

# Experiencing Homelessness

## The 3rd Report Card on Homelessness in New Brunswick (Fredericton Edition)

Fredericton Grade	Homelessness Indicators	Fredericton		New Brunswick	
		2010	2009	2010	2009
<i>Large decrease in shelter usage in 2010 due to more affordable housing and community supports. Growing food insecurity, lack of shelter options for male youth and individuals with complex needs remains unresolved.</i>	Population (2006 census: Fredericton CA & Province)	50,535		729,997	
	Number of individuals who stayed in a shelter bed	323	377	1,420	2,048
	Homeless shelter beds for men	40	40	159	159
	Homeless shelter beds for women	9	9		
	Beds for Youth in Transition (16-19)	8*	8*	32	32
	Number of Transition house beds for women with or without children fleeing family violence:	34	34	170	170
	Number of beds for drug/alcohol detoxification:	10	10	30	30
	For men	6	6	20	20
	For women	4	4	10	10
	Number of food banks	2	2	58	58
	Number of soup kitchens	1	1	12	12
Number of NB individuals assisted in Hunger Count			18,517	17,889	
<b>Housing Indicators</b>		<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
<i>Increases to affordable housing stock a plus for Fredericton, but efforts only scratch the surface of housing vulnerability.</i>	Total number of provincially subsidized housing units	788	762	8,245	8,195
	Number of public housing units	313	313	3,790	3,790
	Number of units in Rent Supplement Assistance Program	475	449	3,249	3,182
	Number of Non-profit and cooperative housing units	255	255	4,952	5,009
	New units in the Affordable Rental Housing Program	26	43	244	322
	Individuals & families on provincially subsidized waiting list	800	441	4,905	4,338
	Number of second stage housing units	11	8	34	31
	Rental vacancy rate	2.6	2.3	3.8	4.5
	Average rent for a 2-bedroom apartment (October)	\$734	\$719	N/A	N/A
<b>Income Indicators</b>		<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
<i>Substantial increase to social assistance and minimum wage were overdue, but still are not enough for escaping the poverty trap.</i>	# of individuals on social assistance	7,401	7,195	40,396	38,476
	Social assistance for a single person per person			\$537	\$294
	Minimum Wage in NB (September 1, 2010; Sept. 2009)			\$9.00	\$8.25

\* Youth in Transition: Chrysalis House for young women age 16-19 only.

This is the Third Report Card on Homelessness in New Brunswick. Using 2010 data, it presents a profile of homelessness in the province and, in particular, in the four designated communities under the Federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy (Bathurst, Fredericton, Moncton, and Saint John). The Community Homelessness Network Inc. (Bathurst), the Fredericton Community Action Group on Homelessness, the Greater Moncton Homelessness Steering Committee and the Greater Saint John Homelessness Steering Committee have come together to create this publication. These organizations represent and work with agencies throughout the province working to prevent and reduce homelessness. See page 11 for contact information.



The Fredericton Edition of the New Brunswick Report Card on Homelessness is produced by Community Action Group on Homelessness (CAGH). The CAGH is a Fredericton based network of community service agencies, citizens, and government liaisons who work together to reduce and prevent homelessness. For almost ten years, our group has focused on enhancing efficiency and innovation through collaboration in our community. For more information visit [www.cagh.ca](http://www.cagh.ca).

**Inside:** Fredericton Focus, Homeless Shelters Update, Outreach Services Update, Supportive Housing with the John Howard Society of Fredericton, Filling the Gaps at the UNB Community Health Clinic, Volunteer learns about rooming houses, The Cost of Poverty In NB, Overcoming Poverty Together, Youth Homelessness, Provincial Perspectives.

# Fredericton Focus - Update 2010

## Shelter usage down, Hidden Homelessness up

Fredericton’s homeless shelter usage dropped nearly 15% between 2009-2010, showing signs that a mobilized community supported by the province’s Poverty Reduction Strategy can make a big difference. Increased investment in affordable housing, and specifically the opening of a new 12-unit supportive housing development by the John Howard Society have made a big impact in improving the homelessness situation in Fredericton.

In summer 2010, community partners established the “Supportive Housing Network.” Making a concerted effort to transition long-term shelter clients into affordable housing, 30 some shelter clients and at-risk individuals were able to access affordable housing and ongoing support.

