

Memorandum of understanding with the Province

The City and the Province signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on June 16, 2023.

The MOU formalizes their commitment to work together to better support people who are unhoused and sheltering in encampments and to help prevent encampments.

The MOU clarifies the roles and responsibilities of the Province and City to prioritize the health and safety of people sheltering outdoors and to bring them inside.

Among other items in the MOU the Province also commits to:

- a. Supporting those living in encampments through Homeless Encampment Action Response Teams (HEART) and Homeless Encampment Action Response Temporary Housing (HEARTH) programs. These new initiatives will support people in encampments on the path to stable housing.
- b. Plan, coordinate and provide:
 - i. Outreach services to individuals experiencing homelessness;
 - ii. Data and information collection;
 - iii. Shelter and housing development;
 - iv. Transition planning; and
 - v. Temporary supports for people in encampments.

The City's role is to support the Province in their initiatives.

This includes:

- c. Work with the Province, BC Housing and other partners to align local approaches with the Provincial approach that resolution of encampments is best achieved through provision of housing, supports, and services that meet people's distinct needs.
- d. Identify appropriate and feasible land/space for HEARTH shelter and/or temporary and permanent housing, and work with the Province and BC Housing to expedite land use decisions necessary for rapid provision of shelter and housing.
- e. Facilitate maintenance of land designated for temporary sheltering, including garbage bin pick up and water utility connections.
- f. To prioritize the approval and establishment of temporary and permanent supportive housing and shelters, as well as the participation in emergency shelter programs.



You can see the MOU here
https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/BC_Encampment_MOU_June_14_2023.pdf

