

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF OTTAWA

Bishop's Panel on Housing Justice

Municipal Elections in Ontario • October 26, 2026

Homelessness in the Anglican Diocese has reached record highs, driven by rapid population growth, inflation and a severe shortage of affordable housing.

Facts to know:

- **Over 3,000 people are homeless in Ottawa** on any given night, including over **1200 children** living with their families in emergency shelters or temporary motels. Hundreds are living unsheltered or in encampments.
- Homelessness is also a problem in **rural areas of Ontario**, where it **jumped 30% between 2024 and 2025**.
- Approximately **16,000 people** are on Ottawa's centralized waiting list for affordable housing.
- **Indigenous people** make up a disproportionately high percentage of the homeless population.

What can municipal councils do:

- Ensure affordable housing and homelessness are municipal priorities, supported by appropriate levels of funding.
- Advocate for increased housing funding from provincial and federal governments and fast track more deeply affordable and supportive housing.
- Create bylaws to reduce evictions resulting from renovations and demolitions.
- Create an acquisition strategy to assist non-profit housing groups to purchase existing buildings that can be converted to affordable rental housing.

What you can ask your municipal candidates:

- Will you make ending homelessness and building more affordable housing a priority if you are elected?
- Will you advocate to prevent the loss of affordable rental housing and essential community supports for homeless people, and the creation of new housing for the most vulnerable?
- Will you advocate for an increase to municipal funding for affordable housing even if it means an increase in property taxes?



Urgent Centre 454 Advocacy Need!

 An Anglican
Community Ministry

Belong Ottawa's Centre 454, a Community Ministry of our Diocese, is facing a January 2027 relocation deadline.

For more than 70 years, Centre 454 has been a place of welcome for people experiencing homelessness and poverty, and a vital doorway to support, including housing and community connection.

We are asking the City of Ottawa for an extension to this timeline to ensure this essential ministry can continue without interruption and to allow for meaningful planning for its future.

What you can do:



Add your voice to the letter asking the Mayor and City Councillors to extend the transition timeline.



If you live outside Ottawa, please share the letter with your Ottawa networks and consider writing directly to the Mayor and City Councillors.



Take the opportunity to speak to candidates in your area about the need to support the funding of community-based services like Centre 454 for the most vulnerable people among us.

**Centre 454
Advocacy Campaign**



**Contact the Mayor
and City Councillors:**

