



**Council Member Motion  
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 5, 2020**

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**Date:** November 3, 2020  
**From:** Councillor Ben Isitt  
**Subject:** Parks Sheltering Update

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**Rationale for Consideration as a Late Motion:**

The onset of winter conditions has amplified risks associated with parks sheltering, including: hypothermia; pneumonia; medical conditions arising from isolation; overdose; and death. It is therefore recommended that Council consider these recommendations in a timely manner.

**Background:**

Sheltering by unhoused individuals within the municipal parks system has been a topic of ongoing concern, among unhoused individuals who lack adequate housing and supports, as well as among other community members. The stop-gap solution to parks sheltering is expansion of indoor housing options with appropriate social care. The long-term solution is a more equitable and just economic system.

Pending action on the stop-gap and long-term solutions noted above, interim adjustments to the Parks Regulation Bylaw can alleviate immediate impacts of parks sheltering on unhoused individuals and on other community members. It is therefore recommended that Council consider the following recommendations without delay.

**Recommendations:**

That Council:

1. Approve in principle a temporary Community Care Tent in accordance with section 16(1) of the Parks Regulation Bylaw, to provide supports for unhoused individuals during the Covid-19 pandemic at the Royal Athletic Park and Beacon Hill Park, subject to approval of the Director of Parks and Recreation on the specific location, in consultation with unhoused individuals and advocates.
2. Direct staff to prepare an amendment to the Parks Regulation Bylaw introducing a setback of 6 metres between a shelter erected under sections 16A or 16B and adjacent properties.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Councillor Isitt