

ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15



September 17, 2015

At the end of another year, we are pleased to welcome you into the work of the Alliance to End Homelessness Ottawa, taking an opportunity with this Report to focus on the organization's activities and successes during the April 2014 - March 2015 year.

Energized by a strategic planning process that will direct our work for the coming years, and building on our 20 year history, the Alliance carried out an ambitious workplan. Guided by experience, research and community knowledge, we continue to seek ways to strengthen our community's capacity and commitment to ending homelessness.

Our work is supported by the many contributions of our members, volunteers and the community at-large. We extend particular thanks to outgoing Board member Mary Martha Hale, and to long-time volunteer committee chairs, Linda O'Neil and Tim Aubry, both who 'retired' from their respective roles – but continue to offer their energy.

Through our strategic planning discussions, we reaffirmed our mission: ***to be a leader in the local movement to prevent and end homelessness in Ottawa***. We invite you to join us as we embark upon our priority directions - to inspire, to continuously learn and to inform the work of ending homelessness.

Tim Simboli
Chair

Mike Bulthuis
Executive Director

	We INSPIRE	We LEARN	We INFORM
DESIRED OUTCOMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A connected, broad-based movement to prevent and end homelessness• A civic culture infused with the recognition that – in working together – we can succeed• ATEH is known as a community leader and strategic, valued collaborator	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A community that together generates and shares knowledge• Information on community progress + challenges is available to all• Utilization of ATEH-compiled or referenced knowledge in decision-making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ATEH is a strong, provocative policy-focused voice for the community• ATEH is known as a connector, a space of joined-up activity• An informed community, equipped with evidence of solutions and of what works

ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP

Action-Logement / Action-Housing
 Bruce House
 Canadian Mental Health Association, Ottawa Branch
 Carlington Community Health Centre
 Catholic Immigration Centre
 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 Citizens Ottawa Corporation
 Centretown Community Health Centre
 City of Ottawa, Housing Services Branch
 Community Legal Services Ottawa Centre
 Cooperative Housing Association Eastern Ontario
 Cornerstone Housing for Women/LePilier
 Daybreak Non-Profit Shelter
 Elizabeth Fry Society of Ottawa
 Gloucester Housing Corporation
 Housing Help
 John Howard Society of Ottawa
 * Lowertown Community Resource Centre
 Minwaashin Lodge / Oshki Kizis Healing Lodge
 Montfort Renaissance
 Multifaith Housing Initiative

* Nepean Housing Corporation
 Nepean, Rideau, Osgoode Community Resource Centre
 Operation Come Home
 Options Bytown Non-Profit Housing Corporation
 Ottawa Community Housing Corporation
 Ottawa Inner City Health Inc.
 Ottawa Inner City Ministries
 Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Centre
 Ottawa Salus Corporation
 Pinecrest-Queensway Community Health Centre
 Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre, Community Mental Health
 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 Table
 The Ottawa Mission
 The Salvation Army Ottawa Booth Centre
 The Well/La Source
 * Tungasuvvingat Inuit
 Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health
 Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre
 Wigwamen Incorporated
 YMCA-YWCA, National Capital Region
 Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa

** New Members.*

The Alliance also welcomes and values a number of individual members.

2014-2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive

Chair: Tim Simboli
Vice Chair: Lisa Ker
Treasurer: Christine MacIntosh
Secretary: Michael Coe
 Marc Provost
 Étienne Grandmaître Saint-Pierre

Directors of the Board

Deirdre Freiheit	Sue Garvey
Mary-Martha Hale	Graeme Hussey
Stacey Lauridsen	Wanda MacDonald
Terrie Meehan	Wendy Muckle
Judy Perley	Trudy Sutton
Peter Tilley	

Ex-Officio Members: Shelley VanBuskirk; Elizabeth Farrell

Executive Director: Mike Bulthuis

WE INSPIRE



20,000 Homes: In Fall 2014, the Alliance confirmed Ottawa's participation as a pilot community within the emerging national 20,000 Homes Campaign – convened by the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness. Across Canada, the campaign is building a national movement of communities mobilizing together to house 20,000 of Canada's most vulnerable homeless people, by July 1, 2018.

In the months that followed, and in partnership with the City, the Ottawa Police, local community and business partners, the United Way and volunteers from across the community, the Alliance prepared for a week of action in April 2015, wherein teams of volunteers and service providers engaged nearly 500 homeless individuals to better understand their needs. Moving forward, we will continue to seek new housing solutions – supportive of our community's, and the campaign's national targets.



