

Experiencing Homelessness

The First Report Card on Homelessness in New Brunswick, 2009

The Current Situation in NB

Homelessness Indicators	2008
Population of New Brunswick (2006 Census)	729,997
Number of individuals who stayed in a shelter bed	2,374 *
Number of emergency shelter beds in NB:	
For men	145 *
For women (domestic violence)	70 *
For women (not domestic violence)	61 *
Number of mats / overflow beds (men & women)	35 *
Number of beds for drug/alcohol rehabilitation/detox:	
For men	33 *
For women	16 *
Number of food banks	52
Number of soup kitchens	10 *
Number of individuals assisted HungerCount 2008	15,638
Housing Indicators	
Number of provincially subsidized housing units	7,167
Of these, # of units owned by the province	4,213
Of these, # provincially subsidized private dwellings	2,954
Number on the provincially subsidized waiting list	4,079
New units in the 2007 and 2008 Affordable Rental Housing Programs	1,594
Number of transitional housing beds	159
Number of Second Stage Housing Units	32
Rental vacancy rate (April 2008 - 2 Bdrm Apt)	5.2%
Average rent for a 2-bedroom apartment (April 08)	\$635
Income Indicators	
Social assistance for a single person	\$294
# of individuals on social assistance in NB	38,686
Minimum wage in NB (April 2009)	\$8.00 / hr

* In NB there are 4 designated communities under the Homelessness Partnering Strategy: Saint John, Moncton, Fredericton, and Bathurst. All data marked "*" is the total for these communities; data for the remainder of the province is unavailable.



Photo Courtesy of Lauchlan Ough

What is homelessness?

- Living on the street.
- Staying overnight in emergency shelters.
- Staying in places not meant for human habitation.
- Moving continuously among temporary housing arrangements provided by friends, family or strangers ("couch surfing").

Who is at-risk of homelessness?

- Families and individuals can lose their housing for any number of reasons: fleeing abuse, losing a job, or having an income too low to stay in suitable housing.
- Some people are at-risk because of mental health issues or substance abuse problems or they lack life skills or the ability to live on their own.

2,374 people were homeless and stayed in a shelter at some point in 2008.*

This is the first Report Card on Homelessness in New Brunswick. It presents a profile of homelessness in the Province of New Brunswick and the four designated communities under the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (Bathurst, Fredericton, Moncton and Saint John). New Brunswick's first Report Card will present a profile of homelessness and introduce many organizations that work to reduce the impact of homelessness here in our province. Future progress or lack of progress will be measured using the indicators in the table above.

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 that work with the homeless population and those at-risk of becoming homeless.

Dispelling the Myths

Myth: All homeless people are mentally ill, drug addicts or alcoholics.

Reality: Our homeless population also includes seniors facing rent increases, women and their families transitioning from abusive relationships, the working poor, youth who left government care with no transitional help, and low-income families unable to find affordable housing.

Insufficient treatment and support services for people with mental illness, disabilities or substance abuse issues can make it difficult for them to find and maintain adequate housing. However, these people only make up a portion of New Brunswick's homeless population.

Myth: It is easy to see people who are homeless.

Reality: All too familiar with the homeless people who live on the streets, parks or doorways, we rarely see the majority of those without homes - the hidden homeless. This includes people who live in their cars or find temporary beds; other people's couches, garages, church basements, welfare motels or abandoned buildings. They are adults with full-time jobs, seniors on fixed incomes and children. These are the homeless we don't see.

Myth: Most homeless people choose to be homeless.

Reality: People don't want to be homeless; 97 percent of homeless people wish to have homes. Survival involves inadequate medical services, poor nutrition, sexual victimization, harassment and physical assault. They constantly search for shelter, and experience poor prospects for employment or appropriate permanent housing, social isolation, and the development of mental health and substance abuse problems. No one "chooses" what this lifestyle brings.

Myth: Most homeless people are to blame for their situation.

