POLICY TITLE *Encampments Policy*	**ADOPTED BY** City Council	**EFFECTIVE DATE** *November 27, 2025*
ORIGIN / AUTHORITY *Standing Policy Committee Community Services*	**CITY POLICY NO** CO-024	**MOST RECENT CONSOLIDATION**

1. Purpose:

The Encampments Policy (the "Policy") outlines the City of Winnipeg's (the "City") approach to regulating Encampments on publicly owned land.

2. Definitions:

2.1 "**Garbage**" includes:

A. animal, human, vegetable and agricultural wastes, including manure;

B. ashes;

C. large items of refuse, including appliances, indoor furniture, dilapidated outdoor furniture, mattresses, large auto parts and crates;

D. construction and demolition wastes;

E. dead animals;

F. industrial refuse;

G. rubbish;

H. abandoned or unattended shopping carts;

I. hazardous wastes;

J. wrecked, dismantled, partially dismantled, inoperative, discarded, or abandoned trailers, machinery or vehicles or parts thereof; and

K. any deserted or discarded article, product or goods of manufacture;

2.2 “**Health and Safety Risk**” means the conditions under which an Encampment presents a clear and imminent danger to the life, health, or safety of Encampment residents or the public. This includes Encampments located in flood zones or environmentally hazardous areas, or the presence of fire hazards, structural instability, unsanitary conditions posing disease risk, and Encampments located in flood zones or environmentally hazardous areas.

2.3 “**Encampments**” means temporary or informal Structures on Publicly Owned Land established by one or more persons who are Unsheltered.

2.4 “**Outreach**” means direct engagement by trained community-based service providers under contract with the City, working with individuals residing in Encampments to offer support, assess needs, provide information, connect them with housing, health, and social services, as well as acting as the first point of communication to warn those individuals of potential contraventions of City by-laws, relevant provincial legislation or regulation, or other legal issues that may relate to their use and occupation of Public Land;

2.5 “**Public Land**” includes any municipal or provincially-owned real property, including sidewalks, lanes, streets, boulevards, roads, or street allowances, rights-of-way, vacant public land, parking lots, or parks.

2.6 **“Structures**” means temporary or semi-permanent shelters, such as tents, tarps, shacks, vehicles, or other constructed or assembled enclosures, used by an individual or group for habitation in an outdoor setting. These structures are not designed for permanent human habitation and are typically situated on public or private land without formal authorization.

2.7 “**Unsheltered**” means the conditions wherein a person or group lives in spaces not designed for human habitation, such as streets, vehicles, parks, or abandoned buildings.

3. The Policy

3.1 Scope: This Policy applies to all City representatives who interact with Encampments. The Policy does not impact Winnipeg Police Service ("WPS") or Winnipeg Fire and Paramedic Service ("WFPS")'s, response to calls for service, though WPS and WFPS may rely upon the same City resources referenced throughout this Policy in performing their high-priority emergent work.

3.2 Guiding Principles: The following principles shall be adhered to in carrying out the Policy.

3.2.1 Accountability and Transparency: The City will implement consistent procedures for decision-making, documentation, and reporting related to Encampment response activities. Regular updates on the implementation of the Policy and associated outcomes will be shared with City Council and the public.

3.2.2 Health and Well-being: Recognizing that Encampments are not a safe or sustainable alternative to permanent housing—and that living in Encampments can pose serious risks to health, safety, and dignity—the City will balance Outreach, support, and enforcement measures to safeguard both individual and public well-being.

3.2.3 Maintaining Public Wellbeing and Order: Under *The City of Winnipeg Charter*, the purposes of the City include developing and maintaining safe, orderly, viable and sustainable communities, and promoting and maintaining the health, safety, and welfare of its inhabitants.

3.3 Council direction on Encampment enforcement and remediation measures: On September 25, 2025, City Council directed the Public Service to implement the following by November 17, 2025:

3.3.1. Prohibit Encampments and prioritize enforcement in the following areas:

A. Within 50 metres of the perimeter of playgrounds, pools, spray pads, or outdoor recreational facilities designed for children, families, or seniors;

B. Within 50 metres of the perimeter of schools, daycares, or adult daycare facilities;

C. Where a hazard or obstruction to vehicular or pedestrian traffic exists;

D. Within a median or traffic island;

E. Within 30 metres of a transit shelter;

F. Within 30 metres of bridges, docks, or piers;

G. Within 50 metres of a rail line or crossing;

H. And where life safety issues exist;

3.3.2 That the Public Service be directed to prioritize enforcement on all other City properties and spaces between the following times:

A. One hour after sunrise

B. One hour before sunset

3.3.3 That the Public Service be directed to work with outreach service providers to give reasonable notice of the intended enforcement to Encampment residents and notify them of shelter options.

3.3.4 That vacated Encampments be remediated as soon as possible to clear them of debris and detritus.

3.3.5 That existing resources be allocated for enforcement and garbage remediation, through the Chief Administrative Office, as required.

3.4 Encampment Response Protocol: Under the authority of the Chief Administrative Officer, the Public Service will develop and implement an Encampment response protocol that is informed by this Policy and reflects the evolving nature of Canada's ongoing housing crisis. The Encampment Response Protocol will outline the following:

3.4.1 How the City will prioritize Encampments for enforcement and Garbage remediation;

3.4.2 How City departments and relevant external partners will operationalize the Policy, including how by-laws that relate to Encampments will be enforced;

3.4.3 Procedures guiding the handling and storage or removal of personal property associated with Encampments;

3.4.4 Inter-departmental Coordination: how departments will communicate with one another, who will lead decision-making respecting enforcement and remediation at Encampments, and how decisions will be actioned and documented.

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3.5 Responsibilities

3.5.1 Chief Administrative Officer: Responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of the Encampment Response Protocol, serving as the City of Winnipeg lead at related cross-government or interdepartmental tables, and ensuring that proper procedure is followed by the Public Service when responding to and regulating Encampments.

3.5.2 Community Development Division (CD): On behalf of the Chief Administrative Officer, CD will coordinate all actions and strategies associated with the Encampment Protocol, including chairing an inter-departmental Encampment Coordination Table, evaluating, reporting on and updating the Encampment Response Protocol as directed.

3.5.3 Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Services (WFPS): Responsible for providing life safety information, educating Encampment residents on fire hazards, mitigating fire and life safety hazards in Encampments, mitigating fire and life safety risks, and issuing orders or taking immediate actions for the remediation of urgent or emergent fire life safety issues.

3.5.4 Winnipeg Police Service (WPS): WPS will assist in documenting by-law violations along with other available City departments, and support evictions and cleanup by providing a presence to keep the peace.

3.5.5 Legal Services: Will provide comprehensive legal advice on request, including identifying applicable legislation, legal precedent, and municipal by-laws.

3.5.6 All Other Departments: Responsible for adhering to the Policy and associated Protocol in all Encampment-related operations.

3.5.7 Outreach: Outreach is responsible for adhering to the Policy and associated Protocol in all Encampment-related operations or as directed through relevant contracts and agreements.