

Kelly Lush

From: Kelly Lush
Sent: December 2, 2024 11:07 AM
To: Kelly Lush
Subject: FW: From one councillor to another

From: Adam Cooper <coopera@cambridge.ca>
Sent: November 28, 2024 4:54 PM
Subject: From one councillor to another



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Dear fellow elected officials,

As an Ontario city councillor, I ask you to show your support for the [letter recently signed by 15 Ontario mayors](#) to Premier Doug Ford calling on the province to take action to help municipalities with issues related to mental health, addiction, and homeless encampments. Since the letter was sent, three more Mayors have made the same request of the Premier.

Judge Valente's 2023 Waterloo encampment decision states that "...there is no need in the case of encampments to balance their needs with the rights of the region's other residents."

His decision effectively ties the hands of municipalities and prevents them from acting swiftly and decisively when public safety is at risk.

He goes on to say "...there is no need to consider how the impact of the encampment residents sheltering overnight may impair the interests and rights of other residents of the Region."

This stance is just not possible for the individuals in charge of the wellbeing of 100s of thousands of people that live in our cities. As leaders, the needs, rights, and safety of everyone need to be balanced.

The letter was addressed to our premier to support the [OBCM motion](#) and, where restrictive judicial intervention prevents the motion's aims from being implemented, to use the Notwithstanding Clause only where necessary to allow for timely and meaningful action considering the realities of this crisis.

I am gratefully asking you to show your support by [SIGNING HERE](#).

Please share this email with your colleagues as you see fit.

Sincerely,
Adam Cooper
Councillor, City of Cambridge

Summary of request to provincial gov't as seen in OBCM motion...

- i. Take on intervenor status in the case of court decisions that restrict the ability of municipalities to regulate and prohibit encampments; and
- ii. Develop a fully funded and resourced range of compassionate care and treatment programs that strengthens the system of community-based and residential mental health & addictions treatments under the Mental Health Act and the Health Care Consent Act, ensuring that individuals in need can access care and treatment in a timely manner; and
- iii. Urgently review, consult on, and update the Mental Health Act and the Health Care Consent Act to reflect the current realities of this crisis, including consultation with medical professionals, first responders and municipalities to determine whether to expand the scope of and strengthen the existing system of mandatory community-based and residential mental health and addictions care and treatment; and
- iv. Implement Diversion Courts throughout the Province and expand the scope and reach of these courts by permitting referrals to the Diversion Court for Provincial and Municipal Offences, with a focus on rehabilitation rather than punitive measures; and
- v. Review, consult on, and update the Trespass to Property Act to address the public safety issues municipalities are facing within their communities. With such a review to include but not be limited to options to assist communities in addressing aggressive or repetitive trespass (“repetitive trespass”); and
- vi. To establish for municipalities a prescribed provincial priority of maintaining public order and public safety to allow, in line with the above, stronger local deterrents to offenses related to social disruption and public safety risks.

[View full OBCM motion here.](#)

Summary of letter sent to Premier Ford...

- i. Where necessary, use the Notwithstanding Clause to ensure these measures are implemented in a timely and effective way.

- ii. The Provincial Government is requested to become an intervenor in any court case that restricts the ability of municipalities to regulate and prohibit encampments.
- iii. Strengthen the existing system of mandatory community-based and residential mental health care and to expand service to treat those who have severe and debilitating addictions.
- iv. Implement a Drug and Diversion Court system throughout the entire province and ensure the necessary resources to allow a meaningful focus on rehabilitation as opposed to incarceration.
- v. Amend the Trespass to Property Act to include a separate provision for repetitive acts of trespass.
- vi. Enact legislation providing clear guidance regarding the open and public use of drugs being prohibited in the same manner as the open consumption of alcohol.

[View full letter to Premier Ford here.](#)

I am gratefully asking you to show your support by [SIGNING HERE](#).

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