

LUMCO

Large Urban Mayors' Caucus of Ontario

Statement from LUMCO about a Regional Strategy for Refugee/Asylum Claimants

This morning, the Large Urban Mayors Caucus of Ontario (LUMCO) held a conference call at the request of Toronto Mayor John Tory to discuss a regional strategy for refugee/asylum claimants. LUMCO issued this statement following the call:

"While we continue discussions with the federal and provincial governments about how to further address the ongoing issue of refugee/asylum claimants, Mayors in Ontario are working together on a regional strategy to support the City of Toronto." said Mayor Jeffrey Chair of the Large Urban Mayor's Caucus.

"This is a human issue. Cities are on the front lines of this crisis and we believe we have a moral obligation to act to provide shelter and assistance to those in need so that they can start their lives and contribute positively to our communities."

"On the call this morning, Mayor Tory requested that municipalities identify any sites or facilities that could be repurposed as temporary housing, as well as connections to employers for job opportunities. Mayors from across the province offered their support including examining existing capacity within their shelter systems, potential temporary housing sites and facilitating opportunities for seasonal and full time employment."

"Canada has a long history of welcoming newcomers and LUMCO continues to support this approach, but it should be clear that cities alone can no longer absorb the cost and impact of the increasing numbers of refugee/asylum claimants coming into the country at this time. While we work on this regional strategy, we will need support from the other levels of government to coordinate the supports and resources different cities are able to provide."

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Media Contact

Navdeep Dhaliwal

Senior Advisor, Office of the Mayor

City of Brampton

905-874-2000 Ext. 47004 | Navdeep.Dhaliwal@Brampton.ca

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