Reality: The spiral from stability to homelessness can occur in a short period of time. For some, the path to homelessness is a matter of multiple barriers such as mental health issues, disability, addiction and social problems. Others may be transitioning from abusive situations and have nowhere else to go. For many it is an issue of money and housing affordability. Whether it's a senior on a fixed income facing rent increases, a single mom who suddenly loses her job or a young adult making minimum wage, many are only one pay cheque away from homelessness.

Myth: Youth are on the street because they think it's cool and have run away from home because they don't want to follow household rules.

Reality: Abuse and neglect are two of the main reasons youth leave home. Many studies show that nearly 70 percent of homeless youth have experienced some form of sexual, physical or emotional abuse. There are also many street youth who are wards of the state and have no home. High rental prices can also make it difficult to rent a home when making minimum wage.

Myth: There's always a place for someone to live if they really want one.

Reality: With rising rental prices and low vacancy rates, affordable housing is a major issue for people who are homeless or at-risk of being homeless.

Myth: It's impossible for an individual to make a difference in solving homelessness.

Reality: People can and are making a difference in solving homelessness. Organizations and charities that help men, women, children, seniors and parents in our community to overcome homelessness rely on community support. They are able to do this one volunteer and donation at a time.

Adapted with permission from the Victoria Steering Committee on Homelessness (www.ourwayhome.ca)

Bathurst

Homelessness Indicators	2008
Population of the Chaleur Region (2006 Census)	31,424
Number of emergency shelter beds in the Chaleur Region:	
For men	0
For women (domestic violence)	10
For women (not domestic violence)	0
Number of mats (men and women)	0
Number of beds for drug/alcohol rehabilitation:	0
For men	0
For women	0
Number of food banks (Bathurst, Petit-Rocher, Allardville)	3
Number of soup kitchens (Bathurst, Beresford)	2
Number of NB individuals assisted HungerCount 2008	15,638
Housing Indicators	
Number of provincially subsidized housing units	632
Of these, # of units owned by the province	396
Of these, # provincially subsidized private dwellings	165
Number on the provincially subsidized waiting list	200
New units in the 2007 Affordable Rental Housing Program	7
Number of transitional housing units	0
Number of affordable housing units	7
Rental vacancy rate (April 2008)	12%
Average rent for a 2-bedroom apartment (April 08)	\$525
Income Indicators	
Social assistance for a single person	\$294
# of individuals on social assistance in the Chaleur Region (includes those on disability assistance)	1,371
Minimum wage in NB (April 2009)	\$8.00 / hr

Shelter Services in the Bathurst Region (June 2009)

The site selected to be the location of the new Emergency Homeless Shelter is at 753 Assaff Street in Bathurst. The building is owned by the Province of NB (NB Housing) and its location has been rezoned to permit for the operation of a temporary Emergency Homeless Shelter. Funding has also been approved by the Province of NB for renovations to the building in order to meet the National Building Code requirements for the intended use.

It will take another 3-4 months to complete the renovations. The shelter is scheduled to open the first week of October 2009.

The Community Homeless Network Inc. has been working with Service Canada (HPS), New Brunswick's Social Development Department (NB Housing) and the Bathurst Municipality to make this project a reality. Public Awareness sessions for schools, police departments and the community will inform the public of the shelter and its efforts to assist the homeless population on an interim basis.

The building will be prepared for operational activities and the Community Homeless Network Inc. will assist in preparing for an official opening. Internal operational policies will be developed as well as rules and regulations. Outreach Services will be an integral part of the shelter services.

The intent of the shelter is to provide short term accommodation for the homeless and "at-risk" population.

The Outreach Worker and Case Manager will: admit and shelter the clients, assist clients in locating and utilizing community resources (including medical, legal, financial assistance, independent housing, transportation and referrals to services), assist clients in making appointments with social workers, mental health and family doctors, and record all activities done alone or in collaboration with social and/or government groups providing for human growth and freedom from the cycle of dependency.

The expected results include a strengthened support system for at-risk youth and the vulnerable adult population who are homeless or at-risk of being so. A Community Coordinator will promote available services and help direct clients towards self-sufficiency. Performance indicators and project monitoring methods will be integrated in the project to ensure accountability to sponsors, funding partners and to the community.

