

# LITERATURE REVIEW



## Housing and Homelessness Research in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM)

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Report prepared by Mikiko Terashima  
Report updated and edited by Louise VanWart, Bearing East Research  
Services.

Commissioned by the Halifax Regional Municipality, Planning and  
Development Services

## Table of contents

Introduction .....	3
Policy background.....	4
Synthesis of Findings.....	6
Gaps and Future local research needs.....	8
Conclusion .....	10
Annotated bibliography: Homelessness and housing issues.....	13
➤ Research on Halifax Regional Municipality and/or Nova Scotia.....	14
➤ National Research with a focus on HRM and/or Atlantic Canada.....	45
➤ Example and Reference Studies in Canada (National) and other Cities	49
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation research highlights of interest.....	69
References on Public Housing in Atlantic Canada .....	72
Selected Web sites .....	74

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## Introduction

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This report updates the 2003 *Literature Review of Current Housing and Homelessness Research in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM)*. The review covers information, published or issued between 1993 and 2004, deemed to be highly relevant to the HRM context. Various forms of research studies (working papers, white papers, plans, theses, internal studies and reports, evaluation reports, historical documents) constitute the literature review.

The Literature Review has the following objectives:

1. To compile and consolidate academic and non-academic research published between 1993 and 2004 on housing and homelessness issues in HRM, including research pertinent to the various populations of homeless and at-risk individuals;
2. To identify limitations and gaps in existing research on homelessness issues in the Halifax Regional Municipality;
3. To provide limited additional national and international resources relevant to housing and homelessness research.

The Literature Review was updated with research completed since June 2003 and with other research that fits the objectives of the literature review. In the past year, over twenty local research projects have been completed on housing and/or homelessness in HRM.

The annotated bibliography contains research that either focused on HRM or was related to the housing and homelessness issues in HRM. Where relevant, some national or international research studies that address issues relevant to HRM were included. Among them are effective and innovative practices in housing services, as well as those that demonstrate possible strategies, directions, methodologies and designs in future research applicable to HRM.

## Policy background

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- Between the mid-1960s and the mid-1980s, the Federal Government offered a broad range of housing programs addressing neighborhood improvement, housing rehabilitation, native housing, non-profit and co-op housing<sup>1</sup>.
- In 1994, the federal government ended funding for programs that involved new housing production.<sup>2</sup>
- In 1996, the federal government began negotiations with the provinces and territories to download the responsibility for social housing. Federal government devolution agreements phased out federal subsidies and allocated the management of social housing to the province or territory. Under the agreements, federal subsidies must be used for social housing and assistance for low-income households. By 2029, the devolution agreements will remove the federal government from all funding obligations for social housing.<sup>3</sup>
- The Province of Nova Scotia signed a Social Housing Agreement with the Federal Government in 1997. The agreement devolves the responsibility for the management of 22,000 social housing units from the Federal Government to the Province.
- The elimination of Canada Assistance Plan in 1995 led to cutbacks of social programs and services in Nova Scotia.
- The Government of Canada Supporting Community Partnership Initiative (SCPI) committed \$753 million over a three-year period between 1999 to 2001 to fund programs for homelessness prevention in ten Canadian cities. SCPI led to the creation of the Halifax group, Community Action on Homelessness, who led the development of a *Community Action Plan* in Halifax. Halifax received \$6 million from the fund.
- SCPI was extended in March 2003 for three more years, providing \$405 million. The *Community Action Plan on Homelessness (2000)* was evaluated and the 2003-2006 Plan is currently operational.
- In August 2000, the responsibility for provincial housing was moved from the Nova Scotia Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs to the Department of Community Services. Housing became one of four divisions of Community Services. The Housing Services Division operates grant and loan programs for home renovations and repairs, oversees the management of 22,000 social housing units and develops and sells land. The Division also administers the Housing Act and is responsible for legislation governing the Nova Scotia Housing Development Corporation. Housing Authorities throughout the province act as property managers for provincial public housing. Their boards deal with tenant issues (Housing Services, 2002).

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<sup>1</sup> Ibid., p.iii.

<sup>2</sup> Pomeroy, p1-4

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

- Nova Scotia Community Service's Housing Services Division held a Housing Symposium in November 2001. At the symposium stakeholders discussed Housing's proposed vision and goals for the improvement of the housing situation in the province (Housing Services, 2002).
- In December 2001, the Federal Minister of Finance announced the Affordable Housing Program. The Government of Canada committed \$136 million a year for five years to assist in the construction of affordable rental housing, which is the equivalent of about 5,400 new units a year<sup>4</sup>.
- In September 2002, the Government of Nova Scotia and the Federal Government signed a five-year \$37.26 million Affordable Housing Program Agreement. Half of the \$37.26 million must come from the Province and housing partners in the province. Up to 1,500 affordable homes will be created or renovated under the program (Housing Services, 2003). The four program components are: 1. New Rental Housing Initiative, 2. New Homeowner Program, 3. Rental Rehabilitation Program, and 4. Homeowner Rehabilitation Program. As of December 2004 \$11.5 M was spent providing funding to construct 199 new units and rehabilitate 114 units across the province.
- In 2003, the Department of Community Services was restructured. The Housing Division was merged with the Income and Employment Support Division.
- Halifax Regional Municipality no longer has formal involvement in social services, but there are still relevant services HRM administers that concern housing and homelessness issues. Inspection of minimum housing standard falls into HRM's mandate. A *HRM by-law: M-100 respecting "Standards for Residential Occupancies"* is now in effect (downloadable from HRM website: <http://www.region.halifax.ns.ca/legislation/bylaws/hrm/blm100.pdf>). In addition, advice and counseling, tax assistance and donation of property and other assets are some of the possible ways for HRM to contribute to housing and homelessness issues<sup>5</sup>.
- Halifax Regional Municipality is developing a Regional Plan. The Plan will address issues of housing affordability and diversity.
- In 2003 the Department of Community Services began an evaluation of the Social Housing Agreement.<sup>6</sup>
- In December 2004 the Minister of Labour and Housing, the Honourable Joe Fontana, announced his intention to undertake national consultations as a part of developing a longer term Canadian housing framework. The National Secretariat on Homelessness, in collaboration with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, will convene expert roundtables and invitational community forums in 2005. A key objective of these consultations is to gain a better understanding of homelessness and affordable housing issues.

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<sup>4</sup> Hulchanski (2002, December, p. iii).

<sup>5</sup> See Ruddick, p. 37.

<sup>6</sup> From an August 2004 meeting with Jim Graham, Director of Operations, Department of Community Services

## Synthesis of Findings

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### Literature included for the 2004 update:

The annotated bibliography includes over eighty (80) sources with thirty-three (33) new titles added to the 2004 update. Forty eight (48) of the resources are focused on Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) and/or Nova Scotia. The remaining sources are national in scope and include a section on HRM/Atlantic Canada or are relevant to HRM/Atlantic Canada. The findings from the literature review can be summarized as follows.

