

Social health issues update

September 13, 2024

Heart & Hearth MOU Activities
13 September 2024.

- Victoria Street Supportive Housing is in the process of tenanting.
- It is believed that 20 individuals are currently on site at the LPBE.
- 151 Shelter beds are in operation. Of these there are holds placed on 6 beds to support efforts at LPBE.
- Transitional Facility remains on schedule for a Fall 2024 opening. The site will be staffed 24/7 by a qualified operator. Support services will help residents take the next steps towards success in their housing journeys. These can include:
 - Health care referrals and wellness checks
 - Outreach, life skills training, help with employment assistance
 - Connection and referral to community services or support groups

Fire & Rescue

April 1, 2024, to August 27, 2024

Incident description in the downtown core (1st Ave/Victoria St to Victoria/Patricia BLVD to Patricia and 1st Ave):

- Burning Complaints – 87
- Item Fires – 38
- Medical Aid - 191

Bylaw Services

January 1- September 13, 2024

- The Lower Patricia Encampment is visited most often by outreach who assists BC Housing in identifying and transitioning individuals into the Victoria Street Supportive Housing facility.
- Bylaw Officers attend the Encampment on a weekly basis with workers from

parks to assist with cleanup of damaged and abandoned shelters. This is also assisting with the delineation of the Encampment boundary.

- No tickets have been written under the Safe Streets Bylaw. When moving people away from businesses downtown, Bylaw Officers often use the authority of the Smoking and Vaping Bylaw as it is often applicable.
- Calls for service for needles appear to be trending down. While we do respond to needle calls from time to time the majority of calls for service in relation to drug use are now “people using/smoking drugs” rather than reports for discarded paraphernalia. Bylaw Services has responded to 164 calls for open drug use in 2024.

Other

- Quotes for LPBE fencing repairs and installation have been sourced. Staff are preparing to move forward with this work following further tenanting. Tenanting efforts are helping to clear space on the eastern edge of the encampment to enable the work to be completed.
- Before the fencing begins it is also staffs’ intent on confirming direction around overnight sheltering in the City via a check-in with Council.
- Preparations to return to the Supreme Court of British Columbia in 2024 to discuss the status of the LPBE remains on schedule.

Submitted by:

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