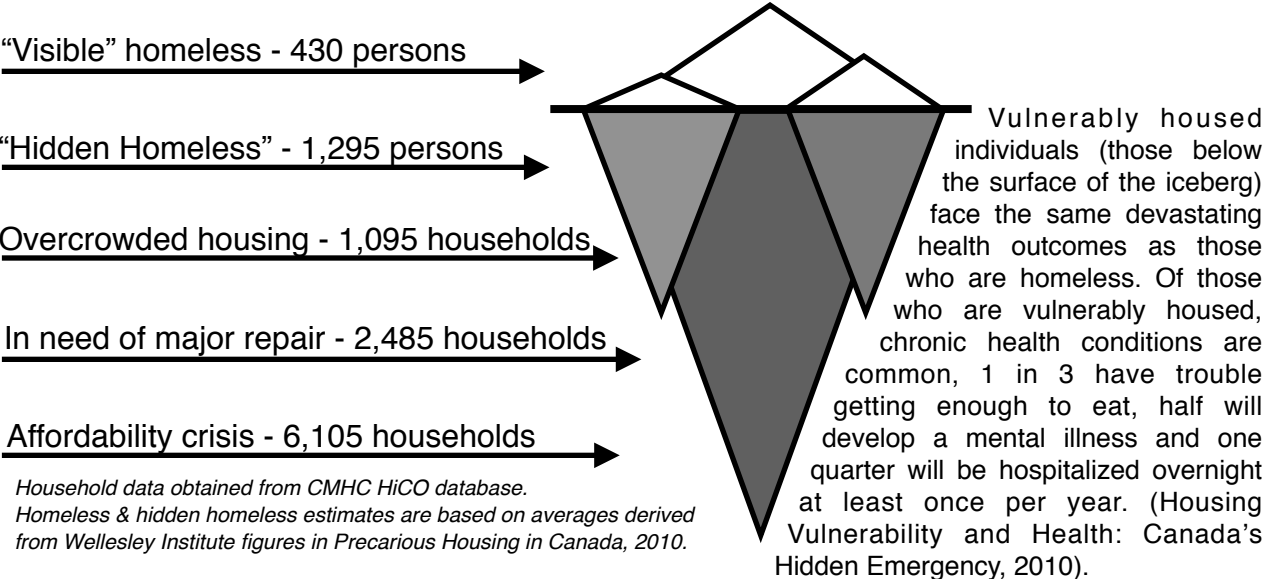
While use of the men’s and women’s shelters has decreased, incidence of “hidden homeless” is showing signs of increasing. Some indicators include:

- Fredericton does not have a wet shelter, thus making it difficult to meet the needs of homeless individuals with addictions or other complex needs.
- Chrysalis House, a transition house for female youth, is showing a spike in demand.
- Male youth do not have shelter options in Fredericton.
- Food insecurity is critical; demand for the food bank and community kitchen rising.
- Housing insecurity is on the rise. More people are at risk of homelessness due to vulnerable housing situations.

Overall, continued investment in affordable housing is needed to reduce and prevent homelessness. Continuing the Poverty Reduction Strategy along with implementing the Provincial Housing & Homelessness frameworks is considered the best path forward by community partners fighting homelessness in Fredericton.

## Fredericton’s Housing Iceberg

In depth: The biggest part of the problem is usually hidden from view



# Fredericton Homeless Shelters Update

## Shelters & Supportive Housing Network team up

In 2010, Fredericton Homeless Shelters Inc. saw one of the largest drops in residency since inception. The data table on the front page shows a significant decrease for the second straight year. This trend appears to be solid as the early part of 2011 is showing occupancy of 20-25 individuals per night. Contributing factors include reduced wait times for methadone treatment, elimination of the economic unit policy, increased social assistance rates, and newly constructed affordable housing.



According to research, individuals transitioning from homelessness into their own homes are most likely to fail within 18 months, creating a “revolving door” effect into homelessness. The SUN committee works with chronically homeless individuals in order to support a successful and sustainable transition toward healthier and independent living.

