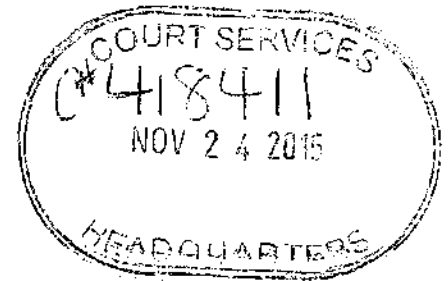




November 20, 2015



Ms. Lynda Cavanaugh  
Assistant Deputy Minister – Court Services Branch  
PO Box 9249 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC, V8W 9J2

Dear ADM Cavanaugh:

As you are aware, the green space adjacent to the Victoria Courthouse is currently occupied by people, largely from the homeless population, who have erected various types of camping structures there. As the area constitutes private property, it is not subject to the "overnight shelter" provisions of the City of Victoria Parks Regulation Bylaw. Accordingly, the Victoria Police have no independent authority to require the campers to remove their structures during the day.

My understanding is that, as the representative of the property owner, your office has determined that no action will be taken with regard to this situation, unless there is direct interference with the use or safety of the courthouse. It is the position of the Victoria Police that such a position is unsustainable. Past experience has demonstrated that allowing entrenchment of campers in an open area that has not been designed for permanent camping leads to numerous public safety and public order issues. Past experience has also shown that a proactive approach to these types of situations is preferable to a reactive approach once the situation reaches a critical level.

The purpose of this letter is to confirm your position, in order to assist the Victoria Police and the City of Victoria in planning a coordinated response, should public safety or the broader public interest require intervention in the near future. I would like to add that, moving forward, we are willing to work with your staff in providing strategies to assist in the management of the situation.

Yours truly,

Steven Ing  
Deputy Chief Constable M.O.M., LL.B.

Victoria Police Department 850 Caledonia Ave  
Victoria, British Columbia, V8T 5J8  
Phone: (250) 995-7654 Fax: (250) 384-1362

[www.vicpd.ca](http://www.vicpd.ca)

## Zollen, Darla JAG:EX

---

**From:** Cavanaugh, Lynda A JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 24, 2015 9:18 AM  
**To:** 'Elsner, Frank'  
**Subject:** RE: Victoria Courtouse campers

I have it now, not to worry. We're working it out!!

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Elsner, Frank [<mailto:Frank.Elsner@vicpd.ca>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 24, 2015 9:17 AM  
**To:** Cavanaugh, Lynda A JAG:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Victoria Courtouse campers

Hi Lynda, I am sorry and embarrassed that you don't have it. I was told the letter was e-mails and snail mailed to you last week. I have just learned that it was not e-mailed. I've asked Steve Ing to reach out to you asap. Please call me anytime you need to Frank

Cell s.15,s.22

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Cavanaugh, Lynda A JAG:EX [<mailto:Lynda.Cavanaugh@gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** November-24-15 8:13 AM  
**To:** Elsner, Frank  
**Subject:** Re: Victoria Courtouse campers

Thank you, a growing number of people are of the impression that I have it, but have not bothered to respond. I'm happy to set up a phone call if that helps straighten things out.

Lynda

**From:** Elsner, Frank  
**Sent:** Monday, November 23, 2015 8:24 PM  
**To:** Cavanaugh, Lynda A JAG:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Victoria Courtouse campers

Hi Linda, I was told you were sent a letter last week. I will follow up no hope we can work together on this. I want us to be on the same page. I hope you're well. Frank.

Sent from my iPhone managed by BlackBerry Enterprise Service

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Cavanaugh, Lynda A JAG:EX <[Lynda.Cavanaugh@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lynda.Cavanaugh@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Date:** November 23, 2015, 5:06 PM PST  
**To:** Elsner, Frank <[Frank.Elsner@vicpd.ca](mailto:Frank.Elsner@vicpd.ca)>  
**Subject:** Victoria Courtouse campers

Hi Frank, hope all is well. I am sure you are in the loop on the camping situation at the Vic Courthouse. As planning for the response is being coordinated I understand that Vic pd are awaiting a formal response from me to a letter sent on Thursday from Deputy Chief Steve Ing. I didn't receive a letter so am looking to you to facilitate receiving it?

Thank you!

