



Media Statement

DREADFUL DECISION in Leduc Shelter flip-flop sad low for beleaguered council

- Council quashes emergency shelter as homeless death toll climbs
- Some councillors suggest preventing freezing deaths too expensive
- Unprecedented flip-flop erodes confidence in council

Homeless people in the City of Leduc are dying at an alarming rate. In the two months since the city's only homeless shelter—the Leduc Hub, closed, ten of its former clients have perished.

Yesterday, the City of Leduc council voted 4-2 to rescind a previous plan to operate an emergency winter weather shelter, which had been approved by a 4-3 vote at the previous meeting. The rescinding is unprecedented in Leduc.

The reversal comes despite council's commitment in February to maintaining uninterrupted shelter spaces in Leduc and following council's acceptance of a [Homelessness Task Force Final Report](#) and its [Housing Needs Assessment Report \(p.33\)](#), which define an immediate need for shelter spaces in the community, and recommend doubling local shelter beds.

In response, Leduc Hub Association board chair Shannon Dalke issued the following statement:

This is not a proud moment for the City of Leduc.

Homeless people are dying in unprecedented numbers in our city. Councillors have made a dreadful decision to take away their last hope for local, life-saving services. To

justify the decision, some councillors offered unsavoury statements equating a price to human lives.

The Leduc Hub Association and all those who support vulnerable members of our community are affronted by this lack of compassion. By any measure, this is a failure of leadership.

This broken promise also raises legitimate questions about whether the City of Leduc can be trusted to honour its public commitments. It sends a chilling message to our citizens, our non-profit and volunteer community, our regional and provincial partners, and—worst of all—to potential investors we need to help our city grow.

As advocates, we must demand better from our civic leaders and continue holding City Council accountable for its commitments to our homeless population.

As volunteers, we must continue rallying all of council to the more charitable, humanitarian positions expressed by other councillors last night. To that end, the Hub's board, staff and volunteers remain committed to ongoing collaboration with City Council and the administration to reintroduce better shelter, navigation and social services support to Leduc.

- ***Shannon Dalke, Board Chair, Leduc Hub Association.***