

## City Council

### Motion without Notice

MM32.52	ACTION			Ward: All
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**Request the Federal Government to Restore 100 Percent of the Funding to Shelter and Support Refugee Claimants - by Councillor Alejandra Bravo, seconded by Councillor Lily Cheng**

*\* This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

*\* This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

### Recommendations

Councillor Alejandra Bravo, seconded by Councillor Lily Cheng, recommends that:

1. City Council reiterate its previous requests for the Federal Government to:
  - a. reverse the decision to wind-down the Interim Housing Assistance Program and continue providing support for municipalities for 100 percent of the cost of providing shelter for refugee claimants, and
  - b. establish a coordinated national system for responding to arrivals of refugee claimants.

### Summary

Since 2017, the federal government has spent \$1.1 billion housing asylum claimants in hotels and provided an additional \$1.5 billion to provinces and cities through the Interim Housing Assistance Program. While these supports have helped relieve pressures in the City's shelter system, there is an ongoing, pressing need for the federal leadership to develop a coordinated national response to refugee claimant arrivals.

A recent briefing paper from the Federal Government said: "While the provision of housing and supports to asylum claimants falls under provincial/territorial (PT)/municipal responsibility, as an emergency response, the federal government began to backstop overwhelmed shelters by directly running hotels in 2017."

This is a concerning perspective in light of the planned scale-back of federal support for municipalities to provide services and shelters for asylum claimants.

This is a national issue and needs both a national plan and ongoing funding to support asylum claimants in Canada.

Given the Federal government's delay in responding to the City's Interim Housing Assistance Program funding application, alongside recent comments in the media, this motion urgently

requests commitment from the Federal government to continue supporting Toronto's refugee response.

### **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM32.52

(<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2025/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-257670.pdf>)