

Hello I'm Char and I'm sure you all know who I am from all the important advocacy work I do. I am happy that the region has stepped up and has started listening to homeless people and including us in decision making.

I want to talk about the importance of supports for transitional housing. When I was homeless it was the impact of my step home worker who worked with me through the entire journey. She made me feel comfortable enough to talk to her and open up. She went to court with me and helped me deal with legal matters such as with my moms death. She was with me at the complex and at Eby Village. She introduced me to the PAG and taught me to be an advocate. She was there at Marys Place and then two years after.

This was the hardest time of my life.

When I first moved to Eby it was great. The staff were so involved and supportive. That support lessened over time. Huge. Housing is not enough. I was angry, I felt like nothing I said mattered.

It was my long-term worker who got me through this and into Conestoga college.

I am happy to hear that you are talking about funding interim housing options. But if you are not talking about increasing funding to outreach workers, peer support workers, and lived experts these projects will fail.

I want you to fund more 24/7 drop in centres. I believe that with housing the homeless there should be a comfortable spot for them to be. For example, giving them a spot to talk about how they feel. I strongly feel that it should be run by lived experience peers. People working beside them to make someone feel safer. One main worker to guide them and understand all the ways from start to finish makes a huge difference like my worker did for me.

I have been through all these systems, so I know what outreach and drop in programs work. I hope to continue working with the Region to ensure the best housing measures possible.

Thank you for your time.