Fredericton

Homelessness Indicators	2008
Population of Fredericton (2006 Census)	50,535
Number of individuals who stayed in the Fredericton Homeless Shelters	485
Number of times beds were used	14,974
Average length of stay in emergency shelters (days)	6.7
Number of emergency shelter beds in Fredericton:	
For men	40
For women (domestic violence)	19
For women (not domestic violence)	9
Number of overflow beds	5
Number of beds for drug/alcohol detox:	10
For men	6
For women	4
Number of food banks	2
Fredericton Food Bank Usage (by household)	1,279
Number of soup kitchens	1
Community Kitchen Meals Served	139,942
Number of NB individuals assisted HungerCount 2008	15,636
Housing Indicators	
Number of families and individuals on Affordable Housing Wait List (September)	484
Public Housing Units	353
Non-Profit Housing Unites	339
Provincially subsidized units in private dwellings	63
New units opening 2008 Affordable Rental Housing Program	8
Number of transitional housing (units)	8
Number of transitional housing (beds)	8
Number of long-term supportive housing (beds)	204
Fredericton Rental vacancy rate	4.3%
Average rent for a 1-bedroom apartment	\$589
Income Indicators	
Social assistance for a single person	\$294
# of individuals on social assistance in Fredericton (includes those on disability assistance)	6,979
Minimum wage in NB (April 2009)	\$8.00 / hr

Who We Are

The Fredericton Community Action Group on Homelessness (CAGH) is a network of 30+ non-profit organizations, individuals, and representatives from the three levels of government who identify and work on solutions to end homelessness.

The CAGH is concerned about the needs of the homeless population that are unmet. Provincial and non-profit services are generally meant to be available to all people depending on the type of service needed and offered. For the homeless population, accessing services can be very difficult. While there are services available for people experiencing homelessness or at-risk of becoming homelessness, there is a huge gap in our system regarding access and support for this population.

City Voucher Campaign

This program, operated by the John Howard Society of Fredericton, links panhandlers in the downtown core, with downtown businesses to complete small jobs. Participants receive a gift certificate for their work. The results of this program go far beyond financial results, with three of last year's 19 participants finding long term employment. The program reduces the number of people panhandling and renews the self-confidence of the participants.

Street Outreach

A large gap in services for the homeless population in Fredericton is the link to the services that already exist to help them. This gap can be filled by Street Outreach services. Fredericton had a Street Outreach Program until October 2008 that was a partnership between the Fredericton YMCA and the John Howard Society of Fredericton. The program was staffed by two full-time street outreach workers. The Community Health Clinic was also involved, and continues to provide service as it can with various volunteers, social work students and nursing students. An agreement between New Brunswick municipalities, the Provincial Government, and the Federal Government to provide street outreach services could mean a sustainable, effective program to address chronic homelessness.



Community
Action Group
on Homelessness
Fredericton, NB

Housing Need and Demand

*Waiting List for Affordable Housing -
Fredericton Region of Social Development -
September 2008*

Families: 201

Seniors: 106

Non-Elderly Singles: 163

Disabled: 14

Total: 484

Fredericton's Affordable Housing Inventory - September 2008

Project Type	# of beds / units
<i>Rent Supplement in Private Market (Single Room Occupancy)</i>	
Non-Elderly Singles	63 rooms
<i>Public Housing</i>	
Family	128 units
Senior	225 units
<i>Non-Profit Housing</i>	
Family	111 units
Senior	228 units
<i>Rent Supplement in Private Market - Family</i>	210 units
Nursing Home	268 beds
<i>Supportive Care Services</i>	
Adult Residential Facilities	440 units
Assisted Family Living Facilities	102 units
New Affordable Rental Housing Projects	To be announced

Shelters and Supportive Housing

Name	# of beds / units
Fredericton Men's Emergency Shelter	40 beds
Grace House (Women's Shelter)	12 beds
Chrysalis House	8 beds
Fredericton Transition House	19 beds
Gignoo Transition House	15 beds
Liberty Lane Second Stage Housing	14 beds
Rent Supplement Supportive Housing	
NB Community Residences	3 units
John Howard Society	1 unit

Fredericton Homeless Shelters, Inc.

