



DOWNTOWN NEWCASTLE
BUSINESS DISTRICT ASSOCIATION



Miramichi Housing Solutions Inc.

Solutions - Opportunities - Hope

Solutions - Opportunités - Espoir

December 8, 2023

Joint Statement on Miramichi Out of The Cold Shelter

On December 6th, representatives from the Greater Miramichi Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Miramichi Business Network Inc. (Downtown Newcastle BIA), Travelodge Hotel, Miramichi Housing Solutions Inc., and City of Miramichi met to discuss and address the concerns of the business community regarding homelessness and substance abuse problems in our downtowns, and to review the operational plans for the Out of the Cold Shelter.

The City of Miramichi and Miramichi Housing Solutions acknowledge that, due to the urgent nature of needing to have a plan in place for an Out of the Cold Shelter with Winter quickly approaching, the communication and notification process for engaging the local business community was inadequate.

Following this positive and constructive dialogue, businesses and associations have collectively agreed to withdraw legal actions against the Out of the Cold Shelter. It will now be able to move forward with opening as soon as operationally possible. In response to security concerns, Miramichi Housing Solutions Inc., with funding from Social Development, will implement on-site 24-hour security and a perimeter fence around the facility.

In addition, the local business associations and the City have requested a joint meeting with the Minister of Social Development and local MLAs to address ongoing homelessness and addiction issues in the community, obtain updates on provincial efforts, and identify areas for collaborative action at the local level.

All parties deeply appreciate each other's unwavering commitment to addressing critical issues within our community and oppose any form of protest or boycott against local businesses as a result of this issue. Together we remain dedicated to fostering understanding, collaboration, and positive solutions for the betterment of our city.