Lynda Cavanaugh  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Court Services Branch  
Ministry of Justice  
250 356 1527

Hi Frank, hope all is well. I am sure you are in the loop on the camping situation at the Vic Courthouse. As planning for the response is being coordinated I understand that Vic pd are awaiting a formal response from me to a letter sent on Thursday from Deputy Chief Steve Ing. I didn't receive a letter so am looking to you to facilitate receiving it?

Thank you!

Lynda Cavanaugh  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Court Services Branch  
Ministry of Justice  
250 356 1527

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## Wharton, Peter JAG:EX

---

**From:** McGregor, Scott <scott.mcgregor@vicpd.ca>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 17, 2015 1:00 PM  
**To:** Wharton, Peter JAG:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Homeless encampment

Thank you Peter.

---

**From:** Wharton, Peter JAG:EX [<mailto:Peter.Wharton@gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 17, 2015 12:49 PM  
**To:** McGregor, Scott  
**Subject:** FW: Homeless encampment

Hi Scott, I got your voice mail but I am just on my way to another meeting, however I just wanted to keep you in the loop on what is occurring above me.

As you can see at this point we have been told to stand down on taking any action. I realize that this could lead to some large problems for your organization if they get deeply entrenched but at this point it is out of my hands.

If I can assist in any way please let me know.

Peter Wharton, Inspector  
British Columbia Sheriffs  
Victoria office  
Phone# 250 387-0393  
Cell # s.17

---

**From:** Melvin, Stephanie JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 17, 2015 10:42 AM  
**To:** Wharton, Peter JAG:EX; Eggleston, Darcy JAG:EX; Cooper, Sheila JAG:EX  
**Cc:** Corrado, Paul JAG:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Homeless encampment

Thanks for this Peter. We need to stand down on this issue and focus on other priorities. s.13

s.13 . Thanks for the follow up, but unless our campers are directly interfering in a serious manner with the use of this building or the safety of our Courthouse users, there is nothing to be done at this point.

Thanks again

Stephanie

---

**From:** Wharton, Peter JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 17, 2015 10:12 AM

**To:** Eggleston, Darcy JAG:EX; Cooper, Sheila JAG:EX; Melvin, Stephanie JAG:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Homeless encampment

FYI

---

**From:** McGregor, Scott [mailto:[scott.mcgregor@vicpd.ca](mailto:scott.mcgregor@vicpd.ca)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 17, 2015 10:10 AM  
**To:** Sykes, Graeme MTIC:EX  
**Cc:** Brown, Colin; Wharton, Peter JAG:EX  
**Subject:** Homeless encampment

Good morning Graeme and thank you for having the discussion we did this morning. I had my Community Resource Officers attend to assess the situation on the grounds of the courthouse this morning. They are concerned that the encampment there has become entrenched with at least 9 tents.

If you or someone with authority over the property requests that the Police assist with the removal of those persons our first step would be to engage them in conversation to determine how many will voluntarily comply. That will at least give us a better understanding of the scope of the issue at hand. We would not engage further at this point beyond dialogue.

I will be unavailable for the next hour and a half so I have copied my Staff Sergeant Colin Brown who can connect with you directly if required. In this case do not call the non-emergency line as Colin is the best point of contact.

Regards,  
Scott



**Inspector Scott McGregor**  
Focused Enforcement Team  
Victoria Police Department  
850 Caledonia Avenue  
Victoria, BC, V8T 5J8  
Desk: 250-995-7388  
Cell: s.15,s.16  
[Scott.mcgregor@vicpd.ca](mailto:Scott.mcgregor@vicpd.ca)  
[www.vicpd.ca](http://www.vicpd.ca)

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## Wharton, Peter JAG:EX

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**From:** McGregor, Scott <scott.mcgregor@vicpd.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 26, 2015 4:05 PM  
**To:** Phillips, Keith J JAG:EX  
**Cc:** Jonathan Tinney (JTinney@victoria.ca); Burbee, Jon MTIC:EX; Sykes, Graeme MTIC:EX; O'Connor, Dan; Healy, Terri; Brown, Colin; Wharton, Peter JAG:EX  
**Subject:** Shelter Beds  
**Attachments:** Colin Brown.vcf

Good afternoon Keith,

We received information regarding shelter space from the Emergency Weather Protocol Program this afternoon but we want to verify the numbers before we send it your way. I have attached the email addresses for Cst's O'Connor and Healy who are Community Resource Officers as well as the contact information for Staff Sergeant Colin Brown who is my second in charge. I have asked that the shelter information be sent to you once we are satisfied that it is accurate.

