

**Pilon, Janet**

---

**Subject:** Enhanced By-law Encampment Enforcement - Mary Cep's comments

**From:** Mary Cep

**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2022 12:13 PM

**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)

**Subject:** Enhanced By-law Encampment Enforcement - Mary Cep's comments

Good afternoon!

I am a member of the Disability Justice of Ontario's Youth Action Council and would like to further discuss how ableism comes into play with the unjust nature of providing solutions to the homelessness and housing crisis. Upon receiving word from you and until I'm feeling well again, here are some words I've shared in a Youth-led blog relevant to the cause.

<https://www.youthfriendly.com/blog/youth-disability-advocates>

I attempted to send an email to you on the deadline for noon concerning the delegation council meeting I missed due to not feeling well, but the email did not go through. Thank you for taking the time to read this over. Take care and have a great day.

Best regards,

Mary Cep (*she/her*)

Dear Council,

Poverty isn't pretty. Just like the war going on across oceans and seas, not necessarily "our business" we are all entangled in corrupt systems that perpetuate fear and create harm that always comes full circle. There's no glory in war, and the increase of encampment evictions is the war on our streets which pose a direct threat to our local community members. The passing of this motion would be masquerading inhumane treatment as "justice." Legislation makes possible fairness and equality, however, the lack thereof equity is also reflected in harmful legal policies and practices. Police forcing homeless individuals to leave city park areas is telling of our society's refusal to see the on-going housing crisis for what it is and work towards solutions. "We all were once refugees" comes to mind when I think about the true story of how we all ended up on this great land—except refugees are permitted by a just and community-centred legal process, while Western colonization used trickster, militant and most despicable of all—genocide on the Indigenous stewards of Turtle Island to gain our current provinces and territories. Lightly acknowledged by mainstream culture, partially truthfully examined in literary and academic spaces, this reality echoes the power imbalances that have embedded itself in our "just business" relationship to the land and each other. If the law would rather sell out it's people to the highest bidder for property, *who is for the people?* This country forged with Indigenous blood spilt to obtain Western dominance and influence will not stand much longer placing economic profit over human lives, nature and unity within our community's ecosystem.

I would like to dive into my solutions, however as I'm not feeling well currently, I'd like to discuss them at a later date. Thank you for your time.