

[2023-06-07, 1:45:37 PM] OBCM 2024: Messages and calls are end-to-end encrypted. No one outside of this chat, not even WhatsApp, can read or listen to them.

[2023-06-07, 1:45:37 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: ~ Marianne Meed Ward created this group

[2023-07-15, 5:48:21 PM] OBCM 2024: ~ Marianne Meed Ward added you

[2023-07-15, 5:50:42 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Hi all, porting the conversation re a resolution regarding funding for refugee supports from the old OBCM group to this one which has been updated with current members. Welcome to our newest member Olivia Chow!! Reminder to use this chat group for future conversations.

[2023-07-15, 5:51:01 PM] Non-Responsive : Anyone experiencing similar challenges with large influx of refugees into your region?
<https://www.cbc.ca/lite/story/1.6906155>

[2023-07-15, 5:52:20 PM] Non-Responsive : Hi Olivia! We (Guelph) aren't experiencing it to the degree you and others a bit closer to GTA are experiencing this. Although the overall shelter system regardless of refugees is behind capacity as it is in most places and it's getting worse! Congrats to your first week in office by the way! Here to help amplify and messaging you wish to lead on or others if you need help with this.

Cam

[2023-07-15, 5:52:20 PM] Non-Responsive : Olivia - in Niagara we've been dealing with this for the last eight months. I flagged this to the Immigration Minister at our OBCM meeting earlier this year and asked about new dollars/programs from the Feds to deal with the pressure on our housing/shelters/programs. He indicated there would be nothing beyond existing Federal dollars and programs in the short and medium term. The refugees that were brought to Niagara have been putting strain on our already full shelters for the last several months.

[2023-07-15, 5:52:20 PM] Non-Responsive : I will add my congrats on the first week.

[2023-07-15, 5:52:21 PM] Non-Responsive : Welcome to office and to the OBCM chat Olivia! In Halton Region we are experiencing some pressures also. This would be an opportunity perhaps for a statement by OBCM and a request to upper levels of government for funding to match immigration policies. Thoughts from the caucus?

[2023-07-15, 5:52:21 PM] ~Non-Responsive : Congrats Olivia!

[2023-07-15, 5:52:22 PM] Non-Responsive : Definitely, it's a massive cost pressure

[2023-07-15, 5:52:22 PM] Non-Responsive : I agree with you Marianne. A statement from OBCB on the overall shelter system situations including that of refugees using them would be timely.

[2023-07-15, 5:52:23 PM] Non-Responsive : Congratulations and welcome Olivia!

I agree with the comments so far. We have zero shelter capacity and once federal assistance for refugees is exhausted a number of them end up on the streets. The federal support/approach falls seriously short of what is actually required. I the idea of a collective statement/position as Marianne suggested.

[2023-07-15, 5:52:23 PM] Non-Responsive : Welcome from Windsor Olivia!

[2023-07-15, 5:52:23 PM] Non-Responsive : So wonderful to hear from all of you!

[2023-07-15, 5:55:07 PM] ~ Shaun: Thanks Marianne. Was going to reach out to you

this week regarding OBCM taking a position. I know many of us are effected by the recent flood of asylum seekers. Ajax has had over 200 in the last 2 weeks. Regional resources are exhausted. Of our 200, approx half are documented and in the system so the Feds have or are supposed to have provided funding for them. I'm told ours are relocating from 129 Peter St so that is who would have received the funding but now they are Durham Regions responsibility. I've been putting pressure on our MP but I know many of us are experiencing the same and would be great to have the strong voice of the OBCM on this issue.

[2023-07-15, 6:00:22 PM] Olivia Chow: The municipal, provincial and federal senior staff table to deal with this situation will be meeting this coming Tuesday afternoon (July 18). Let's push for some immediate action and commitment.

[2023-07-15, 6:02:16 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: I can work with Michelle to draft a statement and circulate it here to take a caucus position in time for Tuesday.

[2023-07-15, 6:04:30 PM] ~ Shaun: There was a meeting on Friday that was productive but this is long overdue. Durham still has not received the IHAP funding for the Ukrainian and Afghan refugees last year, let alone for current.

[2023-07-16, 9:23:58 AM] ~ David West: Congratulations from Richmond Hill Mayor Chow. I agree some advocacy by OBCM would be welcome. I concur with the comments in this thread

[2023-07-16, 9:55:09 AM] ~ Drew: We have 750 people in our hotels still....waiting for adjudication by IRCC.

[2023-07-16, 10:14:05 AM] ~ Mayor Davis: Congratulations from Brantford Mayor Kevin Davis. Suggest we also consider advocating for ancillary steps to more effectively manage the substantial increase in asylum applications such as expanding visa program.

[2023-07-16, 10:14:15 AM] Dorothy McCabe: Congratulations from Waterloo Mayor Chow. Great to add another woman to our group - and another cyclist too.

We have similar concerns as others have expressed. One I will add is for Ukrainians' admitted by the feds to study here (Waterloo has 3 post-secondary schools) while the war continues are not classed as refugees and have to pay the international student rates. In addition to the challenges noted above, they're arriving to learn that. It's an untenable situation for all.

[2023-07-16, 10:15:49 AM] Dorothy McCabe: The federal government needs to start talking to municipalities before they set their immigration and refugee targets.

[2023-07-17, 11:43:11 PM] Michelle Baker: Good evening, please see the following draft statement based on the on-going discussion in this chat. It has been run by both Mayor Chow and Mayor Meed Ward and after review by this group, we are aiming to have this out before 10:00am. Please reply with your ok or to identify any concerns, suggestions or comments as soon as possible. Thank you for your understanding on this tight timeline!

DRAFT STATEMENT July 18 2023

Municipalities are the backbone Canada relies on to welcome and settle newcomers, including those needing urgent supports such as refugees and asylum-seekers fleeing conflict in their home countries.

Ontario cities understand that the federal government believes "housing and

supports for asylum seekers are the responsibility of provinces and municipalities” and historically, by working together with other levels of government, local agencies, and community partners to co-ordinate their settlement, municipalities have been able to expand services when there has been an influx through emergency shelter systems and other wraparound supports.

This is no longer the case.

Municipal 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.

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

And while our cities are on the front lines of welcoming newcomers to Canada, the federal government has not consulted or planned with municipalities or the province to ensure these newcomers receive the housing and other supports they need, including those who come here to learn.

That is why Ontario’s Big City Mayors (OBCM) are joining the call for urgent funding from both provincial and federal governments to be used for emergency housing and other emergency supports for the refugee crisis we are seeing in municipalities across Ontario.

OBCM is also calling on the federal government to consult with municipalities, regions and the province on the setting of immigration targets, including international students, and to provide the funding and supports required to ensure people receive the assistance they need when they arrive.

OBCM requests these numbers be announced with enough time to be included in provincial and municipal growth planning.

[2023-07-17, 11:57:06 PM] Patrick Brown: Excellent

[2023-07-17, 11:58:37 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: Good work!

[2023-07-18, 5:28:44 AM] ~ Drew: Very good!

[2023-07-18, 6:26:58 AM] ~ Siscoe: 🙌

[2023-07-18, 6:33:18 AM] ~ Bryan Paterson: Looks great!

[2023-07-18, 7:43:19 AM] ~ David West: Looks great - thank you for the work on this

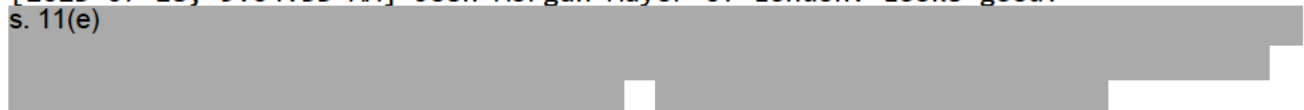
[2023-07-18, 8:15:10 AM] Rob Burton: Please consider putting the call for money first and then calling us the frontline rather than the backbone

[2023-07-18, 8:39:01 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Sounds good

[2023-07-18, 8:40:21 AM] Berry Urbanovic: Great work! Thanks for taking the initiative with this!

[2023-07-18, 9:04:53 AM] Josh Morgan Mayor Of London: Looks good!

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[2023-07-18, 12:00:13 PM] Michelle Baker: Revised Statement after feds announced 210M with 97M going to Toronto (Toronto asked for \$157M) and I cannot find anywhere that speaks to funding to any other communities in Ontario - @19054096891 have you heard anything about Ajax/Durham Region re: your additional 200 refugees? Anyone else hear more detail?

Please reply if ok or with any remaining concerns/questions. Thanks!

July 18 2023

Municipalities are the frontline Canada relies on to welcome and settle newcomers, including those needing urgent supports such as refugees and asylum-seekers fleeing conflict in their home countries.

Ontario cities understand that the federal government believes “housing and supports for asylum seekers are the responsibility of provinces and municipalities” and historically, by working together with other orders of government, local agencies, and community partners to co-ordinate their settlement, municipalities have been able to expand services when there has been an influx through emergency shelter systems and other wraparound supports.

This is no longer the case.

Municipal 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.

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

And while our cities are on the front lines of welcoming newcomers to Canada, the federal government has not consulted or planned with municipalities to ensure these newcomers receive the housing and other supports they need, including those who come here to learn.

Today's announcement by the federal government 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.

Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM) is calling for an urgent meeting of all orders of government to discuss immediate action on the capacity issues faced by many of our municipalities, 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.

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

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

[2023-07-18, 12:06:30 PM] ~ Shaun: I haven't heard anything. I will reiterate, while York, Toronto and Peel received their IHAP funding last year for the Ukrainian and Afghan refugees, Durham still has not.

[2023-07-18, 12:09:35 PM] Rob Burton: "The Canadian government is failing to fully fund the municipal frontline Canada relies on...etc."

[2023-07-18, 12:11:14 PM] Rob Burton: Let's add a specific mention of ignoring Durham.

[2023-07-18, 12:16:22 PM] ~ Shaun: Would appreciate that. There were 18 asylum seekers on the street in Ajax last night that could not be accommodated. This is in addition to the current homeless population.

[2023-07-18, 12:18:57 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: I like Rob's quote above.

[2023-07-18, 12:31:46 PM] Rob Burton: That was my suggested new lede sentence.

Also, Halton has had no IHAP either.

Also, the GTHA Mayors and Chairs are putting out a statement. Can we coordinate?

[2023-07-18, 12:33:03 PM] Patrick Brown: This message was deleted.

[2023-07-18, 12:46:30 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: The announcement while welcome doesn't go far enough and we need to say that on behalf of all our caucus members who are experiencing this crisis in different ways - but it affects all of us and the people we serve.

[2023-07-18, 1:51:00 PM] Dorothy McCabe: Thanks Michelle for pulling the statement together. Thanks all

[2023-07-18, 4:58:15 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: Good coverage here:
https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-ottawa-pledges-97-million-to-toronto-for-refugee-shelter-costs/?utm_medium=Referrer:+Social+Network+Media&utm_campaign=Shared+Web+Article+Links

[2023-07-18, 7:26:10 PM] Dorothy McCabe: Watching coverage right now on CBC Rundown

[2023-07-19, 12:41:51 PM] ~ Siscoe: Marianne - great job on 1010 - from my perspective, feel free to tee off on gov MPs that are trying to shift blame. They set the immigration program - they have to take responsibility for funding the downstream effects of the immigration program. Great point on new funding models.

[2023-07-19, 12:45:00 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Thank you! And will do

[2023-07-19, 12:45:36 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: 👍

[2023-07-19, 2:19:52 PM] Michelle Baker: So far OBCM has been on CBC's Ontario Today, 1010, The Vassy Kapelos Show (all Mayor Meed Ward) and CP24 (Mayor Guthrie as Past Chair as Mayor Meed Ward and Mayor Morgan were unavailable). Tonight there is another CBC interview, possibly a CTV interview and just received an interview request for tomorrow as well.

[2023-07-19, 2:24:01 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: This is why we exist, to have each others backs and be unified around same messaging. Well done everyone!

[2023-07-19, 2:28:17 PM] Olivia Chow: Go team to!

[2023-07-19, 2:28:25 PM] Olivia Chow: Go team go.

[2023-07-19, 5:00:39 PM] Dorothy McCabe: Great work! I have a local CBC interview tomorrow. Go Mayors!

[2023-07-19, 5:37:16 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Awesome. Go Dorothy

[2023-07-19, 5:38:29 PM] Rob Burton: Hearing CHCH read our whole statement on air

[2023-07-19, 5:55:05 PM] Berry Urbanovic: Great job Marianne and Cam et al! I'll be speaking with CBC-KW on this as well tomorrow.

[2023-07-19, 6:00:04 PM] ~ FS: Great work everyone

[2023-07-19, 6:17:49 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Terrific Berry! And thanks!

[2023-07-20, 6:52:06 PM] Andrea Horwath: Hi Olivia, Non-Responsive
. Congratulations again and YES. We are overwhelmed here in Hamilton. Thank you colleagues for the statement. We want to do our part but need the resources.

[2023-08-08, 12:10:02 AM] OBCM 2024: Send for admin review was turned on for this group. Tap to learn more.

[2023-08-09, 2:18:04 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Dear colleagues, I'm sure we are all watching the news of the AGs report and the Premier's press conference any implications for achieving our shared housing goals. I'd like to dedicate some time in tomorrow's caucus meeting to a brief discussion. You are welcome to share any thoughts you may have with myself and Michelle in advance. And yeah, I know he singled out Burlington. 😊 I'll have a chat with him to reassure the premier we are committed to doing our part. Part of the challenge we all have is faulty data. We have 25000 units in our pipeline. We'll meet our targets and do our part.

😊

[2023-08-09, 2:27:25 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: 🙋

Non-Responsive

[2023-08-10, 8:46:59 AM] Michelle Baker: Hi there,

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Aug 10, 2023 08:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Urgent OBCM Meeting & Vote on proposed Affordable & Attainable Housing Definitions

Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

: Apologies - was driving and not able to get in. Only saw this now

[2023-08-21, 6:07:36 PM] Josh Morgan Mayor Of London: Hey OBCM. Hope you are enjoying the conference so far and getting a warm welcome in London.

Non-Responsive

Josh

Non-Responsive

[2023-08-22, 3:50:09 PM] Dorothy McCabe: It was a pleasure to see my OBCM colleagues in meetings, delegations and at the receptions! Thanks to Marianne,

Michelle and team for all your work to prepare us and to keep us on point!

[2023-08-22, 4:26:28 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Thanks Dorothy!

[2023-08-22, 5:36:59 PM] Michelle Baker:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-housing-amato-resigns-1.6944225>

[2023-08-23, 8:47:52 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: <attached:

00000091-PHOTO-2023-08-23-08-47-52.jpg>

[2023-08-23, 8:48:34 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: <attached:

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[2023-08-23, 10:14:18 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: <attached:

00000093-PHOTO-2023-08-23-10-14-18.jpg>

[2023-09-04, 9:14:38 AM] ~ Siscoe: <attached:

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[2023-09-04, 9:16:56 AM] ~ Siscoe: I won't hold my breath that the facilitators are named by the 11th

Non-Responsive

for myself, vice chair and past chair, with the new minister (Calandra) and the new minister for housing (Flack) on behalf of the caucus as soon as we can schedule it. We'll also invite them to our October caucus meeting.

[2023-09-04, 11:49:26 PM] Josh Morgan Mayor Of London: I know Flack very well. His riding covers the south end of London.

[2023-09-04, 11:51:16 PM] Rob Burton: I met him at AMO. I'm looking forward to working with him.

Non-Responsive

[2023-09-05, 6:13:43 AM] Dorothy McCabe: 10am presser with the Premier today.

[2023-09-13, 12:55:56 PM] ~ Siscoe:

<https://x.com/paulcalandra/status/1701996825975087530?s=42>

[2023-09-13, 1:02:54 PM] Berry Vrbanovic: That's a big hmmm

Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[2023-09-13, 3:30:16 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: A legislative committee is likely the most efficient way forward while providing input opportunities. Non-Responsive

[REDACTED]

[2023-09-13, 3:38:04 PM] ~ Siscoe: Agreed on the use of the committee as opposed to the facilitator process. I'm hopeful it will get this conversation done faster here in Niagara

[2023-09-13, 3:39:13 PM] Rob Burton: That's the idea, actually, according to what I've heard.

[2023-09-14, 8:06:29 AM] Dorothy McCabe: I have a different perspective - I think the ctte is where the potential for reform has gone to die.

Non-Responsive

[REDACTED]

[2023-09-15, 7:56:28 PM] Rob Burton: Did Calandra write anyone about the HATF recommendations today?

[2023-09-15, 7:57:04 PM] ~ Drew: This message was deleted.

Non-Responsive

[REDACTED]

[2023-09-16, 9:34:04 AM] Rob Burton: Maybe we need to think about making OBCM 50 mayors, not 29?

Non-Responsive

[REDACTED]

Non-Responsive

[2023-09-16, 1:32:37 PM] Rob Burton: We're members of the Club of 50, eh?

Non-Responsive

[2023-09-16, 3:09:19 PM] Rob Burton: Might the list have been all mayors of pledge-eligible places?

Non-Responsive

[2023-09-19, 9:17:55 PM] Rob Burton: I'd like to float a suggestion to try to coordinate a bit in our responses on the 74 HATF recommendations...

[2023-09-19, 10:06:04 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: We're working on a consolidated approach. Stay tuned. Suggestions always welcome though.

[2023-09-21, 11:46:52 AM] ~ David West: I've begun the process of filling out this survey and am becoming quite sure a number of these questions can't be accurately answered with a binary choice of "Support"/"Oppose" and no other way to communicate the subtleties of these questions in a paragraph. This puts us all in an impossible situation on a number of these questions. Is this a common feeling within the group and if so can we get a sense through OBCM how others are dealing with this?

[2023-09-21, 11:48:14 AM] Rob Burton: Yes, let's form a study group like we used to in university and take a Crack at it.

[2023-09-21, 11:51:35 AM] ~ Shaun: I put ours to our planning department who completed it and then I reviewed. I changed two of their recommendations but otherwise it's done and will be sent in.

[2023-09-21, 11:54:44 AM] Rob Burton: I've got 3 strands running - Staff's update of their review last year, a request to Councillors to offer their views, and a meeting with our community leaders roundtable to hear their thoughts (having circulated the documents to the CLRT and the councillors).

Submission to go Oct 16th.

[2023-09-21, 12:56:00 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Likewise we submitted something. Earlier this year, staff are reviewing and updating, council will weigh in Oct 4 and we'll send.

[2023-09-21, 1:13:38 PM] Olivia Chow: Paul Johnson, our City Manager is drafting a response and may I suggest that we have our city managers and CAO's coordinate? We are happy to.

[2023-09-21, 1:34:20 PM] Rob Burton: Thank you, the more we work together, the happier we'll be.

[2023-09-21, 1:40:07 PM] ~ David West: Thanks everyone - we are also planning on doing and doing many elements described above

Non-Responsive

[2023-09-21, 2:00:48 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: I've asked our City Manager to reach out to caucus CAO. Thanks Olivia.

Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

[2023-09-22, 4:26:56 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: How many of you have free transit for kids

Non-Responsive

[2023-09-22, 6:32:44 PM] Olivia Chow: Free for kids 12 or under. Not seniors.

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Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

[2023-09-23, 7:19:28 AM] ~ Siscoe: Non-Responsive

There are rumours about that the Ministry of Ed is contemplating pushing school boards to get out of yellow buses for high school kids and push them towards transit - that's from the OPTA

grapevine. I'm working with my Transit GM on an advocacy plan to the Ministry
[2023-09-23, 7:59:34 AM] Non-Responsive

[2023-09-23, 8:47:12 AM] Rob Burton: The only downside is the chance the province and feds view free transit as a frill they can use to argue against our new revenue demands. And it's too late to close that door. So I have been saying their growth emergency makes free public transit is essential to facilitate intensification. Ontario already gives essentially free local public transit to GO train riders....

[2023-09-26, 8:55:53 PM] ~ Non-Responsive

[2023-10-05, 12:44:42 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: Question for my fellow mayors: Have any of you had your budget numbers released yet? I'm hearing cities are staring like 10% budget increases but wanted to hear right from you all if there's truth to that? Thanks.

Non-Responsive

[2023-10-12, 12:35:02 PM] ~ Liz: Good afternoon all. OBCM meeting next week some of you are arriving the night before. Non-Responsive

[2023-10-12, 12:35:34 PM] ~ Liz: Please let us know if you will be here for that

and we will send details

[2023-10-14, 11:19:41 AM] Non-Responsive

[2023-10-20, 7:56:55 AM] Berry Vrbanovic: Good morning colleagues. Unfortunately I won't be able to join you today, but one of my Councillors, Paul Singh - will be attending as Acting Mayor. Non-Responsive

[2023-10-20, 7:57:32 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Thanks Berry. We'll miss you!

