



Panhandling

Bylaw No. 24-38

DEALING WITH PANHANDLING

The Dos

- **DO** answer requests for money with a firm “no”.
- **DO** report aggressive panhandling by calling Community Services.
- **DO** give authorities the location and physical description of the panhandler.
- **DO** treat panhandlers with respect, realizing that only a small portion of panhandlers are actually aggressive.
- **DO** offer panhandlers and the homeless information on where they can get help.
- **DO** make donations to organizations that have a proven track record for helping the homeless.

The Do Not

- **DO NOT** encourage panhandling by giving money, food, etc.
- **DO NOT** allow anyone to camp or loiter on your property or at your residence.
- **DO NOT** allow anyone to store shopping carts, bedding, or other personal belonging on your property or at your residence.
- **DO NOT** assume you are making a difference when you are giving into panhandlers as you are inadvertently facilitating poverty.
- **DO NOT** assume panhandling is good for the community. Panhandling can lead to crime and lower the quality of life downtown and in other areas of the city.



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COMMUNITY SERVICES



1303 Mission Flats Road
Kamloops, BC, V2C 1A9



250-828-3409



communityservices@kamloops.ca

Stay Connected @CityofKamloops



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FOR THOSE WHO NEED A HELPING HAND

Immediate aid is available from social service and non-profit agencies and faith-based organizations. There is help out there for those who want it. Many shelters and agencies provide meals, shelter, health care, and employment counselling to the homeless and others in need. Police and social service professionals agree that giving money to panhandlers is not the best way to help them. Giving to organizations dedicated to helping the needy and the homeless is a much more effective way to help.

The Community Services Division is part of a coordinated outreach team, and officers are connected with social service agencies that will ensure that those in need don't have to sleep outside, go hungry, or return to an abusive environment.

WHAT DOES "PANHANDLE" MEAN?

"Panhandle" means to beg or ask for money, donations, goods, or other things of value, whether by spoken, written, or printed word or by bodily gesture for oneself or for any other person.

Panhandling is part of a vicious cycle of dependency. Giving money to a panhandler may provide a fleeting, short-term treatment of a symptom, but it does nothing to address the root cause of the needy and homeless in our city. In addition, panhandling can evoke feelings of intimidation to visitors, workers, and residents.

Be compassionate.

Whether it is food, shelter, clothing, or any number of needs, there are social service agencies that can help. We are all part of this community, and supporting your local service agencies can help those in need.

BYLAW NO. 24-38

What you need to know:

- Panhandling Bylaw No. 24-38 is in effect 24 hours a day, seven days a week in Kamloops.
- Panhandling is prohibited in any location in Kamloops within 10 m of:
 - an automated teller machine
 - an entrance to a financial institution
 - a public transportation stop and/or shelter
 - a liquor store
 - a movie theatre
 - a church or place of worship
 - and any location before sunrise and after sunset
- Panhandling from the occupant of a motor vehicle that is parked, stopped at a traffic signal, or standing temporarily for the purpose of loading and unloading is prohibited.
- When cited, offenders may receive a fine and penalty of not less than \$100 and not more than \$2,000.

A BETTER WAY

A better way to give to those in need is to donate to charities and organizations with outreach programs that truly help the needy and homeless with long-term solutions. To learn more about local social service agencies and to find out how your donation can help, please contact one of the following agencies:

Ask Wellness Centre

P: 250-376-7558 | AskWellness.ca

The Mustard Seed Kamloops

P: 250-434-9898 | TheSeed.ca

Y Women's Emergency Shelter

P: 250-374-6162 | KamloopsY.org

Emerald Centre

P: 250-372-3031



COMMUNITY SERVICES

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