



Alliance to
End Homelessness
Ottawa

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April 26th, 2023

Dear Minister Clark & Premier Ford,

On behalf of the Alliance to End Homelessness Ottawa, we are writing about our deep concern for the recent funding decision for homelessness services for the City of Ottawa.

Ottawa will be receiving a mere \$845,000 increase, or just 0.4% of the Province's budget commitment of \$202 million. In contrast, Toronto will be receiving 60 times as much increased funding as Ottawa. Yet, we are the second largest city in Ontario. This is untenable.

Every night, over 2000 people stay in an emergency shelter in Ottawa. Our family shelter system is more than 350% over capacity, and we now have a waiting list to access *emergency shelter*, let alone housing. We were the first city in Canada to declare a housing emergency, and since then, the situation has only gotten worse.

The Alliance to End Homelessness Ottawa represents over 70 member agencies all working to support people experiencing homelessness. Our members know the reality of what this lack of funding will look like on the ground.

This funding decision means that we will have to *cancel* supportive housing units in our community, scale back our homelessness plan reduction targets, and even close down existing services. These are the very services your government claims to support.

We urge you to reconsider this decision, and provide funding to the City of Ottawa that matches the depth of need in our community. This level of funding is deeply inequitable for our city, and punishes people who need these services most.

Sincerely,

Kaite Burkholder Harris
Executive Director,
Alliance to End Homelessness Ottawa