The Facts

There are two homeless shelters in Fredericton: the Men's shelter at 65 Brunswick Street with forty plus beds and Grave House for Women at 273 Brunswick Street with nine plus beds. The Shelters opened their doors in 1983 and 2001 respectively.

Clients are provided service free of charge if they are without an income. If they are receiving social assistance, EI, or are working while in the Shelters, they pay rent at a prorated amount. The Shelters operate 23 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

What does it cost to run the shelters?

The annual operating budget is more than \$400,000. This is the minimum amount required to keep the doors open and includes the cost of staffing, rent, electricity, toilet paper, laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, etc. Revenue sources are as follows:

- Province of NB: \$60,000/year
- United Way: \$50,000/year
- Client Rent: \$40,000/year

Over \$250,000 must be raised from the community.

Who stays at the shelters?

Each year, nearly 500 men and women stay at the Shelters. In total, the shelters provide nearly 15,000 bed nights. The length of stay ranges from one day to several months, depending on each client's circumstances. One client has been at the Men's Shelter for more than 8 years.

Statistics

	2008	2007
Male Clients	389	350
Female Clients	96	102
TOTAL	485	452
Bed Nights	14,974	13,795

In 2008, male clients ranged from 16-83 years of age and female clients from 16 to 72.

Housing

What is transitional housing?

Housing facilities that provide services beyond basic needs and that, while not permanent, generally allow for a longer length of stay than emergency housing facilities (up to three years). These facilities offer more privacy to residents than emergency housing, and place greater emphasis on participation. They are targeted to those in need of structure, support, and/or skill building to move from homelessness to housing stability, and ultimately to prevent a return to homelessness.

Example: There are 13 transition houses in the province of New Brunswick, three of which are located in and around the Saint John region - Hestia House, Sussex Vale Transition House, and Fundy Region Transition House. Hestia House has 24 beds, Sussex Vale Transition House has 9 beds, and the Fundy Region Transition House has 15 beds.

What is social housing?

Public, co-op or non-profit housing with long-term government subsidies paid to a housing provider (three or more years).

Example: North End Family Co-op, located in Saint John.



*North End Family Co-op, Saint John
Photo Courtesy of Housing Alternatives*

What is affordable housing?

Social housing or other housing that has been built under a government affordable housing program. Social housing includes public housing, non-profit housing, co-op housing and rent supplement units in the private rental sector. Housing is affordable if it costs less than 30% of before-tax household income.

Example: Fredericton Non-Profit Housing Corp. currently manages 90 affordable housing units throughout the City of Fredericton and outlying areas. These units co-exist in various neighbourhoods and tenants are families and individuals under the age of 65.

DID YOU KNOW??

The Minimum Housing Wage

The Minimum Housing Wage is the hourly income required to pay April 2008 rents in NB:

Bachelor Apartment: \$8.15

One Bedroom: \$10.08

Two Bedroom: \$12.21

Three Bedroom: \$13.98

NB Minimum wage is currently \$8.00/hour. It will increase to \$8.25/hour in September 2009.

This is based on a full-time worker, 40 hours per week for 52 weeks. The Minimum Housing Wage is based on spending 30% of gross income on accommodation (anything over 30% is deemed to be unaffordable).

What is long-term supportive housing?

Housing for individuals and families that includes supports and services integrated into the housing. There is no maximum length of stay. Services depend on clients' needs and are provided to help residents maintain independence and stability to promote social inclusion.

Example: Alternative Residences Inc. (Moncton) is for mental health clients. Its 30 units include 26 community apartments and four 24-hour residences. The facility can accommodate approx. 66-76 for up to two years.

