

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

November/December 2023

## Public process to consider options for the relocation of the Living Space Emergency Shelter

In response to concerns raised by residents and businesses related to the Living Space Emergency Shelter on Spruce Street, Timmins City Council has asked the Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board (CDSSAB) to consider options for the relocation of Living Space out of residential and commercial zones. In late September 2023, Third Party Public Inc. was hired to lead the Relocation Review on behalf of CDSSAB, in collaboration with Eagle Cree Consulting.

### How can you get involved?

The Relocation Review is being implemented in three parts. Engagement of multiple interests and voices is important throughout. The three parts include:

**Part 1.** Make sense of where things are at now (Sep/Oct) – COMPLETE

**Part 2.** Explore options for relocation of Living Space (Nov/Dec)

**Part 3.** Share and refine draft outcomes of the Relocation Review (Jan/Feb 2024)

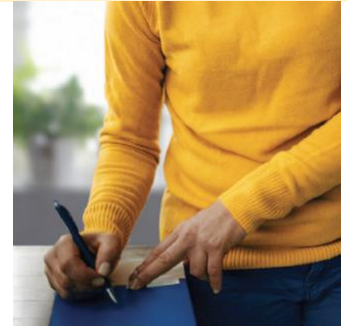


This Discussion Guide provides a summary of the Relocation Review process and timelines, and shares highlights of work completed to date. It also includes three questions that we'd like your thoughts on.

### Questions for you during Part 2:

1. Timmins will have an emergency shelter. What does an emergency shelter that's working well look like to you? What's happening to make it successful?
2. Both in-town and out-of-town locations for the Living Space emergency shelter have been suggested. What do you see as the top 3 advantages and disadvantages of both of these suggested locations?
3. Do you have any other comments to share with the Relocation Review team?

More details about the Relocation Review, including the Part 1 Summary Report, a copy of this Discussion Guide, and our Draft Part 2 Reference Sheet can be found at [www.livingspacereview.ca](http://www.livingspacereview.ca).



### WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

The Relocation Review welcomes any and all voices interested in participating.

During Part 2, attend one of two identical Community Working Sessions:

**Tues, Nov 21**  
7 – 9 pm, Dante Club

**Thurs, Nov 23**  
7 – 9 pm, Senator Hotel

Separate sessions are also being held with Indigenous voices, service providers, and people with lived experience.

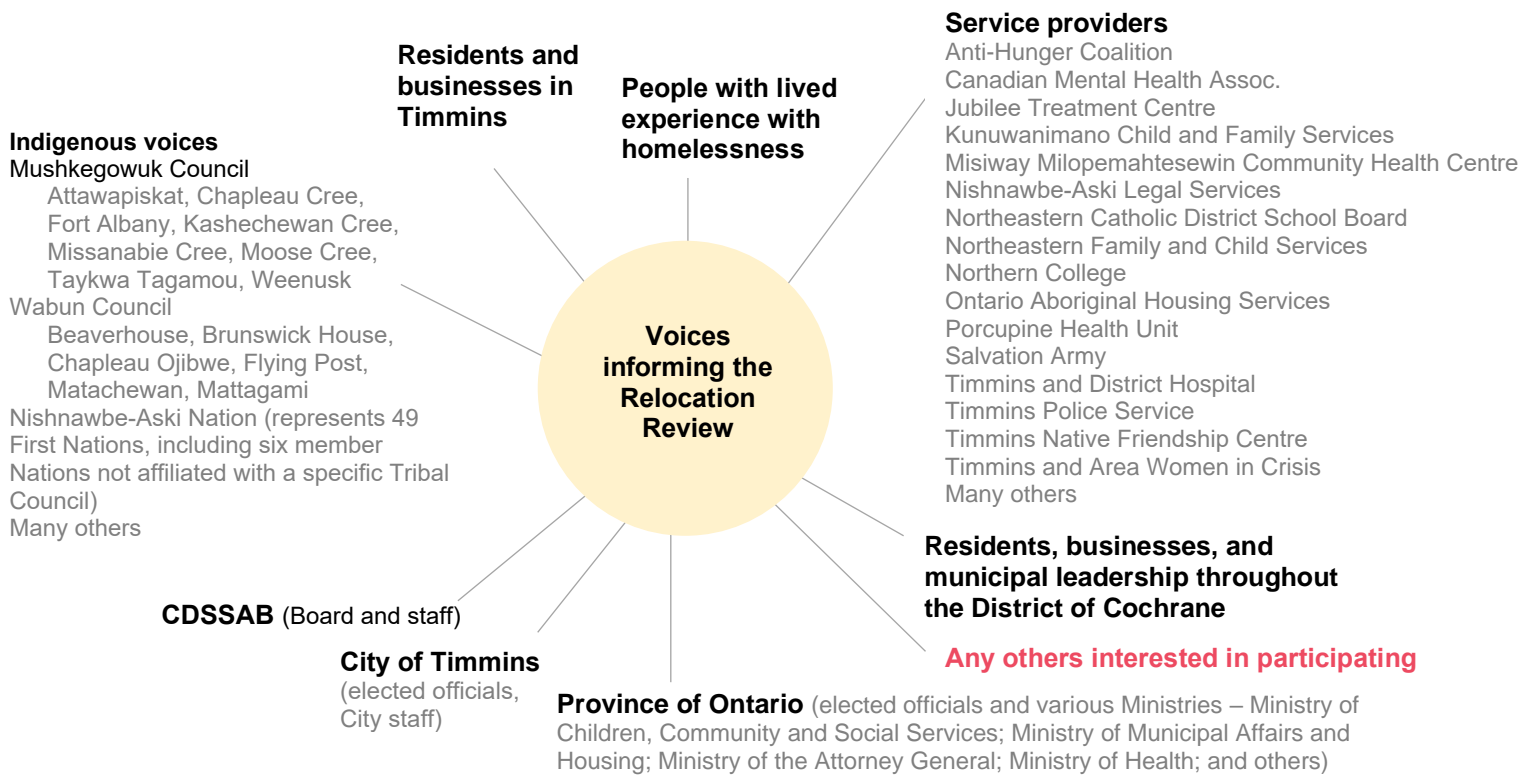
### Prefer sharing your thoughts online?

