

February 12, 2026

Mayor Julius Bloomfield and Esteemed Council
City of Penticton
171 Main Street, Penticton B.C. V2A 5A9

Re: SUPPORT FOR EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY USE PERMIT – 441 DAWSON AVENUE

The Penticton & Wine Country Chamber of Commerce is writing to express its strong support for the extension of the Temporary Use Permit for 441 Dawson Avenue, allowing for the continued lease and operation of the Temporary Winter Shelter at this location.

The Temporary Winter Shelter has proven to be a critical and effective component of Penticton's response to homelessness. At any given time, it provides safe, warm accommodation for up to 40 individuals who would otherwise be unsheltered and exposed to the elements. In doing so, the shelter has significantly reduced the number of people sleeping in doorways, alcoves, parks, and commercial areas, contributing to improved public safety and easing pressure on emergency and enforcement services. Just as importantly, it offers a structured pathway from crisis toward stability and longer-term housing solutions.

The measurable outcomes achieved through this model demonstrate its value to our community. The shelter has welcomed dozens of individuals and supported many in transitioning to more stable living arrangements. Through coordinated partnerships with the City of Penticton, BC Housing, Interior Health, Penticton's social sector, and other community stakeholders, shelter residents have gained access to health care, mental health and substance use supports, and individualized services that promote long-term stability. These results clearly show that when a shelter is combined with the appropriate supports, meaningful progress is possible for both those individuals and the broader community.

From the business community's perspective, the continued operation of the Temporary Winter Shelter remains essential. By providing a consistent, managed, and supported alternative to street homelessness, the shelter helps reduce street disorder, property damage, and emergency response pressures that disproportionately impact local businesses. It also supports a safer and more welcoming environment for residents, employees, customers, and visitors alike.

The Chamber recognizes that homelessness is a complex issue without a single solution, however, the continued success of the Temporary Winter Shelter at 441 Dawson Avenue shows that pragmatic, compassionate, and coordinated approaches deliver tangible benefits for both vulnerable individuals and the broader community. Discontinuing or interrupting this operation would risk returning up to 40 individuals to street homelessness, increasing pressure on public spaces, businesses, and emergency services, and undermining the progress made toward community stability and vibrancy.

For these reasons, the Penticton & Wine Country Chamber of Commerce strongly encourages Council to approve the extension of the Temporary Use Permit for 441 Dawson Avenue and to continue supporting the lease agreement and operation of the Temporary Winter Shelter at this location.

Thank you for your time and continued commitment to building a safer, healthier, more vibrant City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jordan Knox'.

Jordan Knox,
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Michael Magnusson'.

Michael Magnusson,
Executive Director

Cc: Anthony Haddad, City Manager
Julie Czeck, General Manager of Public Safety and Partnerships
Blake Laven, General Manager of Development Services