi Doug,

Thank you for your reply. I'm not sure if your staff are connecting with everyone but the few we have spoken with have expressed concerns with the lack of support currently. We are also concerned that the remaining 6 are also not having their needs met in regards to food, heat and water. Please remember that these are people who cannot access services at The Gathering Place. Surely God we can figure out a way to feed them at 1 hot meal per day along with water and some propane.

I see 1 alternative being to put these people up in a hotel as soon as possible. If circumstances were different, they most likely would be in shelter where \$150.00 plus per night is paid. Why is it that we cannot help these people NOW, they are cold, hungry and honestly "fed up" with tent city. I think between all of us we can do better to support these individuals.

I'm sorry if I'm sounding blunt, however we still have people sleeping in tents and the 6 at tent city is not including those across the province and Labrador.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2024, at 1:26 PM, Doug Pawson <dpawson@wecanendit.com> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for the email. In terms of your questions, I can only share that our outreach team continue to go down to visit folks daily. They encourage folks to avail of options that are available on those days.

Best,  
Doug

**Doug Pawson, MPhil, MBA**

Executive Director

Pronouns: He/Him

E: [dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com) | C: 709.770.4902

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[wecanendit709](#) |

<[Outlook-dm3kbcil.png](#)>

[ehsj709](#)

<[Outlook-nsxj1gir.png](#)>

[wecanendit.com](#) |

<[Outlook-hsdwt2pt.png](#)>

[Newsletter](#)

<[Outlook-msyobcqe.png](#)>

*With deep respect and gratitude, we acknowledge the land on which we gather as the ancestral homelands of the Beothuk, whose culture has been lost forever and can never be recovered. We also acknowledge the island of Ktaqmkuk (Newfoundland) as the unceded, traditional territory of the Beothuk and the Mi'kmaq. We acknowledge Labrador as the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Innu of Nitassinan, the Inuit of Nunatsiavut, and the Inuit of NunatuKavut. We recognize all First Peoples who were here before us, those who live with us now, and the seven generations to come. As First Peoples have done since time immemorial, we strive to be responsible stewards of the land and to respect the cultures, ceremonies, and traditions of all who call it home. As we open our hearts and minds to the past, we commit ourselves to working in a spirit of truth and reconciliation to make a better future for all.*

**Inclusion and Diversity:** We believe that the wide array of perspectives resulting from diversity and inclusion allows organizations to be more effective; we are committed to diversity and inclusion in our programs and services. We are also dedicated to greater diversity and inclusion within our own organization and strive to provide equal opportunity to people of all races, ethnicities, religions, genders, sexual orientations, and abilities.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 29, 2024 2:16 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** John Abbott (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>; mayor@stjohns.ca <mayor@stjohns.ca>; Doug Pawson <dpawson@wecanendit.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Update - Task Force

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL E-MAIL - Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links]

Good afternoon everyone,

I just wanted to reach out since it's been awhile and pass along some details that have come to our attention regarding tent city.

- currently there are still 6 remaining people.
- these people are reporting that there is an decrease in support provided. According to what we are being told no one from End Homelessness, income support or other services have been on site for sometime.
- we are also aware that there is a steady decline in community support along with a decreased in donations. While donations is not a government issue, these individuals are being left with food, water and propane for days. Some of these individuals are unable to access food services at The Gathering Place for various reasons. As well, they are being denied access to the warming centres for various reasons.
- as well, given the complexity of mental health/addictions issues residents are expressing safety concerns. While I can not get into specifics here, the need for additional resources present should be a priority.

My questions are, how much longer can we expect to wait before something is done to address these individual issues? Yes, we have the Comfort Inn starting up in March, do we know if these individuals will be able to access this facility and what can we do in the meantime to support them? We are now going on 5 months of "tent city", and while many have received housing, we still have many across the province and into Labrador sleeping outside. Something immediate needs to be done to ensure these people are safe. I fear We are soon going to have a major issue safety wise or even worse. The media has also been made aware of these issues.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 11, 2024, at 2:59 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi folks,

Thanks for continuing to further clarify the project with the Comfort Hotel, and I did hear you on VOCM today John.

I just wanted to share my concerns with you that 15 staff does not appear to be enough to provide wrap-around supports to 140 people.

The Waterloo model that I visited has 24/7 staffing with 3 shifts daily and 5 staff per shift, and this is for 50 people. This is over and above healthcare, security, pharmacy, food prep, and other providers.



Will [REDACTED] and I be invited to any more meetings? Will we be invited to join the task force?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

On Jan 8, 2024, at 17:07, Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

I am not aware of any provincial committee considering the issue of tiny homes to address the homeless challenges facing the City/province at this time.

That being said, I will raise the issue within our Task Force to see if this is something we want to address.

Best wishes for 2024!

**JOHN G. ABBOTT, M.H.A.**

District of St. John's East-Qudi-Vidi

Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

Phone: (709) 729-3678

Email: [johnabbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:johnabbott@gov.nl.ca)

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, January 5, 2024 2:59 PM

**To:** Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>

**Cc:** Danny Breen <[dbreen@stjohns.ca](mailto:dbreen@stjohns.ca)>; Doug Pawson

<[dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com)>

**Subject:** Tiny home committee

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Hi John,

I hear the province already has a committee working on the tiny homes as a solution to homelessness.

Who is in charge of the committee?

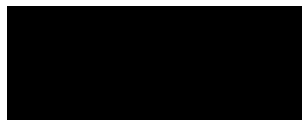
Thanks,

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 31, 2024 8:33 PM  
**To:** Doody, Alan; Julia M. Mullaley  
**Subject:** Fwd: Update - Task Force

For your info. We can discuss later.  
John G. Abbott  
Minister and MHA  
St. John's East-Quidi Vidi District  
Email: JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca  
Office Phone: (709) 729-3678  
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** January 31, 2024 at 10:26:19 AM NST  
**To:** Doug Pawson <dpawson@wecanendit.com>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] "Abbott, John (MHA)" <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>, mayor@stjohns.ca  
**Subject:** Re: Update - Task Force

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

It's absolutely ridiculous that people are still there.

Maybe you folks need to take on a different approach to get them out of there.

I'll make sure that this gets solidly covered by media this week if I can.

[REDACTED]

On Jan 30, 2024, at 13:26, Doug Pawson <dpawson@wecanendit.com> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for the email. In terms of your questions, I can only share that our outreach team continue to go down to visit folks daily. They encourage folks to avail of options that are available on those days.

Best,  
Doug

**Doug Pawson, MPhil, MBA**

Executive Director

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Pronouns: He/Him

E: [dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com) | C: 709.770.4902

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[ehsj709](#)

<Outlook-nsxj1gir.png>

[wecanendit.com](#) |

<Outlook-hsdwt2pt.png>

[Newsletter](#)

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---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, January 29, 2024 2:16 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** John Abbott (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>; [mayor@stjohns.ca](mailto:mayor@stjohns.ca) <[mayor@stjohns.ca](mailto:mayor@stjohns.ca)>; Doug Pawson <[dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Update - Task Force

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL E-MAIL - Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links]

Good afternoon everyone,

I just wanted to reach out since it's been awhile and pass along some details that have come to our attention regarding tent city.

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- currently there are still 6 remaining people.
- these people are reporting that there is an decrease in support provided. According to what we are being told no one from End Homelessness, income support or other services have been on site for sometime.
- we are also aware that there is a steady decline in community support along with a decreased in donations. While donations is not a government issue, these individuals are being left with food, water and propane for days. Some of these individuals are unable to access food services at The Gathering Place for various reasons. As well, they are being denied access to the warming centres for various reasons.
- as well, given the complexity of mental health/addictions issues residents are expressing safety concerns. While I can not get into specifics here, the need for additional resources present should be a priority.

My questions are, how much longer can we expect to wait before something is done to address these individual issues? Yes, we have the Comfort Inn starting up in March, do we know if these individuals will be able to access this facility and what can we do in the meantime to support them? We are now going on 5 months of "tent city", and while many have received housing, we still have many across the province and into Labrador sleeping outside. Something immediate needs to be done to ensure these people are safe. I fear We are soon going to have a major issue safety wise or even worse. The media has also been made aware of these issues.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 11, 2024, at 2:59 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi folks,

Thanks for continuing to further clarify the project with the Comfort Hotel, and I did hear you on VOXM today John.

I just wanted to share my concerns with you that 15 staff does not appear to be enough to provide wrap-around supports to 140 people.

The Waterloo model that I visited has 24/7 staffing with 3 shifts daily and 5 staff per shift, and this is for 50 people. This is over and above healthcare, security, pharmacy, food prep, and other providers.

Shelter residents don't necessarily have 9-5 hours when they have their own space, and I'm concerned that supports from organizations are already stretched thin in the city. Some orgs have seen caseload increases of over 600% from last year while not seeing any corresponding increase in funding. Knowing this, I don't think relying on orgs would solve issues for residents who generally need complex case management.

Hopefully you can reconsider the staffing numbers, or maybe you know something that I don't know which makes 15 staff from 9-5 a workable number that won't result in unnecessary chaos for nearby Airport heights community residents after 5 pm.

All the best,

Yours.

[REDACTED]

On Jan 9, 2024, at 4:28 PM, Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)> wrote:

All redactions on this page are under s.40(1), unless otherwise noted

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. Provincial officials continue to identify solutions to the homeless population in consultation with community agencies, advocates and persons with lived experience. The Task Force will be assessing these ideas in undertaking its work over the winter. Yesterday's announcement respecting the use of a hotel with supportive services for the next 3 years along with improved integration/alignment of public and community resources are examples of new initiatives being implemented. In the meantime, folks staying in tents will continued to be offered various shelter, housing, health and related services. Once we have further work done, the Task Force will be in touch with you and others.

**JOHN G. ABBOTT, M.H.A.**

District of St. John's East-Qudi-Vidi  
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
Phone: (709) 729-3678  
Email: [johnabbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:johnabbott@gov.nl.ca)

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 5:21 PM

**To:** Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>

**Cc:** Blundon, Chad <[ChadBlundon@gov.nl.ca](mailto:ChadBlundon@gov.nl.ca)>

**Subject:** Re: Tiny home committee

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks John,

Hope you had a great Christmas!

What are the next steps?

Will [REDACTED] and I be invited to any more meetings? Will we be invited to join the task force?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

On Jan 8, 2024, at 17:07, Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

I am not aware of any provincial committee considering the issue of tiny homes to address the homeless challenges facing the City/province at this time. That being said, I will raise the issue within our Task Force to see if this is something we want to address.  
Best wishes for 2024!

**JOHN G. ABBOTT, M.H.A.**

District of St. John's East-Qudi-Vidi  
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
Phone: (709) 729-3678

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Email: [johnabbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:johnabbott@gov.nl.ca)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 5, 2024 2:59 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Cc:** Danny Breen <[dbreen@stjohns.ca](mailto:dbreen@stjohns.ca)>; Doug Pawson <[dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com)>  
**Subject:** Tiny home committee

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Hi John,

I hear the province already has a committee working on the tiny homes as a solution to homelessness.

Who is in charge of the committee?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

---

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All redactions on this page are under s.40(1), unless otherwise noted

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 11:39 AM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Subject:** No Subject / Sans Objet  
**Attachments:** text\_0.txt

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



You have received a Multi-Media Message from / Vous avez reçu un message multimédia de [REDACTED]

Please find your message attached / Veuillez trouver ci-joint votre message.

Sent over / Envoyé sur le réseau [Eastlink](#) Mobile Network

Minister Abbott. Really respect way you are dealing with province's Homeless situation, especially the tent city situation at Colonial Building. Regards [REDACTED]

All redactions on this page are under s.40(1), unless otherwise noted

**From:** Melanie S. Thomas <msthomas@nlhc.nl.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 8, 2024 12:43 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Subject:** RE: Update

Hi Minister Our staff have been in regular conversation with both CSSD staff and EHSJ when on site. All have been advised that this bed is available. Our latest encampment list does not appear to capture this individual. Those we are working with at CSSD and EHSJ have been advised to have the woman call Naomi directly, or reach out to our toll free line. Both #s have been provided.

I will check in again with staff this afternoon and will relay any updates to the above, M

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>  
**Sent:** February 8, 2024 12:36 PM  
**To:** Melanie S. Thomas <msthomas@nlhc.nl.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Update

Melanie  
Any update (i.e. did individual take the bed in question?).  
John A  
Minister

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Melanie S. Thomas <msthomas@nlhc.nl.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2024 11:49 AM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: Update

**CAUTION :** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Minister,  
Staff have identified a potential bed at Naomi Centre and provided EHSJ staff with their direct intake line which they will share when onsite.  
M

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 7, 2024, at 9:25 AM, Doug Pawson <dpawson@wecanendit.com> wrote:

I'll ask our Outreach Team to check on this situation this morning when they head to Colonial.

Doug

Doug Pawson, MPhil, MBA

Executive Director

Pronouns: He/Him

All redactions on this page are under s.40(1), unless otherwise noted

E: dpawson@wecanendit.com<mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com> | C: 709.770.4902

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[Outlook-a0zvtjle.png]<<https://wecanendit.com/>> wecanendit.com<<https://wecanendit.com/>> | [Outlook-kbr1cvij.png] Newsletter<<https://wecanendit.com/newsletter>>

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With deep respect and gratitude, we acknowledge the land on which we gather as the ancestral homelands of the Beothuk, whose culture has been lost forever and can never be recovered. We also acknowledge the island of Ktaqmkuk (Newfoundland) as the unceded, traditional territory of the Beothuk and the Mi'kmaq. We acknowledge Labrador as the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Innu of Nitassinan, the Inuit of Nunatsiavut, and the Inuit of NunatuKavut. We recognize all First Peoples who were here before us, those who live with us now, and the seven generations to come. As First Peoples have done since time immemorial, we strive to be responsible stewards of the land and to respect the cultures, ceremonies, and traditions of all who call it home. As we open our hearts and minds to the past, we commit ourselves to working in a spirit of truth and reconciliation to make a better future for all.

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---

From: Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>

Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 9:19 AM

To: msthomas@nlhc.nl.ca <[msthomas@nlhc.nl.ca](mailto:msthomas@nlhc.nl.ca)>; Doug Pawson <[dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com)>

Subject: FW: Update

You don't often get email from [johnabbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:johnabbott@gov.nl.ca). Learn why this is important<<https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>>

[EXTERNAL E-MAIL - Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links]

Melanie/Doug

Would you follow up on [REDACTED] email related to the women [REDACTED] assuming the facts are correct. Thanks.

All redactions on this page are under s.40(1), unless otherwise noted

John A

Minister

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 9:01 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: Doug Pawson <dpawson@wecanendit.com>; Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>; mayor@stjohns.ca  
Subject: Re: Update - Task Force

Good morning everyone,

Hope all is well. I'm not sure if you are aware, however we have a women residing at tent city that is [REDACTED]

They remains little support of any kind for these tenters in regards to food, water or propane. They are struggling. My main concern now is this individual and making sure she is provided for and receives all options available to her.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 31, 2024, at 10:26 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

It's absolutely ridiculous that people are still there.

Maybe you folks need to take on a different approach to get them out of there.

I'll make sure that this gets solidly covered by media this week if I can.

[REDACTED]  
On Jan 30, 2024, at 13:26, Doug Pawson <dpawson@wecanendit.com<mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com>> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for the email. In terms of your questions, I can only share that our outreach team continue to go down to visit folks daily. They encourage folks to avail of options that are available on those days.

Best,

Doug

Doug Pawson, MPhil, MBA

Executive Director

Pronouns: He/Him

E: dpawson@wecanendit.com<mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com> | C: 709.770.4902

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With deep respect and gratitude, we acknowledge the land on which we gather as the ancestral homelands of the Beothuk, whose culture has been lost forever and can never be recovered. We also acknowledge the island of Ktaqmkuk (Newfoundland) as the unceded, traditional territory of the Beothuk and the Mi'kmaq. We acknowledge Labrador as the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Innu of Nitassinan, the Inuit of Nunatsiavut, and the Inuit of NunatuKavut. We recognize all First Peoples who were here before us, those who live with us now, and the seven generations to come. As First Peoples have done since time immemorial, we strive to be responsible stewards of the land and to respect the cultures, ceremonies, and traditions of all who call it home. As we open our hearts and minds to the past, we commit ourselves to working in a spirit of truth and reconciliation to make a better future for all.

**Inclusion and Diversity:** We believe that the wide array of perspectives resulting from diversity and inclusion allows organizations to be more effective; we are committed to diversity and inclusion in our programs and services. We are also dedicated to greater diversity and inclusion within our own organization and strive to provide equal opportunity to people of all races, ethnicities, religions, genders, sexual orientations, and abilities.

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From: [REDACTED]  
 Sent: Monday, January 29, 2024 2:16 PM  
 To: [REDACTED]  
 Cc: John Abbott (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca<mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>>;

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mayor@stjohns.ca<mailto:mayor@stjohns.ca> <mayor@stjohns.ca<mailto:mayor@stjohns.ca>>; Doug Pawson  
<dpawson@wecanendit.com<mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com>>

Subject: Re: Update - Task Force

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[EXTERNAL E-MAIL - Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links]

Good afternoon everyone,

I just wanted to reach out since it's been awhile and pass along some details that have come to our attention regarding tent city.

- currently there are still 6 remaining people.

- these people are reporting that there is an decrease in support provided. According to what we are being told no one from End Homelessness, income support or other services have been on site for sometime.

-we are also aware that there is a steady decline in community support along with a decreased in donations. While donations is not a government issue, these individuals are being left with food, water and propane for days. Some of these individuals are unable to access food services at The Gathering Place for various reasons. As well, they are being denied access to the warming centres for various reasons.

-as well, given the complexity of mental health/addictions issues residents are expressing safety concerns. While I can not get into specifics here, the need for additional resources present should be a priority.

My questions are, how much longer can we expect to wait before something is done to address these individual issues? Yes, we have the Comfort Inn starting up in March, do we know if these individuals will be able to access this facility and what can we do in the meantime to support them? We are now going on 5 months of "tent city", and while many have received housing, we still have many across the province and into Labrador sleeping outside. Something immediate needs to be done to ensure these people are safe. I fear We are soon going to have a major issue safety wise or even worse. The media has also been made aware of these issues.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 11, 2024, at 2:59 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi folks,

Thanks for continuing to further clarify the project with the Comfort Hotel, and I did hear you on VOCCM today John.

I just wanted to share my concerns with you that 15 staff does not appear to be enough to provide wrap-around supports to 140 people.

The Waterloo model that I visited has 24/7 staffing with 3 shifts daily and 5 staff per shift, and this is for 50 people. This is over and above healthcare, security, pharmacy, food prep, and other providers.

Shelter residents don't necessarily have 9-5 hours when they have their own space, and I'm concerned that supports from organizations are already stretched thin in the city. Some orgs have seen caseload increases of over 600% from last year while not seeing any corresponding increase in funding. Knowing this, I don't think relying on orgs would solve issues for residents who generally need complex case management.

Hopefully you can reconsider the staffing numbers, or maybe you know something that I don't know which makes 15 staff from 9-5 a workable number that won't result in unnecessary chaos for nearby Airport heights community residents after 5 pm.

All the best,

Yours.

[REDACTED]

On Jan 9, 2024, at 4:28 PM, Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca<mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. Provincial officials continue to identify solutions to the homeless population in consultation with

community agencies, advocates and persons with lived experience. The Task Force will be assessing these ideas in undertaking its work over the winter. Yesterday's announcement respecting the use of a hotel with supportive services for the next 3 years along with improved integration/alignment of public and community resources are examples of new initiatives being implemented. In the meantime, folks staying in tents will continued to be offered various shelter, housing, health and related services. Once we have further work done, the Task Force will be in touch with you and others.

JOHN G. ABBOTT, M.H.A.

District of St. John's East-Qudi-Vidi

Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

Phone: (709) 729-3678

Email: johnabbott@gov.nl.ca<mailto:johnabbott@gov.nl.ca>

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 5:21 PM  
To: Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca<mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>>  
Cc: Blundon, Chad <ChadBlundon@gov.nl.ca<mailto:ChadBlundon@gov.nl.ca>>  
Subject: Re: Tiny home committee

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Thanks John,

Hope you had a great Christmas!


What are the next steps?

Will [REDACTED] and I be invited to any more meetings? Will we be invited to join the task force?

Thanks,



On Jan 8, 2024, at 17:07, Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca<mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>> wrote:

Hi 

I am not aware of any provincial committee considering the issue of tiny homes to address the homeless challenges facing the City/province at this time.

That being said, I will raise the issue within our Task Force to see if this is something we want to address.

Best wishes for 2024!

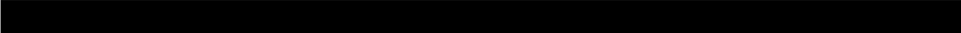
JOHN G. ABBOTT, M.H.A.

District of St. John's East-Qudi-Vidi

Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

Phone: (709) 729-3678

Email: johnabbott@gov.nl.ca<mailto:johnabbott@gov.nl.ca>

From: 

Sent: Friday, January 5, 2024 2:59 PM

To: Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca<mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>>

Cc: Danny Breen <dbreen@stjohns.ca<mailto:dbreen@stjohns.ca>>; Doug Pawson <dpawson@wecanendit.com<mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com>>

Subject: Tiny home committee

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Hi John,

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I hear the province already has a committee working on the tiny homes as a solution to homelessness.

Who is in charge of the committee?

Thanks,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]

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[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 14, 2024 5:15 PM  
**To:** Premier of NL; Abbott, John (MHA); Doug Pawson; joanne.thompson.p9@parl.gc.ca; seamus.oregan.p9@parl.gc.ca; Pike, Paul; joanne.thompson@parl.gc.ca; seamus.oregan@parl.gc.ca; Info.Com@chrc-ccdp.gc.ca  
**Cc:** Mayor; Angela Crockwell; Sheilagh O'Leary; Davis, Bernard; pauldavis@gatheringstjohns.ca; Stoodley, Sarah; Hogan, John; Ophelia Ravencroft; Ron Ellsworth; g.thornhill@stellaburry.ca; Dinn, James; [REDACTED] Rights, Human; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Housing and the Need to Provide the Necessities of Life to Encampment Residents & Federal Housing Advocate's Report  
**Attachments:** Letter - Encampments Necessities of Life Provision.pdf

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**Letter Re: Housing and the Need to  
Provide the Necessities of Life to Encampment Residents**

**February 14th, 2024**

Dear Premier's Task Force, St John's MP's, community organization leaders, those of you who stood behind the Premier at the announcement of the Task Force on Homelessness on November 30th last year, and Federal Housing Advocate - Marie-Josée Houle.

The  
public perception from the Press Conference at the Confederation Building on

November 30th, 2023 was that we had some of our most influential social leaders working with 2 levels of government, including all St. John's government MHA's, to tackle the issue of homelessness in our city that has become a visible crisis with the advent of 2 Tent Cities. This was not the case. In fact we have only 3 people who are members in the Task Force with zero of those Task Force members being residents in the encampments, and zero members from 'Tent City For Change' organizers and others working alongside those in the encampment. The Task Force has no involvement by our Federal MP's or Cabinet Ministers, no timelines, no commitments, and no public oversight that I know of.

The

reality that we see on this stormy day in February is that 76 days has passed since many of you met at the Confederation Building and that there are still people living in tent encampments both at Colonial Building and elsewhere in the city. The Premier's Task Force has quite simply failed to resolve the issues. It's been more than 50 days since the deadline that the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure himself set to have residents out of tent city at Colonial Building. The Christmas Eve deadline was not adhered to. It's time for more to be done to provide the residents with the necessities of life, to resolve the issues for the encampment in totality, or to work alongside community (members of the public) to ensure that residents are being offered the dignity that is congruent with their human rights.

In my

opinion, the Task Force, End Homelessness, NL Housing, and CSSD have failed to address the complex nature of the needs for people in these encampments from a case management perspective. The rest of us have failed to act swiftly to recreate some of the attractive aspects of "an encampment community" that led people to choose this system of habitation versus the existing shelter resources in our community. Our government members have failed to provide the "wrap around supports", the housing infrastructure, and the eviction prevention required to keep people from needed encampments. We as advocates, as those that work in this segment of social services, and as municipal leaders have failed to adequately convince the 2 levels of government who are responsible to do their jobs and to provide the basics of life to encampment residents.

Please

let this letter help to catalyze us to adequately convince those whose job it is, to get on with the task.

As

observers, we have noted the lack of triage facilities for people who are facing eviction from homes, from precarious housing, and from the existing shelter system. We've seen a failure to provide a truly "low barrier" shelter in St. John's and in NL, and instead we make vulnerable people facing many life challenges self-advocate through nearly constant phoning for resources, and we make them face extensive bureaucracy. We still have no shelter standards. These unresolved barriers lead directly to the encampments where people are fending for themselves for food, water, heat, and for safety. This all has to stop.

The

Federal Housing Advocate, Marie-Josée Houle, released her final report on encampments yesterday, and she has clearly stated the need for human rights to be addressed by all levels of government at encampments.

"Encampment

residents are at dire risk of harm due to governments' failure to provide the necessities of life and the services needed to protect their physical and mental health – including access to water, food, sanitation, and heating and cooling, accessibility supports, healthcare and harm reduction services."

Many

of us that have been involved in supporting residents in the two main tent cities have expressed the need for a professional response to the encampment's needs. We've spoken to Task Force members about the lack of capacity to address human rights via the existing approaches by community members solely. We asked that the Red Cross come in, but the Provincial Government did not approve their expenditure to allow for this action. We saw a brief few weeks where the Salvation Army provided food and supports to residents, but that ended and has not been replaced. We see excellent organizations like Thrive, the EHSJ Outreach team, and the incredible Eastern Health Harm Reduction Team provide supports, but they have not provided the full spectrum of what's needed by residents. Community Organizations shouldn't be expected to provide these things, as it is clearly the job of Provincial and Federal Government. The fact that the resources have not been provided needs to change now.

Those

of us that have worked alongside community volunteers with organizations such as 'Tent City For Change' have had to advocate to governments, organize protests, engage media, and ask ask for help from unions, just to provide bathroom facilities to residents of the encampment at the Colonial Building. We have, and continue to have to fend off the efforts of folks involved with the freedom convoy movement in getting a foothold within these encampments. To help these folks we've had to put ourselves in the line of danger from these people and others, in part because you have not enshrined resident's access to human rights.

The

public has been providing food, heating sources, water, and tents, in order to keep these people alive.

The  
public has been doing this work, but in no way should you think that this is  
their job.

Providing  
the means of life to encampment residents is the job of governments.

For  
government representatives...if you are unable to do your job, then let's  
facilitate a conversation to discuss a positive way to work with the community  
as has been done in so many other places in Canada and throughout the world, in  
order to provide what the Federal Housing Advocate has so clearly stated is  
required.

Thanks for your time in reading this.

Yours,

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Letter Re: Housing and the Need to Provide the Necessities of Life to Encampment Residents  
February 14th, 2024**

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The public perception from the Press Conference at the Confederation Building on November 30th, 2023 was that we had some of our most influential social leaders working with 2 levels of government, including all St. John's government MHA's, to tackle the issue of homelessness in our city that has become a visible crisis with the advent of 2 Tent Cities. This was not the case. In fact we have only 3 people who are members in the Task Force with zero of those Task Force members being residents in the encampments, and zero members from 'Tent City For Change' organizers and others working alongside those in the encampment. The Task Force has no involvement by our Federal MP's or Cabinet Ministers, no timelines, no commitments, and no public oversight that I know of.

The reality that we see on this stormy day in February is that 76 days has passed since many of you met at the Confederation Building and that there are still people living in tent encampments both at Colonial Building and elsewhere in the city. The Premier's Task Force has quite simply failed to resolve the issues. It's been more than 50 days since the deadline that the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure himself set to have residents out of tent city at Colonial Building. The Christmas Eve deadline was not adhered to. It's time for more to be done to provide the residents with the necessities of life, to resolve the issues for the encampment in totality, or to work alongside community (members of the public) to ensure that residents are being offered the dignity that is congruent with their human rights.

In my opinion, the Task Force, End Homelessness, NL Housing, and CSSD have failed to address the complex nature of the needs for people in these encampments from a case management perspective. The rest of us have failed to act swiftly to recreate some of the attractive aspects of "an encampment community" that led people to choose this system of habitation versus the existing shelter resources in our community. Our government members have failed to provide the "wrap around supports", the housing infrastructure, and the eviction prevention required to keep people from needed encampments. We as advocates, as those that work in this segment of social services, and as municipal leaders have failed to adequately convince the 2 levels of government who are responsible to do their jobs and to provide the basics of life to encampment residents.

Please let this letter help to catalyze us to adequately convince those whose job it is, to get on with the task.

As observers, we have noted the lack of triage facilities for people who are facing eviction from homes, from precarious housing, and from the existing shelter system. We've seen a failure to provide a truly "low barrier" shelter in St. John's and in NL, and instead we make vulnerable people facing many life challenges self-advocate through nearly constant phoning for resources, and we make them face extensive bureaucracy. We still have no shelter standards. These unresolved barriers lead directly to the encampments where people are fending for themselves for food, water, heat, and for safety. This all has to stop.

The Federal Housing Advocate, Marie-Josée Houle, released her final report on encampments yesterday, and she has clearly stated the need for human rights to be addressed by all levels of government at encampments.

"Encampment residents are at dire risk of harm due to governments' failure to provide the necessities of life and the services needed to protect their physical and mental health – including access to water, food, sanitation, and heating and cooling, accessibility supports, healthcare and harm reduction services."

Many of us that have been involved in supporting residents in the two main tent cities have expressed the need for a professional response to the encampment's needs. We've spoken to Task Force members about the lack of capacity to address human rights via the existing approaches by community members solely. We asked that the Red Cross come in, but the Provincial Government did not approve their expenditure to allow for this action. We saw

All redactions on this page are under s.40(1), unless otherwise noted

a brief few weeks where the Salvation Army provided food and supports to residents, but that ended and has not been replaced. We see excellent organizations like Thrive, the EHSJ Outreach team, and the incredible Eastern Health Harm Reduction Team provide supports, but they have not provided the full spectrum of what's needed by residents. Community Organizations shouldn't be expected to provide these things, as it is clearly the job of Provincial and Federal Government. The fact that the resources have not been provided needs to change now.

Those of us that have worked alongside community volunteers with organizations such as 'Tent City For Change' have had to advocate to governments, organize protests, engage media, and ask ask for help from unions, just to provide bathroom facilities to residents of the encampment at the Colonial Building. We have, and continue to have to fend off the efforts of folks involved with the freedom convoy movement in getting a foothold within these encampments. To help these folks we've had to put ourselves in the line of danger from these people and others, in part because you have not enshrined resident's access to human rights.

The public has been providing food, heating sources, water, and tents, in order to keep these people alive.

The public has been doing this work, but in no way should you think that this is their job.

Providing the means of life to encampment residents is the job of governments.

For government representatives....if you are unable to do your job, then let's facilitate a conversation to discuss a positive way to work with the community as has been done in so many other places in Canada and throughout the world, in order to provide what the Federal Housing Advocate has so clearly stated is required.

Thanks for your time in reading this.

Yours,



**From:** Doody, Alan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2024 2:09 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Subject:** Emailing: Final report - Federal Housing Advocate's review of encampments - EN\_1.pdf  
**Attachments:** Final report - Federal Housing Advocate's review of encampments - EN\_1.pdf

Hi Minister,

Attached is the report, I've pulled out the section for the encampment response plan, for quicker view.

#### National Encampments Response Plan

The Federal Housing Advocate is recommending that the federal government establish a National Encampments Response plan. The plan must drive urgent change that responds to the Calls to Action developed in this report and addressed to all governments in Canada. The Calls to Action have been developed as the result of extensive consultation with encampment residents, community organizations, and municipalities across the country.

