



Criminalizing Homelessness in Ontario - A Timeline (Pt.1)

Ontario mayors ask Ford to use notwithstanding clause to clear homeless encampments

Oct. 31



12 big city mayors (+3 more) ask Ford to use the notwithstanding clause, a powerful constitutional tool that would allow municipalities to clear homeless encampments even when there's nowhere for people to go

Local councillors sign letter asking Premier Ford to ignore calls to use notwithstanding clause

Nov. 18



41 municipal councillors (now 70+, including several in Waterloo Region) voice their opposition, asking Ford to uphold democracy and ignore the request for the notwithstanding clause

Councillor tells feds, province to 'write a cheque' to help region support people who are homeless

Nov. 27



David (SDC) is quoted in a CBC article about Waterloo Region's Point-In-Time count (which found 2,300+ people experiencing homelessness in 2024 vs. 1,000+ in 2021); Regional Councillor Jim Erb says more provincial/federal funding is needed because the municipal tax levy is insufficient to address this growing crisis



Nov. 29



The Unsheltered Campaign publishes an open letter opposing the use of the notwithstanding clause

Dec. 4



SDC publishes a media release calling on all elected officials to vocally oppose the brutalization of encampment residents

SDC Statement

Over 400 members of legal community voice opposition to use of notwithstanding clause to address homeless encampments

Dec. 2



450 members of the legal community voices their concerns to Ford

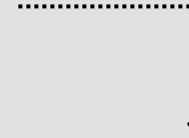
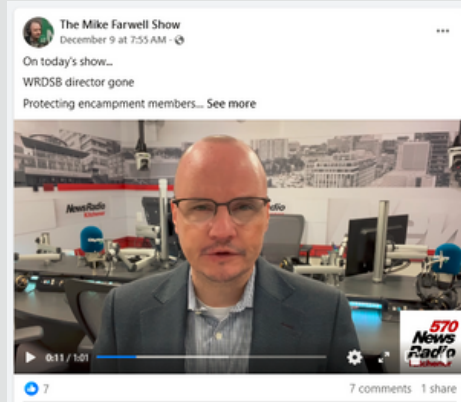


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Dec. 9



David (SDC) speaks on The Mike Farwell Show (starting at the 36:45 mark)



Ford introduces bill aimed at dismantling encampments, strengthening trespass and drug penalties

Dec. 12



FightBack! KW issues a statement highlighting government overreach, the cruelty of criminalizing unhoused people, and the compounding harms of closing supervised consumption sites making public drug use inevitable

Dec. 12



Ford introduces the Safer Municipalities Act, a new bill with \$75.5m in funding and increased penalties for repeated trespassing and public drug use, including fines of up to \$10k and 6 months jail time; legislation to be voted on in March 2025



Waterloo Region Drug Action Team calls province's new legislation 'vicious and harmful'

Advocates call for more shelter beds as cold weather sets in, region says it knows there aren't enough

Dec. 13

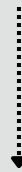


WR Drug Action Team is quoted in Cambridge Today, noting that the \$75.5m in province-wide funding promised by Ford will equate to \$107 per person (based on 230K+ people currently homeless in Ontario)

Dec. 13



David (SDC) is quoted in a CBC article highlighting the urgent and potentially fatal risks already facing people who are unhoused



Dec. 18



WR Yes In My Backyard (WR YIMBY) publishes a statement opposing the Safer Municipalities Act and potential use of the notwithstanding clause

