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**Subject:** MOTION Refugees and Asylum seekers in Shelter

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Hi Chris Duggan, Mayor Bordie and Claudia Jesson

I have been working with Bill McNulty, MLA Henry Yao , MP Wilson Miao and MP Parm Bains along with Salvation Army managers and the homeless outreach task force on this issue for a number of months and here is my Motion for the next General Purposes committee meeting.

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**Motion : REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS IN RICHMOND SHELTER**

Ask the Federal Government to provide temporary housing for Refugees and Asylum seekers or alternatively pay the City of Richmond for use of city facilities.

**Background :**

The Richmond shelter at Ironwood has an average of approx 32.5% of their beds occupied by refugees and asylum seekers which then results in an average of 20 homeless people on a waiting list every night. A complete list of the total refugees for 2023 was provided by Salvation Army Management and is attached. The Federal government should reimburse the City of Richmond for the 201 refugees who stayed in the Richmond Shelter in 2023.

The Salvation Army is required by BC Housing to accept anyone who comes through the door even though refugees and Asylum seekers are a federal responsibility. Please see the attached Client Eligibility information provided by the Salvation Army management.

Council should write the federal government and appropriate Ministers to ask them to provide temporary housing and services for refugees and asylum seekers to give relief from the overcrowded Richmond Shelter and allow Richmondites to access our local Shelter.

**OPTIONS could include:**

Renting Hotel space example the Steveston Hotel

Renting houses that could house multiple clients

Building MODULAR Housing potentially on YVR or Musqueam land in months

<https://www.modular.org/2022/01/28/inside-the-modular-building-process/>

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*Best regards,*

**Carol Day**

Salvation Army homeless shelter

Out Reach workers must be able to access beds. What can we do to make that happen?

**After hours outreach worker** need access to the emergency flex rooms, the three rooms in the front how do we make them available for overnight.

I need a copy of the Original contract can you provide that ?

Pet Policy allowed for pets but I understand that the Shelter no longer allows pets why ?

Refugees and immigrants are taking up beds and I am working with the federal government to access federal funds for those people. Can you provide access to the number of beds go to refugees and immigrants so I can get you the funds to reimburse Richmond House.

I feel we need modular housing units built by the Federal government for the federal refugees and immigrants the help they need instead of using our Richmond Shelters .

**The Salvation Army  
 Richmond House Emergency Shelter  
 Monthly Admissions/Housed Data CY 2023**

Month	Admissions		% of Refugees
	Total	Refugees	
January	56	13	23.20%
February	27	5	18.50%
March	55	13	23.60%
April	61	13	21.30%
May	51	17	33.30%
June	35	9	25.70%
July	68	18	26.50%
August	70	33	47.10%
September	53	18	34.00%
October	72	22	30.60%
November	40	14	35.00%
December	44	26	59.10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>31.80%</b>

## **CLIENT ELIGIBILITY**

- Individuals who are experiencing Homelessness or At Risk of Homelessness aged nineteen (19) or older are eligible for Services under the Emergency Shelter Program.
- A Client's ability to access Services and remain in the shelter is generally determined by their behaviour towards other Clients and staff, and Clients should not be refused Services unless extenuating health or safety issues are present (e.g. assaults/threats to Clients or staff and/or medical needs beyond what the shelter can accommodate).