I am not here tomorrow and will be back to work Tuesday. Colin can be your first point of contact tomorrow and Monday and if something arises over the weekend please contact me directly.

Regards,  
Scott



**Inspector Scott McGregor**  
Focused Enforcement Team  
Victoria Police Department  
850 Caledonia Avenue  
Victoria, BC, V8T 5J8  
Desk: 250-995-7388  
Cell: s.15.s.16  
[Scott.mcgregor@vicpd.ca](mailto:Scott.mcgregor@vicpd.ca)  
[www.vicpd.ca](http://www.vicpd.ca)

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## Wharton, Peter JAG:EX

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**From:** McGregor, Scott <scott.mcgregor@vicpd.ca>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 20, 2015 2:30 PM  
**To:** Sykes, Graeme MTIC:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Brown, Colin; Wharton, Peter JAG:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Homeless encampment

Thank you Graeme for outlining the breakdown of Ministries and positions with interest in this property.

We have received direction (since your previous email) from Stephanie Melvin that the Campers are to be left alone and that they are not asking for any assistance at this time from the VicPD.

Ms. Melvin confirmed for me that this direction has come directly from ADM Cavanaugh.

We have communicated our concern to ADM Cavanaugh that things could escalate if allowed to continue on the property without any form of management. We have asked to open a dialogue with her and have offered our assistance in developing a strategy to deal with the current situation and to assist with developing plans moving forward concerning the management of the greenspace as it relates to the homeless population.

For example, every morning when the VicPD awaken homeless persons in the parks this provides us with opportunities to assess many things such as their exposure level to the elements, mental health status, physical health status, and many other vulnerabilities. We connect them at these times with mental health teams, connect them with housing providers, at times take them to hospital, or call the ambulance if they need immediate medical attention. In addition to that, because they are on City property, the Parks Department comes and cleans up accumulated garbage, needles, and human waste. The public works department then hauls all of that away to be disposed of properly.

Because the space they currently occupy is not on City property none of that management outlined above is happening. In effect, if the people there are allowed to continue to occupy the space, unabated, unrestrained and unmanaged it will be akin to actually creating greater vulnerabilities for them. The likelihood of an assault, overdose, exposure or other incident occurring increases as the population grows without any form of management.

One other point that was communicated to ADM Cavanaugh through Ms. Melvin was that there is green space in City Parks available all over the City. The people that are taking shelter on the grounds of the Courthouse are not doing so because there is nowhere for them to go. It is our experienced belief that they are taking up sheltering on that space because they are not being compelled to pack up every morning and move off the grounds.

As we have communicated our concerns to ADM Cavanaugh in writing the VicPD, respectfully will not be taking any action until we have received a response from her directly.

May I ask whether there has been communication between the two Ministries you've outlined below with respect to this issue been initiated?

Regards,  
Scott



**Inspector Scott McGregor**  
Focused Enforcement Team  
Victoria Police Department  
850 Caledonia Avenue  
Victoria, BC, V8T 5J8  
Desk: 250-995-7388  
Cell: s.15,s.16  
Scott.mcgregor@vicpd.ca  
[www.vicpd.ca](http://www.vicpd.ca)

---

**From:** Sykes, Graeme MTIC:EX [mailto:Graeme.Sykes@gov.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 20, 2015 1:49 PM  
**To:** McGregor, Scott; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Brown, Colin; Wharton, Peter JAG:EX; Sykes, Graeme MTIC:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Homeless encampment

Hi Scott,

I am glad to hear that VicPD will formulate an incremental approach with the intent on keeping the peace and avoiding confrontation. This is undoubtedly sound advice.

