



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Patti Bridal, Chief Administrative Officer **FILE:** 7130-01  
**PC:** Sue Saunders, Emergency Management Coordinator **DATE:** March 29, 2023  
**FROM:** David Lind, Director Fire Rescue Services  
**SUBJECT:** **EMERGENCY PROGRAM LEVEL OF SERVICE FOR NON-EMERGENCY EVENTS POLICY**

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At the regular meeting of Council on February 27, 2023 Council passed the following:

*"THAT Council direct Administration to create a policy clarifying the City of Vernon's role regarding the provision of temporary shelter space during cold weather as outlined in the report titled "Temporary Warming Shelter" dated February 27, 2023 and respectfully submitted by the Director, Fire Rescue Services;*

*AND FURTHER, that Council direct Administration to prepare a letter for the Mayor's signature to the Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness outlining the challenges with the Provincial approach to flow funding through local government for temporary, just-in-time cold weather shelters and advising that the City of Vernon will not be participating in this voluntary activity;*

*AND FURTHER, that Council endorse and direct Administration to submit the attached Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA) recommendation that the Province utilize other, existing social assistance pathways already in place to increase Provincial funding to the agencies with responsibility for providing shelter for vulnerable populations."*

Administration has created the *Emergency Program Level of Service for Non-Emergency Events Corporate Policy* (attached) for Council's consideration and adoption.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT Council consider and adopt the Corporate Policy *Emergency Program – Level of Service for Non-Emergency Events* as attached to the memorandum titled "Emergency Program Level of Service for Non-Emergency Events Policy" dated March 29, 2023 and respectfully submitted by the Director Fire Rescue Services.

Respectfully submitted:

Attachment 1 – *Emergency Program – Level of Service for Non-Emergency Events Policy*

**ATTACHMENT 1**



**THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON**

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**Corporate Policy Manual**

Section:		
Sub-Section:		
Title:	Emergency Program - Level of Service for Non-Emergency Events	

**RELATED POLICIES**

Number	Title

**APPROVALS**

<b>POLICY APPROVED BY:</b>	<b>AMENDMENT APPROVAL:</b>	<b>SECTION AMENDED</b>
<i>Original policy only goes in this spot-nothing else</i>  Approved by:  Mayor: V. Cumming  Date: (date of signed policy)	<i>Amendments only go in this column with oldest date on the top-start with</i>	<i>What was amended in this column</i>
	Amendment Approved by:  Mayor:	

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	Date: (date of amendment)	
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## **POLICY**

The City of Vernon will not engage the emergency program for the purpose of accessing the *Financial Assistance for Emergency Response and Recovery Costs* as an optional funding process to transfer Provincial monies to other service providers for non-emergency events. As an example, the City of Vernon will not activate the emergency operations centre to coordinate social sector programming to address social needs that are foreseeable and anticipated.

This policy does not prohibit the City of Vernon to engage the Emergency Program for emergencies including those related to weather or temperature.

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## **DEFINITIONS**

### **Emergency(s)**

Emergency as defined in the *Emergency Program Act*, and the *City of Vernon Emergency Program Bylaw No. 5862*, means a present or imminent event that:

- i. is caused by accident, fire, explosion or technical failure or by the forces of nature, and
- ii. requires prompt coordination of action or special regulation of persons or property, to protect the health, safety or welfare of people or to limit damage to property.

### **Shelter(s)**

Shelter is defined as a facility providing alternate living space for people experiencing homelessness.

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## **PROCEDURES**

1. November 4, 2022, the Province released "*Warming Centre Guidelines*" (Guidelines) to fund additional daytime warming spaces on cold days (where the need exceeds the BC Housing funded shelter spaces) through local government emergency programs.

The funding is administered through Emergency Management and Climate Readiness using emergency management processes to reimburse local government for costs eligible through the *Financial Assistance for Emergency Response and Recovery Costs* process.

2. Delivering programming and services to people that live without shelter is inherently challenging, requiring specialized skills and resources. This work is outside the scope of local government.
3. There is no municipal emergency program budget for this optional work and there is no certainty that all costs will be reimbursed.
4. The Guideline's approach creates an undue administrative and financial burden on already stretched local government resources.
5. A more effective and sustainable approach is needed to directly fund the service providers.