

## Michael Oliveri

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**From:** Lesley Crompton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 23, 2025 12:35 PM  
**To:** E\_Clerks  
**Subject:** Sept 23 Hamilton-Earnshaw Motion on encampments

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Cambridge Councillors -

### I ask you to Vote YES for this critical motion on September 23

I, and a number of mutual aid organizations, academics and service providers met with Marie-Josée Houle, Federal Housing Advocate to discuss issues and solutions involving encampments. Extreme weather evictions are not a solution and cause more harm and decrease the likelihood of residents working with Cambridge outreach to find permanent housing.

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.

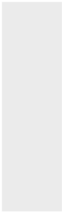
Homelessness in Canada is a national crisis. As Marie-Josée Houle also noted in her report, "*forced evictions and enforcement approaches do not address the underlying systemic issues and put people at risk of even greater harms.*"

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 You 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.

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Sincerely,

Lesley Crompton  
Unsheltered Campaign Waterloo Region