The newly developed SUN committee (Supportive housing Network) has also made a big impact on declining shelter occupancy. Since inception, the Supportive Housing Network has helped 20 long-term shelter clients move into affordable housing. In total, SUN has helped roughly 30 people who were homeless or at-risk of homelessness access and maintain affordable housing.

## Much needed facility improvements made in 2010

Throughout 2009 and 2010 the Fredericton Homeless Shelters Inc. did much to improve the facilities and administration at the Men’s Shelter and Grace House for Women.

Funds were attained to upgrade facilities inside both the Men’s Shelter and Grace House. Inside, Grace House was crack filled and painted and a new living room rug was installed. Smythe Street Cathedral Church bought the painting supplies and organized a group to paint the exterior of Grace House. Outside cameras were installed to improve safety and security.

### Did you know?

The Fredericton Homeless Shelters Inc. must fundraise \$250,000/year from the community in order to stay operational?

In the Men’s Shelter, all three washrooms were completely renovated and painted. Storage shelves were also built in our 3 storage rooms enabling us to keep the shelter more presentable and tidy. We were approached by a very charitable paint contractor who provided paint, supplies and staging and painted the

inside of the Shelter. The lively bright paint improved the atmosphere of the shelter immensely. The contractor also repaired and painted the wooden fence in the outside smoking area.

Along with the physical improvements to the shelters, we also focused on improving administration at the Shelters. Enhancements were made to the accounting system, forms were drafted to more accurately process clients and gather vital information, and house rules and job descriptions were updated. Policies were reviewed to improve upon the cleanliness, safety and peacefulness of the shelters and staff was trained on these revised policies. As a result of these improvements, the living conditions for shelter clients were enhanced.

*Ted Allingham, Fredericton Homeless Shelters Inc.*

## Building relationships, navigating the maze and staying housed

### Outreach project helps homeless navigate services; access and maintain housing

**196**  
The number of individuals assisted with the Outreach project from April 2010 to January 2011

A street outreach pilot project offered by Partners for Youth Inc. is mobilizing the community in order to reduce and prevent homelessness in Fredericton. Using the Housing First Model, the project has been working with individuals and families in order to access stable, affordable housing. The project has also been instrumental in assisting those moving out of the Homeless Shelters into affordable housing. The Outreach Project staff provides ongoing support to these individuals in order to guide their journey toward more independent living.

Meeting with people and supporting access existing resources in the community is another key component to the project. The staff has been connecting individuals and families to a variety of services for addictions, mental health, employment, counselling, health care, food, clothing and furniture donations.

During the extreme summer heat, the staff assisted in giving out bottled water and checking in on some of the vulnerable individuals in the community. The staff has also been involved in providing a weekly meal in different locations in the community. The project has drop-in hours within agencies including the Fredericton Community Kitchen and the Fredericton Homeless Shelters. According to Outreach staff, finding affordable, supportive housing still continues to be a struggle for individuals and families living with a fixed income in our community.

*Joanne Minor, MSW, RSW, Partners for Youth Outreach Project*

## A new beginning

### Building a stronger community with supportive housing



The John Howard Society of Fredericton (JHSF) opened the doors to its new office space and supportive housing development in Fall 2010. The ground floor hosts all of JHSF's services, programs and offices, while the upper floors include twelve self-contained one bedroom supportive apartments. With a stable atmosphere and comprehensive supports, JHSF is working with 12 individuals who were homeless or at risk of homelessness. By providing a stable, supportive

housing atmosphere, JHSF will help individuals transition toward more independent living. Expressed in a letter to the Daily Gleaner, tenants wrote "Many people have come from all different walks in life. Throughout our lives, we have been faced with our own personal obstacles and barriers. Since being given this opportunity, we are beginning to feel stable and strong. We are working hard to better ourselves from here on out. We express our gratitude - Thank You!"

### Supportive Housing - by the numbers: \$100,000 vs. \$35,000 per year

Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach recently indicated it costs the provincial system upwards of \$100,000 per year in health, emergency and justice systems to support an individual who is chronically homeless. By contrast, a Housing First approach costs less than \$35,000 per year to provide permanent housing and supports needed to break the cycle of homelessness.

