



 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	May 22, 2025 3:09 pm
Original To:	CIP
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Notes/Comments:	

The Regional Municipality of Halton

The following resolution was approved by Regional Council at its meeting held on Wednesday, January 22, 2025.

Reducing Homelessness and Managing Encampments

WHEREAS the homelessness, mental health and addictions crisis continues to grow in municipalities across Ontario with 3,432 drug related deaths and over 1,400 homeless encampments across Ontario communities in 2023;

WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), in partnership with the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) and the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) recently released a ground-breaking report, Municipalities Under Pressure: The Growing Human and Financial Cost of Ontario's Homelessness Crisis which highlights the unprecedented and growing toll of homelessness on individuals, families, communities, and governments;

WHEREAS the report reflects data and insights from all 47 service managers responsible for housing and homelessness across Ontario, including Halton Region;

WHEREAS the report found that more than 80,000 Ontarians were known to be homeless in 2024, a number that has grown by more than 25% since 2022, and municipal spending on housing and homelessness programs has grown to more than \$2.1 billion;

WHEREAS in 2024 Halton Region invested \$69 million dollars into housing and homelessness solutions, 63% of which was funded directly by municipal taxpayers;

WHEREAS the report concludes that an additional investment of \$11 billion over 10 years is needed to end chronic homelessness in Ontario and \$2 billion over 8 years is needed to ensure all encampment residents are appropriately housed;

WHEREAS in its 2024 Budget, the Federal Government announced funding of \$250 million to address the urgent issue of encampments and unsheltered homelessness with the intention of a fifty-fifty cost sharing agreement with provincial governments;

WHEREAS discussions between the Federal and Provincial Governments have not led to meaningful progress on a cost-shared funding agreement to date;

WHEREAS the Federal Government will work directly with municipalities if necessary, but without the involvement of the Provincial Government, Ontario municipalities will receive only half of the potential funding available, while the additional costs to respond to this crisis continue to be borne by municipal taxpayers;

WHEREAS in December 2024, the Provincial Government announced an investment of \$75.5 million in funding for municipalities for programs that provide long-term stable housing and temporary accommodations for those living in encampments which is welcomed but insufficient to address the growing need;

WHEREAS a collaborative approach across all levels of government is urgently required to provide municipalities with long-term sustainable funding to respond to the growing need for housing and homelessness solutions including mental health and addictions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT Halton Regional Council supports the findings and recommendations of the AMO / OMSSA / NOSDA homelessness report, and joins these organizations in urging the Provincial and Federal Governments to take significant, long-term action on affordable housing, mental health and addictions services and income supports to address homelessness and improve the economic foundations and quality of life in communities;

THAT Halton Region continue to maximize all provincial and federal housing and homelessness funding opportunities as appropriate;

THAT the Regional Chair write a letter to the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing encouraging the Province to re-engage with the Federal Government to ensure that Ontario municipalities have access to fully funded support for encampments and unsheltered homelessness initiatives;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada, the federal Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, the Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, the Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Halton's MPs and MPPs, Halton's Local Municipalities, all municipalities across Ontario with a population of 100,000 or more, Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM), Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).



Office of the Regional Chair
1151 Bronte Road
Oakville ON L6M 3L1

VIA EMAIL

May 21, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario – premier@ontario.ca
The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing -
minister.mah@ontario.ca

Re: Reducing Homelessness and Managing Encampments

On behalf of Halton Regional Council, I am writing to express our support for the importance of provincial and federal collaboration to respond to the growing need for housing and homelessness solutions and to ensure that municipalities have access to fully funded support for encampments and unsheltered homelessness initiatives.

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), in partnership with the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) and the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) recently released a ground-breaking report, [Municipalities Under Pressure: The Growing Human and Financial Cost of Ontario's Homelessness Crisis](#) which highlights the unprecedented and growing toll of homelessness on individuals, families, communities, and governments. The report reflects data and insights from all 47 service managers responsible for housing and homelessness across Ontario, including Halton Region. The report found that more than 80,000 Ontarians were known to be homeless in 2024, a number that has grown by more than 25% since 2022, and that municipal spending on housing and homelessness programs has grown to more than \$2.1 billion. The report concludes that an additional investment of \$11 billion over 10 years is needed to end chronic homelessness in Ontario and \$2 billion over 8 years is needed to ensure all encampment residents are appropriately housed.

In its 2024 Budget, the Federal Government announced funding of \$250 million to address the urgent issue of encampments and unsheltered homelessness with the intention of a fifty-fifty cost sharing agreement with provincial governments. The Federal Government will work directly with municipalities if necessary, but without the involvement of the Provincial Government, Ontario municipalities will receive only half of the potential funding available, while the additional costs to respond to this crisis continue to be borne by municipal taxpayers.

Halton is appreciative of your recently announced investment of \$75.5 million in funding for municipalities for programs that provide long-term stable housing and temporary accommodations for those living in encampments, however this funding will not sufficiently address the growing need. In 2024, Halton Region invested \$69 million dollars into housing

Regional Municipality of Halton

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and homelessness solutions, 63% of which was funded directly by municipal taxpayers.

Accordingly, at its meeting held January 22, 2025, the Council of the Regional Municipality of Halton adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION: Reducing Homelessness and Managing Encampments

1. THAT Halton Regional Council supports the findings and recommendations of the AMO / OMSSA / NOSDA homelessness report, and joins these organizations in urging the Provincial and Federal Governments to take significant, long-term action on affordable housing, mental health and addictions services and income supports to address homelessness and improve the economic foundations and quality of life in communities;
2. THAT Halton Region continue to maximize all provincial and federal housing and homelessness funding opportunities as appropriate;
3. THAT the Regional Chair write a letter to the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing encouraging the Province to re-engage with the Federal Government to ensure that Ontario municipalities have access to fully funded support for encampments and unsheltered homelessness initiatives;

A collaborative approach across all levels of government is urgently required to provide municipalities with long-term sustainable funding to respond to the growing need for housing and homelessness solutions, including mental health and addictions supports. With your help, I am hopeful that we can continue to work together to support Halton's most vulnerable residents and keep our communities safe.

Sincerely,



Gary Carr
Halton Regional Chair

Attachment: Halton Resolution – Reducing Homelessness and Managing Encampments

Cc:

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada

The Honourable Gregor Robertson, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities

The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

The Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services

The Honourable Vijay Thanigasalam, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions

The Honourable Karina Gould, MP, Burlington

The Honourable Adam van Koeverden, MP, Burlington North-Milton West

The Honourable Anita Anand, MP, Oakville East

The Honourable Michael Chong, MP, Wellington-Halton Hills North

Kristina Tesser Derksen, MP, Milton East-Halton Hills South

Sima Acan, MP, Oakville West

The Honourable Zee Hamid, MPP, Milton

The Honourable Stephen Crawford, MPP, Oakville

Natalie Pierre, MPP, Burlington

Effie Triantafilopoulos, MPP, Oakville North-Burlington

Joseph Racinsky, MPP, Wellington-Halton Hills

Michelle Baker, Executive Director, Ontario's Big City Mayors

Margot Cragg, Executive Director, Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario

Brian Rosborough, Executive Director, Association of Municipalities of Ontario

Carole Saab, Chief Executive Officer, Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Samantha Yew, City Clerk, City of Burlington

Valerie Petryniak, Clerk and Director of Legislative Services, Town of Halton Hills

Meaghen Reid, Director, Legislative and Legal Services/Town Clerk, Town of Milton

Andrea Holland, Acting Town Clerk, Town of Oakville

Municipalities across Ontario with a population of 100,000 or more