

# Alliance to End Homelessness

REPORT CARD ON ENDING HOMELESSNESS IN OTTAWA JAN TO DEC 2012



## Ottawans have 886 good reasons to boast

### New Affordable Housing given 'A'

In 2012, the City of Ottawa and local non-profit service and housing providers went above and beyond in their efforts to get homeless people into housing.

There were 139 new affordable units created in the community. An additional 747 households were helped with rent, the majority through the city.

### More positive news

- ✓ **The number of homeless people was relatively unchanged in 2012.** The number of homeless single people may be stabilizing.
- ✓ **The number of single women** in emergency shelter was reduced as new housing options became available.
- ✓ **There were noticeable decreases** in the length of stay for single men and women.
- ✓ **New health dollars supported homeless youth** with addictions and mental health issues.

### ATEH targets work together to make big changes happen

There is a cost to not doing anything more than at present. The level of homelessness will get worse and the money being spent will not achieve a lasting impact. **Where could Ottawa be in 10 years?**

2,000 people over a year stay in emergency shelter / Average stays of 30 days in emergency shelter / 10,000 new units added the affordable housing supply, only 4,000 households on the social housing waiting list / Single Ottawans with a low income spend 30% of their income on rent and have sufficient funds to pay for other basic needs like food and transit.

**TARGET**  
(ATEH:  
ANNUAL)

Indicators of  
Homelessness  
(ATEH)

2012

GRADE

### NEW AFFORDABLE UNITS

886

**A**

1000 added

- Newly created units 139
- Additional households helped with rent 747

Movement towards 30% of income for rent

### HOUSING IS AFFORDABLE

% of income needed to rent a bachelor apt.

**F**

- Minimum Wage 46% ↑
- Ontario Works 124% ↑
- Ontario Disability Support Program 70% ↑

### HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS & FAMILY MEMBERS

7,308

**C**

500 fewer people

- Families 858 ↑
- Children 1,531 ↑
- Adults 1,125 ↓
- Youth 381 ↓
- Single Women 1,097 ↓
- Single Men 3,296 ↑

### AVERAGE TIME IN SHELTER (days)

68

**C**

3 days less

- Families 88 ↑
- Youth 38 —
- Single Women 49 ↓
- Single Men 59 ↓

## We can't do it alone!

**Federal and Provincial Governments slow down an end to homelessness**

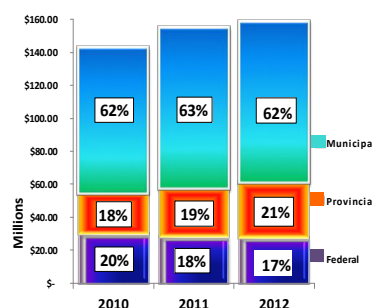
The federal government is not increasing its contribution to affordable housing. The province moves too slowly on poverty reduction. Communities and municipal governments are left with too little support to end homelessness. *That is what lies behind the 'F' for housing affordability.*

### This is why homelessness for families continued to worsen.

Families required shelter for an average of 88 days, 6 days longer than in 2011. With sufficient support from the federal and provincial governments, the Alliance to End Homelessness Ottawa calculates that this community could reduce the number of homeless people to 2,000 in 10 years.

*(The 2,000 reflects emergencies like fire, family breakdown, illness, etc. that displace some people temporarily each year.)*

### HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS FUNDING IN CITY OF OTTAWA



### 2012 SPENDING

FEDERAL	\$27.2 million
PROVINCIAL	\$33.7 million
CITY OF OTTAWA	\$158.6 million

**9-YEAR TRENDS – the numbers behind the grades – Pages 8 & 9**

Download the full Report Card in English or French at [www.endhomelessnessottawa.ca](http://www.endhomelessnessottawa.ca)

2012

# Recommendations

## Flowing from ATEH data

1.

**Federal and provincial governments need to increase their efforts to help this community to build sufficient affordable rental housing, and to improve low incomes to the point where they can cover rent and other basics of life in a person's own community.**

2.

**Federal and provincial governments need to act to make sure Ottawa's homeless families stay no more than 30 days in emergency shelter.**

**Most of the factors that increase the risk of homelessness are not within the purview of the municipality or the community, e.g. the lack of affordable housing, the level of social supports, etc.**

**As a result, the municipal government and the non-profit sector are left to cope with the situation by providing services to homeless individuals and families, however many there are, trying to keep people fed, housed and as healthy as possible.**

**The two higher levels of government must make the level of investment that would reduce the level of homelessness (which would pay off in lower cost of services, improved economy) rather than leave it to the community to deal with the crisis.**

## Report Card Data Sources

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation  
City of Ottawa  
Province of Ontario  
Social Housing Registry of Ottawa  
Statistics Canada  
Supportive Housing Network of Ottawa

## THE ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS OTTAWA (ATEH)

As a non-profit, non-partisan organization, ATEH produces its annual Report Card to track the progress of the Ottawa community in ending homelessness.

### MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS OF ATEH

Action-Logement / Action-Housing  
Bruce House  
Canadian Mental Health Association – Ottawa Centre 454  
Centre 507 Drop-In  
Centre des services communautaires/Vanier  
Community Service Centre  
Centre for Research on Educational and Community Services, University of Ottawa  
Centretown Community Health Centre  
City of Ottawa, Housing Services Branch  
Community Legal Services Ottawa Centre  
Cooperative Housing Assoc. of Eastern Ontario  
Cornerstone Housing for Women/Le Pilier  
Daybreak Non-Profit Shelter  
Housing Help  
John Howard Society of Ottawa  
Minwaashin Lodge/Oshki Kizis Healing Lodge  
Montfort Renaissance Inc.  
Multifaith Housing Initiative  
Nepean Housing Corporation  
Nepean, Rideau, Osgoode Community Resource Ctr  
Operation Come Home  
Options Bytown Non-Profit Housing Corporation  
Ottawa Withdrawal Management Centre  
Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization  
Ottawa Inner City Health Inc.  
Ottawa Inner City Ministries  
Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Centre  
Ottawa Salus Corporation  
Pinecrest-Queensway Community Health Centre  
Royal Ottawa Health Care Group  
Sandy Hill Community Health Centre  
Shepherds of Good Hope  
Somerset West Community Health Centre  
South-East Ottawa Community Health Centre  
St. Joe's Women's Centre  
St. Luke's Lunch Club  
The Ottawa Mission  
The Salvation Army Ottawa Booth Centre  
The Well/La Source  
Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health  
Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre  
YMCA-YWCA, National Capital Region  
Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa

