

Collaborative Outreach: Providing Tiered Care for Homeless Populations

Encampment Team Collaboration

City of Brantford &
Brant-Brantford Community Paramedic Services



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Homelessness in Brantford - Brant

- ↑ rental costs
- ↑ complexity of mental health and addiction concerns
- ↑ barriers

2024 PiT Count Findings:

- 43% were unsheltered in a public place
- 65% are aged 25-49 yo
- 64% identify as Indigenous



Challenges

- Legal Decisions around Encampments
- Staffing Limitations
- Length of time between:
 - Encampment identification
 - Outreach
 - Bylaw attendance
 - Parks cleanup
- Communication
 - Between organizations and staff
 - To encampment residents



What We Did

- Dedicated Interdisciplinary Team to respond to encampments
- Reviewed encampment SOPs and review/update regularly based on legal decisions
- Engaged with Community Partners



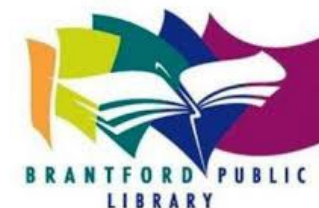
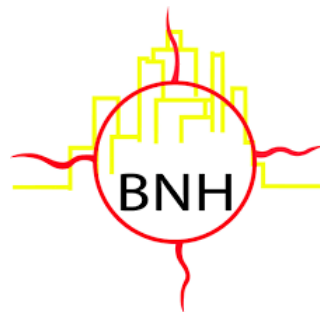
Development of COBEN Process

- The United Nations Special Rapporteur report, [*A National Protocol for Homeless Encampments in Canada: a Human Rights Approach*](#);
- The Ombudsman Toronto Investigation Report, [*Investigation into the City's Clearing of Encampments in 2021*](#);
- The January 2023 decision by the Superior Court of Justice in the case of [*The Regional Municipality of Waterloo v. Persons Unknown and to be Ascertained, 2023*](#) ONSC 670 (CanLII); and
- The November 2023 decision by the Superior Court of Justice in the case of [*The Corporation of the City of Kingston v. Doe, 2023*](#) ONSC 6662 (CanLII).
- The December 2024 decision by the Superior Court of Justice in the case of [*Heegsma v. Hamilton \(City\)*](#) ONSC 7154



Weekly COBEN Meeting

- Brantford Native Housing
- Brantford Police Services
- Brantford Public Library
- City of Brantford Bylaw
- City of Brantford Community Strategies & Family Support (OW)
- City of Brantford Housing & Homelessness Services
- Grand River Community Health Centre
- Ontario Disability Support Program
- SOAR Community Services



Community Paramedics – Outreach Program

- Collaborative effort between CP Team and other community organizations
- Goal is to meet people where they are at, provide supplies/supports to keep them safe and avoid hospitalizations
- 1,049 individual client contacts in 2024



Community Paramedics – Outreach Program

- Provide consumables
- Wound care
- Education
- Connecting to Primary Care



Encampment Client Case Studies

- Client A

- Client B



2024 Encampment Team Outcomes

- Since July 2023, we have attended **422** encampments
- In 2025 (Jan 1 – to-date) there have been **129** complaints about encampments recorded – only 35 have been true encampments
- 2024:
 - 246 total encampments
 - 154 unique individuals
 - 72 repeat encounters
 - 79 declined services



2024 Community Paramedics Outcomes



223 unique
encampments



140 unique
clients



~100 consults
with MD / NP

1,049 individual client contacts

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2024 Community Paramedics Outcomes



346



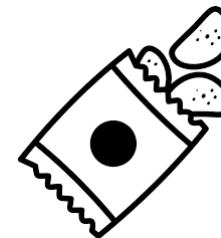
461



189



1,569



2,092



150

1,049 individual client contacts

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Looking Forward...

- Live Response
 - Falls
 - Mental health
 - overdose
- ER Diversion
- Storage of belongings for unhoused while in hospital



Looking Forward...

- Increased Outreach
 - City
 - County
- System Improvements



Thank you !

For more information, questions, etc., feel free to contact us:

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