



Statement

July 5, 2016

Representative Thanks Those Who Have Supported Youth Associated With Tent City

I want to take this time to offer my thanks to the many local advocates, working on behalf of those without housing and those living in poverty, who have been of great service to the people inhabiting “Tent City” in Victoria during the past several months.

In particular, I would like to thank and recognize these advocates for continually supporting and echoing our call for proper housing and a better system of care for the young people who have been associated with the camp. Young people currently in foster care and those who have recently aged out of foster care require strong supports in order to be successful and welcome in our community, and the experience of tent city has demonstrated just how far too many youth have been pushed to the margins with dim prospects of receiving the real services necessary to meet their needs.

With news today that the B.C. Supreme Court has ordered the camp vacated by no later than Aug. 8, it is important to recognize that tent cities – and homelessness in general – are symptoms of a serious problem in British Columbia that has been allowed to fester for far too long.

As Representative, I have continually called on government to provide a comprehensive system of residential care and support that is capable of providing for the unique needs of every child and youth in its care. I have also urged government to improve supports for youth who have aged out of care as this transition puts young people at continuing risk of homelessness.

The lack of such resources limits life chances for many who should have bright futures and safe places to become adults in a society that cherishes and supports them.

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B.C. Representative for Children and Youth