

John and Delphia Scratchley

• Esquimalt, British Columbia V9A5X8 •

November 15, 2015

Ms. Barb Desjardens
Mayor of Esquimalt
Township of Esquimalt

6/30-01 44

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

For Information:

☐ CAO ☐ Mayor/Council

RECEIVED: NOV 16 2015

Referred:

☐ For Action ☐ For Response ☐ COTW

☐ For Report ☒ Council Agenda ☐ IC

Dear Mayor Desjardins,

We are writing this letter to you and to Esquimalt Council to voice our strong objection to the possibility of opening up our parks to the homeless/campers. Our parks are the jewels of Esquimalt and provide wonderful sites for families and seniors alike to get out and enjoy the natural beauty and surroundings they have to offer. Esquimalt Gorge Park, Saxe and Macauley are all waterfront parks. We often walk them and enjoy seeing families at play and people walking their pets. Allowing campers will erode the quality of life for those of us who regularly visit these sites. Here are just some of the problems that will no doubt arise from this suggestion by Lisa Helps and her people:

Erosion of flora and fauna, needles, discarded shopping buggies, feces, clothing, possible graffiti and the dumping of garbage into the waterways which will add to pollution of these pristine areas.

No doubt there may be other factors. You mentioned policing because of our shared law enforcement. That is just one of the concerns that would arise. We applaud Langford Mayor Stu Young's approach (quote) "Yeah, we're not going to do that". Saanich is also dealing with the problem. By opening up the regions parks, Victoria is hoping that there will be an exodus out of Victoria which of course, would lessen their problems and dump them on everyone else.

The residents and tax-payers of Esquimalt do not deserve to have our area open to this proposal from the City. We pay our taxes and take pride in where we live. Our tax dollars help fund these parks and the people who administer to them. Many of these so-called "homeless" are not from here but gravitate to the Island because of our moderate climate and laissez faire attitudes. The more we provide for these campers, the more we will receive in the way of problems and yes, there are some people out there really in need of help.

We would be very interested in attending any discussions Esquimalt has regarding this major topic.

Yours truly,

John and Delphia Scratchley