The Federal Housing Advocate calls on the federal government to establish a National Encampments Response plan by August 31, 2024, that will:

- Act immediately to save lives.
  - o Ensure that everyone living in encampments has access to the basic necessities they need to survive and live in dignity, and to services to protect their physical and mental health.
  - o This includes access to clean water, sanitation, food, heating and cooling, accessibility supports, healthcare, and harm reduction.
  - o Ensure drop in-shelters are accessible 24/7 throughout the year to provide people with a dignified place to rest, take refuge from the elements and access services.
- End forced evictions of encampments.
  - o Forced encampment evictions make people more unsafe and expose them to a greater risk of harm and violence. Evictions destabilize people, remove them from their support systems, and cause them to lose the tools and equipment they need to survive.
  - o Immediately end forced evictions of encampments, particularly on public lands. Forced evictions are a violation of human rights, as contained in section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the right to adequate housing under international law.
  - o Put in place alternatives to removal of encampments that are designed following meaningful engagement with encampment residents to find solutions that meet their needs.
  - o All governments must ensure that laws, regulations and bylaws do not further destabilize encampments nor expose residents to greater risk of harm and violence.
  - o The role of police and by-law officers should be de-emphasized in responses to encampments. Police, by-law enforcement, and emergency service need clear direction to halt the confiscation of belongings, surveillance and harassment, which violate the human rights of encampment residents. All enforcement measures undertaken must be compliant with human rights standards.
- Work with all governments and provide support to municipalities.
  - o Immediately convene meetings with provinces, territories, and municipalities to coordinate an all-of-government response.
  - o Develop all encampment response measures in consultation and cooperation with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis governments and their representative organizations.
  - o Commit the maximum available resources and funding to address this crisis.
- 4
  - o Ensure municipalities have the resources and powers they need to respond to the urgent needs of encampment residents and uphold their human rights.
  - o Include clear targets and timelines for the National Encampments Response Plan.
- Respect the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples.
  - o All governments must commit to upholding the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and work in consultation and cooperation with First Nations, Inuit and Métis governments to fully implement its provisions. In particular, all governments must work with Indigenous governments to more effectively respond to the distinct needs of urban First Nations, Inuit, and Métis individuals, particularly those who are unhoused and living in encampments.
  - o Recognize the jurisdiction of Indigenous governments to determine, develop, and administer programs and services related to housing and homelessness and support First Nations, Inuit and Métis governments and representative organizations to

develop and provide self-determined, culturally appropriate housing and related services and supports, including in urban centers in partnership with existing Indigenous service providers.

- o First Nations, Inuit and Métis governments and representative organizations must be fully supported to develop and provide self-determined, culturally appropriate housing and related services and supports, including supports in urban centers.

- Respect and uphold human rights.

- o In the absence of adequate, affordable and accessible housing alternatives, all governments must recognize that people have a right to live in encampments.

- o People living in encampments must play a leading role in decision-making processes that affect them. All governments must implement ongoing and meaningful engagement with people living in encampments and those who support them.

- o People living in encampments must have access to timely, effective recourse when their rights are threatened or violated.

- o All governments and political leaders at all levels have obligations to promote and protect the human rights and dignity of people experiencing homelessness. Leaders must refrain from actions and language that further stigmatizes the residents of encampments, or people experiencing homelessness, and exposes them to greater risk of rights violations.

- o All governments must publicly commit to applying a human rights-based approach to encampments that recognizes and addresses the distinct needs of First Nations, Inuit and Métis individuals, Black and other racialized individuals, women, 2SLGBTQI+ individuals, people fleeing gender-based violence, youth, seniors and people with disabilities. These approaches must align with Canada's human rights obligations as affirmed in international human rights instruments, the Charter and domestic law.

- Offer people permanent housing options as rapidly as possible.

- o Immediately develop and fund adequate housing solutions and supports so that people living in encampments can be re-housed as rapidly as possible.

- o These housing solutions must meet the definition of adequate housing which includes security of tenure, affordability, accessibility, suitable location, availability of services, habitability and cultural adequacy.

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- o In the absence of available adequate housing, all governments and service providers must work to address the structural barriers that result in existing emergency shelters not being accessible or appropriate for all people who might choose to use them.

- Address the root causes of encampments.

- o Encampments are the symptom of systemic failures – all governments must urgently prioritize investments in adequate housing and support services to prevent and address homelessness. All governments must work together to address the systems that drive homelessness, including systemic racism and discrimination and failings in the Canadian child welfare, corrections, and healthcare systems.

- o The National Housing Strategy must be greatly enhanced and its programs must prioritize the elimination of chronic homelessness and reduction of core housing need, with a focus on Indigenous peoples and disadvantaged groups, to fulfill commitments under the National Housing Strategy Act.

- o All governments must ensure that they are monitoring the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing and put in place measurement systems that include accurate, comprehensive, and replicable data on homelessness.

Thank you

Alan



# **Upholding dignity and human rights: the Federal Housing Advocate's review of homeless encampments**

## **Final report**

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**Office of the Federal Housing Advocate, Canadian Human Rights Commission**

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## NOTE OF GRATITUDE

As Canada’s first Federal Housing Advocate, my role is to drive change on key systemic housing issues and to hold government decision makers to account for their human rights obligations related to housing and homelessness. The right to adequate housing means that all people are equally entitled to live in dignity in a safe and secure home without discrimination or harassment. Recognizing housing as a human right means that government “duty bearers” at all levels have legal obligations to protect this right for everyone, and especially for people whose right to housing is being violated.

During the past year, I have had the privilege of meeting with and hearing from people who have experienced encampments across the country. First and foremost, this report is designed to place them at the centre of efforts to address homelessness. I want to thank them for sharing their stories and insights. I also want to recognize and commend their courage and resilience in the face of systemic failures to uphold their human rights.

As you read my Final Report and reflect on my recommendations, I urge you to consider how your actions can better respect, protect and fulfill the human rights of people experiencing homelessness and living in encampments.

I live and work much of the time in unceded Anishinabe Algonquin territory and have appreciated the opportunity to visit the territories of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples to learn more about the challenges of Indigenous Peoples related to encampments. My discussions across the country have highlighted the direct links between homelessness, encampments and the colonial dispossession of land.

My report would not have been possible without the work of national and local advocates who are working tirelessly to support people in encampments. This report has also been enriched through discussions with duty bearers from all levels of government. I thank all those who met with me or provided information for my review and I was encouraged to learn more about how human rights principles are informing responses in a number of places.

I recognize my work does not end with the launch of my report. I will continue to work with all governments to push for the implementation of my recommendations and hope this report can be used as a tool to support local advocacy to protect the human rights of people experiencing homelessness.

Change depends on all of us working at all levels, starting in our own communities.

Sincerely,

Marie-Josée Houle, Federal Housing Advocate

*Please see Annex A for the list of key partners who contributed to the review and to this report.*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Canada's homeless encampments are a national human rights crisis.

A growing number of people in Canada are having to live in tents or informal shelters to survive due to a lack of affordable housing, limited support services, and nowhere safe to go.

There has been a significant rise in encampments in the last five years, and particularly since the COVID-19 pandemic. Encampments are now being reported across the country – in both large and small municipalities, as well as in more rural areas.

Encampments are not a safe or sustainable solution for housing. For people living in these encampments, every day is a matter of life and death.

At the same time, encampments represent an effort by people who are unhoused to claim their human right to housing and meet their most basic needs for shelter. For reasons discussed in this report, encampments are often people's only housing option, or the only option that meets their needs for safety, security and dignity. Many encampment residents have highlighted the sense of community they experienced when living in an encampment with others facing similar struggles.

Recognizing the severity of this crisis, the Federal Housing Advocate launched a systemic review of encampments in February 2023. This systemic review has been carried out pursuant to subsection 13.1(1) of the National Housing Strategy Act.

In October 2023, the Advocate published an [interim report](#) setting out the context of the crisis and documenting in detail what had been heard through the engagement process. The engagement process consulted directly with people living in encampments, local community advocates, Indigenous governments and representative organizations, and duty-bearers across all governments.

This final report includes the Advocate's conclusions about the factors leading to the rise in encampments and, most importantly, the concrete measures that must be taken by all governments to fulfill their human rights responsibilities in order to reduce or eliminate the need for encampments.

What has emerged is a clear picture of a two-fold human rights crisis.

First, encampment residents are at dire risk of harm due to the failure to uphold their basic rights.

Second, the encampments exist only because of a larger, systemic failure to uphold the right of all people to adequate housing without discrimination.

The engagement process made it clear that Canada has the capacity to solve this crisis. Encampment residents are acutely aware of the measures required to meet their most pressing needs. What is lacking is sufficient political will, resources and coordination.

The absence of effective coordination between the many agencies, departments and jurisdictions involved limits the effectiveness of responses to the homelessness crisis. While municipalities are on the frontlines in responding to encampments, they don't have all the powers and resources they need to provide human rights-based services. Provinces and territories must work closely with municipalities and the federal government must play a leadership role.

This national crisis calls for a national response.

## National Encampments Response Plan

The Federal Housing Advocate is recommending that the federal government establish a National Encampments Response plan. The plan must drive urgent change that responds to the Calls to Action developed in this report and addressed to all governments in Canada. The Calls to Action have been developed as the result of extensive consultation with encampment residents, community organizations, and municipalities across the country.

**The Federal Housing Advocate calls on the federal government to establish a National Encampments Response plan by August 31, 2024, that will:**

- **Act immediately to save lives.**
  - Ensure that everyone living in encampments has access to the basic necessities they need to survive and live in dignity, and to services to protect their physical and mental health.
  - This includes access to clean water, sanitation, food, heating and cooling, accessibility supports, healthcare, and harm reduction.
  - Ensure drop in-shelters are accessible 24/7 throughout the year to provide people with a dignified place to rest, take refuge from the elements and access services.
  
- **End forced evictions of encampments.**
  - Forced encampment evictions make people more unsafe and expose them to a greater risk of harm and violence. Evictions destabilize people, remove them from their support systems, and cause them to lose the tools and equipment they need to survive.
  - Immediately end forced evictions of encampments, particularly on public lands. Forced evictions are a violation of human rights, as contained in section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the right to adequate housing under international law.
  - Put in place alternatives to removal of encampments that are designed following meaningful engagement with encampment residents to find solutions that meet their needs.
  - All governments must ensure that laws, regulations and bylaws do not further destabilize encampments nor expose residents to greater risk of harm and violence.
  - The role of police and by-law officers should be de-emphasized in responses to encampments. Police, by-law enforcement, and emergency service need clear direction to halt the confiscation of belongings, surveillance and harassment, which violate the human rights of encampment residents. All enforcement measures undertaken must be compliant with human rights standards.
  
- **Work with all governments and provide support to municipalities.**
  - Immediately convene meetings with provinces, territories, and municipalities to coordinate an all-of-government response.
  - Develop all encampment response measures in consultation and cooperation with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis governments and their representative organizations.
  - Commit the maximum available resources and funding to address this crisis.

- Ensure municipalities have the resources and powers they need to respond to the urgent needs of encampment residents and uphold their human rights.
- Include clear targets and timelines for the National Encampments Response Plan.
- **Respect the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples.**
  - All governments must commit to upholding the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and work in consultation and cooperation with First Nations, Inuit and Métis governments to fully implement its provisions. In particular, all governments must work with Indigenous governments to more effectively respond to the distinct needs of urban First Nations, Inuit, and Métis individuals, particularly those who are unhoused and living in encampments.
  - Recognize the jurisdiction of Indigenous governments to determine, develop, and administer programs and services related to housing and homelessness and support First Nations, Inuit and Métis governments and representative organizations to develop and provide self-determined, culturally appropriate housing and related services and supports, including in urban centers in partnership with existing Indigenous service providers.
  - First Nations, Inuit and Métis governments and representative organizations must be fully supported to develop and provide self-determined, culturally appropriate housing and related services and supports, including supports in urban centers.
- **Respect and uphold human rights.**
  - In the absence of adequate, affordable and accessible housing alternatives, all governments must recognize that people have a right to live in encampments.
  - People living in encampments must play a leading role in decision-making processes that affect them. All governments must implement ongoing and meaningful engagement with people living in encampments and those who support them.
  - People living in encampments must have access to timely, effective recourse when their rights are threatened or violated.
  - All governments and political leaders at all levels have obligations to promote and protect the human rights and dignity of people experiencing homelessness. Leaders must refrain from actions and language that further stigmatizes the residents of encampments, or people experiencing homelessness, and exposes them to greater risk of rights violations.
  - All governments must publicly commit to applying a human rights-based approach to encampments that recognizes and addresses the distinct needs of First Nations, Inuit and Métis individuals, Black and other racialized individuals, women, 2SLGBTQI+ individuals, people fleeing gender-based violence, youth, seniors and people with disabilities. These approaches must align with Canada's human rights obligations as affirmed in international human rights instruments, the Charter and domestic law.
- **Offer people permanent housing options as rapidly as possible.**
  - Immediately develop and fund adequate housing solutions and supports so that people living in encampments can be re-housed as rapidly as possible.
  - These housing solutions must meet the definition of adequate housing which includes security of tenure, affordability, accessibility, suitable location, availability of services, habitability and cultural adequacy.

- In the absence of available adequate housing, all governments and service providers must work to address the structural barriers that result in existing emergency shelters not being accessible or appropriate for all people who might choose to use them.
- **Address the root causes of encampments.**
  - Encampments are the symptom of systemic failures – all governments must urgently prioritize investments in adequate housing and support services to prevent and address homelessness. All governments must work together to address the systems that drive homelessness, including systemic racism and discrimination and failings in the Canadian child welfare, corrections, and healthcare systems.
  - The National Housing Strategy must be greatly enhanced and its programs must prioritize the elimination of chronic homelessness and reduction of core housing need, with a focus on Indigenous peoples and disadvantaged groups, to fulfill commitments under the National Housing Strategy Act.
  - All governments must ensure that they are monitoring the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing and put in place measurement systems that include accurate, comprehensive, and replicable data on homelessness.

## **Next steps**

Specific Recommendations are outlined in the report to enable governments at all levels to implement the Calls to Action.

This report's findings and recommendations will be submitted to the federal Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities. The National Housing Strategy Act specifies that when the federal government receives the report of such a systemic review, the Minister responsible for housing must respond within 120 days.

This report is an urgent call to action to governments at all levels to uphold the human rights and the right to housing of encampment residents.

## INTRODUCTION

The term “encampments” refers to emergency accommodations established by people who are unhoused, usually on public property or privately-owned land, and often without permission.<sup>1</sup> Encampments are a consequence of Canada’s failure to meet its human rights obligation to ensure that all individuals have access to adequate housing – housing that is secure, affordable, habitable, accessible, culturally appropriate, and in a suitable location with access to services.

While encampments have always been a feature of homelessness in Canada, in the last five years, and particularly since the COVID-19 pandemic, “encampments have become more numerous, more densely populated, and more visible across the country.”<sup>2</sup> The growth of encampments has been driven by a range of inter-related human rights failures, including the impacts of colonial laws and policies on Indigenous Peoples, systemic discrimination in the housing market, a severe lack of available and affordable housing that has become a deepening national crisis, and barriers to accessing emergency shelters.

There is no systematic data collection on who lives in encampments in Canada. The Observatory on Homelessness at York University has suggested that at least 35,000 individuals are unhoused at any given time across the country.<sup>3</sup> One survey of Canadian municipalities estimated that between 20 to 25% of unhoused individuals in Canada now live in encampments.<sup>4</sup> This is consistent with reports from frontline service providers who talk about thousands of people currently living in encampments across Canada.

It is important to emphasize that while encampments vary from region to region, as do patterns of homelessness, the rise of encampments is a truly national crisis. Encampments are reported in both large and small municipalities, as well as in more rural areas.

Encampments represent an effort by people who are unhoused to claim their human rights and meet their most basic needs. For reasons discussed later in this report, encampments are often the only housing option currently available to many, or the only available option that meets their needs. Living in an encampment may also offer the advantage of living in community with others facing similar struggles.

While recognizing the resourcefulness and collective organizing involved in establishing and maintaining an encampment, it is important to be clear that the conditions in encampments do not represent adequate housing. The Federal Housing Advocate is acutely conscious of the tragic deaths that have

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<sup>1</sup> The Advocate has chosen to use the term “encampment” as the language most commonly used, and mostly widely understood in Canadian contexts. The Office recognizes, however, that the term may not reflect everyone’s reality or experience and that it differs from terms commonly used internationally, such as informal settlements.

<sup>2</sup> Alexandra Flynn et al., *Overview of Encampments Across Canada: A Right to Housing Approach*, The Office of the Federal Housing Advocate (2022). <https://www.homelesshub.ca/resource/overview-encampments-across-canada-right-housing-approach>

<sup>3</sup> Homeless Hub, “How many people are homeless in Canada?” <https://www.homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/homelessness-101/how-many-people-are-homeless-canada>

<sup>4</sup> Infrastructure Canada, *Homelessness Data Snapshot: Findings from the 2022 National Survey on Homeless Encampments* (November 2023). <https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/homelessness-sans-abri/reports-rapports/encampments-survey-2022-enquete-campements-eng.html>

occurred in encampments due to cold, fire and drug poisoning – and the likelihood that more deaths will occur even as this report is being written. Furthermore, it is clear the precarious situation of encampments is made much worse when municipalities deny residents access to the essentials of life, including clean water and sanitation, or add to the insecurity of encampment residents through forced relocation and other punitive responses.

Recognizing the severity of this crisis, the Advocate launched a systemic review of encampments in February 2023. As part of this review, the Advocate has engaged with encampment residents and local advocates in communities across Canada. In addition to meetings in Montreal, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Toronto, and Calgary, the Advocate also launched an online portal to invite individual and organizational submissions to inform this review. Because many people living in encampments would face challenges accessing this tool, the Office partnered with The Shift and local organizations in Victoria, Vancouver, Hamilton, Peel, Ottawa, Gatineau, Montreal, Moncton, and Halifax to support encampment residents using this portal to share their experiences and their proposals for solutions. With the help of these local partners and others, 313 people with lived experience in encampments made submissions. There were also 53 submissions from municipalities, frontline workers, advocates, and other community members.

The Office of the Federal Housing Advocate (OFHA) also worked with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the FCM's Big City Mayors' Caucus, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario to obtain input from municipalities across the country. Recognizing the significant over-representation of Indigenous individuals living in encampments, the Advocate has also taken part in a number of targeted engagements with First Nations, Inuit and Métis governments and organizations.

What has emerged is a clear picture of a two-fold human rights crisis.

First, encampment residents are at dire risk of harm and the failure to uphold the human rights of encampment residents, including the right to adequate housing and numerous interrelated rights such as the right to life and the right to health, has left them at dire risk of harm.

Second, the encampments exist only because of a larger, systemic failure to uphold the right of all people to adequate housing without discrimination. These rights are protected in international human rights laws, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which Canada has explicitly committed to uphold to the fullest of its ability.

The engagement process also made it clear that Canada has the capacity to solve this crisis. What is lacking is sufficient political will, resources and coordination.

To be clear, some important advancements have been made. The National Housing Strategy and the 2019 National Housing Strategy Act (NHSA) provide an important, rights-based foundation. The federal government's ten-year National Housing Strategy marks an important return to funding affordable housing programs after decades of absence. Promising practices related to encampments have been put into place by some municipal governments.

Overall, however, the scale of response falls far short of what is required to address this crisis. Furthermore, the evident lack of coordination across jurisdictions remains a barrier to effectively addressing the larger issue of housing and homelessness. The Auditor General's 2022 Report on Chronic Homelessness found that the government was not able to determine whether the National Housing

Strategy's efforts to prevent and reduce chronic homelessness were, in fact, leading to improved outcomes.<sup>5</sup>

People who are unhoused in general, and encampment residents in particular, continue to be stigmatized. Negative perceptions of encampment residents as authors of their own misfortune, or as threats to community safety, impact the political will of governments to recognize and act on their human rights responsibilities. As more than one person commented in our engagement process, Canada has a long history of mobilizing resources to rapidly rehouse people on a mass scale in wake of natural disasters. The failure to respond to the encampments crisis is a telling illustration of attitudes toward people who are unhoused.

In this context, it is crucial to acknowledge that Indigenous persons are much more likely to experience homelessness. For example, in Edmonton, it has been reported that approximately 60 percent of people experiencing homelessness identify as First Nations, Inuit, or Métis.<sup>6</sup>

Overall, the risk of experiencing homelessness, and the needs of unhoused persons, are impacted by intersecting, and compounding experiences of systemic discrimination. This includes racism directed against Indigenous persons, Black Canadians, and members of other racialized communities, as well as gender-based discrimination that particularly impacts women, member of 2SLGBTQQIA+ communities, and discrimination against persons with disabilities.

In October 2023, the Advocate published an [interim report](#) setting out in detail what had been heard through the engagement process. This final report focuses on the Advocate's conclusions about the factors leading to the rise in encampments and, most importantly, the concrete measures that must be taken by all governments to fulfill their human rights responsibilities to reduce or eliminate the need for encampments.

The Advocate has identified the need for an urgent national response that leverages the resources and powers of all governments. The role of the federal and provincial and territorial governments is particularly important given that municipalities are on the frontlines in responding to the crisis, but they do not have the resources or powers to address the scale or complexity of the issues.

This systemic review has been carried out pursuant to subsection 13.1(1) of the National Housing Strategy Act. The Act specifies that the when the federal government receives the report of such a systemic review, the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities must respond in writing within 120 days.

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<sup>5</sup> Office of the Auditor General of Canada, *Report 5 – Chronic Homelessness* (2022). [https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/english/parl\\_oag\\_202211\\_05\\_e\\_44151.html](https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/english/parl_oag_202211_05_e_44151.html) (accessed August 31, 2023).

<sup>6</sup> Letter from Edmonton Mayor Amarjeet Sohi.

# THE HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK

## The right to adequate housing

The human right to adequate housing, and interconnected rights such as the right to life, are clearly established in international human rights law, including in treaties that Canada has signed and ratified as well as in human rights declarations and other international norms and standards.<sup>7</sup> With the NHSA enacted in 2019, the human right to adequate housing is now also explicitly enshrined in domestic law.<sup>8</sup>

Recognizing the human right to adequate housing means that governments have legal obligations to recognize and respect this right, protect against its violation, take positive measures and mobilize maximum available resources to ensure that everyone can enjoy this right without discrimination, and promote broad public awareness and understanding of the right. These obligations are heightened in respect to those who have experienced prior human rights violations and who are at heightened risk of further violations.

As it has been interpreted in the international human rights system, adequate housing is housing that is:

- secure,
- affordable,
- habitable,
- accessible,
- culturally adequate,
- in a suitable location, and
- able to ensure access to basic services.<sup>9</sup>

All people should have equitable access to adequate housing, without discrimination based on gender, race, disability, faith, place of birth, age, sexual orientation, or other grounds.

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<sup>7</sup> Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 10 December 1948, UN Doc. A/810, art. 25; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 16 December 1966, UN Doc. A/6316, 993 UNTS 3 (entered into force 3 January 1976; accession by Canada 19 May 1976), art. 11(1) [ICESCR]; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 16 December 1966, UN Doc. A/6316 (entered into force 23 March 1976; accession by Canada 19 May 1976), [ICCPR]; International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 21 December 1965, 660 UNTS 195 (entered into force 4 Jan. 1969, accession by Canada 14 Oct. 1970), art. 5(e)(iii) [ICERD]; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 21 December 1965, 1249 UNTS 14 (entered into force 3 Sept. 1981; accession by Canada 10 Dec. 1981), art. 14(2) [CEDAW]; Convention on the Rights of the Child, 20 November 1989, 1577 UNTS 3 (entered into force 2 September, 1990, accession by Canada 13 Dec. 1991), art. 27(1) [CRC]; Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 13 Dec. 2006, (entered into force 3 May 2008, accession by Canada 11 March 2010), arts. 9 and 28 [CRPD]. See also article 10 of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, section III (8) of the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, article 8 (1) of the Declaration on the Right to Development, and the ILO Recommendation Concerning Workers' Housing, 1961 (No. 115)). Further, UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), General Comment No. 4, The Right to Adequate Housing, U.N. Doc. E/1992/23 (1991).

<sup>8</sup> See, National Housing Strategy Act, S.C. 2019, c. 29, s. 313 [NHSA].

<sup>9</sup> Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and UN Habitat, *The Right to Adequate Housing, Fact Sheet 21* (2014). [https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/FS21\\_rev\\_1\\_Housing\\_en.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/FS21_rev_1_Housing_en.pdf) (accessed August 1, 2023).

Failure to uphold the right to adequate housing has harmful consequences for the enjoyment of other human rights. Former United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, Leilani Farha, explained:

Homelessness is a profound assault on dignity, social inclusion and the right to life. It... violates a number of other human rights in addition to the right to life, including non-discrimination, health, water and sanitation, security of the person and freedom from cruel, degrading and inhuman treatment.<sup>10</sup>

International human rights standards require states to make every effort, and to use all available resources to eliminate homelessness in the shortest possible period of time.<sup>11</sup> Specific human rights obligations include requirements to:

- In consultation with people who are unhoused, adopt and implement action plans to eliminate homelessness that must include clear, time-bound goals, and clear delineation of responsibilities across all levels of government.
- Measure and monitor the extent of homelessness using data disaggregated by gender, race, disability and other relevant characteristics;
- Combat discrimination, stigma, and negative stereotyping of people who are unhoused;
- Ensure access to justice for rights violations, including government failures to take adequate measures to address homelessness; and
- Regulate non-state actors such as private corporations so that they respect the rights of people who are unhoused and undertake actions consistent with the imperative to eliminate homelessness.<sup>12</sup>

## The prohibition of forced evictions

International human rights standards prohibit measures that would arbitrarily and unnecessarily deprive individuals of housing, including temporary or informal shelter such as encampments. The prohibition of forced evictions requires that individuals and communities be relocated only after adequate consultation. Relocation without consent is limited to exceptional circumstances. When individuals or communities do not wish to be relocated, there is an obligation for the state to demonstrate that the relocation is strictly necessary and that all other alternatives have been explored. In all instances, any relocation must be consistent with the right to adequate housing: alternative shelter must be provided

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<sup>10</sup> Leilani Farha, *Guidelines for the Implementation of the Right to Adequate Housing: Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context*, UN Doc. A/HRC/43/43, UN Human Rights Council (2019), para. 30 [Guidelines for the Implementation of the Right to Adequate Housing].

<sup>11</sup> Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, *General Comment No. 3 on the nature of States parties' obligations*, UN Doc. E/1991/23 (1990), paras. 10 and 12.

<sup>12</sup> Leilani Farha, *Guidelines for the Implementation of the Right to Adequate Housing*, para. 32; Leilani Farha, *Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context*, UN Doc. A/HRC/31/54, UN Human Rights Council (2015), paras. 49, 73, and 90; Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, *General Comment No. 20 on non-discrimination in economic, social and cultural rights*, UN Doc. E/C.12/GC/20 (2009), para. 35, and Human Rights Committee, *General Comment No. 36 on the right to life*, UN Doc. CCPR/C/GC/35 (2018), para. 61.

that is secure, habitable, culturally appropriate, in a suitable location and where access to essential supports and services can be maintained.<sup>13</sup>

## **The right to adequate housing and the human rights of Indigenous Peoples**

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is also particularly important given the disproportionate number of Indigenous individuals living in encampments. The Declaration affirms a wide range of interconnected rights of Indigenous individuals and Peoples relevant to the right to adequate housing. These include the right of Indigenous Peoples to determine and control provision of social services such as housing, the right of Indigenous Peoples to maintain their relationship to, and use of, their traditional territories for livelihoods, subsistence and ceremony; the obligation of states to work in cooperation and consultation with Indigenous Peoples' chosen representatives, the right not to be forcibly removed from their lands or territories, and the duty of states to support Indigenous Peoples in the exercise of their right to self-determination. In July 2021, Canada passed national legislation to implement the UN Declaration which requires the federal government to "take all measures necessary to ensure that the laws of Canada are consistent with the Declaration."<sup>14</sup> These obligations are particularly significant given the greatly disproportionate number of Indigenous persons living in encampments.

## **The right to life**

Finally, the United Nations Human Rights Committee underscores that States should take particular measures to uphold the right to life, including actions related to housing:

The duty to protect life also implies that States parties should take appropriate measures to address the general conditions in society that may give rise to direct threats to life or prevent individuals from enjoying their right to life with dignity. These general conditions may include [...] extensive substance abuse, widespread hunger and malnutrition and extreme poverty and homelessness. The measures called for to address adequate conditions for protecting the right to life include, where necessary, measures designed to ensure access without delay by individuals to essential goods and services such as food, water, shelter, health care, electricity and sanitation, and other measures designed to promote and facilitate adequate general conditions, such as the bolstering of effective emergency health services [...] and social housing programmes.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, General Comment No. 7: The Right to Adequate Housing: Forced Evictions, UN Doc. E/1998/22, annex IV (1997) and Leilani Farha, Guidelines for the Implementation of the Right to Adequate Housing: Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, UN Doc. A/HRC/43/43, UN Human Rights Council (2019), "Guideline No. 6. Prohibit forced evictions and prevent evictions whenever possible" [Guidelines for the Implementation of the Right to Adequate Housing].

<sup>14</sup> SC 2021, c 14. Royal Assent, 21 June 2021.

<sup>15</sup> Human Rights Committee, General Comment No. 36 on the right to life, UN Doc. CCPR/C/GC/35 (2018), para. 26

## A LIFE AND DEATH CRISIS

Encampments arise as a direct consequence of Canada’s persistent failure to protect and fulfill the right to adequate housing. Until encampment residents can access adequate housing options that meet their needs, urgent measures must be taken to protect their human rights and reduce the precariousness of their current living conditions.

It is important to acknowledge that the encampments crisis is taking place in the context of a national opioid crisis and the greatly heightened risks created by an unsafe drug supply. A review panel convened by the British Columbia Coroner’s Office recently reported that between April 2016, when the province first recognized the opioid crisis as a public health emergency, and September 30, 2023, “at least 13,000 lives have been lost to toxic, unregulated drugs in British Columbia.”<sup>16</sup> For reasons set out below, the risks created by an unsafe drug supply and the unaddressed mental health and addictions needs, compound the dangers faced by many encampment residents.

### Forced evictions

Forced encampment evictions make people more unsafe and expose them to a greater risk of harm and violence. Evictions destabilize people, remove them from their support systems, and cause them to lose the tools and equipment they need to survive.

As was detailed in the interim report, the Advocate has repeatedly heard about municipal enforcement actions that have made the lives of encampment residents much more precarious. There have been numerous incidents of encampments forcibly closed down by municipal officials without provision of adequate housing to address the safety and well-being of the residents. In addition to full-scale evictions, there have been widespread incidents of municipal officials tearing down tents and seizing individual property, including personal identification, photo albums, money, and clothing.

Actions to restrict or relocate encampments are often taken in the name of safety and public security. However, the failure to consult encampment residents, protect their belongings, and provide adequate and acceptable alternative housing has the direct consequence of increasing risks to their health and safety.

In an investigation of forced evictions of encampment in Toronto, the city ombudsperson found that the municipality “[c]hose to clear encampments quickly, instead of focusing on the needs of the people living in them.”<sup>17</sup> In doing so, the report concluded, “the city caused undue confusion and harm.”<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> British Columbia Coroners Service, *BC Coroners Service Death Review Panel: An Urgent Response to a Continuing Crisis* (1 November 2023). [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/deaths/coroners-service/death-review-panel/an\\_urgent\\_response\\_to\\_a\\_continuing\\_crisis\\_report.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/deaths/coroners-service/death-review-panel/an_urgent_response_to_a_continuing_crisis_report.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> Ombudsman Toronto, “Toronto’s Ombudsman says City Chose Speed over People in Clearing Encampments,” (24 March 2023). <https://www.ombudsmantoronto.ca/news/torontos-ombudsman-says-city-chose-speed-over-people-in-clearing-encampments/> (accessed August 31, 2023).

<sup>18</sup> Ombudsman Toronto, *Ombudsman Toronto Investigation Report: Investigation into the City’s clearing of Encampments in 2021* (24 March 2023), p. 2. <https://www.ombudsmantoronto.ca/investigative-report/investigation-into-the-citys-clearing-of-encampments-in-summer-2021/> (accessed August 31, 2023).

Encampment residents, and advocates who work closely with them, point out that established encampments have informal systems through which residents look out for each other. In other words, they are a community with a kind of safety net of their own. Forced evictions disrupt these communities and the benefits they provide.

