

I am writing to express my support of Councillor Caton's motion that will be voted on December 11th at City Council that states: "That Guelph City Council opposes the use of the Notwithstanding Clause as requested by a collection of Ontario Mayors, to circumvent the courts ability to rule on Charter Rights on the subject of encampment relocations due to municipal bylaws throughout Ontario."

The motion also says that Council opposes the use of force in involuntary treatment of people with substance abuse disorders or mental illness.

As a proud Guelph resident, I oppose any actions that aim to criminalize people experiencing homelessness, people who find themselves in the streets in growing numbers because of the lack of affordable housing. Let's solve the housing crisis with accessible affordable homes, not by using handcuffs.

Our neighbours need homes. They deserve to be treated with compassion and respect. Our community deserves a solution to encampments that works.

Thanks for listening and acting!

Joanne McAuley