[2023-10-20, 8:00:08 AM] Berry Vrbanovic: Patrick and Stephen as the movers (and all) - he will be suggesting a small amendment on the auto theft motion. I believe a number of us have had the IBC presentation. In Kitchener and throughout Waterloo Region, our thefts are up over 150% as well, and the operative clause right now only refers to steps by the federal government, but they also recommend a number of steps for the provincial government as part of the advocacy. I said we would ask that they be added to the motion so Councillor Singh will propose the following amendment that I hope you might consider based on their requests of us.

[2023-10-20, 8:00:18 AM] Berry Vrbanovic: Further, be it resolved that Ontario Big City Mayors (OBCM) call on the Ontario Government to make changes to the vehicle transfer process, as recommended by the Insurance Bureau of Canada in order to take steps to minimize improper transfer of vehicles, and

That these provincial changes should introduce a physical public VIN inspection conducted by a certified mechanic as part of the safety inspection that precedes every vehicle transfer, ensuring that info/images are captured and transmitted digitally through an update to the Drive ON program to prevent the falsification of paper-based documents.

[2023-10-20, 8:00:27 AM] Berry Vrbanovic: Thanks for your consideration.

[2023-10-20, 8:01:49 AM] Non-Responsive

[2023-10-20, 8:52:07 AM] Olivia Chow: I am stuck on the DVP and will join by phone until arrival.

[2023-10-20, 8:53:47 AM] Non-Responsive

[2023-10-20, 8:58:27 AM] Patrick Brown: I supposed this can't hurt. I view it as a friendly. We hosted the auto theft summit in Peel last year for police chiefs across the GTHA. They identified the ports/CBSA as the weakest point in our ability to stop auto theft. Canada only inspects 1 per cent of containers and the vast vast majority of stolen cars are for international resale and not domestic use. Canada has become the number 1 source country for stolen cars. It is now the 3rd largest revenue source for organized crime in Canada.

Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive
Non-Responsive

[2023-10-26, 7:42:34 PM] Michelle Baker: Hello, making sure everyone has seen the housing supply progress tracker the province put up online today:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/tracking-housing-supply-progress>

[2023-10-26, 11:04:26 PM] ~ Nuttall: Are anyone else's numbers really off compared with internals.

Non-Responsive

[2023-10-26, 11:09:36 PM] Rob Burton: All govt data is imperfect for reporting day inconsistencies and on and on. One of the problems in Ontario with data. Heck, I doubt our FIRs are consistent.

Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

[2023-10-27, 8:20:01 AM] ~ FS: Apparently their data is not based on permits issued it based on foundations built. I don't know how they get that info but I am trying to get clarification

[2023-10-27, 8:21:05 AM] Berry Vrbancovic: I believe you are correct Frank. My understanding is CMHC gets the building permit data, and apparently sends field staff out to check, and if it's actually started, it gets added to the count.

Non-Responsive

[2023-10-27, 8:23:39 AM] Andrea Horwath: And how exactly do we make sure the

construction starts once the permit is issued?

[2023-10-27, 8:23:40 AM] Berry Vrbanovic: So we can do all the approvals we want, be ahead of targets, as we are in Kitchener (we've approved over 10,000 of our 35,000 since March), and not meet provincial expectations of us. And even if we issue the building permits, really the last step somewhat in our control, if they don't start building, we still get penalized. We really need to push back on this.

[2023-10-27, 8:25:36 AM] Berry Vrbanovic: The Global News story on this the other day, did not accurately portray our concerns the other day and I worry the Minister may also not be clear as a result!

[2023-10-27, 8:26:32 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Burlington is off by almost half. We count units created. Also ICYMI our resolution on this very matter re how to count units to qualify got some media pickup on CP and I did an interview on 1010 yesterday. We will keep pushing. Perhaps a press release today saying the numbers are off and tie municipal eligibility for funding to what we don't control?
<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-ontario-mayors-say-rules-for-provincial-housing-fund-unfairly-penalize/>

Non-Responsive

[2023-10-27, 8:28:26 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: In case you can't get past the Globe pay wall

<https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/government/2023/10/ontario-mayors-say-rules-for-provincial-housing-fund-unfairly-penalize-them>

[2023-10-27, 8:31:23 AM] Berry Vrbanovic: "But the Ontario Big City Mayors group has written to Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Paul Calandra to ask him to allow municipalities to qualify for a piece of the fund based on how many building permits they approve, rather than on housing starts." For clarity though, are we not asking them to focus on how many sites we approve for building not building permits or starts - both of which we largely don't control.....

[2023-10-27, 8:40:05 AM] Andrea Horwath: UNITS

[2023-10-27, 8:40:51 AM] Andrea Horwath: Units approved is what we should be asking for- sorry, didn't mean to shout with all caps lol

[2023-10-27, 8:41:30 AM] Andrea Horwath: # of units permitted

[2023-10-27, 8:42:09 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Part of our messaging needs to be coming to a common definition of what in fact we are counting. There is still no shared understanding. Thus the challenges and discrepancy in numbers and penalizing municipalities for what we don't control. For example our units approved are double what's in the chart.

[2023-10-27, 8:44:03 AM] Berry Vrbanovic: Yes, I believe what we all mean is # of approved units (all planning approvals in place) that could get a building permit tomorrow and NOT building permit applications which we don't control or actual starts which we also don't control.

[2023-10-27, 11:09:57 AM] ~ Nuttall: <attached: 00000239-PHOTO-2023-10-27-11-09-57.jpg>

[2023-10-27, 11:10:43 AM] ~ Nuttall: There seems to be issues with numbers on website that show duplication amongst results from municipalities.

[2023-10-27, 11:23:20 AM] Michelle Baker: Thank you everyone for sharing your

insights above. Publishing housing starts data without consultation with, or notice to, the municipal sector is not helpful. We set the groundwork in place to respond to this with our motion and letter to Minister Calandra, and the media pick up it received. They are very aware of our concerns. I also understand that there are conversations taking place with their technical table on some of these concerns, but those discussions are under an NDA, and not happening fast enough. To help strengthen our message, and to address any inaccurate data, we will be shortly sending out two templates that you may choose to use to help clarify your municipality's progress. One is a letter to your MPP(s) and one is for a statement/press release. Pushing out locally what OBCM pushed out earlier this week should help amplify our concerns. Please reach out with any questions or comments.

[2023-10-27, 11:24:11 AM] ~ Cam Guthrie: This is what they're using I've been told:

[2023-10-27, 11:24:20 AM] ~ Cam Guthrie: A housing start is defined as the beginning of construction work on the building where the dwelling unit will be located. This can be described in 2 ways:

The stage when the concrete has been poured for the whole of the footing around the structure.

An equivalent stage where a basement will not be part of the structure

[2023-10-27, 5:35:14 PM] ~ Siscoe: Would it make sense for OBCM to publish our own data chart with permitted units by municipality as opposed to housing starts? And start pushing that out? It shouldn't take much for our staffs to keep that number up to date with OBCM. The idea that we're being rewarded for housing starts - which is almost completely outside of our control - makes no sense, and never has made sense. Publishing our own numbers might be a good start to getting useful numbers reported on the municipal side.

[2023-10-27, 5:46:15 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: I think that's a great idea Matt

[2023-10-27, 5:46:48 PM] Michelle Baker: We are actually working to make that happen. The reason municipal data is not published currently is that there is no consistency between definitions/descriptions.

[2023-10-27, 5:47:12 PM] Berry Vrbanovic: I think we should actually think about putting it together asap and doing a press conference to release it.

[2023-10-27, 5:47:17 PM] Michelle Baker: There is a working group of some of our planners who will be meeting soon to look at this.

[2023-10-27, 5:48:18 PM] Berry Vrbanovic: We need to nip this in the butt sooner rather than later!

[2023-10-27, 5:52:03 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: Agreed. I'd recommend that we don't expose our true numbers individually at all until we do it collectively. It'll be a bigger deal and it'd get traction if it was one big release.

[2023-10-27, 8:02:15 PM] Rob Burton: Let's pray we can agree a data standard for our information.

[2023-10-28, 9:34:04 AM] Josh Morgan Mayor Of London: I agree with what everyone has been saying. I also think the right data can show what is happening and where the government needs to focus. For example. We are on track to approve at least the same number of units as last year, however by mid year the number of units in submitted building permits has dropped significantly to 58% below the same time period in 2022. Builders have the permissions but they are not pulling the permits to the same degree they did previously. We are ramping up and they are slowing

down.

[2023-10-28, 9:36:08 AM] Josh Morgan Mayor Of London: I'm not sure if other cities are seeing the same thing.

[2023-10-28, 9:43:57 AM] ~ Cam Guthrie: I think I'd we all send in our own data to Michelle using the template, then after it's all compiled it'll show if there's a consistent pattern or undercounting or other issues, or if there's only some outliers.

[2023-10-28, 9:44:04 AM] ~ Cam Guthrie: *if

[2023-10-28, 9:44:44 AM] ~ Cam Guthrie: Only after everyone contributes can we know if we're onto something or not.

[2023-10-28, 9:46:09 AM] ~ Shaun: I'll supply the data Non-Responsive

[2023-10-28, 10:35:17 AM] Dorothy McCabe: It would also be instructive (one would hope) to note which approved developments or close to approved are delayed by provincial ministries lack of response/very slow responses etc. Waterloo has at least four significant developments I can think of off the top of my head that are not moving forward because we're waiting for prov responses on a Building Code issue (2020), MTO traffic study (2019), etc.

[2023-10-28, 10:55:53 AM] Michelle Baker: The province is open to using different metrics to show progress for municipalities. However we need clear definitions for the data presented that we all align with.

Currently that is not the case which is why a group of our planning staff are meeting on this.

Until then, people like Mike Moffatt won't touch our data and the province can poke holes in it, which is what some of those on the building side have been successfully "helping" the province do.

[2023-10-28, 10:57:38 AM] Michelle Baker: This message was deleted.

[2023-10-30, 1:35:23 PM] ~ Marie Nash: ~ Marianne Meed Ward added ~ Marie Nash

[2023-11-03, 8:03:19 AM] Dorothy McCabe: Good interview Marianne on CBCKW! Thanks for making time to speak to our local media.

[2023-11-03, 8:03:38 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Thanks Dorothy!!

[2023-11-03, 8:11:43 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: FYI our response to the Fall Economic Statement, posted on X

https://x.com/onbigcitymayors/status/1720218148589191287?s=46&t=od-_T4d4m-h4Iy9WaR

qH9A

[2023-11-03, 4:52:01 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: Guelph budget released today. In it, I created the P.I.L.L which stands for: Provincial Impacts Local Levy. I explain it here:

https://x.com/camguthrie/status/1720493872558543002?s=46&t=r_aJtkh-qAfAOOn-BGPgiXQ
Non-Responsive

[2023-11-08, 6:32:18 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: OBCM in the news:

https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/doug-ford-asked-50-municipalities-to-build-housing-to-get-cash-were-they-set-up/article_4fbbc162-eba8-535f-83a6-781f468b6ded.html

[2023-11-08, 7:12:51 AM] Rob Burton: Wow, they actually got the story right!

[2023-11-08, 7:21:46 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Also going on 1010 this am at 11:20. Tune in if you can!

[2023-11-08, 7:37:49 AM] Rob Burton: Remind me how they say they get their number of foundation pourings?

[2023-11-08, 7:37:58 AM] ~ David West: Great job - it tells the story well. I met with Calandra recently and he seems quite reluctant to change the goal. He seemed more amenable to changing the length of time. I told him this will not address the foundational flaw in this program.

[2023-11-08, 7:38:44 AM] Rob Burton: Good one! "Foundational" flaw!

[2023-11-08, 7:43:09 AM] Berry Vrbancovic: Great job Marianne! On how they get the data is I'm told someone actually gets our building permits and then drives around to see if the foundations have started.

[2023-11-08, 7:49:17 AM] Rob Burton: Then I suggest their "data" may have errors

[2023-11-08, 7:50:37 AM] ~ David West: I have to say my favourite part of this article is Mayor Taylor's quote at the end that a bold plan like this requires bold actions by the province. The Bill 23 plan does not contain bold actions by the province. I think OBCM needs to propose bold actions that the province needs to take that we can use as incentives to build housing that is affordable. I'm becoming more and more concerned that Bill 23 contains no effective incentives to change and builders' behaviour. The public money that is being removed from our coffers is not incentivizing behaviour we need incentivized to get the job done. Perhaps we need to change the channel and suggest our own tools that they can find. Thoughts?

[2023-11-08, 7:51:23 AM] Rob Burton: You're right!

[2023-11-08, 7:53:50 AM] Rob Burton: You know, maybe we need to adopt a two-prong approach: the counter- shaming we're doing in this story AND your new channel, basically the "look over here" tactic

Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

[2023-11-08, 7:59:22 AM] ~ David West: I agree Rob - Calandra seems like he's up for ideas so let's give it to him. The other benefit of this approach is at a time when the governing party is reeling from a number of issues positive ideas from us may have more fertile ground to grow.

[2023-11-08, 8:01:00 AM] Rob Burton: Agreed

[2023-11-08, 8:02:52 AM] Rob Burton: Springing foundation pours on us as the metric is the opposite of the cooperation he promised in his phone calls to introduce himself when he became minister, isn't it.

[2023-11-08, 8:02:58 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Well said David and Rob. Great idea and agree: Taylor's quote was great

[2023-11-08, 6:16:15 PM] ~ David West: Cam - good job on CBC tonight!

[2023-11-08, 6:16:40 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: Thanks my friend!

[2023-11-08, 6:34:12 PM] Berry Vrbanovic: Ditto

[2023-11-09, 2:37:53 PM] Michelle Baker: This message was deleted.

[2023-11-09, 2:38:20 PM] Rob Burton: ?

[2023-11-12, 2:56:32 PM] Rob Burton: my building department inspects and keeps records of foundation pours. Their records show Oakville foundations poured through September are 94% of target. CMHC said 55%.

If your building department has different numbers than CMHC reported, what shall we do about it?

[2023-11-12, 4:38:45 PM] Michelle Baker: My understanding is that it is CMHC who checks the starts. And what they can verify is what they use. Their survey is based on the permits that have been pulled they visit different sites in monthly. It is quarterly for smaller municipalities and for the smallest they do random sampling.

Best I could find from their website to explain:

The Starts and Completions Survey is conducted through site visits. These visits are used to confirm that new residential units have reached set stages in the construction process. Since most municipalities issue building permits, they are used as an indication of where construction is likely to take place. In areas where there are no permits, reliance is placed either on local sources or other field enumeration procedures.

[2023-11-12, 4:39:17 PM] Michelle Baker: Emphasizes the need for different metrics

[2023-11-12, 5:24:32 PM] Rob Burton: In plain words, they fudge.

Unacceptable.

Can we compare our own stats for pours?

What if CMHC is undercounting everyone?

What if they are over estimating some?

Does anybody see an opportunity to improve here?

[2023-11-12, 6:42:09 PM] ~ Nuttall: How do they verify an additional unit being added inside an existing structure?

[2023-11-12, 6:45:46 PM] Rob Burton: Ontario can use MPAC when MPAC catches up to

the building permit and sends an inspector. CMHC will make "estimates", a 3 syllable word for they will guess.

The feds should stay out of this provincial jurisdiction if only because they are incompetent.

[2023-11-12, 6:49:33 PM] ~ Nuttall: I wonder if they would provide us the data from cmhc in order to spot check their spot checks.

[2023-11-12, 7:00:19 PM] Michelle Baker: They don't buy apparently they are looking at ways to do that. The province is having that talk as well at its technical table and progress is being made so they can possibly include that metric (table is under an NDA though so I was not given specifics)

[2023-11-12, 7:01:00 PM] ~ Nuttall: Interesting

[2023-11-13, 1:57:02 AM] Dorothy McCabe: Collecting and monitoring this information and data shouldn't be so labour intensive.

[2023-11-13, 9:19:50 AM] Rob Burton: <attached:
00000304-PHOTO-2023-11-13-09-19-50.jpg>

[2023-11-14, 9:48:50 AM] ~ David West: I appreciate all this discussion but I hope OBCM will not resign itself to measuring building starts in any form is an acceptable way to measure what we have the power over. We need to continue to message out that we don't build houses so any form of measurement that involves housing starts is beyond our control. We can't let them change that channel

[2023-11-14, 9:52:30 AM] Rob Burton: Proving they can't count starts could go a long way to accepting the idea they must count permits.

I'm tempted to publish monthly and cumulative permits and starts and say, see, it ain't us.

[2023-11-14, 12:03:57 PM] ~ FS: I have been asking to change their criteria to building permits as I am sure others have. I have asked for them to sort this out before the end of the year

[2023-11-15, 11:43:32 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Agree housing starts is the wrong metric. Approvals is what we control.

[2023-11-17, 4:29:56 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: OBCM is mentioned:

<https://www.guelphtoday.com/local-news/mayor-calls-for-ban-on-downtown-encampments-look-for-other-options-7846285>

[2023-11-19, 6:32:35 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: <attached:
00000310-PHOTO-2023-11-19-18-32-35.jpg>

Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

[2023-11-27, 11:24:51 AM] ~ Drew: Congrats on your 'new deal' for Toronto Olivia!

[2023-11-27, 11:30:51 AM] Berry Vrbanovic: Ditto! Congrats Olivia - much needed and well deserved! Next on the list is a new deal for OBCM cities!

[2023-11-27, 11:31:44 AM] ~ Cam Guthrie: Next on the list is a new deal for Guelph only. Ha! Congrats Olivia!

[2023-11-27, 12:24:09 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Dear colleagues, A momentous day today on a number of fronts. Congratulations to you Olivia for Toronto's new deal! Hopefully this helps pave the way for more deals/collaboration with municipalities

across the municipal sector. Also today, the province's full day housing forum is underway. A combination of municipal representatives along with agencies, non-profits and industry. Not sure how invited were decided, but looks like some priority was given to municipal organizations. So I'm here (along with Michelle) for OBCM; also here ROMA chair, MARCO chair, warden caucuses etc. only other OBCM members I saw here are Cam and Bryan. I'll provide a verbal update as part of my Chair's report at the next meeting. So far very good discussions.

[2023-11-28, 6:29:10 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: FYI:

<https://www.elliottlaketoday.com/ontario-news/ontario-nixes-cities-ask-to-allow-more-of-them-to-get-housing-infrastructure-money-7888984>

Non-Responsive



[2023-12-21, 1:59:22 PM] Michelle Baker: <attached:

00000335-PHOTO-2023-12-21-13-59-22.jpg>

Non-Responsive



[2023-12-22, 5:41:43 PM] Olivia Chow: Merry Christmas to everyone.

To the great OBCM team, thanks for your leadership and inspiration. Together we are strong.

Happy holidays!

Non-Responsive



Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

[2024-01-15, 8:29:24 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

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https://x.com/mariannmeedward/status/1747710773130916320?s=46&t=od-_T4d4m-h4Iy9WaRqH9A

[2024-01-18, 1:21:12 PM] Dorothy McCabe: Great stuff Marianne and to all who attended.

[2024-01-18, 1:41:22 PM] Olivia Chow: Thank you Marianne.

[2024-01-18, 10:35:34 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: You're welcome!

[2024-01-20, 9:39:52 AM] ~ Cam Guthrie: Just thought I'd share this idea with your cities. We got out of the Christmas tree collection when we deemed it a non-core service, we saved the taxpayers like only \$20k but a non-profit picked it up and ran with it and now they make like \$90k a year in donations now. You should consider it perhaps!

https://x.com/global_guelph/status/1748663923157381398?s=48&t=r_aJtkh-qAfAOn-BGPgiXQ

Non-Responsive



[2024-01-20, 3:52:35 PM] Patrick Brown: The hospital says provincial requirement is 10%.

[2024-01-20, 3:53:32 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Completely unsustainable amounts for cities to absorb on the property tax base. It represents us subsidizing the province!!

[2024-01-20, 3:53:40 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: Two years ago or so, OBCM passed a motion about this very issue.

[2024-01-20, 3:53:47 PM] Patrick Brown: If this is an unwritten rule in Ministry they should be public and transparent about it. Public should know healthcare is now yet another downloaded municipal responsibility.

[2024-01-20, 3:54:31 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: This is why I put our hospital levy under the PILL in the budget.

[2024-01-20, 3:55:04 PM] Patrick Brown: We have a 1% healthcare levy and hospital is asking to make it 2% given construction cost escalations making the 10% figure larger than originally forecast. It's very difficult to justify a 2% healthcare

levy.

[2024-01-20, 3:58:13 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: We did a separate levy at the time and reported it separately on the tax bill. We have now paid it off so no longer shows. It varied. We started lower around 1 % then increased by a half point ten another half point over a three year period then collected at that leve till we reached the 60 million. Then we redirected the levy to long term infrastructure and asset management.

[2024-01-20, 3:58:18 PM] ~ Nuttall: We were told it was 30%

[2024-01-20, 3:58:23 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: The "local share" is 10% and it could be "fundraised" says the province. But this is where equity issues come into play too (let alone this should be a Provincial responsibility anyways) because how can some cities without deep pockets donors compete against other cities that may have the very people that can write cheques for millions? This is why the entire thing needs to be under the Province. I talked directly to Minister of Finance about this right before their last election telling them they should make it a platform issue because another party might just do that. In my opinion it's a fantastic platform issue for us and we should be raising a stink about it.

