

Rescind Bill 6! Rally Across Ontario

Backgrounder on Key Messaging

Location: Multiple (across Ontario)

Date/Time: Thursday, May 29th at noon (approximately)

Link to Register Your Rally: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1B2Jul-bDKFdLQMlyHvEpaasUM9P2z53mqAS5M61GMrk/edit?usp=sharing>

Targets: MPP Offices (if they are PC Party MPPs); City Hall (if your MPP is NDP/Green/Liberal)

Key Messaging:

- Homelessness is not a crime
 - Yet, Bill 6 punishes people who are homeless with jail time, a \$10,000 fine, or both
 - This is instead of giving people living in encampments what they actually need: affordable and supportive housing
- More Ontarians will become homeless
 - A recession, fueled by American tariffs, is imminent, and people will lose their jobs and their housing
 - Ontario should be protecting and expanding access to affordable housing — not punishing people by violating their rights
- Evicting encampments is a violation of people's rights
 - The courts have already clarified that an encampment cannot be evicted in the absence of adequate shelter
 - Bill 6 also targets people who use drugs on the basis of their housing status
 - With supervised consumption sites shut down, Bill 6 is now making it illegal for people to use drugs in public, even though they have nowhere else to go
- Housing is the only solution to homelessness
 - Instead of adopting American policies to punish homeless people, Ontario should learn from Manitoba, who are housing encampment residents
 - Housing people is human rights-compliant, healthier, safer, and less costly to the public
 - This approach is supported by the majority of Ontario municipalities, and is supported by the Ontario NDP, Liberal Party, and Green Party
- IF YOU ARE RALLYING OUTSIDE OF YOUR CITY HALL (Not an MPP Office)
 - Your messaging should emphasize that you are rallying to help get your City Council the resources it needs from the provincial government to address encampments

Resources:

Text of Bill 6: <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-44/session-1/bill-6>

Encampment Justice Coalition (EJC) Letter to Premier Ford:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GUrFV9pq6aCNcelMViZr2fpeHH7T_8lHYRfoHb_eomo/edit?usp=sharing

Link to EJC Petition:
<https://win.newmode.net/encampmentjusticecoalition/telldougfordrescindbill6andprotectontarians>

EJC Logos: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1k7ftu9xUO9a1qg0wZ7T7u14PRzR5vpiP/view?usp=sharing>