Appendix A – Jurisdictional Analysis: Sanctioned Encampment Programs (Canada)

Analytical sources:

- Jurisdictional scan authored by City of Hamilton
- City of Victoria
- City of Halifax

*** Victoria and Halifax are typically included in lists of Canadian cities with the most frost-free / warm nights in a calendar year, and this may be a mitigating factor in encampment program development.*

	Victoria	Halifax
Municipal statement regarding sanctioned encampments:	"The City's focus remains on supporting the most vulnerable residents and managing sheltering in parks as safely as possible for everyone… *Daytime* shelters are not allowed in City of Victoria parks. People experiencing homelessness may shelter overnight in some parks." (LINK)	"Designated outdoor sheltering locations are spaces in municipal parks where those experiencing homelessness can camp for the purpose of sheltering… the approach involves allowing those sleeping rough to remain in designated locations until indoor shelter spaces or housing options have been identified and offered, or until the health and safety of the occupants or public are at risk… As more indoor shelter spaces and supportive housing options become available, more parks will be closed, de-designated and returned to their intended purposes as spaces for everyone." (LINK)
Key municipal roles / responsibilities:	• Washroom access (existing park infrastructure) • Potable water (existing park infrastructure) • Garbage pickup / Park Maintenance • Policing / Fire Paramedic / By-law Enforcement / Other support services	• Washroom access (existing park infrastructure + portable toilets where necessary) • Potable water (where available) • Power access (select sites) • Garbage pickup / Park Maintenance • Policing / Fire Paramedic / By-law Enforcement / Other support services ("Street Navigators")
Key encampment program rules	• Program regulated via Parks Regulation Bylaw (link below) • Sheltering only allowed at specific authorized locations. Not permitted in/on, under or attached to environmentally or culturally sensitive areas; playgrounds, sports fields community gardens and horticultural areas; footpaths, roads, medians, boulevards; cemeteries; trees and branches; benches, lamp posts or other structures • **Sheltering is permitted overnight from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.** (daytime shelters not permitted). After 7am, shelters must be removed or are subject to impound. • Shelters must be no bigger than $9m^2$ • Shelters must be 4m from other shelters, no-shelter areas, private property lines; 8m from playgrounds; 50m from school property • All sites allow couples / pets • Shelters cannot have fires, open flame appliances, etc. except for approved BBQs in approved areas	• Program regulated via several bylaws (links below) • Sheltering only allowed at specific authorized locations / not permitted in/on, under or attached to sports fields, dugouts, or bleachers; horticultural displays or gardens; cemeteries; environmentally or culturally sensitive areas; a path or right of access; bridges, docks, or piers; playgrounds, pools, splash pads, recreation facilities; skateboard parks or sports courts; picnic shelters, gazebos; highly inaccessible spaces • Rules re: daytime vs overnight sheltering are not made clear in the sources provided • Shelters must be 50m from any school, daycare or adult care facility property • Structures like sheds are not permitted • Each site permits a maximum of four shelters • All sites allow couples and pets • Other site rules are outlined in the applicable Parks, Noise and Burning bylaws (linked below)

Sanctioned encampment locations:	• Victoria West Park • Gonzales Park • Irving Park • Pemberton Park • Oaklands Park	• Barrington Street • Beaufort Avenue • Correctional Centre Diamond • Geary Street • Grand Parade • Green Road Park • Lower Flinn Park • Martins Park • Saunders Park • University Avenue • Victoria Park
Reasoning for these specific locations:	(It is inferred though not explicitly stated…) Each of the above locations have the physical space / infrastructure to accommodate shelters with access to washrooms and potable water nearby, and can accommodate the program rules identified above.	
Municipal response to encampments existing *outside* of program locations:	• Considered a violation of Parks Regulation Bylaw No.07-059 (Section 16A specific to encampments) • Shelters (and belongings) must be taken down, packed up and removed daily by 7 a.m. Any property unlawfully left in place after 7 a.m. is subject to impound.	• Individual is approached by Street Navigator and offered re-location • If the individual has not moved to a designated location, the compliance officer may issue a formal notice • A negotiated resolution will be attempted on a case by case assessment
Municipal response to extreme weather conditions (heat, cold, storms, etc.)	n/a	Municipality prepares emergency 24/7 shelters
Municipal budget dollars allocated to govern program:	• 2022: $1,532,828 • 2023: $1,358,000 • 2024: $1,485,000 (Further budget details not provided)	• 2021/22 (carried forward): $ 1,205,600 • 2022/23: $ 500,000 • Total 2022/23: $ 1,705,600 (Further budget details not provided)
Provincial role with encampment program:	No direct role declared in sources, though the city works with the province to support Victoria's Housing Strategy.	No direct role declared in sources, though the city works with the province and the regional municipality to support the municipality's Framework for Addressing Homelessness.
Municipality's current unsheltered population:	Estimated 1,665 people (2023)	Estimated 100 (2024)
Links:	• Parks Regulation Bylaw (Bylaw No.07-059), Section 16A • Victoria Parks Map • Victoria: Draft Financial Plan (Page 70)	• By-law P600 • By-law N-200 • By-law O-109 • Halifax: budget details (page 9)