

Hello,

I want my voice to be heard as a Guelph citizen that I am against the City council motion that is being drafted to prohibit encampments in the downtown core. I believe that the downtown area is the most central area for unhoused people to receive the necessary support that they require for survival within our city. A prohibition on downtown encampments that relocates them outside of the core only isolates them further from centralized community support networks. They are not a threat to the safety or comfort of the downtown community. Relocation is not the answer - instead the city of Guelph should focus on increasing support for unhoused individuals within the downtown core while allowing them to maintain their agency to live where they choose. I will be paying close attention to the development of this issue in the following weeks because I feel strongly that unhoused people deserve to retain their dignity and access to resources.

Rachel Gaynor