



Motion on Solve the Crisis and Winter Homelessness Program Support

Moved by - Mayor Marianne Meed Ward - Burlington and Chair of OBCM

Whereas we are heading into the cold winter months and the number of people experiencing homelessness is an estimated [80,000 people with more than half facing chronic homelessness](#) and growing each year; and

Whereas it's been over a year since Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM) launched our [SolveTheCrisis.ca](#) campaign requesting that the provincial and federal governments take immediate action to solve the homelessness and mental health crisis gripping our communities; and

Whereas the [SolveTheCrisis.ca](#) campaign received thousands of support letters from residents and organizations across the province and was supported by over 125 municipalities and regions through resolutions passed at councils; and

Whereas we do thank the provincial government for our funding for new programs addressing this crisis including the creation of Hart Hubs in many of our communities, but it is not enough to address the overwhelming need and financial pressure on municipal governments; and

Whereas municipalities are doing our part, providing [51.5% of the total reported homelessness program funding across all three levels of government](#) making a significant financial impact on municipal budgets; and

Whereas we have also requested that the federal government step up and do their part in addressing this crisis by allocating more funding to programs that address chronic homelessness that also consider the unique needs of Ontario's largest cities; and

Therefore it be resolved that Ontario's Big City Mayors request that the provincial government take action on the requests of our [SolveTheCrisis.ca](#) campaign that have not been fully addressed including:

1. 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.
2. This single Minister must strike a task force with sector representatives including municipalities, health care leaders, first responders, community services, the business community, and the tourism industry to develop an Ontario Action Plan.
3. Provide municipalities with the tools and resources to transition those in encampments to more appropriate supports, when deemed necessary.
4. Commit to funding the services our unhoused population needs, community by community, to fill in gaps in the system.



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

5. Invest in 24/7 community hubs or crisis centres to relieve pressure on emergency departments and first responders;

AND THAT the provincial government prepare a 2025/2026 winter homelessness response plan to help municipalities ensure that we can keep our residents living on the streets or in the rough with the services they need to keep them safe in colder weather.