## Health Services

### **UNB Community Health Clinic fills the gaps**

Homeless and marginalized communities face enormous barriers to health care. Almost 40% of people who do not have a healthy place to live cannot access the health care they need. The UNB Community Health Clinic (UNBCHC) works to fill these gaps.

#### **Nurse Practitioner joins clinic for homeless & at-risk communities**

As an advanced practice nurse, a nurse practitioner (NP) is able to diagnose, prescribe and manage common acute and chronic health conditions, allowing more timely access to health care, improved continuity of care, increased screening according to current guidelines, and greater opportunities for health promotion.



The implementation of a NP at the University of New Brunswick Community Health Clinic (UNBCHC) has enhanced available primary health care programs and services and allowed the

development of additional programs and services, with a goal of empowering individuals and the greater community, including those who are homeless or living in the shelters to improve their health and well being. Enhanced services available five days per week include: well woman examinations (PAP tests, clinical breast exams, perimenopausal counselling); testing for sexually transmitted infections; birth control counselling and prescriptions; prenatal care; well-child examinations and pediatric immunizations; full and focused physical assessments; and management of common acute and chronic illnesses (eg. diabetes, dyslipidemia, hypertension, and various acute infections).

As an educator to individuals and families, the NP also teaches skills to promote health and prevent illness on topics such as: the importance of early childhood and other immunizations; healthy eating on a very low budget; breast and testicular self-examination; safer sexual practices; and living well with chronic illness. Currently, the CHC provides health care services for anyone who has problems accessing regional healthcare facilities, especially those who do not have a family physician.

#### **Vision for the future**

In 2010, as part of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy, The UNBCHC received a substantial grant to explore the possibility of building a new clinic structure that would also provide transitional housing for clients until their health could be stabilized. The plan would be to move persons from this new facility into affordable housing once the CHC staff judged the client's health to be stable and the client no longer in need of daily monitoring. If the feasibility study comes up with positive results and funding can be secured, the plan is to build a facility that will house 24 single occupancy units, a number of which will be fully wheelchair accessible on the top two floors of the building. The ground level area will house a much larger UNBCHC, which will provide room for additional services, support staff, and students.

The staff of the UNBCHC would like to thank all its partners and the community at large for its continued support. Without this support this endeavour could not survive to provide much needed services for persons living in vulnerable situations. *Dr. Margaret Dykeman, UNBCHC*

**Eye opener:**

## **Volunteer learns about rooming houses**

As a new volunteer to Fredericton's outreach community, I am continually impressed by the ways in which the various NGOs, churches, universities, governments, and compassionate citizens are addressing the challenge finding suitable, affordable housing in the city. These initiatives are making a world of difference to the lives of those who are benefitting from them. As with anything however, there is still much to be done.

Through my volunteering experience, I have chatted with many who rent from rooming houses around the city. Even though they have a roof over their head, they struggle daily, trying to provide for themselves. Those who rely on social assistance receive a monthly stipend of \$537.00. This monthly allowance goes toward paying their basic necessities – food and shelter. The bulk of it however goes to pay their rent, leaving very little for anything else.

Legislation to protect roomers and boarders was proclaimed in the amended Residential Tenancies Act on April 1, 2010.

Prior to the proclamation, roomers and boarders did not have any tenant rights and were subject to discrimination and summary eviction. Many rooming houses also failed to meet minimum health and safety standards.

Despite these improvements, many rooming house tenants still experience tremendous housing vulnerability, thus increasing the risk of becoming homeless.

Government grants to upgrade rooming houses and public education are starting to turn this issue around, but more resources are needed.

Most rooming houses in the city rent a room for \$450-\$500.00 a month. This hardly leaves enough money to buy food, not to mention medication, clothing, and other essentials. As I become more involved with the downtown community, the more clients share their struggles of making ends meet. One client wanted to show me his room in a local rooming house so I could witness firsthand the living conditions that he and 30 other people in the building find themselves in.

I agreed to go with him and was met by 'the smell of poverty', as he called it, when I walked into the dark, wood-paneled hallway leading to his room. As he opened the door to his personal space, he asked "would you live here for \$450 a month?". I was greeted by a room about 8x10 in size adorned with the same dark wood paneling found in the hallway. The room contained a bed, a small three drawer bureau, a tiny closet and, as one of the luckier ones, a window. He had just enough room to store his few belongings and some non-perishable foods. He did not have his own bathroom but had to share it and the kitchen with a number of other tenants. Living in community with others in this way would take a lot of patience and trust on a good day. One can imagine how difficult it must be however when each day is a struggle.