Regarding your letter to ADM Cavanaugh, it is important to understand the roles of various stakeholders in this issue:

- ? Lynda Cavanaugh, Assistant Deputy Minister, Court Services Branch, Ministry of Justice
  - o Court Services is the primary tenant of Victoria Courthouse and 96 courts across the Province of British Columbia
- ? Brian Fellows, Assistant Deputy Minister, Real Property Division, Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens Services
  - o RPD is the Landlord of the Victoria Courthouse and 8.5 million square feet of Provincially owned buildings
- ? WSI Brookfield Johnson Controls
  - o Outsource provider of Property Management Services
- ? Paladin Security
  - o Outsource provider of Security Services (through WSI)
- ? Government Communications and Public Engagement
  - o Advisors for all Ministries
- ? Within both the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens Services, there are numerous individual stakeholders who have a part to play. For example, I report to a Director, Executive Director, ADM (Brian Fellows), Deputy Minister, and Minister. My colleagues at Court Services will likewise have a chain of command that require consultation. All told, there will be dozens of individual Provincial employees who may be involved in this issue.

My role to date has included stakeholder engagement and coordination, across Ministries and with external stakeholders (City, VicPD, Community Groups, Resident Associations) which I expect will continue. As well, I have been tasked with drafting the options paper for site usage, in coordination with other Provincial Stakeholders.

Without knowing the contents of Chief Constable Elsner's letter to Ms. Cavanaugh, I am unable to determine what is being asked of the Province at this juncture. If, for example, the Chief has requested a meeting with Ms. Cavanaugh,

then it may be likely that my Division ADM or executive delegate will also wish to attend. I am hoping you can share with me the direction you have received and what you envision as next steps?

Thank you,

**Graeme Sykes**

**Real Estate Manager**

Real Property Division | Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services  
(250) 217-3027

---

**From:** McGregor, Scott [<mailto:scott.mcgregor@vicpd.ca>]

**Sent:** Friday, November 20, 2015 12:47 PM

**To:** Sykes, Graeme MTIC:EX

**Cc:** Brown, Colin; Wharton, Peter JAG:EX

**Subject:** RE: Homeless encampment

Good afternoon Graeme,

We have begun preliminary discussions on what our plan of approach to this situation will be.

Can I please confirm with you that this request is coming from Ms. Cavanaugh directly? The reason I am asking is because Deputy Chief Ing, on behalf of Chief Constable Elsner, sent a letter to Assistant Deputy Minister Cavanaugh yesterday regarding this situation.

In addition, can you confirm for me if you have been directed to take point on this and if so whether you will be the representative that we can have direct communication with?

Our approach to these types of matters is to formulate an incremental approach with the intent on keeping the peace and avoiding confrontation .

Regards,  
Scott



**Inspector Scott McGregor**  
Focused Enforcement Team  
Victoria Police Department  
850 Caledonia Avenue  
Victoria, BC, V8T 5J8  
Desk: 250-995-7388  
Cell: s.15,s.16  
[Scott.mcgregor@vicpd.ca](mailto:Scott.mcgregor@vicpd.ca)  
[www.vicpd.ca](http://www.vicpd.ca)

---

**From:** Sykes, Graeme MTIC:EX [<mailto:Graeme.Sykes@gov.bc.ca>]

**Sent:** Friday, November 20, 2015 10:12 AM

**To:** McGregor, Scott

**Cc:** Brown, Colin; Wharton, Peter JAG:EX

**Subject:** RE: Homeless encampment

Hi Scott

This morning at 9am there were approximately 14 tents located on the Courthouse Greenspace (attached photo).

I respectfully request that VicPD attend the site and do your best to disband the encampment, before the activity becomes even more entrenched.

My goal is to secure a decision on long term site usage and site rules prior to year end. So far, we are on track for that goal. Unfortunately, events on the ground are fast overtaking option development and stakeholder engagement.

Your assistance in the near term is greatly appreciated,

**Graeme Sykes**

**Real Estate Manager**

Real Property Division | Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

(250) 217-3027

---

**From:** McGregor, Scott (<mailto:scott.mcgregor@vicpd.ca>)

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 17, 2015 10:10 AM

**To:** Sykes, Graeme MTIC:EX

**Cc:** Brown, Colin; Wharton, Peter JAG:EX

**Subject:** Homeless encampment

Good morning Graeme and thank you for having the discussion we did this morning. I had my Community Resource Officers attend to assess the situation on the grounds of the courthouse this morning. They are concerned that the encampment there has become entrenched with at least 9 tents.

If you or someone with authority over the property requests that the Police assist with the removal of those persons our first step would be to engage them in conversation to determine how many will voluntarily comply. That will at least give us a better understanding of the scope of the issue at hand. We would not engage further at this point beyond dialogue.

