



The Right Honorable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

September 18, 2024

Re: Support for the 'Solve the Crisis' Campaign and Requesting Action to Address the Growing Mental Health, Addictions and Homelessness Crisis

The following resolution was passed by Ajax Town Council at its meeting held on September 16, 2024:

WHEREAS a humanitarian crisis unfolding in communities across Ontario requires immediate action at all levels of government, starting with the Province;

AND WHEREAS the homelessness, mental health and addictions crisis continues to grow with 3432 drug related deaths in Ontario in 2023, an estimated 234,000 Ontarians experiencing homelessness and over 1400 homeless encampments across Ontario communities in 2023;

AND WHEREAS according to Regional Report #2024-INFO-40, 'Update on Durham Region's Integrated Homelessness System Action Plan', from May 31, 2024, the Durham By-Name List reported a total of 1045 individuals experiencing homelessness in 2023;

AND WHEREAS while the provincial government 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;

AND WHEREAS municipalities and regions are stepping up and working with community partners to develop and implement community-specific solutions, but municipalities and regions lack the expertise, capacity and resources needed to address these increasingly complex healthcare and housing issues alone;

AND WHEREAS mental health, addictions and homelessness is primarily a healthcare challenge that falls squarely within provincial jurisdiction and municipalities and regions should not be using the property tax base to fund community 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.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Ajax Council confirms support of the Solve the Crisis Campaign and calls on Ajax residents to join us in appealing to the provincial and federal governments for support by visiting SolveTheCrisis.ca; and
2. Ajax Council asks that:
 - a. the provincial and federal governments 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
 - b. the province appoint a responsible Minister and Ministry 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
 - c. the province 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 to review proven successful programs in communities to ensure that solutions can be implemented quickly and effectively; and
 - d. the province establish adequate and sustainable funding to equip municipalities with the tools and resources required to support individuals suffering with mental health and addictions, including unhoused people and those from vulnerable populations that may be disproportionately impacted; and
3. 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, all Durham Region MPs, all Durham Region MPPs, John Henry, Durham Regional Chair, all Durham Region municipalities, and Ontario's Big City Mayors.

CARRIED

If you require further information please contact me at 365-885-6329 or Jaclyn.Grossi@ajax.ca

Sincerely,



Jaclyn Grossi
Municipal Clerk

Copy: Regional Councillor S. Lee
Mayor S. Collier

Hon. Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities of Canada
Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Hon. Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Hon. Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
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