

# Police calls to Rehill lot drop dramatically, thanks to modular cabins: city staff

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Jen Turtscher, of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Peterborough, shows a cabin on a tour of the Modular Bridge Housing Community at the former Rehill parking lot in March 2024. City staff say there's been a drop in police calls to the property since the cabins were installed to replace a tent encampment.

Clifford Skarstedt Metroland



By [Joelle Kovach](#) Reporter

Police calls to the former Rehill parking lot on Wolfe Street have plummeted by 96 per cent, states a new city staff report, since the city replaced a tent encampment there with 50 modular cabins for people without homes.

At a general committee meeting on Monday night, councillors will consider authorizing staff to buy up to 16 more cabins to add to the 50, at a cost of up to \$1.1 million.

Along with that recommendation to buy more cabins, city staff have released new data related to the project.

According to the data, Peterborough police were called 95 times to the tent encampment in the municipal Rehill parking lot between Nov. 27, 2022, and June 30, 2023 (a period of seven months).

By fall 2023, single-occupant modular cabins were installed in the parking lot to replace the tents. People started moving into them by Nov. 27, 2023.

Over the first seven months that the cabins were occupied — between Nov. 27, 2023, and June 30, 2024 — police were called there four times (a 96 per cent decrease in calls, compared to the same seven-month period the previous year).

The data further indicates that:

- Generally, half the residents of the modular cabins are men without homes, and the other half are women without homes.
- The city aims to have a minimum of 35 per cent Indigenous people living in the cabins.
- Currently, about 40 per cent of people living in the cabins are Indigenous.
- Four people living in cabins are employed.
- One person has moved out of a cabin and into more permanent housing, and one more person has secured a home and is soon to move.
- 10 more people have been assessed by workers from the Elizabeth Fry Society (the agency that operates the cabins) and are ready to move into more permanent housing, when affordable housing becomes available.
- 17 people have been evicted from the cabins, as of August, for breaking the rules. There's a no-violence policy, the report notes, as well as policies for guests and for fire prevention, and residents are expected to set and pursue life goals.