Forced evictions are also inherently violent. Residents experience their rights being disregarded and trampled on. Outreach workers told the OFHA that police involvement in forced evictions can invoke a trauma response in many people who are or have been experiencing homelessness. The Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness told the OFHA:

Security approaches do not work in addressing homelessness, or in stopping people from setting up encampments. It traumatizes already vulnerable and marginalized people and increases their vulnerability to becoming chronically homeless, forcing people into often even more precarious places.

For unhoused Indigenous persons, the trauma of encampment clearings is often added to previous traumas, including the forced removal of children from their families and communities. Indigenous organizations and frontline workers said that police involvement in the housing crisis is a continuation of colonial state violence and is deeply inappropriate.

### **Unmet basic needs and a lack of essential supports**

Most encampments lack necessities such as clean water, bathrooms, a place to shower, or secure storage for belongings. Tents and tarpaulins that are not meant for winter use, inadequate clothing and blankets, no electricity or access to heating and cooling, lack of first aid supplies and fire extinguishers, no provision for garbage removal, and no place for safe needle disposal create significant risks to the safety and well-being of residents.

The OFHA has received reports of how conditions in encampments add to mental health challenges and may worsen chronic physical conditions such as back injuries. There are also demonstrated risks of injury and even death from exposure in winter and heat exhaustion in summer.

The failure of many municipalities to provide for the basic needs of encampment residents led to individuals and community groups stepping in with donations of tents, sleeping bags, clothing or food. However, there have also been accounts of some municipalities interfering with the delivery of such basic amenities in a misguided attempt to force encampments to disband.

In many communities that allow overnight camping in public spaces, people experiencing homelessness must pack up their belongings early every morning until they can set up their shelter again in the evening. People who are already exhausted, and who may be in ill-health, are forced to carry all their possessions with them, or risk their loss. Encampment residents describe how carrying large packs or bags means that they are more likely to be refused entry to spaces where they might rest or access washrooms. By-laws establishing these rules ignore the needs of people for rest and privacy during the day and also represent an attack on their basic dignity.

Housing is a social determinant of health and it comes as no surprise that encampment residents have a wide range of health and wellness needs, some of which are linked to their challenges in finding and maintaining long-term secure housing. These needs include treatment for chronic illness and counselling for mental health and addictions issues.

Encampment residents who cannot securely store their belongings are severely limited in how far they are able to travel to access services. The situation is compounded by an overall shortage of community-based supports, the challenge of navigating a complex service system, and the fact that many encampments have been pushed into isolated locations.

There is an additional concern about the scarcity of culturally appropriate resources for unhoused Indigenous persons. An Elder told the Advocate about the lack of Indigenous crisis workers able to provide culturally appropriate assistance to encampment residents.

## **Responding to safety and security concerns**

During this review, the Advocate heard about violent incidents in encampments such as robberies, sexual violence, beatings, harassment, and sexual exploitation. Violence, exploitation and coercion within encampments is a particular concern for women, youth, gender-diverse people, persons with disabilities, and persons experiencing multiple forms of systemic discrimination. The Advocate also heard that incidents of violence in encampments are treated differently. For example, all the tenants of an apartment building are not evicted when an incident of violence is reported.<sup>19</sup>

It should be noted however, that violence, including gender-based violence, disproportionately impacts all people experiencing homelessness, including people using shelters, and is not necessarily a greater risk for those living in encampments. In fact, many encampment residents expressed greater fear about being alone on the streets or in certain temporary housing situations, such as shelters and single room occupancy units. Many expressed that they see encampments as a place that provides community, support, and safety for most of the people living there.

The stigmatization of encampments, and the reasonable fear that police and other authorities may tear down the encampment, may discourage residents seeking the protection of law enforcement. One community organizer stated that the constant threat of displacement, and lack of reliable access to food and water, increases stress, exacerbates mental health issues, and can lead to a rise in violent incidents.

People living in encampments face life and death risks throughout the year, but in the winter months, these risks are heightened dramatically. Efforts to stay warm without access to appropriate shelter, clothing, and heat sources greatly increases the risk of fire. This risk is often cited as a reason to forcibly remove encampments. However, as noted earlier, removal from one site, without provision of adequate alternatives, only causes further disruption and harm to the lives of encampment residents while doing little or nothing to reduce the risks they face. In fact, if encampments are pushed to more isolated locations, the risks may be further increased.

A human rights-based response to the risk of fire would include mitigation measures, including provision of more weather resistant forms of temporary shelter, safe sources of heat, and access to fire extinguishers, along with fire safety training. Above all else, public officials should be meeting regularly with encampment residents so that residents can identify their own safety needs and the best ways to address them.

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<sup>19</sup> [If governments don't provide adequate housing, they must allow people to shelter in public spaces" by Kasari Govender, Vancouver Sun, September 14, 2023 \(accessed January 24, 2024\)](#)

## HOW WE GOT HERE

### A national housing crisis

A recent study commissioned by the Office of the Federal Housing Advocate calculates that Canada has a total shortage of 4.3 million homes affordable to very low- and low-income households.<sup>20</sup> In some locations, there is now a ten-year waitlist for rent-geared-to-income housing. During this review, one community worker said simply: “There is no housing to offer people.”

The severe housing shortfall, and the soaring cost of rental accommodations, have also meant that there are only very limited options available to very low-income households. The Advocate heard that many of these apartments have no running water or extreme infestations of rodents, and bedbugs. Some encampment residents said they would rather live outside than try to live in the uninhabitable housing options that are available to them.

The Advocate also heard that the housing crisis is compounded by the discrimination facing members of Indigenous Peoples, racialized communities, people with disabilities, youth, 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals and others. There is also a severe lack of supportive housing that meets the specific needs of people with mental health challenges including active and severe addictions. Alongside a limited supply of detox and rehab programs, there are not enough housing options for people leaving those programs.

The limited housing available to low and very low-income individuals is often highly insecure. There are widespread reports of people being evicted by landlords wanting to upgrade units to a higher rent.

### Challenges with emergency shelters

There is a clear link between the growing encampments and inaccessibility of the emergency shelter system. Shelters are intended as an emergency measure before being rehoused. They fall far short of meeting government obligations to fulfill the right to adequate housing.

The surge in the number and size of encampments was initially linked to the decreased capacity of shelters during the early phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the challenges have proven to be more persistent and systemic.

Firstly, there is an overall shortage of available shelter space. Frontline workers describe a crisis in which individuals are being routinely turned away because there is no available space.

Secondly, there are also significant concerns about living conditions in the overcrowded and overstressed shelter system. “Shelters are dead spaces,” according to one participant in the review, noting that conditions like theft, crowding, violence, and the threat of catching illnesses encourage people to opt to live in encampments.<sup>21</sup>

Thirdly, emergency shelters are not available, or safe and suitable, for all. During the review, encampment residents and advocates indicated that some women and gender-diverse people reside in

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<sup>20</sup> Carolyn Whitzman, *A Human Rights-Based Calculation of Canada’s Housing Supply Shortages*, The Office of the Federal Housing Advocate (2023). [https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/Whitzman-Human\\_Rights\\_Based\\_Supply\\_Report-EN\\_1.pdf](https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/Whitzman-Human_Rights_Based_Supply_Report-EN_1.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> Encampments Roundtable – Toronto – June 1, 2023.

encampments because there are no gender-specific shelters in their community. Data shows that the vast majority of shelter beds in Canada are either designated for men or are co-ed (68 percent), with only 13 percent dedicated specifically for women.<sup>22</sup>

Furthermore, most shelters in the violence against women or homelessness systems have physical barriers for people with disabilities. They also lack appropriate and accessible spaces for persons with mental health, sensory and environmental disabilities.

As noted earlier, people living unhoused face a disproportionately high risk of violence. Many women have experienced harassment or violence in co-ed and congregate shelters. These concerns are particularly acute for many trans women. Roundtable participants lamented the lack of emergency resources specifically for women and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

Emergency shelters often have rules that restrict personal autonomy, freedom of movement, privacy, and access to friends and family. They may also set expectations that are difficult to meet for people who have been living on the street. For example, shelters may require sobriety, impose disruptive bed checks, restrict the quantity of belongings residents can bring, or not provide space for pets. The Advocate repeatedly heard concern over policies that prevent couples from staying or sleeping together. Numerous participants compared shelters to prison-like conditions. Faith-based shelters can also raise legitimate concerns for some who have had negative experiences with religious institutions. The restrictive environment can have a triggering effect, depending on the individual's mental health and prior experiences of trauma.

Shelters designed for women fleeing violence may also impose restrictive admission criteria. One assessment estimates that approximately 699 women and 236 accompanying children are turned away from domestic violence shelters every day across Canada.<sup>23</sup>

People who use drugs are also particularly affected by shelter restrictions. The Pan Canadian Women's and Housing and Homelessness Survey demonstrates that people who use drugs were banned from shelters at a rate three times greater than those who did not use drugs.<sup>24</sup>

## Indigenous Peoples and the homelessness crisis

Indigenous persons are greatly overrepresented among people experiencing homelessness. A recent national study found that 35 percent of unhoused respondents identify as Indigenous compared to the 5 percent of the overall population that identified as Indigenous in the 2021 census.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Kaitlin Schwan et al., *A Rights-Based, GBA+ Analysis of the National Housing Strategy*, Office of the Federal Housing Advocate (2021), p. 11. <https://womenshomelessness.ca/wp-content/uploads/EN-Rights-Based-GBA-Analysis-of-NHS-28-Sept-2021.pdf> (accessed August 30, 2023).

<sup>23</sup> Kaitlin Schwan et al., *The Crisis Ends with Us: Request for a Review into the Systemic Denial of the Equal Right to Housing of Women and Gender-Diverse People in Canada*, Women's National Housing & Homelessness Network (2022). <https://womenshomelessness.ca/wp-content/uploads/WNHHN-Claim-15-June-2022.pdf> (accessed August 31, 2023).

<sup>24</sup> Kaitlin Schwan et al., *Pan Canadian Women's and Housing and Homelessness Survey*, Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (2021). <https://womenshomelessness.ca/wp-content/uploads/EN-Pan-Canadian-Womens-Housing-Homelessness-Survey-FINAL-28-Sept-2021.pdf> (accessed August 30, 2023).

<sup>25</sup> Infrastructure Canada, *Everyone Counts 2020-2022: Preliminary Highlights Report* (April 2023). <https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/homelessness-sans-abri/reports-rapports/pit-counts-dp-2020-2022-highlights-eng.html#h2.5.4> (accessed August 31, 2023).

High rates of Indigenous homelessness are linked, in large part, to inter-generational harms caused by Canada’s colonial laws and policies and the longstanding lack of equitable federal investment in housing and related infrastructure in First Nations, Inuit, Métis communities. While Indigenous communities face a severe housing crisis, there is also a critical lack of resources and supports for Indigenous individuals living in urban centres away from their home territories, which increases the risks of homelessness. Gaps in services and supports include a lack of transition services for those moving from reserves and remote to communities to urban centres, a lack of culturally appropriate housing, and the limited number of urban Indigenous housing providers.

The full scale of housing needs for Indigenous persons is uncertain, however, because of the prevalence of hidden Indigenous homelessness. Rather than living unsheltered, it is common for unhoused Indigenous individuals to live in overcrowded family homes, couch surf, or live out of cars and hunting shacks, particularly in Northern, rural, and remote locations.

There are also significant gaps in available data. Failure to separately track the experience of First Nations, Inuit, Métis individuals means that their distinct needs are often overlooked.

It has been reported that in Western Canada the majority of encampment residents in many communities are Indigenous.

Indigenous governments and service providers face significant jurisdictional barriers in meeting the needs of their communities. At the same time, First Nations, Inuit and Métis governments are not resourced to support Indigenous people living away from their home territories and their jurisdiction to provide such support may not be recognized. A representative of an Indigenous organization observed that third party, non-Indigenous entities are receiving funding to provide services to urban Indigenous people but are not delivering culturally appropriate care and services.

### **Inadequate program funding for community services**

Frontline services are underfunded, operating over capacity, and facing high rates of staff turnover and burnout. Reliance on project-based and short-term funding – the model used by the federal Reaching Home program – is a barrier to long-term planning and ties up staffing in managing administration and reporting requirements. By the time someone is hired and trained, one person noted, the funding for the position is gone, which leads to instability for staff, and precludes being able to build trust with clients, many of whom have complex needs. The result, some noted, is that vulnerable and neglected people are being underserved, and not receiving the qualified, trauma-informed care to which they are entitled.

Furthermore, limited funding results in “unproductive competition” between organizations as they fight for the same funding opportunities. This competition can lead groups to under report their real financial needs when submitting applications, which makes it difficult to maintain projects, even if they are successful in meeting needs.

### **Mental health and addictions support**

Without proper housing supports in place, mental health and addictions can create significant barriers to finding and maintaining housing. At the same time, the circumstances of living unhoused or in precarious housing can greatly add to mental health or addictions challenges.

During the review, encampment residents and advocates consistently drew attention to the inadequacy of resources for people living with mental health and addictions challenges, and the difficulty accessing

the supports that do exist. Municipalities and frontline service providers emphasized the need for greater integration and coordination between housing and homelessness services and mental health and addictions support. In particular, many called for the creation of integrated response teams available to support individuals living in encampments.

A critical issue is access to a safe, regulated drug supply. Reliance on unregulated, criminalized supplies exposes people using drugs to increased incidents of violence and coercion, as well as a much greater risk of overdose or other harm from adulterated or “poisoned” drugs.

Many communities lack harm reduction services, or the services are limited or otherwise inaccessible to encampment residents. Encampment residents described a lack of access to specialized care or treatment, clean needle distribution programs, safe consumption sites, and naloxone.

### **Lack of coordination and accountability**

Efforts to address homelessness have been stymied by lack of clear coordination and accountability across government ministries and between various levels of government. “Everyone keeps acting like it’s not their responsibility and trying to pass the issue on to another government entity. They need to just come together and resolve this issue,” one person told the Office.<sup>26</sup>

The absence of effective coordination between the many agencies, departments and jurisdictions involved limits the effectiveness of responses to the homelessness crisis. For example, the two issues of affordable, accessible housing and mental health and addictions support are directly linked in practice, but fall under the purview of different, unconnected federal, provincial and territorial programs and agencies, without any established structure of coordination.

Critical areas of integration and coordination include income supports, housing allowances, access to health care, and policies and practices related to public safety. All such services should be developed and assessed on the basis of compliance with Canada’s human rights obligations and a gender-based analysis plus (GBA+) of the differential impacts on Indigenous Peoples, racialized communities, people of diverse genders, youth, and people living with disabilities. While municipalities are on the frontlines in responding to encampments, they don’t have all the powers and resources they need to provide human rights-based services. Provinces and territories must work closely with municipalities and the federal government must play a leadership role.

## **EMPHASIZING DIGNITY AND RESPECT**

All responses to the encampments crisis must respect the inherent dignity and rights of encampment residents. The stigmatization of encampments, and homelessness more generally, fuels enforcement-based responses that do nothing to alleviate the crisis, and only add to the marginalization and precariousness of life for unhoused people. This stigmatization also masks the systemic causes of the crises and obscures the accomplishments made by encampment residents in asserting their rights and meeting their own basic needs.

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<sup>26</sup> Encampments Roundtable – Calgary – August 8, 2023.

## Meaningful engagement

Any human rights-based response must begin by engaging with encampment residents, respecting their ability – and their right – to make decisions for themselves. It is also important to recognize that they have valuable knowledge and insights as a result of their lived experiences of homelessness or in encampments. Many encampment residents are distrustful of authorities, often based on a history of negative interactions. It is vital that anyone engaging with encampment residents build a relationship of trust. This requires experience in cultural safety and trauma informed approaches. Police and emergency services should not be the primary point of contact between governments and encampments.

In many encampments, informal structures have emerged that help organize the space and make it safer for residents. These informal structures should be the starting point for any engagement. To the extent that it is welcomed, such structures should be supported and strengthened.

There is a wealth of guidance available to assist in respectful, trauma-informed and culturally appropriate engagement with encampments. In particular, the OFHA encourages application of the [National Protocol on Homeless Encampments in Canada](#), authored by former United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing Leilani Farha and Dr. Kaitlin Schwan and published by The Shift. The Canadian Lived Experience Leadership Network also presented key principles at the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness' National Conference on Ending Homelessness in November 2023. Drawing on these and other sources, the Advocate recommends the following key measures for meaningful, transparent, and accountable engagement:

- Engagement should be managed through people trusted by encampments residents.
- Wherever possible, people with lived experience of homelessness and housing insecurity should be employed as leaders and contact points in the process.
- Value the time of people taking part in the engagement process, including by providing stipends to compensate for their time; provide food and beverages at meeting; provide transportation as needed; and ensure meeting spaces are culturally safe.
- Ensure that there is enough time for meaningful engagement, including the time needed to build trust and good communication.
- Respect Indigenous protocols and decision-making processes.
- Any community consultation processes must take into account the tremendous power imbalances between encampments and their housed neighbours.
- Avoid unnecessary turnover of staff involved or too many people being involved.
- Make clear commitments to effective monitoring and follow up.
- Ensure that all aspects of an engagement process are documented and that these documents are publicly available.

## **THE URGENT NECESSITY OF FEDERAL LEADERSHIP**

Effective responses to encampments require both mobilization of significant financial resources and effective coordination of a complex web of departments, agencies and programs among federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments as well as Indigenous Peoples and their representative institutions. Federal leadership is critical.

The federal government has unique responsibilities to ensure Canada lives up to its international human rights obligations. This includes specific obligations toward Indigenous Peoples and their rights affirmed in Treaties, international law more generally and in the Canadian Constitution.

Federal leadership is necessary to recognize the urgency of this national human rights crisis affecting large, medium and smaller communities across the country. Federal leadership is also necessary to confront the stigmatization and discrimination faced by people living in encampments. The federal government is in a position to model appropriate and effective responses.

The federal government is also uniquely positioned and has the spending powers to bring about comprehensive and coordinated responses required to address housing, income supports, physical and mental health, and public safety in every region of the country. The National Housing Strategy, the 2019 National Housing Strategy Act, and the 2021 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act provide a foundation for responding to this crisis on the basis of internationally recognized human rights principles and obligations. The federal government has the capacity to convene the national coordination and planning processes needed to resolve jurisdictional barriers and confusion. Through its transfer agreements with the provinces and territories, it has also the means to ensure provinces, territories and municipalities have human rights-compliant standards to address the needs of people living in encampments.

## CALLS TO ACTION

In response to the urgency of the current crisis – including the life and death risks faced by the growing number of people now living in encampments – the Federal Housing Advocate is issuing the following Calls to Action addressed to all governments in Canada.

It is the Advocate’s hope that the Calls to Action will also be useful to service providers, other civil society organizations, and the public as a whole. Public awareness of the need for urgent action should drive governments to uphold their responsibilities to protect and fulfil the human right to housing.

The Calls to Action provide a high-level road map to guide the actions need to respond to homeless encampments in compliance with Canada’s human rights obligations, including those affirmed in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Canadian Constitution, the National Housing Strategy Act, the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Calls to Action are followed by a set of specific, actionable recommended measures that federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments must each take to implement the Calls to Action.

### **1. The Federal Government must lead the development of a human rights-based National Encampments Response Plan in cooperation and consultation with all other governments.**

- a. Immediately convene meetings with provinces, territories, and municipalities to coordinate an all-of-government response.
- b. Commit maximum available resources to promote, protect and fulfill the human rights of encampment residents.
- c. Provide a coordinated all-of-government response and ensure resources are available to address the range of housing, healthcare, income and other supports needed by people experiencing homelessness using human rights-based approaches.
- d. Include clear targets and timelines.

### **2. Commit to a human rights-based approach to address the needs of encampment residents.**

- a. All governments must publicly commit to applying a human rights-based approach to encampments that recognizes and addresses the distinct needs of First Nations, Inuit and Métis individuals, Black and other racialized individuals, women, 2SLGBTQQA+ individuals, people fleeing gender-based violence, youth, seniors and people with disabilities. These approaches must align with Canada’s human rights obligations as affirmed in international human rights instruments, the Charter, and domestic legislation.
- b. In the absence of adequate, affordable and accessible alternatives, all governments must recognize the rights of people to live in encampments. Supporting the dignity and autonomy of the person means governments must respect the rights of encampment residents to decide for

themselves if shelter solutions best meet their needs, including for safety and security.

- c. People living in encampments must play a leading role in decision-making processes that affect them. All governments must implement ongoing and meaningful engagement with people living in encampments and those who support them.
- d. All governments and political leaders at all levels have obligations to promote and protect the human rights and dignity of people experiencing homelessness. Leaders must refrain from actions and language that further stigmatizes the residents of encampments, or people experiencing homelessness, which exposes them to greater risk of rights violations.

### **3. Respect the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples.**

- a. All governments must commit to upholding the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and work in consultation and cooperation with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis governments to fully implement its provisions.
- b. Federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments must recognize the jurisdiction of Indigenous governments to determine, develop, and administer programs and services related to housing and homelessness. Such recognition must not result in any reduction in levels of funding or other supports provided by federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments.
- c. Develop all encampment response measures in consultation and cooperation with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis governments and their representative organizations.
- d. First Nations, Inuit and Métis governments and representative organizations must be fully supported to develop and provide self-determined, culturally appropriate housing and related services and supports, including supports in urban centers.
- e. All government departments and agencies engaged in the design and delivery of housing-related services should make a concerted effort to ensure their staff, management and boards are representative of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people, and introduce mandatory cultural safety training.

### **4. Take immediate action to protect the right to life and dignity of all people living in encampments, reduce the risks that they face, and help them to stabilize their situation.**

- a. Immediately end forced evictions of encampments, particularly on public lands, as a violation of human rights protected by section 7 of the Charter as well as the right to life and the right to adequate housing under international law. Put in place alternatives to evictions that are designed following meaningful engagement with encampment residents to find solutions that meet their needs.
- b. All governments must ensure that laws, regulations and bylaws do not further destabilize encampments and expose residents to greater risk of harm and violence. All enforcement measures undertaken must be compliant with human rights standards.

- c. All governments must fulfill their human rights responsibilities to ensure that everyone living in encampments has access without discrimination to the necessities of life and the services needed to protect their physical and mental health, including access to water, food, sanitation, and heating and cooling, accessibility supports, healthcare and harm reduction services.
- d. Ensure drop-in shelters are accessible 24/7 throughout the year to provide people with a dignified place to rest, take refuge from the elements and access services.

## **5. Implement immediate measures to address the root causes of encampments and provide access to adequate housing.**

- a. All governments must immediately fund and/or develop adequate housing solutions and supports so that people living in encampments are re-housed as rapidly as possible. These housing solutions must meet the definition of adequate housing which includes security of tenure, affordability, accessibility, suitable location, availability of services, habitability and cultural adequacy.
- b. In the absence of available adequate housing, all governments and service providers must work to address the structural barriers that result in existing emergency shelters not being accessible or appropriate for all people who might choose to use them.
- c. The National Housing Strategy must be greatly enhanced and its programs must prioritize the elimination of chronic homelessness and reduction of core housing need, with a focus on Indigenous peoples and disadvantaged groups, to fulfill commitments under the NHSA.
- d. All governments must strengthen collaboration to address the systems that drive homelessness, including systemic racism and discrimination and failings in the Canadian child welfare, corrections, healthcare, income security and other systems.

## **6. Ensure government accountability and that people experiencing homelessness have access to justice.**

- a. All governments must ensure that they are monitoring the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing and put in place measurement systems that include accurate, comprehensive, and replicable data on homelessness.
- b. People living in encampments must have access to timely, effective recourse when their rights are threatened or violated.

## DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CALLS TO ACTION

The following recommendations set out essential measures for all governments to put the Calls to Action into practice, with emphasis on the measures that must be taken immediately to address the urgent risks facing encampment residents. It is essential that all measures be adapted to the specific needs of each community, taking into account that needs in rural, remote and northern communities will differ from larger urban centres in the south. In every instance, people living in encampments are the ones best able to identify their own needs and must be fully engaged in determining and implementing solutions.

These Recommendations include legislative and regulatory measures, policies, and programs that advance the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing in accordance with Canada's human rights obligations, including those affirmed in the Charter and Constitution and international instruments such as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. These obligations place responsibilities on all levels of government.

The Recommendations identify a series of distinct actions to be undertaken by federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments to respect, protect and fulfill the right to adequate housing and other human rights implicated in the context of encampments.

First Nations, Inuit and Métis are over-represented among people living in encampments. This is a result of historic and ongoing failures to uphold the distinct rights of Indigenous Peoples affirmed in domestic and international law. Therefore, the Recommendations include specific measures that need to be undertaken in partnership with Indigenous governments and representative organizations.

### 1. The Federal Government must lead the development of a National Encampments Response Plan in cooperation and consultation with all other governments.

- In consultation and cooperation with First Nations, Inuit and Métis governments and representative organizations, **the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities and Infrastructure Canada must lead development of a National Encampments Response Plan** that recognizes Canada's human rights obligation to commit maximum available resources, all available means and demonstrate progress in a timely manner.
  - The plan must include **new resources** commensurate with the scale of the problem and a clear human rights-based strategy to ensure sustained and meaningful engagement with people with experience living in encampments.
  - The plan should aim to provide coordinated responses among all governments and across all government departments and agencies and ensure local authorities have the resources they need to address the range of housing, healthcare, income and other supports needed by people experiencing homelessness using human rights-based approaches.
  - The Plan should include clear targets and timelines for offering adequate housing to people living in encampments in response to the findings of the Auditor General's **Ending Chronic**

**Homelessness** as well as a strategy for monitoring progress towards the established targets.

- The plan should recognize the urgency to act and be in place by August 31, 2024.
  - Development of the plan must include provincial and territorial governments, First Nations, Inuit and Métis governments, municipalities (coordinated and convened by Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) between municipalities and the federal government) and right to housing organizations who can convene people with lived experience in encampments and people with human rights expertise.
  - In consultation with the Federal Housing Advocate, **The Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities** must establish an advisory process which includes lived experts and Indigenous leadership to guide development of the plan.
  - The plan must leverage existing Federal, Provincial and Territorial bodies such as the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Forum on Housing and similar bodies addressing mental health and addictions to ensure better coordination of human rights-based responses.
  - Explore how to mobilize resources and coordinate efforts with other federal action plans (e.g. Addictions and Mental Health, Gender-based violence, Anti-racism, 2SLBTQQIA+, Poverty reduction strategy, UNDRIP Action Plan, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People National Action Plan)
  - Establish mechanisms to monitor the results of the Response Plan In fulfilling the right to adequate housing for people in encampments.
- As a first step, **The Minister Housing Infrastructure and Communities** must immediately convene meetings on homelessness and encampments with provinces, territories, and municipalities to coordinate an all-of-government response.

## 2. Commit to a human rights-based approach to address the needs of encampment residents.

- **The Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities'** response to this report must publicly commit to a human rights-based response to encampments and to developing a National Encampment Response Plan.

### **Federal, Provincial, Territorial and municipal governments must:**

- Integrate the human rights principles and guidance set out in the [National Protocol for Homeless Encampments in Canada](#) and the [Homeless Encampments: Municipal Engagement Guidance](#), both produced by The Shift.
- Consistently use the human rights language of the National Housing Strategy Act across all government legislation, policy, and communications.

- Cease using language that stigmatizes or discriminates against people living in encampments or undermines the work of grassroots organizations providing support to them.
- Adopt policies and procedures on how to conduct meaningful, culturally safe, and trauma-informed engagement with people living in encampments or experiencing homelessness.
- Recognize the right of people in encampments to be part of the decision-making process which means:
  - Recognizing and engaging with the informal peer leadership in encampments;
  - Supporting the emergence of camp-led consensus-based decision making.
- Ensure people who have lived/living experience with addictions and substance use have a central role in designing the health solutions they need.

### **The Federal Government:**

- **Infrastructure Canada and the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation must include conditions in funding agreements with provinces, territories, and municipalities that ensure that all use of federal housing-related funds respect and fulfill Canada’s international and domestic human rights obligations.**

### **Provincial and Territorial governments must:**

- Adopt provincial or territorial legislation recognizing the human right to adequate housing as defined in international law.
- Review provincial and territorial human rights codes to ensure explicit prohibition of discrimination based on social condition such as income levels, being unemployed or experiencing homelessness.
- Develop programs to ensure that people residing in encampments, shelter and precarious housing are aware of their human rights, including the right to housing.

### **Municipal governments must:**

- Develop a human rights-based policy related to encampments and ensure that any response to encampments prioritizes upholding the human rights of encampment residents. The role of police and by-law officers should be de-emphasized in these responses.
- Ensure the development of all relevant by-laws, policies, programs and plans includes meaningful engagement with people with lived experience in encampments.

## **3. All measures must respect the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples.**

### **Federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments must:**

- Support Indigenous governments to provide self-determined, culturally appropriate housing and supports to their citizens regardless of place of residency, including through recognition of First Nations, Inuit and Métis jurisdiction, accelerated transfer of care and control of housing and homelessness programs and programs in other areas such as mental health and addictions (as requested); and respecting existing funding arrangements with Indigenous governments and their

representative organizations.

- Support and allocate funds to ensure the full and effective implementation of housing and homelessness action plans developed by First Nations, Inuit and Métis governments and organizations, including the First Nations Housing and Related Infrastructure Strategy, the Inuit Nunangat Housing Strategy, and the Canada-Métis Nation Housing Sub-Accord.
- Substantially increase investment in adequate, sustainable, and culturally appropriate housing in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities based on accurate assessment of needs and the actual costs of building and maintaining housing in small, remote and northern communities.
- Work with Indigenous Peoples to more effectively respond to the distinct needs of urban First Nations, Inuit, and Métis individuals, particularly those who are unhoused and living in encampments.
- Support Indigenous governments and engage with relevant Indigenous service providers to develop and implement holistic strategies to provide wrap-around supports to Indigenous individuals who are unhoused or living in encampments with a goal of providing access directly into adequate housing.
- Ensure that all departments and agencies engaged in the design and delivery of housing-related services make a concerted effort to have their staff, management and boards be representative of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people. All departments and agencies must also provide cultural safety training for all staff and management.
- Implement Indigenous-led training on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as called for by the Truth and Reconciliation of Canada and prioritize implementation of all Calls to Action relevant to resolving the crisis of housing and homelessness.
- Support the role of cultural workers, Elders and Knowledge Keepers in the process of finding solutions and supporting individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Work with First Nations, Inuit and Métis governments and organizations in building capacity to collect and analyze relevant homelessness data and ensure data collection initiatives respect Indigenous data sovereignty as reflected, for example, in the principles of First Nations Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession (OCAP®).
- Take action to “support the establishment and long-term sustainable funding of Indigenous-led low-barrier shelters, safe spaces, transition homes, second stage housing, and services for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people who are homeless, near homeless, dealing with food insecurity, or in poverty, and who are fleeing violence or have been subjected to sexualized violence and exploitation” as called for by the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and prioritize implementation of the Inquiry’s other Calls to Justice relevant to addressing the housing needs of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ persons.

#### 4. Take immediate action to respect and protect the human rights and dignity of all people living in encampments and reduce the risks that they face.

##### The federal government:

- **All federal ministries must** prohibit forced evictions of encampments on federal lands, including lands that are operated by agencies and other federal entities.
- **Infrastructure Canada must** increase funding designed to prevent and reduce homelessness. New money must be added to address encampments, reflect the increased scope of the problem and to reach the increasing number of communities facing a homelessness crisis.
- **The Minister of Health and the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions must** ensure healthcare funding, including allocations for mental health and addictions, specifically references the urgent needs of encampment residents.
- **Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada must** invest in upstream interventions to prevent mental illnesses and substance use disorders and promote good physical and mental health.
- **Health Canada and Public Safety Canada must** take measures to protect people living in encampments from the poison drug epidemic by supporting access to safe supply and other harm reductions services in order to save the lives of encampment residents who rely on the unregulated drug supply and are at risk of overdose.

