



Evan Jolicoeur
City of Courtenay
830 Cliffe Avenue
Courtenay, BC

September 26, 2023

Dear Evan Jolicoeur:

As the City of Courtenay's representative for the Coalition, we wish to draw your attention to our concerns regarding the report on sheltering in parks recommendations, slated for presentation on September 27, 2023.

First and foremost, we extend our gratitude to all those who advocated for the participation of the Coalition to End Homelessness teams in the consultation process. As the report highlights, there were constructive discussions during the third phase of the four-phase consultation, where the recommendations were presented to the participating groups for feedback.

While the Coalition's leadership acknowledges the likelihood of divergent opinions, we firmly advocate for including individuals with lived experiences right from the inception of any consultation process. We believe that their perspectives and insights are invaluable in shaping effective solutions.

Furthermore, we would have appreciated a more prominent emphasis on Human Rights in the discourse surrounding sheltering in parks. A comprehensive analysis of relevant Canadian case law concerning Canadian Rights and Freedoms to understand how they relate to the circumstances in our community would have been beneficial.

It is crucial to underline that the Coalition, the Homelessness Response Team, and the group representing people with lived experiences have provided operational parameters to align with the forthcoming recommendations. The promised flexibility in operations is pivotal for our support of these recommendations. As an illustration, one of the operational requests we've put forward is the allowance for tents to remain in place during heavy rain and snow, ensuring the safety and well-being of those seeking shelter.

We fear that without making these clarifications, there may be a misunderstanding.

We sincerely thank you for your time and attention.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. Fletcher".

Angela Fletcher
Coordinator- Coalition to End Homelessness
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