

Dear Mayor Masters and Council

Hello, my name is Joe Thomas, I am representing myself and the student action group of Worthy Purpose. I am here today in response to the End Homelessness motion.

Firstly, I would like to say thank you to those involved for having this motion brought forward. Homelessness has been a prevalent problem since 2007 during the oil and gas boom when rents began to rise exponentially, so bringing forward this motion it is a good step in the right direction to end the homelessness crisis that Regina is currently facing.

One of the things I would like to address is Camp Hope. This program became known as one of the biggest representations of Regina's outgoing homelessness crisis. This camp was established in early October of 2021. This camp provided people in need with a safe place and many more services. In fact, over 100 people were staying at the camp. The City of Regina however made an amazing effort and provided temporary housing for at least 40 people during the 5 months of winter. What happened to the more than 60 other people staying at that camp.

More on Worthy Purpose, it began as a school assignment on how we could solve some of the current issues in Regina using a church that was up for sale as a ___ as the project went on we made more and more connections with people from the community that could make it a real possibility to make a difference, although the project ended. A few students including myself decided to continue, during non-school hours with the project and made plans for how we could possibly turn the church into something that could make a real difference.

Through my connection with Worthy Purpose and through life experience I have seen the crisis of homelessness Regina is facing first hand. I've seen it by driving past Camp Hope, driving to school, and just by walking my dogs. It is a real problem affecting real people and we have to ability to change the lives affected by this crisis.

I have also done interviews at the Queen City Pharmacy and had seen some of the same things there. In response to what was seen at the pharmacy, myself and the rest of Worthy Purpose went and got certified by Warriors of Hope for administering Narcan. There we learned the importance of housing first and

creating supports for those who are affected by homelessness and drug addiction (which has been a proven cause of homelessness). Not only is it important to get people affected into homes but to also create the support they need to continue to stay there.

Bringing this motion through it could lead to an end to homelessness and a reduction in addiction and that is something anyone can get behind. Its not only the right thing to but it will also save tax payers money in the long run.

Thank you