Visit the website to review the same information and answer the same questions we're asking in the working sessions.

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



# There are many voices informing the Relocation Review process, including, but not limited to, those shown below.



## What’s happened so far?

In late September through to October 31, 2023, Third Party Public held over 35 meetings (one-on-one and sometimes in small groups) with over 75 people.

The people we connected with included residents (some of whom are business owners), Indigenous voices, people with lived experience, and representatives from different service providers, the City of Timmins (elected officials and staff), Cochrane DSSAB, Town of Iroquois Falls, and the Province of Ontario.

We asked everyone we met with to help us understand their expectations and perspectives on what needs to be considered during the Relocation Review, and any thoughts they had about the process.

The Part 1 Summary Report (posted on [www.livingspacereview.ca](http://www.livingspacereview.ca)) does not, and is not intended to, present a complete picture of everything that will be considered during the five-month Relocation Review process. It is a starting place on which broader discussions involving many more voices will take place during Parts 2 and 3 of the Relocation Review

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## What did people tell us?

### Location:

Both in-town (including maintaining the current location on Spruce Street) and out-of-town locations were suggested for Living Space. Some suggested the possibility of multiple locations.

## Topics where the same message was consistently shared, almost universally, by those we spoke to:

1. Ensure the Relocation Review is public.
2. Treat all with dignity and respect.
3. Must have meaningful collaboration with Indigenous communities.
4. People living in the residential area in which Living Space is located are experiencing significant negative impacts since the opening of the emergency shelter.
5. Downtown Timmins is struggling.
6. There are people experiencing homelessness in Timmins that have multiple, complex needs that require specialized training, housing, skills, services, and supports.
7. Living Space facility is not providing the intensive 24/7 supports that many of the highest needs people require.
8. Timmins Police Service is understaffed and recruiting is a challenge. There are concerns that criminal activity is going unaddressed.
9. The provincial and federal governments need to direct more resources and more expertise to Timmins and the District of Cochrane because we do not have enough to respond to community needs.
10. Many people have first-hand experience with friends and family members with mental health or addictions issues.

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## Other information that's important to consider during the Relocation Review:

1. Residents and businesses are frustrated and want to see the concerns that they're raising addressed.
2. Strengthening relationships with Indigenous communities involves understanding and acting in a way that respects Indigenous ceremony, protocol, and culture.
3. The history and role of Timmins in the District of Cochrane is important to understand.
4. Opioid addictions, mental health issues, and the affordable housing crisis are major contributors to the challenges Timmins is facing.
5. There are significant efforts being made to provide housing, mental health and addictions supports, and to address community safety and well-being in Timmins.
6. Bricks and mortar are part of the story, but services are the bigger part.
7. The responsibilities of different organizations and institutions needs to be clearer.
8. The relationship between the services provided at the safe injection facility and Living Space needs to be considered.
9. Communication with neighbours needs to be a critical part of the process when emergency shelter services are introduced in a community.

# What is the Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board (CDSSAB)?



Cochrane District  
Social Services  
Administration Board

The CDSSAB is a special agency created by the Province of Ontario and given responsibilities to deliver social services within the District of Cochrane. There are ten DSSABs across Northern Ontario. They were established in 1998.

The services delivered by DSSABs are mandatory, including administration of Ontario Works, childcare, and social housing. The CDSSAB also delivers emergency medical services.

DSSABs do not have direct taxing authority. The majority of their funding for the Cochrane DSSAB comes from the Province of Ontario, with about 25% coming from municipalities served by the CDSSAB. The Board of the CDSSAB is prescribed by regulation in the [District Social Services Administration Boards Act](#) and includes elected officials from the City of Timmins (the Mayor and 6 Councillors) as well as 6 mayors representing other municipalities in the District, along with a representative from the Territory Without Municipal Organization (TWOMO).

DSSABs are accountable to the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services.

## Contact

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If you'd like to talk by phone and avoid long distance charges, send us an email with your phone number and we're happy to call you back.

## For Indigenous Voices:

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## QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. Timmins will have an emergency shelter. What does an emergency shelter that's working well look like to you? What's happening to make it successful?
2. Both in-town and out-of-town locations for the Living Space emergency shelter have been suggested.
  - a) What do you see as the top 3 advantages and disadvantages of an **in-town** location?
  - b) What do you see as the top 3 advantages and disadvantages of an **out-of-town** location?
3. Do you have any other comments or advice to share with the Relocation Review team?

**Share your thoughts  
in-person and/or by  
completing the online  
feedback form at  
[www.livingspacereview.ca](http://www.livingspacereview.ca).**

If you're interested in a paper copy of the materials, including a worksheet where you can hand-write your feedback – we're happy to mail one out to you. Just contact our Third Party Public team (see info below) and leave us your name and address.

A summary of all feedback received **by December 8, 2023**, will be included in our Part 2 Summary Report which will be distributed to participants and posted on the Relocation Review website in early January 2024.

All feedback received after that point (including feedback by mail, which will likely arrive after that date) is also very important and will be integrated into our Part 3 work in January and February 2024.

**[www.livingspacereview.ca](http://www.livingspacereview.ca)**