I will be unavailable for the next hour and a half so I have copied my Staff Sergeant Colin Brown who can connect with you directly if required. In this case do not call the non-emergency line as Colin is the best point of contact.

Regards,  
Scott



**Inspector Scott McGregor**  
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## Wharton, Peter JAG:EX

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**From:** Spargo, Chris <chris.spargo@vicpd.ca>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 19, 2016 7:07 AM  
**To:** Wharton, Peter JAG:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Injunction Court date

Hi Peter,

Can we do Tuesday at 1330?

---

**From:** Wharton, Peter JAG:EX [mailto:Peter.Warton@gov.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 18, 2016 2:36 PM  
**To:** Spargo, Chris  
**Subject:** RE: Injunction Court date

Hi Chris, yes I am around tomorrow or Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> is open as well.

---

**From:** Spargo, Chris [mailto:chris.spargo@vicpd.ca]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 18, 2016 12:38 PM  
**To:** Wharton, Peter JAG:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Injunction Court date

Hi Peter,

My apologies but I had to s.22. Are you around tomorrow or next week?

---

**From:** Wharton, Peter JAG:EX [mailto:Peter.Warton@gov.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 15, 2016 8:24 AM  
**To:** Spargo, Chris  
**Cc:** Painter, Jeffrey JAG:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Injunction Court date

We could look at Tuesday afternoon if that works.

---

**From:** Spargo, Chris [mailto:chris.spargo@vicpd.ca]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 12, 2016 2:48 PM  
**To:** Wharton, Peter JAG:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Injunction Court date

Hi Peter,

I am working Tues- Fri next week and if it works I can come down and meet with you and/or Sgt Painter at the courthouse if you like.

Please let me know.

thanks

---

**From:** Wharton, Peter JAG:EX [<mailto:Peter.Wharton@gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 12, 2016 8:45 AM  
**To:** Spargo, Chris; Painter, Jeffrey JAG:EX  
**Cc:** Jorgensen, Cathie  
**Subject:** RE: Injunction Court date

Hi Chris, yes we are presently working on our action plan for the first court appearance. Sgt Painter is taking the lead on this and during our discussions we had talked about linking up with you. We may want to arrange a quick conference call for early next week.

I will also working on finding out some information around expected court dates and times .

Cheers

Peter Wharton, Inspector  
British Columbia Sheriffs  
Victoria office  
Phone# 250 387-0393  
Cell # s.17

---

**From:** Spargo, Chris [<mailto:chris.spargo@vicpd.ca>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 11, 2016 12:39 PM  
**To:** Wharton, Peter JAG:EX  
**Cc:** Jorgensen, Cathie  
**Subject:** Injunction Court date

Hi Peter,

Scott McGregor advised me to contact you as there is a possible court date looming regarding Tent City. I am responsible for planning our response to events revolving around Tent City, so if there is any information you are able to share regarding the court date and if and when you may require our assistance?

Please let me know. We can also discuss preliminary plans for dismantling the camp.

thanks



**Sgt Chris Spargo**  
Operational Planning  
Victoria Police Department  
850 Caledonia Avenue  
Victoria, BC, V8T 5J8  
250-995-7218  
[www.vicpd.ca](http://www.vicpd.ca)

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## **Zollen, Darla JAG:EX**

---

**From:** Cavanaugh, Lynda A JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 24, 2015 9:08 AM  
**To:** Melvin, Stephanie JAG:EX  
**Cc:** McMeekin, Laurie D JAG:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Victoria Courthouse Campers - Correspondence  
**Attachments:** ADM Cavanaugh\_2015\_11\_20.pdf

See below, and I will direct him to the MTIC lead as property managers (can you remind me please who that guy is?).  
Thanks.

---

**From:** Ing, Steve [<mailto:steve.ing@vicpd.ca>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 24, 2015 8:57 AM  
**To:** Cavanaugh, Lynda A JAG:EX  
**Subject:** Victoria Courthouse Campers - Correspondence

Good morning ADM Cavanaugh,

The attached letter was sent to your office last Friday.

I understand from Chief Elsner and a number of other parties that the position of your office on this matter may have changed from what is noted in the letter. Please let me know if you have time to discuss this matter over the phone this morning.

