



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 15.4.3

Request for Council's Consideration		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Included on Agenda (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Thursday)	<input type="checkbox"/> Added Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday)	<input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor
Date of Council Meeting: April 25, 2023		
Subject: Resolution to Address the Crisis of Homelessness		
Motion for Council to Consider:		
That Halifax Regional Council:		
1. Waive section 17 of Administrative Order One, requiring a staff report from the Chief Administrative Officer; and		
2. Endorse the attached resolution entitled "Urgent Action Needed to Address the Crisis of Homelessness".		
Reason:		
In his role as Chair of the Big City Mayor's Caucus of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Mayor Savage is seeking to bring an emergency resolution to the 2023 spring FCM AGM calling on the federal government to provide urgently needed long-term funding and resource supports to local governments to address the growing homelessness crisis and to urge provincial governments to be active partners in public sector housing programs and in funding long-term wraparound services for supportive housing. Endorsement of this resolution is required by Halifax Regional Council for Mayor Savage to sponsor the resolution and bring it forward to FCM for consideration on the AGM agenda.		
Outcome Sought:		
Endorsement of resolution by Regional Council.		
<i>Mike Savage</i>	<i>Mayor</i>	

URGENT ACTION NEEDED TO ADDRESS THE CRISIS OF HOMELESSNESS

WHEREAS, the presence of homelessness in Canada is a longstanding issue. In recent years, Canadian communities have experienced a visible rise of homelessness encampments, along with the increased need to support those who are chronically unhoused. Both coinciding with the lack of deeply affordable and supportive housing for those who urgently need it.

WHEREAS, the growing presence of homelessness presents many issues of concern for local governments when determining what resources and supports are needed.

WHEREAS, Encampments themselves have become more deeply entrenched in public spaces; where individuals reside outside for reasons including the unavailability of shelter options, lack of affordable housing, and/or for a sense of community.

WHEREAS, encampments signal a failure of the housing system at large. Hidden homelessness, youth homelessness, emergency shelter capacities and lack of wrap-around supports for deeply affordable units persists in communities of all sizes.

WHEREAS, addressing homelessness requires a multi-faceted approach, given the complex challenges of those experiencing it. However, municipalities continue to tackle this burden, despite limited funding, and often without the jurisdictional tools and associated budgets to do so.

WHEREAS, addressing homelessness and increasing the supply of affordable housing requires all orders of government to engage in coordinated intergovernmental action. This ensures supports are provided to individuals in need, whether unhoused or precariously housed.

RESOLVED, that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities call on the federal government to provide needed long-term funding and resource supports for local governments to address the growing homelessness crisis.

RESOLVED, that the federal government ensure the sustainability of new permanent supportive housing by urging provinces and territories to ensure long-term funding for wraparound services and participate in government public sector housing programs.

RESOLVED, that the federal government create a national strategy to support local governments on scaling up and making permanent programs that give tools directly to local governments to tackle homelessness including building on the Rapid Housing Initiative and the Reaching Home program.

Halifax Regional Municipality, Nova Scotia