

WESTSIDE BLUEBIRD PETRO-CANADA
1721 ROSS ROAD
WEST KELOWNA, BC, V1Z 3E7

To Whom it May Concern,
RE: File Number TUP 21-03

For over a year we here at Petro Canada have been in a fight with elements unseen in prior years, since the opening of the Super 8 as a shelter.

It has affected us very negatively. For starters, Owners, Staff and Customers alike now encounter, drug dealing, begging customers for money, loitering and sleeping against the building, to outright verbal abuse and fighting amongst themselves at the site.

We have endured break-ins while closed and many thefts such as running through the store grabbing merchandise and heading right back out the door with it. Many of these people are violent towards us and our staff members are afraid of confrontation.

We have had to lock our washroom for the first time in 25 years, to the great inconvenience of customers and staff alike. We are now in charge of whom to give the key to, simply more stress for all of us. This was a result of shooting up drugs in the washroom sometimes making a large mess which includes blood all over the place and dirty needles. In addition to the biohazards customers and staff are exposed to, drug users have passed out in the bathroom, with us pounding on the door in an effort to get them out of there. We have had multiple over-doses inside the store and outside the building.

Our business has endured extra costs in many areas dealing with these issues with no redemption for them, as well as shortened hours!

I have had good and long term staff quit over these problems and threaten to quit. It has been extremely hard on my staff, they simply would like their old work environment back, I as well.

But Now here we are being threatened with yet another shelter (2515 Bartley Road) probably closer to our site with an element of even greater concern than the one already in place.

Is the city willing to pay all associated costs because there will be many? Vandalism, security, theft and an incredible employee turn-over.

At what point will it cause me to lose business to other sites that may be safer for people to conduct their business. This is a terrible idea, and I am far from the only one who will be affected badly by this.

This Counsel needs to vote against this application, it's that simple.

Michael Van Den Elzen
Owner/Director