[2024-01-20, 3:58:37 PM] ~ Nuttall: By the RVH.

[2024-01-20, 3:58:38 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: That's huge!

[2024-01-20, 3:58:59 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: Nope. I have the document from the Province that says it's 10%

[2024-01-20, 3:59:09 PM] ~ Non-Responsive

[2024-01-20, 3:59:46 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: It's basically a mandatory requirement put upon the boards of directors for hospitals. They then pass it off to the hospital foundations, and then it's the foundations that come before city councils.

Non-Responsive

Checked Toronto and other new builds and they, too, had proportional local shares that hospitals covered fully with ancillary revenues and foundation fundraising. The City of Toronto always just flatly refused to contribute FWIW.

[2024-01-20, 4:14:43 PM] Rob Burton: I took to saying COT knows how to "motivate" their hospitals...

[2024-01-20, 5:40:46 PM] Non-Responsive

Respon

[2024-01-20, 6:05:14 PM] Patrick Brown: Yes I was told 10% cost to city

10% cost to foundation which pays for equipment inside building.

[2024-01-20, 6:11:22 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: I thought it's 10% for renovations and expansions or new builds only. And then It's 100% fundraised for equipment.

[2024-01-20, 6:12:17 PM] Rob Burton: Ours I wrote about above was a new build. Ours is now doing an expansion and not asking us for anything (yet).

Non-Responsive

[2024-01-20, 6:12:32 PM] Patrick Brown: I think we should push for clarity as OBCM

for transparent municipal financial planning.

[2024-01-20, 6:12:47 PM] Patrick Brown: I don't think they want to put on record this has become municipal responsibility.

[2024-01-20, 6:15:36 PM] Berry Urbanovic: I don't have details but the percentages you're talking about are pretty much what I recall hearing. Big bucks for sure

[2024-01-20, 6:16:42 PM] Rob Burton: Maybe we should share the names of the persons telling us these figures.

[2024-01-20, 6:17:18 PM] Rob Burton: Like, what's their official status, how do we know they know what they're saying is gospel?

[2024-01-20, 6:19:56 PM] ~ Shaun: Our new OBCM Finance Sub Committee has its inaugural meeting on the 22nd. I'm certain that this will be one of the items we discuss. It's time for the province to take back their responsibilities. <This message was edited>

[2024-01-20, 6:21:34 PM] Rob Burton: Agree.

[2024-01-20, 6:36:37 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: We can work to bring a resolution to caucus Feb. 9

[2024-01-20, 6:46:43 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: Strategically, with Andreas budget in front of her Non-Responsive, it might be a good idea to have all of us stand beside her and have her raise it because it's super relevant and in the news due to Hamiltons budget anyways, and then each of us can take turns telling Ontario how much this issue is costing our local citizens.

[2024-01-20, 6:59:00 PM] Andrea Horwath: Our final budget ratification is scheduled for February 15th.

[2024-01-20, 8:01:12 PM] Dorothy McCabe: There is hospital redevelopment work happening in Waterloo and Kitchener with the hope of a new hospital to be built. At a town hall on Tuesday with the hospital CEOs, in response to the Q 'how much will this cost?' they said the province pays for 75%.

[2024-01-20, 8:02:54 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: We should leverage the timing here in my opinion. Let's stand together. I'll leave it up to the Chair of course with the est way forward. At a minimum, a motion and position is completely relevant. Especially with their budget consultations happening right now.

[2024-01-20, 8:02:57 PM] Dorothy McCabe: How about OBCM use the QP media studio late February - in advance of the prov budget - and Marianne lays out our requests and outlines the PILL.

[2024-01-20, 8:11:47 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Great idea.

[2024-01-20, 8:16:35 PM] Dorothy McCabe: Maybe follow up with a sit down with the Premier or the finance minister etc

[2024-01-20, 8:48:14 PM] Rob Burton: Shoot first, sweet talk later?

[2024-01-20, 11:57:13 PM] Dorothy McCabe: Outline our requests and that we're hoping for a good reception from the premier and minister.

[2024-01-21, 5:33:21 PM] Michelle Baker: Minister Bethlenfalvy will be at our meeting on the 9th. If there is consensus on going public with an agreed upon position on this we should try to have that in place for the 9th. Or at least let him know it is something we are discussing as a Caucus. All signals from their office is that it will be an early budget this year.

As a reminder not all OBCM Mayors are in this WhatsApp group.

[2024-01-21, 8:16:43 PM] Olivia Chow: I am supportive of what the team decide.

[2024-01-21, 8:17:26 PM] Olivia Chow: The team that is part of the discussion here.

[2024-01-23, 8:20:49 AM] Berry Vrbanovic: Good money folks! Have been following the exchange of last few days. Personally, I don't think doing media ahead of our meeting around hospital funding or the bigger ask is the best way forward. Certainly fair to do afterwards, but I know my preference would be talk first and then public advocacy to follow. Also best to make sure we are all aligned at our next meeting before we are doing press conferences or anything.

[2024-01-23, 8:23:42 AM] Rob Burton: Thank you, I agree.

[2024-01-23, 9:27:22 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Hi all, yes the original intent is always to bring something to the caucus first before media. Motion approved by caucus will come first.

[2024-01-23, 2:59:53 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: FYI:

https://x.com/onbigcitymayors/status/1749850367917965535?s=46&t=od-_T4d4m-h4Iy9WaRqH9A

[2024-01-23, 3:09:40 PM] Andrea Horwath: 👍

[2024-01-24, 7:58:15 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Congrats to Milton for HAF funding!
~

https://www.insidehalton.com/news/were-celebrating-family-and-a-place-to-call-home-22m-cmhc-funding-to-speed-up/article_ca83333b-058b-5e43-ad02-40f0ffe5dba9.html?source=newsletter&utm_content=a02&utm_source=ml_nl&utm_medium=email&utm_email=7442C92C73CB55C5B65F5DF774A9DFD4&utm_campaign=ihha_167464

[2024-01-25, 7:00:03 AM] Michelle Baker: FYI - From the Queens Park Observer: Wild speculation: Downey's team is keeping mum on the details, but one theory is that he could unveil a law that would force local politicians out of office for harassing staff. The PCs previously shut down such a proposal from Liberal STEPHEN BLAIS, but they're facing renewed pressure to take action. The Star has more.
- He has a 830am announcement

Either way, here is the article from yesterday in case you missed it, OBCM's support is mentioned.

https://www.thestar.com/politics/provincial/under-pressure-ford-government-ready-in-g-law-to-punish-local-politicians-who-harass-staff/article_feb76620-bad6-11ee-b45e-df0c869a1c94.html?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email <This message was edited>

[2024-01-25, 7:01:21 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Great thank you Michelle for sharing

Non-Responsive



Non-Responsive

[2024-01-31, 10:22:52 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: FYI: our presentation to the budget committee:

https://x.com/onbigcitymayors/status/1752814973347156071?s=48&t=od-_T4d4m-h4Iy9WaRqH9A

[2024-02-01, 10:30:22 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: Hearing rumours of province getting rid of parking minimums. Anyone else hearing same?

[2024-02-01, 10:35:28 PM] Berry Vrbanovic: Haven't heard that yet. Well that would be interesting. Anyone else hearing about a Feb 14 date for announcing our approvals stuff and move forward on Bill 23?

[2024-02-01, 10:56:14 PM] ~ Nuttall: I've heard that they are sending us all flowers on Valentines Day (Feb 14)

[2024-02-01, 11:12:37 PM] Berry Vrbanovic: Ahhhh, I'd even accept them a week later so they can avoid the roseflation and save taxpayers a few bucks!

[2024-02-02, 9:03:10 AM] ~ Cam Guthrie: I heard the OP stuff is on the 20th

[2024-02-02, 2:29:48 PM] Dorothy McCabe: <attached:

00000490-PHOTO-2024-02-02-14-29-48.jpg>

[2024-02-02, 2:38:49 PM] Berry Vrbanovic: Great news! Congrats Dorothy!

[2024-02-02, 2:41:51 PM] Berry Vrbanovic: <attached:

00000492-PHOTO-2024-02-02-14-41-51.jpg>

[2024-02-02, 3:34:16 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Great news

[2024-02-06, 1:52:04 PM] ~ Drew: <attached:

00000494-PHOTO-2024-02-06-13-52-04.jpg>

[2024-02-06, 2:04:16 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Really poor data source- especially when money is on the line!

[2024-02-06, 3:06:55 PM] Rob Burton: Shoddy eh?

[2024-02-07, 7:07:28 AM] ~ David West: Are any Mayors going to the auto theft summit in Ottawa?

[2024-02-07, 8:03:46 AM] Rob Burton: I'm attending. Will I see you there?

[2024-02-08, 2:55:54 PM] Dorothy McCabe: Anyone attending the EDCO awards dinner tonight? I'll be there. Table 18

[2024-02-13, 4:30:00 AM] Rob Burton: Berry, will you be there?

[2024-02-22, 3:56:21 PM] Michelle Baker: Michelle Baker changed the group name to "OBCM 2024"

[2024-02-22, 3:55:32 PM] Michelle Baker: This message was deleted.

[2024-02-23, 12:50:36 PM] ~ Shaun: Anyone else get a letter last week stating they had not reached their housing targets? Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

[2024-02-23, 1:05:28 PM] Berry Vrbanovic: I understand it's all based on CMHC

numbers and their analysis of actual foundation starts counted by this mysterious person previously referenced on these exchanges as someone who drives around and actually counts them.

Non-Responsive

[2024-02-24, 10:56:34 AM] ~ Drew: Unless of course it's pouring foundations of purpose built student housing, then it doesn't count. But long term care does.

Non-Responsive

[2024-02-24, 11:05:04 AM] Dorothy McCabe: If they counted student housing, the province would have to admit that they have a responsibility to help fund student housing

[2024-02-25, 9:13:14 AM] Rob Burton: They don't actually COUNT the foundations, they estimate.

[2024-02-25, 9:14:41 AM] Rob Burton: And they won't accept actual inspectors' records as proof they missed any.

Non-Responsive

Non-
Resp
onsiv
e

Non-Responsive

[2024-03-21, 9:15:29 AM] Michelle Baker: Great news! \$1.625 billion in new infrastructure funding including a \$6.25 million top up to the provinces housing enabling water fund

[2024-03-21, 9:16:01 AM] ~ Nuttall: Well that's good news.

[2024-03-21, 10:52:06 AM] Dorothy McCabe: Good work Marianne and David.

[2024-03-21, 11:13:10 AM] Josh Morgan Mayor Of London: Great job at the announcement! It's is a critical needed investment and I'll be putting out a positive statement here in London on behalf of my community. We have a number of concerns and we've raised them fairly and clearly, but it is equally important to clearly praise positive news and this needed investment.

...Now we just need the feds to get an infrastructure program going!

[2024-03-21, 11:32:10 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: A great announcement and shows the government is listening to us!

[2024-03-21, 3:33:17 PM] ~ David West: I'm sorry for weighing in late but I had to wait until my fingers thawed from the outdoor announcement today. It was a good announcement and hopefully the support will be rolled out effectively. I still think we need to work on more effective criteria for distributing funds ie. not like like the criteria used for the BFF but a good day over all. Thanks Marianne (along with Mayor Dollin) for being in Richmond Hill for the announcement and representing OBCM so effectively!

[2024-03-21, 3:33:57 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: It was cold but you are a great host. And a terrific announcement

[2024-03-21, 3:34:21 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: Good job this morning!

[2024-03-21, 3:34:38 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: This no four units thing is gonna blow up though.

[2024-03-21, 3:36:40 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Yes. It was an interesting unforced error because it's in their housing task force recommendations and many municipalities have already done it to qualify for HAF.

[2024-03-21, 3:38:08 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: Yes. He apparently meant to say that he wants it left up to each municipality to choose, which I get, but in a housing crisis we need more as of right units big time. Non-Responsive

[2024-03-21, 3:38:19 PM] ~ David West: It's interesting because if you listen to what he said he was referring to 4 and 6 storey buildings in neighborhoods not just 4 units. Not sure if this was just the result of the cold.

[2024-03-21, 3:38:55 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: I caught that nuance too. But it was just confined to me from the premiers office that he meant both.

[2024-03-21, 3:39:19 PM] ~ David West: Here's the link if you are so inclined to watch it <https://m.youtube.com/live/xtvR01KhPu8?si=u68lctabjJuYbYF7>

[2024-03-21, 3:39:30 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Yes agree David that's what he said.

The confusion perhaps was it was in response to a question about Bonnie's announcement re 4 units as of right.

[2024-03-21, 3:39:47 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: I watched the whole thing. Well done you guys.

[2024-03-21, 3:40:11 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: This is what happens when you upzone and do as of right:

[2024-03-21, 3:40:31 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: <attached:

00000556-PHOTO-2024-03-21-15-40-31.jpg>

[2024-03-21, 3:51:33 PM] ~ Drew: s. 14(1). People here don't want it but they think as of right makes sense along major transit lines and in mixed use nodes.

[2024-03-21, 3:52:32 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: Here's a picture of a four unit home in a residential neighbourhood:

[2024-03-21, 3:52:51 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: <attached:

00000559-PHOTO-2024-03-21-15-52-51.jpg>

[2024-03-21, 3:53:06 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: These aren't terrible things.

[2024-03-21, 3:53:21 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: I can see the nuance of four storeys though being different.

Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

[2024-03-27, 10:49:58 AM] Rob Burton: Hello. I just learned from the province there are other mayors complaining about the under count of Housing Starts.

Please contact me?

Non-Responsive

[2024-03-27, 10:54:30 AM] ~ Shaun: This message was deleted.

Non-Responsive

[2024-03-27, 10:56:22 AM] ~ Shaun: 03.01.24 Letter to Minister Calandra re 2023 Housing Targets and Performance.pdf • 3 pages <attached: 00000568-03.01.24 Letter to Minister Calandra re 2023 Housing Targets and Performance.pdf>

[2024-03-27, 11:22:39 AM] Rob Burton: Thanks, guys!

I heard today we got their attention. I also heard they don't know what to do, but they know anything that gives us our BFF money has to happen by FY end, March 31.

What should we do?

[2024-03-27, 12:52:29 PM] Michelle Baker: OBCM Letter to Minister Calandra re BFF 2023_03_12 (2).pdf • 3 pages <attached: 00000570-OBCM Letter to Minister Calandra re BFF 2023_03_12 (2).pdf>

[2024-03-27, 2:15:16 PM] Rob Burton: Thank you. Does anyone have any ideas for anything more to do?

We also audited our inspection reports back to 2000. CMHC has never been right. And always under.

[2024-03-27, 5:21:31 PM] ~ David West: I get that the units are not being counted properly but I think we need to not lose sight of the fact that we are being measured on a metric that is largely outside of our jurisdiction. As such, and with all respect to those that achieved the target, the effectiveness of the incentive of the BFF is very limited to actually get more housing built. I think we need to focus on that and stay united to get a program that actually helps us and incentivizes builders to build! That's my 2 cents - but with inflation it's likely worth at least a dime.

[2024-03-27, 5:36:21 PM] Rob Burton: So I'm out \$10 M and it's too bad?

[2024-03-27, 5:38:01 PM] ~ David West: We are out a bunch of money too because we are being measured on a metric that's largely outside of our control.

Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

Service	Percentage of respondents
General practitioner	100%
Pharmacist	95%
Physiotherapist	85%
Psychologist	75%
Dietitian	65%
Social worker	55%
Counsellor	45%
Mental health nurse	35%
Community health worker	25%
Peer support worker	15%

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Non-Responsive

[2024-04-03, 4:29:25 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: Great work Marianne!

[2024-04-03, 4:33:24 PM] Rob Burton: Good news, thanks.

[2024-04-05, 7:59:56 PM] ~ Jan LIGGETT: Michelle Baker added ~ Jan LIGGETT

[2024-04-05, 8:16:47 PM] ~ Mayor Davis: Michelle Baker added ~ Mayor Davis

[2024-04-11, 7:42:43 AM] Josh Morgan Mayor Of London:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/highly-supportive-housing-362-dundas-london-ontario-update-1.7169474>

[2024-04-11, 7:43:25 AM] Josh Morgan Mayor Of London: This facility is integrated with our new health and homelessness model.

[2024-04-11, 8:09:54 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Amazing!!

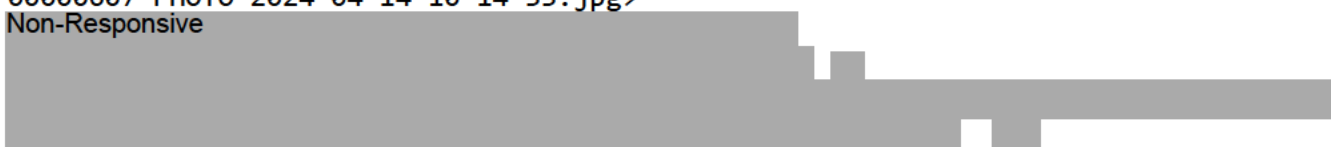
[2024-04-11, 1:49:51 PM] ~ Mayor Darrin Canniff: Awesome!!

[2024-04-11, 1:53:40 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: Phenomenal data and metrics. Especially the diversion from emergency rooms!

[2024-04-14, 10:14:33 AM] ~ Jan LIGGETT: <attached:

00000607-PHOTO-2024-04-14-10-14-33.jpg>

Non-Responsive



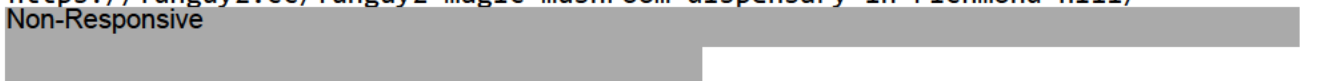
Non-Responsive



[2024-04-14, 6:16:19 PM] ~ David West: Has anyone had a Magic Mushroom store open in your community recently? According to their website a number of OBCM municipalities are on the list. As far as I can tell these stores are illegal but they seem to know this but are opening anyway.

<https://funguys.cc/funguys-magic-mushroom-dispensary-in-richmond-hill/>

Non-Responsive



[2024-04-18, 7:33:57 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: I am looking forward to welcoming

you all to Burlington today and tomorrow! Our wonderful team of Michelle & Angela, along with Marie, Esther and John from my office, have put together a great program over the next day and a half. See you all soon!

[2024-04-18, 8:00:56 AM] Olivia Chow: I have a long council meeting today. Deputy Mayor Jennifer McKelvie will be with you. Have a productive and fun meeting. Critically important and inspirational for us all.

[2024-04-18, 8:01:33 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Wishing you the best at council!

[2024-04-18, 8:53:50 AM] Berry Urbanovic: Thanks for hosting Marianne!

Unfortunately I am our UCLG spring board meeting so Acting Mayor Scott Davey will be representing me, along with our team. Many of you have met him before. I will try and join virtually for a bit tomorrow but only to listen in.

Good luck today Olivia!

Best wishes #TeamOBCM tomorrow. Together, we can achieve great things for our cities and for Ontario!

[2024-04-18, 8:54:42 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Thanks Berry! Have a good day and we will welcome both Jennifer and Scott.

Non-Responsive

!

[2024-04-18, 9:02:38 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Have fun!!

[2024-04-18, 2:32:57 PM] Josh Morgan Mayor Of London: <attached: 00000627-PHOTO-2024-04-18-14-32-57.jpg>

[2024-04-18, 2:35:17 PM] Andrea Horwath: Good job Josh!!

[2024-04-18, 4:22:24 PM] Dorothy McCabe: We have something like this in the works. Finalizing a date.

Also new Chief of the Six Nations of the Grand River hosts municipalities along the Grand River for a summit in March. Very good learning opportunity and relationship building opportunity too.

[2024-04-18, 5:22:24 PM] Michelle Baker: <attached: 00000630-PHOTO-2024-04-18-17-22-24.jpg>

[2024-04-18, 9:11:11 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: <attached: 00000631-PHOTO-2024-04-18-21-11-11.jpg>

Non-Responsive

[2024-04-21, 10:12:30 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Premiers warn against Ottawa encroaching on provincial jurisdiction - The Globe and Mail.pdf • 5 pages document omitted

[2024-04-21, 10:13:42 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: <https://www.burlingtontoday.com/local-news/ontario-mayors-gather-to-speak-on-housing-goals-infrastructure-and-community-wellbeing-8627706>

[2024-04-21, 10:14:18 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: <https://www.chch.com/ontarios-big-city-mayors-discuss-housing-mental-health-and-homelessness/>

[2024-04-21, 10:22:09 AM] ~ David West: Good job everyone. Thanks again to Burlington and Marianne for the hospitality!

[2024-04-21, 10:22:48 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: It was to host and see so many of you there. Thanks for making the time!