#### **1) The main problems remain: a shortage of affordable housing stock and low incomes.**

Twenty five percent of HRM households pay more than 30% of their income on housing and nearly 12% pay more than half of their income on housing.<sup>7</sup> Housing costs are rising in HRM, putting further pressure on households at risk of homelessness. Homelessness appears to be on the rise in HRM, although trends in homelessness are poorly documented.<sup>8</sup>

National and local research on housing and homelessness repeatedly refer to the lack of affordable housing stock. Local research on homelessness in Halifax by Karabanow (2003), Landry (2004), Richards (2004), Reham (2003) and Tota (2004) all point to the need for more affordable housing in Halifax. They write about the need to improve the supply of rental housing, supportive housing and transitional housing.

National studies by The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) (2004), TD Economics (2003), Canadian Council on Social Development (2003) and Heisz (2004) refer to the drop in incomes in the lower income brackets. These studies acknowledge the lack of affordable housing supply but also stress the importance of stagnant or declining incomes. FCM reports low and modest incomes decreased by 10 % from 1999-2000. TD Economics argues that the solution to the affordable housing problem involves raising market incomes in the lower income brackets as well as addressing supply shortages.

#### **2) The present housing system is under pressure.**

HRM's *Portrait of Streets and Shelters* (2003) reports that every part of the housing system is under pressure. Those in emergency shelters and transitional housing are over-extending their stay because they cannot access affordable housing. Waiting lists for public housing are lengthy. There are line ups for food banks and soup kitchens, shelters are forced to turn people away and emergency shelters cannot serve those with severe mental health and addiction problems.

#### **3) Municipal involvement in housing**

Municipal governments have control over policy areas that can have an impact on housing affordability such as land, zoning, development fees and property taxes. A couple of

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<sup>7</sup> Tota, p2.

<sup>8</sup> Tota, p7

recent reports, Josza (2004) and Tomalty (2004) looked at the ability of HRM to assist with the development of affordable housing.

Recently, HRM has increased its role in housing by commissioning and undertaking research and education on housing issues, community advocacy and developing a housing policy in its Regional Plan. The reports point to ways HRM can further increase its involvement in housing, including amendments to the Municipal Government Act.

#### **4) Public perceptions of housing and homelessness problems.**

According to Karabanow (2004) and Richards (2003) the public perceives that there are serious housing problems. Karabanow (2004) surveyed people regarding youth homelessness. The general response was that youth homelessness is getting worse and that the problem is due to structural issues. Those surveyed pointed to cutbacks to social welfare spending and the lack of housing services as sources of the problem. Half of respondents (49%) to the Corporate Research Survey (Richards, 2003) commissioned by HRM, thought that homelessness is on the rise and 80% said that housing costs had increased in the past five years.

#### **5) People with Multiple Needs**

Research on housing for people with multiple needs was identified in the 2003 Literature Review as a local research need. In the past year, Sewell (2004) and Ilves (forthcoming) have contributed to local research on housing for people with multiple needs. Ilves' report is focused on homeless persons with mental illness and co-occurring substance use. The report is a pre-development study to support housing for this sub-population. Sewell's study is *Development of a Best Practice Model for Community Outreach & Housing for Persons with Mental Illness: A Mental Health Consumer Perspective*.

#### **6) Immigrants**

Another gap identified in the 2003 Literature Review was research regarding immigrant access and experience with housing issues. Halifax's Metropolitan Immigrant Settlement Association (MISA) recently finished a study to document the process and progress of a housing project for single male Government Assisted Refugees. The study outlines the challenges and successes of the housing project. Information was gathered through interviews with the residents and housing committee members who developed the project.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Ball (2004)

## Gaps and local research needs

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The review of literature and discussions with people who work in the housing field point to some gaps in research. Local housing and homelessness research needs can be summarized as follows.<sup>10</sup>

### 1) Immigrants and ethnic minorities

Only one study, Ball (2004), was found on housing and immigrants. Few recent studies seem to analyze housing and homelessness issues in HRM by ethnic or cultural subgroups, such as African Nova Scotians, First Nations and Aboriginal members, and different immigrant groups. Members of these groups are disproportionately represented in homeless or at-risk populations and poverty rates for new immigrant families continued to worsen between 1996 and 2000.<sup>11</sup> Also, according to the Portrait of Streets and Shelters (2003), Aboriginals in HRM are over-represented in at-risk and homeless populations.

Further research into these populations would be useful in addressing housing difficulties. An Atlantic Metropolis site was created in Halifax in December 2003 which may help address the lack of local research on this topic<sup>12</sup>.

### 2) Policies to address homelessness and the lack of affordable housing.

Research is needed on the larger policy issues surrounding housing and homelessness. Existing social and housing policies or lack of housing policies impact the current housing situation.

For example, in many Canadian metropolitan areas there is a lack of rental housing supply. There have been changes in policies over the last decades that have affected the rental housing supply. These include federal tax reforms that made the tax treatment of rental properties less attractive for investors; declining federal and provincial government spending on housing; provincial downloading of responsibilities to municipalities; tightening of CMHC's mortgage underwriting practices for rental properties; and rent controls.<sup>13</sup> These policies fall at different levels of government and different departments within government. It is important to develop a better understanding of the interconnectedness and impact of government department policies and policies at different levels of government.

### 3) Cost of homelessness

A better understanding of the cost of homelessness and the associated costs and benefits of policy interventions would be useful in redirecting government and service agency responses to homelessness. Meaningful research would consider costs borne by government agencies such as housing assistance, health, welfare, justice, education and employment assistance, as well as service groups, families of homeless individuals and

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<sup>10</sup> Many of the local research needs were identified at a Community Action on Homelessness Research Committee meeting on August 13, 2004.

<sup>11</sup> TD Economics, pii

<sup>12</sup> Atlantic Metropolis website can be found at [http://www.atlantic.metropolis.net/general/index\\_e.html](http://www.atlantic.metropolis.net/general/index_e.html)

<sup>13</sup> TD Economics, p. ii

the homeless themselves. The methodology may also blend administrative data sources with self-reporting of monetary and quality of life costs<sup>14</sup>.

A singular study may not be able to account for all of the costs and benefits, but individual studies may address questions such as: What are the cost savings of stably housing homeless or imminently at risk individuals with regard to service use? How could money spent on shelters and services be better spent to address housing and homelessness? What is the cost of front line agencies to provide services such as food banks, soup kitchens etc.? What does it cost our economy when people are not properly housed or live on the street? What are the neighbourhood impacts of affordable and/or supported housing projects? Examining homelessness as a cost and putting a dollar figure to that cost would likely make a strong argument for funding and social policy that improves the long-term effectiveness and efficiency of homeless prevention strategies.

#### **4) Barriers to getting off the street**

There is a need for more research on how gaps in specific services to homeless persons contribute to homelessness. Research could explore the impact of addressing service gaps and identify services or approaches that may help the homeless get off the street.

#### **5) Structural and systemic determinants of homelessness**

The Canadian Council on Social Development (2003) proposes research around the issues of structural and systemic determinants of homelessness. They suggest research based upon structured interviews with homeless persons and community workers. Additional research could include Census data on groups at high risk due to high housing costs relative to income.

In addition, there is a lack of analysis of recent trends of low income households in relation to rising rents, and of the labour market experiences of homeless persons. Also, research is needed on eligibility requirements for social assistance and how the system may help create and perpetuate homelessness.

#### **6) Definition of affordable housing**

There needs to be some discussion on the definition of affordable housing. The common definition is housing that costs less than 30% of gross household income is considered affordable. This definition does not consider items such as medical costs, transportation costs or number of dependents.

