

A New Approach to Emergency Shelters and Supportive Housing in Kamloops

Kamloops needs a better approach to homelessness and shelter services—one that supports people in crisis while also protecting the safety and vitality of our neighbourhoods and business community.

Over the last year I have heard clearly from local residents, businesses, neighbourhood associations, and service providers about the challenges surrounding the current shelter system. At the same time, the provincial government has failed to provide the appropriate level of **wrap-around services, security, mental-health supports, and addiction services** necessary to properly support people in high-risk shelter environments.

1. Closing the Shelter at the Former Greyhound Location

I will table a motion that the City formally request that the Province **revoke paramountcy at the Merit Place shelter located at the former Greyhound property.**

This provides an appropriate amount of time for transitioning shelter services to a more appropriate location while ensuring there is a plan in place before the current lease expires.

My objective will be to allow the existing shelter to stay in place until the new Kamloops Search and Rescue building opens.

2. Establish a New Shelter at 800 Mission Flats

The City of Kamloops owns approximately **8.5 acres at 800 Mission Flats with heated space and a professional office building.**

I will work with the Province and BC Housing to establish a new shelter at this location.

The City would lease the property to BC Housing at a **market-based lease rate**, with the final rate determined by an **independent appraisal.**

This approach would allow the City to make productive use of an existing municipal property while creating a more appropriate location for shelter and support services.

3. Campus of Care at 800 Mission Flats

My vision for 800 Mission Flats is about more than simply building another shelter.

Over time, the property would become a **Campus of Care**, bringing multiple services, Interior Health and service providers together in one appropriate location, including:

- Emergency shelter spaces
- Transitional housing
- A day space
- Mental-health and addiction services
- Support services to help people transition into permanent housing
- Use of the existing office building by Interior Health and other service providers to help people connect directly with the supports they need
- Additional space that could be used for temporary tenting if shelter capacity is exceeded

The goal is to move away from a system where people are simply provided a bed for the night and toward a system that **connects people with the services and supports necessary to move forward.**

4. Mayor's Task Force - Shelter Location Guidelines

Kamloops needs a clear and consistent policy on where emergency shelters can—and cannot—be located.

Immediately following the election, I will establish a **Mayor's Task Force on Shelter Locations** made up of all 8 city councillors, business owners, neighbourhood associations, social-service providers, Business Improvement Areas, the Kamloops & District Chamber of Commerce, and other relevant community stakeholders.

The task force will develop clear **parameters and guidelines identifying appropriate and inappropriate locations for emergency shelters in Kamloops.**

These guidelines will provide greater certainty for residents, businesses, service providers, and future shelter operators.

The current approach has demonstrated that emergency shelters cannot simply be placed in core business districts or established neighbourhoods without the appropriate services and security in place.

When the current Pathways shelter lease expires, these new shelter-location guidelines will apply to any proposed new shelter location.

A New Direction for Kamloops

This is about creating a shelter system that works better for everyone.

We will work with the Province, BC Housing, Interior Health, service providers, businesses, neighbourhoods, and people with lived experience to build a better model.

A model that provides **shelter with services, housing with pathways forward, and support with accountability.**

My commitment is simple:

Put Kamloops First by supporting our businesses and neighbourhoods by identifying appropriate shelter locations, greater accountability and a safer Kamloops.