## IN THE 2012 REPORT CARD

### Page

1. 2012 GRADES
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5. Province of Ontario policies can do more
6. City's 14M improves lives of 2,000+ households
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10. At Home/Chez Soi Research
11. SHARP-E research and Housing needs study
16. Featured on back page:

**#raiseyourvoicecanada**

## SPECIAL Section

### Aboriginal Peoples and Homelessness in Ottawa

#### Pages

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14. -Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health
15. Housing  
-Aboriginal Youth Non-Profit Housing/Tewegan  
-Oshki Kizis Lodge  
-Gignul Non-Profit Housing  
-Minwaashin Lodge

## ATEH Awards at 2012 AGM

Left to right: Connie Woloschuk, Honourary Board Member; Terrie Meehan, Lifetime Membership; Marion Wright, 2011/12 Chair; Paddy Fuller, Lifetime Membership; Tim Aubry, Honourary Board Member; Lynne Browne, Executive Director; and Dan Sabourin, 2012/13 Chair.



ATEH campaign to bring our community together to share stories of success and personal achievement in fighting homelessness.



askmeottawa.ca



## Homelessness Partnering Strategy

A federally-funded powerhouse in the Ottawa community

HPS has made a big difference in the Ottawa community's efforts to assist homeless individuals and families and those at risk of homelessness.

Regrettably, the annual amount of HPS funding for Canada over 2014-2019 has been reduced by \$16 million.

**Unfortunately too, the pace of building new affordable housing is too slow.**

→ **7,308 individuals and family members used shelters in Ottawa in 2012.**

→ **Only 139 newly-built affordable housing units.** The other 747 of the 886 were assistance with paying rents.

**The Ottawa community needs a much greater federal investment in creating new affordable housing. Federal spending on housing and homelessness in Ottawa is 3% lower in 2012 than in 2010.**

2010 \$29,314,000

2011 \$27,667,000

2012 \$27,213,905

### Canada needs a comprehensive National Housing Strategy

It is the best way to bring together all orders of government and a diversity of Canadians and their organizations. Canada has ratified a number of international human rights documents, which not only recognize the right to housing, but also create an obligation on Government to take necessary action to realize those rights.

### 426 HPS project contributions

**\$67,565,436 million invested by HPS in the Ottawa community 1999-2013**

**The Homelessness Partnering Strategy in Ottawa has helped homeless and at risk individuals and families since federal homelessness funding was announced in 1999. It is an essential component of Ottawa's achievements.**

Federal funds assisted Ottawa to deliver help to a cross-section of Ottawa's most vulnerable residents, families and individuals with a low income, youth, Aboriginal peoples, victims of violence, seniors, refugees and people with physical or mental health disabilities.

- ✓ Developed new supportive housing
- ✓ Enabled small and large renovations for homelessness services
- ✓ Helped people find and stabilize in housing, and preventing housing loss
- ✓ Provided health, outreach and support services, and
- ✓ Coordinated services in Ottawa to reduce homelessness.

### Capital project funds in Ottawa over 1999-2013 meant

**202 shelter/transitional units were constructed, and 225 permanent supportive housing units were constructed, including:**

- ✓ 12 shelter beds and 18 transitional units for the young men's shelter and
- ✓ 12 shelter beds and 18 transitional units for the young women's shelter, both at **Youth Services Bureau**
- ✓ 40 supportive units for adults with severe mental health issues at **Ottawa Salus**
- ✓ 42 units of supportive housing for 20 senior and 22 adult chronically homeless women at **Cornerstone Housing for Women**
- ✓ 12 transitional units at **Daybreak Non-Profit Shelter** (Ecumenical)
- ✓ 85 supportive units for adults and youth transitioning from the justice system at the **John Howard Society**
- ✓ 26 hospice beds constructed at the Ottawa Mission
- ✓ 3 supportive units built by **Nepean Non-Profit Housing Corporation**
- ✓ 10 residential treatment units at **Tungasuvvingat Inuit Healing Centre**

**In 2012, 7,063 households were directly assisted by HPS, up from 6,879 in 2011!**

**Community members can urge the Federal Government to help communities build more affordable rental housing!** Find all MPs at [Members of Parliament Canada](http://MembersofParliamentCanada)

@PierrePoilievre	NEPEAN-CARLETON	pierre.poilievre@parl.gc.ca
@PaulDewar	OTTAWA CENTRE	paul.dewar@parl.gc.ca
@DavidMcGuinty	OTTAWA SOUTH	david.mcguinty@parl.gc.ca
@HonJohnBaird	OTTAWA WEST-NEPEAN	john.baird@parl.gc.ca
@GalipeauOrleans	OTTAWA-ORLÉANS	royal.galipeau@parl.gc.ca
Email Mauril Bélanger	OTTAWA VANIER	mauril.belanger@parl.gc.ca

## RECENT GOVERNMENT ACTIONS

### The Province made it more difficult to reduce homelessness in Ottawa

#### INCOME

**Ontario** eliminated the **Community Start-up and Maintenance Benefit** as of January 1, 2013. It helped people on assistance to move to a safer or more secure place or pay rent or utility arrears so they would not lose their housing. When it ended, only half of the money that communities had used in providing the benefit was retained to address social needs.



**Ontario** mandated municipalities to help more people with less overall funding. When the province consolidated funds for housing and homelessness into the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative, the qualifying group was expanded to include people receiving supports and others who are also struggling by with a low income.

**Ontario** put a ceiling on funds for emergency shelter in the consolidated funding. Now local communities and municipal governments are on their own to deal with additional needs for emergency shelter.

**Ontario** made financial difficulties worse for people on Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Benefits. The 1% benefit increase for 2013 fell well below the 2.5% rent increase allowed to landlords.

#### HOUSING

#### Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing cut \$24.5 million cut from affordable housing

In 2010	\$620,222,226	
2011/2012	\$610,343,500	↓
2012/2013	\$595,490,400	↓

Construction contributes 6%, manufacturing 13%, and the non-profit sector 7% to Ontario's GDP. Given the slowdown in the home buying market, these three sectors give a sense of how building affordable housing is a good opportunity for economic growth in the province.



