

Received Date	February 02, 2023
Meeting Date	February 06, 2023
Open or Closed	Open Session

Mayor Donna Noade Reardon and Members of Common Council

**Subject: Homelessness Strategy**

**Background:**

On September 6, 2022, our council took quick action to make sure we could offer additional out of the cold service to address the increase shelter needs in our community. That action enabled our team, in cooperation with the Province of New Brunswick and the Salvation Army, to lead an additional 35 bed shelter at the Hilton Belyea Arena with the capacity to surge to 50 beds. As many of us saw in a recent visit, the shelter is consistently full and our other shelters are also adding additional beds; two more at Outflow, and five at Coverdale to try and meet the needs of the homeless population.

This has helped significantly in the interim and has made sure that turning people away from shelters is less frequent. We still have many Saint Johners living rough without the proper supports and many subsequent challenges in substance use and mental health. Out of the total 165 recorded homeless in our community, 57 are known to be sleeping rough and our shelter occupancy stands at 94% as of November 2022. This weekend will see temperatures reach as low as negative thirty degrees Celsius, it is too dangerous to be living outside.

On March 31, 2023, the emergency out of the cold shelter with shut its doors putting more stress on our shelters and putting more people on the street. Only increasing the need we are still seeing on our streets. It's incumbent on Council to take long-term action to address this part of the housing crisis.

It's important that as we continue to define our role in housing, we avoid short-term fixes and focus on long-term policy that delivers effective results for the community.

**Motion:**

That Council engage with the province on their plans to address the homelessness crisis in New Brunswick and further direct staff to develop a strategy to address the City's response to homelessness in collaboration with the province and community partners. This strategy should address the gaps in our shelter network, identify supports for those living rough while ensuring there are direct pathways for people out of shelters, and work with partners to identify funding supports for this strategy.

Respectfully Submitted,

(Received via email)



David Hickey  
Ward 3 Councillor  
City of Saint John



SAINT JOHN

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