#### **7) Public housing**

An evaluation of the public housing stock in Nova Scotia is needed. Nova Scotia has some of the oldest public housing stock in Canada. Some locations have long waiting lists and other locations have units that remain vacant. The evaluation could consider issues such as vacancies, crime and social issues, age and condition of stock, type of housing, location, waiting lists, expiration of funding agreements, as well as future public housing needs.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> For an excellent review of international literature on this topic see Berry, M., Chamberlain, C., Dalton, T., Horn, M. and Berman, G. (2003). [www.ahuri.edu.au](http://www.ahuri.edu.au)

<sup>15</sup> From an August 2004 meeting with Jim Graham, Director of Operations, Department of Community Services

## Conclusion

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Research on housing and homelessness issues in HRM seems to be increasing. The recent research, fourteen local housing and homelessness studies completed in the past year, is encouraging. Of course, there remains a strong need to understand more about HRM homelessness and housing issues.

Bruce's (forthcoming) study on secondary apartments in HRM is important for developing strategies to address affordable housing supply in the city. CMHC's annual Rental Market Survey only covers apartments with three or more units in HRM. Little is known about the rental market not covered in this survey. Understanding the rental housing stock is an important piece of improving understanding of the affordable housing problem and developing strategies to address the problem.

Declining incomes is a trend across Canadian metropolitan areas, including HRM. As incomes decrease rents rise in HRM, making it more difficult for households to afford adequate and suitable shelter. Research that builds on the TD Economics study and points to ways to address low incomes as well as improve the affordable housing stock would be beneficial.

It is important to note the contribution to housing and homelessness research that has been made by HRM this past year. The *Portraits of Streets and Shelters* (2003) is a valuable piece of research that helps improve our understanding of homelessness in the area. Research that quantifies homelessness in HRM is lacking. *The Portrait of Streets and Shelters* continued on an annual basis will start to paint a more in-depth picture of homelessness trends in HRM and fill in some gaps in knowledge about the local housing and homelessness situation.

Finally, longitudinal homelessness research is needed. Because it is difficult and expensive to undertake there is little research that follows the patterns of homelessness and/or homeless individuals over a number of years. Work being done by Steve Kiseley that includes a longitudinal approach *Housing and Health: The Impact of Alternative Service Delivery and Supportive Housing on Health Outcomes*, will be an important contribution to understanding homelessness in HRM.

## References

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# Annotated Bibliography

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The Annotated bibliography is a summary of research on housing and homelessness issues from 1993-2004. The research has been categorized as follows:

1. Research focused on Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) and/or Nova Scotia;
2. National or broader research with a section or focus related to HRM and/or Atlantic Canada;
3. National or broader research on issues that introduce innovative practices, useful lessons and/or policy practices. This is research that is applicable to HRM issues and could serve as resources for future research and housing service practices in HRM;

Within each category the research is divided according to whether it is predominantly about homelessness, housing or related issues. Separating the research into these categories is sometimes difficult, as these issues are interrelated and overlap. There may be research under the heading of housing that contains information on homelessness and vice versa.

Online resources such as Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)'s Research Highlights of interest and selected websites are also included.

The annotated bibliography uses the following format for each piece of literature:

<b>#Title:</b>
<b>Keywords:</b>
(Relevance)☆☆☆
Summary
<u>Source:</u>

- ☆☆☆ Directly about homelessness and housing issues
- ☆☆ Has sections on or closely related to homelessness and housing issues
- ☆ Implications around homelessness and housing issues

# Research on Halifax Regional Municipality and/or Nova Scotia

## Homelessness

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### 1. Title:

**Bishop, Angela. (2003, February). *Harm Reduction and Housing: Short and Long-term Opportunities for the HRM, A report prepared for the Harm Reduction Committee of Community Action on Homelessness.***

**Keyword:** *Harm Reduction, Supportive Housing, Mental illness, Addiction Issues, A Vancouver Model*

☆☆☆

This study examines the operations of Vancouver's Lookout Society, one of the largest harm reduction housing providers in Canada. The study also examines applying aspects of the model used at Lookout Society in Halifax. Key features of the model include: a strong commitment to policies and approaches that are respectful to all clients, efforts to support and maximize clients' independence, serving the needs of "the most difficult to house", coordination with health services, and outreach. The model is based on a continuity of services that include health, education and skill training and counseling. Three concrete steps to develop services in HRM similar to Lookout's are proposed in the study:

1. Consider how to engage Capital Health,
2. Clarify roles of existing resources and determine ownership of a harm reduction facility and
3. Determine other areas for research.

Source: Paul O'Hara at North End Community Health Centre

### 2. Title:

**Charlebois, Carol. et al. (1996, March). *A Study of Rooming House Conditions in Downtown and South End Halifax.***

**Keyword:** *Rooming Houses, Minimum Standard, HRM Government, By-Laws*

☆☆☆

This research, conducted by Metro Non Profit Housing Association, reveals the condition of rooming houses in Halifax's south end and downtown and suggest actions by government and housing service sectors to improve the situation. The research group developed a checklist form based on the City of Halifax Minimum Standards Ordinance,

and quantified aspects of housing conditions. Questionnaires and interviews were also conducted to further analyze the issues.

The research revealed issues of substandard and ill-maintained rooming houses. For example some facilities had no locks, lacked cooking facilities, required tenants to live with strangers (sometime persons with disruptive behaviors) and had unsanitary bathroom facilities shared by many people. Many landlords not only neglect the physical conditions of houses, but also take advantage of tenants by selling them alcohol and drugs.

The report recommends government actions to improve by-laws, associated social and health services, a housing support centre that can make referrals, and advocacy to push for stricter regulations/by-laws and enforcement of these regulations/by-laws. Facilities that provide services based on a harm reduction approach are also needed.

Source: Paul O'Hara at North End Community Health Centre, HRM Planning and Development, Metro Non-Profit Housing Association

### **3. NEW Title:**

**Chaytor Consulting Services Ltd. (2003). *Community Action on Homelessness Community Plan 2003-2006. Community Action on Homelessness.***

**Keyword:** *Community Action on Homelessness (CAH), Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI), Homelessness.*

☆☆☆

The Community Action On Homelessness (CAH) Community Plan 2003-2006 builds upon the CAH Community Plan for 2000-2003. The 2003-2006 Plan was developed with feedback from a one-day workshop, in-depth interviews and a discussion group. The Plan sets the direction for the CAH for the next three years with the following six objectives.

1. Create and/or maintain a continuum of housing that moves people out of and prevents homelessness;
2. Facilitate a continuum of programs and services to improve the quality of life of homeless and those at risk of homelessness;
3. Promote public/stakeholder awareness of issues surrounding homelessness and the lack of affordable housing;
4. Advocate for policy change and engage in policy development;
5. Grow the community's capacity to develop/promote solutions to homelessness;
6. Promote partnerships in achieving the objectives of the Community Plan.

Source: [http://www.cahhalifax.org/DOCS/Community\\_Plan\\_phase\\_II\\_final.pdf](http://www.cahhalifax.org/DOCS/Community_Plan_phase_II_final.pdf)

#### **4. NEW Title:**

**Chaytor Consulting Services Ltd. (2003). *Community Action Plan 2000-2003 An Assessment. Community Action on Homelessness.***

**Keyword:** *Community Action on Homelessness (CAH), Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative, Homelessness.*

☆☆☆

Community Action on Homelessness is responsible for the distribution of funding from the Federal Government's Supporting Community Partnership Initiative (SCPI). They assess proposals submitted by community organizations in HRM for projects addressing homelessness. Halifax Metro is one of 10 cities across Canada to receive funding through SCPI.

