

Call For Advocacy

The following information from the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH) is very alarming and we encourage all Vincentians to respond to the call to ADVOCATE for the rights of the Homeless. The Ontario Provincial Government is being asked by some Municipal leaders to invoke the “Notwithstanding clause” to evict the Homeless from public parks.

Simply, clicking on the following link (hold CTRL down and left click) will take you to an application that will generate emails to your local Municipal Government (Major/Councilors) and Provincial Representatives opposing the use of the “Notwithstanding clause” to evict the Homeless from public parks.

https://action.caeh.ca/homelessness-crisis-not-crime?utm_campaign=eml_071124_caeh_ont_notwithsta&utm_medium=email&utm_source=caeh

You will be required to input your personal information however, the CAEH organization is endorsed by the SSVN National Housing Committee as a partner organization. In addition, there will be a request for financial support that you can by-pass or contribute to as you please.

We urge you to support this very important issue and contribute your name to these emails.

This is urgent,

Right now, at the request of mayors across Ontario, Premier Ford is considering using the notwithstanding clause to cancel the human rights of people experiencing homelessness.

We are taking action to protect their safety and offer communities a more compassionate path forward. Send a letter to Grimsby’s mayor and council.

Last week, a group of Ontario mayors asked Premier Ford to use all the tools at his disposal, including the notwithstanding clause, to allow them to call in the police and threaten jail time for anyone who is living in an encampment.

This is a blatant violation of Charter-protected rights. But the notwithstanding clause allows Premier Ford to sidestep the Charter of Rights. Once put in place, mayors will be able to send police in to dismantle encampments and send people experiencing homelessness to jail.

What’s their crime? Simply not having a place to call home.

Tell your mayor and council: Do not trample over the human rights of our neighbours. There is a better way.

Nobody should live in a tent. Parks should be for kids to play in. We all want to find a solution to encampments, and to homelessness. Sending in the police, threatening jail time, forcing mental health and addiction treatment, these approaches are not only ineffective—they are just plain cruel.

Homelessness is a housing problem, and people living in encampments need housing solution.

In natural disasters, like fires or floods, where we see large-scale loss of housing, cities respond by protecting people from the emergency and helping them move quickly back into their homes. When getting back home takes time, temporary housing is provided. Police don’t arrest people because their home burnt down.

Faced with any other disaster, we trust governments to respond quickly and compassionately with accommodation that meets their needs. Homelessness is an emergency—and should be dealt with accordingly.

We know there is a better way. Mayors and councils need to know this too. Please join us in sending a message.

Towards a better future,

Tim Richter

President & CEO Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness