It has been an exciting year of growth and change at the Alliance to End Homelessness Ottawa. The 2016-17 year saw continued growth and momentum, both politically and within the community, with regards to community efforts to end homelessness.

Building on the Alliance’s three strategic directions – to inform, to learn and to inspire – our work has increasingly been moving in yet another direction: to mobilize.

From the Board, to each committee, to our member agencies and their many volunteers – and widening to include others within the community, elected office and the private sector - we aim to work with all of Ottawa in pursuit of our vision of a community where everyone has an affordable, appropriate home.

Thank you for working with us.

Alliance to End Homelessness Ottawa
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
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
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
PAL Ottawa
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 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

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Executive Director: Mike Bulthuis (April 2016-May 2017)
Kristen Holinsky (June 2017-Present)
Annual Progress Report on Ending Homelessness: Our 12th Annual Progress Report on Ending Homelessness in Ottawa - outlining progress towards our community’s ten-year plan to end homelessness - was released in April 2016. Each year, the Alliance’s Progress Report on Ending Homelessness in Ottawa assesses movement towards our goals. With the adoption of Ottawa’s Ten-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan in 2013, we committed to ending chronic homelessness by 2024. Emboldened by provincial commitments and the emergence of a National Housing Strategy, we have reason to be hopeful. In reviewing 2016, we are reminded that it is more important than ever to evaluate achievements to date, continued need, and where investment is needed. This annual publication was again made with the generous funding support of the Community Foundation of Ottawa.

A Way Home Ottawa (AWHO) is a local coalition convened by the Alliance to End Homelessness, shaped and led by youth with lived experience of homelessness, in partnership with agencies supporting youth who are homeless or at risk.

AWHO is supported by United Way Ottawa and the Catherine Donnelly Foundation, and with research strength enabled through Carleton University and Mitacs. After speaking with over 70 youth and 50 agency representatives, AWHO released “The Opportunity Project: Telling a New Story about Youth Homelessness in Ottawa” in September, 2016, outlining five core recommendations needing attention within the development of a plan to prevent and end youth homelessness in Ottawa. At the core of these recommendations are the repeated calls for additional housing options for youth, greater coordination of the various systems of support, and the creation of real opportunities for homeless youth to be engaged in our community. Prevention and long-term supports for homeless youth underpin these calls for action – to be furthered and implemented in year three and beyond.

Developing a Community Agenda for Enhancing Housing Options: In collaboration with United Way and Cahdco, the Alliance is supporting an ongoing dialogue to identify urban Planning-related tools that could be more strongly directed towards leveraging affordable housing outcomes, further enabling citywide success in achieving 10-year goals. Mindful of recent provincial announcements (e.g., inclusionary zoning), the project supports community dialogue to encourage the City to fully utilize specific Planning-related policies and tools to increase affordable housing options.
A Policy Scan, noting various planning related tools and incentives in place across Canada to leverage the development of affordable housing, was completed in Spring, 2016, and formed a basis for discussions with the Greater Ottawa Home Builders Association towards the co-development of a draft inclusionary zoning by-law for Ottawa.

WE LEARN

2016 Community Forum on Ending Homelessness:
Our 13th annual forum took place on November 22nd, 2016. Over 250 registrants participated at the Forum – held for the second year at the RA Centre. Sponsorship was offered by four member agencies: The Home Depot Canada Foundation, Urbandale Corporation, The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, The Ottawa Mission, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, and The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Carleton University. The Forum featured a special address by Deputy Mayor Mark Taylor in proclamation of National Housing Day. Keynote Speaker Marybeth Shinn of Vanderbilt University spoke on recent research addressing family homelessness and, while a plenary panel responded to the release of the “What We Heard” report by the federal government in the lead up to the development of a National Housing Strategy. The Forum also hosted many vibrant Table Talks showcasing local research and initiatives, along with concurrent workshops and a presentation on the building community.

Housing and Safety needs of Sex Workers:
With support from Crime Prevention Ottawa, and following the June 2014 conference on Safety and the Sex Trade, we are convening a project to research and document the housing related safety needs of sex workers in Ottawa. A diverse group of community stakeholders, involving service providers, researchers, the Ottawa Police and others informed in our research. We are in the final stages of the project, and are working to develop an analyses and recommendations that will enhance housing outcomes and safety for all.

Understanding Veterans Homelessness in Ottawa:
In collaboration with Soldiers Helping Soldiers and funding from the Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services, the Alliance is undertaking a study of veterans’ homelessness in the Ottawa area. Guided by an Advisory Committee, we are exploring a number of questions to better understand the pathways that veterans who are homeless or precariously-housed have taken since release or retirement from military service. This project will also serve to better understand the scope of veterans’ homelessness in Ottawa.
Refugee613 Housing Task Force: The Refugee613 Housing Task Force brought together landlords, settlement services, non-profit housing providers, cooperatives, the City of Ottawa, housing search agencies, faith communities, schools and concerned residents into a common space to inspire and share information of various actions being taken across our community to provide short-term and long-term accommodation to incoming refugees. The Task Force is a space to link efforts, and in so doing, recognizes the importance of a strong community-wide response. The Housing Task Force has been supported administratively by the Alliance to End Homelessness Ottawa.

Broadening the Base (BtB) is a community-centered, collaborative and inclusive Ottawa initiative with the purpose of catalyzing and leveraging land, property, philanthropic and development resources to support the development of affordable housing. BtB aims to facilitate the development of mechanisms to provide sustainable, long term and affordable accommodation for key vulnerable populations.

The Alliance is proud to sponsor BtB; we are currently considering an application to the ESDC "Innovative Solutions to Homelessness" fund, to work with community partners and the BtB Social Impact Investment Design Circle, to establish a community bond in Ottawa that could be scaled up and used by sector agencies to support social impact financing tools for affordable housing development.