## **AMO launches groundbreaking homelessness study**

## **Ontario at a tipping point with 80,000 homeless**

Today, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario held a news conference to share the results of a groundbreaking study of homelessness outlining the scope and scale of the crisis, how much worse it may get if we don’t take action now, and practical investments that could help end the human tragedy and improve the quality of life in communities across Ontario.

AMO worked in partnership with all 47 social service managers through the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) and the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA). The study was conducted by HelpSeeker Technologies.

Further information about the study, including HelpSeeker’s full report is available on AMO’s dedicated web page.

***Please help spread the word***

This is a province-wide challenge and sharing the message locally will help build critical momentum towards change. By speaking with a strong, united voice, the municipal sector can get the attention of the Ontario Government and all provincial party leaders.

AMO is providing a communications toolkit to help you share the story, with opportunities to localize to your circumstances. It includes:

* A template news release
* A two-page summary of the study and links to the AMO website.
* Suggested social media posts, including visuals provided as image files

You can also follow and reshare content from AMO’s [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/assocmuniontario) account.

*Questions?*

For information or questions regarding communications materials, please contact Farah Tayabali, [tayabali@redbrick.ca](mailto:tayabali@redbrick.ca), 416-570-8413.

For inquiries related to the report, please contact Michael Jacek at [MJacek@amo.on.ca](mailto:MJacek@amo.on.ca).

Thank you for your support!

### NEWS RELEASE TEMPLATE

**New research shows 80,000 homeless Ontarians while the province is missing in action**

[Date], 2025 – [MUNICIPALITY] joins the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) in calling on the provincial government to fix its broken health and social systems in response to growing homelessness in communities across Ontario

In early January, AMO, which represents Ontario’s 444 municipal governments, released new research that documents the massive growth in homelessness in recent years and outlines how the province can reverse these trends. AMO partnered with the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) and the Northern Ontario Service Delivery Association (NOSDA), on the research which was led by HelpSeeker Technologies.

In 2024, more than 80,000 people in Ontario experienced homelessness. That is roughly equivalent to the population of Peterborough and represents an increase of more than 25% since 2022. The number of people experiencing prolonged or repeated episodes of homelessness has tripled since 2016. Chronic homelessness now accounts for more than half of the homeless population.

These numbers demonstrate systemic failures that extend beyond housing, reflecting deep gaps in income security, mental health and addictions services, justice systems, and more. Even under a steady economic scenario, homelessness in Ontario could double over the next 10 years and could grow to almost 300,000 people in an economic downturn, without significant intervention.

Ontario is the only province in Canada where funding for social housing has been downloaded to municipalities. Municipal spending on homelessness and housing programs has sky-rocketed since 2020, growing to more than $2.1 billion in 2024. On deeply affordable housing alone, municipalities have increased spending by nearly $900 million since 2016. Provincial spending during that time grew by just around $45 million.

Municipal property taxes, including those paid by seniors on fixed incomes and struggling small businesses, were never meant to fund income distribution on such a scale that is needed in light of today’s provincial system failures.

[Insert paragraph with local homelessness numbers, such as By Name Lists, Point in Time counts, and increases in municipal expenditures]. [MUNICIPALITY] has made progress, but we can’t do it alone.

The report estimates that an additional investment of $11 billion over 10 years to boost the supply of supportive, transitional and community housing and increase prevention programs could end chronic homelessness in Ontario. An additional estimated $2 billion over eight years with most investments front-loaded in the first three years would largely solve the challenge of homeless encampments. Recent provincial investments to address encampments are a drop in the bucket – representing a one year 2% increase to annual shelter costs and a 3% increase to affordable housing expenditures.

[MUNICIPALITY] joins AMO in calling on Premier Ford to take significant, long-term action on affordable housing, mental health and addictions services, and income supports to fix homelessness to improve communities’ economic foundations and quality of life.

INSERT: supportive quote from MAYOR/REEVE/Chair/Warden.

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***Quote from AMO President Robin Jones:***

“The scope and scale of homelessness across Ontario’s municipalities is truly unprecedented. Without real and meaningful provincial action, the quality of life and economic prosperity of Ontario’s communities is at risk. This is a solvable problem, but we need to work together.”