[2024-04-30, 2:53:33 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: <attached: 00000639-PHOTO-2024-04-30-14-53-33.jpg>
[2024-04-30, 3:09:38 PM] ~ Marie Nash: This message was deleted.
[2024-06-02, 6:16:55 PM] Dorothy McCabe: Happy Sunday all. I'm sharing that I am running for one of five Large Urban Caucus positions on AMO's board. And...I am asking/ hoping for your vote at the AMO conference. Happy to talk anytime about why I am running and how I will contribute. Thanks in advance!
[2024-06-04, 5:19:18 PM] ~ Siscoe: Hi folks - wondering who if any are headed to FCM?
[2024-06-04, 5:28:14 PM] Rob Burton: I are at Palliser Wed eve. Meet ups are good!
[2024-06-04, 5:30:34 PM] Patrick Brown: Yes I will be there
[2024-06-04, 5:30:39 PM] Rob Burton: Okay
[2024-06-04, 5:40:14 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: I'm arriving Thursday
[2024-06-04, 5:41:12 PM] ~ David West: I'll be there
[2024-06-04, 5:44:27 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: I'll be there arriving Thursday morning
[2024-06-04, 5:48:23 PM] ~ Drew: Will be there tomorrow
[2024-06-04, 5:48:54 PM] Berry Vrbanovic: There tomorrow night to late Friday night
[2024-06-04, 5:57:00 PM] ~ Bryan Paterson: I'm arriving Thursday night.
[2024-06-04, 6:09:23 PM] Josh Morgan Mayor Of London: Arriving tomorrow evening.
[2024-06-04, 6:10:04 PM] ~ Mayor Davis: I am arriving tomorrow evening as well
[2024-06-04, 6:16:58 PM] Dorothy McCabe: I'll be there Wednesday evening until Sunday. Hope to connect
[2024-06-04, 6:19:33 PM] Olivia Chow: I am unfortunately joining virtually s. 52(3)

Miss you all.

[2024-06-04, 7:41:10 PM] ~ Jan LIGGETT: Arriving tomorrow
[2024-06-05, 5:53:34 PM] Andrea Horwath: I'm on my way to the airport now.
[2024-06-05, 5:53:46 PM] Andrea Horwath: See you in the morning.
[2024-06-05, 5:56:02 PM] Dorothy McCabe: Good luck. Sorry you're missing FCM.
[2024-06-05, 6:44:03 PM] ~ FS: Already here for meetings. Enjoy the conference.
Good luck Olivia

Non-Responsive

[2024-06-09, 11:46:05 AM] Dorothy McCabe: Congratulations on the settlement Olivia
[2024-06-09, 11:47:26 AM] ~ FS: Congrats and goods news for commuters across the GTA
[2024-06-09, 11:49:03 AM] Rob Burton: Well done, we all knew you'd do well.
[2024-06-12, 4:13:16 PM] ~ Mayor Darrin Canniff: Looking forward to seeing everyone in Chatham-Kent. Have an awesome day!
[2024-06-12, 9:53:07 PM] ~ David West: Thanks Darrin - looking forward to it!
[2024-06-12, 10:04:09 PM] Patrick Brown: See you there on Friday !
[2024-06-12, 10:06:27 PM] Berry Vrbanovic: Look forward to joining you in your fair community!
[2024-06-13, 7:59:41 AM] ~ Jan LIGGETT: Have to do virtual sadly

[2024-06-13, 8:00:51 AM] Andrea Horwath: Me too

[2024-06-13, 8:01:26 AM] ~ Siscoe: Me three. Apologies.

[2024-06-13, 8:50:39 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Glad to have you join any way you can! See all of you online or in person soon.

[2024-06-13, 2:54:33 PM] Rob Burton: Shall we (did we?) invite Mayor Parrish to our chat group?

[2024-06-13, 3:39:57 PM] Michelle Baker: We are awaiting a phone number to do just that! Also, Mayor-Elect Parrish was going to join us tomorrow however we just learned that Councillor Mahoney is now coming in her place.

[2024-06-13, 4:56:47 PM] Patrick Brown: s. 14(1) Mayor Parrish

Non-Responsive

[2024-06-13, 6:03:35 PM] Olivia Chow: I texted Mayor elect Parrish on election night to congratulate her and got this message the next day:

[2024-06-13, 6:03:41 PM] Olivia Chow: <attached: 00000680-PHOTO-2024-06-13-18-03-41.jpg>

[2024-06-13, 7:18:19 PM] Patrick Brown: She just got a ton of messages and did that automatic response. Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

[2024-06-13, 7:24:42 PM] ~ Nuttall: Welcome!

[2024-06-13, 7:25:11 PM] ~ Nuttall: Also unfortunately I won't be able to join you tomorrow Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

[2024-06-13, 11:36:02 PM] ~ FS: Sorry I cannot be there Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive Councillor Andrew Keyes will be attending on my behalf. Sorry to miss it!

[2024-06-14, 9:24:17 AM] ~ Jan LIGGETT: Can't get in but can see screen. No audio except for those on virtual. Not on my end

[2024-06-14, 2:01:04 PM] Andrea Horwath: This is a good conversation- just a caution - much can and should be done without "legislative changes". Asking for open-ended "legislative changes" is a slippery slope.

[2024-06-14, 2:28:57 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Ok we are working on it

[2024-06-14, 2:28:57 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Just about to reconvene

[2024-06-15, 8:22:34 AM] ~ David West: Darrin - thanks for the hospitality yesterday. I've never stayed in such an awesome hotel or had a meeting in such a beautiful space. Thanks for being such a gracious host and welcoming us to your great community!

[2024-06-15, 9:40:41 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Ditto! Thanks to Darrin for your hospitality and to everyone who was able to join personally or virtually. We had very good discussions that advanced our caucus advocacy.

[2024-06-15, 9:57:26 AM] Rob Burton: The classic car operation is beyond anything I've seen in prowess and process. The operating style and the talent development are inspirational. It's worthy of another visit!

Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

[2024-06-15, 5:28:21 PM] Michelle Baker:

<https://windsornewstoday.ca/windsor/news/2024/06/14/ontarios-big-city-mayors-cry-for-more-housing-homeless-cash>

[2024-06-15, 5:28:31 PM] Michelle Baker:

<https://www.chathamdailynews.ca/news/time-to-act-is-now-big-city-mayors-discuss-how-using-homelessness-crisis>

[2024-06-15, 5:29:32 PM] Michelle Baker:

https://www.thespec.com/news/canada/homelessness-a-humanitarian-crisis-big-city-mayors-say/article_194eea61-f0f6-57eb-ab94-2d8ddad4bf44.html

[2024-06-15, 5:29:45 PM] Michelle Baker: A selection of the coverage from Friday.

[2024-06-15, 5:34:38 PM] Andrea Horwath: Great job!!!

[2024-06-18, 7:53:03 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Great quotes come our caucus members! <https://globalnews.ca/news/10571580/ontario-housing-start-issues-cmhc/>

[2024-06-18, 3:16:18 PM] Michelle Baker:

<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-39-metro-morning/clip/16075752-mayor-dan-carter-tells-project-martini-investigation-drug>

Mayor Dan Carter was on Metro Morning today - if you missed it, it is definitely worth a listen.

Note: he is not on WhatsApp so please contact him directly if you would like to discuss this further. <This message was edited>

[2024-06-18, 4:14:25 PM] Dorothy McCabe: Agreed- well done by Dan. Worth a listen

[2024-06-18, 4:15:26 PM] Patrick Brown: Good job Dan!

[2024-06-18, 6:37:20 PM] ~ FS: Well done Dan. Clear call for action

[2024-06-21, 9:14:14 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Great coverage of our collective efforts. 🙌🙌🙌

https://www.thestar.com/business/ontario-considers-housing-data-revisions-after-municipal-concerns-of-undercounting/article_bd451e42-34a0-5ac6-920c-54dbfa0edd63.html

[2024-06-21, 5:08:11 PM] Dorothy McCabe: Also CBC's Front Burner episode about municipal infrastructure:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/front-burner/id1439621628?i=1000659726496>

[2024-06-21, 6:26:21 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Thanks for sharing!!

Non-Responsive

[2024-06-28, 8:43:23 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: Supreme Court decision in States. Grants Pass - 6-3 win for cities able to now remove homelessness encampments and help people caught on streets struggling.

[2024-06-28, 8:43:51 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: <attached: 00000719-PHOTO-2024-06-28-20-43-51.jpg>

[2024-07-08, 10:21:28 AM] ~ Cam Guthrie: Question for my mayoral friends:

Are any of you getting residents screaming about parkland dedication fees when they are just renovating or demolishing their own home to make a bigger one? I've got residents who are being asked to cough up \$25-\$35 thousand dollars for parkland fees because our bylaw says if it's a renovation or construction of a unit they will be greater than 50% - then boom - they got a \$35k bill all of a sudden. Are any of you handling this situation differently or the same? Thanks!

Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

Non-
Responsive

[2024-07-11, 2:53:11 PM] ~ Drew: Hey folks, does your municipality fund a local/regional science centre?

Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

[2024-07-13, 2:23:31 PM] Dorothy McCabe: CBC's The House today talked infrastructure and included points about prov and federal underfunding. Guests The Line Frances Bula, freelance urban issues reporter Mary Rowe, president and CEO, Canadian Urban Institute.

[2024-07-13, 2:23:35 PM] Dorothy McCabe: The House with Catherine Cullen: Biden, Trudeau and a pivotal military meeting
<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-64-the-house/clip/16081265-biden-trudeau-pivotal-military-meeting>

[2024-07-26, 3:33:20 PM] Dorothy McCabe: Hello all! Given the very difficult news from Jasper, I'm curious if your municipality or region are considering offering assistance to Jasper?

Marianne - as chair, is this something OBCM should coordinate?

I imagine they may not know exactly what they may need yet. The damage/destruction is devastating.

Thoughts from others?

Non-Responsive

[2024-08-08, 8:29:08 AM] Andrea Horwath: Great Ad!! Good luck today. See you all at AMO.

[2024-08-08, 8:38:23 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Thanks Andrea!

[2024-08-09, 9:24:12 AM] ~ Shaun: Sorry to miss Queens Park. I'm in Halifax at the CAPG conference. See you all at AMO.

[2024-08-09, 9:32:37 AM] ~ FS: Great job yesterday and good coverage

[2024-08-09, 9:33:58 AM] Rob Burton: Hear! Hear! Very impactful on the residents groups I showed it to.

[2024-08-09, 9:56:03 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Thank you! A great team effort.

[2024-08-10, 1:49:13 PM] Rob Burton: This is so cool! Well done, Mayor Roy!
https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/doug-ford-said-he-wouldn-t-be-bullied-by-this-ontario-mayor-so-how-did/article_8a846b96-55b7-11ef-9476-9f5fe4a72a0f.html

[2024-08-10, 1:50:13 PM] ~ Liz: Thank you. It was a big win for our residents

[2024-08-11, 7:12:08 AM] Dorothy McCabe: Well done, Liz! Way to go to bat for your community

[2024-08-13, 8:08:36 AM] ~ Cam Guthrie:

<https://www.thetrillium.ca/news/housing/ontarios-unofficial-estimate-of-homeless-population-is-234000-documents-9341464>

[2024-08-13, 3:01:10 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: These numbers are staggering.

Thanks for sharing

Non-Responsive

[2024-08-14, 6:16:33 PM] Michelle Baker: This was an interesting article in today's Queen's Park Today:

[2024-08-14, 6:16:39 PM] Michelle Baker: image omitted

[2024-08-14, 6:16:47 PM] Michelle Baker: image omitted

[2024-08-14, 7:18:27 PM] Dorothy McCabe: Thanks for sharing

Non-Responsive

Non-

Responsive

Non-Responsive

[2024-08-16, 7:57:02 AM] ~ Jan LIGGETT: Good morning everyone. At our last OBCM meeting I mentioned that I was working on a project regarding the ongoing mental health and addictions crisis in our communities. I am happy to let you know that on Monday I received the results of a public opinion poll conducted by Campaign Research. I am excited to tell you that the results point to a strong support from Ontarians for a dedicated revenue stream aimed at solving this crisis. I wanted to let you all my team will share the full study with you should you wish, I will be bringing papwr copies for each of you Sunday.

It is the poll mentioned in the Toronto Star article by Robert Benzie now online https://www.thestar.com/politics/provincial/doug-ford-hints-at-changes-around-safe-injection-sites-as-municipalities-urge-help-for-mental/article_0af3e918-59ab-11ef-8ce5-1f9cc6cbcf7f.html

[2024-08-16, 7:57:52 AM] ~ Cam Guthrie: Such good work Jan!!! It's amazing!

[2024-08-16, 7:57:56 AM] ~ Siscoe: Jan - read the article last night - well done!

Would love to see the raw data when you are able to share

[2024-08-16, 8:04:28 AM] ~ Jan LIGGETT: Thanks. There is some great data there that can be used by all of you.

[2024-08-16, 8:13:08 AM] Andrea Horwath: Much appreciated Jan!

[2024-08-16, 8:14:17 AM] Berry Vrbanovic: Thanks Jan for the heads up! Well done!

I too would welcome seeing the detailed report! See you in Ottawa!

[2024-08-16, 8:59:35 AM] Rob Burton: Thanks, Jan!

[2024-08-16, 10:06:21 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Very helpful information Jan.

Thank you for commissioning this and sharing. I'd like to see the full data set also.

[2024-08-16, 10:18:38 AM] Berry Vrbanovic: Here is the story for all those who can't read due to the Star's paywall....

[2024-08-16, 10:20:18 AM] Berry Vrbanovic: Doug Ford hints at changes around safe injection sites as municipalities urge help for mental health and addiction services

With Premier Doug Ford hinting provincial moves are afoot to restrict supervised drug consumption sites, municipalities say more help is needed on mental health, addiction and homelessness.

"I'll be very frank, I'm not sold on these safe injection sites that are in neighbourhoods and needles are all flowing around – it's a haven for drug dealers," Ford said last week in Thunder Bay.

"Let's get these people the support they need and build more detox beds and I know our ministers will be making announcements shortly regarding that," the premier

said. That suggests Ford's cabinet members will be unveiling changes around consumption and treatment service (CTS) sites at the annual Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference in Ottawa next week.

On the eve of that confab, Cambridge Mayor Jan Liggett commissioned a provincewide poll, which she shared with the Star and will be distributing to other civic leaders at the convention, that found 78 per cent of respondents want Queen's Park to earmark special funding for mental health and addiction services.

"It's a catastrophe that we are in right now," said Liggett, stressing "there's not a single mayor or councillor in this province" who isn't wrestling with mental health and addiction crises in their communities.

"We've been spinning in circles for years. We're all struggling with what needs to be done," she said in an interview Thursday.

Liggett, whose city does not have a CTS site, said she hoped the poll by Campaign Research, the same research firm used by Ford's Progressive Conservatives, would give mayors "some guidance" on addressing mental health and addiction across Ontario.

Asked what "should be prioritized with new funding," the poll found 34 per cent of respondents felt youth and adult mental health services, followed by 26 per cent for mental health crisis intervention services, 15 per cent for rehabilitation programs and facilities, nine per cent for community supports such as Alcoholics Anonymous and eight per cent for in-patient detox centres.

Some 45 per cent said "governments must spend much more on mental health and addiction services to make significant progress on getting ahead of this ever-growing problem" while 33 per cent said "the overall problem isn't a lack of funding" and 22 per cent were unsure.

Campaign Research surveyed 2,027 Ontarians July 30-31 using the Maru Blue online panel. While opt-in polls cannot be assigned a margin of error, for comparison purposes, a random sample of this size would have one of plus or minus two percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

The firm found 67 per cent believe "that Ontario's laws needed to change to allow families and physicians to provide mental health and addiction treatment to involuntary patients" with 14 per cent opposed to such mandatory intervention and 19 per cent unsure.

But Health Minister Sylvia Jones said two weeks ago she has "concerns that involuntary treatment would not lead to the outcomes that we want."

"Having said that, when we see the opportunity and the need for intervention, and people are willing to take on those treatments to make a difference, that's when we can show them our government is committed," Jones said on July 31.

Campaign Research also found 68 per cent of respondents would like to see more

”drug-treatment courts” that provide judicially supervised rehab instead of incarcerating people with addiction issues related to their criminal activities.

Only 16 per cent opposed the expansion of such courts and 16 per cent weren’t sure.

Liggett said drug-treatment courts are “a tool that is underused” because they can help people tackle their addiction while avoiding jail.

“We have to reach those that have that capacity (for rehabilitation),” she said.

Mental health issues and addiction are also big factors in the rise in homelessness – AMO estimates there were 1,400 homeless encampments across Ontario last year.

The largest such tent encampment in Toronto is in Dufferin Grove Park, where local residents have repeatedly complained to the city and local councillor about drug use, fires, garbage, broken glass, public urination and other unsanitary conditions.

Encampment dwellers insist they have nowhere else to go because city shelters are full or unsafe and Toronto housing is expensive.

Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy said he expects to hear about such concerns in some of his 35 scheduled meetings with municipal leaders over two days at the AMO conference.

“We’re going to continue to have robust conversations and talk about the shared priorities that we have – and of course, homelessness, mental health and addiction, building more homes, building infrastructure,” Bethlenfalvy said Tuesday.

Liberal MPP Adil Shamji (Don Valley East), an emergency room physician who has worked with homeless people, said the province needs to improve the overall delivery of mental health and addiction services.

“I have seen how red tape, bureaucracy, and, frankly, a lack of clarity about who has the power to fund certain programs and services does create a quagmire that slows down getting help to the people that need it most,” Shamji said Wednesday.

“That process needs to be clarified.”

While Ford has long been wary of supervised consumption sites – especially after mother-of-two Karolina Huebner-Makurat was killed by a stray bullet outside the South Riverdale Community Health Centre CTS in July 2023 – advocates argue they are safer for addicts than injecting in alleyways where fatal overdoses are common. Some research has shown the sites can save lives.

The city of Toronto has 10 safe injection sites, six of which are provincially designated as a CTS site and are subject to Ontario public health standards.

[2024-08-16, 10:36:34 AM] ~ FS: Great work Jan and nice to signs of acknowledgment by government that more needs to be done

[2024-08-16, 11:23:41 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Our campaign is getting a lot of great coverage and many mayors, councillors and municipal organizations signing on. Well done to the whole team who made this happen. Here's a comprehensive interview with The Hill Times.

<https://hilltimesresearch.ca/one-off-funding-announcements-not-the-way-to-fix-homelessness-and-substance-use-says-burlington-mayor/>

[2024-08-16, 12:43:51 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: Just so everyone knows I got the shirts and CAO Dan Chapman from Kitchener now has them in his car and he'll be driving them up to Ottawa. They'll be available to grab at our meeting okay! It might be really nice to have a big group photo at the end of the meeting with all of us wearing the shirt to push out on all our socials over the conference !

[2024-08-16, 12:44:41 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: image omitted

[2024-08-16, 1:07:15 PM] Rob Burton: We have a thank-you message ready to respond to the Ford story? We should say, maybe, 'look forward to the details', no?

"Let's get these people the support they need and build more detox beds and I know our ministers will be making announcements shortly regarding that," the premier said in Benzie's story in the Star, as posted by Berry.

[2024-08-16, 1:30:01 PM] Michelle Baker: The announcement is not taking place until Tuesday is what we understand and the details seem to continue to shift. We will definitely respond once the announcement is out. Just a reminder that we do not have consensus on safe consumption sites within our Caucus with some supportive of how they work in their communities and some not. Likely we will not comment directly on the wind down or closure of those - if that is part of an announcement - instead focusing on what the replacement for those services will be.

[2024-08-16, 1:32:39 PM] Rob Burton: Anything wrong with "We look forward to the details and appreciate the intention to respond"?

We get dropped from any story if we are sitting back in a silent wait-and-see posture.

[2024-08-16, 1:52:35 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: We don't comment until there is an actual announcement and this one is in flux. Our campaign is owning the airwaves. We have time to let this develop into an actual announcement we can respond to.

[2024-08-16, 2:01:15 PM] Rob Burton: GIF omitted

[2024-08-16, 2:01:32 PM] Rob Burton: Alrighty

[2024-08-16, 2:01:56 PM] Andrea Horwath: Love Alex lol

[2024-08-16, 2:23:39 PM] Dorothy McCabe: Thanks Non-[REDACTED], Marianne, Cam etc.

I don't want us to lose sight of the fact that proactive mental health supports and affordable housing supports are needed in advance of people becoming homeless. Many people develop addictions, acquired brain injuries and worsening mental health problems because they end up homeless.

[2024-08-16, 4:01:43 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Thanks Dorothy. That is exactly why we've grouped all three issues together. They are related.

[2024-08-16, 8:58:59 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie:

<https://www.chch.com/frustration-felt-after-hamiltons-homelessness-support-costs-revealed/>

[2024-08-16, 9:07:31 PM] Rob Burton: Is there a model council resolution for solve

the crisis?

