

## Michael Oliveri

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**From:** Heather Lambert [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 23, 2025 10:15 AM  
**To:** E\_Clerks  
**Subject:** Health, safety, and dignity are non-negotiable. Vote yes on tonight's motion re: Preventing the forced removal of unhoused persons during extreme weather events.

### This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender

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On **Tuesday, September 23, 2025**, City Council will vote on the **Hamilton–Earnshaw motion**, brought by Councillor Scott Hamilton and seconded by Councillor Ross Earnshaw.

The motion requests a staff report to investigate how Cambridge can prevent forced removals of unhoused people during extreme weather events. This is not a policy or bylaw change — it is a necessary, moral, and ethical inquiry.

Earlier this summer, Cambridge was specifically mentioned by **Marie-Josée Houle, Canada's Federal Housing Advocate**, [in a letter urging the city not to evict](#) homeless encampments during heat waves.

[In her words](#), Houle expressed “*concern about reports that the city was handing out eviction notices during extreme weather events.*” Cambridge being called out in this way is not reflective of our values — we have an opportunity now to lead.

Homelessness in Canada is a national crisis. As Marie-Josée Houle also noted in her report, “*forced evictions and enforcement approaches do not address the underlying systemic issues and put people at risk of even greater harms.*”

Add to that data showing housing affordability is slipping away for too many Canadians: rents, property prices, and lack of deeply affordable and supportive housing are pushing more people toward homelessness every year.

### Why We Must Support This Motion

- **Health, safety, and dignity** are non-negotiable. Extreme storms, heat waves, cold snaps, and floods are no longer rare. When we remove encampments in those moments, we push people into greater danger, we sever their connections to support and services, and we violate basic decency.
- **This motion is common sense:** it asks for information, not immediate policy shifts. It's how good governance should work — gathering evidence, hearing from those affected, bringing back options, and then deciding.

- **Reputation matters.** Being named in a letter from the Federal Housing Advocate shows Cambridge is under scrutiny. We can show that we do care, that we will do right by our most vulnerable.

### **What We Are Calling For**

- **A unanimous YES vote** from City Council on September 23.
- **Public support from citizens:** write or email your councillor, attend the meeting (6:30 PM, City Hall, 50 Dickson Street), and tell them this is about human values.
- **Leadership.** Let Cambridge set an example: health, safety, and well-being must come first.

This is both an invitation and a challenge: let's expect our councillors to do the right thing — morally, ethically — and vote for this motion. Let's stop being embarrassed by what's happening in our name. Let's instead lead with compassion, clarity, and courage.

Thank you for standing up.