

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

January/February 2024



## Draft Outcomes of the Living Space Relocation Review

The Living Space Relocation Review is now in Part 3. The purpose of Part 3 is to share and refine the Draft Outcomes. There are five Draft Outcomes, which are based directly on the detailed feedback shared by hundreds of people and dozens of organizations during Parts 1 and 2 of the Relocation Review. Feedback was shared in meetings and working sessions, online, by email, or by phone between late September and the end of December, 2023 (see [www.livingspacereview.ca](http://www.livingspacereview.ca) for all materials shared to date and summaries for all working sessions held).

### The Draft Outcomes of the Living Space Relocation Review:

- 1 What's happening in Timmins is not ok. Timmins is not alone in facing these issues. A lot is happening to try and address them.
- 2 There are significant problems with Living Space today. Different people describe the problems in different ways.
- 3 There is a lot of common ground on how to improve the shelter, regardless of its location.
- 4 Relocation alone will not necessarily solve the problems with Living Space. All location options have risks that need to be considered.
- 5 There is a willingness in the Timmins community to try and work together to make Timmins better. Trust needs to be built. Accountability needs to be shared. There is an urgent need to act.

### Questions for discussion during Part 3:

1. How well do the Draft Outcomes reflect the perspectives shared during the Relocation Review?
2. Is there anything major missing or off-base in the Draft Outcomes? If so, what edit(s) would you like to see considered?
3. The Relocation Review Steering Committee will develop a plan on how to implement the outcomes of the Relocation Review. Do you have any implementation advice that you'd like the Committee to consider? If so, please share your advice.

## WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!



Please join us at the following in-person working sessions (registration is encouraged but not required at [www.livingspacereview.ca](http://www.livingspacereview.ca)):

### Youth

Mon, Feb 5 (4pm - 6pm)

### Service Providers

Tues, Feb 6 (9am - 12pm)

### Community

Tues, Feb 6

Open House (6 - 7pm)

Working Session (7 - 9 pm)

### Indigenous Voices

Wed, Feb 7 (9:30am - 12:30 pm)

### People with Lived Experience with Homelessness

Wed, Feb 7 (4pm - 6pm)



### Learnings from the week + Light Lunch

Sat, Feb 10 (11am-1pm)



### Prefer sharing your thoughts online?

Complete the Part 3 online feedback form here:

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



The Living Space Relocation Review was prompted by a request from Timmins City Council to 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.

## Third Party Public's approach to the Relocation Review is to:

- Deliver a transparent, participatory approach that honours all voices;
- Provide leadership in the process, as process stewards that are not advocating for any particular outcome of the Relocation Review, but who instead make space and bring structure for participants to drive the outcomes of the Relocation Review;
- Create space for the full range of opinions and perspectives to be considered;
- Identify where there is common ground to be found, if any, between different participants and interests, as well as places where differences exist and the reasons behind them;
- Acknowledge tensions and provide constructive approaches to respecting differences; and
- Deliver a defensible Relocation review process and outcomes that serve as a strong foundation on which future discussions can build.

The work completed in each part of the Relocation Review has informed the foundation of the discussions that follow in subsequent parts. This is intentional, so that when the Relocation Review is complete the outcomes will be self-evident to anyone participating in the process and/or following information, updates, and reports shared via the Relocation Review website ([www.livingspacereview.ca](http://www.livingspacereview.ca)).

## A few more details on the 5 Draft Outcomes

1

**What's happening in Timmins is not ok.** Participants said:

- People have lived here a long time and say they don't recognize Timmins. Homelessness used to be more hidden.
- Opioid addictions, mental health issues, and the affordable housing crisis are major contributors to the challenges faced.
- They have concerns about crime and the lack of consequences for those crimes.
- They have concerns about growing hate and anger. There are fears of vigilante justice.
- There's a need for more awareness and understanding of First Nations people, histories, strengths, and challenges

**Timmins is not alone in facing these issues.** They're also being faced by other cities, towns, and provinces across the country – and around the world.

**There are many things happening in Timmins to address issues.** There are different organizations and governments working together to implement plans, policies and initiatives to make things better.

A few examples:

*Mushkegowuk Fire Keeper Patrol  
Expanded access to Safety  
Improvement Grants  
Timmins Community Safety and  
Well-Being Plan  
Updated Plan and Investment  
Strategy for Homelessness  
Prevention*

2

There are significant problems with Living Space today. Different people describe the problems in different ways. **Some of the concerns relate to the shelter's location.** Participants said:

- Many people don't feel safe living in or visiting the neighbourhood around Living Space, especially after dark.
- There are concerns that many people's frustrations with the shelter have nothing to do with the shelter itself or the people accessing it.
- People using Living Space feel treated as outcasts and targeted by the community.
- There are concerns about how the shelter is run.
- There are concerns about the lack of service providers supporting Living Space.