##### Provincial and territorial governments must:

- Prohibit forced evictions of encampments on public lands<sup>27</sup>.
- Support municipalities in putting in place alternatives to removal of encampments.
  - Support meaningful engagement as the priority for finding solutions that fulfill the human rights obligations to provide safety and security for encampment residents.
  - Support Indigenous-led interventions to provide culturally appropriate services and supports for First Nations, Inuit and Métis individuals living in encampments.
  - Ensure funding for services and supports is available for municipalities (regardless of their size), including healthcare funding to address the complex needs of encampment residents.
  - Ensure adequate housing alternatives are available when people are ready to leave an encampment.
- Adopt provincial or territorial action plans for the safety and well-being of encampment residents based on meaningful engagement with those residents and their advocates and in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples, as well as federal and municipal governments.
- Adequately fund individualized social and mental health supports and other measures that help individuals to maintain a stable living situation.

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<sup>27</sup> The prohibition of forced evictions in international law does not distinguish between public and private lands. However, as encampments are generally established on public lands, the Advocate's recommendation focuses on public land.

- Provide direction to law enforcement agencies to halt the confiscation of belongings, surveillance and harassment which can be violations of the human rights of encampment residents. This includes providing direction to law enforcement and relevant authorities to end practices which make drug use grounds for displacement, seizure of property, mandatory referrals to health and social services and treatment, and other measures that impose coercive limitations on the rights of encampment residents who use drugs.
- Ensure greater coordination amongst provincial service providers and systems to meet the needs of people living in encampments (i.e. healthcare, income-support, housing).
- Take measures to protect people living in encampments from the poison drug epidemic by supporting access to safe supply and harm reduction services for encampment residents.
- Leverage and adequately fund community-based organizations to provide urgent care for mental health, addictions, and substance use, including grief counselling and trauma support for those who use drugs, their families, and those who work with them.
- Increase support to facilitate access to low-barrier shelter options.
  - Ensure adequate funding for shelters to remove barriers and address individualized needs of women, Indigenous individuals, racialized groups, 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals, families, people with pets, people with disabilities and people who use drugs.
  - Ensure provision of on-site supports and harm reduction for people who use drugs as well as people with mental health issues and brain injuries.
  - Ensure shelters implement trauma-informed approaches.
  - Ensure funding for shelters for people fleeing gender-based violence.

### **Municipal governments must:**

- End the practice of forced evictions of encampments on public lands.<sup>28</sup>
- Put in place alternatives to removal of encampments.
  - Ensure meaningful engagement as the priority for finding solutions that meet the needs of encampment residents.
- Implement measures to protect and support people living in encampments:
  - In consultation with encampment residents, identify needs and provide dignified access on site or in reasonable proximity to essential facilities and services such as clean drinking water, sanitation, cooking facilities and waste collection (see the [list of essential services](#) developed by the National Working Group on Homeless Encampments).
  - Respect people's right to refuse services.
  - Eliminate any policies or practices that restrict access to encampment sites during daylight hours or require daytime tear down of tents and removal of personal effects.
  - Facilitate delivery of existing services and supports such as health care and income supports to encampment residents which are the responsibility of other governments.

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<sup>28</sup> The prohibition of forced evictions in international law does not distinguish between public and private lands. However, as encampments are generally established on public lands, the Advocate's recommendation focuses on public land.

- In discussion with women and gender-diverse encampment residents, provide services for persons who have or are experiencing gender-based violence and identify and support measures to enhance the protection of women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals, particularly those who are Indigenous.
  - Ensure protection from the poison drug supply through access to harm reduction services and regulated safe supply for encampment residents who are at risk of overdose because of reliance on an unregulated supply.
  - Provide access to storage facilities for people to protect their belongings.
  - Ensure availability of transportation so that encampment residents have ready access to clinics and other supports.
  - Ensure that police, bylaw enforcement officers and private security firms do not play any direct role in managing encampments.
  - Respect Indigenous protocols and ensure municipal services are culturally appropriate.
  - The availability of services to people experiencing homelessness should not be a justification for an eviction.
- Ensure drop in-shelters are accessible 24/7 throughout the year to provide people with a dignified place to rest, take refuge from the elements and access services.
  - Repeal any regulations that restrict people experiencing homelessness from accessing public space.
    - Repeal by-laws and other regulations which prohibit encampment residents from using public spaces.
    - Ban “hostile architecture” (e.g. spikes on sidewalks, armrests on benches) that is designed to stop homeless people from sitting, sleeping and sheltering.
  - Repeal and/or refrain from passing by-laws that restrict community members from offering support services to encampment residents.
  - Empower and support residents to manage their encampments themselves to the extent possible. Government resourcing and supports should not be used to undermine resident autonomy or decision-making. Government should support encampment residents in creating collective camp-wide processes for decision-making, but they should not run these processes.
  - Provide direction to by-law enforcement officers and emergency service to halt the confiscation of belongings, along with surveillance and harassment which may constitute violations of the human rights of encampment residents. This includes providing direction to all relevant municipal agencies to end practices which make drug use grounds for displacement, seizure of property, mandatory referrals to health and social services and treatment, and other measures that impose coercive limitations on the rights of encampment residents who use drugs.
    - Ensure that drug use – or perception of drug use – is not a pretext for restricting access to essential supports and services.
  - Promote collaboration among municipal agencies and community-based service providers to provide an integrated approach to meeting the needs of encampment residents and referring people to the available services.
  - Provide financial and other support to organizations serving encampment residents to ensure adequate staffing levels and address risk of overwork and burnout.

- While permanent housing remains the ultimate goal, immediate improvements to existing emergency shelter services are also needed. Shelter providers must:
  - Ensure that their facilities and services are designed to accommodate and be accessible for people with specific needs (e.g., for Indigenous individuals, women, Black and racialized individuals, 2SLGBTQI+ people, couples, families, youth, seniors and people with disabilities).
  - Put in place policies and practices that are trauma-informed and that meet the needs of and respect the dignity and human rights of people experiencing homelessness.

## 5. Implement immediate measures to address the root causes of encampments and provide access to adequate housing.

### The Federal Government:

- In consultation with First Nations, Inuit and Métis governments and representative organizations, **Infrastructure Canada and the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation** must re-orient the current and future National Housing Strategies to ensure there is a priority on initiatives that will rapidly increase the supply of adequate and affordable non-market housing for people transitioning out of encampments and others experiencing homelessness.
  - Provide **new** long-term and predictable funding and ensure resources are also available to small, medium, rural, remote and northern communities who are experiencing growing problems of homelessness.
  - Expand and sustain funding to rapidly create new housing units building on lessons learned from the Rapid Housing Initiative.
  - Establish a properly funded Acquisition Fund to allow municipalities, local land trust organizations and non-profit housing providers to acquire, repair, and operate existing affordable market rental housing.
  - Review the Canada Housing Benefit to ensure it is being leveraged to prevent homelessness, address core housing need, and assist people to return to housing.
  - Create efficient and cost-effective long-term programs (such as direct transfer of adequate public lands, direct lending and preferential lending rates) that allow for the creation of new non-market adequate housing that meets the needs of encampment residents and people at risk of homelessness.
  - Prioritize making resources available to address groups that are in greatest need, including First Nations, Inuit and Métis individuals, Black Canadians, other racialized communities, women, 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals, people fleeing gender-based violence, youth, seniors and people with disabilities.
- Recognizing that housing is an important social determinant of health and that unaddressed mental and physical health needs contribute to homelessness and that homelessness can have severe mental and physical health impacts, **Infrastructure Canada, Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada must work with Women and Gender Equality Canada** to ensure better integration of housing and public health policies, particularly for women, 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals and youth.
- **Infrastructure Canada must** support the documentation and sharing of promising practices to facilitate the spread of effective human rights-based responses to homeless encampments.

- **The Minister of Health and the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions** must develop national legislation, parallel to or within the National Health Act, to bring parity, accountability and transparency to federal funding to provinces and territories for programming and services related to mental health and substance use.
- **Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada** must increase funding for refugee housing supports.
- **Statistics Canada and Infrastructure Canada** must facilitate the collection of better data that captures the diverse needs and experiences of people living in encampments, including women and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

### **Provincial and Territorial governments must:**

- Work with the federal government, municipalities as well as First Nations, Inuit and Métis governments and representative organizations to identify and implement permanent and affordable housing solutions.
- Increase funding for supportive housing, including units inclusive of trans and non-binary people.
- Increase funding for municipal services that provide access to housing and address the needs of those who are unhoused and living in encampments, including providing funding to ensure sufficient staffing.
- Increase income supports as well as the minimum wage to reflect the high cost of living and to reinforce efforts to prevent homelessness and allow for successful transitions to adequate housing solutions.
- Strengthen protection of tenant rights, including rent control and vacancy control, as well as protection against above-guideline rent increases, forced evictions for rent arrears and evictions into homelessness.
- Provide adequate funding to housing organizations who are housing people exiting out of chronic homelessness, including encampments, in order to ensure individualized social and mental health supports for high acuity tenants.
- Provide supports for community-based organizations that allow them to retain and meet the mental health needs of frontline workers.
- Reduce bureaucratic barriers to accessing permanent housing, such as requirements to provide tax returns and establishing accessible processes for other requirements, such as obtaining identification.
- Undertake reviews to better understand and address systemic failures that drive homelessness during transitions out of the child welfare system, the prison system, hospitals, gender-based violence shelters and other institutional environments.
- Reduce bureaucratic barriers for unsheltered individuals to access permanent housing, such as obtaining identification.

### Municipal governments must:

- Ensure programs are available to rapidly rehouse anyone entering encampments using available housing allowances and providing individualized supports where necessary to support them in maintaining their housing.
- Put in place measures to facilitate the rapid construction of non-market affordable housing.
  - Immediately provide surplus municipal land at no cost in areas close to transit and other necessary amenities to non-profit affordable housing providers or land trusts.
  - Implement zoning and other changes to fast track the development of community housing.
  - Waive development and other municipal fees to fast-track non-profit affordable housing and support the operations of the housing providers over the long-term.
- Maintain strong standards and enforcement for state of repair in rental units and other landlord obligations to address conditions which can lead to homelessness.
- Strengthen housing loss prevention initiatives, including accessible emergency funds to reduce incidents of evictions due to late payment of rent.

## **6. Ensure government accountability and that people experiencing homelessness have access to justice.**

### All governments must:

- Require that all officials with responsibilities relevant to housing, homelessness, and encampments receive training on the right to adequate housing, Gender-based Analysis (GBA) Plus, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

### The Federal government:

- **Justice Canada must** change government litigation strategies to ensure access to justice for violations of the right to life, security and equality experienced by those who are experiencing homelessness or living in precarious housing and instruct government lawyers to cease from arguing that the right to adequate housing is non-justiciable or that courts in Canada should not require governments to ensure access to housing in order to comply with the rights to life or equality.
- **Global Affairs Canada, Canadian Heritage and Justice Canada must** lead a process aimed at ratifying the Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to afford all in Canada a right to make complaints to the Committee.
- **Canadian Heritage must** ensure that [the Forum of Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers Responsible for Human Rights](#), [the Senior Officials Committee Responsible for Human Rights](#), and [the Continuing Committee of Officials on Human Rights](#) follow up on Canada's obligations to respect, protect and fulfill the human rights of people living in encampments.
- Recognizing that access to justice is a fundamental principle of human rights, **Canadian Heritage must work with Justice Canada and Infrastructure Canada** to provide funding to enable both civil society organizations and rights holders to better organize and access the human rights

accountability mechanisms established under the NHTS as well as mechanisms established by other governments.

- **Canadian Heritage must** expand Federal Court Challenges program or develop a similar type of program so that encampment residents and advocates working with encampment residents have recourse to litigation as necessary to advance the right to adequate housing.
- **Public Safety Canada must** develop and publicize guidelines for the RCMP on their human rights obligations when engaging with encampment residents, such as in the investigation of a violent crime targeting residents. RCMP officers should also receive Cultural Sensitivity Training and be made aware of local Indigenous supports before working with First Nations, Inuit and Métis encampment residents.

### **Provincial and Territorial Governments must:**

- Establish and/or strengthen systems such as legal aid so that encampment residents and people experiencing homelessness or precarious housing have timely access to mechanisms to protect their rights or pursue redress for rights violations.
- Develop alternative mediation and dispute resolution mechanisms accessible to people living in encampments, consistent with principles of restorative justice, and able to give due regard to Indigenous legal traditions.
- Ensure that an independent body such as human rights commission, ombuds office, or housing advocate has the mandate and resources necessary to review systemic housing issues.
- Review provincial and territorial human rights codes to ensure prohibition of discrimination based on social condition, housing status and other forms of discriminatory treatment experienced by people experiencing homelessness.
- Develop guidelines for provincial police services on their human rights obligations when engaging with encampment residents.

### **Municipal governments must:**

- Establish independent municipal accountability mechanisms. Larger municipalities should consider creating Ombuds offices.
- Document and make public all decisions related to municipal services for encampments in a manner that makes this information accessible to encampment residents and the wider public.
- Prohibit any restrictions on freedoms of association and assembly.
- Ensure journalists have access to and can report on encampment clearances and evictions.
- Ensure advocates and trusted service providers are allowed to support encampment residents if an eviction is threatened. Peaceful demonstrations and protests must be allowed.

## ANNEX A

### List of Engagement Partners

<b>Facilitating the collection of submissions from encampment residents</b>
Alliance to End Homelessness Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario
BRAS Outaouais, Gatineau, Quebec
Canadian Lived Experience Leadership Network (CLELN)
Caroline Leblanc, Université de Sherbrooke
Le Centre d'intervention et de prévention en toxicomanie de l'Outaouais (CIPTO), Gatineau, Quebec
Clinique interdisciplinaire en droit social de l'Outaouais (CIDSO), Gatineau, Quebec
Dopamine, Montreal, Quebec
Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Hamilton Social Medicine Response Team, (HAMSMART), Hamilton, Ontario
Lived and Living Experience of Homelessness Network (LLEHN), Victoria, British Columbia
Neighbourhood Solidarity with Unhoused Neighbours (NSUN), Victoria, British Columbia
Peel Alliance to End Homelessness, Peel, Ontario
Pivot Legal Society, Vancouver, British Columbia
Spectre de Rue, Montreal, Quebec
Stop the Sweeps, Vancouver, British Columbia
The Housing Justice Project, Victoria, British Columbia
The John Howard Society of Southeastern New Brunswick, Moncton, New Brunswick
The Shift

<b>Supporting Engagement Activities</b>
Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH) 2023 National Conference Halifax
Canadian Drug Policy Coalition (CDPC)
Canadian Lived Experience Leadership Network (CLELN)
Caroline Leblanc, Université de Sherbrooke
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Main Street Project and West Central Women's Resource Centre, Winnipeg
National Indigenous Housing Network (NIHN)
National Right to Housing Network (NRHN)
Pivot Legal Society, Vancouver
Regent Park Community Health Centre
Réseau d'aide aux personnes seules et itinérantes de Montréal (RAPSIM)
Réseau SOLIDARITÉ itinérance du Québec (RSIQ)
Stop the Sweeps, Vancouver
Table des Organismes Montréalais de Lutte Contre le Sida (TOMS)
The Salvation Army, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Women's National Housing and Homeless Network (WNHHN)

<b>Engagement with Indigenous government entities and National Indigenous Organizations</b>
Assembly of First Nations (AFN)
British Columbia Assembly of First Nations
Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP)
Inuit Housing and Homelessness Caucus
Manitoba Metis Federation
Métis Nation Government in British Columbia
Métis National Council – Métis Nation Housing Working Group
National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC)
Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC)
Nunatsiavut Government (NG) and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI)

## **Methodology**

Lived and living experts who attended meetings with the Advocate were compensated according to Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) guidelines. Sharing of information was purely on a voluntary basis.

**From:** O'Neill, Melony  
**Sent:** Monday, February 26, 2024 9:10 AM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Cc:** George, Bradley  
**Subject:** FW: Draft CAP  
**Attachments:** CAP - Transitional Supportive Living Partnership Update.docx

Hi Minister,

Please see the communications proposal attached which NLHC is sending to the comms branch today. They would like to have an event Thursday or Friday and are wondering about your availability on those days.

Thanks,

Mel

---

**From:** Marc T. Budgell <mtbudgell@nlhc.nl.ca>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 26, 2024 8:45 AM  
**To:** O'Neill, Melony <MelonyOneill@gov.nl.ca>  
**Subject:** Draft CAP

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Melony,

As per my call a few minutes ago, here is the draft CAP I hope to send today.

Any questions let me know.

Best,  
Marc

---

**Marc Budgell | Director of Communications**  
Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation  
709-724-3025; 709-727-5843  
[mtbudgell@nlhc.nl.ca](mailto:mtbudgell@nlhc.nl.ca) - [www.nlhc.nl.ca](http://www.nlhc.nl.ca)

<b>COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES PROPOSAL</b>	
<b>Proposed Date and Time:</b>	Thursday, February 29 or Friday, March 1 at 11 a.m.
<b>Location/Venue:</b>	Transitional Supportive Living Facility, 106 Airport Road, St. John's (former Comfort Inn)
<b>Department(s):</b>	NLHC
<b>Spokesperson(s):</b>	Ministers Pike and Abbott
<b>Total funding:</b>	\$20.7 million
<b>Sources of funding (Provincial/Federal/Other):</b>	All provincial
<b>District MHA/Any other notified MHAs (via MHA or EA):</b>	Minister Abbott, Minister Hogan

**Event Type:** Media availability.

**Purpose of Event:** To provide the update that End Homelessness St. John's has been selected as the community partner that will operate the new Transitional Supportive Living Facility in St. John's, and to provide an update on the status of the initiative.

**Context:** A news release will be issued at 9 a.m. on the day of the availability announcing the partnership with End Homelessness St. John's. The news release will also highlight that a recent RFP for security services has closed, and a new firm will be selected in the coming weeks. The news release will reference a media availability later that morning 11 a.m. featuring Ministers Pike and Abbott, as well as Doug Pawson from End Homelessness St. John's. The availability will take place at the former Comfort Inn facility that will be used for the program. Media will be invited to tour the facility following the media availability.

**Livestream:** No.

**Participants:**

- Honourable Paul Pike, Minister Responsible for the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation;
- Honourable John G. Abbott, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, head of housing task force;
- Doug Pawson, Executive Director, End Homelessness St. John's; and
- NL Health Services representative (TBC).

**Speaking role for Premier/Minister(s):**

- Both ministers will answer questions from media at the event.

**Venue/Event Set-up:**

- The availability will take place in the main foyer of the facility. There will be an NL Housing banner and a Provincial Government banner set-up, while media will setup their own mics per normal scrum style.
- Following the availability, media and invited guests will be invited for a tour of the facility. This will allow members of the media and the NLHC communications team to shoot B-roll footage.
- One challenge present at the facility will be current tenants, and maintaining their anonymity. We will work with the operator to determine the best means to avoid this issue.

**Invite List:**

- 15-20 attendees anticipated (including media)
- All of caucus (note: the local MHA is Minister Hogan)
- End Homelessness St. John's
- Stella's Circle
- Connections for Seniors
- The Gathering Place
- Choices for Youth
- Mayor Danny Breen and Deputy Mayor Sheilagh O'Leary.
- NLHC CEO, Board Members and Staff
- CMHC Staff
- Media

**Accessibility Considerations:**

- The venue is fully accessible.
- Sign-language interpreters are not required, and materials will only be available in an alternate format upon request.

**Target Audiences:**

- Members of the Housing Task Force
- Individuals on the NLHC waitlist
- End Homelessness St. John's
- Stella's Circle
- Connections for Seniors
- The Gathering Place
- Choices for Youth
- Tent City for Change
- City of St. John's
- Media
- Opposition parties

**Key Messages:**

- We are pleased to have this partnership with End Homelessness St. John's in place to manage the Transitional Supportive Living program in St. John's.
- They bring deep expertise in the issues surrounding homelessness, and were advocates for this approach.
- We undertook this partnership to quickly respond to a gap in transitional supportive living spaces identified in the province, especially in the St. John's area.
- Transitional supportive living provides temporary accommodations with wrap around supports for individuals who are experiencing homelessness.
- This represents one more option for individuals to have a safe, warm, transitional supportive living arrangement - a supportive space that will help to foster transition to independent, permanent housing.
- We are planning formal information sessions for area residents in the coming weeks with community partners, where we can share additional information and answer questions residents may have. We expect to provide more updates regarding operations in advance of these sessions.

#### **Follow-up Media Relations:**

- No reactive follow-up media relations are recommended as media will have opportunity to ask questions at media availability; however, the announcement will be promoted on social media in the days that follow.
- Ministers Pike and Abbott will be made available for media interviews on a reactive basis, in consultation with Communications Branch and the Premier's Office.

#### **Photos/Video/SMGs/Social Media:**

- Photos and videos from the event and tour will be shared on social media (Facebook and X) on the afternoon following the event and the following week.
- **Sample social media post:** 🎉 @GovNL is pleased to partner with @EHSJ709 to manage the Transitional Supportive Living program in St. John's, providing a supportive space that will help foster a transition for those experiencing homelessness to independent, permanent housing.
- **Photos:** Photos will be taken of the media availability, as well as a group photo. Photos will be taken during the tour as well of the group.
- **Video:** NL Housing has a gimbal device that allows for smooth moving video. Video will be taken of the entire tour, and a short (30 second video) will be compiled for social media, showing common areas and potentially a sample room.

<b>Material Types</b>	<b>Required (Yes/No)</b>
Media Advisory	No
News Release	Yes
Speaking Notes	No
Social Media Plan	No
Website Updates	No
Q/As	Yes
Marketing Campaign/Paid Media	No
Presentation (Technical Briefing or otherwise)	No
Other (please specify)	N/A

All redactions on this page are under s.40(1), unless otherwise noted

**From:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 27, 2024 4:58 PM  
**To:** 'Doug Pawson'  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] It's time for EHSJ to leave the failed Task Force on Homelessness

Doug  
Thanks for sharing.

John A  
Minister

---

**From:** Doug Pawson <dpawson@wecanendit.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 27, 2024 4:29 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] It's time for EHSJ to leave the failed Task Force on Homelessness

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Minister Abbott,

Just wanted to forward this along to you, in case you weren't aware.

Just to reiterate, I have no intention of leaving the Task Force, and I don't plan to respond to this email. ██████████ sent this to our Community Advisory Board and has been active on social media with his position.

Cheers,  
Doug

**Doug Pawson, MPhil, MBA**

Executive Director

Pronouns: He/Him

E: [dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com) | C: 709.770.4902

[f wecanendit709](#) | [ehsj709](#)

[wecanendit.com](#) | [Newsletter](#)

**END HOMELESSNESS**  
**ST. JOHN'S #WECANENDIT**

*With deep respect and gratitude, we acknowledge the land on which we gather as the ancestral homelands of the Beothuk, whose culture has been lost forever and can never be recovered. We also acknowledge the island of Ktaqmkuk*

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*(Newfoundland) as the unceded, traditional territory of the Beothuk and the Mi'kmaq. We acknowledge Labrador as the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Innu of Nitassinan, the Inuit of Nunatsiavut, and the Inuit of NunatuKavut. We recognize all First Peoples who were here before us, those who live with us now, and the seven generations to come. As First Peoples have done since time immemorial, we strive to be responsible stewards of the land and to respect the cultures, ceremonies, and traditions of all who call it home. As we open our hearts and minds to the past, we commit ourselves to working in a spirit of truth and reconciliation to make a better future for all.*

**Inclusion and Diversity:** We believe that the wide array of perspectives resulting from diversity and inclusion allows organizations to be more effective; we are committed to diversity and inclusion in our programs and services. We are also dedicated to greater diversity and inclusion within our own organization and strive to provide equal opportunity to people of all races, ethnicities, religions, genders, sexual orientations, and abilities.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 27, 2024 2:01 PM  
**To:** Doug Pawson <[dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com)>  
**Cc:** [vicki@firstlightnl.ca](mailto:vicki@firstlightnl.ca) <[vicki@firstlightnl.ca](mailto:vicki@firstlightnl.ca)>; Angela Crockwell <[acrockwell@thrivecyn.ca](mailto:acrockwell@thrivecyn.ca)>; [cmurphy@jhsnl.ca](mailto:cmurphy@jhsnl.ca) <[cmurphy@jhsnl.ca](mailto:cmurphy@jhsnl.ca)>; [criminology@mun.ca](mailto:criminology@mun.ca) <[criminology@mun.ca](mailto:criminology@mun.ca)>; [housing@stellascircle.ca](mailto:housing@stellascircle.ca) <[housing@StellasCircle.ca](mailto:housing@StellasCircle.ca)>; [heidiedgar@compasshealthcentre.com](mailto:heidiedgar@compasshealthcentre.com) <[heidiedgar@compasshealthcentre.com](mailto:heidiedgar@compasshealthcentre.com)>; Joby Empower <[joby@empowernl.ca](mailto:joby@empowernl.ca)>; [kimgrant@gatheringstjohns.ca](mailto:kimgrant@gatheringstjohns.ca) <[kimgrant@gatheringstjohns.ca](mailto:kimgrant@gatheringstjohns.ca)>; [michellegreene@iriskirbyhouse.nf.net](mailto:michellegreene@iriskirbyhouse.nf.net) <[michellegreene@iriskirbyhouse.nf.net](mailto:michellegreene@iriskirbyhouse.nf.net)>; [mohamed@connectionsfor seniors.ca](mailto:mohamed@connectionsfor seniors.ca) <[mohamed@connectionsfor seniors.ca](mailto:mohamed@connectionsfor seniors.ca)>; [carolyn.reid-nl@can.salvationarmy.org](mailto:carolyn.reid-nl@can.salvationarmy.org) <[carolyn.reid-nl@can.salvationarmy.org](mailto:carolyn.reid-nl@can.salvationarmy.org)>; [info@publiclegalinfo.com](mailto:info@publiclegalinfo.com) <[info@publiclegalinfo.com](mailto:info@publiclegalinfo.com)>; David Banfield <[dbanfield@choicesforyouth.ca](mailto:dbanfield@choicesforyouth.ca)>; Judy Tobin <[jtobin@stjohns.ca](mailto:jtobin@stjohns.ca)>; Julia M. Mullaley <[jmullaley@nlhc.nl.ca](mailto:jmullaley@nlhc.nl.ca)>; [seanmurray@oipc.nl.ca](mailto:seanmurray@oipc.nl.ca) <[seanmurray@oipc.nl.ca](mailto:seanmurray@oipc.nl.ca)>; [rnolan@municipalnl.ca](mailto:rnolan@municipalnl.ca) <[rnolan@municipalnl.ca](mailto:rnolan@municipalnl.ca)>; [REDACTED]; Mayor <[mayor@stjohns.ca](mailto:mayor@stjohns.ca)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] It's time for EHSJ to leave the failed Task Force on Homelessness

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

[EXTERNAL E-MAIL - Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links]

Dear Mr. Pawson,

I wanted to express my disappointment in your continued involvement in the Premier's Task Force to you and some of your organization's community partners, and decision makers at large.

It's been over 60 days since Christmas Eve, which was the date that Minister Abbott had promised to resolve the Tent City homeless encampment at the Colonial building. It's now approaching the 3 month mark since the Premier initially (off the cuff) announced the formation of the Task Force. We have yet to see a novel approach to resolving Tent City, and our only hope to see resolution via the expensive and problematic hotel option has yet to be described with any detail, or even to suggest that this is where complex housing needs will be resolved for the residents of tent city and the other people experiencing chronic homelessness. All we know for now is the cost of rental to this project, which is exorbitant, and the fact that supports are Monday to Friday 9-5.

It's time for you and your organization to step away from the Task Force.

All redactions on this page are under s.40(1), unless otherwise noted

When the public outcry led government to form the Task Force as a short term solution to address the housing crisis we expected that it would be led with genuine action. It has not been. Continuing to be a part of this Task Force is endangering real commitments to Ending Homelessness.

Issues that still have not been addressed include the complex case management required on-site at Tent City, and the failure for organizations and government to collaborate with the community who has stepped in where government has failed to provide safe housing options for people. What was an opportunity now seems to be a missed opportunity. People are choosing to live at tent cities all over the world, and we are losing ground in this battle. We have failed at this emergency response and the only questions we are asking the unhoused community is whether they'd like to stay in "this" shelter or "that" shelter. This is not good enough and we all know it.

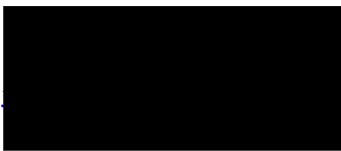
Continuing to involve your organization in this Task Force's is camouflaging government's complete failure. When asked at the onset of the Task Force if the Premier had been to Tent City, he pointed to you. You are the government's proxy on the ground and have been since November.

On CBC (The Signal) yesterday the question "Why can't we respond to homelessness as we would a natural disaster"? The answer, in part, is some of us have and continue to do so, but End Homelessness and the Task Force are shielding the public pressure on Minister Abbott, Minister Pike, and the Premier to immediately provide solutions like shelter standards, supportive housing, the much needed mental health supports. The guise that something is being accomplished, when it is not, is preventing the much needed increases to organizational funding and capacity building throughout our organizational community. The closest thing to a crisis response that the Task Force has provided was the 3 time provision of a dumpster to Colonial building.

The Task Force has not taken over the provision of heat, food, or water to residents of the encampment, nor provided any of the other means of life on site. The Task Force has not been able to provide supports to Tent City that shift anything, or to demand the real supports that will replace the "Low Barrier" and "triage" aspects that help perpetuate its existence. The Task Force has not forced a shift on Residential Tenancy policies to get rid of slum landlords, or to better prevent the rampant levels of evictions we know that even people from the previous Tent City have been experiencing. The Task Force has not even been able to communicate with the community surrounding Bannerman Park that have been impacted by the continuation of Tent City. The Task Force has been unable to develop a line of communication with organizers of Tent City.

The Task Force has been a complete failure. Please stop propping it up with End Homelessness' involvement.

Yours,



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**From:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Sent:** Friday, March 8, 2024 10:16 AM  
**To:** Doody, Alan; Julia M. Mullaley  
**Cc:** George, Bradley  
**Subject:** Fwd: Tent city

FYI.

John G. Abbott  
 Minister and MHA  
 St. John's East-Quidi Vidi District  
 Email: JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca  
 Office Phone: (709) 729-3678  
 Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** March 8, 2024 at 9:42:41 AM NST  
**To:** "Abbott, John (MHA)" <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>, "Dinn, James" <JamesDinn@gov.nl.ca>, "Hutton, Fred" <FredHutton@gov.nl.ca>, Doug Pawson <dpawson@wecanendit.com>, [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Tent city

Good morning all,

s.37(1)(b)

I just wanted to reach out and advise that this situation has finally been resolved to the best of our ability and [REDACTED] is currently placed at The [REDACTED]. That said I hoping that given her [REDACTED] and declining physical health we can work together in a timely fashion to get her into a safe, accessible place with the adequate supports she requires.

I'm also writing to request that the electricity and wifi be restored to the residents of tent city. They are not able to charge phones or access wifi to make calls in case of emergency using text now apps that require wifi. This has been provided to residents of other TC's across the country by other provincial governments. One that stands out is Halifax. Given that we now have 15 people calling the Colonial Building home as more people arrived yesterday evening, I don't think this a request that is unreasonable and can be completed reasonably quickly. I look forward to your response.

Thank you,

Sent from my iPhone

> On Mar 4, 2024, at 6:31 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

>

> Good evening,

>

> I am writing today to address the increase in numbers at tent city (12), with the potential for a major storm later this week we are concerned for the safety of those unhoused. I hope we can work together to address this matter in advance of the weather later this week.

s.37(1)(b)

> I am also writing to address the concerns we have regarding one particular individual, [REDACTED] has been chronically homeless for over a year. She has been in and out of [REDACTED] and other shelters in St. John's which she reports have been unsafe for her.

