



**Mark Sutcliffe**  
Mayor | Maire

**Office of the Mayor  
City of Ottawa**  
110 Laurier Avenue West  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1J1  
Tel.: 613-580-2496  
Fax: 613-580-2509  
Email: Mark.Sutcliffe@ottawa.ca

**Bureau du maire  
Ville d'Ottawa**  
110, avenue Laurier Ouest  
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 1J1  
Tél. : 613-580-2496  
Télééc. : 613-580-2509  
Courriel : Mark.Sutcliffe@ottawa.ca

February 26th, 2026

The Honourable Michael Kerzner  
Solicitor General  
Ministry of the Solicitor General  
George Drew Building  
25 Grosvenor St. Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6  
[SOLGEN.Correspondence@ontario.ca](mailto:SOLGEN.Correspondence@ontario.ca)

By electronic submission

**Re: Proposed New Regulation under the Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act**

Dear Solicitor General,

Please be advised that Ottawa City Council, at its meeting of February 25, 2026, considered and approved the following motion:

#### **MOTION**

Moved by / Motion de: Councillor S. Plante  
Seconded by / Appuyée par: Mayor M. Sutcliffe

**WHEREAS the *Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act, 2025* (RPCISA) was brought into force on June 5, 2025; and**

**WHEREAS the Ministry of the Solicitor General (SOLGEN) is considering regulatory amendments to the RPCISA to prescribe special constables employed by authorized public transit agencies, including OCTranspo special constables for the purpose of the Act, thereby granting them the same enforcement powers as police officers, and is seeking public input on this proposal until March 1<sup>st</sup>; and**

**WHEREAS the City of Ottawa has invested significant resources to improve public safety in the downtown core and the ByWard Market; and**

**WHEREAS OC Transpo deploys on average approximately 4 special constables in the downtown daily, and 13 deployed across the city-wide transit network, who are already present in high-traffic transit environments, including stations, platforms, and bus stops throughout the downtown core and across the city; and**



**Mark Sutcliffe**  
Mayor | Maire

**Office of the Mayor  
City of Ottawa**

110 Laurier Avenue West  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1J1  
Tel.: 613-580-2496  
Fax: 613-580-2509  
Email: [Mark.Sutcliffe@ottawa.ca](mailto:Mark.Sutcliffe@ottawa.ca)

**Bureau du maire  
Ville d'Ottawa**

110, avenue Laurier Ouest  
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 1J1  
Tél. : 613-580-2496  
Télééc. : 613-580-2509  
Courriel : [Mark.Sutcliffe@ottawa.ca](mailto:Mark.Sutcliffe@ottawa.ca)

**WHEREAS public transit riders include workers, students, seniors, people with disabilities, youth, and low-income residents who rely on transit as their primary or only mode of transportation and require a safe environment at all times; and**

**WHEREAS restoring ridership is essential to the financial sustainability of Ottawa's public transit system, to achieving the City's climate and transportation goals, and to ensuring equitable access to employment, education, healthcare, and community services; and**

**WHEREAS enabling OCTranspo special constables to enforce the RPCISA would allow for timely, proportionate, and location-specific interventions focused on transit spaces, while reducing reliance on police response for matters that occur primarily within the transit system; and**

**WHEREAS any extension of authority under the RPCISA would be accompanied by appropriate training and would operate alongside existing public health, outreach, and harm reduction services, recognizing that enforcement alone does not address substance use but that clear rules and safe public spaces remain necessary;**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Ottawa endorse the proposed regulatory amendments under the *Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act, 2025*; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor write to the Solicitor General of Ontario in support of the proposal before March 1st, 2026; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk share this motion with other Municipalities in Ontario, prior to March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026; and,**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor write the Solicitor General of Ontario to renew or extend the funding associated with the Ontario-Ottawa agreement.**

Should you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

Mark Sutcliffe  
Mayor  
City of Ottawa

cc. All Ontario Municipalities  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)