

Dear Mayor and Councillors of Guelph,

I am against criminalizing encampments in Guelph. We need to address the root causes of the housing crisis in this city, not criminalizing people just trying to live. Shelters are not safe for many people, and living in a tent is a legit life choice.

I've lived in Guelph since 1996, and seeing tents doesn't upset me. If you can't afford rent (and who can in this city?!? I recently looked at rentals and was shocked to find a single bedroom in a house costs \$1000!), living in a tent is super smart and healthy in the warmer months.

Please put your energy to addressing the root causes of housing issues instead of criminalizing people who are just trying to get through a difficult time. I know housing is not exactly a municipal issue but there is lots you can do to influence housing. Maybe have by-laws limiting short-term rentals.

Encampments are a symptom, and the people camping need compassion, not by-law enforcement breaking their home and belongings.

Thank you,  
Kate