Broadening the Base: Convened by community leaders and affordable housing stakeholders, the Alliance continues to sponsor Broadening the Base – a *community-centered, collaborative and inclusive Ottawa initiative with the purpose of catalyzing and leveraging land,*

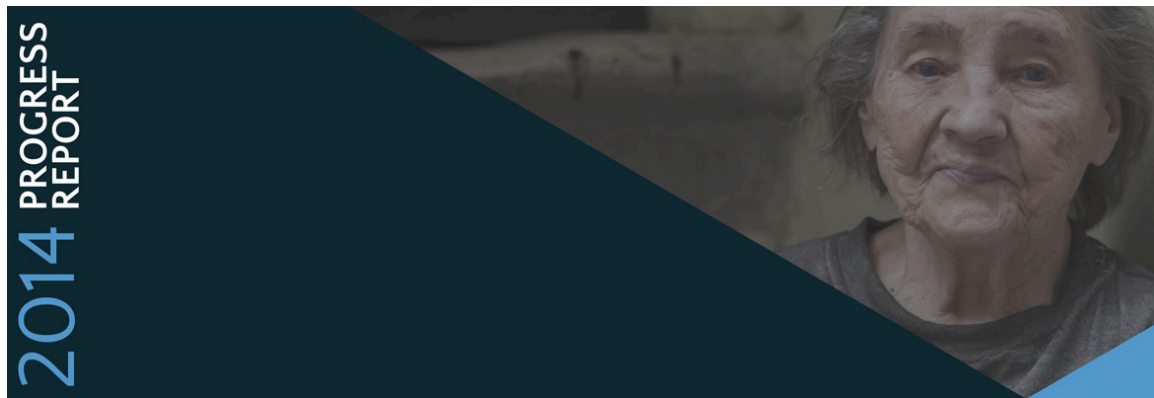
property, philanthropic and development resources to support the building of 1,500 new affordable housing units over the next five years.

Broadening the Base aims to highlight a number of components that could enhance availability of affordable housing, including: new affordable housing development mechanisms (e.g. land trust, social impact fund, etc.); philanthropic resources to build affordable housing; and, land resources to facilitate development and contribute to rent affordability. Community engagement and learning continued through 2014, with several Innovation Workshops and a Finance Design Lab (Designing Housing Solutions to Combat Homelessness & Housing Insecurity). Five Design Circles have been launched in 2015, part of a comprehensive design process, to explore concrete initiatives in Ottawa.

WE INFORM

Core to the Alliance's work is the pursuit of strategies to bring our community's voice and experience to all levels of government.

Annual Progress Report on Ending Homelessness: Our 10th annual Report Card on Ending Homelessness in Ottawa was released in April, 2014 at the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre. Preparations began over the year for the release of the 11th annual report (published in June 2015), introduced as the *Progress Report on Ending Homelessness in Ottawa* - outlining progress towards our community's ten-year plan to end homelessness. Our annual Report Card / Progress Report is made possible with the generous funding support of the Community Foundation of Ottawa.



Political Advocacy: Activities took shape in numerous ways throughout the period, driven in particular by a provincial election in June, 2014, and municipal elections in October, 2014.

- We engaged partner organizations, party leaders (provincially) and all registered candidates (provincially and municipally), seeking platform information, and reiterating the importance of addressing housing and homelessness.
- In partnership with the Coalition of Community Health and Resource Centres, the Co-operative Housing Association of Eastern Ontario, the Eastern Ontario Landlord Organization, the Ottawa Social Housing Network and the Ottawa Supportive Housing Network, we launched the Housing Answer, advocating for a percentage of upload dollars to be allocated to the City's Housing and Homelessness Investment Plan. During the municipal



campaign, 18 of 23 elected Councillors, led by Mayor Jim Watson, explicitly supported increased investments of \$2M in 2015 and beyond, while seven elected Councillors endorsed growing this amount in 2016 and in subsequent years – commitments we will aim to build on in future municipal budgets.

