

Endorsement of Ontario Big City Mayors' "Solve the Crisis" Campaign

WHEREAS an unprecedented number of Ontarians are homeless, living in encampments and other unsafe spaces, and too many are dying from addictions and mental health issues;

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;

WHEREAS, together with various community partners, the Region of Niagara has been tackling this issue head on, funding various programs and spaces to find solutions;

WHEREAS despite the success of many of these programs, the crisis continues to grow and regions and municipalities need help; and

WHEREAS all of these issues fall primarily under provincial jurisdiction, and regions and municipalities should not be using the property tax base to fund these programs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Region of Niagara, through a letter written by the Regional Chair, **JOIN** Ontario's Big City Mayors in calling on the Provincial Government:
 - a) To 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; and
 - b) Have this Minister strike a task force with broad sector representatives including municipalities, healthcare, first responders, community services, the business community, and the tourism industry to develop a Made in Ontario Action Plan;
 - c) To provide municipalities with the tools and resources to transition those in encampments to more appropriate supports, when deemed necessary;
 - d) To commit to funding the appropriate services these individuals need, community by community, where there are gaps in the system; and
 - e) To invest in 24/7 Community Hubs / Crisis Centres to relieve pressure on emergency centres and first responders;

2. That the Regional Chair's letter and this motion **BE CIRCULATED** to 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; Niagara's 12 local area municipalities; Niagara's four MPPs; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM); Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM); and the St. Catharines Downtown Association.