

From: [Brent Larmer](#)
To: [Brent Larmer](#)
Subject: RE: (EXTERNAL SOURCE) Urgent concerns and requests
Date: April 22, 2021 8:46:50 PM

From: David Sheffield []
Sent: April 17, 2021 2:59 PM
To: David Sheffield <>
Subject: (EXTERNAL SOURCE) Urgent concerns and requests

Good afternoon,

I'm sharing my urgent concerns for our community, today, with all of my local government representatives.

Throughout the pandemic, I have been doing frontline, in-person engagement with people who are experiencing homelessness, critical mental illness and unsafe drug use, I'm writing today with a great deal of concern for our neighbours here in Northumberland. I work alongside community agencies and Northumberland Community and Social Services to provide outreach, information, emergency shelter and food to the extent of all of our capacities.

I've watched government responses that seem to ignore medical advice and act indecisively, leading us into a more difficult situation now than ever. Strict stay-at-home orders, park closings, etc., enforced by police is a scenario that frightens people who are unsheltered, many of whom are living with a history of trauma.

What governments have known about inequity—thought not taken seriously—through years of tracking Social Determinants of Health, now puts the lives of these neighbours at high risk. The people that I see each day have been made vulnerable by systems that don't value their existence.

The numbers of those entering homelessness continues to grow and since they don't have the same access to healthcare, housing and basic needs, I fear that these individuals will not have the same access to life-saving crisis care when providers are forced to triage intensive care beds.

Today I'm asking you to become informed about the immediate needs of people who are living unsheltered or in temporary homeless accommodation in your community.

I'm asking you to advocate on behalf of these constituents with your colleagues and other levels of government to provide immediately and with urgency:

1. Adequate, safe, supported housing for anyone who is unsheltered.
2. Protection from unnecessary intervention by police services for individuals who are unsheltered—including those taking steps to shelter themselves on public property.
3. Income equity for people who cannot work because of disability as has been made available to other citizens who cannot work.
4. Assurance that people living with the effects of disability, poverty, homelessness, mental illness and/or substance use will have equitable access to vaccines, emergency care and hospital care.

Thank you for taking action on these critical matters,

David Sheffield

David Sheffield

"I would love to live like a river flows, carried by the surprise of its own unfolding." — John O'Donohue