Chaytor Consulting Services assessed the implementation of the Community Action Plan 2000-2003. The Community Action Plan was developed based on a one-day workshop in Halifax and a number of focus groups with target populations and was approved in October, 2000. The Community Action on Homelessness implemented this plan.

The assessment reports that overall the Community Action Plan was a success. The successes included specific projects, increased knowledge of issues surrounding homelessness and increased capacity created through projects. Much work remains to be done in the area of homelessness and the report outlines ten recommendations.

Source: Community Action on Homelessness. <http://www.cahhalifax.org/>

#### **5. Title:**

**Community Action on Homelessness Steering Committee. (2000, September). *Halifax Metropolitan Area Community Action Plan.***

**Keyword:** *HRM Community Action Plan, HRM, Supporting Community Partnership Initiative (SCPI)*

☆☆☆

Community Action on Homelessness (CAH) was developed through the work of community groups and the Government of Canada collaborating to tackle homelessness and housing problems in HRM. CAH is the vehicle for allocating funds from the federal Supporting Community Partnership Initiative (SCPI) for community projects. This Community Action Plan articulates CHA's priorities, existing assets, available services and facilities, and emphasizes their commitment to the inclusion of the "First Voice" (direct voice of homeless individuals) in the planning and implementation of projects. The plan also prescribes spending percentages for identified activity areas.

Source: Downloadable at: <http://www.cahhalifax.org/>

**6. Title:**

**Conlin, Christy-Ann. (1993, September). "The System Sucks": A Discussion of Homeless Youth in Halifax, Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group.**

**Keyword:** *Youth, Needs Assessment, Social Assistance Systems*

☆☆☆

The report contains suggestions on improvement in services and support for homeless youth, along with voices of the youth that experience difficulties due to lack of these specific services and supports. The report's suggestions include:

- emergency shelters,
- alternative semi-independent housing,
- outreach,
- reorganizing of financial assistance to cover youth of different ages and parental home locations,
- training for service providers (including government officials),
- prevention of criminal behavior, drug and alcohol use,
- provision of educational programs that help youth learn, as well as identifying inside the school system at-risk students and providing appropriate care for them,
- more coordinated services between different service providers and
- to clearly define who is responsible for homeless youth.

Source: Phoenix Youth Programs

**7. Title:**

**Crosby-Fraser, Wendy. (2001). *Without a Home: Exploring Youth Homelessness in King County, for Victory over Violence, Emergency Teen Shelter Organization in partnership with Haven Ministries.***

**Keyword:** *Rural Youth, Needs Assessment*

☆☆☆

This report describes the homeless issues in King's county, a rural area of Nova Scotia. The majority of agencies, resources and services in the area are centered in Kentville and New Minas. Rural homelessness, as seen in Kings County, "seems most consistent with the concept of relative homelessness, ..." (p. 26), with individuals living in overcrowded, substandard conditions, or in campers or cars (ibid.). There is a lack of employment opportunities in rural areas. Challenges identified in the report include an overly lengthy process to help youth who suffer from abusive and dangerous home environments and a lack of funding. The challenges translate into a lack of appropriate services that address the different needs of youth "at-risk". Recommendations include a short-term shelter, drop-in centre, and transportation for the youth to utilize various services spread throughout the county.

Source: Phoenix Youth Programs

**8. Title:**

**Doyle, Pat. (2003, February). *The Capacity of Community Agencies in Metro Halifax in Delivering Services to Homeless Persons.***

**Keyword:** *Community Organizations in HRM, Needs Assessment, Community Action on Homelessness Network*

☆☆☆

This is a social housing services sector capacity and needs assessment. The paper was developed based on interviews with 20 out of 48 organizations on the Community Action on Homelessness Network organization list. Six priority themes identified in the report are:

1. Service needs for mental health patients,
2. Affordable housing,
3. Policy changes,
4. Sustainability of funding,
5. Networking, and
6. Public awareness.

Overall, various housing service organizations feel that their strengths are advocacy and support and the strong commitment of their staff. Their challenges are to develop a close working relationship with government sectors, to network and exchange information among groups and to raise public awareness. Further hurdles include ensuring the sustainability of financial resources, increasing affordable housing stock and increasing the amount of social assistance the recipients receive to match the cost of housing.

Source: HRM Planning and Development

**9. Title:**

**Fitzgerald, Michael. (1998). *To Live & to Learn: Homeless Youth, Literacy, Education, and Career, for the Phoenix Literacy Project. Phoenix Youth Programs.***

**Keyword:** *Youth, Education Systems, Phoenix Youth Programs*

☆☆☆

This research presents an in-depth analysis of the relationships between education and literacy, youth development and homelessness. It not only describes in detail issues around youth homelessness, but also closely examines the definitions of conventional terms such as "youth at risk", "homeless youth" "literacy" and "education". Through focus groups and interviews, the research suggests concrete actions to strengthen some services by Phoenix Youth Programs (PYP) in the future. Recommendations to PYP include:

1. Development of a resource center,

2. Regular staff training through the Department of Education Career and Transition Services, and
3. Establishment of an advisory committee composed of representatives from relevant government agencies, the Halifax Regional School Board and local community learning initiatives.

The research also details the focus group interviews that describe the experiences of the homeless youth who utilize services such as Phoenix Youth Programs. As well key service providers face challenges with literacy, alternative education, upgrading and career preparation programs for youth.

Source: Phoenix Youth Programs, Dalhousie Library, NS Community Services Housing Service Division

#### **10. NEW Title:**

**Peter Ilves and Associates Inc.. (forthcoming). *Situation Appropriate Supportive Housing: A Pre-Development Study For a 25-Unit Hybrid Crisis-Transitional Housing Partnership to Reduce Homeless among People Disabled By Mental Illness and Co-Occurring Substance Use.* Metro Non-Profit Housing Association.**

**Keywords:** *Shelter, Transitional housing, Substance abuse, Mental illness, Harm reduction.*

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This is a pre-development study to outline the design elements, development and operating costs for a 25-unit shelter-transitional housing program aimed at reducing homelessness among people disabled by mental illness and co-occurring substance use. Incorporating a harm-reduction programming approach, the facility will target individuals whose needs are currently not served by specialized housing or shelter services within the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM). This report represents the continuation of the *Harm Reduction Facility* initiative submitted for funding to Supporting Community Partnership Initiatives (SCPI) by Metro Non-Profit Housing Association (MNPHA) in 2003.

Source: Metro Non-Profit Housing Association (MNPHA).

#### **11. NEW Title**

**Hughes, Jean et al. (2004). *Youth Matters. A Joint Project of IWK Health Centre, Dalhousie University and Phoenix Youth Programs.***

**Keywords:** *Youth and mental health.*

The purpose of this project was to assess the mental health needs of youth who access the Phoenix Shelter. The Phoenix Shelter is run by Phoenix Youth Programs, a local organization providing a continuum of services to homeless/at-risk youth (aged 16-25).