#### A growth program linking jobs with building new affordable rental housing would help the economy.

It would maintain and increase jobs across the building sector while increasing affordable housing stock for people on a low income. It is time for Ontario to move beyond limiting its own efforts to the federal/provincial *Investment in Affordable Housing* program.

#### How community members can help:

##### Urge the Ontario Government to help communities build more affordable rental housing!

Find all MPPs for Ontario at [Members of the Provincial Parliament](#).

**@Yasir\_Naqvi** Ottawa Centre MPP, Liberal, Ontario Minister of Labour – [ynaqvi.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:ynaqvi.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)

**@Dalton\_McGuinty** Ottawa South MPP, Liberal – [dmcguinty.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:dmcguinty.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)

**@Bob\_Chiairelli** Ottawa West-Nepean MPP, Liberal, Ontario Minister of Energy – [bchiarelli.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:bchiarelli.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)

**@Phil\_McNeely** Ottawa-Orléans MPP, Liberal, Parl. Assistant, Minister of the Environment – [pmcneely.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:pmcneely.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)

**@m\_meilleur** (Madeleine) Ottawa-Vanier MPP, Liberal, Minister of Francophone Affairs & Community Safety and Correctional Services – [mmeilleur.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:mmeilleur.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)

**Email Lisa Macleod** Nepean-Carleton MPP, Progressive Conservative, Education Critic – [lisa.macleod@pc.ola.org](mailto:lisa.macleod@pc.ola.org)

#### EMAIL, TWEET



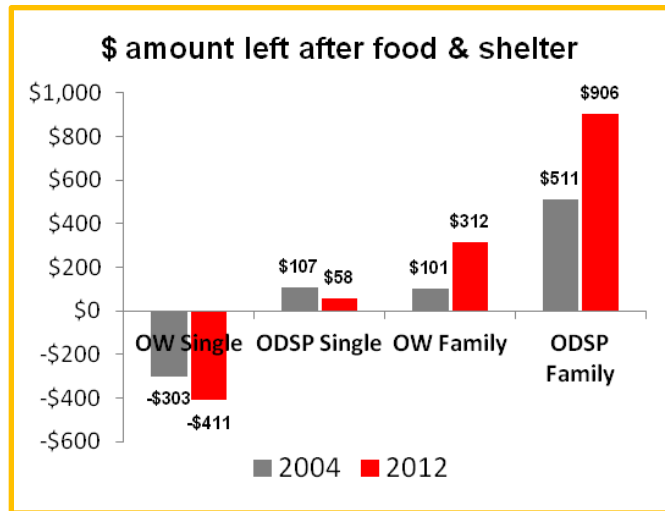
# Ontario Government policies could help this community end homelessness

## Income support changes are long-overdue

Income support rates have been kept far below the poverty level in Ontario communities for decades. The Ottawa community needs the Ontario Government to make two immediate changes in Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

1. **Provide an immediate increase to assistance rates to reflect the real cost of housing, utilities and food in Ontario communities.**
2. **Immediately allow people who find part-time work while on assistance to keep more of their earnings.** It can only be good for families, communities, and the provincial government when people are able to improve their living standards.

The Income Security Advocacy Centre reported in 2008: total incomes for families on OW were more than 30% below the low income cut-off, singles on OW were 40% below and singles on ODSP were 31% below.



Sources: Incomesecurity.org; National Council of Welfare, MCSS, Statistics Canada. Note that the family rates are re-constructed to reflect changes in provincial and federal child allowances, the off sets and the taxation limits.

## Provincial ACTION is necessary to help renters

**Ottawa's Market Rent for Apartments went up in 2012:**

**3.7% for a Bachelor, 1.9% for 1-Bedroom, 2.7% for 2-Bedroom, 4% for 3-Bedroom**

**Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program benefits went up by just 1 %**

### What the Ottawa community needs is:

- Regulations to limit market rent increases on vacant apartments.
  - Programs to mandate the preservation of existing, and building of new, non-profit and other good quality affordable rental housing.
  - Policies to mandate inclusionary housing programs in municipalities. Then the City of Ottawa can develop regulations and an approval process to have private developers provide a portion of the housing within their new projects as affordable housing.
- **Action to increase spending on affordable rental housing!** The non-profit and co-op sectors will undertake rental housing projects if the province provides assistance, and as they have in the past they will work with Ottawa's construction industry to make it happen. The private development industry has shown no interest in building affordable rental accommodation.

# The \$14 M Housing and Homelessness Investment Plan - 2012 updates

The lives of over 2,000 households improved through key City Of Ottawa partnerships

*Targets exceeded again in 2012*

## Homelessness Prevention

- ✓ **265 households** granted ODSP benefits, approx. \$1.3M in increased income for social assistance recipients.
- ✓ **240 low income households** benefitted from emergency assistance for heat and hydro arrears to remain housed.
- ✓ **329 youth from low income families** participated in programs that included leadership development, paid employment; training, and post-secondary mentorship.



### Youth voices from Youth Futures Program

*"Helped me achieve my goals, increase my experiences, and learn new things"*

*"Life changing, wouldn't trade it for anything"*

*"Best program ever, best training, employment changed our lives"*

## Safe and Affordable Housing

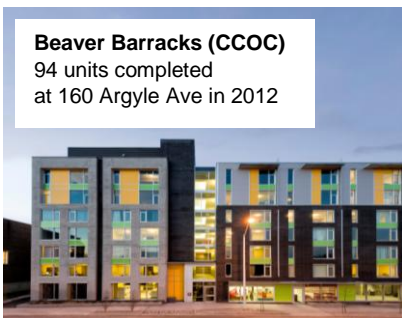
- ✓ **28 new affordable housing units** under construction in 2012, including four bedroom barrier free units.
- ✓ **613 households received assistance with rent through the City**, 490 households received rent supplements and 123 households received a housing allowance. *(In addition to the City's \$14 M, another 134 households were helped with rent through provincial funding at OASIS and CMHA.)*
- ✓ **\$3.6M was allocated to repair projects at 54 social housing providers**



## Housing and Homeless Supports

- ✓ **731 homeless individuals supported**, including single people and families under programs such as Housing First; Families First; Try Program; and intensive supports for chronically homeless single men and women, such as those at Cornerstone Housing for Women.