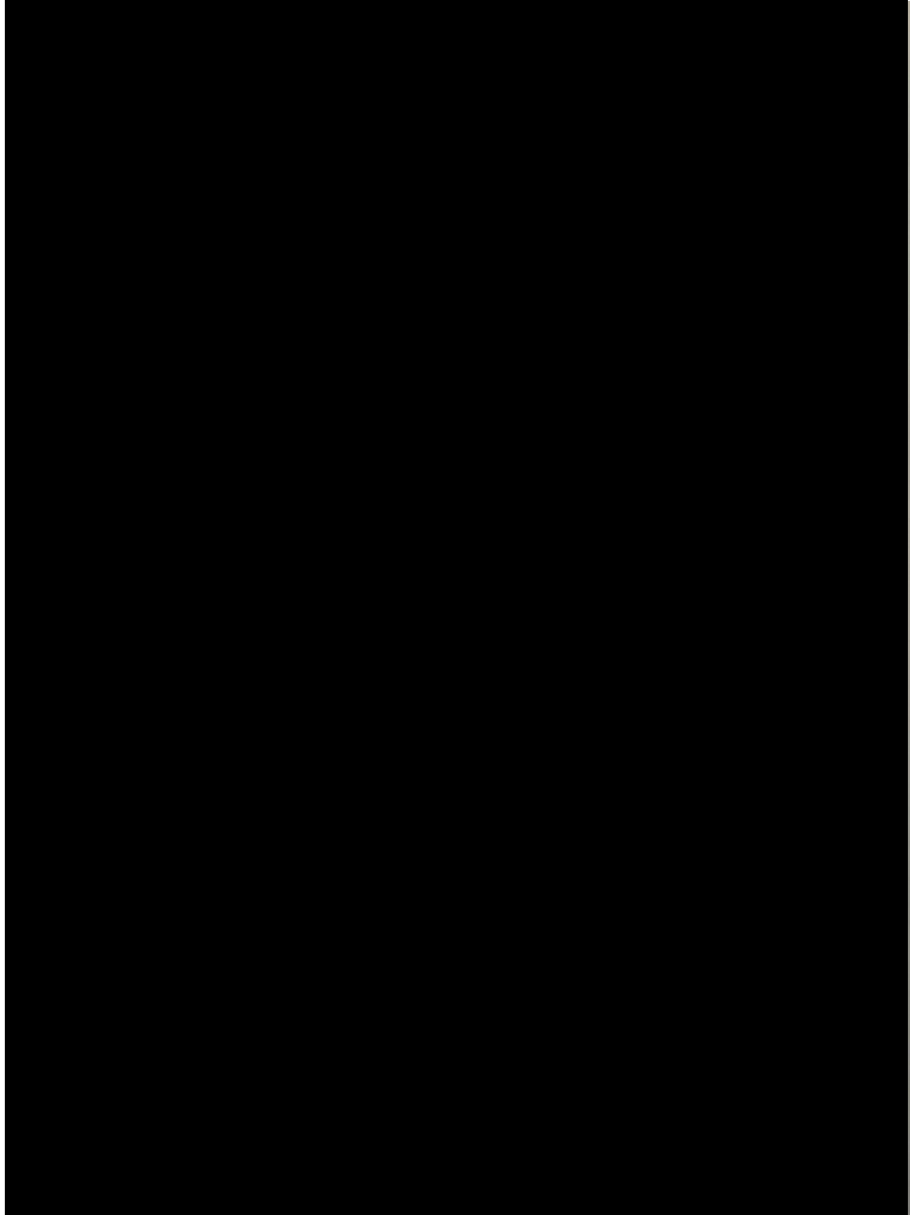
>

[REDACTED] I've been given the opportunity to support [REDACTED] since April 2023, and through out all of her challenges has always remained hopeful to receive permanent housing. [REDACTED] is currently at tent city [REDACTED] This morning a "friend", brutally assaulted her and threatened further harm. A report has been made to the RNC and we await an update from them. We are extremely concerned for her safety, and the safety of those

at tent city should [REDACTED] continue to reside there. [REDACTED] has been approved for a 1 bedroom NL Housing unit, however it's my understanding that there is nothing available. I requesting that [REDACTED] be given the opportunity for placement as soon as possible at the Comfort Inn. Our organization will provide daily check ins and ensure that her needs are addressed as required. This is not something new in the level of support for [REDACTED] and we feel it is in the best interest of all for this placement to take place. I look forward to working together on this matter together.

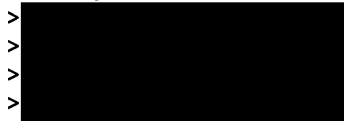
>

> [REDACTED] has provided consent for me to advocate on her behalf.



>

> Thank you,



>

>

> Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Browne, Maria  
**Sent:** Friday, March 8, 2024 3:05 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Cc:** O'Neill, Melony; George, Bradley  
**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry

Sounds good, will do.

---

**From:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Sent:** Friday, March 8, 2024 2:55 PM  
**To:** Browne, Maria <[mbrowne@gov.nl.ca](mailto:mbrowne@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Media inquiry

Maria  
I would call the reporter to say I followed up with NLHC who were able to secure her appropriate shelter.  
John G. Abbott  
Minister and MHA  
St. John's East-Quidi Vidi District  
Email: [JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)  
Office Phone: (709) 729-3678  
Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 8, 2024, at 1:32 PM, Browne, Maria <[mbrowne@gov.nl.ca](mailto:mbrowne@gov.nl.ca)> wrote:

Hi Minister:

See below media request. Let me know how you would like to respond, at your earliest convenience.

Best,

Maria

---

**From:** Justin Brake & [justin.brake@theindependent.ca](mailto:justin.brake@theindependent.ca)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 8, 2024 1:16 PM  
**To:** O'Neill, Melony <[MelonyOneill@gov.nl.ca](mailto:MelonyOneill@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Media inquiry

Hi Melony,

I sent the below email a few moments ago and realized I should have sent it to you.

Thanks,  
Justin

Justin Brake | he/him  
Editor-in-Chief  
[The Independent](#)



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Justin Brake** <[justin.brake@theindependent.ca](mailto:justin.brake@theindependent.ca)>

Date: Fri, Mar 8, 2024 at 1:14 PM

Subject: Media inquiry

To: <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>

Good afternoon,

Yesterday Minister Abbott spoke with a woman from Tent City who is ill and still sleeping in a tent behind Colonial Building. She expressed specific needs and Mr. Abbott listened to her and said he would get back to her.

Are you able to tell me what Mr. Abbott did, who he spoke with, and what the result was?

My deadline is end of the day Saturday.

Thank you,  
Justin

Justin Brake | he/him  
Editor-in-Chief  
[The Independent](#)



**From:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Sent:** Friday, March 8, 2024 7:06 PM  
**To:** Browne, Maria  
**Subject:** Re: Media inquiry

This is different from what was asked by reporter so we should go with my former response.

John G. Abbott  
Minister and MHA  
St. John's East-Quidi Vidi District  
Email: [JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)  
Office Phone: (709) 729-3678  
Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 8, 2024, at 4:22 PM, Browne, Maria <[mbrowne@gov.nl.ca](mailto:mbrowne@gov.nl.ca)> wrote:

Hi Minister,

The branch is suggesting we send the following in an email:

We can confirm the NLHC is able to provide shelter options for individuals experiencing homelessness, including individuals the Ministers spoke with at the tent protest site on Friday.”

--

Sound okay to you?

Maria

---

**From:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Sent:** Friday, March 8, 2024 2:55 PM  
**To:** Browne, Maria <[mbrowne@gov.nl.ca](mailto:mbrowne@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Media inquiry

Maria

I would call the reporter to say I followed up with NLHC who were able to secure her appropriate shelter.

John G. Abbott  
Minister and MHA  
St. John's East-Quidi Vidi District  
Email: [JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)  
Office Phone: (709) 729-3678  
Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 8, 2024, at 1:32 PM, Browne, Maria <[mbrowne@gov.nl.ca](mailto:mbrowne@gov.nl.ca)> wrote:

Hi Minister:

See below media request. Let me know how you would like to respond, at your earliest convenience.

Best,

Maria

---

**From:** Justin Brake <[justin.brake@theindependent.ca](mailto:justin.brake@theindependent.ca)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 8, 2024 1:16 PM  
**To:** O'Neill, Melony <[MelonyOneill@gov.nl.ca](mailto:MelonyOneill@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Media inquiry

Hi Melony,

I sent the below email a few moments ago and realized I should have sent it to you.

Thanks,  
Justin

Justin Brake | he/him  
Editor-in-Chief  
[The Independent](#)



----- Forwarded message -----  
**From:** Justin Brake <[justin.brake@theindependent.ca](mailto:justin.brake@theindependent.ca)>  
**Date:** Fri, Mar 8, 2024 at 1:14 PM  
**Subject:** Media inquiry  
**To:** <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>

Good afternoon,

Yesterday Minister Abbott spoke with a woman from Tent City who is ill and still sleeping in a tent behind Colonial Building. She expressed specific needs and Mr. Abbott listened to her and said he would get back to her.

Are you able to tell me what Mr. Abbott did, who he spoke with, and what the result was?

My deadline is end of the day Saturday.

Thank you,  
Justin

Justin Brake | he/him  
Editor-in-Chief  
[The Independent](#)



All redactions on this page are under s.40(1), unless otherwise noted

**From:** Dinn, James  
**Sent:** Friday, March 15, 2024 1:29 PM  
**To:** Pike, Paul; cssdminister; Hutton, Fred; Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Cc:** 'Julia M. Mullaley'; Gogan, Aisling; District Office 31 - James Dinn  
**Subject:** Shelter Criteria and Intake

Hello Folks,

I am seeking clarification around emergency shelter intake and criteria for being admitted to a shelter.

Based on what I recently found out, people calling the shelter line may have to demonstrate the need for emergency shelter. As part of this intake process they would have to provide three months' worth of financials, presumably to determine if they are deserving of shelter. If I understand it properly, a person who calls the shelter line but has \$5000 (or a thousand dollars) in savings may find him/herself unable to access emergency shelter because s/he has financial means to access other arrangements such as a hotel. If this is the case, we are basically requiring an individual to exhaust all financial means and render him/herself destitute.

In another example, an individual at tent city had moved out of his NLHC unit because he was being threatened by a drug dealer/gang next door (his words, not mine). He was denied shelter because he already had a place, regardless of how unsafe he perceived it to be. He ended up at the encampment next to the colonial building.

Then there is the issue of "travellers," people who may have moved to NL from other jurisdictions and have not applied for MCP. They do not qualify for emergency shelter. I spoke to one individual at the Colonial Building who is there because emergency shelter is unavailable to him.

Am I correct in these statements? Would it be possible to have a copy of the policy/procedures as well as any forms for shelter intake?

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your reply.

Take care,

Jim

James Dinn  
M.H.A  
St. John's Centre  
Confederation Building  
P.O. Box 8700  
St. John's, NL  
A1B 4J6  
Phone: 709.729.2638  
Fax: 709.576.1443

All redactions on this page are under s.40(1), unless otherwise noted

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 22, 2024 9:49 AM  
**To:** Premier of NL  
**Cc:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Subject:** Safety of Children

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good day Premier Furey,

My name is [REDACTED] and my son is a Kindergarten student at Bishop Feild School.

I'm writing to you today with regard to the Tent City Encampment behind the Colonial Building.

I had been under the impression that individuals were no longer residing there, and that clean up was still underway in the area. It has been brought to my attention, however, that this is very much not the case.

I was told by an employee of NL Health Services that Tent City is inhabited by a growing number of individuals and that drug and alcohol use is rampant at the site. I was told it has become a hub for substance abuse, as residents of nearby shelters are coming to Tent City throughout the day to purchase and barter for drugs.

I was assured that I did, in fact, have good reason to be concerned with our students' safety at Bannerman Park. I was told that the children's exposure to drug paraphernalia, as well as their proximity to volatile, impaired individuals, are dangers that are very real at this time.

In recent weeks, I have witnessed distressful interactions and behaviours from its residents as I bring my son to and from school, and I no longer feel comfortable walking alone in the area.

I contacted the school administration to ensure their awareness of the matter. I was told that they are in communication with the appropriate authorities to ensure the safety of students.

You may not know that the outside area at Bishop Feild School leaves much to be desired. The playground equipment is quite dated, and the field on which the children can run and play is muddy and grassless. In the winter months, it becomes an ice field, which has led to a number of concussions amongst the students.

The staff has always touted that Bannerman Park is the school's playground. It is used freely, as classes visit the park on fine weather days.

At this time, I would like to ask you; how is the Tent City Encampment being permitted to exist in such close proximity to a primary/elementary school and children's playground? The city's most central, historic, and prominent park, for that matter.

Is there a plan to remove the encampment from the area? What is the time frame for the rehousing of individuals there?

I am deeply concerned, and feel that the safety of children is being completely overlooked by our government. I'm appalled that the encampment has been permitted to exist to date, and cannot understand why the inhabitants at the site have not been forced to leave. Given the known drug use and other illegal activities that have been witnessed, it sounds like our government is prioritizing political reputation rather than the safety of our children.

Just this past week, I was also made aware that a building that overlooks the school's playground is, in fact, transitional housing for newly released inmates from Her Majesty's Penitentiary. This exacerbates my concerns of illegal activity in the area.

Honourable Furey. Are convicted sex offenders and other dangerous offenders residing in the building at the entrance of our school's parking lot, with the primary view from their windows being that of the school's playground?

I'm horrified at this thought and wonder, once again, how can such a building exist in immediate proximity to a school?

Honourable Furey, I heard you speak of your own children during your speech at the annual Church Lad's Brigade fundraiser. I ask you, as a father, would you want your own children attending Bishop Feild School at this time?

I have shown my son various pictures of needles, and have urged him to never pick up any garbage whatsoever at Bannerman Park.

I worry about the unhinged individuals in the area, and the risks our children are being exposed to every day.

My son won't be staying at Bishop Feild school if actions are not taken by our government to address the Tent City Encampment and the dangers it poses.

I would appreciate your reply.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

All redactions on this page are under s.40(1), unless otherwise noted

**From:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 4, 2024 3:23 PM  
**To:** 'Doug Pawson'  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Tent Encampment

Doug  
Thanks for the feedback.  
I also spoke today with Julia and Melanie at NLHC.  
Will call early next week to discuss further.

John A  
Minister

---

**From:** Doug Pawson <dpawson@wecanendit.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 4, 2024 2:22 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>; 'Julia M. Mullaley' <JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca>; Doody, Alan <alandoodo@gov.nl.ca>; McNeil, Colin (RNC) <colinm@rnc.gov.nl.ca>; 'Melissa.Coish@easternhealth.ca' <Melissa.Coish@easternhealth.ca>; Sweeney, Gillian <GillianSweeney@gov.nl.ca>; 'kbreen@stjohns.ca' <kbreen@stjohns.ca>  
**Cc:** Blundon, Chad <ChadBlundon@gov.nl.ca>; msthomas@nlhc.nl.ca; George, Bradley <bradleygeorge@gov.nl.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Tent Encampment

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Minister Abbott,

I was reviewing the updates our team shares with NLHC on the clients they've seen. As of yesterday, there were 13 folks known to be on site, but only 7 were onsite when the team visited. There seems to be increases in numbers of folks stopping by throughout the day, but our team is noting that it's still a much smaller number than what [REDACTED] suggesting.

They did confirm that more calls are being made to RNC, and in their discussions with clients staying there, they've been hearing issues related to thefts and assaults, but it's tough to say if those are amongst only the folks staying or if it's people who may be stopping through the location.

One thing the staff noted to me is that [REDACTED] is on site frequently and will often interrupt staff-client interactions. She will interrupt and encourage clients to go to her car, or back in their tents with her. I should also note that [REDACTED] has also been confronting our staff as they visit daily, which has been a regular pattern for him since the encampment began.

Hope this helps,  
Doug

**Doug Pawson, MPhil, MBA**

Executive Director

Pronouns: He/Him

E: [dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com) | C: 709.770.4902

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 [wecanendit.com](https://www.wecanendit.com) |  [Newsletter](#)

# END HOMELESSNESS

## ST. JOHN'S #WECANENDIT

*With deep respect and gratitude, we acknowledge the land on which we gather as the ancestral homelands of the Beothuk, whose culture has been lost forever and can never be recovered. We also acknowledge the island of Ktaqmkuk (Newfoundland) as the unceded, traditional territory of the Beothuk and the Mi'kmaq. We acknowledge Labrador as the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Innu of Nitassinan, the Inuit of Nunatsiavut, and the Inuit of NunatuKavut. We recognize all First Peoples who were here before us, those who live with us now, and the seven generations to come. As First Peoples have done since time immemorial, we strive to be responsible stewards of the land and to respect the cultures, ceremonies, and traditions of all who call it home. As we open our hearts and minds to the past, we commit ourselves to working in a spirit of truth and reconciliation to make a better future for all.*

**Inclusion and Diversity:** We believe that the wide array of perspectives resulting from diversity and inclusion allows organizations to be more effective; we are committed to diversity and inclusion in our programs and services. We are also dedicated to greater diversity and inclusion within our own organization and strive to provide equal opportunity to people of all races, ethnicities, religions, genders, sexual orientations, and abilities.

**Disclaimer:** This email may contain confidential and/or privileged information intended only for the individual(s) addressed in the message. If you are not the intended recipient, any other distribution, copying, or disclosure is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please notify me immediately by return email and delete the original message.

---

**From:** Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 4, 2024 12:01 PM  
**To:** 'Julia M. Mullaley' <[JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca](mailto:JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca)>; Doody, Alan <[alandooddy@gov.nl.ca](mailto:alandooddy@gov.nl.ca)>; Doug Pawson <[dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com)>; McNeil, Colin (RNC) <[colinm@rnc.gov.nl.ca](mailto:colinm@rnc.gov.nl.ca)>; 'Melissa.Coish@easternhealth.ca' <[Melissa.Coish@easternhealth.ca](mailto:Melissa.Coish@easternhealth.ca)>; Sweeney, Gillian <[GillianSweeney@gov.nl.ca](mailto:GillianSweeney@gov.nl.ca)>; 'kbreen@stjohns.ca' <[kbreen@stjohns.ca](mailto:kbreen@stjohns.ca)>  
**Cc:** Blundon, Chad <[ChadBlundon@gov.nl.ca](mailto:ChadBlundon@gov.nl.ca)>; [msthomas@nlhc.nl.ca](mailto:msthomas@nlhc.nl.ca) <[msthomas@nlhc.nl.ca](mailto:msthomas@nlhc.nl.ca)>; George, Bradley <[bradleygeorge@gov.nl.ca](mailto:bradleygeorge@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Tent Encampment

[You don't often get email from [johnabbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:johnabbott@gov.nl.ca). Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

[EXTERNAL E-MAIL - Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links]

Folks  
 Earlier today I received and replied to an email from [REDACTED] who is active in supporting individuals at the tent encampment at the Colonial Building site.  
 I would appreciate if you would share any recent observations on developments at the encampment/service impacts by you or your staff (with me by email or phone as you prefer).  
 Meanwhile, I will call a meeting of the Task Force in the near future to formally share updates and next steps.  
 Thank you.

JOHN G. ABBOTT, M.H.A.  
 District of St. John's East-Qudi-Vidi

Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
Phone: (709) 729-3678/Cell: (709) 697-1057  
Email: [johnabbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:johnabbott@gov.nl.ca)

-----Original Message-----

From: Abbott, John (MHA)

Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 11:44 AM

To: [REDACTED] Hogan, John <[JohnHogan@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnHogan@gov.nl.ca)>; Hutton, Fred <[fredhutton@gov.nl.ca](mailto:fredhutton@gov.nl.ca)>

Subject: RE: Tent City

[REDACTED]  
Thank you for your email.

This morning I visited the tent encampment and spoke briefly with a few individuals. There were not as many there as you suggested in your email. I also spoke with the RNC officer who was attending in his police cruiser to get an assessment of any issues of violence/police responses required. Later today, I will be in contact with senior officials in other agencies to make sure they are aware of any changes in need of individuals at the site so that appropriate services are made available.

John A  
Minister

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 10:10 AM

To: Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>; Hogan, John <[JohnHogan@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnHogan@gov.nl.ca)>; Hutton, Fred <[fredhutton@gov.nl.ca](mailto:fredhutton@gov.nl.ca)>

Subject: Tent City

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning Ministers,

I just wanted to reach out and thank you Minister Hogan and Minister Abbott for speaking with me yesterday regarding the desperate need for support at tent city. I have been unsuccessful with connecting with Minister Hutton.

As mentioned yesterday in my conversations we are seeing daily an increase in numbers ( 21 last night). With this increase we are also seeing an an increase in violence. The RNC have been called to the site almost daily and unfortunately with the decrease in mental health and increase in drug use the site has become increasingly difficult to manage.

s.37(1)(b)

Im hopeful that we can collectively address these concerns as soon as possible. We cannot continue to provide the necessary support that government agencies have been tasked with. Harm reduction comes early in the morning a couple of times a week and offers SWAP supplies, yesterday we had to pull together resources to insure adequate first aid supplies were available because Harm Reduction will not leave any on site. The only other service that's offered is Income Support and End Homelessness on a daily basis they come by and offer [REDACTED] most of tent city residents are restricted from those locations hence why they are at tent city. Myself and my staff spend 2-3 hrs per day on site and I can attest that we are in dire need of support. We have no financial resources available to provide propane, food and other essential items you and I take for granted.

I'm asking that both of you visit tent city along Minister Hutton, myself and the few others that are supporting TC and hopefully we can triage the individuals as we did at the Confederation Building. We did this once before, together we can do it again.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]



Sent from my iPhone

All redactions on this page are under s.40(1), unless otherwise noted

**From:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 4, 2024 3:36 PM  
**To:** 'Melanie S. Thomas'  
**Subject:** RE: Tent Encampment

Melanie  
 Duly noted. Thanks.

John A  
 Minister

-----Original Message-----

From: Melanie S. Thomas <msthomas@nlhc.nl.ca>  
 Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 12:50 PM  
 To: Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>  
 Cc: Liam.Kelly@easternhealth.ca  
 Subject: RE: Tent Encampment

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Minister, I see you have Melissa Coish (NLHS included below) I understand Melissa [REDACTED] but have cc'd Liam Kelly who I understand is acting in Melissa's stead.

Best,  
 Melanie

-----Original Message-----

From: Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>  
 Sent: April 4, 2024 12:01 PM  
 To: Julia M. Mullaley <JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca>; Doody, Alan <alandooddy@gov.nl.ca>; 'Doug Pawson' <dpawson@wecanendit.com>; McNeil, Colin (RNC) <colinm@rnc.gov.nl.ca>; 'Melissa.Coish@easternhealth.ca' <Melissa.Coish@easternhealth.ca>; Sweeney, Gillian <GillianSweeney@gov.nl.ca>; 'kbreen@stjohns.ca' <kbreen@stjohns.ca>  
 Cc: Blundon, Chad <ChadBlundon@gov.nl.ca>; Melanie S. Thomas <msthomas@nlhc.nl.ca>; George, Bradley <bradleygeorge@gov.nl.ca>  
 Subject: FW: Tent Encampment

Folks  
 Earlier today I received and replied to an email from [REDACTED] who is active in supporting individuals at the tent encampment at the Colonial Building site.  
 I would appreciate if you would share any recent observations on developments at the encampment/service impacts by you or your staff (with me by email or phone as you prefer).  
 Meanwhile, I will call a meeting of the Task Force in the near future to formally share updates and next steps.  
 Thank you.

JOHN G. ABBOTT, M.H.A.  
 District of St. John's East-Qudi-Vidi  
 Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
 Phone: (709) 729-3678/Cell: (709) 697-1057  
 Email: johnabbott@gov.nl.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: Abbott, John (MHA)  
 Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 11:44 AM  
 To: [REDACTED] Hogan, John <JohnHogan@gov.nl.ca>; Hutton, Fred

All redactions on this page are under s.40(1), unless otherwise noted

<fredhutton@gov.nl.ca>  
Subject: RE: Tent City

Thank you for your email.

This morning I visited the tent encampment and spoke briefly with a few individuals. There were not as many there as you suggested in your email. I also spoke with the RNC officer who was attending in his police cruiser to get an assessment of any issues of violence/police responses required. Later today, I will be in contact with senior officials in other agencies to make sure they are aware of any changes in need of individuals at the site so that appropriate services are made available.

John A  
Minister

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 10:10 AM  
To: Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>; Hogan, John <JohnHogan@gov.nl.ca>; Hutton, Fred <fredhutton@gov.nl.ca>  
Subject: Tent City

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Good morning Ministers,

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As mentioned yesterday in my conversations we are seeing daily an increase in numbers ( 21 last night). With this increase we are also seeing an increase in violence. The RNC have been called to the site almost daily and unfortunately with the decrease in mental health and increase in drug use the site has become increasingly difficult to manage.

s.37(1)(b)

Im hopeful that we can collectively address these concerns as soon as possible. We cannot continue to provide the necessary support that government agencies have been tasked with. Harm reduction comes early in the morning a couple of times a week and offers SWAP supplies, yesterday we had to pull together resources to insure adequate first aid supplies were available because Harm Reduction will not leave any on site. The only other service that's offered is Income Support and End Homelessness on a daily basis they come by and offer [REDACTED] most of tent city residents are restricted from those locations hence why they are at tent city. Myself and my staff spend 2-3 hrs per day on site and I can attest that we are in dire need of support. We have no financial resources available to provide propane, food and other essential items you and I take for granted.

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Thank you,

Sent from my iPhone

Warning: The message is from an external sender, please exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links. If the sender of the mail seems suspicious, please do not reply to it or open any links present in it. Also, please contact NLHC

All redactions on this page are under s.40(1), unless otherwise noted

**From:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 4, 2024 3:40 PM  
**To:** Liam.Kelly@easternhealth.ca  
**Subject:** RE: Tent Encampment

Hi Liam

I'm sending this email to you in Melissa Coish's absence. If you can provide any update on Harm Reduction activities at the tent encampment, it would be appreciated. Thank you.

JOHN G. ABBOTT, M.H.A.  
 District of St. John's East-Qudi-Vidi  
 Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
 Phone: (709) 729-3678  
 Email: johnabbott@gov.nl.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>  
 Sent: April 4, 2024 12:01 PM  
 To: Julia M. Mullaley <JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca>; Doody, Alan <alandoodo@gov.nl.ca>; 'Doug Pawson' <dpawson@wecanendit.com>; McNeil, Colin (RNC) <colinm@rnc.gov.nl.ca>; 'Melissa.Coish@easternhealth.ca' <Melissa.Coish@easternhealth.ca>; Sweeney, Gillian <GillianSweeney@gov.nl.ca>; 'kbreen@stjohns.ca' <kbreen@stjohns.ca>  
 Cc: Blundon, Chad <ChadBlundon@gov.nl.ca>; Melanie S. Thomas <msthomas@nlhc.nl.ca>; George, Bradley <bradleygeorge@gov.nl.ca>  
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 District of St. John's East-Qudi-Vidi  
 Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
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 Email: johnabbott@gov.nl.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: Abbott, John (MHA)  
 Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 11:44 AM  
 To: [REDACTED] Hogan, John <JohnHogan@gov.nl.ca>; Hutton, Fred <fredhutton@gov.nl.ca>  
 Subject: RE: Tent City

[REDACTED]  
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John A  
 Minister

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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 10:10 AM  
To: Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>; Hogan, John <JohnHogan@gov.nl.ca>; Hutton, Fred <fredhutton@gov.nl.ca>  
Subject: Tent City

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s.37(1)(b)

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Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Warning: The message is from an external sender, please exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links. If the sender of the mail seems suspicious, please do not reply to it or open any links present in it. Also, please contact NLHC Helpdesk.

**From:** Liam Kelly <Liam.Kelly@easternhealth.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 4, 2024 4:34 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Subject:** FW: Tent Encampment

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi John,

It is great to meet you. See below for an update on the encampment. Let me know if you need anything further.

Kind regards,  
 Liam



**NL Health  
 Services**

**Dr. Liam Kelly PhD CSEP-CEP**  
 Provincial Director, Research and Innovation  
 Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services

**Cell:** 709-727-0687  
**Email:** [liam.kelly@easternhealth.ca](mailto:liam.kelly@easternhealth.ca)  
**Website:** [NLHealthServices.ca](http://NLHealthServices.ca)

---

**From:** Erin Ballah <erin.ballah@easternhealth.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 4, 2024 2:47 PM  
**To:** gillian.sweeney <gillian.sweeney@gov.nl.ca>  
**Cc:** JohnMcGrath <JohnMcGrath@gov.nl.ca>; Slade, Mary L (HCS) <MaryLSlade@gov.nl.ca>; Liam Kelly <Liam.Kelly@easternhealth.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: Tent Encampment

Hi Gillian,

Our HR Team continues to visit the site weekly, on Monday morning. The observations have been that there are a limited number of individuals sleeping at the site (13 last night), however, more seem to congregate during the day as they are getting their needs met in that environment.

At our most recent visit, there were no primary care needs but we will continue to have a presence weekly. With our strong partnership with EHSJ, if they identify anyone who has a health care need, our team would be back to service more frequently, as required.

Regarding the First Aid Supplies, we would certainly tend to any needs in the moment and use the recommended supplies for the individual, however, we don't generally create and leave first aid kits for potential injuries at any shelter sites.

Please reach out if any other issues arise. I connected with Doug to advocate for the Homelessness Task Force to reconvene as I suspect we may see an increased presence as the weather warms.



**NL Health  
 Services**

**Erin Ballah** (she/her)

Interim Director, Primary Health Care and Community Support  
 Program

Eastern Urban Zone

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NL Health Services

t: 709-752-4520

e: [erin.ballah@easternhealth.ca](mailto:erin.ballah@easternhealth.ca)

w: [NLHealthServices.ca](http://NLHealthServices.ca)

---

**From:** Sweeney, Gillian <[GillianSweeney@gov.nl.ca](mailto:GillianSweeney@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 4, 2024 1:17 PM  
**To:** Liam Kelly <[Liam.Kelly@easternhealth.ca](mailto:Liam.Kelly@easternhealth.ca)>; Erin Ballah <[erin.ballah@easternhealth.ca](mailto:erin.ballah@easternhealth.ca)>  
**Cc:** JohnMcGrath <[JohnMcGrath@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnMcGrath@gov.nl.ca)>; Slade, Mary L (HCS) <[MaryLSlade@gov.nl.ca](mailto:MaryLSlade@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: Tent Encampment

Hi Liam and Erin

Please see the email below with some concerns from the encampment. Are you able to provide an update on services being provided, number of clients receiving support from Harm Reduction etc?

Thanks so much  
Gillian

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 4, 2024 12:01 PM  
**To:** 'Julia M. Mullaley' <[JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca](mailto:JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca)>; Doody, Alan <[alandooddy@gov.nl.ca](mailto:alandooddy@gov.nl.ca)>; 'Doug Pawson' <[dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com)>; McNeil, Colin (RNC) <[colinm@mc.gov.nl.ca](mailto:colinm@mc.gov.nl.ca)>; 'Melissa.Coish@easternhealth.ca' <[Melissa.Coish@easternhealth.ca](mailto:Melissa.Coish@easternhealth.ca)>; Sweeney, Gillian <[GillianSweeney@gov.nl.ca](mailto:GillianSweeney@gov.nl.ca)>; 'kbreen@stjohns.ca' <[kbreen@stjohns.ca](mailto:kbreen@stjohns.ca)>  
**Cc:** Blundon, Chad <[ChadBlundon@gov.nl.ca](mailto:ChadBlundon@gov.nl.ca)>; 'Melanie S. Thomas' <[msthomas@nlhc.nl.ca](mailto:msthomas@nlhc.nl.ca)>; George, Bradley <[bradleygeorge@gov.nl.ca](mailto:bradleygeorge@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: Tent Encampment

Folks  
Earlier today I received and replied to an email from [REDACTED] who is active in supporting individuals at the tent encampment at the Colonial Building site.  
I would appreciate if you would share any recent observations on developments at the encampment/service impacts by you or your staff (with me by email or phone as you prefer).  
Meanwhile, I will call a meeting of the Task Force in the near future to formally share updates and next steps.  
Thank you.

JOHN G. ABBOTT, M.H.A.  
District of St. John's East-Qudi-Vidi  
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
Phone: (709) 729-3678/Cell: (709) 697-1057  
Email: [johnabbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:johnabbott@gov.nl.ca)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 4, 2024 11:44 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] Hogan, John <[JohnHogan@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnHogan@gov.nl.ca)>; Hutton, Fred <[fredhutton@gov.nl.ca](mailto:fredhutton@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Tent City

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your email.

This morning I visited the tent encampment and spoke briefly with a few individuals. There were not as many there as you suggested in your email. I also spoke with the RNC officer who was attending in his police cruiser to get an assessment of any issues of violence/police responses required. Later today, I will be in contact with senior officials in other agencies to make sure they are aware of any changes in need of individuals at the site so that appropriate services are made available.

