

June 5, 2024

Dear Joint Services Committee,

In the face of higher demands for services, and insufficient supply of housing/shelter along the left side of the Housing Continuum, a number of concerned citizens and agencies have worked to form the Guelph Tiny Homes Coalition. The GTHC includes people of lived experience, front line workers, harm reduction workers, small business and faith communities. This cross section of people makes GTHC an excellent option for providing a different kind of shelter option.

We can all celebrate the amazing new housing projects that have been set up; Grace Gardens, Shelldale, Delhi St., these are incredible successes in the fight for the Human Right of housing.

There is also the reality that many spaces where people could find “affordable” or “quick” housing have closed. The closing of 90 Carden St. created a huge gap, even though it had its own problems. We see the results of insufficient supply in the amount of visible encampments, and the revolving door on “rooming” houses.

Royal City Mission has been working with the GTHC to develop another option along the left side of the housing continuum, and has a long standing connection with those who are struggling in Guelph. For 19 years, RCM has worked in the downtown core to help meet the needs of those who face issues of poverty, mental illness, addictions, food insecurity, and housing issues.

RCM has been asked many times over the years to cover gaps in systems, always with positive results. The County Of Wellington has worked with us to extend Cold Weather and Hot Weather responses, and continue to partner with us by sending Housing and Ontario Works employees to connect with community members at RCM.

Many agencies partner with RCM because of the sense of community that have been developed. The relationships developed with those who are struggling presents an opportunity for other agencies to make connections in safe space. Public Health, Ambulance, Community Health Centre, Stepping Stone, Stonehenge, CMHA all access



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the space and provide further professional supports. As well, many faith communities (28) and local businesses, partner with RCM, this is a huge pool of resources for volunteering and supports.

The GTHC and RCM have the capacity and connections to make this project work, and to enhance the lives of those who are living in unsafe conditions. This is a temporary solution while longer term housing can be built, it can save lives and create a space for people to heal and grow while the longer term solutions are developed.

Thank you,  
Kevin Coghill  
Executive Director/ Pastor



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