**Beaver Barracks (CCOC)**  
94 units completed  
at 160 Argyle Ave in 2012



## Other City Initiatives in Affordable Housing

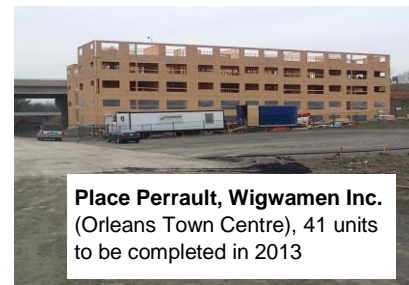
**Completed in 2012**

### **139 Affordable Housing Units**

- ✓ **94 units** completed at Beaver Barracks built by Centretown Citizens Ottawa Corporation (CCOC)
- ✓ **45 units** completed in the Affordable Housing Project built by **Soins Continus Bruyère Continuing Care Inc.**

### **Coming up in 2013**

- 231 units planned or under construction (including 43 supportive housing units)
- Over 100 units to be approved in 2013 from \$12M City administered funding (includes \$4M from Council's Investment.)



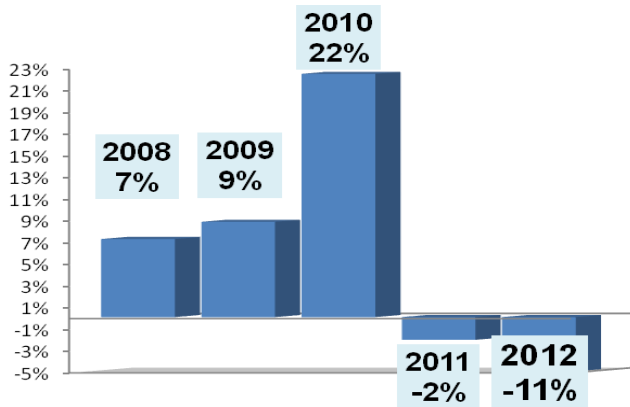
## What does exceeding the \$14M targets mean for the vulnerable population in Ottawa?

YEAR	HOUSEHOLDS
2012	<b>9,717</b>
2011	9,977
2010	10,502

**DECREASE**  
in the number of  
households on the Social  
Housing Waiting List

### All Clients, Nightly Average Occupancy % Change January versus December

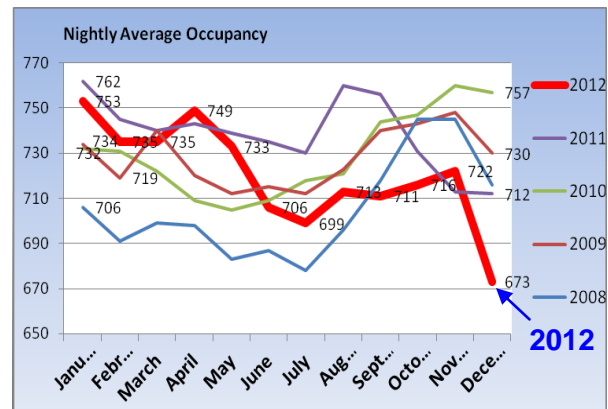
- ✓ The average number of bed nights used in shelters comparing January versus December in 2012 was reduced by 11%



- ✓ In 2012, a decrease of 260 households on Ottawa's Centralized Waiting List for Social Housing
- ✓ *The second consecutive year with a decrease!*

### All Singles, Monthly 2008-2012 Nightly Average Occupancy

- ✓ In 2012, single clients in shelters stayed 11,621 fewer nights than in 2011



### More news at the City of Ottawa:

#### “Ontario Renovates”, a new two year program, approved in 2012, launching April 2013

The Ontario Renovates Program, administered by the City of Ottawa's Housing Services Branch, provides set funding to low income seniors who own their home and to persons with disabilities for necessary home repairs and accessibility modifications to support independent living. The program is also available to qualifying landlords to modify their existing units or buildings to make them more accessible for tenants who are seniors or persons with disabilities.

**A total of \$2.4M is available** and is expected to assist up to 200 households. Applications will be accepted as of **April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013** by City's Housing Services Branch. Application information: <http://ottawa.ca/en/ontario-renovates-program> or one of the City's [Community & Social Support Centres](#) or [Client Service Centres](#). More information: call or email the City: 613-580-2424 ext 12300; [Ontariorenovates@ottawa.ca](mailto:Ontariorenovates@ottawa.ca) or [RenovationsOntario@ottawa.ca](mailto:RenovationsOntario@ottawa.ca)

#### Near completion – a Ten Year Plan for Ottawa's Housing System

The City of Ottawa and its partners embarked on a strategic process to develop Ottawa's 10 Year Housing System Plan based on community needs and consultations to be linked to City plans. The process provides an opportunity to take stock of the current conditions and needs that are unique to Ottawa, and to define actions to respond to housing needs and homelessness. It is recognized that no one organization can address homelessness alone, therefore a coordinated approach is key in a ten-year plan. To date, stakeholders have identified the following three priorities:

- A **System Priority** to engage with stakeholders and build on the system's collective strengths.
- An **Infrastructure Priority** to commit to an adequate supply of affordable and appropriate housing.
- A **Supports Priority** to ensure access to supports that will contribute to housing stability, and respond to the needs of people who become homeless, with a commitment to ending homelessness.