[2024-08-16, 9:13:51 PM] Michelle Baker: Yes, and I realize now the title of the email was not as clear as it could have been. From the info@obcm.ca account there is an email titled Update on OBCMs Solve the Crisis Campaign. It was sent out earlier today. In it is a model resolution as well as a document with the wording for the email we are sending other municipalities to encourage them to bring a motion to their councils. Please feel free to share with other municipal leaders in your networks as well.

[2024-08-17, 6:13:51 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Our op-ed in today's Star https://www.thestar.com/opinion/contributors/librarians-and-teenage-community-centre-workers-shouldnt-have-to-serve-as-front-line-aid-workers/article_785b1f86-5a59-11ef-b4e9-bb1184e21208.html

[2024-08-17, 7:37:52 AM] Dorothy McCabe: Excellent op-ed

[2024-08-17, 8:22:58 AM] Rob Burton: GIF omitted

[2024-08-17, 8:23:07 AM] Rob Burton: Agreed!

Non-Responsive

[2024-08-18, 2:31:20 PM] Rob Burton: The government is boasting they haven't and won't raise any taxes: they are raising property taxes by downloading every year in every municipality...

[2024-08-18, 5:39:16 PM] Rob Burton: 2 bed condo in Oakville has total DCs of \$53,000. If that were 30 per cent of the price, the price would be \$176,000. The price is closer to a million - 5.3%. Where did Fraser get his 30%?

[2024-08-18, 9:47:34 PM] Andrea Horwath: But what price will the market bear? Which is the relevant question.

[2024-08-18, 9:53:35 PM] ~ David West: If we are going to reduce DC's (and if we were to make up this loss from another source this could work) what mechanism would be used to ensure all this DC reduction would come off the price of the housing unit so it would be more affordable to the buyer. I've never had an answer to this. Giving public money away with no mechanism in place makes no sense!

[2024-08-18, 9:53:38 PM] Rob Burton: They sell out here. Every market is different.

[2024-08-19, 9:49:26 AM] ~ Angela Trewartha: image omitted

[2024-08-20, 7:28:47 AM] ~ Jan LIGGETT:

https://www.therecord.com/news/waterloo-region/cambridge-mayor-commissions-provincial-survey-for-mental-health-and-addictions-funding/article_b0084ecc-2fb0-5981-9c8b-89a6a22eac23.html

[2024-08-20, 7:38:20 AM] Rob Burton: GIF omitted

[2024-08-20, 7:38:37 AM] Rob Burton: Great work!

[2024-08-20, 11:28:07 AM] ~ Angela Trewartha: image omitted

[2024-08-20, 1:10:18 PM] ~ Angela Trewartha: image omitted

[2024-08-20, 1:10:42 PM] ~ Angela Trewartha: image omitted

[2024-08-20, 1:28:29 PM] Michelle Baker: Hello everyone - we would like to take a group photo with as many Mayors as possible after the Ministers Forum. Please wear your Solvethethecrisis.ca shirts, I also have a few extras if you don't have yours with you and it is fine if not everyone has one on. Once you leave the forum, go left and we will meet just left of the escalators.

[2024-08-20, 1:28:40 PM] Michelle Baker: image omitted

[2024-08-20, 1:29:12 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: Okay

[2024-08-20, 1:34:26 PM] Andrea Horwath: Sorry, I didn't bring mine from my hotel.

[2024-08-20, 1:39:18 PM] Dorothy McCabe: Okay. I will need a t shirt

[2024-08-20, 4:51:47 PM] Michelle Baker: REMINDER: Group photo right after the Ministers Forum at the far left side of the third floor area. Just past the escalators.

[2024-08-20, 5:09:46 PM] Andrea Horwath: Sorry, had to leave to do local media

[2024-08-20, 5:28:26 PM] ~ Shaun: I have left also.

[2024-08-20, 5:31:34 PM] Michelle Baker: image omitted

[2024-08-20, 5:31:57 PM] Michelle Baker: image omitted

[2024-08-21, 8:58:26 AM] Michelle Baker: image omitted

[2024-08-21, 8:58:40 AM] Michelle Baker: image omitted

[2024-08-21, 9:00:47 AM] Michelle Baker: For any Mayors who did not get one (including those not at the AMO Conference) or for those who did not get the right size, please let me know as we will be ordering a few more to ensure everyone has an appropriate fit.

[2024-08-21, 9:06:55 AM] ~ Cam Guthrie: Amazingness

[2024-08-21, 10:55:40 AM] Dorothy McCabe: Mike Moffat bringing it!!

[2024-08-21, 4:09:11 PM] ~ Nuttall: s. 8(1)(c)

Non-Responsive

s. 8(1)(c)

[2024-08-21, 4:11:28 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Non-Responsive

. For sure we can call an emergency meetings please let Michelle and I know ASAP what you are working on so we can prepare.

[2024-08-21, 4:17:28 PM] Patrick Brown: Happy to to support. It can always be a virtual meeting given everyone's schedules.

[2024-08-21, 4:46:00 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Yes agree. it would be scheduled as virtual. Thanks Patrick.

[2024-08-21, 4:47:04 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: We've got to stand united on this, absolutely. Enough is enough.

[2024-08-21, 5:05:52 PM] ~ Siscoe: Non-Responsive

I think this is where most of us will find ourselves in the coming months. Will be supportive of a renewed direction on this issue, as we've all spoken to.

[2024-08-21, 6:25:03 PM] ~ Nuttall: Thank you for all of the support and I am looking forward to having the meeting sooner than later

Non-Responsive

[2024-08-21, 7:06:32 PM] Dorothy McCabe: Switching topics - Thank you to everyone who voted for me and who encouraged their Council members to vote for me in the Large Caucus election.

I look forward to representing you on AMO's board along with Marianne and Bryan!

Non-Responsive

[2024-08-22, 12:02:14 PM] ~ Nuttall:

<https://www.qpbriefing.com/news/nuttall-considering-using-strong-mayor-powers-to-order-the-dismantling-of-barrie-encampments>

[2024-08-22, 5:12:12 PM] ~ Jan LIGGETT: Keep me in touch Alex.

[2024-08-22, 5:25:58 PM] Josh Morgan Mayor Of London: Non-Responsive

Thank you for sharing all your updates. Really helpful.

[2024-08-25, 9:32:05 AM] Berry Vrbanovic: <attached:

Non-Responsive

[2024-08-25, 7:21:41 PM] Dorothy McCabe: Steve Paikin and John Michael McGarth's 20 minute podcast on AMO. It includes our esteemed Chair's question in the Ministers' Forum

[2024-08-25, 7:21:45 PM] Dorothy McCabe:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/onpoli-a-tvo-podcast/id1318430645?i=1000666340824>

[2024-08-29, 8:26:23 AM] ~ Cam Guthrie: My public spaces bylaw passed at council last night:

<https://pub-guelph.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=57c9331a-4a5b-4a8d-bf0c-71a7f3d1bca6&Agenda=Merged&lang=English>

[2024-08-29, 4:57:56 PM] ~ Nuttall: <attached:

00000887-PHOTO-2024-08-29-16-57-56.jpg>

[2024-08-29, 4:58:48 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Wow. Haven't seen that our way yet

[2024-08-29, 4:59:33 PM] ~ Jan LIGGETT: Not yet

[2024-08-29, 5:07:30 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: No not me, but I made it to light poles this week and I thought that was pretty cool!

[2024-08-29, 5:08:20 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: <attached: 00000891-PHOTO-2024-08-29-17-08-20.jpg>

[2024-08-29, 5:30:06 PM] Rob Burton: Days Like This <https://g.co/kgs/QhGZGXp>

[2024-08-29, 5:45:02 PM] Michelle Baker: Is a provincial-municipal new deal 'inevitable'_ - The Trillium.pdf • 4 pages <attached: 00000893-Is a provincial-municipal new deal 'inevitable'_ - The Trillium.pdf>

[2024-08-29, 5:51:52 PM] Michelle Baker: Minister Jones has announced the application process for the Hart Hubs:
<https://x.com/SylviaJonesMPP/status/1829264210221494285>

[2024-08-29, 5:54:49 PM] Michelle Baker: The Call for Proposals will be distributed through the Municipal Service Managers and each Hub must have a not-for-profit Health Services Provider who will receive, be accountable for, and administer the Hub funding.

[2024-08-29, 5:59:25 PM] Michelle Baker: Service Managers must sign off on the final plan, and make sure they align with their municipal supportive housing and social services plans.

[2024-08-29, 6:11:09 PM] Andrea Horwath: I just drive under them, couldn't figure out what was slowing down traffic.

[2024-08-29, 6:11:21 PM] Andrea Horwath: Drove

[2024-08-30, 5:51:28 PM] ~ Jan LIGGETT:
<https://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/meet-the-man-living-in-the-middle-of-a-kitchener-ont-roundabout-1.7019365>

[2024-09-04, 8:05:02 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie:
 official-statement-from-mayor-ken-sim-in-response-to-recent-random-assaults.pdf • 2 pages <attached: 00000900-official-statement-from-mayor-ken-sim-in-response-to-recent-random-assaults.pdf>

[2024-09-09, 1:42:54 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie:
https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-we-cant-ignore-the-fact-that-some-mentally-ill-people-do-need-to-be-in/?utm_source=Shared+Article+Sent+to+User&utm_medium=LinkCopy&utm_campaign=Shared+Web+Article+Links

[2024-09-12, 11:20:23 AM] ~ Siscoe: Folks - before I start going off publicly - does every municipality have difficulty with HydroOne maintaining their corridors? The grass is so long in some parts of the city that they've become breeding grounds for rats.

Non-Responsive

[2024-09-12, 4:52:59 PM] Michelle Baker: Sharing on behalf of Mayor Paterson. There was an incident today at Kingston's Safe Injection Site/Consumption Treatment Services and Integrated Care Hub. It is still ongoing:
<https://x.com/mayorpaterson/status/1834328723929137397?s=46&t=1PYOVV3Icw0pCfRlXcyWYg>

[2024-09-12, 7:01:54 PM] Dorothy McCabe: Very sorry to read your statement, Bryan. Horrible situation.

[2024-09-12, 7:06:04 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: This is heartbreaking. So sorry to hear about this Bryan.

[2024-09-12, 9:14:11 PM] ~ David West: That's terrible Bryan. What a terrible and impossible situation

[2024-09-19, 6:52:26 PM] Rob Burton: Breaking news

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey had a bad day today. And he's got strong the real mayor powers, U.S. style

(<https://www.kare11.com/article/news/local/new-era-in-minneapolis-as-strong-mayor-system-takes-effect/89-e6c7e0d8-c66f-49ac-b2a1-268adbf16ac0>).

Mayor Frey has 32 encampments. His Council doesn't like his policy of closing encampments.

<https://kstp.com/kstp-news/top-news/minneapolis-city-council-passes-housing-crisis-policies-as-mayor-expedites-encampment-closures/>

[2024-09-21, 10:33:57 AM] ~ Mayor Davis:

<https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/alberta-drug-strategy-architect-warns-bc>

Interesting Marshall Smith said his path to recovery began when two cops told him "Marshall it's treatment or jail". That is a common story with many recovered addicts and is the essence of what underlies my motion-focusing on creating a system that helps people out of addiction rather than sustaining an unhealthy and often deadly life path.

[2024-09-21, 11:08:39 AM] ~ Jan LIGGETT: *👉*It has taken them 5 yrs. We have to start now, so much to do.

[2024-09-25, 6:34:18 AM] Dorothy McCabe: Something to keep in mind too is that there are people with addictions seeking help who can't get it because of the very long wait lists for accessing mental health and addictions counseling esp for youth. If people voluntarily seeking help can't get treatment, what is the expectation that treatment will be available for involuntary treatment?

[2024-09-25, 9:13:54 AM] Rob Burton: Are those people you speak of the ones in encampments?

[2024-09-25, 10:10:24 AM] Michelle Baker: Globe Article on BILD and their new report:

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-delays-fees-still-throttling-ontario-housing-starts-report-says/>

"The BILD report says two key problems have hamstrung GTA builders: long waits for bureaucratic approvals at the municipal level and sharply rising fees on new construction known as development charges, which local governments levy to pay for the infrastructure new housing requires, such as roads or sewers.

Both are items the provincial government has previously vowed to tackle. But last year, it backed off requiring municipalities to phase-in new development charges after local governments warned the move and other development-charge changes, would cost them billions in needed money for infrastructure."

[2024-09-25, 10:11:43 AM] Rob Burton: BILD is relentless, eh?

[2024-09-25, 10:11:48 AM] Michelle Baker: Delays, municipal fees behind slow home construction in Ontario, report finds - The Globe and Mail.pdf • 5 pages document

omitted

[2024-09-25, 10:11:50 AM] Michelle Baker:

2024-GTA-Municipal-Benchmarking-Study-BILD-Final.pdf • 103 pages document omitted

[2024-09-25, 10:13:10 AM] Rob Burton: Time for our response that they haven't built what they already have permission for?

[2024-09-25, 10:16:57 AM] Rob Burton: Actually, maybe a bigger response: approvals time is result of provincially required studies, provincial approvals of those studies are too often late, and BILD wants existing residents to pay higher taxes to fund their profits.

[2024-09-25, 10:20:15 AM] Rob Burton: ... and Ottawa broke the housing market with an unsustainable and unpredicted and unprepared for increase in demand from their massive increase in immigration..

[2024-09-27, 8:06:49 AM] Andrea Horwath: We need immigration, they just forgot about the fact that people need somewhere to actually live, not just work.

[2024-09-27, 8:19:24 AM] Rob Burton: Agreed. Too bad they didn't plan it so it wouldn't break the housing market.

[2024-10-01, 9:00:52 AM] ~ Mayor Davis: From Andre Picard's opinion piece in this mornings Globe & Mail.

But when should we intervene? When there are criminal acts, of course. And that should be an opportunity for alternative sentencing, such as community treatment orders.

This is the core of the resolution I have submitted. Advising the province to strengthen the Mental Health Act through a more robust system of Community Treatment Orders and an enhancement of the Diversion Court system-which from the testimony of those with lived experience is more often than not the beginning of the path to recovery. Far better than a system that is mainly focused on enablement. Just saying.

[2024-10-01, 9:02:58 AM] Rob Burton: <attached: 00000925-GIF-2024-10-01-09-02-58.mp4>

[2024-10-01, 9:03:00 AM] Rob Burton: 🤔

[2024-10-01, 9:55:39 AM] ~ Nuttall: 📄 Kevin

[2024-10-01, 9:57:54 AM] ~ Drew: Love it

[2024-10-01, 11:48:13 AM] ~ Jan LIGGETT:

<https://www.cambridgetoday.ca/local-news/encampments-in-dumfries-conservation-area-straining-grca-staff-budget-9581673>

[2024-10-05, 8:43:28 AM] ~ Jan LIGGETT: This message was deleted.

[2024-10-05, 8:44:34 AM] ~ Jan LIGGETT: This message was deleted.

[2024-10-05, 8:46:48 AM] ~ Jan LIGGETT: This message was deleted.

[2024-10-07, 2:43:46 PM] ~ Jan LIGGETT: <attached: 00000933-VIDEO-2024-10-07-14-43-46.mp4>

[2024-10-09, 9:06:38 AM] Rob Burton: **Non-Responsive**: "Housing expert MIKE MOFFATT ran the numbers – "In 2022, the last year we have data for, Ontario municipalities collected \$4 billion in development charges, but spent less than \$3 billion of those funds. In total, Ontario municipalities collectively have over \$10 billion in unspent DCs." That cash goes toward housing-enabling infrastructure like sewage and road systems."

[2024-10-09, 9:14:30 AM] Patrick Brown: Where is this from. What paper

[2024-10-09, 9:15:36 AM] Rob Burton:

https://ci3.googleusercontent.com/meips/ADKq_NaO_3VW1nGiCNugkAINf_DtB3IiiIMXGUTasL3h-JMSIktN4jsY508wX1tpMogFKaG_DukTUJx-ou59GaL2axeQLwRqbT85YVbxTHZ-zEYwmPIeM90IexkJz8jJZ_rNTf1ayluWw8cexRqKwhhULuAjkGqRorX68dgeSzkIqAi0LstSsTYmi59euaKR_ZKC7k-C0bu926UuCyHJ8CCRKOe1poYhri6VlJaJwu1DFTDZHTt_t3mLN_IA6VWcswmLLh-gY7gvb3paSnJ7MkNuy5PvXUws h8i6-d4PcfyW_8w9QWjdyE5WKYvTKy1k4IonTlDGvLbpPfssL6o7Z9xLAK00PKP52w=s0-d-e1-ft#https://substackcdn.com/image/fetch/w_1100,c_limit,f_auto,q_auto:good,fl_progressive:s teep/https%3A%2F%2Fbucketeer-e05bbc84-baa3-437e-9518-adb32be77984.s3.amazonaws.com %2Fpublic%2Fimages%2Fe07f4a6c-eebb-49c5-ab2f-177450fd8713_1500x500.png

[2024-10-09, 9:16:08 AM] Rob Burton: Queens park observer...good morning!

[2024-10-09, 9:17:12 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: As we know, all DCs are collected for a specific purpose and by provincial legislation can only be spent on that purpose. And these projects are multi-year. An education campaign about DCs and what they are/aren't, how they are calculated and how they can be spent would be a start.

[2024-10-09, 9:19:17 AM] Rob Burton: Non-Responsive

Developers also have appeal/approvals item by item and he/they like to omit that, too.

[2024-10-09, 9:24:02 AM] Berry Vrbancovic: Yes, this false info narrative from an academic is most unfortunate. To be honest, I expect better from him.

[2024-10-09, 9:28:50 AM] Rob Burton: DCs are still under attack by Trudeau: the new infrastructure grants will provide less than the loss incurred by cutting DCs to qualify for the Grants, I predict.

[2024-10-09, 9:31:05 AM] Rob Burton: As Colbert says, Meanwhile:

<https://www.bildgta.ca/more-info-fix-the-federal-hst-new-home-rebate-program/>
Non-Responsive

[2024-10-09, 9:33:42 AM] Rob Burton: We all already subsidize DCs since 1997/8 when the "benefit to existing" was added to the DC Act.

[2024-10-11, 7:33:03 AM] Rob Burton:

<https://www.thetrillium.ca/news/health/peel-region-steers-clear-of-involvement-in-bramptons-request-for-involuntary-treatment-pilot-9642612>

[2024-10-11, 8:06:54 AM] Patrick Brown: I am not familiar with the trillium. It must be relatively new. It wasn't at queens park when I was there.

But doesn't sound like they were at same meeting I was at. Peel Region is very collaborative right now. No one chastizes each other. We actually praised each other for looking at different perspectives and agreed we all want to learn from each other. We are all very supportive of each other and work together very well in Peel Region. Very different than a few hears ago!

Despite this article suggesting otherwise, I am actually not able to attend the October 18th meeting but I am sending cllr Santos in my place. I believe Cllr Parrish is sending Cllr Mahoney. Non-Responsive

[2024-10-11, 3:44:16 PM] Rob Burton: Non-Responsive

Here's more treatment news: not enough beds is the feds' comment:

https://www.thestar.com/politics/federal/minister-says-not-enough-beds-for-involuntary-addictions-care-across-the-country/article_06026f3b-ae3-5709-af2f-b59cc1d61376.html

It's working as designed, eh?

[2024-10-11, 5:28:05 PM] Rob Burton: Another straw on the wind ~

<https://www.ipolitics.ca/news/ford-government-seems-supportive-of-involuntary-treatment-but-refrains-from-firm-commitment>

[2024-10-11, 6:04:24 PM] Rob Burton: Let's all have transit support from Ontario and Canada:

<https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/talks-continue-on-transit-funding-for-oc-transpo-premier-ford-says-1.7071235>

[2024-10-13, 5:04:31 PM] ~ Nuttall: Happy Thanksgiving everyone! I hope everyone is getting some good family time.

[2024-10-13, 5:20:12 PM] Rob Burton: Waiting for this message. This may take a while.

[2024-10-15, 3:05:32 PM] ~ Nuttall: Passing this along in case folks missed this.

[2024-10-15, 3:05:40 PM] ~ Nuttall:

https://www.thestar.com/politics/provincial/nearly-two-thirds-of-ontarians-think-doug-ford-must-do-more-to-deal-with-homeless/article_6391c9ae-8729-11ef-9a3e-ff06b7148c6b.html

[2024-10-16, 5:50:54 PM] Michelle Baker: Hello,

I understand that a letter from the CCLA went out to most or all OBCM Mayors this week. Below is a link to the press release they put out last night about the motion as well.

We have received media calls/emails on the press release, and have responded with the messaging we have been using the past two weeks:

OBCM does not share or discuss draft motions in advance of consideration by the entire caucus. We can circle back with you after our next meeting.

*If you receive media calls on this, and they are asking you as an OBCM member, please let us know.

*If you have media contacts that you would like to receive our press release after this meeting, and/or releases for future meetings, please email their name and email to Angela or me.

