



Council Member Motion **For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of July 26, 2018**

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** July 23, 2018
From: Mayor Helps and Councillor Lucas
Subject: Sheltering Prohibition in Reeson Park and Quadra Park

BACKGROUND

In early February, Council passed a motion directing staff to prohibit camping in Reeson Park and Quadra Park on the same basis that Councillors Isitt and Thornton-Joe brought a motion in 2015, which Council supported unanimously to prohibit camping in Haegert, Kings, Cridge and Arbutus Parks. The February motion was subject to no net loss of sheltering spaces even as the cold weather shelter beds closed at the end of March.

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update. Since the no net loss has not been completely met, Council direction is required before staff can bring forward an amended Parks Regulation Bylaw to Council.

Since March 31st, eight new spaces have been added at My Place. And as of June 30th, 38 new spaces are available as the second floor of Mt. Edward has opened, freeing up 38 spaces at shelters. This is a net increase of 46 spaces. Furthermore, recent data indicate that the available shelters, namely First Metropolitan are not always full. When the Out of the Rain Shelter closed, there were between 10 and 15 people staying there every night. Pandora was full with 40 people. While the exact number of shelter beds has not been matched by BC Housing over the summer months, we feel that the spirit of the original motion has been met *and* there are sometimes available shelter spaces at First Metropolitan, therefore we make the following recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council direct staff to amend the Parks Regulation Bylaw to prohibit overnight sheltering in Reeson Park and Quadra Park.
2. That Council direct staff to work with BC Housing to ensure that in the summer of 2019 there is no net loss of sheltering spaces even while the cold weather beds may need to close because of programming considerations of shelter operators.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Mayor Helps.

Mayor Helps

Handwritten signature of Councillor Lucas.

Councillor Lucas