Drafting the plan involves extensive and broad consultations with housing partners, people with lived experience and community members; this started in 2012 and continues in 2013. **The plan will be finalized by City Council in the fall of 2013.**

## WAS THE # OF SHELTER USERS REDUCED?

2012 TARGET: 500 FEWER	2011	2012	Diff.
TOTAL # OF INDIVIDUALS & FAMILY MEMBERS <sup>1</sup>	7,243	<b>7,308</b>	+ 65
# TIMES SHELTER BEDS WERE USED	491,773	<b>498,727</b>	+ 6,954
TOTAL NUMBER IN DIFFERENT SUBGROUPS <sup>2</sup>			
Single Men	3,236	<b>3,296</b>	+ 60
Single Women	1,125	<b>1,097</b>	- 28
Youth	413	<b>381</b>	- 32
Families	840	<b>858</b>	+ 18
Children	1,499	<b>1,531</b>	+ 32
Adults in Families	1,136	<b>1,125</b>	- 11

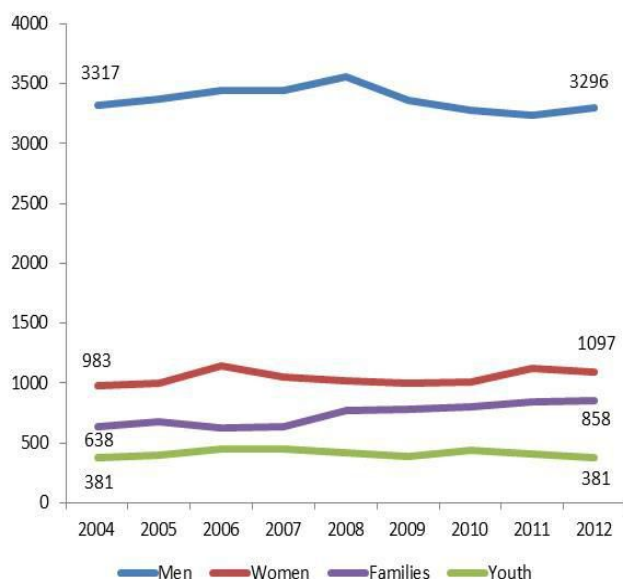
<sup>1</sup> Total number of different individuals using shelters.

<sup>2</sup> The sum total of people in the sub groups is different from the total of unique people by 122 due to occasional changes in age or family status over the course of the year. Children here are dependents 18 & under.

## WERE SHELTER STAYS SHORTER?

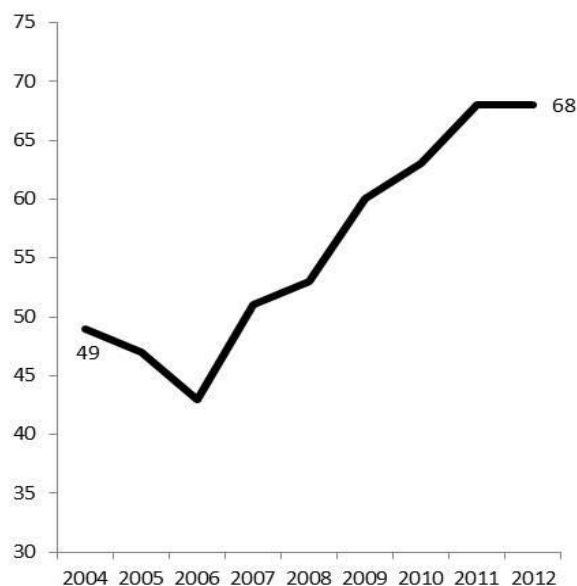
2012 TARGET: 3 DAYS LESS	2011	2012	Diff.
AVERAGE STAY (days)	68	<b>68</b>	No change
AVERAGE STAYS IN DEMOGRAPHIC SUBGROUPS			
Single Men	61	<b>59</b>	2 days shorter
Single Women	55	<b>49</b>	6 days shorter
Youth	38	<b>38</b>	No change
Families	82	<b>88</b>	6 days longer

### Shelter Usage by Subgroup Type Ottawa 2004-2012 9-YEAR TREND



Numbers within the graph are the 2004 and the 2012 totals for each group. The chart tracks family units not the total number of children and adults in those family units.

### Average Stay in Days For Homeless Individuals and Families 9-YEAR TREND





### AMOUNT OF NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING

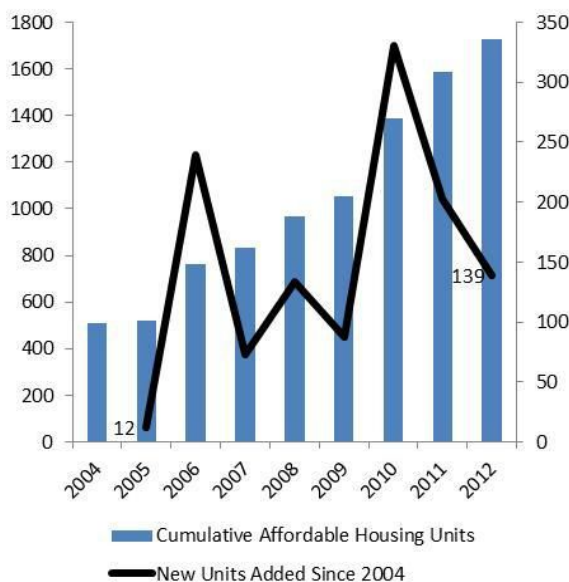
2012 TARGET: 1000 NEW UNITS	2011	2012	Diff.
<b>TOTAL OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS COMPLETED</b> built under the Action Ottawa program (does not include social housing and other older programs*)	1,589	<b>1,728</b>	+ 139
<b>RENT SUPPLEMENTS / HOUSING ALLOWANCES</b> City of Ottawa/CMHA/OASIS	3,923	<b>4,670</b>	+ 747
*Prior to 1995 there were 22,400 social housing units and rent supplements	<b>Total additions</b>		886
<b>SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PLACES</b>		<b>2,142*</b>	
<b>WAITING LIST FOR SOCIAL HOUSING</b> (households)	9,977	<b>9,717</b>	- 60
<b>RENTAL VACANCY RATE</b> (Housing Market Indicator)	1.4%	<b>2.5%</b>	N/A
<b>AVERAGE RENT</b> bachelor apartment (Housing Market Indicator)	\$727	<b>\$754</b>	+\$27

\* As the number of agencies reporting has changed the numbers may not be comparable with earlier years.

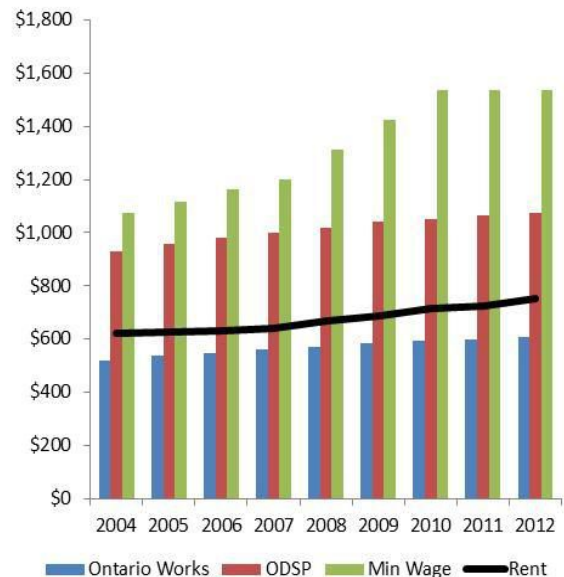
### IS HOUSING MORE AFFORDABLE?

