



— OBCM —
Ontario's Big City Mayors

MARCO
MAYORS AND REGIONAL CHAIRS OF ONTARIO

Motion Requesting that the Provincial Government take Action to Address the Growing Health and Homelessness Crisis

Motion Submitted By: Mayor Marianne Meed Ward (OBCM Chair) Karen Redman (MARCO Chair)

Whereas in 2022 Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM) along with the Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO) called on the province for an emergency meeting to address the chronic homelessness, mental health, safety and addictions crisis overwhelming our communities; and

Whereas this crisis continues to grow with 3432 drug related deaths in Ontario in 2023¹ as well as over 1400 homeless encampments across Ontario communities in 2023²; and

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

Whereas municipalities are stepping up and working with community partners to put in place community-specific solutions to address this crisis, but municipalities lack the expertise, capacity, or resources to address these increasingly complex health care and housing issues; 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 and the Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario 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 appoint a responsible ministry and Minister with the appropriate funding and powers as a single point of contact to address the full spectrum of housing needs as well as mental health, addictions and wrap around supports.

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

AND that this provincial task force reviews current programs developed by municipalities, regions and community partners that have proven successful in our communities, to ensure that solutions can be implemented quickly and effectively to tackle this crisis.

¹ Office of the Chief Coroner, Ontario (2024). OCC Opioid Mortality Summary Q4 2023. [PDF] .
<https://odprn.ca/occ-opioid-and-suspect-drug-related-death-data/>

² [Homeless Encampments in Ontario. A Municipal Perspective. Association of Municipalities of Ontario. July 2024 -](#)