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## **COMMUNITY UPDATE**

### **Temporary Overnight Sheltering Area Tent Uplift Pilot Program**

**May 6, 2024**

The Town of Smithers is conducting a pilot tent uplift program at the temporary overnight sheltering area scheduled for Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. The decision was made to pause tent uplifts in October 2023 to ensure the safety of staff and to consult with community partners. It is the Town's intention to make the tent uplift program a regular occurrence to maintain the safety and well-being of the community.

The tent uplift will involve temporarily lifting and moving all tents so the sheltering area can be restored before the tents are put back in place. The program is a pilot initiative designed to assess and adapt processes for the safety and well-being of those residing at the temporary overnight sheltering area, Town staff, and other community partners.

The Town recognizes that the tent uplift program is a temporary solution to address the broader social and economic challenges facing our community and communities across the province. The Town remains committed to working with our community partners and other levels of government to find a path forward for our community.

The Town has partnered with community service agencies to offer supports and minimize any impacts on those residing in the temporary overnight sheltering area and the broader community during the scheduled tent uplift.

The public is advised that a section of Aldous Street will be closed on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Access to the Library parking lot and the Town Hall parking lot will not be affected.

All inquiries can be directed to:

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