



— **OBCM** —  
Ontario's Big City Mayors



## **Motion Supporting Halton Region Resolution on Paramedic Safety/Violence Against Paramedics**

**August 17, 2025**

**Moved by Mayor Marianned Meed Ward - OBCM Chair and Mayor of Burlington**

WHEREAS across Ontario there is an increasing number of incidents involving violence against persons who provide health services and first responders, including paramedics; and

WHEREAS municipalities and regions across Ontario want to ensure the protection of all health services and first responders including paramedics.

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO) and Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM) support the Regional Municipality of Halton Resolution MO-10-25 - External Violence Against Paramedics;

And that this includes a request that the Government of Canada reintroduce and adopt legislation amending the Criminal Code to:

- a) Explicitly include paramedics and first responders under Section 423.2 protections; and
- b) Increase penalties and maximum terms of imprisonment for aggravated assault against paramedics, firefighters, and other first responders to align with those for peace officers;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this motion be sent to:

- The Right Hon. Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada
- The Hon. Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
- Rebecca Bligh, President, FCM and Councillor, City of Vancouver
- Robin Jones, President, AMO and Mayor of Westport



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**MARCO**  
MAYORS AND REGIONAL CHAIRS OF ONTARIO

## **Appendix**

The Council of the Regional Municipality of Halton adopted the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION: MO-10-25 – External Violence Against Paramedics**

WHEREAS paramedics and other first responders are essential frontline healthcare providers who are increasingly exposed to violence, intimidation, and harassment while performing their duties;

WHEREAS Section 423.2 of the Criminal Code of Canada makes it an indictable offence to intimidate or obstruct health professionals in the course of providing care, but currently does not explicitly include paramedics;

WHEREAS Bill C-321 (An Act to amend the Criminal Code — assaults against persons who provide health services and first responders) and Bill C-345 (An Act to protect firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders) were introduced in the 44th Parliament to provide enhanced legal protections for paramedics and first responders, but did not pass before the Parliament was prorogued;

WHEREAS incidents of violence and harassment toward paramedics in Halton Region have been rising significantly, and such acts compromise not only the safety and well-being of these professionals but also the effectiveness and timeliness of emergency care;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

THAT Halton Regional Council formally calls on the Government of Canada to reintroduce and adopt legislation amending the Criminal Code to:

Explicitly include paramedics and first responders under Section 423.2 protections; and

Increase penalties and maximum terms of imprisonment for aggravated assault against paramedics, firefighters, and other first responders to align with those for peace officers;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** this resolution be forwarded to:

The Prime Minister of Canada, The Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Local Members of Parliament, the Halton Regional Police Services, the Ontario Big City Mayors' Caucus, The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) for advocacy and adoption as FCM policy, The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Halton Region requests that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) advocate for Criminal Code amendments that ensure equal legal protection for all frontline emergency service workers, including paramedics.