
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Have you Passed a Motion in Support of OBCM's SolveTheCrisis.ca Campaign yet? And Update!
Attachments: Council Motion in Support of Solve the Crisis Campaign.docx

From: Michelle Baker <michelle@obcm.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2024 5:29 PM
To: Michelle Baker <michelle@obcm.ca>; Angela Trewartha <angela@obcm.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Have you Passed a Motion in Support of OBCM's SolveTheCrisis.ca Campaign yet? And Update!

Hello,

We have been working on updating and improving our Solve the Crisis Campaign, including the solvethecrisis.ca website and any related materials as we head into the new year, one that brings with it the possibility of both a provincial and a federal election.

Across Ontario over 200 municipalities have officially supported the Solve the Crisis Campaign, with resolutions passed at municipal and regional councils, as well as through municipal organizations such as the WOWC & EOWC - with newly passed motions being sent to us each week.

As we update our Solve the Crisis website to reflect this support through an interactive map and list of supportive municipalities and regions, we are asking those member municipalities who have not passed a motion at their local council to please consider doing so as soon as possible.

We would like to have all 29 of our OBCM member municipalities officially signed on to the campaign and included on our map. And if you are part of a Regional Council that has not yet done so, we encourage you to please bring a motion forward there as well.

Therefore, this is a challenge to all of those who have not yet passed a motion to do so before the end of 2024. Once your motion is passed please share it with OBCM (info@obcm.ca), so we can ensure you are included on the Solve the Crisis website.

Attached is a draft motion of support for your consideration or you are free to create your own motion to reflect the concerns and priorities of your local communities.

If you did pass a motion, but are not sure if it was shared with us, please do not hesitate to send it over again just in case. We did find out about a few online.

Thank you! And if you have any questions please feel free to contact myself or Angela.

Kind regards,
Michelle

Michelle Baker

*Executive Director
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Please visit www.solvehcrisis.ca to support our campaign to end the mental health, addictions and homelessness crisis our communities are facing.

** Please note that although my work hours may fall outside of normal office hours, it is not my expectation that you read, respond, or follow up on this email outside of your hours of work.*

MOTION : *[insert name of your municipality or organization here]* supports OBCM's SolvethetheCrisis.ca Campaign and requests that the Provincial and Federal Governments take Action to Address the Growing Mental Health, Addictions and Homelessness Crisis in Ontario

Whereas there is a humanitarian crisis unfolding on the streets in our municipalities, 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 of Ontario

Whereas the homelessness, mental health and addictions crisis continues to grow with 3432 drug related deaths in Ontario in 2023¹ and over 1400 homeless encampments across Ontario communities in 2023²; and

Whereas the province has provided additional funding and supports, such as the recent investment of \$378 million for HART Hubs that includes funding for approximately 375 beds with wraparound supports, 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 Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM) SolvethetheCrisis.ca Campaign;

AND calls on the 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;

AND that the province appoints a responsible Minister and Ministry with the appropriate funding and powers as the single point of contact to address the full spectrum of housing needs and equally as important, the mental health, addictions and wrap around supports that must be put resourced and put in place;

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

AND 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 the current programs and policies developed by municipalities, regions and community partners that have proven successful in our communities, as well as programs and policies proposed by various stakeholders, to evaluate their effectiveness, ability to be scaled up, and to ensure that a variety of solutions are available, as there is no one-size-fits-all answer, and can be implemented quickly and effectively to tackle this crisis;

AND that the federal government is included in these conversations;

AND that both levels of government provide 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, region or organization 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 (solvethecrisis@obcm.ca and info@obcm.ca)