The study includes preliminary analyses of a descriptive nature and assesses the internal reliability between measures. The study employed a demographic questionnaire, functional scale and a self-reporting questionnaire. Sixty youth participated in the study. The participants ranged in age from 16 to 24 years. Some of the findings from the study include the following:

- Youth reported different levels of satisfaction with specific services, but 84% of the youth reported being satisfied with the services they had used. The Youth Shelter Nurse was the most frequently accessed service within the Youth Shelter and the Emergency was the most frequently used service outside the Youth Shelter.
- Some of the youth maintain regular contact with their family, 88% of participants who reported family contact reported having had contact with their family in the past 6 months, and some on a weekly basis. It is not known whether the family contact is supportive or non-supportive.
- Youth are highly transient but do seek help for health-related needs but largely rely on emergency services.
- Many youth are hopeful and have conventional aspirations.

Source: IWK Health Centre, Phoenix Youth

#### 12. Title:

**Jeffrey, Donald N. (1997). *The Discourses that Construct Homeless Youth*. An Honors Thesis, Sociology, Saint Mary's University. Halifax, Nova Scotia.**

**Keyword:** *Concepts of youth homelessness*

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This thesis examines homeless youth and youth homelessness from the perspective of professionals, agencies and the homeless youth themselves. The definitions, causes and effects and needs offered by each group are distinct in significant ways. Some examples are the author's observations of professionals' (academics') obsessions with defining, redefining, interpreting and reinterpreting homeless youth. Some discourses of agency representatives blame society, the education system or family problems. One quote from a youth states "(p)eople should not feel sorry for them; society has to accept them (p. 38)." Perhaps society should learn to "see homeless youth simply as 'youth' who happen to be 'homeless.'" (p.61)."

Source: Saint Mary's University Library

#### 13. Title:

**Johnson, Carla et al. (2003). *Developing a Database of Housing and Homelessness Service Agencies Including People Served and Waiting Lists*. Halifax: Community Action on Homelessness.**

**Keyword:** *Database, Housing Service Agencies, Counting*

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The study was conducted by a team of researchers from Mount Saint Vincent University in close consultation with the Research Committee of Community Action on Homelessness. A set of surveys and interviews were designed for the quantitative data collection of available housing services in Halifax Metro. The study looks at the organization's capacities, as well as some characteristics of the service users. This has been the only attempt found to develop a comprehensive database, which encompasses existing housing services and their service-users in HRM. The results include:

- the number of users in the past 12 months in shelters participating in the survey and interview;
- the number of people turned away in the same;
- a count of full-time, part-time and volunteer staff; and
- the presence of long waiting lists.

The research reveals various constraints in developing a comprehensive and detailed database that can produce meaningful counts and profiles of housing service-users citywide. A challenge the researchers recognize is having agency participation in such extensive quantitative studies where agency staff is usually overloaded with everyday responsibilities.

Source: HRM Planning and Development, Community Action on Homelessness

#### **14. NEW Title**

**Karabanow, Jeff and Hopkins, Joanne. (2004) *Can you be Healthy on The Street? Exploring the Health Experiences of Halifax Street Youth*. School of Social Work, Dalhousie University.**

***Keywords:*** *Street youth, Health services*

This pilot study was designed to assess “what works” and “what doesn’t work” in terms of health interventions with street youth in Halifax. Qualitative methods were used to explore the experiences and perceptions of street youth related to health services in Halifax. As well, health service providers were asked for their experiences working with street youth. The study included semi-structured, qualitative interviews with approximately 15 street youth and approximately 12 service providers. Street youth participants also completed a brief questionnaire that highlighted their perceptions of their own health status.

The majority of participants noted the numerous physical and mental health problems that accompany life on the street, with many suggesting that street life actually enhances their feelings of stress, anxiety and depression. The majority of the sample also highlighted the emotional strains associated with street life – a profound sense of feeling alone and unconnected with the rest of society. In terms of health services, all youth expressed some sort of resistance to accessing the formal health care system. The research revealed that organizations such as ARK take on a key role in linking youths to more formal health services, and can act as a buffer between youth and the health system.

Source: Maritime School of Social Work

**15. NEW Title:**

**Karabanow, Jeff. (2004). *Exploring Salient Issues of Youth Homelessness in Halifax, Nova Scotia*. Maritime School of Social Work, Dalhousie University.**

**Keyword:** *Homeless youth, Homelessness.*

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The project explored the issues faced by homeless youth and public attitudes towards homeless youth. The research found that the majority of the youth studied describe that they have no choice but to leave home. At home they often experienced sexual, physical and/or emotional abuse and neglect.

The youth studied describe life on the street as lonely, dangerous, unhealthy and detrimental to their sense of personal identity. The majority of youth found government and non-government services inadequate and most desired long-term, safe and affordable places to live. The people surveyed said that homelessness is a problem that is getting worse. Most felt that cutbacks to social programs have increased the problem and they supported more funding for youth programs.

The report's recommendations were:

- More need-specific services, supports and transitional housing;
- Opportunities for education and communication with the public and homeless youth;
- Address the root causes of homelessness – family abuse, lack of employment and housing options for youth, not enough supports and resources for single parents to care for their children.

Source: Dr. Jeff Karabanow, Maritime School of Social Work, Dalhousie University.

**16. NEW Title**

**Kisely, Steve and Parker, Joanne (2004) *A Pilot Study on the Health Impacts of Supportive Housing for At-Risk Youth*. Dalhousie University, Department of Psychiatry.**

**Keywords:** *Homeless youth, Health outcomes, Supportive housing, Health services*

This is a pilot study funded by the Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR) and conducted in partnership with Phoenix Youth Programs, a local organization providing a continuum of services to homeless/at-risk youth (aged 16-25). The study used standardized instruments and administrative data on health service usage to assess the differences in health outcomes and service use of 15 youth living in supportive housing and 30 youth with less stable housing (e.g., sleeping rough or in emergency shelters). The primary purpose of this pilot was to refine the methodology for future studies – to assess the appropriateness of the instruments used, the feasibility of accessing the administrative data and the challenges associated with conducting longitudinal research with such a transient population.

When compared to the control sample, participants in supportive housing were significantly more likely to describe their health as “excellent”, had lower rates of substance abuse and were less likely to agree that they had accomplished less in the past

4 weeks due to emotional problems. This study has demonstrated that a study using this methodology is feasible and that even with a small sample, there is some evidence of the effectiveness of supportive housing. Lessons and results from this pilot study will inform a larger study of supportive housing programs for youth across Atlantic Canada.

Source: Housing and Health Research Team, Dalhousie University

**17. Title:**

**Landry, Ian 'Tay.'** (2001). *From the First Voice: An Exploration of the Supports Required by the Homeless Men of Halifax to Participate in the Upcoming Community Action on Homelessness Workshop*, Maritime School of Social Work, Dalhousie University.

**Keyword:** *Men, Needs Assessment, HRM Community Action on Homelessness, Participation*

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This study looks at the significance of participation in actions against homelessness and the possible role of homeless males in anti-homelessness action. As well, the report outlines a case study based on the opinions of participating homeless men in the February 2000 Homelessness Workshop organized by the Steering Committee of Community Action on Homelessness. The report asserts that sustained, direct participation of homeless individuals is advocated but not facilitated even after the establishment of the Community Action on Homelessness.