Rooming Houses in NB

New Brunswick is currently the only province in Canada that does not include roomers and boarders in its Residential Tenancies Act. Roomers and boarders have no legal protection regarding the conditions of the rooms they inhabit; their damage deposits are not secured by the Rentalsman (who acts as a mediator in disputes between tenants and landlords). Amendments to the NB Residential Tenancies Act were passed by the Legislature in 2006, but no date has been set by government for these proposed changes to become law.

Rooming or boarding houses are often the most affordable places for people on a limited income to live. Prices vary according to the size and condition of the room. Conditions can vary from clean and orderly to decrepit and unsafe.

The provincial government is now examining whether to move ahead with this issue and if so, how.

Homelessness committees from the three urban centres, Saint John, Moncton, and Fredericton, have encouraged the government to proclaim the Act and put these changes into effect.

Households in Receipt of a Monthly Social Assistance Cheque by Accommodation Type

	New Brunswick
Boarding	2,549
Parental Home	3,717
Subsidized Housing	4,267
Mortgaged Dwelling	3,077
Rented Dwelling	9,136
Movable Dwelling	219
Residential Facility *	80

* Residential facilities include special care homes, transition houses and hospitals.

Source: Department of Social Development, Planning, Research and Evaluation (2008)

Housing Alternatives Inc.



Founded in 1981 with the assistance of CMHC and the SJ Human Development Council, Housing Alternatives Inc. is a nationally accredited, non-profit Resource

Group. Its mandate is to add to the housing supply and to provide housing related services, in order to improve the quality of life for people of low to moderate income in New Brunswick. They are part of a network of over 40 Resource Groups in Canada, one of two in New Brunswick.

Project development services have been provided by Housing Alternatives Inc. for six community based organizations – the North End Improvement Corporation of Saint John (72 units), the Charlotte County Housing Council (15 units), the Sussex Resource Centre (6 units), Rehabitat Inc. (100 units), Second Stage Housing Inc. (4 units) and First Steps Housing Project (14 beds). Numerous other community based housing sponsors have also utilized the consultation services of Housing Alternatives Inc.

Housing Alternatives Inc. has developed ten continuing housing co-operatives, nine in Saint John and one in St. Stephen, totaling 338 units. Collectively owned and operated by their member residents, co-ops in Saint John have been praised by government and the public for their dramatic contribution to community involvement initiatives, neighbourhood revitalization, preservation of historic properties, modest design innovations and the provision of outdoor spaces appropriate to community living.

In 2008 its development activities included a 21-housing unit with South City Housing Co-op in the uptown area of Saint John. As well, Rehabitat Inc. developed, as a demonstration project, 3 townhouse units available for home ownership for modest income families.

Saint John

Homelessness Indicators	2008
Population of Saint John CMA (2006 Census)	122,389
Number of individuals who stayed in a shelter bed	1,160 *
Number of emergency shelter beds in Greater Saint John:	151
For men	79
For women (domestic violence)	24
For women (not domestic violence)	48 **
Number of beds for drug/alcohol detox:	19
For men	13
For women	6
Number of food banks / meal programs	22
Number of soup kitchens	1
Number of NB individuals assisted Hunger-Count 2008	15,636
Housing Indicators	
Number of provincially subsidized housing units	1,949
Of these, # of units owned by the province	1,259
Of these, # provincially subsidized private dwellings	690
Number on the provincially subsidized waiting list	1,064
New units in the Affordable Rental Housing Program (Based on Fiscal Year April 1- March 31)	07/08 - 306 08/09 - 161
Number of transitional housing units	24
Number of second stage housing units	13
Rental vacancy rate (April 2008)	4.3%
Average rent for a 2-bedroom apartment	\$604
Income Indicators	
Social assistance for a single person	\$294
# of individuals on social assistance in Saint John (includes those on disability assistance)	7,249 (Jan 2009)
Minimum wage in NB (April 2009)	\$8.00/hr

* Does not include those who stayed at Gateway to Hope Transition House in 2008.

