



Motion on Updated OBCM Health and Homelessness Strategy

Motion Submitted By: OBCM's Executive Team - Mayor Marianne Meed Ward (Chair), Mayor Josh Morgan (Vice-Chair), Mayor Cam Guthrie (Past-Chair), Mayor Bryan Paterson (Treasurer) and Mayor Rob Burton (Secretary)

Whereas in 2022 Ontario's Big City Mayors called on the province for an emergency meeting to address the chronic homelessness, mental health, safety and addictions crisis overwhelming our communities; and

Whereas OBCM adopted our Health and Homelessness Strategy in February 2023 to offer the province some guidance and solutions on how they can work with municipalities to tackle this crisis; and

Whereas OBCM along with other key stakeholders met with Minister Jones and her staff in April 2023 to present and discuss this strategy; and

Whereas although the province has provided additional funding for mental health, addictions and homelessness programs, the funding does not adequately address the ongoing crisis and financial and social impact on municipalities across the province; and

Whereas there is no provincial lead focused on this crisis leading to unanswered questions, and a lack of support to manage the increasing needs of those who are unhoused

Therefore, be it resolved that Ontario's Big City Mayors call on the province to officially make Homelessness a Health Priority

AND that the provincial government acknowledge the Humanitarian Crisis that Ontario is facing as the numbers of unhoused individuals and those suffering with mental health & addictions grows exponentially;

AND request the provincial government appoint a single ministry and/or Ministerial lead and equip them with the appropriate resources to tackle this crisis;

AND request that the provincial government strike a task force with broad sector representatives including municipalities, healthcare, first responders, community services, the business community and the tourism industry to develop a *Made in Ontario Action Plan*

AND that OBCM receive the materials provided by the CAO working group along with the previously adopted Health and Homelessness Strategy which includes a request for 24/7 crisis centres, and submit them to the province as part of OBCM's advocacy work on the Mental Health, Addictions and Homelessness Crisis facing our communities.