Source: Paul O'Hara at North End Community Health Centre

**18. Title:**

**McNeil, Veronica, Voluntary Sector Consultant. (2002, June 13). *Research Report: Harm Reduction Emergency Shelter for Halifax Regional Municipality (Research sponsored by North End Community Health Care Centre).***

**Keyword:** *Harm Reduction, Supportive Housing, Mental illness, Addiction Issues, Vancouver, Calgary and Toronto Models*

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Many individuals with addiction or mental illness issues are among the most vulnerable to shortages of affordable housing. The study presents a close link between homelessness and addiction and mental illness. Harm reduction is introduced as an approach to reduce the negative consequences of an individual's harmful behavior, such as drug and alcohol use, by addressing the surrounding physical and human environment without demanding an immediate stop to the habitual behavior itself. The study interviewed housing service providers. The interviews highlighted some priorities that included the improvement of affordable housing options and a permanent harm reduction shelter for homeless persons with mental health and/or addiction issues. The study also offers some models of harm reduction services in other large cities in Canada such as Vancouver, Calgary, and Toronto for HRM to consider.

Source: HRM Planning and Development

**19. Title:**

**Muggah, Troy. (1999, Summer). *Voices of Youth: An Assessment of the Needs of Homeless Males in Halifax, Aged 16 to 24*, conducted for the Youth Shelter Committee.**

**Keyword:** *Youth, Men, Needs Assessment*

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The study assesses the needs of male homeless individuals aged between 16 and 24. In their own voice, the report presents the homeless youths' experiences with existing shelters, living on the streets and with other homeless individuals they encounter. The detailed interviews reveal the real life dangers of being homeless as a young male, extremely vulnerable to drugs, violence and sexual assault and theft. The interviewees describe the pros and cons of some existing housing services and advise on what sorts of services may better cater to the unique needs of homeless young men.

Recommendations include:

- increased involvement of youth in the planning of services,
- activities to raise public awareness,
- creation of a coalition that includes community members and professionals to lobby the provincial government for emergency shelters to serve males of this age group,

- research to identify and address the needs of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered youth, African Nova Scotians, aboriginal people, other visible minorities and disabled youth.

Source: NS Community Services Housing Service Division

**20. NEW Title:**

**Rehman, Laurene and Jacqueline Gahagan. (2003). *Everyone Has a Right to a Home, A Community Needs Assessment of Harm Reduction Supports for the “Hard to House” in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM)*. Halifax Regional Municipality.**

**Keyword:** *Harm Reduction, Homelessness.*

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*Everyone Has Right to a Home* is an overview of findings of a review of the literature on homelessness, addictions, mental health and the common themes raised in a series of focus group and interviews with the homeless and service providers in HRM. The report provides recommendations and direction to HRM on how to work toward finding solutions to homelessness for those living with addictions and/or mental health concerns.

The report explains that the most challenging or “hard to house” individuals continue to be neglected by the current housing models and system. Addictions and/or mental health concerns can create constraints to accessing and maintaining housing. The authors advocate the Supportive Housing Model with direct linkages to community services to meet the needs of “hard to house” residents.

The focus groups echoed the literature findings, saying there is an urgent need for a comprehensive approach to help those with addictions and/or mental health concerns access housing. The recommendations to providing housing for this population include:

- A more integrated harm reduction approach;
- A continuum of supportive housing services; and
- More affordable housing.

Source: Halifax Regional Municipality, Planning and Development Services.  
<http://www.halifax.ca/planning/homeless.html>

**21. Title:**

**Ruddick, Sue. (2001, November). *Supporting Communities: How Halifax and Edmonton Mobilized to Fight Homelessness, A review of the role of the Supporting Community Partnership Initiative (SCPI) in Community Capacity Building, prepared for the National Secretariat on Homelessness.***

**Keyword:** *Supporting Community Partnership Initiative, HRM Community Action Plan, Roles of Governments*

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An account of "where we are," "how we got here," and "what is next" for homelessness issues in Halifax Regional Municipality. A chart in the document describes the institutional relationships among homeless people, community groups, HRM government, Nova Scotia government and Government of Canada in local SCPI governance.

The Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) was launched in late 1999 as the cornerstone of the Government of Canada's *National Homelessness Initiative*. The initiative committed \$305 million to address homelessness. SCPI has increased community groups' capacities in inter-group collaboration and project planning, developed meaningful partnerships with levels of governments, improved understanding of the homelessness and housing situation and provided a coordinated approach to the homeless challenge through the development of a community action plan and the identification of crucial service gaps. The report also pointed out some issues and challenges in the future, including sustainability of major initiatives after the three-year funding runs out, possible conflict of interest among NGOs, needs for improvement with project proposal guidelines and increased participation from visible minority groups.

Source: Downloadable at [http://www21.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/pub/ruddick/ruddick\\_e.pdf](http://www21.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/pub/ruddick/ruddick_e.pdf)

**22. Title:**

**SPGF-GTA Consultants Inc. (2000, September). *Homeless in Halifax: Proceedings from a one-day workshop held at Hope Cottage on February 19, 2000, reports from focus groups with people who have experienced homelessness, and a brief review of the literature.***

**Keyword:** *HRM Community Action Plan, HRM, Needs Assessment*

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This document includes results from a workshop with representatives of community and government agencies with responsibilities in the areas of housing and homelessness, results from 6 focus groups conducted by the author and some review of current policy and research literature. The study was used to develop the *HRM Community Action Plan*. The first two parts of the report describe problems socially vulnerable groups in Halifax Metro are facing, how they differ among different groups, and subsequently what strategies are most appropriate and should be prioritized for the respective groups. The particular groups include: 1. Women and children, 2. Youth, 3. People with multiple needs (to deal with mental problems, drug and alcohol addiction, and recovering processes). Action is recommended to improve housing conditions for these groups, to develop housing stock and physical facilities and to conduct research and policy development. Strategies recommended include adequate financial assistance to cover increasing rents, access to transportation, assistance in finding employment and long-term counseling support to assist in the continuum of stages from emergency situations to independent living.

Source: HRM Planning and Development

**23. Title:**

**Tandan, Alka. (2000). *Researching Homeless Youth in the Halifax Regional Municipality: An Agency Perspective*, a report submitted to the North End Community Health Clinic.**

**Keyword:** *Youth, Needs Assessment, Emergency Shelter, Education*

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This report is an analysis of urgent needs in housing-related services for youth in Halifax. It repeatedly points out that there is urgent need for short-term shelters in Halifax, while also emphasizing the need for long-term continuous care that addresses physical and mental health, plus the emotional and educational needs of homeless youth. In general, the absolute number of services of any kind is much lower than demand. The report asserts that the overall shortage of affordable housing and employment opportunities exacerbates and prolongs homelessness of the youth. A lack of alternative education for youth, as well as counseling support, hinders the youth from escaping their situations. The majority of service providers interviewed for the report also pointed out the pronounced mental health needs of homeless youth. Eligibility for social assistance

needs to be reexamined. Youth can be ineligible for social assistance due to age and where they live. As the major center in both Nova Scotia and Atlantic Canada, Halifax has a unique role in addressing the assistance needs of youth coming from outside the city.

