

From: [Kathy Lawson](#) on behalf of [Town](#)
To: [Lisa Slomke](#)
Subject: FW: Mayor and Council: Do not Sweep Homeless Under the Rug!
Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 8:48:51 AM

From: Dawson Mihichuk <dmihi042@uottawa.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 11:53 AM
To: Town <town@fortfrances.ca>
Subject: Mayor and Council: Do not Sweep Homeless Under the Rug!

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed "tenting bylaw" which I became aware of through B93.1 FM. This bylaw has the potential of criminalizing the most vulnerable in our society for the crime of simply existing, and trying to scrape by with the closest semblance to having a roof over their heads. Passing this bylaw would send the strong signal that homeless are "lesser than" and are not to be treated with respect. This bylaw would subject the homeless to harassment and intimidation by the community and police. This is a "band-aid solution" without addressing the root cause.

People feel inconvenienced by homeless individuals, but imagine how they feel: as though their entire society has given up on them. The solution is not to sweep them under the rug and pass measures aimed at having them persecuted and arrested simply for existing. The solution is *housing first*, ensuring that these individuals are given housing and support services.

Treat these people with kindness and compassion, and as individuals down on their luck. Not as criminals that are a burden on society.

Do the right thing,

Dawson Mihichuk
1118 River Rd. W.
Fort Frances