



Staff at Our Place advise that the City funding leverages significant additional funding, and are essential to ongoing operations:

*“The storage facility is currently operating with close to 90 Bins. The individuals using those bins are either living on the street or accessing shelter. Folks are able to access their bin daily. The \$50,000 from the City each year goes towards staffing costs to run the program. Total costs run closer to \$80,000 a year. Without the \$50,000 from the City OPS would not be able to run the program.*

*The City also has provided \$50,000 towards operating hours of our Community Centre. This is a partnership with Island health and BC Housing who each provide \$50,000 as well. This money allows the Community Centre to open at 7:30am 7 days a week and serve breakfast each morning at 8:30am.”*

These are valuable services that help to alleviate the impact of poverty and reduce the burden of homelessness and street disorder on the broader community. The Provincial Government has not yet announced how it will take over these specific services or equivalent services.


The interim, stop-gap OPS grants have been brought forward by Council members and approved by Council on an ad-hoc basis. This year, Councillor Thompson was approached as Council’s Downtown Liaison to bring the request forward.

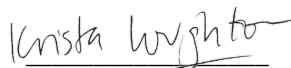
### **Recommendation**

That Council directs staff to:

1. add a one-time grant of \$100,000 to this year’s budget to fund OPS operating hours and the storage program for one year;
2. work with the Provincial Government, BC Housing and Island Health to support the Provincial Government taking over funding the above or equivalent or better services in future years as part of the Heart and Hearth program under the MOU and Belonging in BC.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Councillor Thompson

  
Councillor Loughton