[2024-10-16, 5:51:09 PM] Michelle Baker: <attached: 00000955-PHOTO-2024-10-16-17-51-09.jpg>

[2024-10-16, 6:30:16 PM] Rob Burton: Are they that worried about how much influence we have?

[2024-10-16, 6:35:43 PM] Andrea Horwath: What happened to SolvetheCrisis.ca? Congratulations to whoever decided to leak the draft motion and sabotage a campaign that we could all get behind ... and break the trust of colleagues. That's what I'm worried about.

[2024-10-16, 6:37:33 PM] Andrea Horwath: Also as predicted the heat has shifted to us and off the other orders of government as predicted. Great move.

[2024-10-17, 4:35:24 PM] ~ Nuttall: This message was deleted by admin Michelle

Baker.

[2024-10-17, 4:39:15 PM] ~ Jan LIGGETT: This message was deleted.

[2024-10-17, 8:40:27 PM] ~ FS: Other than Alex and Ken anyone else here in Markham tonight

[2024-10-17, 8:41:34 PM] ~ Mayor Davis: I am here now

Non-Responsive

[2024-10-18, 8:41:05 AM] Rob Burton: Good morning!

I'll be participating on zoom today.

[2024-10-18, 8:43:19 AM] Andrea Horwath: Good morning all, I will be participating on zoom today as well.

[2024-10-18, 8:44:02 AM] ~ Mayor Darrin Canniff: I will be zooming as well.

[2024-10-18, 8:46:18 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Non-Responsive

I will do my best to dial in for part of the meeting. Sorry I won't be with you in person!

[2024-10-18, 8:47:52 AM] ~ Shaun: Non-Responsive

Marilyn will be attending in my absence.

[2024-10-18, 8:53:17 AM] Patrick Brown: Non-Responsive

Cllr Santos will be there on my behalf

Non-Responsive

[2024-10-18, 9:00:12 AM] Dorothy McCabe: I'm on Zoom too but in Waterloo ☹️ only because I have a Fire recruit grad at 1pm. ☺️

[2024-10-18, 9:40:51 AM] ~ Siscoe: Non-Responsive

Deputy Mayor Phillips is there in my stead.

Non-Responsive

[2024-10-18, 4:13:20 PM] ~ Jan LIGGETT: Could you also send the completed motion please?

[2024-10-18, 5:13:31 PM] Dorothy McCabe: It will be posted on the website in the member section.

[2024-10-18, 7:33:00 PM] Michelle Baker:

<https://www.msn.com/en-ca/health/other/ontario-mayors-ask-for-mental-health-law-reviews-in-wake-of-opioid-encampment-crisis/ar-AA1swvKC?ocid=entnewsntp&pc=DCTS&cvid=35d7a99c83da4979b88516c8bfb1f33c&ei=10>

“Neither Health Minister Sylvia Jones nor Associate Minister of Mental Health Michael Tibollo has ruled out expanding involuntary treatment, but both say they prefer treatment to be voluntary.

They have also both said they are working on increasing the number of treatment

beds.”

[2024-10-18, 7:40:20 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: This message was deleted.

[2024-10-18, 7:45:56 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Great comments from everyone. Well done to the caucus reaching consensus on this.

[2024-10-18, 7:59:30 PM] Rob Burton: Outstanding media messaging out of that press conference, especially his the media got it: "...expanding involuntary treatment..."

[2024-10-18, 8:33:58 PM] ~ Nuttall: Big shoutout to Josh!

[2024-10-18, 8:34:02 PM] ~ Nuttall: Great work today

[2024-10-18, 9:01:28 PM] Josh Morgan Mayor Of London: Thanks Alex, but really thanks to everyone for a lot of hard work today and embracing a slightly different approach to finding a wider consensus. I really appreciated your patience and trust with a different process.

[2024-10-18, 9:03:29 PM] ~ Nuttall: Agreed, also Kevin was incredible over last month preparing things for today and being pragmatic and principled at the same time.

[2024-10-18, 9:18:39 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Great work by the entire caucus and our staff behind the scenes.

[2024-10-18, 9:46:37 PM] Rob Burton: Josh, you gave a master class in chairing today.

[2024-10-18, 10:44:47 PM] ~ Mayor Darrin Canniff: I was taking notes on how to run a meeting👍

[2024-10-19, 9:40:16 AM] ~ Jan LIGGETT: Dorothy, perhaps you can point out where on the website you saw it.

[2024-10-19, 10:37:43 AM] Michelle Baker: Hello, we cleaned up the motion and the executive has signed off so it will be emailed out shortly.

The press release will be going out Monday morning since it would have been lost yesterday evening with the press conference running so late. There was a lot of coverage from the press conference including an overview of the motion, the experiences of some of our municipalities and also on OBCMs calls to support the Solve the Crisis Campaign.

Monday, through the press release, is when the final motion will be public and put up on our website.

[2024-10-19, 10:51:40 AM] ~ Jan LIGGETT: Thank you Michelle. I was hoping to get it in time to share with my council so the timing is appreciated.

[2024-10-19, 11:14:17 AM] Dorothy McCabe: Jan - all of our documents are posted on the OBCM website.

[2024-10-19, 11:38:52 AM] ~ Jan LIGGETT: Not all that's why I asked. It's all good as Michelle said we will get it Monday.

[2024-10-19, 1:27:02 PM] Andrea Horwath: Hi all, I came upon this article last night. It describes what we are dealing with from a political science lense as "disorder" not "social disorder". If you prefer to go back to "disorder" on its own (without the social) as the term instead of disruption before final posting of motion I'm fine with it. So to be clear not social disorder or social disruption but just disorder. I know there was some give on it which I appreciate- this might be what we are looking for but I'm also fine with the compromise we hammered out yesterday. Also much thanks to everyone, I really appreciate how we got to where we did. Many thanks of course to Josh for his stellar chairing. Hopefully i

can successfully share the article.

[2024-10-19, 1:27:24 PM] Andrea Horwath:

<https://thecausalfallacy.com/p/its-time-to-talk-about-americas-disorder>

[2024-10-19, 1:28:39 PM] Andrea Horwath: I don't know much at all about the organization that posted the article (political bent) but I thought it worth sharing.

[2024-10-19, 1:29:58 PM] Rob Burton: This message was deleted.

[2024-10-19, 1:33:37 PM] Rob Burton: Thank you, that's a great article. I liked disruption as a word because it feels stronger than disorder, but so be it.

I feel we will need to advocate use of notwithstanding before this gets better, fyi.

[2024-10-19, 1:35:02 PM] Andrea Horwath: Thx Rob, I like disruption too and happy to leave it at that.

[2024-10-19, 5:23:25 PM] Rob Burton:

<https://globalnews.ca/news/10819431/ontario-municipal-conduct-report-integrity-commissioner/>

[2024-10-19, 5:23:33 PM] Rob Burton: This just in?

[2024-10-22, 2:09:45 PM] Michelle Baker:

<https://globalnews.ca/news/10824325/ontario-federal-government-encampment-funding-bypass/>

OBCM in the Article (Quote from August):

Ahead of the annual meeting between municipalities and the province in Ottawa this summer, the Big City Mayors group requested a coordinated response to tackle homelessness. They said the issue went beyond money and demanded a unified, planned approach.

"What is happening on our streets across this province is an unprecedented humanitarian crisis," Marianne Meed Ward, Burlington mayor and chair of Ontario's Big City Mayors, said during an event at Queen's Park.

"There are too many people unhoused, living in encampments or other unsafe conditions and they're struggling with mental health and addiction issues. This is growing and it impacts every single municipality across our province – large and small, rural and urban."

[2024-10-23, 10:51:31 AM] Rob Burton: Do we have an estimate of numbers of people in encampment living?

[2024-10-23, 10:57:44 AM] ~ Cam Guthrie: There's 234,000 homeless but that doesn't mean all in encampments. I've heard rumors of approximately 20% of those in the 234,000 are more than likely in encampments. The rest are couch surfing or staying in vicarious places only a moments away from being in an encampment.

[2024-10-23, 12:15:30 PM] Dorothy McCabe: In a meeting yesterday with a local non profit, when I asked about the numbers of "hidden homelessness" which are primarily women, they indicated that the number should approximately be the PIT count plus 40%. To be clear, this is regarding domestic violence and abuse more than addictions. Regardless, they are people /women hanging on until they can access safe housing of some sort

[2024-10-24, 9:01:19 AM] Michelle Baker: Doug Ford on Newstalk 1010 yesterday (which we also had two Mayors on at two separate times! Mayor Guthrie and Mayor

Paterson).

"I'm getting calls non-stop on a daily basis...So we're pouring money in. I hope the municipalities are spending it wisely,* I hear that a lot of them aren't*, so we have to make sure that we audit and make sure they're spending it more responsibly and getting more shelters built. But I'll tell you, people have zero tolerance for these encampments."

[2024-10-24, 9:03:56 AM] Rob Burton: The money pouring in is news to Halton...

[2024-10-24, 9:18:17 AM] ~ Siscoe: Niagara would also like to know the location of the money spigots.

[2024-10-24, 9:37:54 AM] Dorothy McCabe: Jan was on CityNews in our region yesterday.

[2024-10-24, 9:50:05 AM] Berry Vrbancovic: GIF omitted

[Non-Responsive

[2024-10-25, 1:26:49 PM] Michelle Baker:

<https://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/alberta-and-ottawa-partner-on-initiative-to-address-unsheltered-homelessness>

Alberta is now working with the Federal government on unhoused/encampment funding.

[2024-10-25, 3:45:19 PM] Dorothy McCabe: In the famous words of Jerry McQuire:

"Show us the \$\$\$"

[2024-10-25, 3:50:52 PM] Rob Burton: If Ontario gets \$100M and matches it and shares it out - if this is one-time money - does that solve the crisis?

[2024-10-26, 9:15:37 AM] Dorothy McCabe: one time money won't solve it

[2024-10-26, 9:24:15 AM] Rob Burton: Wondering what the sharing formula will be. Per capita? Per homeless person? Will they inadvertently neglect those whose patrol and persuade teams are succeeding in keeping campout counts lower? So many angles.

We really do need a comprehensive provincial program i guess.

[2024-10-26, 9:31:50 AM] Rob Burton: Winter outlook--

<https://www.theweathernetwork.com/en/news/weather/forecasts/canada-winter-forecast-preview>

[2024-10-26, 1:45:26 PM] Dorothy McCabe: Which is the purpose of the Solve The Crisis campaign- to sit with the prov and Feds and have those discussions.

[2024-10-26, 3:05:52 PM] Rob Burton: When has that ever happened?

[2024-10-26, 3:06:01 PM] Rob Burton: Asking for a friend

[2024-10-26, 3:16:46 PM] Michelle Baker: Minister Calandra has restarted the Team Ontario approach and Mayor Meed Ward will be joining a meeting with Minister Fraser later this week. Originally on the CHIF criteria, it sounds like Encampments may now be on the agenda. Thank you to many of your municipalities who sent over info to help support this conversation (on CHIF - we are not yet sure what the encampment discussion will include or if it will definitely be on the agenda). We will know more tomorrow.

[2024-10-26, 4:45:27 PM] Dorothy McCabe: Excellent! 👍👍

[2024-10-26, 4:46:46 PM] Andrea Horwath:

https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/hamilton-calls-on-province-feds-to-help-solve-the-crisis-of-homelessness/article_40ea91fa-9ef5-5e8b-a3a5-2403d15e6ccb.html

[2024-10-27, 12:37:49 PM] ~ Mayor Davis: Spreading the gospel

<https://www.brantfordexpositor.ca/news/local-news/mayors-press-for-mental-health-act-review-as-opioid-homelessness-crisis-worsens>

[2024-10-27, 1:35:36 PM] Rob Burton: Me, too, calling for use of notwithstanding, better treatment options: Oakville mayor talks homelessness, property crime and more during state of the town address

[2024-10-27, 1:36:35 PM] ~ Nuttall:

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/canadian-cities-struggling-to-get-past-whac-a-mole-solution-to-homeless-encampments-1.7088588>

[2024-10-27, 1:50:05 PM] Dorothy McCabe:

https://www.therecord.com/news/waterloo-region/waterloo-region-officially-resolves-to-keep-erbs-road-shelter-open/article_388f40fd-ae3d-5639-ab37-2d3f7c8af56f.html

[2024-10-29, 11:44:50 AM] ~ Cam Guthrie: video omitted

[2024-10-29, 11:53:43 AM] Rob Burton: Ontario to provide taxpayers with \$200 rebate - October 29, 2024

32: 16 Minute Mark

Reporter: On a totally different topic, now the Big City Mayors, they put forward a motion some days ago, asking for more assistance to handle homelessness and also an update to the Health Care Act.

Um, so what are the steps the province is taking to follow up with their requests? And are we going to see something still in this legislative session?

Premier Doug Ford: Well, I talked to many of the Big City Mayors. You know, first of all, there was a ruling in Waterloo from the court saying you have to put someone into a shelter and that that's fine, and they get a choice.

So, they go into a shelter. Look around. I don't like it. Well, that's a problem. If there's a roof over their heads, um, you know, they have to do it. But I have an idea. Why don't the big city mayors actually put in writing that they want the province to change the homeless program, make sure that we, we move the homeless along.

And why don't they put in, use the notwithstanding clause or something like that. That's what they should be doing, rather than just kind of going up to the edge. Uh, let's see if they have the backbone to do it. If they really want the homeless, uh, situation to improve, because I'll tell you, I get endless calls about people camping out in the parks, needles being all over the park.

They're scared to put their kids out in the park by themselves, no matter what age it is. And, uh, we, we have to make a move. But, uh, Big City Mayors, you want to get it done, I need that letter.

[2024-10-29, 11:58:05 AM] Rob Burton: There was more:

Alan Hale, Trillium Reporter:

Alan Hale: I would like to circle back to Barbara's question. Um, the, uh, Ontario Big City Mayor's, um, uh, the proposal they put forward originally that they voted on was going to call on the province to use the notwithstanding clause, but they decided against making that recommendation to your government, and Peel region also did not want to back or endorse the involuntary care program that Brampton is asking for.

So, I'm just wondering, are you disappointed that the Ontario City be. Big City Mayors didn't ask you to use the notwithstanding clause, and are you willing to use the notwithstanding clause?

Premier Doug Ford: Well, well first of all, I have a great relationship with all 21, uh, large city mayors. I talk to 'em on a weekly basis and, uh, if they want something done, they, they have to, uh, put it in writing to us to make sure that they're a hundred percent behind us.

You can't put your butt on both sides of the fence. As I've said before, you get a lot of slivers. So, guys, you're either going on one side or you're going on the other. You don't sit there and, and, uh, well, let's see if the province is going to do it. We saw what happened in the courts and in Waterloo. Um, so is it going to happen again?

More than likely. So, what's the plan? What do they want to do? You know, that's what that's what I asked the big city mayors. Uh, don't get slivers, make a decision and stand by your decision. And by the way, we. Everyone that I talked to, uh, can't stand these encampments. They pop up in a park, they ruin the neighbourhoods, and they shouldn't be there.

Simple as that. We put over 700 million, uh, for homeless and supporting the homeless and shelter. We gave another 600 million on top of that to Toronto. Uh, we're, we're pouring money into that. We're supporting food programs and breakfast program for the kids. I believe it's about 38 million. Feed Ontario, uh, we've invested another 8 million for Feed Ontario.

So, we're doing a lot of areas in the social programs to support people, give them a bump up. So that's exactly what we're doing, and we're going to keep supporting people that need help. You know the best way to support people? They need help. You get them a good paying job. And then you put money back into their pockets.

That's the best way to stir the economy and help people get off their feet. And again, working on the federal, liberal, and provincial liberals that want to increase taxes. That's what they believe in. We don't.

[2024-10-29, 12:19:53 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: We've been very clear in writing what we are asking for. On multiple occasions. I'm getting media calls and will reiterate what we've already asked for from the province.

[2024-10-29, 12:51:27 PM] Andrea Horwath: No surprise here sadly.

[2024-10-29, 2:55:56 PM] Rob Burton: Let's hold off until Kevin can get his suggestions into this, okay?

[2024-10-29, 3:03:09 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Media interviews done. We have a

caucus position on Solve the Crisis and the most recent resolution that everyone worked very hard on - kudos to all. As chair I conveyed that caucus position. On their own, any individual mayor or group of mayors can say what they wish to the Premier, outside the caucus. In this specific instance, if the province wishes to invoke the notwithstanding clause they don't need our ask in writing or otherwise. They can simply do it.

[2024-10-29, 9:09:57 PM] Michelle Baker:

https://www.thestar.com/politics/provincial/ask-me-to-use-notwithstanding-clause-to-end-encampments-doug-ford-tells-mayors/article_d45c2d42-960f-11ef-bf45-8304da70d4b2.html

[2024-10-29, 9:10:45 PM] Andrea Horwath: Wow the good news keeps on coming.

[2024-10-29, 9:46:02 PM] Andrea Horwath: You did a great job thank you.

[2024-10-29, 11:19:27 PM] Dorothy McCabe: Well done Marianne. OBCM has been clear with our requests.

[2024-10-30, 9:47:58 AM] Michelle Baker: Congratulations to Mayor Collier and the Town of Ajax for having their BFF 2023 count properly acknowledged and funding finally on its way. Hopefully there are more announcements like this in the coming days.

<https://x.com/townofajax/status/1851362237270933884?s=48&t=1PYOVV3Icw0pCfRlXcyWYg>
Non-Responsive

[2024-10-30, 6:54:20 PM] Rob Burton: This message was deleted by admin ~ Marianne Meed Ward.

[2024-10-30, 6:56:20 PM] Andrea Horwath: This message was deleted by admin ~ Marianne Meed Ward.

[2024-10-30, 7:00:21 PM] Rob Burton: This message was deleted by admin ~ Marianne Meed Ward.

[2024-10-30, 7:14:14 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Hi everyone. Individual mayors or groups of mayors can certainly send any feedback to the province on their own. Please do not reference OBCM in any way in your correspondence as we have no caucus position on this and the only person authorized to speak for the caucus is the Chair. As this is not an OBCM initiative I would ask you not to use this OBCM WhatsApp chat to further this lobbying effort and will ask Michelle to monitor the chat accordingly. We are also not going to rebate matters on the chat which were already thoroughly discussed in Markham. You are free to contact each other on your own through your own methods. We have a legitimate diversity of views among members on the use of the notwithstanding clause. Some of our members may wish to ask the premier not to go down this path, which they can also do outside the caucus. I would ask everyone to respect each other and respect the role of our caucus, which is to advance positions where we agree (which we have already done) and where we do not have consensus advance those views outside the caucus. We are not there to provide political cover for something the Premier has the ability to

do own his own, but individual mayors can certainly do that independently if they wish.

Non-Responsive

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Non-Responsive

[2024-10-31, 7:34:46 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Thank you everyone for your comments and feedback. We are all passionate, dedicated people who get up every day to serve the communities we represent. We do this often under attack and facing significant challenges but we persist because we believe we can do something to make our cities and by extension our country better. Thank you to each of you for your tireless service to your cities and to this caucus. The issues we face are difficult and conversations can get bumpy but we all keep our eye on what matters and that's the people we serve. I'm honoured to be part of this group, and serve as your

Chair, and have learned a great deal from you all. We have done great work together and have the ear of both the federal and provincial governments. That happened because of our hard work together. We have achieved much together and will keep going. Thank you all and I look forward to seeing you in December.

[2024-10-31, 9:08:03 AM] Rob Burton: Comparing our OBCM asks and the FES, how do we feel we did?

[2024-10-31, 9:13:36 AM] ~ Nuttall: Really good for hydro companies

[2024-10-31, 9:13:42 AM] Michelle Baker: The province briefed me the day before FES went out and explained that they are sticking to a more traditional Fall Economic Update instead of the smaller budget that it originally seemed that it would be. The upcoming heavy legislative calendar and the spring budget will be where we will likely see items that address our asks.

[2024-10-31, 9:23:03 AM] Michelle Baker: Makes sense right before an election - a few big spends the public hopefully likes then a focus on fiscal management. Saving the many asks of municipalities, stakeholders, etc for the bigger document just in time for an election, and where they have much greater flexibility on what they can fund and how. FES lacks that flexibility.

[2024-10-31, 9:40:25 AM] Berry Urbanovic: I would have happily accepted \$200 per resident living in my community! Just saying!

[2024-10-31, 9:44:18 AM] ~ David West: In our community \$200 per adult is around

\$24M - it would not surprise me if I could come up with a way to spend that in a way that would save households around that amount or more in their taxes while also helping to do some of the things we need to do in our capital budgets.
[2024-10-31, 9:46:14 AM] Rob Burton: Here, i think it would about make up for the development costs they've downloaded to the property tax - one time.

Non-Responsive

[2024-10-31, 5:53:08 PM] ~ Liz: <attached: 00001091-PHOTO-2024-10-31-17-53-08.jpg>

[2024-10-31, 6:09:56 PM] Dorothy McCabe: Well done!

