

Hi,

The Public Space Use By-Law must be both postponed and scaled back. Criminalizing encampments does nothing to help our city's most vulnerable people. As a former shelter worker I understand that the traumatized individuals living on the streets have complex needs which we have not yet met. I have written to the mayor on this issue before and I am not interested in hearing about all that you've done to help the unhoused. Frankly, none of it has been enough and most solutions that are being tabled do not take into consideration the actual needs of the people you are displacing.

It is imperative that this by-law be tabled until there are adequate tiny homes established and ready to receive citizens from encampments. It must also be scaled back - as a 10 year Guelph resident, I do not want to see encampments criminalized. There is only one aspect of this by-law that I would like to see considered - the relocation of encampments on environmentally sensitive lands. All other points do not represent the way I want people to be treated in this city.

Again, please do not waste your time writing back to me to explain what you've already done. I do not want to hear it. Instead, please ask yourself what you can do RIGHT NOW to expedite real solutions such as the mayor's supported encampment project announced today. If you are being paid to represent this city, I expect that you will use all of your available time and energy to support this project.

Thank you for your time,
Jessica Maltby