John A  
Minister

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 10:10 AM  
To: Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>; Hogan, John <[JohnHogan@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnHogan@gov.nl.ca)>; Hutton, Fred <[fredhutton@gov.nl.ca](mailto:fredhutton@gov.nl.ca)>  
Subject: Tent City

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Good morning Ministers,

I just wanted to reach out and thank you Minister Hogan and Minister Abbott for speaking with me yesterday regarding the desperate need for support at tent city. I have been unsuccessful with connecting with Minister Hutton.

As mentioned yesterday in my conversations we are seeing daily an increase in numbers ( 21 last night). With this increase we are also seeing an an increase in violence. The RNC have been called to the site almost daily and unfortunately with the decrease in mental health and increase in drug use the site has become increasingly difficult to manage.

Im hopeful that we can collectively address these concerns as soon as possible. We cannot continue to provide the necessary support that government agencies have been tasked with. Harm reduction comes early in the morning a couple of times a week and offers SWAP supplies, yesterday we had to pull together resources to insure adequate first aid supplies were available because Harm Reduction will not leave any on site. The only other service that's offered is Income Support and End Homelessness on a daily basis they come by and offer [REDACTED] most of tent city residents are restricted from those locations hence why they are at tent city. Myself and my staff spend 2-3 hrs per day on site and I can attest that we are in dire need of support. We have no financial resources available to provide propane, food and other essential items you and I take for granted.

s.37(1(b))

I'm asking that both of you visit tent city along Minister Hutton, myself and the few others that are supporting TC and hopefully we can triage the individuals as we did at the Confederation Building. We did this once before, together we can do it again.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

\*\*\* This communication (including all attachments) is intended solely for the use of the person or persons to whom it is addressed and should be treated as a confidential communication from Eastern Health. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, distribution, printing, or copying of this email is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please immediately notify the originator and delete it from your system. Your cooperation is appreciated. \*\*\*

All redactions on this page are under s.40(1), unless otherwise noted

**From:** Sweeney, Gillian  
**Sent:** Friday, April 5, 2024 9:18 AM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Cc:** McGrath, John; Liam Kelly  
**Subject:** RE: Tent Encampment

Hi Minister

Here is the update we received from NLHS. Please note that Melissa Coish [REDACTED] and Liam Kelly is the Senior Director accountable for primary health care and harm reduction. I've copied him on this message as well.

- Harm Reduction Team continues to visit the site weekly, on Monday morning. The observations have been that there are a limited number of individuals sleeping at the site (13 last night), however, more seem to congregate during the day as they are getting their needs met in that environment.

- At their most recent visit, there were no primary care needs but they will continue to have a presence weekly. With their strong partnership with EHSJ, if they identify anyone who has a health care need, the team would be back to service more frequently, as required.

- Regarding the First Aid Supplies, they would certainly tend to any needs in the moment and use the recommended supplies for the individual, however, they don't generally create and leave first aid kits for potential injuries at any shelter sites.

- They also connected with Doug to advocate for the Homelessness Task Force to reconvene as I suspect we may see an increased presence as the weather warms.

If you need any other information please let us know.

Thanks  
 Gillian

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 4, 2024 12:01 PM  
**To:** 'Julia M. Mullaley' <JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca>; Doody, Alan <alandooddy@gov.nl.ca>; 'Doug Pawson' <dpawson@wecanendit.com>; McNeil, Colin (RNC) <colinm@rnc.gov.nl.ca>; 'Melissa.Coish@easternhealth.ca' <Melissa.Coish@easternhealth.ca>; Sweeney, Gillian <GillianSweeney@gov.nl.ca>; 'kbreen@stjohns.ca' <kbreen@stjohns.ca>  
**Cc:** Blundon, Chad <ChadBlundon@gov.nl.ca>; 'Melanie S. Thomas' <msthomas@nlhc.nl.ca>; George, Bradley <bradleygeorge@gov.nl.ca>  
**Subject:** FW: Tent Encampment

Folks  
 Earlier today I received and replied to an email from [REDACTED] who is active in supporting individuals at the tent encampment at the Colonial Building site.  
 I would appreciate if you would share any recent observations on developments at the encampment/service impacts by you or your staff (with me by email or phone as you prefer).  
 Meanwhile, I will call a meeting of the Task Force in the near future to formally share updates and next steps.  
 Thank you.

JOHN G. ABBOTT, M.H.A.  
 District of St. John's East-Qudi-Vidi  
 Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
 Phone: (709) 729-3678/Cell: (709) 697-1057  
 Email: johnabbott@gov.nl.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: Abbott, John (MHA)  
Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 11:44 AM  
To: [REDACTED] Hogan, John <JohnHogan@gov.nl.ca>; Hutton, Fred <fredhutton@gov.nl.ca>  
Subject: RE: Tent City

[REDACTED]  
Thank you for your email.

This morning I visited the tent encampment and spoke briefly with a few individuals. There were not as many there as you suggested in your email. I also spoke with the RNC officer who was attending in his police cruiser to get an assessment of any issues of violence/police responses required. Later today, I will be in contact with senior officials in other agencies to make sure they are aware of any changes in need of individuals at the site so that appropriate services are made available.

John A  
Minister

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 10:10 AM  
To: Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>; Hogan, John <JohnHogan@gov.nl.ca>; Hutton, Fred <fredhutton@gov.nl.ca>  
Subject: Tent City

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning Ministers,

I just wanted to reach out and thank you Minister Hogan and Minister Abbott for speaking with me yesterday regarding the desperate need for support at tent city. I have been unsuccessful with connecting with Minister Hutton.

As mentioned yesterday in my conversations we are seeing daily an increase in numbers ( 21 last night). With this increase we are also seeing an increase in violence. The RNC have been called to the site almost daily and unfortunately with the decrease in mental health and increase in drug use the site has become increasingly difficult to manage.

Im hopeful that we can collectively address these concerns as soon as possible. We cannot continue to provide the necessary support that government agencies have been tasked with. Harm reduction comes early in the morning a couple of times a week and offers SWAP supplies, yesterday we had to pull together resources to insure adequate first aid supplies were available because Harm Reduction will not leave any on site. The only other service that's offered is Income Support and End Homelessness on a daily basis they come by and offer [REDACTED] most of tent city residents are restricted from those locations hence why they are at tent city. Myself and my staff spend 2-3 hrs per day on site and I can attest that we are in dire need of support. We have no financial resources available to provide propane, food and other essential items you and I take for granted.

I'm asking that both of you visit tent city along Minister Hutton, myself and the few others that are supporting TC and hopefully we can triage the individuals as we did at the Confederation Building. We did this once before, together we can do it again.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Kevin Breen <[kbreen@stjohns.ca](mailto:kbreen@stjohns.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 8, 2024 1:03 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Tent Encampment

Good afternoon Minister:  
 Yes, the majority if not all were brought to the attention of RNC.

Kevin.

---

**From:** Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 8, 2024 12:59 PM  
**To:** Kevin Breen <[kbreen@stjohns.ca](mailto:kbreen@stjohns.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Tent Encampment

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Kevin  
 Thanks for the update.  
 Do you know if the incidents you referenced should be brought to attention of RNC who are on site at least twice daily.

John A  
 Minister

---

**From:** Kevin Breen <[kbreen@stjohns.ca](mailto:kbreen@stjohns.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 8, 2024 10:13 AM  
**To:** Doug Pawson <[dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com)>; Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>; 'Julia M. Mullaley' <[JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca](mailto:JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca)>; Doody, Alan <[alandooddy@gov.nl.ca](mailto:alandooddy@gov.nl.ca)>; McNeil, Colin (RNC) <[colinm@rnc.gov.nl.ca](mailto:colinm@rnc.gov.nl.ca)>; 'Melissa.Coish@easternhealth.ca' <[Melissa.Coish@easternhealth.ca](mailto:Melissa.Coish@easternhealth.ca)>; Sweeney, Gillian <[GillianSweeney@gov.nl.ca](mailto:GillianSweeney@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Cc:** Blundon, Chad <[ChadBlundon@gov.nl.ca](mailto:ChadBlundon@gov.nl.ca)>; [msthomas@nlhc.nl.ca](mailto:msthomas@nlhc.nl.ca); George, Bradley <[bradleygeorge@gov.nl.ca](mailto:bradleygeorge@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Tent Encampment

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Good morning all:  
 Security staff are reporting an uptick in the number of abusive incidents/interactions with encampment folks around the bathroom area.

Thanks.

Kevin

---

**From:** Doug Pawson <[dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 4, 2024 2:22 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>; 'Julia M. Mullaley' <[JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca](mailto:JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca)>; Doody, Alan <[alandooddy@gov.nl.ca](mailto:alandooddy@gov.nl.ca)>; McNeil, Colin (RNC) <[colinm@rnc.gov.nl.ca](mailto:colinm@rnc.gov.nl.ca)>; 'Melissa.Coish@easternhealth.ca'

All redactions on this page are under s.40(1), unless otherwise noted

<[Melissa.Coish@easternhealth.ca](mailto:Melissa.Coish@easternhealth.ca)>; Sweeney, Gillian <[GillianSweeney@gov.nl.ca](mailto:GillianSweeney@gov.nl.ca)>; Kevin Breen <[kbreen@stjohns.ca](mailto:kbreen@stjohns.ca)>  
 Cc: Blundon, Chad <[ChadBlundon@gov.nl.ca](mailto:ChadBlundon@gov.nl.ca)>; [msthomas@nlhc.nl.ca](mailto:msthomas@nlhc.nl.ca); George, Bradley <[bradleygeorge@gov.nl.ca](mailto:bradleygeorge@gov.nl.ca)>  
 Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Tent Encampment

You don't often get email from [dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

**CAUTION:** This is an EXTERNAL email. Do not click on any link, open any attachments, or action a QR code unless you recognize the sender and have confirmed that the content is valid. If you are suspicious of the message use the **Report a Phish** button to report it.

Hi Minister Abbott,

I was reviewing the updates our team shares with NLHC on the clients they've seen. As of yesterday, there were 13 folks known to be on site, but only 7 were onsite when the team visited. There seems to be increases in numbers of folks stopping by throughout the day, but our team is noting that it's still a much smaller number than what [REDACTED] suggesting.

They did confirm that more calls are being made to RNC, and in their discussions with clients staying there, they've been hearing issues related to thefts and assaults, but it's tough to say if those are amongst only the folks staying or if it's people who may be stopping through the location.

One thing the staff noted to me is that [REDACTED] is on site frequently and will often interrupt staff-client interactions. She will interrupt and encourage clients to go to her car, or back in their tents with her. I should also note that [REDACTED] has also been confronting our staff as they visit daily, which has been a regular pattern for him since the encampment began.

Hope this helps,  
 Doug

Doug Pawson, MPhil, MBA

Executive Director

Pronouns: He/Him

E: [dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com) | C: 709.770.4902

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[wecanendit.com](http://wecanendit.com) | [Newsletter](#)

**END HOMELESSNESS**  
 ST. JOHN'S **#WECANENDIT**

*With deep respect and gratitude, we acknowledge the land on which we gather as the ancestral homelands of the Beothuk, whose culture has been lost forever and can never be recovered. We also acknowledge the island of Ktaqmkuk (Newfoundland) as the unceded, traditional territory of the Beothuk and the Mi'kmaq. We acknowledge Labrador as the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Innu of Nitassinan, the Inuit of Nunatsiavut, and the Inuit of NunatuKavut. We recognize all First Peoples who were here before us, those who live with us now, and the seven generations to come. As First Peoples have done since time immemorial, we strive to be responsible stewards of the land and to respect the cultures, ceremonies, and traditions of all who call it home. As we open our hearts and minds to the past, we commit ourselves to working in a spirit of truth and reconciliation to make a better future for all.*

**Inclusion and Diversity:** We believe that the wide array of perspectives resulting from diversity and inclusion allows organizations to be more effective; we are committed to diversity and inclusion in our programs and services. We are also dedicated to greater diversity and inclusion within our own organization and strive to provide equal opportunity to people of all races, ethnicities, religions, genders, sexual orientations, and abilities.

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---

**From:** Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 4, 2024 12:01 PM  
**To:** 'Julia M. Mullaley' <[JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca](mailto:JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca)>; Doody, Alan <[alandoodooy@gov.nl.ca](mailto:alandoodooy@gov.nl.ca)>; Doug Pawson <[dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com)>; McNeil, Colin (RNC) <[colinm@rnc.gov.nl.ca](mailto:colinm@rnc.gov.nl.ca)>; 'Melissa.Coish@easternhealth.ca' <[Melissa.Coish@easternhealth.ca](mailto:Melissa.Coish@easternhealth.ca)>; Sweeney, Gillian <[GillianSweeney@gov.nl.ca](mailto:GillianSweeney@gov.nl.ca)>; 'kbreen@stjohns.ca' <[kbreen@stjohns.ca](mailto:kbreen@stjohns.ca)>  
**Cc:** Blundon, Chad <[ChadBlundon@gov.nl.ca](mailto:ChadBlundon@gov.nl.ca)>; [msthomas@nlhc.nl.ca](mailto:msthomas@nlhc.nl.ca) <[msthomas@nlhc.nl.ca](mailto:msthomas@nlhc.nl.ca)>; George, Bradley <[bradleygeorge@gov.nl.ca](mailto:bradleygeorge@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Tent Encampment

[You don't often get email from [johnabbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:johnabbott@gov.nl.ca). Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

[EXTERNAL E-MAIL - Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links]

Folks  
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District of St. John's East-Qudi-Vidi  
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
Phone: (709) 729-3678/Cell: (709) 697-1057  
Email: [johnabbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:johnabbott@gov.nl.ca)

-----Original Message-----

From: Abbott, John (MHA)  
Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 11:44 AM  
To: [REDACTED]; Hogan, John <[JohnHogan@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnHogan@gov.nl.ca)>; Hutton, Fred <[fredhutton@gov.nl.ca](mailto:fredhutton@gov.nl.ca)>  
Subject: RE: Tent City

[REDACTED]  
Thank you for your email.

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sure they are aware of any changes in need of individuals at the site so that appropriate services are made available.

John A  
Minister

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 10:10 AM  
To: Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>; Hogan, John <[JohnHogan@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnHogan@gov.nl.ca)>; Hutton, Fred <[fredhutton@gov.nl.ca](mailto:fredhutton@gov.nl.ca)>  
Subject: Tent City

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Good morning Ministers,

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s.37(1)(b)

I'm asking that both of you visit tent city along Minister Hutton, myself and the few others that are supporting TC and hopefully we can triage the individuals as we did at the Confederation Building. We did this once before, together we can do it again.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Doody, Alan  
**Sent:** Monday, April 8, 2024 1:42 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Subject:** RE: Tent Encampment

I will make it work Minister. See you then.

Alan

Alan Doody  
Deputy Minister  
**Children, Seniors and Social Development**  
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

---

**From:** Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 8, 2024 1:41 PM  
**To:** Doody, Alan <[alandooddy@gov.nl.ca](mailto:alandooddy@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Tent Encampment

How about 3pm today (as 9 tomorrow is no longer good for me).

John A  
Minister

---

**From:** Doody, Alan <[alandooddy@gov.nl.ca](mailto:alandooddy@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 8, 2024 1:38 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Tent Encampment

Hi Minister,  
I am good after 1630 today and at 0900 tomorrow.

Let me know what works for you.

Thank you

Alan

Alan Doody  
Deputy Minister  
**Children, Seniors and Social Development**  
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

---

**From:** Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 8, 2024 1:01 PM  
**To:** Doody, Alan <[alandooddy@gov.nl.ca](mailto:alandooddy@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Tent Encampment

Alan  
Thanks. Just read them. They provide good overview and are detailed.  
P.S. are you free to get together either later today or tomorrow morning around 9am?

John A  
Minister

---

**From:** Doody, Alan <[alandooddy@gov.nl.ca](mailto:alandooddy@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 8, 2024 10:00 AM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Tent Encampment

I can get them from Denis Mahoney. I will get the last 7 days and print them for you and drop them up.

Alan Doody  
Deputy Minister  
**Children, Seniors and Social Development**  
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

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**From:** Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 8, 2024 9:58 AM  
**To:** Doody, Alan <[alandooddy@gov.nl.ca](mailto:alandooddy@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: Tent Encampment

Alan  
Do you have access to the RNC reports referenced by deputy chief?

John A  
Minister

---

**From:** Colin McNeil <[colinm@rnc.gov.nl.ca](mailto:colinm@rnc.gov.nl.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 4, 2024 6:18 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Tent Encampment

Good evening Minister Abbott,

Just to make you aware the RNC provides daily updates to JPS on the tent encampment.

Talk soon,

Colin

Sent from my Bell Samsung device over Canada's largest network.

----- Original message -----

**From:** "Abbott, John (MHA)" <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Date:** 2024-04-04 12:01 p.m. (GMT-03:30)  
**To:** "'Julia M. Mullaley'" <[JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca](mailto:JMMullaley@nlhc.nl.ca)>, Alan Doody <[AlanDoody@gov.nl.ca](mailto:AlanDoody@gov.nl.ca)>, 'Doug Pawson' <[dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com)>, Colin McNeil <[colinm@rnc.gov.nl.ca](mailto:colinm@rnc.gov.nl.ca)>, "'Melissa.Coish@easternhealth.ca'" <[Melissa.Coish@easternhealth.ca](mailto:Melissa.Coish@easternhealth.ca)>, Gillian Sweeney <[GillianSweeney@gov.nl.ca](mailto:GillianSweeney@gov.nl.ca)>, "'kbreen@stjohns.ca'" <[kbreen@stjohns.ca](mailto:kbreen@stjohns.ca)>  
**Cc:** "Blundon, Chad" <[ChadBlundon@gov.nl.ca](mailto:ChadBlundon@gov.nl.ca)>, "'Melanie S. Thomas'" <[msthomas@nlhc.nl.ca](mailto:msthomas@nlhc.nl.ca)>, Bradley George <[BradleyGeorge@gov.nl.ca](mailto:BradleyGeorge@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: Tent Encampment

All redactions on this page are under s.40(1), unless otherwise noted

Folks  
Earlier today I received and replied to an email from [REDACTED] who is active in supporting individuals at the tent encampment at the Colonial Building site.

I would appreciate if you would share any recent observations on developments at the encampment/service impacts by you or your staff (with me by email or phone as you prefer).

Meanwhile, I will call a meeting of the Task Force in the near future to formally share updates and next steps.

Thank you.

JOHN G. ABBOTT, M.H.A.  
District of St. John's East-Qudi-Vidi  
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
Phone: (709) 729-3678/Cell: (709) 697-1057  
Email: [johnabbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:johnabbott@gov.nl.ca)

-----Original Message-----

From: Abbott, John (MHA)

Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 11:44 AM

To: [REDACTED] Hogan, John <[JohnHogan@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnHogan@gov.nl.ca)>; Hutton, Fred <[fredhutton@gov.nl.ca](mailto:fredhutton@gov.nl.ca)>

Subject: RE: Tent City

[REDACTED]  
Thank you for your email.

This morning I visited the tent encampment and spoke briefly with a few individuals. There were not as many there as you suggested in your email. I also spoke with the RNC officer who was attending in his police cruiser to get an assessment of any issues of violence/police responses required. Later today, I will be in contact with senior officials in other agencies to make sure they are aware of any changes in need of individuals at the site so that appropriate services are made available.

John A  
Minister

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 10:10 AM

To: Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>; Hogan, John <[JohnHogan@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnHogan@gov.nl.ca)>; Hutton, Fred <[fredhutton@gov.nl.ca](mailto:fredhutton@gov.nl.ca)>

Subject: Tent City

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Good morning Ministers,

I just wanted to reach out and thank you Minister Hogan and Minister Abbott for speaking with me yesterday regarding the desperate need for support at tent city. I have been unsuccessful with connecting with Minister Hutton.

As mentioned yesterday in my conversations we are seeing daily an increase in numbers ( 21 last night). With this increase we are also seeing an increase in violence. The RNC have been called to the site almost daily and unfortunately with the decrease in mental health and increase in drug use the site has become increasingly difficult to manage.

Im hopeful that we can collectively address these concerns as soon as possible. We cannot continue to provide the necessary support that government agencies have been tasked with. Harm reduction comes early in the morning a couple of times a week and offers SWAP supplies, yesterday we had to pull together resources to insure adequate first aid supplies were available because Harm Reduction will not leave any on site. The only other service that's offered is Income Support and End Homelessness on a daily basis they come by and offer [REDACTED] [REDACTED] most of tent city residents are restricted from those locations hence why they are at tent city. Myself and my staff spend 2-3 hrs per day on site and I can attest that we are in dire need of support. We have no financial resources available to provide propane, food and other essential items you and I take for granted.

s.37(1)(b)

I'm asking that both of you visit tent city along Minister Hutton, myself and the few others that are supporting TC and hopefully we can triage the individuals as we did at the Confederation Building. We did this once before, together we can do it again.

Thank you,



Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2024 3:36 PM  
**To:** O'Neill, Melony  
**Subject:** RE: DRAFT FOR QUOTE

Fine with me. Thanks.

John A  
Minister

---

**From:** O'Neill, Melony <MelonyOneill@gov.nl.ca>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2024 12:18 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>  
**Cc:** George, Bradley <bradleygeorge@gov.nl.ca>; Browne, Maria <mbrowne@gov.nl.ca>  
**Subject:** FW: DRAFT FOR QUOTE

Hi Minister,

Are you okay with the following draft news release and quote for you?

Thanks,

Mel

**Housing**  
**Transportation and Infrastructure**  
April 15, 2024

## **Provincial Government to Partner with End Homelessness St. John's to Operate the Transitional Supportive Living Initiative**

To ensure operations of the new Transitional Supportive Living Initiative are informed by sector expertise and experience, the Provincial Government is today announcing a partnership with End Homelessness St. John's to act as the operator of the facility.

In this role, End Homelessness St. John's will oversee the operations of the facility, managing coordination with key partners, including Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services, community partners and security services.

**The Honourable Fred Hutton, Minister of Housing, and the Honourable John G. Abbott, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, will join Doug Pawson, Executive Director of End Homelessness St. John's and others for a media availability today at 11:00 a.m. at 106 Airport Road, St. John's. Following the availability, members of the media will be invited to tour the facility.**

The Transitional Supportive Living Initiative fills a current gap in the housing system for individuals experiencing homelessness that require not only a safe place to live, but also wrap-around supports. This initiative will provide a pathway for individuals to successfully transition to more independent and stable housing in the future. The initiative will:

- Relieve pressure on the current shelter system, allowing it to better serve its intended purpose as short-term emergency accommodation;
- Offer on-site health supports and life skills development to help transition from homelessness to more stable

- housing; and
- Support system-wide transformation to better align health, housing and social supports.

A collaborative intake process will be used to select residents, which will follow the established Coordinated Access system currently used by End Homelessness St. John's and community partners. This process will be designed to reflect the best practices identified by community partners locally.

Project implementation will occur in a phased approach for both intake and staffing. This approach will allow the organization to pay close attention to the mix of residents, their level of need and available rooms and support. The facility includes over 140 rooms and common areas for service delivery.

In addition to staffing and intake, End Homelessness St. John's will work to design tenant-led site programming, which will be integrated with community programming. This may include cultural support, peer support, counselling and life skills development. At the same time, NL Health Services will provide wrap-around health care services to those on-site, including harm reduction, community health nursing, case management, mental health and addiction services and social navigation.

Government will maintain an oversight and monitoring role for the project, ensuring that the project is meeting its intended outcomes.

### Quotes

"We are pleased to expand our partnership with End Homelessness St. John's. This organization is well positioned to lead the coordination and integration of system-wide planning to support those experiencing homelessness in transitioning to more secure, long-term solutions."

Honourable Fred Hutton  
Minister of Housing

"This new initiative will expand the housing continuum in the province and is another example of how, in working with dedicated community partners, we can find creative solutions to addressing the issue of homelessness."

Honourable John G. Abbott  
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

"Text."

Doug Pawson  
End Homelessness St. John's

"Text"

NL Health Services

-30-

### Learn more

[Provincial Government Announces Partnership for Transitional Supportive Living Arrangements](#)

Follow us on X at [@GovNL](#) and [@NLHousing](#)

Like us on [Facebook](#)

### Media contact

Marc Budgell  
Newfoundland and Labrador Housing  
709-724-3025; 709-727-5843

[mtbudgell@nlhc.nl.ca](mailto:mtbudgell@nlhc.nl.ca)

Melony O'Neill  
Transportation and Infrastructure  
709-729-3015; 709-689-0928  
[melonyoneill@gov.nl.ca](mailto:melonyoneill@gov.nl.ca)

EHSJ

NLHS

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**Marc Budgell | Director of Communications**  
Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation  
709-724-3025; 709-727-5843  
[mtbudgell@nlhc.nl.ca](mailto:mtbudgell@nlhc.nl.ca) - [www.nlhc.nl.ca](http://www.nlhc.nl.ca)

**From:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2024 9:54 AM  
**To:** Wall, Joedy  
**Cc:** Hogan, John; Hutton, Fred  
**Subject:** RE: Tent Encampment

MHA Wall/Joedy:

Thank you for your email and concerns related to persons at the tent encampment located at the Colonial Building site in St. John's.

As you know, the provincial government through NLHC, CSSD, NLHS (Harm Reduction Team), RNC and several community agencies such as End Homelessness St. John's are ever present at the tent encampment to offer services and to provide oversight so that any individual there who needs and request a service is accommodated. This is in addition to the myriad of other services in the community that provide specific mental health and addictions services. The Task Force established last fall continues to meet and hold discussions with provincial and community agencies to identify service needs and address current gaps in supportive housing services. This work is producing results with additional beds opened along with today's announcement concerning the Comfort Inn (wherein up to 100+ beds will be available that will add to the City's capacity to respond to housing needs here). For supplies advocates and others can approach existing service providers to see what can be shared recognizing that the tent encampment is not the most suitable site to provide direct services.

I would be happy to elaborate further on the work of the Task Force at your request.

Continued best wishes.

John A  
 Minister

---

**From:** Wall, Joedy <JoedyWall@gov.nl.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 12:33 PM  
**To:** Hogan, John <JohnHogan@gov.nl.ca>; Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>; Hutton, Fred <fredhutton@gov.nl.ca>  
**Cc:** Hudson, Barbara <HUDSONB@gov.nl.ca>; Politi, Ashley <AshleyPoliti@gov.nl.ca>  
**Subject:** Tent City

Good afternoon Ministers,

I am writing today to follow up on behalf of our local advocate group, Open Hands NL, regarding the availability of wraparound services at the temporary housing facility at the Comfort Inn.

I visited the individuals currently living in tents at the Colonial Building on Sunday and was shocked that there was over 20 people staying there each night. It is no surprise to anyone that there is a pressing need for these critical services to be provided to individuals living in tents, particularly during the harsh winter months.

As advocates for the homeless population, Open Hands NL are deeply concerned about the lack of access to mental health and addiction resources for those residing in tents. These individuals are in desperate need of support and assistance in addressing their mental health and addiction issues, and it is imperative that these services are made available to them in a timely manner. It is crucial that the facility, The Comfort Inn, is open and available as soon as possible to provide shelter and support to those who are currently living in tents and other inadequate living conditions. What is the updated date when wraparound services will be available at the Comfort Inn? It is our collective responsibility to ensure that all members of our community have access to safe and stable housing, especially during the winter months.

Also there is a desperate need for basic medical supplies at Tent City such as bandages, etc, and the advocates there have not been able to secure these items as donations are getting tougher to secure.

Drug use and violence is another battle as well at Tent City. RNC officers have been doing a great job monitoring the issues but many people who reside there feel it's becoming more unsafe as times continues as mental health and addiction issues continue to rise and numbers grow.

Lastly, there is a growing concern regarding people coming to Tent City after being released from HMP. Twice in the last 7 days, individuals have been released from HMP and have walked to Tent City with their belongings in a clear garbage bag. This is

adding to the growing numbers and there is a concern for organizers/advocates that, due to lack of resources, this is the only place for them to go.

Thank you all for your attention to this urgent matter. I look forward to receiving updates on the availability of temporary housing, expected date for wraparound services and the criteria for individuals accessing these facilities.

Regards,



Joedy Wall  
Member of the House of Assembly  
District of Cape St. Francis  
P.O. Box 8700, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor East Block  
Confederation Building  
St. John's, NL  
A1B 4J6  
709-729-6979  
[joedywall@gov.nl.ca](mailto:joedywall@gov.nl.ca)

**From:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 17, 2024 5:01 PM  
**To:** Blundon, Chad  
**Cc:** George, Bradley; Hutton, Fred  
**Subject:** FW: Tent City

Chad  
FYI. We can discuss with Task Force on Friday.

John A  
Minister

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 17, 2024 2:31 PM  
**To:** Mayor <mayor@stjohns.ca>  
**Cc:** Sheilagh O'Leary <soleary@stjohns.ca>; Ron Ellsworth <rellsworth@stjohns.ca>; Dinn, James <JamesDinn@gov.nl.ca>; Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>  
**Subject:** Tent City

**CAUTION :** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Councillor Ellsworth,

I'm concerned about Tent City growing. There are now 25 people there and I don't see anything on the horizon slowing it's continued growth. It has grown more than 1200 percent since Xmas when Minister Abbott promised to get people out of tents. I believe you need to step in before this issue grows any further. If you don't, then I believe things could reach a boiling point for residents and for park goers both.

The Task Force was initiated as a response to Tent Cities, but it seems to be falling by the wayside as a focus to the Task Force & Province's efforts. We don't know when the Comfort Inn project will be underway or if it will solve any issues fo Tent City. Residents of Tent City are clearly unwilling to accept the "options" that the province is offering, which are simply unregulated shelters and nothing else. Case Management has been exactly the same since Tent City's onset which can be described as a person from CSSD and a person from EHSJ simply asking if residents want to go to shelter. There are odd visits from the Harm Reduction Team but not at the frequency it had been in the fall. Social workers will not go to Tent City by themselves, nor will reporters. Meanwhile, volunteers are purchasing and managing meals, propane, and housing. Something needs to change and I am asking you to push the NL Government to do more. There are people looking into the Province's legal responsibilities when it comes to care for these residents. It seems elementary that resident's complex cases would require case management, but this is simply not being done. Many of these residents are not willing to use existing supports, and outreach by the Province needs to be seriously increased.

As summer arrives, and people congregate in Bannerman, the park and the surrounding neighbourhood will certainly have a very clear view of those in tents. I don't think that the folk fest and the tent city will be a great mix or a good look for the city as a whole. Most importantly, tent city residents who are some of the most vulnerable in the province, will not benefit from another winter by the Colonial building, or expanding into the park, or to remain anywhere in tents.

With no offered avenues such as enhanced case management for tent city residents, tailoring of GovNL's comfort Inn project to divert people from tents, or interventions in the cycle of slum landlord illegal evictions being offered as solutions we are going to see these issues compound.

There are many options that advocates are considering at the moment.

It's time that you intervene to force the province to do more for our city.

Yours,



All redactions on this page are under s.40(1), unless otherwise noted

**From:** Mayor <mayor@stjohns.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 18, 2024 9:10 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]; Mayor  
**Cc:** Sheilagh O'Leary; Ron Ellsworth; Dinn, James; Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Subject:** RE: Tent City

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good day [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email to the office of the Mayor. I have forwarded it along for review and consideration.

Best regards,  
Stacey

Stacey Fallon (she/her)  
Executive Assistant  
City of St. John's – Office of the Mayor/City Manager  
10 New Gower Street, St. John's, NL  
P.O. Box 908, A1C 5M2

Email: [sfallon@stjohns.ca](mailto:sfallon@stjohns.ca)

Tel: (709) 576-6173 | Fax: (709) 576- 8474

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Any correspondence with employees, agents, or elected officials of the City of St. John's may be subject to disclosure under the provisions of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015, S.N.L. 2015, c.A-1.2.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 17, 2024 2:31 PM  
**To:** Mayor <mayor@stjohns.ca>  
**Cc:** Sheilagh O'Leary <soleary@stjohns.ca>; Ron Ellsworth <rellsworth@stjohns.ca>; James Dinn <JamesDinn@gov.nl.ca>; John Abbott (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>  
**Subject:** Tent City

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report it.

