

Strathcona Park DECAMPMENT REPORT CARD

Based on the National Protocol for Homeless Encampments in Canada

Report On:

The Province of BC,
the City of Vancouver and the
Vancouver Board of Parks & Recreation

Report By:

The residents of Camp HOPES
(Strathcona Park encampment)

OVERALL GRADE

Are Encampment Residents Recognized as Rights Holders?

Government officials, police, and by-law officers recognize and uphold the human rights and human dignity of encampment residents.



Are the distinct rights of Indigenous peoples being respected?

An “A” grade would require:

- Officials recognize Indigenous peoples’ right to create and organize shelter and housing in ways that incorporate their lived histories, cultures and experiences.
- Officials are genuinely working with Indigenous residents to find appropriate, culturally-safe, long-term housing, and do not force people into housing via eviction from encampment.
- Officials consult with Indigenous encampment residents to get informed consent before making any decisions, including eviction.
- Police are not present when officials engage with Indigenous encampment residents.
- Officials recognize that Indigenous peoples have high rates of homelessness and poverty.



Is there meaningful engagement with and leadership by encampment residents?

An “A” grade would require:

- Officials engage in ongoing and meaningful engagement with residents that act as resident leaders.
- Encampment leaders are empowered to make decisions about actions that affect them, including through resident-led meetings and processes.
- Residents are given enough time to consider information provided by government and to give their direction.
- There is a clear resident-approved process to challenge decisions, propose alternatives, and articulated demands and priorities.
- Officials ensure resources are available to support full participation in decision-making, including Indigenous cultural supports, literacy supports, translation, mobility supports, PPE, food, and access to information.
- Residents are provided with independent legal advice, and information concerning human rights and the specific rights of Indigenous peoples.



Are there prohibitions of forced evictions of encampments?

An “A” grade would require:

- Officials have declared an end to all forced evictions and ban harassment, intimidation, or threatening of people living outside, which includes ensuring police, fire services, bylaw officers, and other agents of the state only engage and respond using a trauma informed, culturally safe and harm-reduction approach.
- Officials supply access to safe drinking water hygiene sanitation, food, harm reduction supplies, waste management, electricity and heat.
- Government actors protect and respect belongings and privacy, including personal property and tents.
- There are no fences around encampments or imposed size limitations except at the direction of residents - unhoused people decide what is safest for them in the midst of a government-created housing crisis.
- Relocations are only performed as required by human rights obligations, including respecting the rights of Indigenous peoples, and protecting people from serious and credible environmental disasters (such as widespread flooding).
- Alternatives to relocation are meaningfully explored with residents.
- If relocation is required, residents have safe, secure, long-term places to keep ALL belongings .



Are residents relocated to long-term, affordable housing?

An “A” grade would require:

- Officials clearly acknowledge their obligation to ensure everyone has access to safe, adequate housing, and are actively working to implement it.
- Housing is long-term, adequate to meet residents’ needs (including no overcrowding, COVID-safe, and on-site or mobile supports if requested), affordable, protected under relevant tenancy legislation, and in a location acceptable to each resident.
- Housing is defined as “accessible,” meaning it meets the needs, wellness and safety of tenants and is not just an indoor space or shelter.
- Information about the housing provider is provided, including their power over the day-to-day operations.
- A clear, transparent and resident-approved process is in place for housing offers and placements, reflecting specific resident needs.
- Where housing is not available for all residents, officials defer to residents to decide who will be prioritized and what, if any, interim offers might be considered acceptable.
- Where housing is not available for all unhoused people in a region, officials do not reshuffle housing waitlists to justify forced decampment.
- Officials ensure housing policies are supportive of the ways in which residents define their own families, partnerships, communities and extended Indigenous kinship structures, and accommodates these in public or social housing.
- Officials pay tenants for involvement in the operation of housing and support resident organizing.
- If housing isn’t working for a tenant, they have other options, including returning to outdoor camping, without being dropped to the bottom of a housing waitlist.

This report card is the result of feedback from 94 people who are unhoused and sheltering at Strathcona Park. They evaluated government actors’ approach to decampment based on local and international human rights law.

They were asked to grade 4 questions and an additional overarching question about the human rights of encampment residents. The bullet points below each question offer an ideal situation where if all points are upheld by government actors, the resulting grade would be an “A”