Kind regards ... Steve



**Steven Ing, M.O.M, LL.B.**  
Deputy Chief Constable  
Victoria Police Department  
850 Caledonia Avenue  
Victoria, BC, V8T 5J8  
250-995-7328  
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Hi Frank, hope all is well. I am sure you are in the loop on the camping situation at the Vic Courthouse. As planning for the response is being coordinated I understand that Vic pd are awaiting a formal response from me to a letter sent on Thursday from Deputy Chief Steve Ing. I didn't receive a letter so am looking to you to facilitate receiving it?

Thank you!

Lynda Cavanaugh  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Court Services Branch  
Ministry of Justice  
250 356 1527

Hi Frank, hope all is well. I am sure you are in the loop on the camping situation at the Vic Courthouse. As planning for the response is being coordinated I understand that Vic pd are awaiting a formal response from me to a letter sent on Thursday from Deputy Chief Steve Ing. I didn't receive a letter so am looking to you to facilitate receiving it?

Thank you!

Lynda Cavanaugh  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Court Services Branch  
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250 356 1527

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**From:** [Cavanaugh, Lynda A JAG:EX](#)  
**To:** ["steve.ing@vicpd.ca"](mailto:steve.ing@vicpd.ca); [Burbee, Jon MTIC:EX](#)  
**Cc:** [McMeekin, Laurie D JAG:EX](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Victoria Courthouse Campers - Correspondence  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 24, 2015 9:43:03 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[ADM Cavanaugh 2015 11 20.pdf](#)

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Thank you, Deputy Chief Ing.

I regret that there has been a lack of clarity regarding this situation. Over the course of the past few days, this has been sorted out. To be clear however, I did not direct that no action be taken. We have the same interest as the Victoria Police, I believe, which is to ensure a coordinated and supportive response. I know the VicPD do a great job on this front, proactively engaging with homeless individuals and assisting where possible, while maintaining the safety of residents of the larger community. I've worked with Chief Elsner on another matter in the past, and sincerely appreciate his leadership, your own, and the efforts of the Victoria Police in general.

The lead for government on the response is Jon Burbee. He is prepared to discuss further with you, and is copied above. Jon is keeping me apprised of proposed actions to ensure we are on the same page.

Please feel free to call me anytime, on this, or any other issue. My direct line (cell) is s.17

Lynda

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**From:** Ing, Steve [<mailto:steve.ing@vicpd.ca>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 24, 2015 8:57 AM  
**To:** Cavanaugh, Lynda A JAG:EX  
**Subject:** Victoria Courthouse Campers - Correspondence  
Good morning ADM Cavanaugh,

The attached letter was sent to your office last Friday.

I understand from Chief Elsner and a number of other parties that the position of your office on this matter may have changed from what is noted in the letter. Please let me know if you have time to discuss this matter over the phone this morning.

Kind regards ... Steve



**Steven Ing, M.O.M, LL.B.**  
Deputy Chief Constable  
Victoria Police Department  
850 Caledonia Avenue  
Victoria, BC, V8T 5J8  
250-995-7328  
[www.vicpd.ca](http://www.vicpd.ca)

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November 20, 2015

Ms. Lynda Cavanaugh  
Assistant Deputy Minister – Court Services Branch  
PO Box 9249 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC, V8W 9J2

Dear ADM Cavanaugh:

As you are aware, the green space adjacent to the Victoria Courthouse is currently occupied by people, largely from the homeless population, who have erected various types of camping structures there. As the area constitutes private property, it is not subject to the "overnight shelter" provisions of the City of Victoria Parks Regulation Bylaw. Accordingly, the Victoria Police have no independent authority to require the campers to remove their structures during the day.

My understanding is that, as the representative of the property owner, your office has determined that no action will be taken with regard to this situation, unless there is direct interference with the use or safety of the courthouse. It is the position of the Victoria Police that such a position is unsustainable. Past experience has demonstrated that allowing entrenchment of campers in an open area that has not been designed for permanent camping leads to numerous public safety and public order issues. Past experience has also shown that a proactive approach to these types of situations is preferable to a reactive approach once the situation reaches a critical level.

The purpose of this letter is to confirm your position, in order to assist the Victoria Police and the City of Victoria in planning a coordinated response, should public safety or the broader public interest require intervention in the near future. I would like to add that, moving forward, we are willing to work with your staff in providing strategies to assist in the management of the situation.

Yours truly,

Steven Ing  
Deputy Chief Constable M.O.M., LL.B.

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