



PO Box 879, 1027 Aldous Street, Smithers, BC V0J 2N0
Telephone (250) 847-1600 ~ Fax (250) 847-1601 ~ www.smithers.ca

NEWS RELEASE

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TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF WEEKLY ENCAMPMENT TAKEDOWNS AND CLEAN-UPS

SMITHERS –

The Town of Smithers has announced the temporary suspension of its weekly encampment takedowns and cleanups. This decision has been made in order to ensure the safety of all workers involved in these takedowns and cleanups.

The Town is working collaboratively with WorkSafe BC to develop a Workplace Violence Prevention Program. This program aims to establish procedures, policies, and work environment arrangements to minimize, if not eliminate, the risks to workers. During all previously held takedowns and clean-ups, the Town has taken proactive measures to ensure the safety and well-being of our staff, including having open lines of communication with staff involved.

During this period, the Town will maintain an open line of communication with relevant stakeholders, including residents, community organizations, and local businesses, to ensure transparency and address any concerns related to the temporary suspension of the weekly takedowns and cleanups.

The decision to suspend the weekly encampment takedowns and cleanups is temporary, and the Town is working to evaluate alternative actions. The safety and well-being of our employees and the community are of great importance, and we will do everything we can to ensure that this value is upheld.

Media Contact:
David Schroeter, Director of Corporate Services
dschroeter@smithers.ca
(250) 847-1600