** Includes 15 beds at Gateway to Hope Transition House which closed in the Spring of 2009.

Beyond Shelter in Saint John

Shelter is the first but not the only need of people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. They have a variety of needs including outreach, drop-in programs, health and education services, advice and counselling. The Human Development Council has an on-line database of community services available in Greater Saint John.

Visit the Community Services Database at: www.saintjohninfo.ca or www.nbinfo.ca or contact the INFO-Line at (506) 633-4636.



Human Development Council

Romero House

Romero House is the only soup kitchen located in the City of Saint John, but they are much more than that. In addition to providing hot meals 7 days a week, they also have an onsite chapel, a clothing and household goods depot, a mobile outreach service, and much, much more.

2008 Stats

51,990 meals served
 18,189 clothing / household items distributed
 949 emergency food orders
 3,158 mobile outreach contacts
 45 family projects (assistance for families in crisis)
 1,603 Christmas bags distributed
 156 clients who accessed health care services onsite

Between 1982 to 2008 Romero House has served over 1,497,680 meals.

Who We Are

The Greater Saint John Homelessness Steering Committee is an inter-agency committee representing agencies in Greater Saint John that work with the homeless population and those at-risk of becoming homeless. The GSJHSC provides leadership and coordinates communication among stakeholders and service providers to ensure the implementation of the Greater Saint John Community Plan on Homelessness. It also works to create public awareness about issues surrounding homelessness, poverty and housing.

What is Greater Saint John Doing to Help?

Hestia House

Hestia House provides temporary shelter to women (aged 16+) and children who are victims of family violence. They have a 24/7 facility which can accommodate 24 women and children.

They provide a variety of services including: referrals to counselling, legal assistance, accompaniment to appointments, assistance with obtaining an income, and acquiring furnishings.

In 2008, Hestia House saw 313 clients (175 adults, 11 youth (15-17 years of age), and 127 children (0-14 years of age). The average length of stay per client was 13.39 days. They provided 4,142 bed nights (the sum of the occupancy rate (actual beds used) each day of the year.)

There is currently no facility in Greater Saint John that can house women and children who are not victims of family violence.

Coverdale Emergency Wet Shelter

Coverdale Emergency Homeless Shelter is a temporary residence for women aged 18 and up. Coverdale allows women who are under the influence to stay at the shelter. The shelter runs under strict guidelines and the house is supervised by a staff 24 hours a day.

Women who have never been to the shelter are permitted to stay for a maximum of 90 days. Coverdale collects 30% of their income and holds it so they will have money saved when they move out.

They have 10 beds available and they are often at full capacity. Referrals are not necessary. **Between April 2008 and March 2009 their shelter beds were used 245 times by 126 women.**

Salvation Army

The Salvation Army, Booth Residential Services (BRS), is for men aged 16 and up who are homeless, seniors, mental health consumers, foster children (aged 16 to 18), refugees, and government assistance consumers. As a 79 bed facility, BRS accommodates 42 residents in its Community Housing Program and 37 residents in its Special Care Program.

The Community Housing Program includes:

1. Emergency shelter for transients;
2. Residents who have potential to be integrated into the community;
3. Residents who remain at BRS for quite some time since there is no other housing alternative and they need support from management and staff.

The Special Care Program is for adult men with psychological and/or physiological concerns.

The BRS Alternative Program is designed to move residents back into independent living in the community by providing an apartment. The living accommodations are provided through partnership agencies.

In 2008, BRS had a total of 25,304 bed days (calculated by multiplying the total number of beds used by the number of days available in the month), 43,010 meals served, and a 98.1% capacity rate.

Youth Homelessness - The Oasis

The Oasis Room is a service for youth aged 13-24 who are homeless or are in need and is located at the Resource Centre for Youth (TRC). It has shower and laundry facilities, a clothing closet, and a food pantry.

In 2008 there were 300 client contacts. Of these 129 were male and 171 were female. The clients ranged in age from 15 to 24 with the majority being between 18 and 21 years of age.

