

REPORT



Date: September 10, 2025

Report to: Community and Human Services Committee

Report from: Jamie Lynne Osmond, Director of Community and Human Services

Subject: Homelessness Initiatives and Prevention – Bancroft Hybrid Warming Centre Expansion

Recommendation:

THAT the Community and Human Services Committee recommend to County Council approval to expand operations of the Bancroft Hybrid Warming Centre to a year-round, 12-hour operational model;

AND THAT, the Warden and Clerk be authorized to sign any Service Agreements required as a result;

AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to engage with community agencies on potential service delivery models for the site.

Financial Impact:

Does recommendation have a budgetary impact?	Yes
What is the anticipated impact?	\$ 127,105 2025-26 HPP \$ 381,315 2026-27 HPP
Has it been budgeted for this year?	Yes
100% funded through the Homelessness Prevention Program – Municipally Administered Initiatives.	

Analysis:

During the 2024-25 season, a Hybrid Warming Centre operated at the temporary location of 6 Cleak St. Bancroft, and included two separate areas, a sleeping area for six individuals and a traditional seating area. The centre was open for a total of 121 nights from December 1, 2024, until March 31, 2025, and was operated by one Integrity security officer and one Grace Inn Shelter staff.

Hastings County applied for and received Encampment Response Initiative (ERI) Funding from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing with the intention of purchasing land in the Town of Bancroft to serve as a permanent location for the Hybrid Warming Centre. In March 2025 the County purchased land on Billa Street and site work is underway in preparation for the upcoming 2025-26 season.

Historically, securing a location to operate the warming centre in Bancroft has proven difficult, resulting in a different location year after year. Recognizing the lack of year-round overnight shelter options in North Hastings, staff are recommending that the Hybrid Warming Centre be open year-round for 12 hours nightly. Ongoing operations will be funded through the Homelessness Prevention Program – Municipally Administered Initiatives. Operational costs include staffing and carrying costs such as utilities, property maintenance, insurance and taxes.

Staff have been working on the concept of expanded operations of the Hybrid Warming Centre since the initial application was made for ERI funding, however several consultations and considerations had to be managed as part of the proposed expansion of service. Staff have since undertaken the required work and with the funds that have been allocated to Municipality Administered Initiatives for the 2026-27 HPP funding year, staff recommend expanding operations of the Bancroft Hybrid Warming Centre from April 1, 2026, through until March 31, 2027.

Having now secured a permanent location, expanded services will now be available which will include a shower program, amnesty boxes, an accessibility ramp, designated smoking area, a bike rack, and a planned outdoor shed on property for limited client storage.

The supports previously provided such as, the use of Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) for data collection and reporting, laundry services for bedding, hygiene products, light refreshments, and a warm breakfast provided upon morning departure will be ongoing.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

3.1 Demonstrate transparent communication with member municipalities, community partners, staff and residents of Hastings County

Report Reviewed By:

Tony Bird, Director of Finance

August 29, 2025

Cathy Bradley, Director of Legislative Services & Clerk

August 27, 2025

Report Approved For Submission By:


Connor Dorey, Chief Administrative Officer

September 3, 2025