

Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON
M7A 1A1

Sent via email to: Premier@Ontario.ca

October 31st, 2024

Mr. Premier,

As elected mayors from across the Province of Ontario, we have heard your invitation for a clear request for provincial action to help municipalities with issues related to mental health, addiction, and homeless encampments.

We request that your government consider the following measures, and where necessary use the Notwithstanding Clause to ensure these measures are implemented in a timely and effective way:

The Provincial Government is requested to become an intervenor on any court case that restricts the ability of municipalities to regulate and prohibit encampments, advocating for the principle endorsed by the US Supreme Court (City of Grant Pass, Oregon) that courts should not be dictating homelessness policy.

The Provincial Government is requested to strengthen the existing system of mandatory community-based and residential mental health care and to expand service to treat those who have severe and debilitating addictions.

The Provincial Government is requested to implement a Drug and Diversion Court system throughout the entire province and ensure the necessary resources to allow a meaningful focus on rehabilitation as opposed to incarceration.

The Provincial Government is requested to amend the Trespass to Property Act to include a separate provision for repetitive acts of trespass, the penalty for which should include a period of incarceration, and to further permit a police officer to arrest a person who commits repetitive acts of trespass after having been directed by the police officer not to engage in such activity. These amendments should also include an option for referral to a Diversion court for charges of repetitive trespass.

The Provincial Government is requested to enact legislation providing clear guidance regarding the open and public use of drugs being prohibited in the same manner as the open consumption of alcohol.

We ask for your immediate attention to this matter and look forward to working with the Government of Ontario to realize positive changes to very complex issues.

Regards,

 Mayor Alex Nuttall 	 Mayor Patrick Brown 	 Mayor Ken Davis 	 Mayor Jan Liggett 	 Mayor Darrin Canniff 	 Mayor Adrian Foster 
 Mayor Rob Burton 	 Mayor Dan Carter 	 Mayor Kevin Ashe 	 MAYOR MAT SISCOE City of St. Catharines	 Mayor Paul Lefebvre 	 Mayor Drew Dilkens 