

Communication Update

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

Date: August 14, 2026

Subject/Report No.: Unsheltered Homelessness and Encampments Initiative Funding

Ward(s) Affected: All

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Summary

This Communication Update provides Council with an update on the funding awarded by the Government of Canada to the City of Hamilton through the Unsheltered Homelessness and Encampment Initiative (UHEI).

Background

The Government of Canada has extended the Unsheltered Homelessness and Encampments Initiative (UHEI) for an additional year, with approximately \$2.7 million in funding allocated to Hamilton for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

Details

UHEI funding supports community responses to unsheltered homelessness and encampments through locally developed Community Encampment Response Plans. In Hamilton, previous UHEI funding has supported the City's broader shelter and encampment response, including temporary emergency shelter expansion, the Temporary Barton Tiffany Shelter and Indigenous-led programs and supports.

Staff are now working with the federal government to update Hamilton's Community Encampment Response Plan and finalize a new contribution agreement for 2026-27. The additional funding will help offset eligible municipal costs associated with Hamilton's shelter and encampment response while continuing to support Indigenous-led initiatives focused on people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Next Steps

This positive funding update has been shared with Council in advance of a formal report coming forward. A report will be brought forward to General Issues Committee in September seeking Council authority to receive the funding and enter into the required agreement with the federal government.

Appendices and Schedules Attached

N/A