2012 TARGET: CLOSER TO NO MORE THAN 30% OF LOW INCOME ON RENT	2011	2012	% OF INCOME NEEDED
Percent of income needed to cover 2012 average rent for bachelor apartment			
<b>MINIMUM WAGE</b> (hourly)	\$10.25	<b>\$10.25</b>	49%
<b>ONTARIO WORKS</b> for a Single person	\$599	<b>\$606 (+\$7)</b>	124%
<b>DISABILITY ASSISTANCE</b> for a Single Person (ODSP)	\$1064	<b>\$1075 (+\$11)</b>	70%
<b># OF ONTARIO WORKS CASES</b> (monthly average)	16,138	<b>16,367</b>	+ 229
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX INCREASE</b>	1.9%	.7%	N/A

### 1,219 New Affordable Housing Units Added, Ottawa 2004-2012 9-YEAR TREND

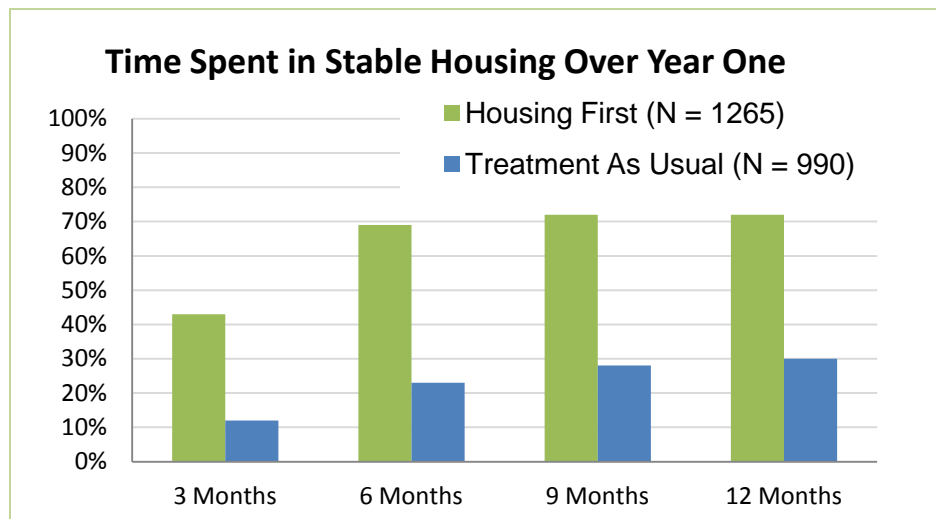


### Ontario Works, ODSP and Min. Wage Income Compared to Ottawa's Average Rents, 2004-2012 9-YEAR TREND



# At Home / Chez Soi – Early Findings

- Individuals receiving Housing First services through the At Home / Chez Soi project spent 73% of the first year in the study in stable housing.
- In comparison, individuals receiving treatment as usual spent less than a third (30%) of their time in the first year in stable housing.



- Housing First contributed to a significant reduction among participants in their use of expensive and inappropriate services (i.e., inpatient care, outpatient services, emergency rooms, police detentions).
- Participants receiving Housing First services used \$9,250 less of services in the community than participants receiving treatment as usual.
- Among high users (defined as having had a hospitalization for a period of two weeks or 6 emergency room visits in the 6 months prior to entry into the study), participants receiving Housing First services used \$26,215 less of services in the community. After subtracting the cost of the program, this represents an overall cost saving of \$9,390 per person.

	Annualized Costs: Total Sample (N = 2149)				Annualized Costs: High Service Users (N = 172)		
	Treatment As Usual	Housing First Group	Cost Differences		Treatment As Usual	Housing First Group	Cost Differences
Estimated Cost of Health Care, Justice and Social Services	\$23,849	\$14,599	\$(9,250)		\$56,431	\$30,261	\$(26,215)
Cost of Housing First Services	----	\$17,160	\$17,160			\$16,825	\$16,825
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$23,849</b>	<b>\$31,759</b>	<b>\$7,910</b>		<b>\$56,431</b>	<b>\$47,041</b>	<b>\$(9,390)</b>

*“...freedom to think about what I might want to do later on, next year maybe, maybe like go back to school and stuff like that ... So, the housing gives me ... the freedom to work on myself and to get my life back together.”*

At Home/ Chez Soi participant receiving Housing First services

## AT HOME/CHEZ SOI

A research demonstration project funded by Health Canada through the Mental Health Commission of Canada to evaluate the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of Housing First in five Canadian cities, namely Moncton, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, and Vancouver.

With a sample of over 2000 participants, it is the largest and most rigorous study of Housing First in the world.

Housing First starts with the recognition that the best, most humane, and cost-effective way to end homelessness among people with complex needs is to help them find and move into a clean, safe, quiet, independent apartment of their own. Once they have housing stability and housing confidence, people can begin to make changes in other areas of their lives.

The AT HOME/CHEZ SOI demonstration study is generating evidence that explains how service and housing components of Housing First work together to foster recovery, what works best for whom, and at what cost. It compares outcomes from Housing First and alternative approaches to solving homelessness in Canada, in terms of housing stability, health, employment, quality of life, and service use.

For more information on the study findings:

[www.mentalhealthcommission.ca](http://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca)

To hear from participants and service providers about their experiences in the study:

<http://athome.nfb.ca/#/athome>

# Supported Housing Addiction Recovery Program Evaluation

## Some Early Findings

- 38 men and 48 women are receiving Housing First
- 54 men and 36 women are receiving standard care
- 49% of clients reported harmful alcohol use
- 53% of clients reported drug use problems
- 78% of Housing First clients are housed at 6 months
- 94% of Housing First clients are housed at 12 months

The Supported Housing Addiction Recovery Program - Evaluation (SHARP-E) is a study of a Housing First program in Ottawa for people with addictions and mental health problems.