Moncton

Homelessness Indicators	2007
Population of Greater Moncton (2006 Census)	126,424
Number of individuals who stayed in a shelter bed	725
Number of times beds were used	4,707
Average length of stay in emergency shelters (days)	6.49
Number of emergency shelter beds in Greater Moncton:	
For men	26
For women (domestic violence)	17
For women (not domestic violence)	4
Number of mats (men and women)	30
Number of beds for drug/alcohol rehabilitation:	
For men	14
For women	6
Number of food banks	6
Number of soup kitchens	6
Number of individuals assisted HungerCount 2007	6,354
Housing Indicators	
Number of provincially subsidized housing units	1,318
Of these, # of units owned by the province	649
Of these, # provincially subsidized private dwellings	669
Number on the provincially subsidized waiting list	671
New units in the 2007 Affordable Rental Housing Program	69
Number of transitional housing units	8
Number of long-term supportive housing units	42
Number of affordable housing units	999
Rental vacancy rate (April 200)	6.1%
Average rent for a 2-bedroom apartment	\$643
Income Indicators	
Social assistance for a single person	\$285
# of individuals on social assistance in Greater Moncton (includes those on disability assistance)	4,328
Minimum wage in NB (end 2007)	\$7.50

What We're Doing to Help in Greater Moncton

Emergency Shelters in Greater Moncton

Name	#	For
Addiction Services	20 beds	Drug/alcohol (14 for men; 6 for women). Need to get on waiting list.
Crossroads for Women Inc.	17 beds	Domestic violence (women and children).
Harvest House	30 mats	Men and women sleep on floor in Outreach Centre
House of Nazareth	30 beds	24 men; 4 women; 2 on reserve

Source: House of Nazareth Annual Report 2007; Crossroads for Women Annual Report 2007-2008; interviews.

Crossroads for Women statistics for fiscal year 2007-2008:

- 131 women and 88 children stayed at some point during the year.
- Of the 13 shelters in the province, Crossroads is the busiest.
- Total nights stayed: 1,619 women, 1,108 children.
- Length of Stay at Crossroads: 21 women stayed 24 hours; 75 stayed two weeks; 13 stayed more than two weeks but less than four; and 21 stayed four weeks.
- Discharge information: 23 returned home to their mate; 12 returned home, mate left; 4 went to Second Stage housing; 36 found housing; and 4 went to stay with friends or relatives.

Who We Are

The Greater Moncton Homelessness Steering Committee is an inter-agency committee representing agencies in Greater Moncton that work with the homeless population and those at-risk of becoming homeless. Established in 2000, the GMHSC provides leadership and coordinates communication among stakeholders and service providers to ensure the implementation of the Greater Moncton Community Plan on Homelessness. It also works to create public awareness about issues surrounding homelessness, poverty, and housing.

Learn more at www.monctonhomelessness.org.

The House of Nazareth offers emergency shelter for individuals in need and provides meals and clothing. Sixty-three percent of those who used the shelter in 2007 were from New Brunswick. At 4pm each day, bagged lunches are given out to people not staying at the shelter. Every weekend after the 15th of the month, full course meals are offered at 5:30pm on Saturdays and Sundays to residents and non-residents. Some soup kitchens in Moncton are closed on weekends and people on low income often cannot afford to purchase enough food for the whole month. The House of Nazareth also operates a Recycle Centre, "Boutique Encore," a second-hand store offering used clothing, furniture and other household goods. Items are given free of charge or sold at affordable prices for those who can afford them.

House of Nazareth - 2007 Statistics	
Total number of clients	725
Total number of nights stayed	4,707
Average # of nights stayed per client	6.49
Average # of beds occupied per night	12.89
Total meals served (including bagged lunches)	27,793
Clients served at "Boutique Encore"	11,244

Source: House of Nazareth, Annual Report 2007

There is very little shelter for homeless or at-risk women in Greater Moncton, especially those who are young and pregnant.

Low Income Cut-offs (LICOs) Greater Moncton 2006 (after tax)	
1 person	\$14,859
2 people	\$18,085
3 people	\$22,519
4 people	\$28,095
5 people	\$31,992
6 people	\$35,480
7 + people	\$38,967
14% of people over age 15 in Greater Moncton were living in low income in 2006	

Source: Canadian Council on Social Development, 2006 Poverty Lines (LICOs)

Pay the rent or feed the kids?

