

Dear Mayor Caul and Council Members,

This letter is to express deep concern and the need for action in regards to the recent increase in “street” people loitering in the downtown core particularly the 200 and 300 blocks of Scott street. We, the business owners, are experiencing a decrease in the number of legitimate shoppers coming downtown as they are afraid of being harassed and/or panhandled. We have received many complaints from our customers in regards to having their way blocked and being asked for handouts sometimes to the point of being threatened. We are witnessing entry to our stores being blocked by people smoking and loitering.

We also are experiencing a marked increase in shoplifting in our businesses by these same people, so much so that we have compiled a share list of people that have been caught shoplifting in our stores. This list of known shoplifters is currently at 29 and growing. All of these people have been charged and brought to court and subsequently released with no repercussions. Knowing this, they are free to steal again.

As business owners we are also getting complaints from our staff members as they are being approached as they are leaving work for handouts from individuals who are clearly intoxicated by drugs or alcohol or both particularly those who have to park in the Legion parking lot and have to walk through the back alley. Downtown employees feel watched and afraid when a group of these people, working together as a team, come in to the stores to shoplift. Part of the group distracts while the others do the stealing.

All of the above is directly related to the rampant methamphetamine problem that this town is currently experiencing.

So what is the solution???? Although we don't have the answer, we do have some ideas.

- Perhaps the O.P.P. walking the streets several times a day?
- Perhaps moving the food shelter off of Scott street?
- Perhaps the drug unit could target the growing Methamphetamine problem
- Perhaps the O.P.P. could target the person/business that is buying and selling the stolen merchandise

which provides money for drugs and an incentive to go out and steal more things

- Perhaps our by-law officers walking the downtown core regularly – not necessarily to enforce loitering bylaws but to be seen as a uniformed officer presence downtown


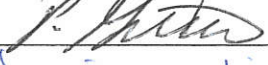






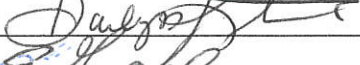

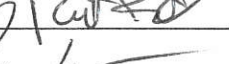
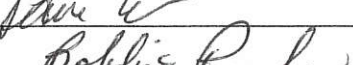
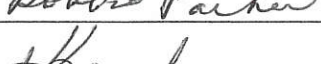
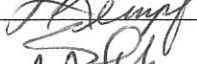

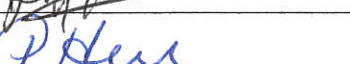


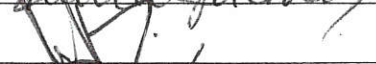
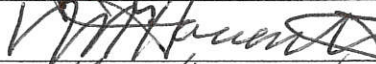
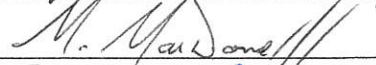

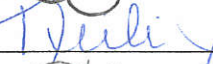




For your consideration

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Cuthbertson', with a stylized, flowing script.

Doug Cuthbertson

Owner Northwoods Gallery and Gifts

Store Name	Signature	Signature Printed
NORTHWOODS		D. CUTHBERTSON
GORTCH'S		PAT GORTSHORE
DIANA'S NEEDLE ART		DIANA NIXON
Sight & Sound		DEREK JACKSON
Betty's of Fort Frances		Blair Anderson
Curvy Chick		Jennifer Horton
CAUSMEAN REAL ESTATE		DAN R. CAUSMEAN
Jack Spitz Apparel		SCOTT KRIENKE-TORREY
INK SPOTZ APPAREL		DARLYSS KRIENKE
FLINT HOUSE		ED GACKLEY
McTAGGARTS		RICHARD BOLEARY
4 Your Pets		Pam Williams
MR. SUB		BOBBIE PARKER
THE UPS Store		Lil Kempf
THE UPS Store		S. Christensen
CAUSEWAY Insurance		John Homer
INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL		PATRICIA HERE
SCANLIFE		Barry Jackson
Sunlife		PAULA JACKSON
TACKS Source for Sports		Russell Ling
Leon's		M. Howarth
Investment Planning Counsel		M. MacDonell
5300 The Bazaar Shop		Dawn Gray
Warehouse One		Heili Savinac
Warehouse One		Shannon Singleton
Lowery's		Tim Hudson
Shoppers Drug Mart		Tyler Doerksen



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