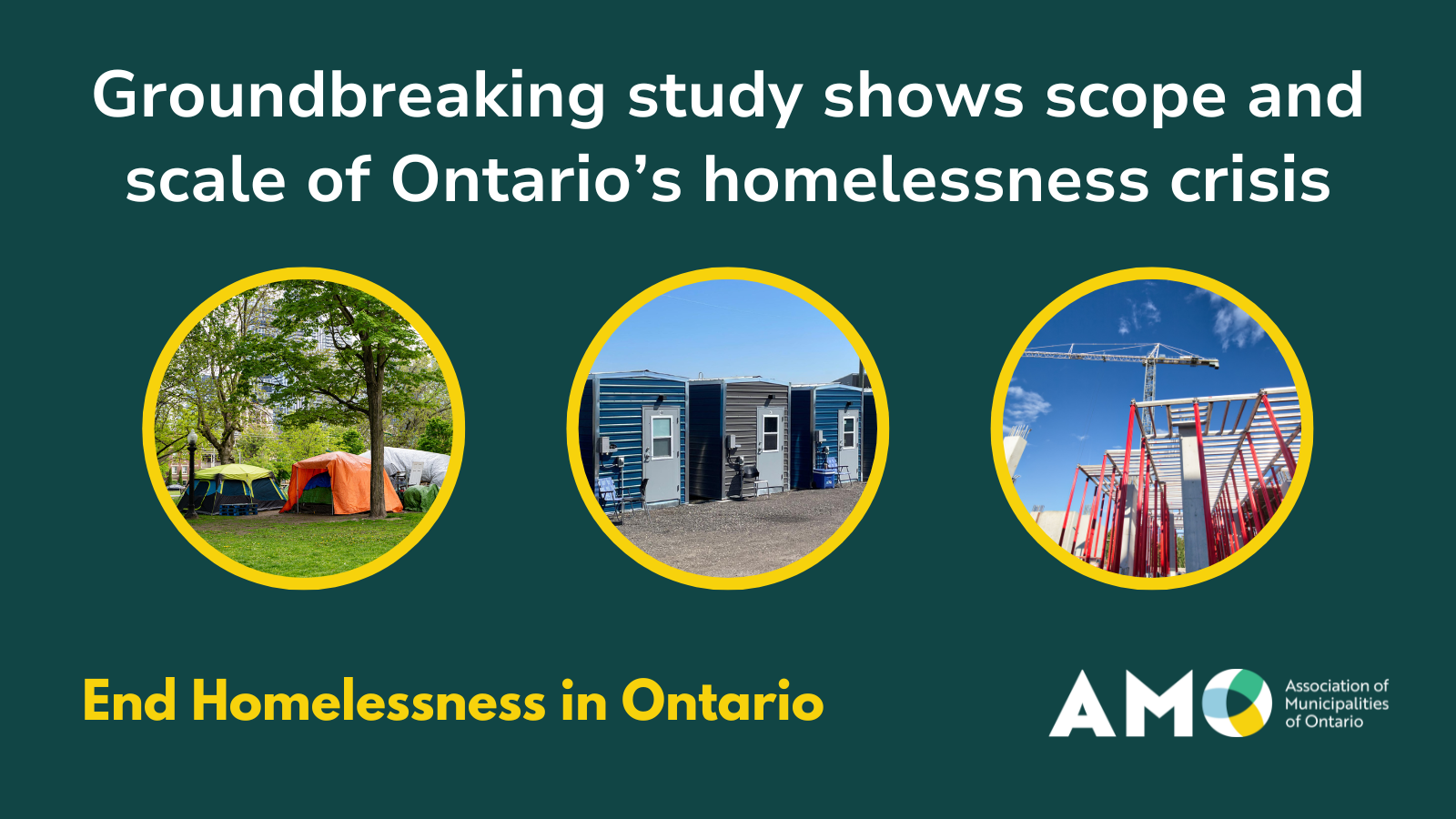
### REPORT SUMMARY

A two-page Summary document is attached as a separate PDF. This can be shared with local media, elected officials and stakeholders.

