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**From:** Katey Wright S22(1) Personal Information  
**Sent:** Monday, June 16, 2025 3:30 PM  
**To:** Mayor and Councillors  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Temporary Use Permit 40 Begbie Street

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Mayor Johnstone and Councillors,

I am writing in support of the Temporary Use Permit you are considering for the Health Contact Centre at 40 Begbie Street.

I have lived in New Westminster for 14 years. I also own and operate a small business downtown, so I'm downtown pretty well every day. I think this TUP is essential. The Purpose Society's services are crucial to a population in grave need.

Though our business sees little disruption from the current site, I get that it creates lots of difficulties for others who live and work in the area. This doesn't mean that Purpose isn't doing a great job - quite the contrary. People are coming because they know there's help. It means that another safe consumption site is needed for people who use inhalants. That isn't Purpose's problem to solve. Let's clear the way for them to continue offering their valuable services.

Although our business sees little disruption from the current site, we know many businesses in its immediate vicinity do. But if the Purpose site closes without a properly equipped new site ready to take its place, where would the people go? Where would they use? Probably there would be a rapid increase in open use of all substances, only creating more challenges for all.

I also urge you to consider a longer term for this TUP. Give Purpose 2 years. Realistically, we may need them to keep doing what they're doing for at least that long. And it would be a tangible vote of confidence for Purpose, which would help a lot with their funding applications.

It does not feel good to live, love, work, and run a business side by side with such abject human need. I think that's because we know it's just wrong. There shouldn't be such a vast difference in the way people are able to live and be cared for when in need. To me, that means looking our stricken neighbours in the eyes and recognizing them as people, rather than looking at their circumstances and seeing them as an obstacle to our success or our ability to be carefree in our community. We shouldn't be carefree, frankly; we should simply care. As humans, it's in our nature. And we should support any initiatives that are already in place and doing some good.

Until a more comprehensive safe use site is available to those in need, the current site is essential. I hope the new site is up and running as soon as possible. It is an overdue necessary resource. Until then, the best thing for the downtown area is to keep the current site open.

Sincerely,

Katey Wright

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Katey Wright (she/her)

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I recognize and respect that I live and work on the unceded and unsurrendered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. I am thankful to be here. Check out the territory you live on at <https://native-land.ca>.