



NOTICE OF MOTION

TO: Council **MEETING DATE:** December 4, 2024
FROM: Councillors Rowe and Toth
SUBJECT: Notice of Motion - Provincial Contract for Supportive Housing and Emergency Shelter (Rowe and Toth)
FILE NO: 0550

RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS the District of Sechelt is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all residents, including those living in supportive housing and emergency shelter; and

WHEREAS the current operator of the supportive housing facility and emergency shelter in Sechelt has not sufficiently contributed to alleviating safety concerns in the surrounding neighbourhood, including ongoing issues with crime, theft, vandalism; and

WHEREAS these issues are negatively impacting the quality of life for local residents, businesses, and emergency responders;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) that the District of Sechelt request that BC Housing terminate its contract with the operator of the supportive housing facility and emergency shelter in Sechelt, and initiate a new tendering process for the provision of these services, ensuring that any future operator demonstrates a strong commitment to community safety and effective management and support of both resident and community needs;
 - (b) that BC Housing consider input from the District of Sechelt in regard to neighbourhood concerns and expectations prior to issuing a new contract;
 - (c) that the District of Sechelt request a financial contribution from BC Housing to assist with security, safety, and regular clean-up in the neighbourhood surrounding the supportive housing and shelter buildings, in response to issues perpetuated by those facilities being located in close proximity to each other and residential neighbours;
 - (d) that a copy of this request be forwarded to the MLA for additional assistance.
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RATIONALE:

The current operation of the supportive housing facility and emergency shelter has led to significant public safety concerns in the surrounding neighbourhood. Over time, there has been an increase in criminal activity, including theft, vandalism, and other disruptive behaviors, that appears to be connected to challenges associated with the facilities and their impact on the community. Local residents, businesses,

and community members have expressed growing frustration with these issues, which have resulted in a deteriorating quality of life in the downtown area.

The District of Sechelt is committed to both supporting vulnerable populations and maintaining the safety and well-being of all residents. While we recognize the importance of providing housing and services for those in need, the current circumstances surrounding the management and operation of these facilities have placed an undue burden on the community. These challenges highlight the need for a fresh approach to the management of these services that prioritizes both effective support for residents and stronger collaboration with the surrounding neighbourhood.

In light of these ongoing concerns, it is essential that BC Housing reconsider its contract with the current provider. The trust between the community and the operator has been eroded, and transitioning to a new operator may provide an opportunity to rebuild that trust. A renewed approach can strengthen accountability, improve communication with the community, and address public safety concerns more effectively.

By also considering input from the District of Sechelt before issuing a new contract and providing financial assistance to address safety and cleanliness in the neighbourhood, BC Housing can ensure a more sustainable and cooperative approach to managing supportive housing and shelter services. These additional measures will help restore community trust and balance the needs of vulnerable individuals with the safety and interests of the broader community.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillors Rowe and Toth