



Motion on Municipal/Regional Funding to Support Newcomers Including Refugees and Asylum Seekers

August 20, 2023

WHEREAS the Canadian government is failing to fully fund the municipal/regional front line that Canada relies on to welcome and settle newcomers, including those needing urgent support such as refugees and asylum-seekers fleeing conflict in their home countries and;

WHEREAS historically, by working together with other orders of government, local agencies, and community partners to co-ordinate their settlement, municipalities and regions have been able to expand services when there has been an influx through emergency shelter systems and other wraparound supports and;

WHEREAS municipal and regional leaders are operating with a nineteenth century revenue system to respond to twenty-first century responsibilities that include a housing and homelessness crisis, public health and safety issues such as the mental health and addictions crisis, ageing infrastructure, and other traditional responsibilities and;

WHEREAS this most recent influx of refugees has dramatically increased pressure on a system that is already over capacity, and despite best efforts, municipalities and regions can no longer keep up with the demand and;

WHEREAS while we are on the front line of welcoming newcomers to Canada, the federal government has not consulted nor planned with municipalities and regions to ensure these newcomers receive the housing and other supports they need, including for those who have come to Canada to learn. And when these needs cannot be met, it is often vulnerable and marginalized communities that are impacted the most and;

WHEREAS the federal government's commitment in July to increase interim housing supports is a good start, but it does not solve the systemic capacity issues municipalities across Ontario are facing, nor does it address the current refugee crisis in communities throughout the GTA and beyond.

Therefore, be it resolved that Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM) and the Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO) is calling for an urgent meeting of all orders of government to discuss immediate action on the capacity issues faced by our municipalities and regions, and to put in place a funding model that addresses the on-going need for emergency housing and other supports as this refugee crisis continues and;



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



THAT OBCM and MARCO are also calling on the federal government to consult with municipalities, regions, provinces and territories on the process of the setting of immigration targets, including for international students, and on the funding and supports required to ensure people receive the housing and other services they need when they arrive and;

THAT OBCM and MARCO requests that these numbers be announced with enough time to be included in provincial, regional and municipal growth planning.