3

There is a lot of common ground on what an emergency shelter that's working well looks like. **These are largely relevant regardless of where the shelter is located.** Participants said:

- The shelter is well run with good governance, transparency, strong staff, and cultural competency.
- The shelter doesn't contribute to safety concerns – in the community or for shelter clients.
- The Timmins community is engaged and supportive.
- Services are provided (some say should be basic 8am-8pm, others see a service hub).
- Service providers are working together to help support clients of the shelter.
- The shelter is supported by other needed facilities (like more detox and rehab facilities, more transitional and supportive housing, more affordable housing, an integrated inner city health care clinic\*).
- The shelter has a clear approach to if/how it serves people with addictions.

4

**Relocation alone will not necessarily solve the problems with Living Space. All location options have risks that need to be considered. Selection of any relocation option relies on confirming the potential benefits and risks identified, including the assumptions on which they are based.** Participants said:

**Relocate the shelter out-of-town.** Residents and businesses currently experiencing issues would have their sense of security and confidence back. People using the shelter may have better outcomes.

*Risk that people don't go, leading to more people sleeping rough downtown, more demands on EMS, even bigger challenges.*

*Risk that people try to go, and face safety risks through their travels.*

*Risk that people do go, disconnecting them from services, supports, family, friends, housing, jobs.*

**Relocate the shelter in-town.** People can come and go easily on foot, it's easier to access services, supports, family, friends, housing, and jobs. Fewer people sleeping rough downtown.

*Risk that public concerns about safety persist. Tensions and frustrations grow, people lose confidence in government and service providers to address their concerns. People leave Timmins.*

*Risk that substances are more readily available.*

*Risk that stigma and hate continues.*

*Many risks between both in-town options are shared.*

**Keep the Spruce Street location & improve services. If the shelter was better run and better supported, there would be fewer issues.**


*Risk that leadership, staffing, and governance do not improve. Living Space non-profit organization is in a period of change.*

*Risk that relationship with the community is too damaged to repair.*

**Have more than one shelter.** Different needs can be served in different locations (low barrier, high barrier, youth, families, couples, women and LGBTQ2+). Have 2 permanent shelters and temporary shelter for emergencies.

*Risk that service providers have limited capacity to provide supports to two different locations.*

*Risk that additional resources and oversight required for 2 locations.*

 *All options face the risk that service providers have limited capacity to provide supports. There are already stresses serving current needs.*

5

There is a willingness in the Timmins community to try and work together to make Timmins better. Trust needs to be built. Accountability needs to be shared. There is an urgent need to act.

Participants said everyone needs to do their part and be held accountable for what they do to make Timmins better.

Organizations and agencies need to deliver the services they are mandated to deliver:

- Shelter** > Living Space Non-Profit\*
- Social Housing** > CDSSAB\*\*
- Law Enforcement** > Timmins Police Service
- Mental Health and Addictions** > CMHA-CT
- Health, Mental Health, Addictions** > Hospital
- Sanitation, Public Washrooms, Property Standards** > City of Timmins

\* In period of change

\*\* CDSSAB is responsible for the oversight of 2428 housing units (175 co-op, 611 non-profit, 124 rent supplement, 32 supportive living, 1248 Local Housing Corp units)

Learn more and share your thoughts

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

### 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.

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## What happens next?

### February 20, 2024

**Deadline for all feedback on Part 3 of the Living Space Relocation Review.** Third Party Public, in collaboration with Eagle Cree Consulting refine (as/if necessary) and finalize the Outcomes of the Relocation Review based on feedback received during Part 3.

### February 29, 2024

Relocation Review Report delivered by Third Party Public, to the Steering Committee and shared with all participants. CDSSAB forwards Relocation Review Report to City of Timmins Administration.

### March 2024

Relocation Review Steering Committee reviews Relocation Review Report in the context of existing policies and resources, and works with the Living Space Board of Directors, community partners, and the City of Timmins to propose an Action Plan, including funding plan, the CDSSAB Board.

### March 21, 2024

CDSSAB Board considers proposed Action Plan, including Funding Plan.

### April 2024

Relocation Review Report, along with Action Plan, is forwarded to Timmins City Council.

### ONGOING

CDSSAB, Timmins City Council, and community partners continue working together to implement the Action Plan.

### Relocation Review Steering Committee

- CDSSAB
- Canadian Mental Health Assoc.
- Timmins Police Service
- Timmins and District Hospital
- Porcupine Health Unit
- Timmins and Area Women in Crisis
- The Salvation Army
- Living Space Non-Profit\*
- With open welcome to Mushkegowuk Council, Wabun Tribal Council*

\* In period of change