Source: Paul O'Hara at North End Community Health Centre

**24. NEW Title:**

**Tota, Kasia. (2004). *Homelessness in HRM a Portrait of Streets and Shelters*. Halifax Regional Municipality.**

**Keyword:** *Homelessness in HRM.*

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The report described HRM's first attempt to document absolute and relative homelessness in the Halifax Regional Municipality. The report used data from the 2001 Census, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Quality of Life Reporting System and a survey of the homeless in the metro area to document homelessness.

An absolute homeless person in this report is an individual who did not have a place to stay on June 19, 2003. The HRM did a snapshot survey of streets, shelters, transitional housing, addiction recovery, police and emergency care services on June 19. The survey reached 269 homeless individuals including 35 children. The report stresses that this survey is not a count of the homeless, but is a portrait of the homeless population at a point in time.

The immediate gaps that need to be addressed according to this report are:

- An emergency shelter for women and youth;
- Street outreach, detox, long-term addiction recovery programs;
- More transition and affordable housing.

Source: HRM Planning and Development Services  
<http://www.halifax.ca/planning/homeless.html>

## Housing

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**25. NEW Title:**

**Ball, Jonathan. (2004). *Home Made, A Snapshot of the MISA Settlement Housing Project*. Metropolitan Immigrant Settlement Association, Halifax, Nova Scotia.**

**Keywords:** *Immigrant housing, Immigration issues in Canada.*

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The Metropolitan Immigrant Settlement Association (MISA) in Halifax formed a housing committee to address the housing needs of single male refugees. After their temporary government assistance, many Government Assisted Refugees (GAR)s are unable to find affordable and safe housing in HRM. Single male GARs are often forced to live in temporary men's shelters and cannot find the necessary supports to find housing. The committee purchased a house that now offers four apartments (eleven bedrooms) to GARs.

The MISA House Study documents the process and progress of the housing project. The study gathered feedback from stakeholders and residents. Four themes emerge from the study: ambiguity in house policy and procedure, lack of communication in project initiatives, hopes and dreams for the future and social action.

Source: Metropolitan Immigrant Settlement Association

**26. NEW Title:**

**Barnard, Todd. (1998). *Halifax City Residential Rental Market Evaluation*. Master of Business Administration, Saint Mary's University.**

**Keywords:** *Halifax rental market, Rental housing.*

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The paper examines the changes in the rental market in the City of Halifax from 1980 to 1996. The factors examined include population, demographic trends, mortgage rates, vacancy rates, rental rates and the number of new units built during the same period. Developers and property managers were surveyed for feedback on the trends in the market. The report concluded that at the time Halifax had an oversupply of rental units. The demographic analysis highlighted the 55 and over age group as a market niche for rental units.

Source: Saint Mary's University.

## 27. Title

**Bealing, Tracy L. (2002). *Using a Social Action Theory of Participatory Design to Facilitate Empowerment in Public Housing Developments: A Case Study Involving Residents of Mulgrave Park in Halifax, Nova Scotia*. Master's Thesis, Dept. of Urban and Rural Planning, Dalhousie University.**

**Keyword:** *Mulgrave Park, Participation, Empowerment, Public Housing*



This thesis articulates the need for community involvement in the design of the living environment and the need for policy making bodies, planners and architects to understand their social roles as catalysts in facilitating community involvement and the empowerment of people. The report looks at the impact of the relationship between government, planners and architects and the public housing community of Mulgrave Park. In addition, it provides an overview of how public housing policy was adopted and evolved in Canada and the problems public housing has faced including

1. Constrained budgets at all levels of government,
2. A political philosophy that did not strongly support social assistance, and
3. Poor designs, inconvenient locations and insensitive administration of public housing to reduce competition with commercial, private housing.

Source: DalTech Library

## 28. NEW Title:

**Brodie, Kelly. (1999). *A Study of the Supply and Demand of Senior Citizen Accommodations in Halifax Regional Municipality*. Master of Business Administration, Saint Mary's University.**

**Keywords:** *Senior's housing, Retirement communities, Adult care.*



The study examines the need for senior's housing in Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM). According to Brodie, by 2016 there will be approximately 54,000 people 65 years and older in HRM. The objectives of this study are:

- To evaluate the existing retirement housing/nursing homes and senior communities in HRM and categorize by size, location and amenities.
- To examine the demographic trends in HRM.
- To examine industry and lifestyle trends to better understand the magnitude of the population growth of those aged 65 and older and their housing needs.

The study identifies the gaps in HRM's current retirement accommodation facilities and recommends what is needed to accommodate future demands in senior housing. Recommendations include increasing the number of facilities, developing Continuing Care Retirement Communities and increasing the number of adult care programs.

Source: Saint Mary's University.

**29. NEW Title:**

**Bruce, David. (forthcoming). *Measuring the Subsidiary Rental Stock and its Renters in HRM*. Department of Community Services, Province of Nova Scotia.**

**Keywords:** *HRM rental market, Subsidiary rental stock.*

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This study aims to get a better understanding of the total rental market in HRM. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) conducts an annual rental market report on rental stock in buildings of three units or more. There are many secondary suites and other forms of rental housing in HRM that are not measured by CMHC but contribute to the overall supply of rental housing. However, little is known about the type, price and condition of this rental stock.

The study is being completed but has highlighted some research findings. Subsidiary renters tend to live in older buildings in need of repair. A lot of families tend to live in subsidiary units. Subsidiary renters tend to not have affordability problems. There are more minorities living in subsidiary units than in market units. And subsidiary renters are likely to live in their units for longer than market renters.

Source: Department of Community Services, Province of Nova Scotia

**30. NEW Title:**

**Gilhen, Johnathan. (2001). *Is Halifax a Monocentric City? An Empirical Study on Rent Determination in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada*. Honours Research Project, Bachelor of Economics, Saint Mary's University.**

**Keywords:** *Rental housing, Rent determination, Housing prices.*

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The paper examines the rationale for housing prices and the determinants of the price a consumer will pay for a specific housing location. The study looks at the assumption that rent will fall as housing moves further from the city centre. Gilhen's hypothesis is that Saint Mary's University and Dalhousie University have a greater impact on rent in Halifax than the city centre. The study is based on data from the postal code conversion file and the 1996 Census enumeration areas. The results show that distance from Dalhousie University is the only statistically significant spatial distribution influence on rent.

Source: Saint Mary's University.

**31. NEW Title:**

**Huber, Robert. (2003). *Do Good Neighbours Make Good Friends? An Urban Housing Strategy for Central Halifax*. Master's Thesis, Faculty of Architecture and Planning, Dalhousie University.**

**Keywords:** *Infill housing, multi-unit residential shared space.*

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Huber's thesis proposes three mixed-use apartment buildings as infill along Quinpool Street in Halifax. This is a design thesis that looks at how to repair the discontinuity of Quinpool's street façade created primarily by parking lots. The proposed buildings aim to intensify the commercial and residential components, increase density and provide new amenities. The paper looks at how to design the public and private spaces in the buildings to increase opportunities for social interaction and visual connection between residents. The paper also looks at the building's relationship with the surrounding community.

Source: Dalhousie University, Daltech Library.

**32. NEW Title:**

**Jahn, Claudia. (2003). *Non-Profit Organizations as Developer of Affordable Housing*. Atlantic Health Promotion Research Centre.**

**Key words:** *Affordable housing development, Developer, Affordable housing policy.*

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This report examines existing policy supports and resources, which assist or hinder non-profit organizations in taking on the role as developers of affordable housing for rural low-income families and gives recommendations for policy change.

