



North Park Neighbourhood Association
PO Box 661
#185-911 Yates Street
Victoria, BC, Canada V8Y 4Y9

Re: Distributed approach to sheltering outdoors in Victoria
September 9, 2020

Dear Mayor and Council,

At a community meeting on September 7, 2020 the NPNA listened to community feedback about whether Central Park or RAP would be the preferred location for outdoor sheltering as long as the state of emergency continues. We heard a wide variety of feedback including the perspectives and experiences of both housed and unhoused residents, but there was no consensus or vote on the topic.

The NPNA is in favour of a reduced number of campers at either RAP or Central Park as a part of a distributed approach that sees each neighbourhood accommodating a fair and equitable share of the roughly 275 unhoused residents currently sheltering in City of Victoria parks.

This distributed approach, while not defined by the City yet, would ideally include one location per neighbourhood with supports at each of the distributed locations such as meals, on site supports, showers, community guidelines, a leadership group made up of residents, etc. Furthermore, engagement with and by the City needs to dramatically improve as well, with both housed and unhoused residents alike.

Sincerely,

Sarah Murray
Executive Director, North Park Neighbourhood Association