[2024-10-31, 6:10:33 PM] Dorothy McCabe: All treat, no tricks for you today, Liz

[2024-10-31, 6:13:59 PM] Rob Burton: <attached:

00001094-STICKER-2024-10-31-18-13-59.webp>

[2024-10-31, 6:14:01 PM] Rob Burton: Congratulations

[2024-10-31, 6:14:51 PM] Berry Vrbanovic: Congrats! Christmas comes early!

[2024-10-31, 6:46:53 PM] ~ Jan LIGGETT:

<https://www.thetrillium.ca/news/housing/mayors-accept-fords-invitation-to-ask-for-notwithstanding-clause-9740513>

[2024-10-31, 6:49:24 PM] ~ Jan LIGGETT: Reporter realizes error in referencing constitution rather than charter but decided to leave as is for now

[2024-10-31, 6:52:14 PM] Rob Burton: Great job, Jan!

[2024-10-31, 6:54:20 PM] ~ Jan LIGGETT: Thanks Rob

[2024-10-31, 7:21:32 PM] ~ Mayor Davis: Great work Jan.

[2024-10-31, 7:30:28 PM] Rob Burton: For our general amusement:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/31/us/john-carney-delaware-governor-mayor.html>

Non-Responsive

[2024-10-31, 9:31:29 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Great news Elizabeth and well done.

[2024-10-31, 10:39:44 PM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: A brief update for you on my activities as Chair today.

I spoke to the Premier earlier today. It was an opportunity to reiterate OBCM's call for funding for supportive housing and that there is an opportunity with the feds talking about encampment funding for fed/prov/muni partnership alongside what cities and regions already contribute to homelessness prevention and supportive housing.

It was a very positive and respectful conversation and another opportunity to reiterate that our caucus sees ourselves as partners with the province to solve the issues we face.

Additionally, this morning there was a Team Ontario meeting with Ministers Calandra and Fraser. Talks are ongoing about federal funding as well, and all of us working together.

A productive day and I'm hopeful for good things to come for our communities.

Hope you all had lots of Trick or Treaters!

[2024-11-01, 6:16:50 AM] ~ David West: Thanks Marianne - great news!

[2024-11-01, 6:58:30 AM] Dorothy McCabe: Thank you, Marianne - you're doing really well navigating a very difficult issue and working hard to get the Feds and prov to a place where they will hopefully both see the benefits of providing the

funding and other tools needed to solve the crisis. Keep it up. Thank you.

[2024-11-01, 11:19:05 AM] Andrea Horwath: Thank you Chair. Good stuff!

[2024-11-01, 5:30:21 PM] Michelle Baker: This message was deleted.

Non-Responsive

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[2024-11-28, 2:10:14 PM] ~ Cam Guthrie: As we head into budget season thought it might be nice to share what each of us are staring at! So I'll go first.

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[2024-11-30, 2:47:43 PM] ~ Jan LIGGETT: Great article Frank
https://www.yorkregion.com/news/council/huge-revenue-shortfall-and-property-tax-increase-markham-mayor-rejects-development-charge-cuts/article_a675ff19-9fb8-5f46-9bdf-8070b7126553.html

[2024-11-30, 3:08:51 PM] Rob Burton: Same here.

[2024-11-30, 3:57:15 PM] Andrea Horwath: Excellent

[2024-11-30, 4:01:08 PM] Rob Burton: Since 1997's DC Act amendments we fell to 88% coverage of costs of growth, we calculate, to 82% or so under Ford.

Loss of capital revenue, so hard to show tax impact. All we can do is show project by project funding sources....very tough communication job!

[2024-11-30, 4:03:55 PM] Rob Burton:

<https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-36/session-1/bill-98>

[2024-12-02, 10:33:32 PM] Rob Burton: This message was deleted.

[2024-12-03, 7:10:47 AM] ~ FS: Thanks Jan. We have spent the better

Part of the year pushing the provincial government to eliminate the discounting of DC's which they put in place. And in June the reversed that decision because they realized the financial impact to municipalities. And now municipalities are reducing DC from 15 to 50%. That runs counter to all we have been fighting for

[2024-12-03, 7:17:43 AM] Rob Burton: That takes the cake.

[2024-12-03, 7:23:06 AM] Josh Morgan Mayor Of London: Statutory exemptions the province grants cost London taxpayers 3million in 2021, but rose to 28million in 2024. Because the act doesn't let us underfund the dc fund for exemptions, we had to raise property taxes and use all available surplus to plug that hole. It's completely unsustainable.

[2024-12-03, 7:25:55 AM] Andrea Horwath: Homebuilder lobby is using the few who are doing this to pressure all of us to follow suit.

[2024-12-03, 7:26:02 AM] Andrea Horwath: Doing

[2024-12-03, 7:37:13 AM] ~ Cam Guthrie: And the market sale prices of homes will go down.....zero.

[2024-12-03, 8:28:53 AM] ~ Marianne Meed Ward: Hi all, As one of those

municipalities who did reduce DCs I'm happy to share how we did it. That may also help you respond to pressure from the development industry. We didn't simply do a blanket DC cut. That would be counterproductive and shift the burden of these costs to taxpayers. And of course there's no guarantee this would be passed on to homebuyers. Even if these savings were passed on, they evaporate on resale. What we did do, as part of our legislated five year review of our DC bylaw, is closely review legacy projects that require upper level government funding and have no approvals and are not advancing within the five year window of the DC bylaw. We removed three such projects, resulting in the reduction. If their status changes we will include them in our next DC bylaw. If you have no such legacy projects that's the simple answer to the development lobby. All of this was publicly reported and debated at committee. You can see the public reports, listing of removed projects and appendices on my website here. I know some of your municipalities have already reached out to our staff. I hope this is helpful.

<https://mariannemeedward.ca/burlington-council-unanimously-approves-lowering-development-charges-to-encourage-additional-housing-builds/#:~:text=Burlington%20Council%20Unanimously%20Approves%20Lowering%20Development%20Charges%20to%20Encourage%20Additional%20Housing%20Builds,-By%20Administrator&text=At%20our%20May%2021%20Burlington,help%20encourage%20additional%20housing%20builds.>

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STEVE CLARK

MPP - Leeds-Grenville-Thousand
Islands and Rideau Lakes



Constituency Office:
9 Broad Street, Unit 305
Brockville, ON K6H 6Z4
☎ 613-342-3522
🌐 www.steveclarkmpp.com

September 4, 2023

Dear Premier Ford,

Since the Integrity Commissioner's report was released, I have continued to reflect on my role and my obligations to the people of Ontario. It has been the greatest honor of my career to serve my constituents and the people of Ontario, and I have always tried to do so in a way that brings integrity and respect to my position as a parliamentarian.

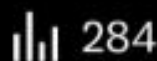
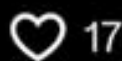
Currently, Ontario is experiencing the most challenging housing crisis our province has ever faced. When I received the Integrity Commissioner's report my first instinct was to take responsibility for the mistakes that were made and create a process so that this would never happen again. Thank you for having the confidence in me to be able to correct these issues. I've always tried to fulfill the mandate of getting more homes built so that people across Ontario could realize the dream of finding a place to live, work and raise a family.

However, this crisis demands someone who is not a distraction from the important work that needs to be done. Although my initial thought was that I could stay in this role and establish a proper process so that these mistakes don't happen again, I realize that my presence will only cause a further distraction from the important work that needs to be done and that I need to take accountability for what has transpired. In a parliamentary democracy, the Parliament is supreme, and the legislature will determine my ultimate reprimand. As someone who has given my life to serving the people through our democratic institutions, I feel that it is my responsibility to adhere to the principles of Ministerial accountability.

As such, please accept my resignation as Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. I will continue to serve my constituents as the MPP for Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes.

Sincerely,

Steve Clark, MPP
Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes







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Municipal World

31 Questions with Andrea Horwath



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need nature-based
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Ontario and Ottawa accuse Windsor of not building enough homes in 2023

City says housing starts figures on provincial tracker do not reflect number of building permits issued

IRENE GALEA

The federal and Ontario governments say Windsor hasn't built enough homes, but the City of Windsor says the number of housing starts listed on a provincial tracker does not accurately reflect the status of its residential development.

As part of the provincial government's goal to build 1.5 million homes by 2031, it has assigned annual targets to municipalities and is rewarding good performance. Its \$1.2-billion Building Faster Fund, launched in 2023, provides an allocation to all municipalities who reach 80 per cent of their goal in any year, and a bonus for those who exceed it.

Funding will flow to municipalities over a three-year period, beginning in 2024-25, and can be used for infrastructure and other related costs.

According to the latest figures provided by the provincial tracker as of Jan. 19, three-quarters of the 50 municipalities with allocations did not meet their 2023 goal. The median of all municipalities' progress toward their assigned goals was 54 per cent.

The 2023 goal set for Windsor by the province was 953 housing starts, but in its online tracker, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing says the city completed just 346 starts, or 36 per cent of its assigned target.

However, the city believes the province's most recent figures are not up to date, and that the number of building permits it issued last year is a better reflection of actual development in the city.

The discrepancies could stand in the way of the city receiving millions in funding for new houses and underscores an often overlooked factor key to solving Canada's housing crisis: the misalignment between how various



The 2023 goal set for Windsor by the Ontario government was 953 housing starts, but the provincial tracker says the city completed just 346 starts. The city said last week that in 2023 it approved building permits for 1,154 residential housing units. FRED LUM/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

levels of government track housing.

Jelena Payne, Windsor's commissioner of economic development, says the city's preliminary calculations suggest that it could be eligible for up to \$10-million in funding over three years plus a bonus, based on its current rate of home building.

The City of Windsor said in a press release last week that in 2023 it approved building permits for 1,154 residential housing units and so exceeded its target by 21 per cent. However, those numbers do not measure housing starts, which is the metric the province uses to track targets.

The provincial tracker relies on monthly data provided by the federal Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp., with a housing start being defined as the beginning of construction, including pouring a foundation.

John Revell, Windsor's chief

building officer, says the city does not typically track housing starts, but that building permits essentially equate to starts.

He did not know how many of the permitted buildings in Windsor had started construction, but said that owing to the cost of the permit and the land, developers typically don't delay unless constrained by winter weather.

Mr. Revell said he would be meeting with the CMHC later this week to discuss the numbers.

Ms. Payne said there can be a delay between when municipalities submit their permit numbers and when a CMHC assessor sends an employee to inspect the sites to confirm the start.

In a statement, Ontario Housing Ministry spokesperson Justine Teplycky said, "Performance is evaluated by comparing the municipality's number of housing starts and residential units created in a given calendar year

against the annual target. If the municipality does not reach at least 80 per cent of its housing target in a calendar year, it is not eligible for a funding allocation through the Building Faster Fund."

However, municipalities can apply for any amount remaining from the \$400-million in annual funding, she said.

It's likely that some of that amount will be left over. Only seven municipalities were within 20 per cent of their goal and 12 exceeded it, making them eligible for funding on the first pass.

Windsor issued its press release last Thursday after federal Housing Minister Sean Fraser referenced the 36 per cent housing starts figure in a letter to Windsor Mayor Drew Dilkens, obtained by The Globe and Mail.

The letter was sent to inform the mayor about a separate housing disagreement, stating that

the city would not be eligible for the federal Housing Accelerator Fund because it voted against allowing zoning for fourplexes throughout the city—a condition for the cash. Ottawa had previously suggested Windsor could have received up to \$70-million.

Mike Moffatt, assistant professor at the Ivey Business School at Western University and founding director of the PLACE Centre, a housing think tank, said government and municipalities should find a better metric than housing starts to measure efforts to meet housing targets.

"CMHC measures housing starts as a barometer of economic activity. It was never sort of meant to be used to gauge housing performance. But it's really the only one they have at the moment, because municipalities don't release permit data in any kind of regular fashion," Mr. Moffatt said.

BCE asks federal cabinet to overturn CRTC decision on sharing access to fibre network

ALEXANDRA POSADZKI
TELECOM REPORTER

BCE Inc. is asking the federal cabinet to overturn a recent decision by Canada's telecom regulator that requires the Montreal-based telecom to provide independent competitors with access to its fibre network in Ontario and Quebec at regulated rates.

In its petition, dated this past Friday, BCE argued that the interim decision by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, which also applies to Telus Corp., will discourage network investment and harm consumers and businesses.

On Nov. 6 of last year, the CRTC ordered BCE and Telus—both legacy telephone companies with fibre-to-the-home infrastructure—to provide competitors in Ontario and Quebec with cheaper access to their networks on a temporary and expedited basis.

The interim decision was issued during a broader review of the wholesale regime for high-speed internet access. The CRTC is holding a public hearing next week as part of that proceeding.

The regulator said at the time that it was "acting quickly" amid a significant decline in competition in the internet market in Ontario and Quebec. The regulator found that the number of subscribers served by independent wholesale-based competitors in those two provinces dropped by 47 per cent between the end of 2018 and 2022.

In addition, a significant number of wholesale-based competitors—including Distributel, Start.ca, Altima Telecom, Oxió and Comwave—have been acquired by the larger internet providers in recent years.

The CRTC decision has a much greater impact on BCE than it does on Vancouver-based Telus, whose fibre-to-the-home infrastructure is primarily in Western

Canada.

In November, BCE asked the Federal Court for leave to appeal the decision, arguing that the telecom regulator committed an error of law and exceeded its jurisdiction. That case is still pending.

The telecom has also said it would reduce its network investment by more than \$1-billion in 2024-25 as a result of the CRTC's ruling.

"When Bell invests in a community, customers benefit from better service, more value, state-of-the-art reliable connectivity and competitive prices. By contrast, resellers make little to no investment in network infrastructure," Bell spokesperson Luc Levasseur said in a statement Monday.

"The CRTC must prioritize policies that support continued network investment or risk Canada falling behind in the digital economy."

In its petition last week, BCE asked the cabinet to rescind the decision and restore the wholesale regime that was in place prior to it.

Since 2015, wholesale-based competitors have been able to access fibre-to-the-home infrastructure through what's known as the disaggregated model. However, the wholesale-based internet service providers, or ISPs, have said that the rates set by the CRTC under the disaggregated model were too high to enable them to offer service profitably.

The new ruling by the CRTC requires access on an aggregated basis, allowing wholesale-based ISPs to connect to both the larger telecoms' access facilities—the wires to individual premises—and the longer-distance transport routes between them.

In arriving at the interim rates, the CRTC said it aimed to provide the competitors with "workable" access while balancing the need for further network investment.

Most Black Canadians report continuing racism in the workplace despite improvements, survey says

IAN BICKIS TORONTO

Canadian companies are making uneven progress on efforts to make workplaces more inclusive and equitable for Black workers, according to a survey from KPMG in Canada.

In the results of the survey released Monday, a little over 80 per cent of respondents said employers are making improvements—but a similar proportion said they've experienced some form of racism or microaggression in the workplace in the past year.

"While there is the overarching perception that progress has been made, still the majority, 81 per cent of people, are feeling racism, and that's a very scary reality," said Amanda Bartley, senior manager of management consulting at KPMG in Canada.

The share of Black people experiencing some form of discrimination was up about 10 percentage points from last year's results, which suggests companies are not pushing below the surface enough to get to the heart of the issues, said Ms. Bartley, who is co-chair of the firm's Black Professionals Network.

To get at the deeper issues, it's important that companies listen to Black employees, she said.

"Having safe spaces where people can share what they're experiencing, without the potential risk of backlash and repercussions, is a great thing."

The results of the survey of 1,000 employed Canadians who self-identified as Black also showed that women continue to receive less support than men.

Only 68 per cent said their employer had an allyship training program, compared with 81 per cent of men.

Women also reported lower levels of being able to bring their genuine self to work, or having allies at work who have spoken up for them.

"It's important to recognize that Black women continue to be one of the most marginalized groups in workplaces, in society," Ms. Bartley said.

She said companies need to work on creating environments where Black people can stay truer to their values, and don't feel they need to conform to prescribed mainstream standards of appearance or behaviour just to protect themselves.

"It's really pushing past the respectability politics, which is a conversation that continues to come up. It's obviously come up more and more with the state of the world."

The gender disparities among Black workers were also something Rob Davis, KPMG's chief inclusion, diversity and equity officer, raised as a key concern.

"There is a very different experience in terms of Black men versus Black women, so that's an area as Canadian businesses we need to continue to focus on."

However there are areas for optimism, Mr. Davis said, including the 76 per cent of respondents who said that compared with four years ago, their company now has a Black person in the C-suite or on their board of directors. "That to me is huge, because until Canadian business sees that representation at the senior levels ... it's going to be tough to change."

The third edition of the survey, conducted between mid-December and January, found there are also concerns that as the economy slows, some of the gains in inclusion could be lost.

About 80 per cent said they believe Black or racialized people were among the first to lose their jobs over the past year, and as many as 73 per cent said their career progress didn't materialize because the company was preparing for a slowdown.

It's important to look beyond a last-in, first-out approach, Mr. Davis said, and for companies to look at everyone's talent, and consider some of their best might have been recently hired.

To push toward more inclusion and equity, companies also need to look at the data and set targets, he said. KPMG has set representation targets for women and people of colour in the partnership level of the firm, and goals for positions below that level for Black and Indigenous people and those with disabilities.

The firm has also tied partner compensation to the targets.

"For companies to really move the dial, set targets—not quotas. Quotas are a dirty word for me—put in place concrete actions to meet those targets, and hold your senior leadership accountable," Mr. Davis said.

With so much going on, businesses and leaders can get distracted, but it's important to keep working on these goals, he said.

"We've got to make sure that everybody has the same opportunity to achieve success in Canadian business. As a Canadian society, I think it's important for us to continue to focus on this, and it's going to make us, make the economy, more vibrant and richer."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Peter Bethlenfalvy
@PBethlenfalvy

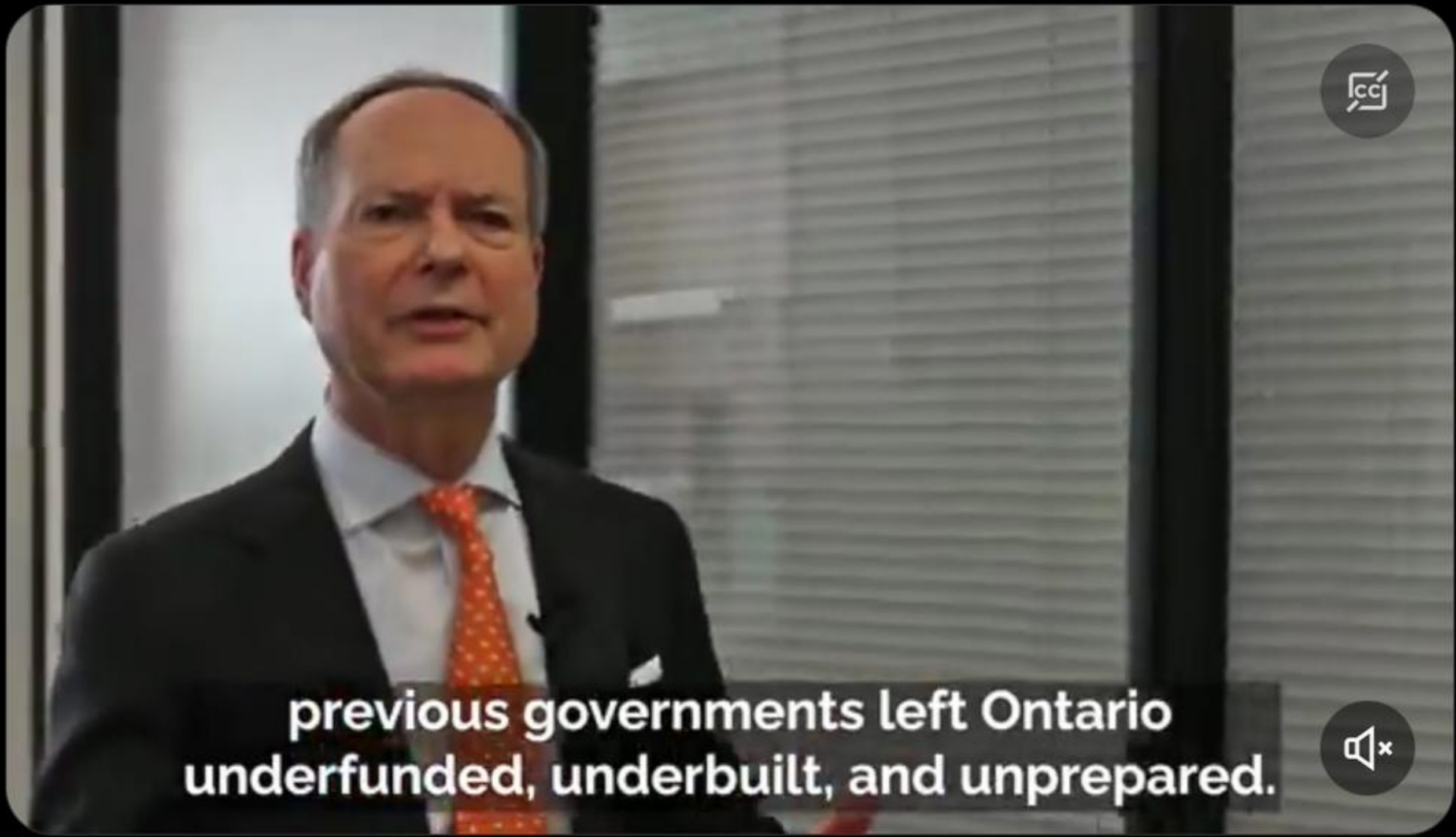
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The 2016 upzoning not only increased the quantity of housing supplied throughout Auckland, but it also heavily shifted the geographic structure of the city's development patterns. Although much of the land closest to the Central Business District avoided upzoning, many of the city's inner-ring suburbs saw plenty of infill construction activity that drew demand away from the outer suburbs and closer to the CBD on net. Construction also got closer to job centers and rapid-transit stations, indicating that the upzoning helped unlock dense development in high-demand areas in ways that improved the city's overall efficiency and accessibility.