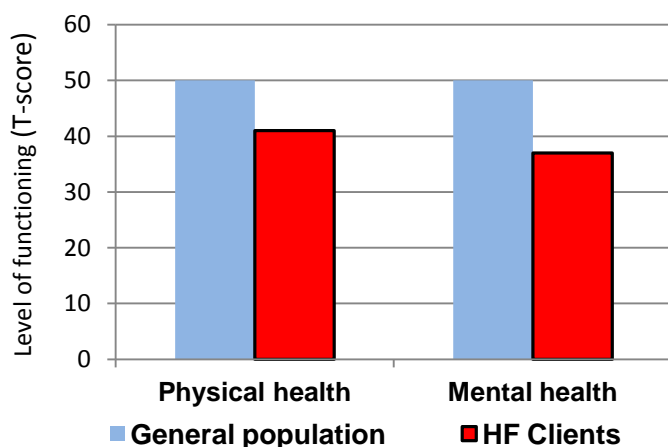
Clients receive subsidized housing and intensive case management.

The program is a collaboration between CMHA Ottawa and the Oasis Program (Sandy Hill Community Health Centre). The study is examining the same outcomes as the At Home / Chez Soi Demonstration Project.

The study, funded by CMHA Ottawa, is being conducted by researchers at the Centre for Research on Educational and Community Services at the University of Ottawa.

For information about the study contact: [crecs@uottawa.ca](mailto:crecs@uottawa.ca)

## Physical and Mental Health Functioning Reported by Housing First (HF) Clients at Study Entry (N = 86)



## Housing and Support Needs Preference

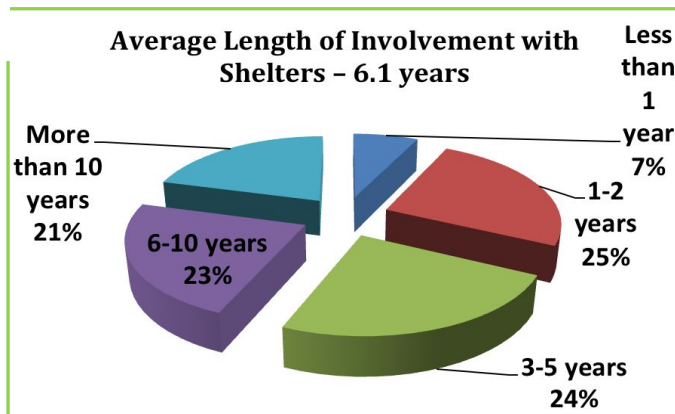
### Survey of Long-term Shelter Residents in Ottawa

*Presented at the 2012 Community Forum on Homelessness  
by Marion Wright & Natasha Poushinsky*

In 2012, 242 long-term residents of Ottawa adult shelters were surveyed to determine their housing preferences, previous housing histories, support needs and barriers that prevent successful housing.

### Key Findings

- Many are able and willing to leave the shelters. (add period)
- All are not the same. There are clusters of long-term individuals with differing service needs:
  - Seniors (55+ years)
  - Seniors (55+ years) with 10 years or more in the shelter system
  - Individuals with an acquired brain injury
  - Individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use issues
  - Youth and young adults (18-24 years)



### What Next?

- Housing and supports targeting the health needs of these different groups is needed.
- Best practice solutions: housing and support outside of the shelter system at a level of intensity and for a period of time in line with needs.

# SPECIAL REPORT:

## Aboriginal Peoples and Homelessness in Ottawa



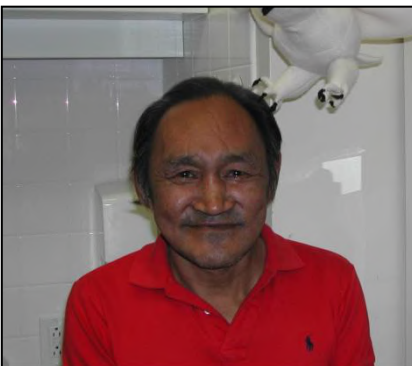
### Highlighting Aboriginal Peoples and Services in Ottawa

Ottawa's Aboriginal community is one of the fastest growing populations in the city. The Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health estimates Ottawa's Aboriginal population to be between 35,000 and 40,000 people. Contrary to how they are often depicted, Aboriginal peoples are a diverse group who often have unique histories and cultures from one another. As such, Ottawa is lucky to have a range of services that recognize and can work with these populations. Aboriginal peoples in Ottawa include those who identify with First Nations communities across Canada, Métis, and Inuit peoples.



### Challenges for Homeless Aboriginal Women and Families

Many homeless Aboriginal women struggle with Canada's legacy of institutional violence. Generation after generation, Aboriginal women were forced into the residential schooling system, taken from their families, and subjected to many forms of violence. Today's homeless Aboriginal women continue to face higher levels of violence, higher levels of addictions and mental health problems, and poverty. Homeless Aboriginal women face unique struggles and make up a vulnerable population that requires programs and services dedicated to their specific needs.



### Housing Services and Pressures

Aboriginal housing service providers in cities like Ottawa face tremendous challenges in that most of the available governance and funding structures depend on "on-reserve" criteria that disadvantage urban organizations. This means that when Aboriginal peoples leave their reservations, they leave many rights and benefits behind as well.

Today, the only federal funding for urban homelessness programs flow through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS). This successful program was renewed by the federal government, but the annual amount of HPS funding for Canada over 2014-2019 has been reduced by \$16 million.



# SPECIAL REPORT:

## Providing Culturally Appropriate Programs and Services

### Why maintaining cultural connections matter

Culture is about much more than the everyday rituals and traditions we practice. It is about who we are and the maintenance of our health and wholeness. For homeless Aboriginal peoples, this means having the opportunity to acquire and use their languages, having access to culturally relevant services, and practicing their religions.

Providing culturally specific services to specific homelessness demographics is a practice that has long guided the sector and is a principle that would go a long way for the Aboriginal homeless population. A good example of one such service is the Inuit Family Resource centre.

Effective outreach and care within an Aboriginal cultural framework respects Aboriginal cultures and ensures that the needs of this demographic are met.

**Caption:** Below is the Medicine Wheel encompassing all aspects necessary for a person's journey to well being: mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual.



