



HAVE YOU BEEN UNABLE TO ACCESS A SHELTER BED OR EXPERIENCED OVERCROWDED AND UNSAFE CONDITIONS?

The Ontario Coalition Against Poverty (OCAP) has been challenging the overcrowded conditions in Toronto's shelter system. After months of community action, we were able to win a commitment from the City that shelters 'will not go above 90% capacity' and they have said they are 'looking in to opening a new space'. But in the mean-time, this has meant that they are putting down 'flex beds' in crowded shelters instead of opening up new facilities immediately. In most cases these 'flex beds' are not permanent beds but just mats on the floor in the common room. Not only is this making conditions worse, but we've also heard people are still being turned away!

- **If you have had trouble finding a bed, have been turned away from a shelter, have had experience with the 'flex beds', or have had to put up with unsafe, stressful or overcrowded conditions - we want to hear from you!**
- **If you have been staying outside but have experienced harassment from police or city officials – let us know!**
- **If you are a staff at a shelter or agency in the city and have had trouble finding someone a bed or have experienced the overcrowded conditions – we want to hear from you too!**

We need your help to force the City to provide enough shelter space to ensure people have their right to safety and dignity respected.

Give us a call at [**\(416\) 925-6939**](tel:416-925-6939) or e mail us at [**ocap@tao.ca**](mailto:ocap@tao.ca)