I do not have any answers as to how the Fredericton community can help those living in rooming houses. At present, I simply want to turn the spot light on another housing area that needs help in Fredericton. As such, I am putting the question out there to you: how can the outreach community in Fredericton help those living in rooming houses? Or better yet: how can those living in rooming houses help themselves?

*-Submitted by Beth Arsenault, Volunteer with Wilmot United Church Outreach*

# We can't afford poverty in NB

## Eliminating poverty and deficit intrinsically tied

Poverty costs New Brunswickers more than the pocket change they might give out to panhandlers. In fact, poverty costs our province an estimated \$1.2 to 1.6-billion per year. This represents 5% of NB's GDP, or between \$1,700-2,200 per resident. These figures include preventable healthcare costs, misuse of the justice system and lost economic activity.<sup>1</sup>



Creative Commons deedoucette flickr photo

Poverty is not an isolated issue. It threatens the prosperity and productivity of all New Brunswickers. Combined with other indicators such as an unprecedented deficit, increasing incidence of chronic illness, a low literacy rate, and demographic/population shifts, we must take decisive action in order to strengthen our most vulnerable segments of society.

Across the country, municipalities and provinces are reaching a consensus. Along with social justice arguments for poverty reduction, there is a compelling fiscal argument. With a price tag of \$30-billion per year across Canada: *We simply cannot afford poverty!*<sup>2</sup>

### What does this mean for New Brunswick?

The provincial government has been clear that addressing the debt and deficit is the biggest priority, but how will it proceed? Recent history tells the cautionary tale of drastic cuts in the social sector resulting in costly and unintended consequences. Hopefully government will take heed from this lesson.

Instead, government has the opportunity to demonstrate innovation and leadership by implementing a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy. *Overcoming Poverty Together: New Brunswick's Economic and Social Inclusion Plan* is not about increasing government expenditures, but rather overhauling the social system in order to invest in a more strategic and measurable way.

By enhancing the health and wellbeing of New Brunswick's most vulnerable, the province will reduce the demand for costly, reactive interventions while enhancing productivity and prosperity for the whole province.

New Brunswick can no longer afford a system that keeps people in poverty and maintains the status quo. Reducing poverty and enhancing the province's fiscal health are intrinsically tied together. Balancing the books means creating a balanced and prosperous province together.

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<sup>1</sup> Common Front for Social Justice figures calculated using methodology from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

<sup>2</sup> Figure presented within "In From the Margins: A call to action on Poverty, Housing and Homelessness" by the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology.

# Overcoming Poverty Together

## Much accomplished on poverty reduction strategy – more needed

In 2009, New Brunswickers went through an engagement process on a poverty reduction strategy. It ended with a final forum in Saint John in November of that year when participants adopted the report, *Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan*.<sup>3</sup> This report was later passed in the legislature in April 2010. Its objective is to reduce income poverty in New Brunswick by 25% by 2015 and deep income poverty by 50%, and to make significant progress in achieving sustained economic and social inclusion. Here are some accomplishments so far:

- Social assistance reform:
  - As of January 1, 2010, the Interim Assistance Program (\$294/month) was eliminated. Those who were at that level now qualify for the Transitional Assistance Program (\$537/month);
  - People leaving social assistance for a job can now keep their health card for three years (previously, one year). This is intended to ease the transition to work;
  - Social Assistance clients who received benefits as of January 1, 2010 and who are not in a spousal relationship can share accommodations with other SA clients or with non-clients, and still receive a separate cheque.
- The *Residential Tenancies Act* was amended, effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, and now provides protection for people living in rooming and boarding houses.
- The minimum wage increased from \$8.25 in September 2009 to \$9.00 in September 2010, and is scheduled to increase to \$10 by September 2011.

- In June 2010, *A Home for Everyone*, a homelessness framework that is part of NB's new housing strategy, was released. The framework provided for provisional funding for shelters in the 2010-11 fiscal year of \$250,000, with \$500,000 and \$750,000 allocated for fiscal years 2011-12 and 2012-13, respectively.

The Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation was established to lead and coordinate the implementation of the poverty reduction plan. By year's end, it was rolling out Community Inclusion Networks in 12 parts of the province. Other ongoing things:

- An advisory committee on health benefits was established in June to develop a prescription drug program for non-insured citizens; the program is expected to be phased in by April 2012.
- The Social Assistance Reform Committee will redesign the Social Assistance program in accordance with the poverty reduction plan.
- A fund will be established to develop and implement community transportation programs such as the Dial-A-Ride, particularly in rural areas where the lack of transportation is a major barrier to economic and social inclusion.
- The Department of Social Development will develop and implement an integrated service delivery model focused on low-income people.

Despite these changes, more New Brunswickers are now on social assistance: an average of 40,340 people collected SA monthly in 2010, versus 39,058 in 2009.<sup>4</sup> We look forward to monitoring progress in 2011.

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<sup>3</sup> Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic & Social Inclusion Plan: Progress Report as of August 11, 2010

<sup>4</sup> New Brunswick Department of Social Development Social Assistance Caseload and Recipients Data.

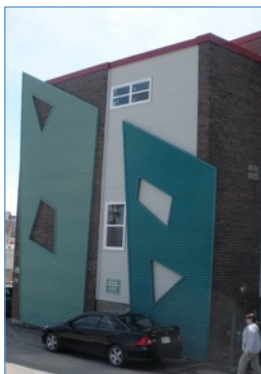
# Youth Homelessness

## NB needs to offer ‘continuum of support’ to homeless youth

In 2006, the provincial Department of Social Development assigned a team to develop a Youth Homelessness Strategy. Number One on its list of recommendations: “provide a continuum of care/support model which consists of the provision of supports to access shelter and housing, with a goal of moving toward permanent stable housing as quickly as possible.”

Five years later, however, this “continuum” of housing supports and services doesn’t exist in most New Brunswick communities. Currently, Moncton has the most integrated and comprehensive system of support. Moncton Youth Residential Services operates a program called “YouthQuest,” which consists of a transitional housing program, several group homes, individual case management, and a drop-in centre called YouthQuest Central. The transitional housing program is for youth, male and female, ages 16-20. It has eight beds (up from six in 2009), and offers youth a temporary place to stay in a supportive environment that teaches life skills (nutrition, budgeting, et cetera), and helps them find employment. The case management program is for youth, ages 16 – 20. It helps youth access services and resources, and get into education programs that will lead to employment opportunities. The drop-in centre offers a variety of services to at-risk or homeless youth, including access to laundry and shower facilities, computers, job training and arts recreational programs.

Saint John is in the process of stitching together a continuum of supports. The Resource Centre for Youth (TRC) has day facilities that include a kitchen, laundry facilities and a shower. It also has a case management program that offers one-on-one counselling about life skills and furthering



*The Resource Centre for Youth (TRC) provides support services for homeless youth.*

educational and employment opportunities. There is also a transitional housing program called ONE LIFE (Living Independently For Education). Four area youth are placed in one-bedroom apartments and provided with educational and life-skills support services. However, there is no short-term or emergency housing facility for area youth. A committee that includes the TRC, ONE LIFE, John Howard Society and the Anglican Church is currently developing a model for a home that would fill the gaps in housing and

support services not offered by the other programs.

In Fredericton, there is an eight-bed transition home for females called Chrysalis House. There is no facility for males. Partners for Youth funds an outreach project to help homeless and at-risk youth navigate and access services. There is no youth housing facility in Bathurst. However, they housed 61 young people between the ages of 16-29 at their regular shelter last year. The community is currently examining the feasibility of establishing a youth facility.

In its new “Homelessness Framework,” the province committed itself to reducing youth homelessness. It extended Child Protection benefits to youth aged 16-18, including access to foster care and a kinship program that provide relatives who take in homeless youth with \$333 per month to help pay for care. This had long been identified as a service gap by organizations that serve homeless and at-risk youth. The province also promised to develop a funding formula for transitional housing programs for homeless youth. The government needs to follow through on that pledge to meet the goal of a “continuum” of supports it set for itself five years ago.