The costs of renting in Greater Moncton have not decreased over the past few years. In fact, in the spring of 2008, Moncton and Fredericton were the only urban centres in the province with an average rent higher than the provincial average (Rental Market Report, New Brunswick, Spring 2008, CMHC). As the cost of housing relative to income rises for low-income earners - and especially given rising fuel costs these days - less money is available for other necessities such as food. The use of food banks reflects the fact that many households are facing significant economic problems and are vulnerable to homelessness. Many food bank users are the working poor.

Average Monthly Rents in Greater Moncton

Unit Size	Oct 2007	Oct 2008	End 2005
Bachelor	\$413	\$426	\$393
1 Bedroom	\$532	\$540	\$513
2 Bedroom	\$643	\$636	\$612
3+ Bedrooms	\$706	\$673	\$665

Someone working 8 hours a day at the minimum wage would earn roughly \$1,300* a month. They would spend 50% of their income on rent in a two-bedroom apartment. And then there's the electricity bill, the taxes, the water, the groceries....

* Based on 2007 Minimum Wage (\$7.75/hour)

Source: CMHC Rental Report - NB Highlights - December 2006, CMHC Rental Market Report - NB Highlights - Fall 2007

What can YOU do?

- Educate yourself and others about the problem of homelessness.
- Volunteer your time to work directly with people experiencing homelessness.
- Advocate on behalf of people who are homeless and organizations that work with people who are homeless.
- Contribute to and help organizations that work to end homelessness.
- Become aware of the language you use and refrain from using words that refer to people experiencing homelessness in derogatory ways.
- Be aware of and help change attitudes about homelessness among your friends, family and people within the community to help reduce NIMBY (“Not in My Backyard”) reactions.
- Be inclusive and promote inclusive communities throughout the city.

What can GOVERNMENT do?

Federal

- Put in place long-term and sustained funding to support our community’s capacity to end homelessness.
- Create a National Housing Strategy that clearly defines federal responsibility for funding affordable housing.

Provincial

- Enact the proposed changes to the NB Residential Tenancies Act so that rooming house residents have protection.
- Increase social assistance rates and adopt a comprehensive Poverty Reduction Strategy.
- Increase the amount that social assistance recipients can earn before their assistance is affected.

Municipal

- Take a proactive approach in the municipal planning process on affordable housing.
- Commit resources to support community non-profit housing projects. (Example: support non-profit housing providers through project grants, tax and fee exemptions, and land donations.)

DID YOU KNOW?? Poverty in New Brunswick

Based on the 2006 Census, 729,995 people live in New Brunswick and approximately 100,740 (13.8%) of them are living in poverty.

Approximately 38,984 New Brunswickers are receiving social assistance. (May 2008)

Of the 217,790 families in New Brunswick, 16,116 (7.4%) of them have an income of less than \$20,000 a year.

The average cost of food for a year is \$6,082 per household. (Survey of Household Spending, 2006)

The average annual cost of shelter in New Brunswick is \$9,124.

DID YOU KNOW??

Food Banks in New Brunswick (March 2008)

15,638	The number of people who received assistance from food banks.
33.2%	The percentage who were children under the age of 18.
52	The number of food banks in operation in the province.

For more information on the contents of this report, please contact:

Greater Moncton Homelessness Steering Committee
Sue Calhoun at (506) 877-2343 or
moncton.homelessness@gmail.com
www.monctonhomelessness.org

The Fredericton Community Action Group
on Homelessness
Fiona Williams at (506) 444-8199 or
cmhafo2@nb.aibn.com

Community Homelessness Network Inc. (Bathurst)
Laura Aubie at (506) 549-3213 or
outreachbyc@nbnet.nb.ca

Greater Saint John Homelessness
Steering Committee
Belinda Allen at (506) 636-8541 or belinda@sjhdc.ca