

Dear Council,

I am writing to express my support and ask you to **vote in favour of all three motions** on December 11th's council meeting.

I support the first motion (agenda item 4.1) because it would make our city safer for all people: both those who use drugs and those who do not. This motion is especially important in light of the provincial government pushing through Bill 223 with very little consultation from stakeholders, such as municipalities. This motion has the potential to put pressure on Ontario to rescind Bill 223 in favour of maintaining and expanding CTS sites. CTS sites are part of the answer to the overdose crisis we are seeing. As reported by CMHA, of the 49,000 overdoses and drug-related medical emergencies at CTS sites between 2017 and 2023 there were **no deaths**. Without CTS sites these emergencies will fall on EMS services that are already overburdened, causing ambulance and ER response times to increase and more preventable deaths. We will also see more and more people using drugs in public, and more and more overdoses on the streets. I urge you to vote in favour of agenda item 4.1.

I support the second motion (agenda item 4.2) because it ensures that the council upholds the basic human rights of **all** its citizens. The provincial government's encouragement for mayors to use the Notwithstanding Clause to push through anti-encampment by-laws is a slippery slope towards erosion of human rights by the government. The Notwithstanding Clause is supposed to be used only in the *most desperate and unique situations*. There is no reason, for the safety, health or wellbeing of our City, to use the Notwithstanding Clause. Additionally, since there are not adequate services or solutions to house every person without housing in Guelph, the Notwithstanding Clause is simply a sentence for harm. By voting in favour of this motion, you are sending a strong message that you respect democracy and human rights.

I support the third motion (agenda item 4.3) because it is a step by the City in pressuring the provincial government to ensure municipalities have the resources necessary to address the housing and addiction crises currently affecting cities across Ontario. Cities, like Guelph, need additional support from the province in order to build housing that is accessible and affordable for people living on a fixed income, and provide services that appropriately address addiction and mental health.

Your vote in favour of all these motions will give a voice to the city's most vulnerable, and send a strong message to the province that the City of Guelph is committed to proactive, workable, dignified and humane solutions to homelessness and addiction.

Shelby Law

, Guelph