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REGION OF PEEL
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Statement Regarding Peel's Encampments from a Support Worker
March 16, 2023

To the Council Chair and Members of Regional Council
RE: Encampments in Peel

Service users who use substances need easier access to medical services. For example, when they visit hospitals, they should be referred to appropriate services most suited to them and not simply discharged. This issue happens every day and clients simply find their way back to their encampment to only find out that their survival supplies have been removed or stolen by the police or other clients.

In addition, the Region of Peel needs more drop-in centres for peers and clients to get together to continue the support and community building. We say this because everyone speaks about ending homelessness, but we do not have enough drop-in centres where community building can take place. The major issues this causes (little drop-in centre options) is people overdose in stairways, behind buildings, and in parks. People using substances cannot be isolated because they can overdose and no one would be around to care for them. Not to mention, they do not have a sense of belonging in their own community without more drop-in centres.