Other advocacy activities included:

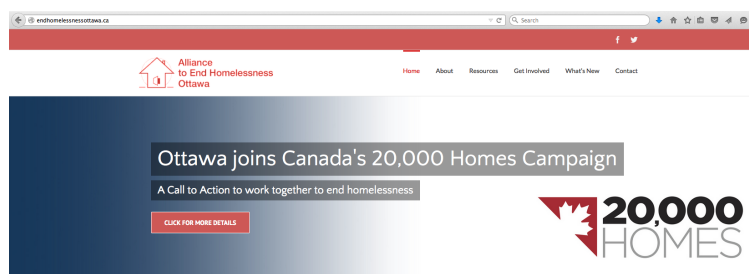
- Collaborating with partners to ensure City Council agreement (May 2014) to retain collection of Development Charges for affordable housing.
- Meeting with Ontario MPP Yasir Naqvi and Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Ted McMeekin (September 2014) to provide an overview of the homelessness situation in Ottawa, expressing our desire to support and inform the provincial government's commitment to ending homelessness (embedded in the Poverty Reduction Strategy, released in August 2014, and announced locally with the Alliance – image below).
- Incorporation of housing-related messages to the “Making Votes Count” project, convened by the Coalition of CHRCs and City for All Women Initiative (CAWI).
- Speaking at a January 2015 provincial pre-budget consultation, hosted by Finance Minister Sousa, along with five local MPPs, towards provincial homelessness efforts.
- Participation at the Mayor's Breakfast on Housing and Homelessness in February, 2015.
- Advocacy during City Council's strategic initiatives exercise (Spring 2015) to restore the \$4m capital envelope for affordable housing that had been reallocated in the 2015 Budget process.



Additional efforts to inform community action included:

- Providing an overview of homelessness at the Triple A Homelessness Luncheon Fundraiser (May 2014).
- Participation at a CAWI Women's Action Forum on Affordable Housing (May 2014).
- Speaking to housing issues at the release of the Canadian Index of Well-being – Ottawa Report, convened by CHRCs (October 2014).
- Bilateral meetings with community stakeholders and partners, including the Ottawa Police, Kiwanis Club of Ottawa and Ottawa Public Health.
- Launching a revamped Alliance to End Homelessness website (April 2014)
- Continuing to reach 700 subscribers through the Alliance listserv, while also reaching over 1300 followers on Twitter and 750 on Facebook.
- Offering public presentations on the Alliance's work and the community's efforts to reduce and end homelessness - within the context of community / Board meetings of: the Coalition of CHRCs, Pinecrest Queensway Community Health Centre, the Ottawa Mission, Daybreak, Centre 507, Cornerstone, and QCommons among others.
- Presentations to various secondary school classes and at the Youth Day of Action (May

2014) facilitated by DILA (Day of Information for a Lifetime of Action), and at a Gatineau Youth Action Summit (February 2015) - in response to student efforts to take action on homelessness and poverty.



WE LEARN

2014 Community Forum on Ending Homelessness: Our 11th annual forum, presented with the assistance of a grant provided by the City of Ottawa, through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy funding, took place on November 26, 2014.



The Forum featured an address by Eric Latimer, Professor of Psychiatry (McGill University), on the Mental Health Commission of Canada's At Home / Chez Soi project findings. A morning panel welcomed four speakers, representing organizations serving particular sub-populations disproportionately vulnerable to becoming homeless, including youth, urban Inuit, victims of violence and families. Afternoon Table Talks preceeded four break-out sessions / workshops, including foci on: the Canadian Housing First toolkit; engaging with Planning; telling the housing story (the significance of housing); and a community consultation on supervised injection. Susan McGee (left image), head of

Homeward Trust (Edmonton) concluded the day by sharing lessons learned through implementation of that community's ten-year plan to end homelessness.

Through the year, a number of new funded projects were also launched:

- With support from **Crime Prevention Ottawa**, and following the June 2014 conference on Safety and the Sex Trade, we have begun a project to research and document the housing related safety needs of sex workers in Ottawa - and to make recommendations for action.
- With testamentary funding through **United Way**, we have begun to lay the foundation for a project oriented towards engagement of planning and development policy, so as to identify important elements in enhancing affordable housing outcomes.
- In response to community interest in collaborating to develop a housing-first oriented framework to specifically prevent, reduce and end youth homelessness in Ottawa, the Alliance partnered with numerous organizations towards securing two-year funding from **United Way** – with efforts getting underway in summer, 2015.

With our post-secondary institutions, efforts were further enhanced via several **student / service learning partnerships** occurring in Fall and Winter, guided by Carleton's Public Policy professor Richard Marquardt, the University of Ottawa's Medical Studies professor Ian McDowell, and Carleton's Journalism professor Karen Keskinen (with students identifying communications activities for the Alliance).

We were thrilled to welcome Kaite Burkholder, a University of Toronto Masters of Public Health student, who completed a four-month internship, from January to April 2015, bringing her interests in policy advocacy and community collaboration to support the Alliance.

The Alliance to End Homelessness Ottawa

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