# Provincial Perspectives

There are four communities under the Federal government's Homelessness Partnering Strategy: Fredericton, Bathurst, Moncton and Saint John.

## Bathurst

### Bathurst opens shelter that serves youth and adults

The Emergency Homeless Shelter opened its doors on February 18, 2010 at 4 pm. We had our first call ten minutes later from someone who was at the local library looking for the location of the homeless shelter. Since then, it has been used every night by someone needing refuge. We have had 126 admissions and a total of 1,242 bed nights; 93 of the clients have been from the Bathurst and Chaleur Region. These are people we might see every day on our streets or in the malls, not even realizing they are homeless and living at a shelter. From the Acadian Peninsula and other communities in New Brunswick, the number is a total of 13 persons.

Most alarming is the amount of youth that have used our shelter – 61! They're youth between the ages of 16 and 29. This number is astounding! Helping our homeless youth makes good social and economic sense. When we provide young people with the skills and support to become self-sufficient, we are enabling them becoming contributing members of our society. The cost of keeping a youth in the shelter system is not easily defined, but estimates are between \$30,000-\$40,000 per year. *But keeping just one youth in detention adds up to over \$250 a day, or \$100,000 per year.* So it makes better sense to help youth in the community!

## Moncton

### Progress combined with worrying trends

There was good news to report in Moncton in 2010. The John Howard Society constructed and opened a 10-unit transitional housing project for adult males. The Mental Health Commission's Chez Soi/At Home project provided housing for 65 chronically homeless people with mental health challenges. A new Tannery Court II opened in February with 50 affordable housing units for non-elderly singles.

But all is not rosy. The number of people on Social Assistance increased by 650, from 4,355 individuals in 2009 to 5,005 in 2010. Some 18% of the Greater Moncton population still relies on food banks. And the number of people using the emergency shelters has seemed to stabilize at over 700 a year.

Moncton continues to be the growth centre of Atlantic Canada. In fact, Moncton was the only city in the Atlantic provinces whose growth rate (+6.5% between 2001-06) surpassed the national average (+5.4%). The result is that many people arrive in Moncton from the north of the province, Ontario and farther west, expecting to find employment. When their skills do not match demand, they often end up unemployed, underemployed and homeless. Organizations such as the YMCA's ReConnect Street Intervention are working overtime, trying to meet demand. It's a trend that may get much worse before it gets better.



The John Howard Society's new 10-unit transitional housing project is helping adult males make positive changes in their lives.

# Provincial Perspectives

There are four communities under the Federal government’s Homelessness Partnering Strategy: Fredericton, Bathurst, Moncton and Saint John.

## Saint John

### Port City adds new shelter, affordable housing project

There were a number of negative trends in housing and homelessness in the last year. The number of people who stayed in city shelters rose from 258 to 289. The waiting list for subsidized housing grew from 1,339 to 1,708. However, the city continues to develop shelter and housing projects to try and meet the increasing needs.

- The Tannery Court affordable housing complex opened in the city’s South End earlier this year. It’s geared towards non-elderly, low-income single people that were on the subsidized housing waiting list. It has 50 units, five of which were designated for participants in the Salvation Army’s BRS Alternatives program, a transitional housing program for men.
- At the beginning of this year, the Grace Presbyterian Church opened a cold weather shelter for homeless men. In January alone, it housed 19 people on nights when it was too cold or too snowy and wet to be sleeping outdoors.

<i>For more information, contact:</i>	
Community Homelessness Network Inc. (Bathurst) Pauline Armstrong at 506-545-0805 or <a href="mailto:parmstrong@nb.aibn.com">parmstrong@nb.aibn.com</a>	Greater Moncton Homelessness Steering Committee Sue Calhoun at 506-877-2343 or <a href="mailto:scalhoun@nbnet.nb.ca">scalhoun@nbnet.nb.ca</a>
Community Action Group on Homelessness (Fredericton) Tim Ross at 506-444-8199 or <a href="mailto:coordinator@cagh.ca">coordinator@cagh.ca</a>	Greater Saint John Homelessness Steering Committee Mark Leger at 506-636-8541 or <a href="mailto:mark@sjhdc.ca">mark@sjhdc.ca</a>



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