The Honourable Paul Calandra
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
minister.mah@ontario.ca

March 13, 2024

Dear Minister Calandra,

We are writing to you today on behalf of Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM) on the method of measurement being used to determine housing starts in our municipalities. Recently, OBCM's member Mayors received letters from your office outlining progress toward meeting the housing pledges we have committed to. These letters also confirmed if funds would be awarded from the government's Building Faster Fund (BFF). While the municipalities who have received funding are grateful for the much-needed support, OBCM is still concerned that the province's method of measuring housing starts is inaccurate and problematic, and that we need to work together to find a better way.

There are a few reasons for this concern. Firstly, the most weighted parameter for receiving this funding, CMHC's determination of housing starts through foundations poured, is a parameter completely out of our control. Municipalities do not pour foundations; however, we do process applications and permit the housing enabling infrastructure required to do so. Our municipalities are committed to reaching our housing goals as we have shown through our housing pledges, and we asked the province to work with us to ensure targets are related to areas within municipal control, which are policies and permits. At our OBCM Caucus meeting in October we passed a resolution and wrote to you reiterating our concerns about the BFF eligibility criteria and requesting municipal participation in the creation of new eligibility criteria. We reiterate that call today.

Our cities have taken numerous steps to improve and streamline housing approvals, including through the use of the Streamline Development Approval Fund the province announced in January 2022. This was an excellent fund that saw great improvements in the approvals process, improvements that created the capacity in our planning departments for quicker approval turnaround times. A great example is in London where in 2023 alone 5,337 units were approved by Council which is an increase of 20% over the previous year. However, while approval timelines may have improved, most of us did not see an increase in permits being pulled for new or previous approvals. In Burlington, there are over 45,000 units in the planning pipeline, with 5,424 having received the necessary approvals that are waiting to be built. Many of our municipalities have issued permits well beyond our housing targets in the last year, but due to issues beyond our control (high interest rates, mounting material costs, labour shortages, etc.), developers have stalled the pulling of many of these permits.

Secondly, as several of our members have indicated to both you and Premier Ford over the last few months, while we understand the need for consistent data to make decisions - municipalities are alarmed at the inaccuracy of the number of housing starts being reported by CMHC. The methodology being used is not providing an accurate account of actual housing starts and uses estimation as part of the process. Many of us have been using our



own methods to gather data on housing starts in our communities and our reported numbers are often much higher than those reported by CMHC. For example, Oakville's internal 2023 count, verified by a visit to each site, measured 2,692 housing starts, compared to CMHC's measurement of 1,335, resulting in an estimated loss of \$10 million in BFF funding. We are asking that the province take a closer look at the way CMHC determines these numbers.

Ontario's Big City Mayors have been working with planners and others to look at other data points that could be useful to the province and look forward to sharing that information with you in the near future.

Thirdly, our member cities have been working very hard to protect the services we have in place for our residents, and plan for the services required to build the housing we have pledged to build. OBCM is concerned that the current way BFF funding is awarded will entrench disparity for the dozens of cities across Ontario ineligible for this fund. We are asking that you explore the unintended consequences of these decisions on those who do not benefit from this essential funding. Not only will it take multiple years for a municipality to catch up to where they can again be considered, these municipalities will not have the resources needed to provide their residents with the same services those with BFF funding are able to supply such as increased transit, road and sewer maintenance, and other community services. This method of awarding funds also punishes those who are committed to meeting their housing targets but whose greenfield space is already built out and must focus on density and high-rise buildings, which take longer to build than single family homes. For some, this could mean not hitting their targets for several years when thousands of units will come online at once.

Recently it was reported that Tarion is facing the "largest claim event" in its history, expecting claims of more than \$90 million to homebuyers who purchased homes or condos from builders who either cancelled projects, were operating illegally, or didn't comply with warranty legislation. While some of this was due to "bad actors" in the system, we know that builders, like municipalities, are facing issues out of their control with high interest rates, supply chain issues, labour shortages, and rising construction costs.

OBCM would like to reiterate its call on the government to bring all partners in the homebuilding process together to look at where the hold-ups are, so we can work together to address them. We also reiterate our call for the province to change the criteria to qualify for the Building Faster Fund, and tie it to areas within municipal jurisdiction, such as approvals given. The province can play a leading role in setting a standard method of measuring "approvals" so there is consistency across municipalities. We are working on this, and willing to work with your government to implement a standard definition that is fair, transparent and within municipal control.

Municipalities are committed to meeting our targets. We hope that you will consider the issues we have raised and that you will bring all parties together that have a role to play in meeting housing targets - including municipalities, regions, the provincial and federal



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

governments, non-profits, and the development industry - to discuss how we can work collaboratively to meet targets efficiently and effectively.

Sincerely,

Marianne Meed Ward, Mayor of Burlington
Chair, Ontario's Big City Mayors

Josh Morgan, Mayor of London
Vice-Chair, Ontario's Big City Mayors

Cc. Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

Honourable Rob Flack, Associate Minister of Housing

MPP Matthew Rae, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Municipal and Housing

Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister Municipal Affairs and Housing

His Worship Cam Guthrie

Mayor of Cambridge



London, Oneida politicians seek common ground in historic sit-down

Jack Moulton

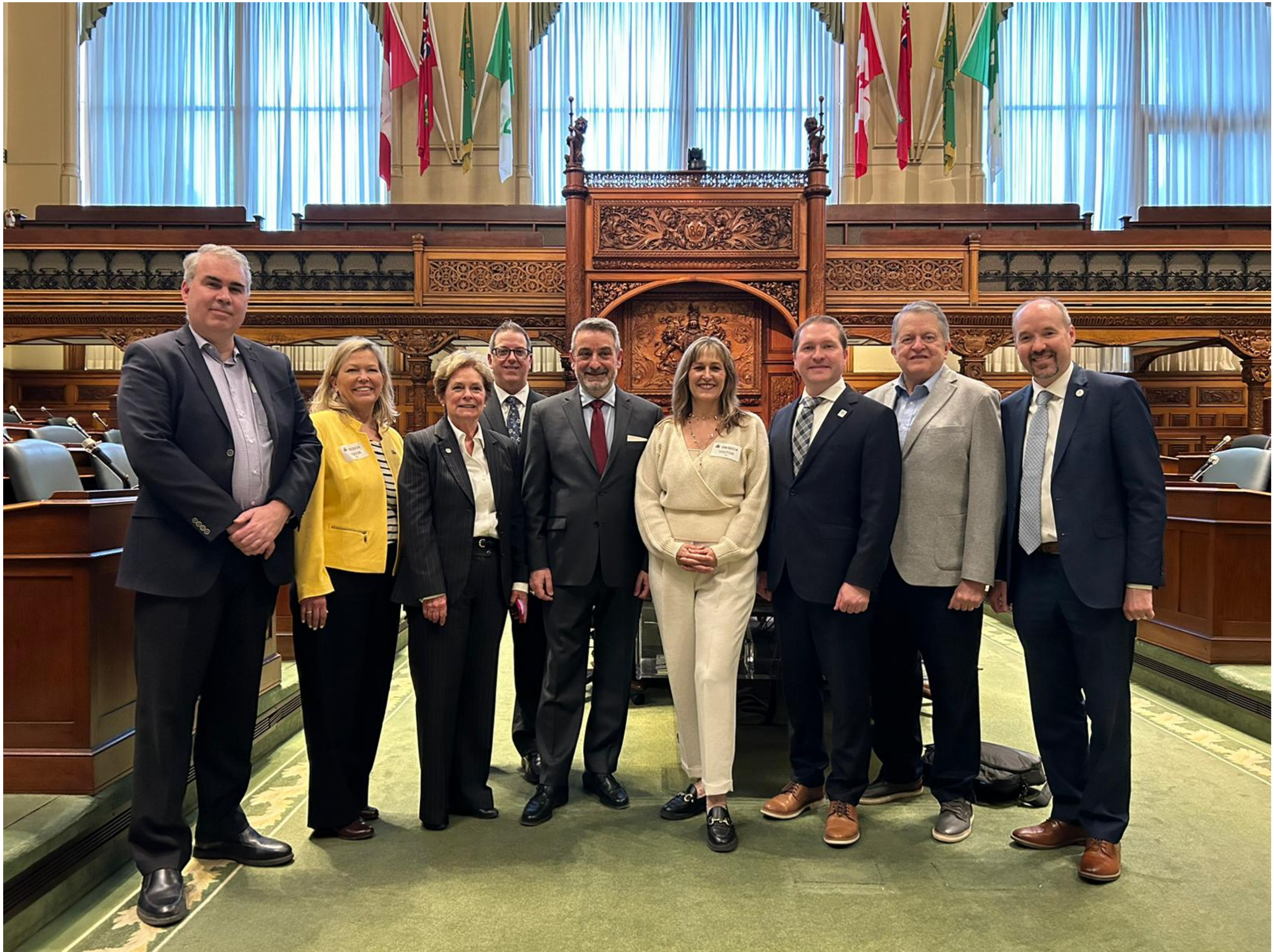
Published Apr 18, 2024 • Last updated 1 hour ago • 3 minute read



Chief Todd Cornelius (right) speaks with London Mayor John Morgan during a special joint council meeting in Oneida Nation of the Thames on Wednesday April 17, 2024. Derek Ruttan/The London Free Press/Postmedia Network

For the first time in the roughly 150-year history of the Oneida Nation of the Thames government, London city council sat down with





GOVERNOR NEWSOM STATEMENT ON SUPREME COURT'S HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS DECISION

June 28, 2024

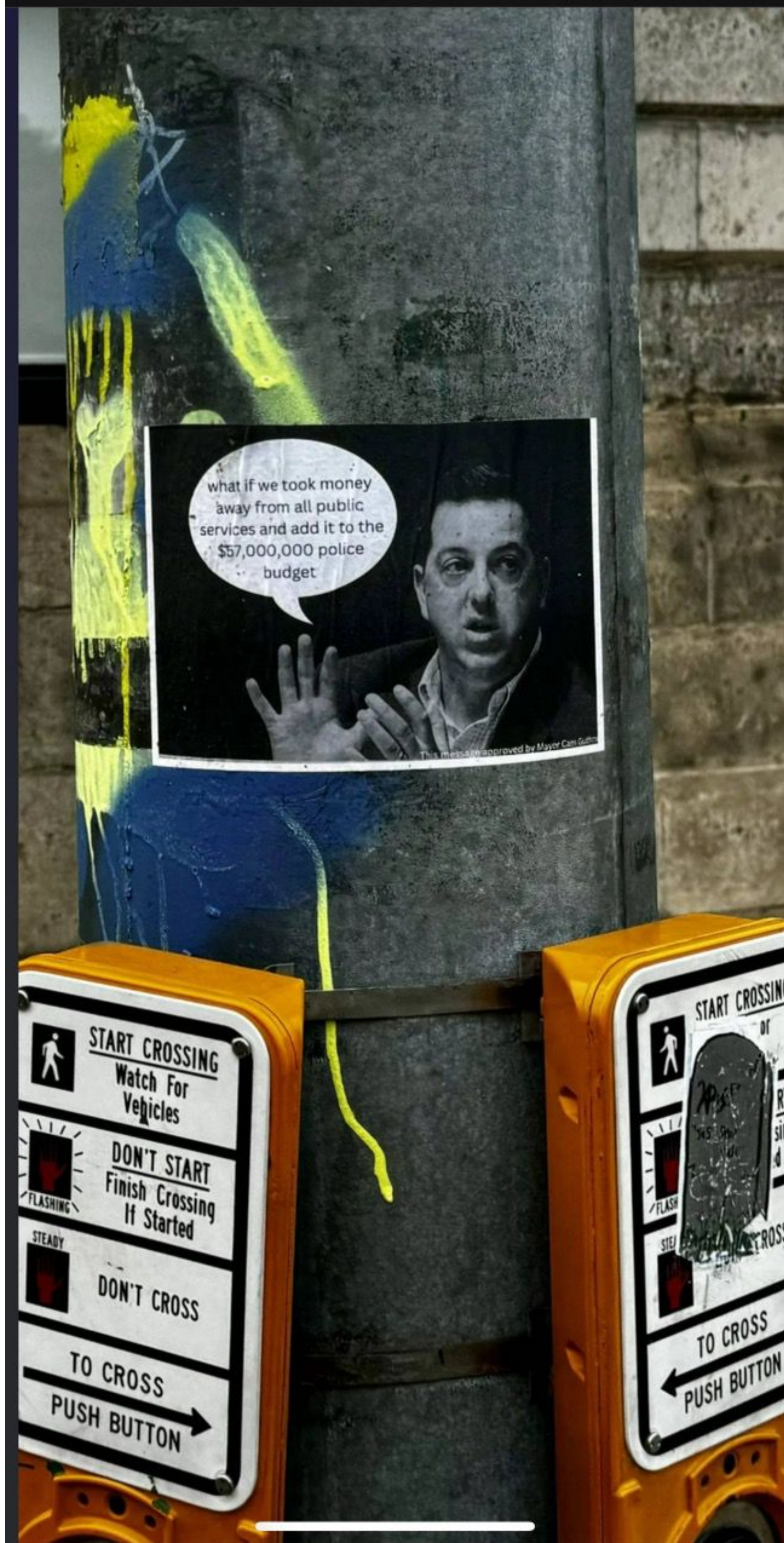
"Today's ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court provides state and local officials the definitive authority to implement and enforce policies to clear unsafe encampments from our streets. This decision removes the legal ambiguities that have tied the hands of local officials for years and limited their ability to deliver on common-sense measures to protect the safety and well-being of our communities.

"California remains committed to respecting the dignity and fundamental human needs of all people and the state will continue to work with compassion to provide individuals experiencing homelessness with the resources they need to better their lives."

GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM









 | Exclusive Content

Is a provincial-municipal new deal 'inevitable'?



[Jack Hauen](#)

about 5 hours ago



Burlington Mayor and Ontario Big City Mayors chair Marianne Meed Ward. | Julie Slack Photo



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00:05:37

The Ford government hasn't addressed it, but calls for a "new deal" between municipalities and the province are only growing louder.

Cities and towns have complained that their revenue tools (mostly property taxes and development fees) don't match their funding needs (years of downloading on housing and social services).

That's true, said StrategyCorp's Sabine Matheson, a municipal politics expert of some 30 years. She's one of the lead authors of an annual survey of municipal chief administrative officers (CAOs). The [2024 version](#) was released last week.

According to the survey, problems like homelessness are "even and widespread" across the province, with municipalities that have never dealt with the issues now facing encampments, she said.

"In the past, we did a lot of awareness campaigns but now we are at a point where we don't have the capacity, so we don't want to send people somewhere that there isn't any room," one CAO is quoted as saying in the survey.

"There is such a lack of strategy and support to address it from the provincial government as they have shown no indication of doing anything about [mental health and addiction]," another said.

"I do think (a new deal is) inevitable," Matheson said. "But beaver dams can block streams before they burst, so I think we've got a beaver dam right now."

CAOs outlined dire fiscal situations in the survey.

"We have a negative balance in the sanitary reserve. We have zero in the parks reserve. The roads reserve is about to run out of money. We will be scraping and redlining next year to have funding," one said.

Colin Best, president of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), said in his address to the conference last week that he was "disappointed" not to see a new deal commitment from the Ford government yet.

Municipalities will be on the hook for over \$250 billion in infrastructure costs over the next decade, he said.

"The idea that we can do that under the current fiscal arrangements makes no sense. The idea Ontario will thrive and prosper without that level of municipal infrastructure investment 't make sense either," he said.

"Structural and systematic problems will never be fixed if our partners pretend they don't exist."

CAOs worried about that as well.

"Thirty-six per cent of our infrastructure needs to be replaced within 10 years, and it's machinery and equipment in the poorest category," one said.

It's not a new issue, said the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO), which represents municipal workers.

"This has been an ongoing theme across many municipalities that continue to face immense financial pressures, and struggle with recruiting and retaining local government talent to build strong organizational cultures," it said in a news release responding to the survey.

Ontario Big City Mayors chair Marianne Meed Ward has been at the forefront of the new deal push.

Meed Ward, who is also the mayor of Burlington and an AMO board member, confronted Ontario's finance minister last week at the conference's "bear pit" — a chance for municipal leaders to question provincial ones in a conference hall full of their colleagues.

Municipalities' fiscal relationship with the province hasn't changed in AMO's 125-year history, despite the challenges being far different now, she said.

"Allocation programs are unpredictable, and it makes municipalities compete with each other for scarce dollars. It's really kind of the *Hunger Games* of municipal funding programs," she said, calling for a [fiscal review](#) long sought by AMO.

Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy avoided the issue, instead listing some funding programs.

"We thank you for raising that issue repeatedly. We're working together," he said.

Speaking with *The Trillium* after the conference, Meed Ward said she's thankful for the funding, but called on the province to shift away from allocation-based funding.

"You can't plan major capital, multimillion-dollar projects that unfold over a period of years, if you don't know the funding for the capital or the operating is going to be there.

As part of [her new deal pitch](#), NDP Leader Marit Stiles pledged to upload highways, take a bigger role in housing, and pay for half of transit funding and 90 per cent of ambulance



services. Green Leader Mike Schreiner has made similar promises. Liberal Leader Bonnie Crombie has also pledged a new deal, with details to be worked out in the future.

Meed Ward said she was pleased all three opposition leaders are on the same page. Pointing to her "Solve the Crisis" campaign, which calls for more leadership from the province on homelessness and mental health, she said she won't give up until the province bends.

"I have had private sector, non-profit, mental health agencies, municipal councillors and mayors saying, 'This speaks to us. How do we get involved?'" she said. "We are just getting started."

Timmins Mayor Michelle Boileau, also an AMO board member, agreed. She added that AMO isn't making specific demands.

"All we're asking for, really, is to be able to sit down together with the government to be able to conduct a review," she said. "And so we feel like that's a reasonable ask."





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 4, 2024

Official Statement from Mayor Ken Sim in Response to Recent Random Assaults

VANCOUVER, BC - Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim released the following statement regarding the recent random assaults that occurred in Vancouver:

“Today, a tragic and deeply unsettling incident occurred – a random stranger attack that claimed the life of one person and left another grievously injured. On behalf of all Vancouverites, I offer my heartfelt condolences to the affected families. We grieve with you and offer our support during this incredibly difficult time.

“To the people of Vancouver, I understand that this incident has caused a great deal of anxiety and concern. It’s unsettling to think that something like this could happen in our community.

“Every single person who lives in, visits, or simply enjoys the beauty of Vancouver deserves to feel safe and reassured that the city is working tirelessly to protect them.

“I want to thank the Vancouver Police Department and first responders for their swift action this morning.

“We have taken important steps to strengthen public safety, but we still face gaps that require action and funding beyond the municipal level. We need the Provincial and Federal government to further address these gaps when it comes to public safety and the mental health crisis we’re facing.

“The Province has already demonstrated their willingness to be partners when it comes to public safety by pivoting on policy that was not working, specifically decriminalization. Now we need to pivot on how we deal with mental health. Simply put, significant changes need to happen. The federal government has to be part of this conversation as well, especially when it comes to tackling repeat offenders and the mental health crisis which is being experienced by every town and city across our country.

“It’s not enough to just accept the status quo, and as Mayor, I will always push for a safer Vancouver even if it means having these difficult conversations.”

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Media Contact:

Maria Veras, Press Secretary
Office of the Mayor
maria.veras@vancouver.ca



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CCLA URGES BIG CITY MAYORS TO VOTE AGAINST RESOLUTION THAT OVERRIDES RIGHTS OF VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN ONTARIO

By CCLA | October 15, 2024



Mayor Elizabeth Roy
@ElizabethJRoy

I'm very pleased to annouce the Town of Whitby will receive \$5.4 million from Ontario's Building Faster Fund, in recognition of reaching 80 per cent of our annual housing target in 2023. Read more here:

ow.ly/iggJ50TXwvC
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