

Stop work and do not occupy notices

Lower Patricia encampment

- The City continues to take steps to promote health and safety within the Lower Patricia encampment site, including maintaining a route through the site to allow for emergency vehicle access and continuing to provide fire safety information to occupants.
- Through this work, the City has observed numerous permanent shelter structures under construction on the site.
- The City understands the shelters are being constructed with the support of well-intended members of the community in an effort to improve conditions for those in the area. The City is mindful, however, that under its Building Bylaw it holds authority over construction approval within the City, including requiring that dwelling places are built to the standards of the BC Building Code.
- In the case of Lower Patricia, there is no authority under the court order or any City bylaw to allow permanent shelters to be constructed on the site.
- To ensure that occupants and members of the community understand that the structures are not being constructed with City approval or to the standards of the BC Building Code, the City has affixed “Stop Work” and “Do Not Occupy” notices to these structures.
- This started in November 2023 and has continued monthly since then.
- This is required because the notices are specific to the structure as per the building code, and as such, the issuance of a notice on one, does not waive the risk of the other structures.
- The intention of this is to ensure that occupants and visitors are aware the structures may not be safe to occupy.
- The City has no present intention to take any further enforcement steps against these structures but confirms that the use of these unregulated dwellings is not part of the long-term vision for the property.
- The safety issues remain an ongoing concern, and the City is working via the Bylaw teams, Fire and Rescue services, and the RCMP to inform occupants of the ongoing risks.