

Solution 3: Solve Homelessness Upstream End the homelessness crisis and encampments by stopping the flow

Problem: More than 80,000 Ontarians experienced homelessness in 2024 - up 25% since 2022. That could double in the next decade—and in Northern Ontario, homelessness is growing four times faster.

MARCO members are on the front lines of this heartbreaking crisis. We deliver services like homelessness supports, supportive housing, public health, paramedics and ambulances, and income supports. We see where the system works—and where it fails.

Prevention saves money and reduces pressure on hospitals, emergency rooms, police budgets, first responders, jails, shelters, and area municipalities.

Need: We need tools to empty encampments now by moving people into housing and supports—and keep them from filling back up by preventing more people falling into homelessness.

Solution: Immediately expand homelessness prevention funding to top up the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit, expand shelter capacity and temporary accommodation spaces, and fund ready-to-build affordable housing projects, and

Give service managers integrated and sustainable funding to use where it's needed most, and tackle the root causes of homelessness by:

- **Fixing income security to stop people from falling into homelessness**
- **Expanding mental health and addictions services and supports**
- **Increasing supportive, transitional and deeply affordable housing**