Dear Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Councillor Ellsworth,

I'm concerned about Tent City growing. There are now 25 people there and I don't see anything on the horizon slowing its continued growth. It has grown more than 1200 percent since Xmas when Minister Abbott promised to get people out of tents. I believe you need to step in before this issue grows any further. If you don't, then I believe things could reach a boiling point for residents and for park goers both.

The Task Force was initiated as a response to Tent Cities, but it seems to be falling by the wayside as a focus to the Task Force & Province's efforts. We don't know when the Comfort Inn project will be underway or if it will solve any issues for Tent City. Residents of Tent City are clearly unwilling to accept the "options" that the province is offering, which are simply unregulated shelters and nothing else. Case Management has been exactly the same since Tent City's onset which can be described as a person from CSSD and a person from EHSJ simply asking if residents want to go to shelter. There are odd visits from the Harm Reduction Team but not at the frequency it had been in the fall. Social workers will not go to Tent City by themselves, nor will reporters. Meanwhile, volunteers are purchasing and managing meals, propane, and housing. Something needs to change and I am asking you to push the NL Government to do more. There are people looking into the Province's legal responsibilities when it comes to care for these residents. It seems elementary that resident's complex cases would require case management, but this is simply not being done. Many of these residents are not willing to use existing supports, and outreach by the Province needs to be seriously increased.

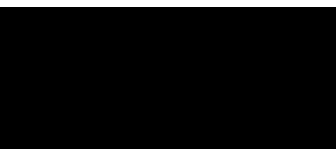
As summer arrives, and people congregate in Bannerman, the park and the surrounding neighbourhood will certainly have a very clear view of those in tents. I don't think that the folk fest and the tent city will be a great mix or a good look for the city as a whole. Most importantly, tent city residents who are some of the most vulnerable in the province, will not benefit from another winter by the Colonial building, or expanding into the park, or to remain anywhere in tents.

With no offered avenues such as enhanced case management for tent city residents, tailoring of GovNL's comfort Inn project to divert people from tents, or interventions in the cycle of slum landlord illegal evictions being offered as solutions we are going to see these issues compound.

There are many options that advocates are considering at the moment.

It's time that you intervene to force the province to do more for our city.

Yours,



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 21, 2024 10:14 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Subject:** Re: Tent encampment

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you for your response! Hopefully there will be a resolution to this issue soon!

Sent from my iPhone

> On Apr 21, 2024, at 12:46 PM, Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca> wrote:

>

> Hi [REDACTED]

> Thank you for your email and outlining your concerns regarding the tent encampment. The Task Force which I chair is working on solutions and also discussing the future of the encampment. I will certainly keep your suggestions in mind. Best wishes.

> John G. Abbott

> Minister and MHA

> St. John's East-Quidi Vidi District

> Email: JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca

> Office Phone: (709) 729-3678

> Sent from my iPhone

>

>> On Apr 20, 2024, at 4:15 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

>>

>> Hello Minister,

>>

>> I am a resident of the Signal Hill neighbourhood and I am emailing you today because I am so very sad to see what is going on with the tent encampment at the Colonial Building. I feel very strongly that this is an issue that needs to be addressed.

>>

>> My heart goes out to the people who are struggling with homelessness and I feel that they deserve to live in a place where they feel safe and dignified, and where they have privacy. I feel like the government needs to find a suitable location that meets this criteria where they can live and cannot be kicked out. (Easier said than done I know, but I think this needs to be a top priority!)

>>

>> Once a suitable place for these people to live has been identified (which I hope will be before the summer tourist season), I feel that the government needs to enforce that people are not permitted to camp at Bannerman Park/The Colonial building. This is a beautiful historic building and park in our city for tourists and locals to enjoy and it has become an eye sore. The problem will only get worse if it is not addressed immediately. I think that once a suitable housing option has been arranged for these people, security/law enforcement needs to patrol the area and not allow people to set up camp.

>>

>> If the residents of the encampment are not satisfied by a fair option provided by government, perhaps a dedicated tent encampment area can be created where people struggling with homelessness can camp if they choose to. However, it should not be in the current location. Families and tourists should be able to enjoy the Bannerman park area without the eye sore of the tent encampment and some of the other negative consequences that got along with the encampment.

>>

>> Thank you for your time in reading my email.

>>

>> [REDACTED]

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone

>

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privileged and/or confidential information. Any distribution, use or copying by any means of this information is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please delete it immediately and notify the sender.”

>

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 22, 2024 10:14 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Abbott, John (MHA); Hogan, John; Dinn, James; Wall, Joedy; [REDACTED] Hutton, Fred; Danny Breen; Ron Ellsworth; Sheilagh O'Leary  
**Subject:** Re: Tent City Events April 21-22  
**Attachments:** Video.mov

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks [REDACTED]

I guess the only other thing to fill-in is that John Abbott blamed us for bringing people to Tent City, which just clarifies his complete ignorance its history and specifically our personal involvement. None of us are members of TC4C, nor are we part of the group of residents that decided to start tenting there, or anywhere. That act by him cemented the idea that government has no interest in consulting with the residents of tent city, nor the people that interact with them on a daily basis. This seems like not only legally dangerous opinion for a government to take following the release of the federal housing advocates report, but also one that's likely quite unpopular with city residents in the area who would like to see resolution of the situation there.

I'm incredibly disappointed that the woman in crisis has fallen through the safety net, and I can't believe that Minister Abbott, with all of his experience with CMHA, would allow this situation to be left at the peril of volunteers and tent city residents when it's so clearly requires intensive healthcare solutions.

Many of us have been working our hardest to simply keep people alive in the hopes that government could find a solution that would work. We have no indication that this will be the case, and there have been minimal efforts to resolve the situation. There can't even possibly be fulsome documentation held by government of what it would take to get individual tenters into homes or shelters or a clear idea of what they want. They're just told that emergency shelter is the "option".

Government has simply given up long ago and are waiting it all out [REDACTED] Tent city won't end, and it will burst the seams of the colonial building property this summer and that will be on members of the task force and the premier to answer to.

[REDACTED]

On Apr 22, 2024, at 21:29, [REDACTED] wrote:

Good evening Everyone,

After spending the better part 12 hours to at tent city, to say I'm angry is definitely an Understatement. First off as some know there was a fire involving a propane tank and we lost a tent. Thank goodness there was no one in the tent at the time. We could have lost a life or lives last night. This is unacceptable. If residents were given access to outside electrical outlets the unsafe use of propane and heater heads would not be an issue.

Second , the level of decline in mental health is at an all time low. We are now into a total of 7 months combined between both tents cities and government is failing to address in a meaningful manner the crisis. As some of you witnessed today, there was a total 4 altercations which volunteers were left to deal with on their own.

This is the reality of those in survival mode. Hope is lost, they are not being supported adequately and it's showing in behaviour. We have people with complex diagnosed mental health issues that are being ignored. If the solution is to have

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Harm Reduction on site and offer the Waterford or phone numbers , which was the case today, then we need to rethink how we approach the most vulnerable.

Lastly and most importantly we have been dealing with a very complex situation involving a 20 something female with extreme mental health issues, reported being trafficked, unable to go to shelter because she has a rental agreement in place, she lost her power on Friday. This women spent the majority of the day in the arms of one of my volunteers crying and weeping. Mobile crisis was on site and again their hands are tied. So at 9:20 pm we have a terrified women on a bench at tent because of "policy". I did receive a call from the shelter line this evening and they offered [redacted] the same shelter that refused her last night and sent her to tent. How do situations like this continue to happen?

s.37(1)(b)

Today myself and volunteers spoke with 2 Ministers and 1MHA I feel just as hopeless at this point as the tenters. Over the last few months have offered short term solutions, and they have all fallen on deaf ears. Do we have to have someone pass away before government steps up and takes action?

[redacted] please feel free to address anything my anger may have forced me to omit.

Thank you,

[redacted]

[redacted]



**From:** Browne, Maria  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024 8:35 AM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA); George, Bradley  
**Cc:** O'Neill, Melony  
**Subject:** FW: Housing

Fyi – see below.

---

**From:** Barfoot, Scott <ScottBarfoot@gov.nl.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024 8:14 AM  
**To:** Marc T. Budgell <mtbudgell@nlhc.nl.ca>; Browne, Maria <mbrowne@gov.nl.ca>  
**Cc:** O'Neill, Melony <MelonyOneill@gov.nl.ca>; Sulley, Erin <ErinSulley@gov.nl.ca>; Sorensen, David <DavidSorensen@gov.nl.ca>; McCabe, Meghan <MeghanMcCabe@gov.nl.ca>; Pomeroy, Sonja <SonjaPomeroy@gov.nl.ca>  
**Subject:** Housing

Hi,

On the enclosed, the organizers have consistently called it a protest and asked us to call it a protest. I also believe that they used the word in their news releases.

You may want to dig those out and refer to them in answers to Qs.

SB

### **Government ministers call tent city a 'campsite,' 'protest'**

'This is not a protest,' retorts NDP Leader Jim Dinn

During question period in the provincial legislature on Tuesday, government ministers referred to the tent encampment at the Colonial Building as a "campsite" and a "protest."

That did not sit well with NDP Leader Jim Dinn.

Dinn began his questions in the legislature by asking about fire prevention measures for the people living in tents.

"This weekend a fire destroyed a tent on the grounds of the Colonial Building. Fortunately, no one was in the tent at the time and no one was hurt," Dinn explained.

Housing Minister Fred Hutton said living in a tent with open flames is unsafe, which is why the government and community partners provide options to people to live in either staffed shelters, private shelters or hotel rooms, when necessary.

"We have said from the beginning that this protest — which it is — is not a safe place for people to be, which is why we offer these solutions and will continue to," Hutton said.

Several members of the Progressive Conservative caucus questioned Hutton's use of the word "protest."

"Protest? Protest?" they looked at once another confusedly.

Dinn said people wouldn't be in tents if there were adequate options.

"This is not a protest, and that belies what he really believes," Dinn said.

He said the government recently installed video surveillance cameras on the outside of the Colonial Building.

"I ask the minister responsible: will his department also install electrical outlets so people, who are really there because they don't feel safe elsewhere, will not have to rely on propane to heat their tents? Will you install electrical outlets? Simple solution," Dinn said.

Transportation and Infrastructure Minister and tent city task force member John Abbott said the government will provide services, as previously mentioned by Hutton, "but we will not be bringing services to the campsite."

**From:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024 10:31 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Safety of Children

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email and outlining your concerns about the tent encampment at the Colonial Building site. The Task Force which I chair is actively working on housing solutions including the future of the encampment. I'm not in a position to be more specific at this time about the encampment but recognize the status quo is no longer tolerable. Meanwhile best wishes to you and your family.

John G. Abbott  
Minister and MHA  
St. John's East-Quidi Vidi District  
Email: JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca  
Office Phone: (709) 729-3678  
Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 23, 2024, at 3:54 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello Honourable Abbott,  
You were CC'd in an email that I sent on March 22, 2024 to Premier Furey regarding the Tent City Encampment. The email was forwarded to Honourable Hutton by the Premier's team, and I missed a call from Mr. Hutton this past Friday.

I have yet to be given any answers, and see Tent City thriving in this good weather. I've been told of first-hand accounts of violence there over the weekend, which was witnessed by many children playing in the park.

This is absolutely outrageous. How is this still being permitted? Our children's safety is being completely overlooked by our government and it's not acceptable.

I would like to know: what plan is being put in place to relocate the inhabitants of the encampment, and what is the timeframe for completion?

I ask you to please read my original email, which outlines in detail my concerns surrounding the safety of children in the area.

I would appreciate a reply to acknowledge that my concerns have been heard.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Date: Fri, Mar 22, 2024 at 9:49 AM  
Subject: Safety of Children  
To: <[premier@gov.nl.ca](mailto:premier@gov.nl.ca)>  
Cc: <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>

Good day Premier Furey,

My name is [REDACTED] and my son is a Kindergarten student at Bishop Feild School.

I'm writing to you today with regard to the Tent City Encampment behind the Colonial Building.

I had been under the impression that individuals were no longer residing there, and that clean up was still underway in the area. It has been brought to my attention, however, that this is very much not the case.

I was told by an employee of NL Health Services that Tent City is inhabited by a growing number of individuals and that drug and alcohol use is rampant at the site. I was told it has become a hub for substance abuse, as residents of nearby shelters are coming to Tent City throughout the day to purchase and barter for drugs.

I was assured that I did, in fact, have good reason to be concerned with our students' safety at Bannerman Park. I was told that the children's exposure to drug paraphernalia, as well as their proximity to volatile, impaired individuals, are dangers that are very real at this time.

In recent weeks, I have witnessed distressful interactions and behaviours from its residents as I bring my son to and from school, and I no longer feel comfortable walking alone in the area.

I contacted the school administration to ensure their awareness of the matter. I was told that they are in communication with the appropriate authorities to ensure the safety of students.

You may not know that the outside area at Bishop Feild School leaves much to be desired. The playground equipment is quite dated, and the field on which the children can run and play is muddy and grassless. In the winter months, it becomes an ice field, which has led to a number of concussions amongst the students.

The staff has always touted that Bannerman Park is the school's playground. It is used freely, as classes visit the park on fine weather days.

At this time, I would like to ask you; how is the Tent City Encampment being permitted to exist in such close proximity to a primary/elementary school and children's playground? The city's most central, historic, and prominent park, for that matter.

Is there a plan to remove the encampment from the area? What is the time frame for the rehousing of individuals there?

I am deeply concerned, and feel that the safety of children is being completely overlooked by our government. I'm appalled that the encampment has been permitted to exist to date, and cannot understand why the inhabitants at the site have not been forced to leave. Given the known drug use and other illegal activities that have been witnessed, it sounds like our government is prioritizing political reputation rather than the safety of our children.&sbsp;

Just this past week, I was also made aware that a building that overlooks the school's playground is, in fact, transitional housing for newly released inmates from Her Majesty's Penitentiary. This exacerbates my concerns of illegal activity in the area.

Honourable Furey. Are convicted sex offenders and other dangerous offenders residing in the building at the entrance of our school's parking lot, with the primary view from their windows being that of the school's playground?

I'm horrified at this thought and wonder, once again, how can such a building exist in immediate proximity to a school?

Honourable Furey, I heard you speak of your own children during your speech at the annual Church Lad's Brigade fundraiser. I ask you, as a father, would you want your own children attending Bishop Feild School at this time?

I have shown my son various pictures of needles, and have urged him to never pick up any garbage whatsoever at Bannerman Park.

I worry about the unhinged individuals in the area, and the risks our children are being exposed to every day.

My son won't be staying at Bishop Feild school if actions are not taken by our government to address the Tent City Encampment and the dangers it poses.

I would appreciate your reply.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Minister, TI  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024 4:28 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Cc:** George, Bradley  
**Subject:** FW: HPRM: Tent city in full expansion again, now in front and behind Colonial Building  
**Attachments:** HPRM: Tent city in full expansion again, now in front and behind Colonial Building

Hi Minister. We received another message from [REDACTED] re Tent City at the Colonial Building. My notes indicate you spoke with [REDACTED] via telephone at 1:40 pm, April 9 2024. We marked his first email 'no response necessary'.

Please advise if you have direction on this second email.

Thank you,  
Nancy

All redactions on this page are under s.40(1), unless otherwise noted

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** Minister, TI  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 6:03:49 PM  
**Subject:** HPRM: Tent city in full expansion again, now in front and behind Colonial Building  
**Attachments:** image001.gif (0 KB); image002.png (22 KB); image004.jpg (1 KB); image005.jpg (1 KB);

Hi,

Just to touch base on this situation... On the notion that the courts would prevent the provincial government from legally evict these people, have you explored the idea of transferring title of the Colonial Building property to a Crown Corporation or create a new corporate entity for it, such that you could evict these people definitively and legally? Another thought would be to simply charge them a fee or rent, high enough that they couldn't afford to pay and then possibly give you right to evict... I suppose such ideas might have been explored already...

The way it's going, these people are simply laughing at government and their constituents. We simply shouldn't have to see our heritage area of downtown destroyed by these people... They seem to have more rights than you and me...

Thank you and best regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 8, 2024 7:46 PM  
**To:** timinister@gov.nl.ca  
**Subject:** Full blown tent city again behind Colonial Building

Dear Mr. Abbott,

I was very surprised and rather taken aback to see the full-blown tent city again behind the Colonial Building. I had heard that these people were going to be moved to the new facility – the converted Airport Inn – but what happened...? We spent \$35 million to restore the Colonial Building and we spent another \$32 million to rent/lease the Airport Inn for these people... These people are trespassing government property, Heritage property... Why are they allowed to do this? To sell and consume drugs and opioids? Right next to the children playground and public swimming pool...

Mr. Abbott, I object to this woke social justice or rather lack of justice. Why are these people treated differently by the law than I am? If I exceed my parking time on the street by 10 minutes, I get a whopping \$50 or \$75 ticket... If I would come and park my RV on the parking lot or lawn of the confederation building, or in front of the Colonial Building, the police wouldn't be long to get me out of there...

Why are we tolerating this BS? Please tell me...

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Sincerely,

A small black rectangular redaction box covering the signature.A large black rectangular redaction box covering the entire signature block.

**From:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024 5:05 PM  
**To:** O'Rielly, Madonna  
**Subject:** RE: [REDACTED]

Madonna

Here is the response I have been using re: tent encampment issue:

*Thank you for your email and outlining your concerns about the tent encampment at the Colonial Building site. The Task Force which I chair is actively working on housing solutions including the future of the encampment. I'm not in a position to be more specific at this time about the encampment but recognize the status quo is no longer tolerable. Meanwhile best wishes to you and your family.*

John A  
Minister

---

**From:** O'Rielly, Madonna <madonnaorielly@gov.nl.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024 4:57 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

**Madonna O'Rielly, Constituency Assistant**

Office of John Abbott, MHA for the  
District of St. John's East – Quidi Vidi  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, West Block  
Confederation Building  
Telephone: 709-729-3709



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From: Antle, Christina  
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 9:30 AM  
To: Grandy, Cory  
Subject: Fwd: 90 Military Rd - Colonial Building

FYI...

Chrissy

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Clarke, Greg" <GregClarke@gov.nl.ca>  
Date: April 23, 2024 at 3:09:27 PM NDT  
To: "Antle, Christina" <ChristinaAntle@gov.nl.ca>  
Subject: FW: 90 Military Rd - Colonial Building

Hi Chrissy, the city occasionally sends me complaints really meant for TI properties from time to time (almost all about Colonial building). I used to send these to Dan MacKenzie and will now send to you unless you have a better idea?

Thanks,  
Greg

From: Chris Fallon <cfallon@stjohns.ca>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 1:04 PM  
To: Clarke, Greg <GregClarke@gov.nl.ca>  
Subject: 90 Military Rd - Colonial Building  
&nbsp;

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Hi Greg,

We have received complaint from the RNC for the Colonial Building. Can you forward this to the appropriate person?

As this is a Provincial Building, I have closed our file.

Thanks

Complaint PrintOut			
File # :	CMP2400645	Type :	301 - General Property Condition
Inspector :		Status :	Open
Setup Date :	2024/04/23	Origin :	Area Resident
Location :	90 MILITARY RD	Priority :	
Tax Map :	00-6105-0-0320-000-4		
Nature Of Complaint :	garbage and debir		
Narrative :	Name: [REDACTED] ANI: anonymous Phone Number: 709-729-8000 Message: There was a tent fire in front of the Colonial building and the fire was put out but there is debris and garbage left over that will need to be cleaned up		
Owner :	COLONIAL BUILDING (PROVINCIAL HISTORIC SITES) ATTN: MALLORY ASHLEY - BUILDING 1170 WHITE HILLS DEPOT PO BOX 8700 ST. JOHN'S NL A1B 4J6		
Complaints - PrintOut		1 / 1	File # : 2024/04/23 01:00:48 PM

Chris Fallon  
Supervisor, Inspection Services  
Planning, Engineering & Regulatory Services  
City of St. John's  
Phone: 709-576-8021  
Email: cfallon@stjohns.ca

**From:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 3:02 PM  
**To:** Burden, Nancy  
**Subject:** FW: Safety of Children

As requested.

John A  
Minister

---

**From:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 2:57 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] Premier of NL <Premier@gov.nl.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Safety of Children

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email and outlining your concerns related to the tent encampment at the Colonial Building site. The Task Force which I chair is actively addressing the housing issues facing homeless persons at the tent encampment along with the future of the tent encampment itself, recognizing that the status quo is not tenable. That being said, I am not in a position at present to provide any further details.

John Abbott  
Minister

John A  
Minister

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 4:30 PM  
**To:** Premier of NL <[Premier@gov.nl.ca](mailto:Premier@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Safety of Children

Premier Furey,

I am writing to express my absolute horror that the Tent City encampment is still being permitted to exist. Its immediate proximity to Bannerman Park and Bishop Feild School is actively putting our children at risk of danger every single day.

I wrote to you about this on March 22, and was told that my email was forward to Honourable Hutton for his attention. Regrettably, I missed a call from Mr. Hutton on Friday evening, and have yet to hear anything else.

I was told a first-hand account of violence that occurred at the encampment over the weekend, that was witness by a large group of children.

Premier Furey, this is outrageous.  
Why is nothing being done to address this crisis situation? Are you hearing our concerns?

Children's safety should be paramount, and it is being completely neglected by our government.  
I would appreciate your response.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Fri, Mar 22, 2024 at 9:49 AM

Subject: Safety of Children  
To: <[premier@gov.nl.ca](mailto:premier@gov.nl.ca)>  
Cc: <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>

Good day Premier Furey,

My name is [REDACTED] and my son is a Kindergarten student at Bishop Feild School.

I'm writing to you today with regard to the Tent City Encampment behind the Colonial Building.

I had been under the impression that individuals were no longer residing there, and that clean up was still underway in the area. It has been brought to my attention, however, that this is very much not the case.

I was told by an employee of NL Health Services that Tent City is inhabited by a growing number of individuals and that drug and alcohol use is rampant at the site. I was told it has become a hub for substance abuse, as residents of nearby shelters are coming to Tent City throughout the day to purchase and barter for drugs.

I was assured that I did, in fact, have good reason to be concerned with our students' safety at Bannerman Park. I was told that the children's exposure to drug paraphernalia, as well as their proximity to volatile, impaired individuals, are dangers that are very real at this time.

In recent weeks, I have witnessed distressful interactions and behaviours from its residents as I bring my son to and from school, and I no longer feel comfortable walking alone in the area.

I contacted the school administration to ensure their awareness of the matter. I was told that they are in communication with the appropriate authorities to ensure the safety of students.

You may not know that the outside area at Bishop Feild School leaves much to be desired. The playground equipment is quite dated, and the field on which the children can run and play is muddy and grassless. In the winter months, it becomes an ice field, which has led to a number of concussions amongst the students.

The staff has always touted that Bannerman Park is the school's playground. It is used freely, as classes visit the park on fine weather days.

At this time, I would like to ask you; how is the Tent City Encampment being permitted to exist in such close proximity to a primary/elementary school and children's playground? The city's most central, historic, and prominent park, for that matter.

Is there a plan to remove the encampment from the area? What is the time frame for the rehousing of individuals there?

I am deeply concerned, and feel that the safety of children is being completely overlooked by our government. I'm appalled that the encampment has been permitted to exist to date, and cannot understand why the inhabitants at the site have not been forced to leave. Given the known drug use and other illegal activities that have been witnessed, it sounds like our government is prioritizing political reputation rather than the safety of our children.

Just this past week, I was also made aware that a building that overlooks the school's playground is, in fact, transitional housing for newly released inmates from Her Majesty's Penitentiary. This exacerbates my concerns of illegal activity in the area.

Honourable Furey. Are convicted sex offenders and other dangerous offenders residing in the building at the entrance of our school's parking lot, with the primary view from their windows being that of the school's playground?

I'm horrified at this thought and wonder, once again, how can such a building exist in immediate proximity to a school?

Honourable Furey, I heard you speak of your own children during your speech at the annual Church Lad's Brigade fundraiser. I ask you, as a father, would you want your own children attending Bishop Feild School at this time?

All redactions on this page are under s.40(1), unless otherwise noted

I have shown my son various pictures of needles, and have urged him to never pick up any garbage whatsoever at Bannerman Park.

I worry about the unhinged individuals in the area, and the risks our children are being exposed to every day.

My son won't be staying at Bishop Feild school if actions are not taken by our government to address the Tent City Encampment and the dangers it poses.

I would appreciate your reply.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

**From:** Burden, Nancy  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 3:04 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Subject:** RE: Bannerman Park

Thanks for both! I've sent over the PO for their files, and copied to Minister Hutton's office.

Nancy

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 3:03 PM  
**To:** Burden, Nancy <burdenn@gov.nl.ca>  
**Subject:** FW: Bannerman Park

AS requested.

John A  
Minister

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 2:31 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Premier of NL <Premier@gov.nl.ca>; Burden, Nancy <burdenn@gov.nl.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Bannerman Park

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email and outlining your concerns related to the tent encampment at the Colonial Building site The Task Force which I chair is actively addressing the housing issues facing homeless persons at the tent encampment along with the future of the tent encampment itself, recognizing that the status quo is not tenable.

That being said, I am not in a position at present to provide any further details.

John Abbott  
Minister

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 22, 2024 11:06 AM  
**To:** Premier of NL <Premier@gov.nl.ca>  
**Subject:** Bannerman Park

Hello Premier Furey,

Can you please tell me what steps are being taken to make Bannerman Park safe for myself and others again? ( Particularly children. ) Currently, the conditions in the park are unsafe due to the residents of tent city and the behaviours they are exhibiting.

Alcohol, drugs and severe acts of violence have become commonplace and our beautiful downtown green space is no longer an option for people who long to feel safe where they choose to spend their time.

Might I suggest moving the residents across the street to the lawn at Government House?

This seems to make more sense as it does not have amenities that specifically cater to and attract families.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing back from you with the details of your solution to what has become a serious and dangerous problem.

[REDACTED]

**From:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 28, 2024 4:17 PM  
**To:** David Banfield  
**Cc:** Hutton, Fred; Doug Pawson; S Pollett; Jen Crowe  
**Subject:** Re: Follow Up from Meeting  
**Attachments:** image001.png; image002.png; Choices for Youth - Addressing Growing Housing and Homelessness Issues in NL (April 2024).pdf

David

Thank you for your email as a follow up to our call on Friday. Will review your enclosed document and have our Task Force follow up in due course.

John G. Abbott

Minister and MHA

St. John's East-Quidi Vidi District

Email: [JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)

Office Phone: (709) 729-3678

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 26, 2024, at 3:15 PM, David Banfield <[dbanfield@choicesforyouth.ca](mailto:dbanfield@choicesforyouth.ca)> wrote:

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Minister Hutton & Minister Abbott,

Wanted to thank you for meeting with the CAB today to share your thoughts on the next steps with not only dealing with the encampment, but also the homelessness issue at large. We look forward to being part of the next steps in addressing the concerns we are seeing in our communities. We understand that everyone's schedule is busy, and time was limited today, so we wanted to follow up with a more detailed summary of our thoughts on the housing and homelessness issue. Some of this information has been previously shared concerning ideas on short, medium and long term actions we can take together. We also wanted to include some suggestions for immediate actions we feel can be taken to address the more acute issue of the encampment at Bannerman Park as well as some current data on the demand we are seeing for our programs. While we feel that the encampment is only one part of the broader issue, we also agree that the current situation at Bannerman Park is untenable and unsafe. I should note that some of the suggestions and questions we have in the document were addressed during the meeting, but we still felt it important to follow up with the full document.

If you have any questions, please feel to reach out and we would be happy to discuss in more detail.

David Banfield

Community Advisory Board Member

**David Banfield, MEd**

Pronouns: He/Him

Senior Director, Programs and Human Resources

**C: 709-699-2840**

[www.choicesforyouth.ca](http://www.choicesforyouth.ca)





## Addressing Growing Housing & Homelessness Issues in NL

Choices for Youth (CFY) is committed to working with government, community agencies and those connected with the current encampment located at Colonial Building to find a solution to the concerns of both the residents of the encampment and the public. CFY has committed significant resources to not only offering housing solutions to young people and families, but also to researching effective public policy alternatives on the topic, with the goal of offering evidence-based best practices for addressing the needs of those experiencing housing instability and homelessness in Newfoundland and Labrador (NL). **CFY agrees that the current encampment is not a sustainable long-term housing solution, and that there needs to be an immediate focus on developing sustainable, supportive, and affordable housing options to facilitate the process of supporting the transition of residences of the encampment to other housing options where their needs can be met. This must be coupled with systemic change that moves the dial on homelessness in our city and province more broadly.**

### Meaningful Commitment to Alternatives & Solutions

#### Immediate Actions

CFY strongly believes that the following commitments and actions should be taken by government and community partners:

- Meaningful implementation of Shelter Standards for both for-profit and non-profit shelter spaces.
- Substantial increases to funding for wrap-around supports for supportive and transitional housing to complement multi-level government commitments to building more affordable housing.
- The 106 Airport Rd Facility to be operational as quickly as possible and clarify that it is an alternative for individuals from the current encampment along with others experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity as a supportive transitional housing option.
- When available, transparently share the process and housing assessment criteria on how decisions will be made for placements of potential residents at the 106 Airport Rd Facility
- Where possible, opening a dialogue with residents and those supporting them at the encampment, to seek input on current and future responses to housing issues.

#### Short, Medium, & Long-Term Actions

Short, medium, and long-term solutions will be required as per previous dialogue with government and community, and a commitment to continue this work (with targets and

timelines) must be made. The following recommendations emerged from provincial research and engagement with community agencies and individuals with lived experience as part of the “Pull Together” report, published by CFY, Municipalities NL and Hope Jamieson (2024):

- **Improve and transform current housing benefits.**
  - **Short Term** - Increase maximum allocations of Income Support shelter allowance and NLHC rental supplements to reflect current market conditions.
  - **Medium Term** – Explore the streamlining of rental supplements (currently, there are at least three streams through Income Support, NLHC, and NLHS), and the implementation of a single Housing Benefit (similar to that which has effectively eliminated homelessness in Finland)
- **Invest in mental health and wrap-around supports to support housing finding and stability.**
  - **Short/Medium Term** – Increase existing funding allocations for wrap-around supports through community agencies and offer new operating funding agreements for non-profit housing providers to be able to increase their capacity to meet the increased volume and level of acuity of their clients.
- **Renovate, repair, and/or redistribute NLHC housing stock.**
  - **Long Term - Implement** a large-scale retrofit program to restore to appropriate conditions; consider opportunities to increase the density and energy efficiency of these units.
  - **Long Term** - Where the above is not possible or desirable due to low demand for the unit type or cost of renovation outweighing the cost of new construction, create a transparent process to dispose of units and reinvest all revenues in the construction of new social housing units more appropriate for current and future needs.
- **Improve current municipal legislation to support municipalities in addressing housing insecurity.**
  - **Short Term** - Allow expanded powers for municipalities to replace tax sales of properties with options to sell properties for a nominal fee to community organizations for repurposing or redevelopment. Include non-profit housing in the list of tax-exempt properties under municipal legislation.
  - **Short Term** - Amend the urban and rural planning act and/or municipal legislation to allow for density housing.
  - **Short Term** - Amend the urban and rural planning act to allow inclusionary zoning, requiring a percentage of all new multi-unit construction to be affordable rental housing or an equivalent payment be made to the municipality at their discretion for affordable housing projects. Consider the feasibility of permitting laneway housing.
- **Invest in an inventory of lands to facilitate affordable housing development.**
  - **Medium Term** - Create an inventory of underutilized provincially-owned land and buildings, and develop a transparent framework for offering these properties for redevelopment, prioritizing volume of units and affordability in the evaluation matrix.

- **Long Term** - Create unified inventory and application process for the development of surplus provincial and municipal land for community housing with clear and transparent criteria and application process for interested non-profit and developers.
- **Set targets for the development of community-based housing** to reach CMHC target of 60,000 new units by the end of 2030.

