

Hello,

I support the motions but forward by Councillors Caton and Allt.

The research shows that's abstinence based substance use recovery and support programs do not work. Closing and defunding programs that support folks experiencing addictions and houselessness is reckless and dangerous. People will die as a result of these choices.

I also do not agree with the use of the Notwithstanding clause to remove encampments. I think it's disgusting and not a coincidence that it happened just before major shopping days / time in the year. The encampment was conveniently removed before the holiday parade and Christmas markets that will take place in the square. People's desire to shop is not more important that people trying to live and access life saving services.

It is grossly hypocritical of the mayor to put forth a motion asking the provincial and federal governments to support the creation of a ministry that addresses houselessness, when you already ignore the statistics and results and recommendations of professionals and organizations working in this field. Your claims to care fall on deaf ears when you so gleefully and swiftly chose to remove a houseless encampment.

Britt, Ward 3 resident