

Dear mayor Guthrie and Guelph City Council,

I am writing to you on behalf of Royal City Mission (RCM) to show our support of item 6.1 on the upcoming Council Meeting Agenda.

For the last 18 years, Royal City Mission has been providing space for those who have limited resources. This has taken many forms over the years and RCM has grown to be a major provider of Basic Needs for the community.

In 2024, there were 43000 visits to the Drop In program. An average of 146 people accessed the space each day, with highs of over 200 individuals.

When resources have been scarce, RCM has had to make adjustments to the hours we are open and we are aware of the impact this has on the broader community. During times of reduced service, we heard from many partners, organizations and businesses about the increased demands on services that weren't designed to accommodate the need.

Everyone needs space to find and build community. For those that have means, they join gyms, go to coffee shops, hang out on patios, but all of those may not be available to someone who is struggling in poverty or homelessness. Community is a basic need and is often overlooked when looking at how to support people.

Over 2300 unique individuals relied on the services at RCM, this highlights the need for Daytime Shelter Space in Guelph.

With our experience in supporting those who access our services, we ask council to move forward on approving this plan.

Thank you,

Kevin Coghill
ED/Pastor Royal City Mission
www.royalcitymission.ca