## Current CFY Data on the Issue

CFY currently offers roughly 100 beds to youth and families experiencing homelessness in a variety of settings along the housing continuum. CFY also offers three specific programs that address what the government has identified as a gap in their housing options, supportive transitional housing. These three programs are Soft Landings, RallyForward and The Lilly which all work with youth and families to find suitable supportive housing options. In addition to these programs, our Momma Moments program supports 19 families in CFY-owned and operated housing sites. This program also supports up to 80 additional young families in a range of private housing arrangements.

Unfortunately, the demand for these programs far exceeds the availability of housing units and staffing levels that we have available. While CFY would be interested in expanding our options and have taken steps to acquire land and funds to build new locations, we cannot do so without the appropriate levels of funding for the staffing levels to support these youth and families as they move towards independent living.

Our current waitlists, which indicates referrals we have received from government agencies and community partners, are:

**Soft Landing** – Rapid Rehousing in CFY and partner (private/City/NLHC) owned units (low to high acuity)

- **358 youth have applied for CFY housing (2020 to present) programs but have not been housed** (*please note that some youth may have found other housing options outside of CFY*).
- **113 youth have been added to the waitlist in the past 12 months** who have not been housed.
- **Those that have not requested or have not been matched to specific programs, as outlined below, remain on a waitlist for the Soft Landings program.**

**The Lilly** –Transitional Supportive Housing (moderate acuity)

- Of the 113 youth, **17 are currently waiting for admission to The Lilly.**



**RallyForward** – Transitional supportive housing (intensive case management model, high acuity)

- Of the 113 youth, **25 are currently waiting for admission to the RallyForward program.**

**Momma Moments** – Transitional Supportive Housing (low to high acuity)

- **2 families currently waiting for housing in the Momma Moments housing options** (*please note that these stats are not included in the overall wait list for housing.*)

CFY looks forward to working with government, community organizations as well as the residents of the encampment to create better options for all those involved.

**From:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 1, 2024 10:30 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: A Quick Thank You

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. Your comments are duly noted. Continued best wishes!

John G. Abbott  
Minister and MHA  
St. John's East-Quidi Vidi District  
Email: JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca  
Office Phone: (709) 729-3678  
Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 30, 2024, at 9:17 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Good Evening Ministers Abbott and Hutton,

I am writing to express my appreciation for your recent efforts around the tent encampment at Bannerman Park/The Colonial Building.

While I am sympathetic to the complexity of difficulties faced by the people camped out here, it is clear that this can't be allowed to become a permanent situation.

The majority of people I've spoken to about this (most of whom live, work, and have children at school in the general vicinity of the park and use it regularly - downtown, Georgestown) feel similarly.

This isn't the first time I've reached out to you Minister Abbott, and I want to say that, again, I appreciate your willingness to make yourself heard about matters of direct importance to your constituency. Minister Hutton, I am similarly appreciative of your attention to this important matter. Thank you both for your clarity and action here.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 1, 2024 3:49 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Tent city must go NOW

Hi [REDACTED]  
Thank you for your email. Your comments are duly noted. Continued best wishes!  
John G. Abbott  
Minister and MHA  
St. John's East-Quidi Vidi District  
Email: JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca  
Office Phone: (709) 729-3678  
Sent from my iPhone

On May 1, 2024, at 3:25 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I was pleased to hear that the provincial government is making plans to end the tent city at Colonial Building. Please don't take too much time with the decision for the sake of the building and Bannerman Park. These downtown landmarks fall within your constituency and are in danger of being destroyed if the tent city residents and their enablers remain. The park is very important to the citizens of the downtown/city centre especially in warmer weather. On a given weekend afternoon you will see birthday parties, weddings, softball games, children at the playground, splash pad, bike loop or swimming pool. Young families, many of them new Canadians, gather for picnics. It was wonderful to witness the revival of the park. For many inner city children this is the only opportunity to practice their swimming skills. And for downtown residents with small or no backyard it is a place to enjoy a sunny day. It seems that the concerns of actual citizens and business owners in the area are being ignored in the rush to defend the encampment. The dismantling of the tents would be a start in giving us back some sense of safety and security. The decline of our neighborhood began when the provincial government decided to make the Gathering Place the epicenter of the poverty industry in this city. Two Progressive Conservative premieres padded their pensions with positions there. Our local Member of Parliament created an empire. It will only get worse for us as more shelter beds are added. The city does nothing as panhandlers take over the area. Have you seen their Safer City committee report? It is dominated by poverty industry employees who need vulnerable people to keep their jobs. The City Centre MHA cares more about the tent city encampment than the concerns of his own constituents. So the provincial government can throw us a bone and take away the tents and ensure they don't return. And what about the Colonial Building? The Tourism and Culture department did a great job restoring the building to its past glory. I have heard the encampment dwellers have already damaged a door and the lawn is filthy. What tourist will go near that building if the tents are there? I fear for the safety of any staff that are forced to work there. I wish you and Minister Hutton the best of luck in this most difficult and controversial tasks.

Thank you for your time and apologies for the lengthy email.

[REDACTED]

**From:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 1, 2024 3:50 PM  
**To:** O'Neill, Melony  
**Subject:** Re: Removing items for tent city

Fine with me.  
John G. Abbott  
Minister and MHA  
St. John's East-Quidi Vidi District  
Email: JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca  
Office Phone: (709) 729-3678  
Sent from my iPhone

On May 1, 2024, at 3:48 PM, O'Neill, Melony <MelonyOneill@gov.nl.ca> wrote:

Hi Minister,

Are you okay with the following in response?

The contractor removing abandoned tents at the Colonial Building site was hired by the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Only tents that have been deemed abandoned are being removed. There is no indication that any of these abandoned dwellings contain personal belongings.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** HEATHER GILLIS <heather.gillis@cbc.ca>  
**Date:** May 1, 2024 at 3:40:58 PM NDT  
**To:** "St. Croix, Gayle" <GayleStCroix@gov.nl.ca>, "O'Neill, Melony" <MelonyOneill@gov.nl.ca>, "Rehma, Khadija" <KhadijaRehma@gov.nl.ca>  
**Subject:** Removing items for tent city

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi there  
I know it's late in the day and not sure which person to direct this question to...  
Who is responsible for the U-Haul that is removing items from tent city? Is that TI? What is the process to decide which items are taken and when? Possible to get a response for tonight's news? I know it's a stretch.  
Heather

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 1, 2024 5:30 PM  
**To:** Furey, Andrew; Hutton, Fred; Hogan, John; Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Subject:** URGENT ACTION NEEDED FOR TENT CITY

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

I am writing as a concerned citizen to call for immediate government action to prevent the forcible removal of Tent City Resident Protestors and to call for swift action to provide safe and appropriate housing for unhoused members of the community.

Tent City Residents and local volunteers have expressed continuous health & safety concerns regarding the state of available emergency housing. Residents of Tent City who have availed of housing offers and been placed in shelters have expressed concerns about living conditions within the shelters. There have been reports of low food quality, safety threats from roommates, minimal privacy, unhygienic living standards (including mold & open drug use), etc.

Tent City has become a safer option to live for many. Despite this, government continues to ignore issues raised by the very people these services are intended to support.

Tent City recently shared a resident protestor's experience and they had this to say: 'NL Housing and End Homelessness offered me a shelter spot in a hotel room with my own bedroom and bathroom to shower in. Instead, they sent me to a slum shelter in an area I didn't know sharing a room with 3 other men with curtains to divide the room, 8 people sharing 1 bathroom, and no phone to call anyone to let them know. I slept on a boxspring with no mattress or bedding. They provide one meal a day and here's what they fed me for that supper - that's cheerios and two pieces of dry bread. After one night in the shelter, I am back at Tent City because it's better here.'

That is only one of the many stories that Tent City resident protestors have from their experiences in local shelters. It reflects extremely poorly on the current government that unhoused city residents feel safer and more comfortable living in a tent rather than accessing the housing supports that government is meant to deliver using the residents of Newfoundland & Labrador tax dollars.

It is inhumane for government & police to facilitate the forcible removal of Tent City residents who have nowhere else to live without supplying a suitable alternative. I demand government to cease this act of state-sanctioned violence and take appropriate actions to offer safe and affordable housing for all.

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

All redactions on this page are under s.40(1), unless otherwise noted

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 1, 2024 9:15 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Subject:** leave tent city alone

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Abbott,

I understand that government officials have been escalating the situation at the tent encampment at the Colonial Building.

I am a constituent of St. John's East - Quidi Vidi, and a regular user of Bannerman Park. I have never been bothered by the tent city residents, and given that the park seems as busy as ever, I don't think most park users are bothered either.

If people believe their best available housing option is to sleep in a tent in the park, why can't you just leave them alone? Haven't they endured enough?

[REDACTED]

**From:** Hutton, Fred  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2024 5:38 AM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Cc:** George, Bradley  
**Subject:** Re: Housing - Tent Encampment

Thanks, John. I will follow up.

Fred

**Fred Hutton MHA**  
**Conception Bay East-Bell Island**  
**Housing Minister**

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

**Confederation Building**

P.O. Box 8700  
St. John's, NL  
A1B 4J6  
(709)-729-6033  
[fredhutton@gov.nl.ca](mailto:fredhutton@gov.nl.ca)

On May 1, 2024, at 10:38 AM, Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca> wrote:

Minister Hutton/Fred

I am forwarding an email from Mr. Lane offering assistance to the homelessness issue facing the province. I will leave it to you to follow up as appropriate. Thank you.

John G. Abbott  
Minister and MHA  
St. John's East-Quidi Vidi District  
Email: JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca  
Office Phone: (709) 729-3678  
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Andrew Lane <andrew@kingswayliving.ca>  
**Date:** April 30, 2024 at 10:19:38 PM NDT  
**To:** "Abbott, John (MHA)" <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>  
**Subject:** Housing - Tent Encampment

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Minister Abbott,

I've been reading the initiatives taken to move the tent encampments out of the city. I understand the challenges faced when asking these citizens to leave the downtown core for the new accommodations in East End by the Airport.

We have a vacant building that can be quickly modified to support the needs of Government that is ideally located for these residents.

Please let me know if we can support in anyway.

Kind regards,  
Andrew Lane

Sent from my iPhone

--

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All redactions on this page are under s.40(1), unless otherwise noted

**From:** Hutton, Fred  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2024 5:57 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Subject:** Re: A Quick Thank You

Good morning [REDACTED]

Thanks for reaching out. Our teams from both departments are working hard on a daily basis to find solutions to these complex problems. There are many people working behind the scenes to provide safer housing options.

Take care,  
Fred

Fred Hutton MHA

## Conception Bay East-Bell Island Housing Minister

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

### Confederation Building

P.O. Box 8700

St. John's, NL

A1B 4J6

(709)-729-6033

[fredhutton@gov.nl.ca](mailto:fredhutton@gov.nl.ca)

On Apr 30, 2024, at 9:17 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Good Evening Ministers Abbott and Hutton,

I am writing to express my appreciation for your recent efforts around the tent encampment at Bannerman Park/The Colonial Building.

While I am sympathetic to the complexity of difficulties faced by the people camped out here, it is clear that this can't be allowed to become a permanent situation.

The majority of people I've spoken to about this (most of whom live, work, and have children at school in the general vicinity of the park and use it regularly - downtown, Georgestown) feel similarly.

This isn't the first time I've reached out to you Minister Abbott, and I want to say that, again, I appreciate your willingness to make yourself heard about matters of direct importance to your constituency. Minister Hutton, I am similarly appreciative of your attention to this important matter. Thank you both for your clarity and action here.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.

All redactions on this page are under s.40(1), unless otherwise noted

**From:** Andrew Lane <andrew@kingswayliving.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2024 11:24 AM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Subject:** Re: Housing - Tent Encampment

Thank you kindly Minister Abbott. I received an email from Minister Hutton this morning and we hope to connect soon for a call.

Trust you have a wonderful week.

Andrew

> On May 1, 2024, at 10:34 AM, Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca> wrote:

>

> Hi Andrew

> Thank you for your email. I will forward your offer of assistance to my colleague Hon Fred Hutton for his consideration. Continued best wishes!

> John G. Abbott

> Minister and MHA

> St. John's East-Quidi Vidi District

> Email: JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca

> Office Phone: (709) 729-3678

> Sent from my iPhone

>

>> On Apr 30, 2024, at 10:19 PM, Andrew Lane <andrew@kingswayliving.ca> wrote:

>>

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>>

>>

>> Minister Abbott,

>>

>> I've been reading the initiatives taken to move the tent encampments out of the city. I understand the challenges faced when asking these citizens to leave the downtown core for the new accommodations in East End by the Airport.

>>

>> We have a vacant building that can be quickly modified to support the needs of Government that is ideally located for these residents.

>>

>> Please let me know if we can support in anyway.

>>

>> Kind regards,

>> Andrew Lane

>>

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone

>> --

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>> 303 Thorburn Road, Suite 204, St. John's, NL, A1B 4R1  
>> www.kingswayliving.ca <<http://kingswayliving.ca>>\_

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>

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**From:** Browne, Maria  
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2024 8:35 AM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Cc:** George, Bradley; O'Neill, Melony  
**Subject:** RE: Signs at Colonial Building

Thanks, Minister. Noted!

---

**From:** Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2024 4:48 PM  
**To:** Browne, Maria <mbrowne@gov.nl.ca>  
**Cc:** George, Bradley <bradleygeorge@gov.nl.ca>; O'Neill, Melony <MelonyOneill@gov.nl.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Signs at Colonial Building

Based on the media inquiry, I believe Housing is best to respond.

John A  
Minister

---

**From:** Browne, Maria <[mbrowne@gov.nl.ca](mailto:mbrowne@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2024 11:20 AM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Cc:** George, Bradley <[bradleygeorge@gov.nl.ca](mailto:bradleygeorge@gov.nl.ca)>; O'Neill, Melony <[MelonyOneill@gov.nl.ca](mailto:MelonyOneill@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: Signs at Colonial Building

Hi Minister:

Can we discuss the below when you have a moment?

Thanks!

Maria

---

**From:** Justin Brake <[justin.brake@theindependent.ca](mailto:justin.brake@theindependent.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2024 11:18 AM  
**To:** Browne, Maria <[mbrowne@gov.nl.ca](mailto:mbrowne@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Cc:** O'Neill, Melony <[MelonyOneill@gov.nl.ca](mailto:MelonyOneill@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Signs at Colonial Building

Hi Maria,

Thanks for sharing this with me. I'm preparing to publish a story today and just need clarification on a couple of things:

1. A statement shared with the Canadian Press a couple of weeks ago said GovNL agrees with federal housing legislation and international law, both of which recognize adequate housing as a human right. How did the department determine whether "adequate housing" is available for anyone who may be evicted from the encampment?
2. What is the status today of the transitional housing facility on Airport Road? How many people are staying there and what is the current capacity?

Thank you,  
Justin

Justin Brake | he/him

Editor-in-Chief  
[The Independent](#)



On Tue, Apr 30, 2024 at 3:57 PM Browne, Maria <[mbrowne@gov.nl.ca](mailto:mbrowne@gov.nl.ca)> wrote:

Hi Justin,

Thanks for your email.

Minister Abbott and Minister Hutton did a scrum after the HoA earlier today. I am attaching the recording above.

Let me know if you require further information.

Best,

Maria

Maria Browne  
**Media Relations Manager**  
Transportation and Infrastructure (TI)

**From:** Justin Brake <[justin.brake@theindependent.ca](mailto:justin.brake@theindependent.ca)>  
**Date:** April 30, 2024 at 3:44:03 PM NDT  
**To:** "O'Neill, Melony" <[MelonyOneill@gov.nl.ca](mailto:MelonyOneill@gov.nl.ca)>  
**Subject:** Signs at Colonial Building

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Melony,

Can the department please provide a statement about the signs that were posted at Colonial Building indicating that "unauthorized structures or property will be removed" by the department?

Also, I'd appreciate a comment from Minister Abbott about how the department reconciles its decision to post these signs in light of the Federal Housing Advocate's recent calls to action stating provincial governments should, among other things, "prohibit forced evictions of encampments on public lands."

Thank you,  
Justin

Justin Brake | he/him  
Editor-in-Chief  
[The Independent](#)



**From:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2024 9:22 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Tent City

Thank you for your email and comments.  
Best wishes!

JOHN G. ABBOTT, M.H.A.  
District of St. John's East-Qudi-Vidi  
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
Phone: (709) 729-3678  
Email: johnabbott@gov.nl.ca

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2024 11:25 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA) <JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca>  
**Subject:** Tent City

**CAUTION :** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Abbott,

I am writing you about Tent City in St. John's. I know a lot of people are publicly throwing support behind tent city. However there are many, many people who are afraid to speak out against Tent City because they are scared of things like public shaming and retaliation. There are many people who want Tent City moved. A lot of the people supporting it are not daily Bannerman Park users. Of the people who do use the park, there is a big difference between an adult walking through for twenty minutes and a parent like myself who is there daily for hours after school watching what's going on.

My child attends an elementary school across the street from Bannerman Park. The school playground is very small and in a horrible state of disrepair. Right now it is a mud-pit devoid of grass. The drainage on the school field is very very poor, so it is frequently too muddy to play on or too icy to play on. The playground is also too small to meet the needs of all students. This is not a "St. John's weather issue" because other schools in the city are not in the horrendous state that this school is. The students rely on Bannerman Park every day for an alternate place to play. The teachers had to stop taking the children to the park because it's not safe. (The school grounds are a separate issue and I urge the government to visit the school and pledge some money to renovate the playground and improve the drainage situation.)

My family used to go to Bannerman Park daily before and after school and on weekends, but it has become very unsafe.

- I have personally witnessed on several occasions Tent City residents who are drunk and/or high on drugs on the playground equipment, drinking openly and doing drugs within just a few feet of children. I told the city hired security guards and they said they were told by their boss that they aren't allowed to do anything.
- There are violent and vulgar words being screamed almost daily.
- Children are afraid to use the bathroom because there is often someone in there high as a kite. There have also been needles, blood and human feces, etc. found in the bathrooms. The bathrooms also reek of cigarette smoke.
- There have been bloody and violent fights in front of children.
- There have been at least two fights among Tent City residents involving axes.
- I have witness vandalism within feet of the city-hired security guards who sit in their car watching TV and napping.
- Needles, other drug related items, cigarettes and discarded alcohol containers are found around the park more frequently.
- I have witnessed open fires and charcoal BBQS within inches of propane tanks. I don't think the propane tanks should be

allowed. If one of the propane tanks blows up, the explosion can seriously hurt or kill people.

- There is an increase in garbage blowing from Tent City into the park.
- People have reported their cars are not safe.

Bannerman Park is needed for the mental, emotional and physical health of thousands of people in the neighbourhood. Many people in downtown St. John's, including children, don't have backyards. They need Bannerman Park to make up for not having their own greenspace at home. There are hundreds (thousands?) of people suffering because we no longer feel safe to use Bannerman Park. Our mental and emotional health is suffering greatly.

Tent City needs to be moved away from children, seniors and any other vulnerable populations. It needs to leave Colonial Building Grounds. It is affecting the people who also rely on Bannerman Park for their physical, emotional, and mental health. The actions of a dozen or so people of Tent City are damaging the mental health of hundreds, maybe thousands of other people who live nearby and need that park safe.

To be clear, I have great compassion for the residents of Tent City. If you knew the story of my family and friends, you would know I can relate to them and I am not judging them. No one chooses to be an addict or to have mental health challenges or to be homeless, but there is no place for such an encampment next to a public park.

Many of the people of Tent City were once young children who witnessed violence and abuse and witnessed adults with additions and mental health challenges. Unfortunately, the actions of some the Tent City residents are now traumatizing a new generation of children. No child should have to witness bloody violent fights and drug use at their neighbourhood park. No child should fear going to their neighbourhood park because an adult who is high on drunks says vulgar things to them.

If you wish to share my email and concerns you may do so, but please do not share my name or email address. I wish to remain anonymous because people who speak out against Tent City are being harassed and shamed.

Please, please do not back down on getting Tent City out of downtown.

Thank you.

All redactions on this page are under s.40(1), unless otherwise noted

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2024 1:35 PM  
**To:** Furey, Andrew; Hutton, Fred; Abbott, John (MHA); Hogan, John  
**Subject:** Regarding Tent City

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Ministers Abbott, Hutton and Hogan and Premier Furey,

I am extremely disappointed and disheartened with how the province has responded to the Tent City encampment at the Colonial Building in St. John's.

Canada's Federal Housing Advocate Marie-Josée Houle recently said "All governments have an obligation to respect and protect the human rights and dignity of encampment resident. What that looks like in practice is putting in place alternatives to evictions that are designed following meaningful engagement with encampment residents. The ultimate goal must be to offer people permanent, adequate housing options as quickly as possible."

That certainly doesn't seem to be what has taken place this week at Tent City. I can't help but think that the province is taking such an aggressive approach at this time in order to "clean up" downtown St. John's in time for tourist season. I fear our government is more concerned with tourists enjoying a pleasant vacation than with the plight of our citizens.

Residents of Tent City have been encouraged to avail of other options. However, shelters and transitional housing in the St. John's area are overcrowded and, at times, simply unsafe; poor quality food, threats of violence, lack of privacy and generally unhygienic living standards have all been identified as issues. To destroy and confiscate Tent City residents' belongings at all, but especially without providing a satisfactory alternative, is inhumane.

The provincial government has publicly agreed with federal housing legislation and international law, and therefore publicly acknowledged that housing is a human right. I very much hope to see a human-rights approach applied to the housing and homelessness crisis in Newfoundland and Labrador going forward.

To that point, I join Marie-Josée Houle in asking that you immediately end forced evictions of encampments. Such evictions are a violation of human rights, as contained in section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the right to adequate housing under international law.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

All redactions on this page are under s.40(1), unless otherwise noted

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2024 1:53 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Subject:** Disappointed in Govt Response

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

I am writing to you today to show my utter disgust at the way the City of St. John's and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has handled the Tent City 4 Change protests happening at the Colonial Building.

At a time when our society's most vulnerable need safety, protection and sustainable housing, the City and Government officials have shown complete disregard and disrespect of human rights and dignity through the police-backed destruction of the Tent City 4 Change protest. It is evident that the destruction taking place today by officials and police is for the sole benefit of the officials, at the expense of the vulnerable peoples living in Tent City and the advocates supporting them.

Today, May 3rd, the City and Government of NL has tried to make the housing crisis invisible. They are trying to silence the people they have promised to protect through their political positions. People are choosing to sleep in a tent in the middle of the city because the housing options proposed to them by City and Government officials are beyond deplorable, unhygienic and unsafe.

I will be taking the actions of those involved today and politicians responses' into consideration when I next go to the polls. No longer will I vote for anyone that supports this kind of maltreatment of society's vulnerable.

It is a sad day to be a Newfoundlander.

Signed,  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2024 2:16 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA)

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

I am writing to you today to show my utter disgust at the way the City of St. John's and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has handled the Tent City 4 Change protests happening at the Colonial Building.

At a time when our society's most vulnerable need safety, protection and sustainable housing, the City and Government officials have shown complete disregard and disrespect of human rights and dignity through the police-backed destruction of the Tent City 4 Change protest. It is evident that the destruction taking place today by officials and police is for the sole benefit of the officials, at the expense of the vulnerable peoples living in Tent City and the advocates supporting them.

Today, May 3rd, the City and Government of NL has tried to make the housing crisis invisible. They are trying to silence the people they have promised to protect through their political positions. People are choosing to sleep in a tent in the middle of the city because the housing options proposed to them by City and Government officials are beyond deplorable, unhygienic and unsafe.

I will be taking the actions of those involved today and politicians responses' into consideration when I next go to the polls. No longer will I vote for anyone that supports this kind of maltreatment of society's vulnerable. It is a sad day to be a Newfoundlander.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2024 3:49 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Subject:** Re: Dismantling of tent city

Hello again Minister Abbott,

I appreciate your prompt response and your explanation of why tents are being removed.

Some of my concerns are alleviated if folks were offered and accepted adequate housing options and that the intention is that this continues. I remain very concerned about the approach taken. I have doubts that the offers of housing have been made in good faith and with transparency since the approach has included "securing" the area and having unidentified workers arrive wearing balaclavas. I'm concerned that residents of tent city did not have access to support people and that concerned citizens are being kept out of the area, not allowing for any community accountability around the process, the RNC presence and the masked workers. Can you clarify what you mean by "interference" and who was allowed to be present while these offers of housing were being made? My concern would be that this process hasn't actually allowed residents of tent city to properly consider options, including the option of refusing housing options that don't fully meet their needs. Have you given thought to how this approach is intimidating and that this approach could actually make residents feel that they only have one option: acceptance of the housing offered or risk removal of their possessions, tent and disbanding of their current community support network?

If this approach has been taken without community consultation and with an unnecessary urgency, my concern is that it will simply make homelessness less visible and not actually alleviate the underlying causes. It's never ideal to have folks living in tents in a public park but it is preferable to having folks forced into even less secure and violent living situations. I know that your government's goal was to have everyone housed by December 24th but the fact that folks have continued to choose tent city over the shelter system and other options offered over the past months should give us all much pause. These choices indicate to us all that there are still major aspects of the affordability crisis that need to be addressed, including properly fostering community support, food security and integrated mental health and addictions services within safe housing options. I know this is no easy feat and that no government can accomplish this in isolation so please do not alienate the communities you aim to serve and those who support them.

[REDACTED]

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On Fri, May 3, 2024 at 1:03 PM Abbott, John (MHA) <[JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email.

The activity today at the tent encampment was to remove abandoned tents only. Yesterday 9 individuals were offered and accepted accommodations to suit their housing needs. This morning 3 individuals remain who likewise will be offered similar alternatives to tenting. No one was or is being moved against their will. The fencing was installed to secure the site and to allow our staff to have conversations with folks there without interference by others.

I trust this helps alleviate your concerns. Best wishes.

John G. Abbott

Minister and MHA

St. John's East-Quidi Vidi District

Email: [JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca](mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca)

Office Phone: (709) 729-3678

Sent from my iPhone

On May 3, 2024, at 12:42 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Hello Minister Abbott,

I'm a resident of a Georgetown in your district and I've been watching with dismay this morning as tent city at the Colonial Building has been dismantled by unidentified masked workers. I understand that housing is a complex issue across the country right now and that there are no easy answers or solutions. However, forcibly removing tents from an area without providing a safe and reliable alternative for people living there should not be part of any resolution or plan. Folks living at tent city have made it clear over and over that unsafe shelters are not a viable alternative for them and until adequate alternatives are provided, support from volunteers and community at tent city should be allowed to continue. It may make folks uncomfortable to see homelessness front and centre in our community but this is exactly where it should be until adequate housing is provided for all.

I understand that the Comfort Inn has been rented for \$600,000 a month but only a dozen or so rooms have been used out of a total of 140. This is a gross misuse of our tax dollars and a plan that has clearly not panned out for anyone except the owners of the Comfort Inn. Recently there have been roughly 25 residents at tent city. That \$600,000 would have been better used to go towards rent and support for these 25 residents until a more long term solution could be achieved.

This situation is alarming and is counter to the messaging that your government has pushed in its communications around housing. Please provide some explanation for this course of action at tent city today and please engage with your constituents on a less violent and more collaborative approach to providing safe housing for all. Housing is a human right.

I look forward to your reply,

[REDACTED]

Confidentiality Notice: This email correspondence (including any attachments) may contain information which is confidential and/or exempt from disclosure under applicable law, and is intended only for the use of the designated recipient(s) listed above. Any unauthorized use or disclosure is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, or have otherwise received this message by mistake, please notify the sender by replying via email, and destroy all copies of this original correspondence (including any attachments). Thank you for your cooperation.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2024 6:32 PM  
**To:** On The Go (CBC)  
**Cc:** Pardy, Craig; Hutton, Fred; Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Subject:** Homeless camp at Tent City

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi

I am saddened and outraged at the heavy-handed attitude of this Provincial government and City of St John's to evict the residents of Tent City. I listened to your interview with John Abbott who, as usual for politicians, blamed the residents for not listening to him and various levels of government and cited his government's efforts to solve the current concerns of the residents in terms of how much money they have allocated to help solve the issues that homeless citizen's have in St John's.

The residents of Tent City were there because their immediate concerns have not been met and having a safe community to live in, even though it was in tents, was so important for them. The government setting up the ex-hotel accommodation near the airport and is welcome—but it is suitable for a community that mainly exists downtown I do not know?

It took a group of homeless people camping out over winter to make the government even listen. They eventually acted but have they done what was required by the very people most affected?

OK, the encampment was an embarrassment for the city and government but is clearing it away going to clear away the problem? I think not, but the problem is not openly on view so it may seem like it to the public. They have tried to take the power away from disadvantaged people again.

The provincial government has not, as far as I am aware, even agreed that housing is a fundamental human right.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2024 8:28 PM  
**To:** Hutton, Fred; Abbott, John (MHA); Furey, Andrew  
**Subject:** Tent City - More Than a Protest

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Minister Hutton,  
Minister Abbott and Premier Furey,

I'm writing this email filled with shame and anger after witnessing the utter disrespect and dehumanization for the residents of Tent City. While it has been clear for quite some time that our provincial government does not consider housing as a human right, the actions taken this week by you and the City of St. John's are truly unbelievable. First you ignored, you shifted responsibility between the City and the Province, you took away their dignity by not allowing bathrooms facilities, you blamed residents for sharps instead of creating a safe environment for them, and now you're using a propane fire as a reason to remove them from a PUBLIC building. A propane stove that was on site to keep people from FREEZING TO DEATH because electricity wasn't offered from the PUBLIC building. And now, as if you couldn't get any worse, you have people (unidentifiable I assume because of how shameful this act is) to take apart the only community these folks have experienced. Taking away shelter and resources that people have fundraised for them because of your lack of care for their lives. No doubt the timing of this is linked to our tourism season and the arrival of the first cruise ship to St. John's this weekend.

You say you have offered and provided these residents with suitable housing; I would challenge you all to stay one night in the accommodations offered. The NLHC does not have the capacity to help these individuals. You can try to sweep this under the rug, and sweep the grounds of the Colonial Building, but this issue isn't going anywhere. And while you all sit and twiddle your thumbs and talk about how kind and prosperous this province is, the community will be out here doing the work to help these people get through the night. I am ashamed of your actions, I am ashamed of your lack of empathy, I am ashamed of this province and the people who are leading it.

Tuck yourself in bed tonight and count your lucky stars that these were the cards you were dealt.

[REDACTED]

All redactions on this page are under s.40(1), unless otherwise noted

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2024 9:44 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Subject:** Homelessness / Tent Encampment

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Minister Abbot,

Just writing to express my displeasure with how the tent encampment and homelessness issue is being handled.

I am far less than impressed with our government's progress on this issue and specifically what transpire in recent days to essentially evict these "encampment residents".

There is little visibility on how the hotel near the airport is being utilized, however, it does seem that our tax dollars are funding it.

Please do better.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 4, 2024 5:17 PM  
**To:** Abbott, John (MHA)  
**Subject:** Urgent Concern Regarding Colonial Building Bannerman Park Tent Encampment

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Abbott,

As a constituent who values social justice and equity, I write to you with grave concern regarding the recent removal of the Tent City for Change encampment in Bannerman Park.

The presence of a tent encampment in such a historically significant and public space is a glaring indication of the systemic failures in our social support systems and a profound disregard for the dignity and well-being of those experiencing homelessness in our community.

I am deeply disappointed by the lack of proactive response from local authorities in addressing this pressing issue. It is the duty of elected officials to ensure the safety and welfare of all residents, irrespective of their socio-economic status. However, the dismantling of the encampment without providing adequate alternatives demonstrates a disregard for the most vulnerable members of our community.

The removal of the encampment reflects a callous and indifferent attitude towards those who rely on it for shelter. Such actions only exacerbate the challenges faced by individuals experiencing homelessness and perpetuate cycles of marginalization and despair.

I urge you, as a representative entrusted with the welfare of our community, to take immediate and decisive action to rectify the situation at Colonial Building Bannerman Park. This necessitates collaboration across governmental tiers and meaningful engagement with community organizations and advocacy groups.

In conclusion, I expect you to prioritize the inherent dignity and rights of every individual in our community. Anything less is unacceptable.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I await your prompt response and concrete steps to address this critical issue.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]