### SERVICE PROFILE:



## Tungasuvvingat Inuit

Tungasuvvingat Inuit (TI) is a community-based counselling and resource centre that focuses on health, well-being and empowerment through Inuit values and culture.

TI offers a holistic range of community services in Inuktitut by Inuit staff.

These include primary health care, addictions and trauma recovery, housing and homelessness support, mental health, children's and family services, cultural and recreational services, employment and training and youth and elder services.

TI programs and services are approached in a culturally appropriate manner. These include health awareness (diabetes prevention, healthy weight), counseling for individuals and families, addictions and trauma treatment, family clinic, and employment services.

# SPECIAL REPORT:

## The Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health



### SERVICE PROFILE: Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health

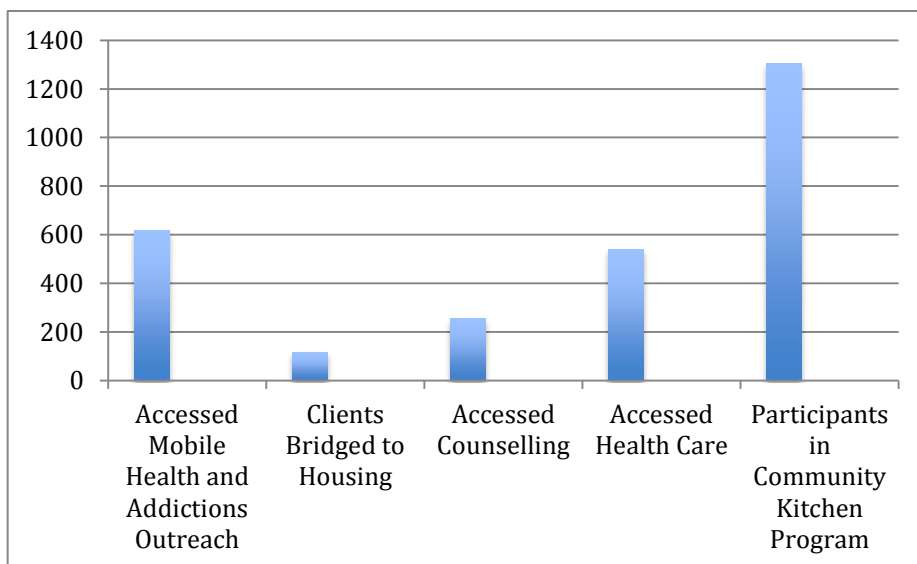
The Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health serves clients of all ages providing a comprehensive variety of health services and cultural programs from prenatal care, to after school programs for youth, to fitness for seniors.

The Homeless Outreach Team at Wabano focuses on health and wellness by offering traditional healing approaches for men's and women's addictions, and nutrition and diabetes support.

Housing Support assists clients with financial management and budgeting, as well as referral and advocacy services. The Homeless Outreach Team also provides medical support for Aboriginal people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

2013 marks Wabano's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary operating in the Ottawa community.

### Wabano Homelessness Programs Statistics



*"As an addictions outreach worker with Wabano's homelessness team, I remind First Nations, Inuit and Métis people of what it means to live in a good way. My job is to figure out where the wheel of their life is out of balance, and support them at the points of disharmony. And in turn, I help guide them out of despair, disease and death, and into health and life."*

Wabano homelessness  
outreach worker Joseph Moreau

# SPECIAL REPORT:

## Aboriginal Housing Programs in Ottawa and a Focus on Aboriginal Women

### Aboriginal Youth Non-Profit Housing Corporation, Tewegan Transition House

The Aboriginal Youth Non-Profit Housing Corporation of Ottawa allows young First Nation, Inuit and Métis women who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, to live in a safe, culture-based environment while they work towards improved well-being. Tewegan Transition House accommodates 12 women, and offers counseling, advocacy, health and wellness, employment assistance and training, as well as traditional teaching and cultural activities.



### Client statistics from the Minwaashin Lodge\*

Services and programs for First Nations, Inuit and Métis women and children who experience, or have experienced any form of violence (domestic, intergenerational).

60% are under the age of 35

23% are abused

64% struggle with addictions

6% were incarcerated at the time of intake

\*Data from the Minwaashin Lodge report to the Ontario Select Committee on Mental Health and Addictions, 2008.

### Oshki Kizis Lodge

The Oshki Kizis Lodge is operated by the Minwaashin Lodge and serves Aboriginal women. The Lodge includes a 21-bed shelter for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis women and children who are fleeing abuse and offers a variety of culturally appropriate programs and services that assist them on their healing path.

### Gignul Non-Profit Housing Corporation

Gignul Non-Profit Housing Corporation takes a comprehensive approach to housing for Aboriginal people who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, in the Ottawa area. In collaboration with community partners, Gignul offers housing services that can meet a client's housing needs whether long-term, short-term or in retirement. Gignul also assists clients who experience financial barriers to housing such as income level or difficulty securing a mortgage.

### Minwaashin Lodge

Minwaashin Lodge offers services and programs to First Nations, Inuit and Métis women and children who experience, or have experienced any form of violence (domestic, intergenerational).

Programs include violence prevention, intervention, and healing, using culturally appropriate holistic approaches. Services include counseling for women and children, family support, employment and training. The Transitional Support and Housing Program assists women with safety planning, advocacy, basic financial support, finding housing, and accessing additional resources in the community.



# OH CANADA....

## Can't we do more?



Homelessness is not going away. In fact, it's getting worse. We're asking you to rally together as Canadians and ask our Federal and Provincial Governments to do more to end homelessness.

The cost of maintaining the status quo is simply too high. We can't do this alone.



Join the conversation

[#raiseyourvoicecanada](https://twitter.com/raiseyourvoicecanada)

## Raise your voice Canada - End Homelessness!

HOUSING  
STRATEGY

## THIS IS NOT MY CANADA

Join ATEH's new campaign, our members believe Canada can do better than this.

Turn up the volume at [raiseyourvoicecanada.org](https://raiseyourvoicecanada.org)

The Alliance to End Homelessness (ATEH) produced The Report Card on Ending Homelessness in Ottawa, Dec-Jan 2012 with funding from the Community Foundation of Ottawa. ATEH thanks the many contributors to the 9th edition. Editor: Lynne Browne