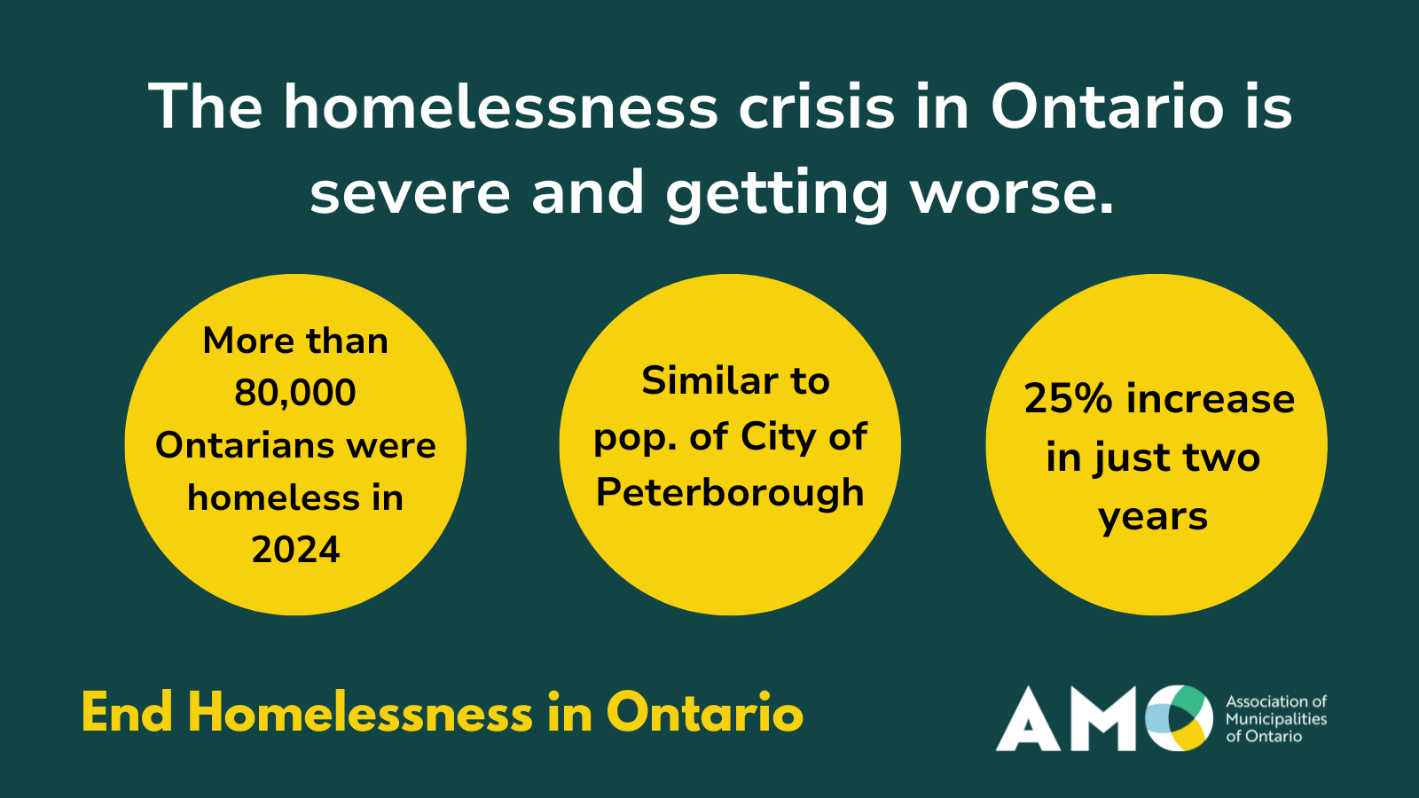
### SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

AMO and partners have launched a groundbreaking study of Ontario’s #homelessness crisis and how to solve it.

Read more: (link to website page)



Ontario is at a tipping point in its #homelessness crisis. Now is the time for collective action.



In rural communities, homelessness has grown by more than 150% since 2016, compared to an average of about 50% across all communities. In Northern Ontario, homelessness has risen by an estimated 204% since 2016, 4x faster than in southern Ontario.

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Without additional action, #homelessness in Ontario will continue to grow - double over the next 10 years up to almost 300,000 people if there is an economic downturn. The scale and scope of homelessness described in this report should be unacceptable in Ontario.

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Long-term solutions include an additional $11B over 10 years could end chronic homelessness by boosting supply of affordable housing, improving transitional/supportive services, and enhancing prevention programs. Additionally, around $2B over 8 years would largely address encampments.

