



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

How You Can Help 'Solve the Crisis' - A Request to Ontario Municipalities, Regions and other organizations from Ontario's Big City Mayors

What is the Solve the Crisis Campaign

On Thursday August 8th, Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM) launched 'Solve the Crisis' a campaign to address the homelessness, mental health and addictions crisis happening across Ontario.

After years of advocacy we are at a turning point, the time to act is now. This crisis is growing in municipalities and regions of every size across Ontario, and we need help!

Ontario municipalities of all sizes have stepped up, putting in place programs and housing options along with community partners and other stakeholders, advocating for funding that might be provided from other levels of government but is never consistent and never enough. We cannot tackle this alone, the federal and provincial governments' must come to the table, the time to step up is now.

We launched our 'Solve the Crisis' Campaign with a press conference at Queen's Park including a video that can be shared, found on our YouTube channel [OBCM You Tube Channel](#), a social media campaign that is still underway, and a website www.solvesthecrisis.ca where your residents can watch our video, join our call to action by filling out a letter to the Premier, various Ministers, their local MPP and MP.

How Can You Help?

There are many ways that municipalities, regions and other municipal and regional organizations can help support OBCM's campaign including:

- Share the campaign with your Councils, your Networks and the public
- Pass the draft motion below (below), or create a similar one of your own, at your next council meeting supporting our call to action (the motion below specifically targets our asks of the provincial government)
- Like and share our posts & follow our us on social media including:
 - X (formerly Twitter) [@ONBigCityMayors](#),
 - LinkedIn [Ontario's Big City Mayors \(OBCM\)](#) and
 - Facebook [Ontario's Big City Mayors](#)
- Use the hashtag #solvesthecrisis and tag OBCM if you can to help us track and report on engagement
- Ask residents, staff, councillors and even your Mayor, Warden or Chair to visit www.solvesthecrisis.ca fill out the letter to send the message to their local



representatives stating that they want action now. And encourage them to share the with their networks as well.

MOTION : [insert name of your municipality here] supports the Solve The Crisis Campaign and requests that the Provincial and Federal Governments take Action to Address the Growing Mental Health, Addictions and Homelessness Crisis

Whereas there is a humanitarian crisis unfolding on streets in our cities, large and small, urban and rural, across Ontario. The time for words is over, we need immediate action at all levels of government, starting with the Province

Whereas the homelessness, mental health and addictions crisis continues to grow with 3432 drug related deaths in Ontario in 2023¹ as well as with an estimated 234,000 Ontarians experiencing homelessness² and over 1400 homeless encampments across Ontario communities in 2023³; and

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

Whereas municipalities and regions are stepping up and working with community partners to put in place community-specific solutions to address this crisis, but municipalities and regions lack the expertise, capacity, or resources to address these increasingly complex health care and housing issues alone; and

Whereas this is primarily a health issue that falls under provincial jurisdiction and municipalities and regions should not be using the property tax base to fund these programs; and

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

Therefore, be it resolved that [insert name of your municipality here] supports the Solve the Crisis Campaign

And calls on provincial and federal governments to commit to immediate action to solve the Humanitarian Crisis that Ontario is facing as the numbers of unhoused individuals and those suffering with mental health & addictions grows exponentially;

AND that the province officially makes Homelessness a Health Priority;

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 [The Trillium - August 13, 2024](#)

³ [Homeless Encampments in Ontario. A Municipal Perspective. Association of Municipalities of Ontario. July 2024 -](#)



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AND appoints a responsible Minister and Ministry 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.

AND provides the adequate, sufficient and sustainable funding to ensure that municipalities have the tools and resources to support individuals suffering with mental health and addictions, including unhoused people and those from vulnerable populations that may be disproportionately impacted;

And that this Council calls on the residents of **[insert name of your municipality here]** to join us in appealing to the provincial and federal governments for support by visiting SolveTheCrisis.ca and showing your support;

AND further that a copy of this motion be sent to:

- The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
- The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities of Canada
- The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
- The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
- The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- The Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
- The Honourable Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
- Local MPs
- Local MPPs and
- Ontario's Big City Mayors