The Federal Affordable Housing Program provides funding for the province, private companies or not-for-profit organizations to build affordable housing. As they work with those with housing difficulties, non-profit organizations have the broadest knowledge of local housing needs and are well suited to manage housing. In addition, not-for-profit organizations can not only provide housing but also ensure sustainability by providing in-house support and services through other work activities of the organization.

This study shows that current federal housing programs are insufficient for non-profit organizations to develop the needed housing units due to existing policy barriers. This leaves the task of developing affordable housing to the private sector, which has shown little interest in the development of affordable housing in the past, since it is not financially lucrative.

Source: Atlantic Health Promotion Research Centre.

**33. NEW Title:**

**Jozsa, Alexandra and Ray Tomalty. (2004). *The Potential for Partnerships in Community Reinvestment and Affordable Housing in HRM*. Halifax Regional Municipality.**

**Keywords:** *Partnerships and affordable housing, Municipal Government Act, Municipal incentives for affordable housing.*

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The document was developed to advise HRM on the range of legislative and program arrangements in place in other Canadian provinces where municipalities are permitted to provide incentives to private housing developers to encourage affordable housing. Provincial legislation varies from province to province. Out of ten provinces, seven permit municipalities to provide benefits to private businesses. All ten provinces allow benefits to not-for-profit organizations.

Currently, the Municipal Government Act (MGA) in Nova Scotia does not allow for public subsidies to private businesses to allow for-profit developers to create affordable housing. The report outlines the recommended changes to the MGA to allow HRM to provide a broader range of incentives to private developers in exchange for affordable housing.

Source: HRM Planning and Development Services.

**34. NEW Title:**

**Landry, Deborah. (May 2004). *Housing Frustrations: Interviews with Community Workers in Halifax, NS*. Presented at the “Works in Progress” Student Conference, Carleton University.**

**Keywords:** *Affordable housing, homelessness.*

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The paper outlines the main barriers facing women and men in need of affordable housing and highlights some successes. The research questions are: How do non-profit organizations in Halifax address housing and homelessness? What are the greatest barriers to adequate and affordable housing? How do the intersection of power and space restrict the ability of these non-profit organizations in Halifax to increase the supply of affordable housing?

Landry conducted phone interviews with professionals who work with marginalized populations at risk of becoming homeless or who live in inadequate housing. A predominant theme was the limited housing options available to the marginalized and poor in Halifax. All respondents agreed there is simply not enough affordable housing in HRM.

Source: Carleton University.

**35. Title:**

**Nova Scotia Department of Community Services, Housing Services Division. (2001, November). *Housing Symposium 2001 Summary.***

**Keyword:** *Visions, Department of Community Services, Housing Services Division, Government Restructuring*

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The Housing Symposium introduced and discussed the document *The Future of Housing*, which outlines a new vision for housing in Nova Scotia. The Symposium involved participants from the Department of Community Services, Department of Health, CMHC, HRDC, HRM, housing co-operatives, universities, health agencies, not-for-profit organizations and the housing industry. Some housing programs from Cape Breton, Lunenburg and Halifax Metro were presented as model programs.

Some comments from participants included concerns about more unified and effective municipal by-laws, suggestions to include a wider range of stakeholders such as public housing tenants and homeless individuals, concerns about sustainable funding and how existing funding is allocated and questions of leadership in the initiative. It was also suggested that a provincial economic development strategy needs to include housing.

Source: Paul O'Hara, North End Community Health Centre

**36. Title:**

**Nova Scotia Department of Community Services, Housing Services Division. (2002). *The Future of Housing.***

**Keyword:** *Department of Community Services, Housing Services Division, Government Restructuring, Goals and Plans*

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In August 2000, the responsibility for Housing in the province was moved from the Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs to the Department of Community Services. This change presented an opportunity to increase synergies in the social policy arena and to renew the Housing Division and the Housing Authorities. *The Future of Housing* outlines the results of a visioning exercise undertaken by representatives from the provincial Housing Division and Housing Authorities. The Vision has four goals:

1. To foster healthy communities through housing;
2. To ensure a supply of safe, appropriate, affordable and sustainable housing for Nova Scotians;
3. To optimize access to safe, appropriate, affordable and sustainable housing; and
4. To be the co-ordinating agency for all government housing initiatives in Nova Scotia.

The Future of Housing also outlines the state of housing in the province. According to 1996 statistics from Statistics Canada 11% of all occupied dwelling in Nova Scotia need major repairs.

Source: Downloadable at: [http://www.gov.ns.ca/coms/files/files\\_pdf/FutureHousing.pdf](http://www.gov.ns.ca/coms/files/files_pdf/FutureHousing.pdf)

**37. Title:**

**Nova Scotia Department of Community Services, Housing Services Division. (2003, March). *Nova Scotia Housing Development Corporation Business Plan, 2003-2004.***

**Keyword:** *Department of Community Services, Housing Services Division, Nova Scotia Housing Development Corporation, Business Plan 2003-2004*

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Nova Scotia Housing Development Corporation (NSHDC), operated through the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services Housing Division, provided financing to six non-profit organizations for housing projects in 2003-2004. The projects included facilities for senior citizens, group homes for mentally or physically disabled people and nursing homes. NSHDC also improved the financial reporting of the Government's housing expenditures by consolidating the property management operations of the Housing Authorities and the Rural and Native Housing program into one financial statement.

NSHDC's core businesses in 2003-2004 include:

1. Management of the Federal government's transfers for social housing as set out in the 1997 Canada Nova Scotia Social Housing Agreement;
2. Provision of low cost financing or Nova Scotia Housing Development Corporation ownership and lease arrangements to qualifying housing projects;
3. Management of the funded resources associated with provincial housing programs to protect the Province from loss from the Corporation's direct and/or contingent liabilities relating to both the Province's housing activities and to the Canada Nova Scotia Social Housing Agreement; and
4. Delivery of the Canada Nova Scotia Affordable Housing Agreement programs over the next five years.

Source: Downloadable at: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/coms/BPNSHDC03-04.pdf>

**38. Title:**

**Planning and Development Services, HRM. (2001, October). *Issues Related to Housing Conditions and Affordability in Halifax Regional Municipality: A Background Report, Submitted to Halifax Regional Council in October 9, 2001 in conjunction with By-Law M-100 Respecting "Standards for Residential Occupancies".***

**Keyword:** *HRM Government, By-Laws, Housing Standards, Government Restructuring, Rooming Houses*



This background report is concerned with HRM's minimum standard by-laws. HRM is in the process of unifying the minimum standard by-laws across the former municipalities that now make up HRM. While the provision of housing is not within HRM's mandate, various municipal by-laws relate to building, environmental, fire and structural safety. HRM is currently creating a by-law on the minimum standards of buildings. The by-law could enhance the effectiveness of procedures that ensure minimum building standards. HRM paid particular attention to rooming houses and the need for collaboration with community organizations and the provincial government to effectively address housing affordability issues.

Source: HRM Planning and Development

By-Law M-100 is downloadable at <http://www.region.halifax.ns.ca/legislation/bylaws/hrm/blm100.pdf>

**39. NEW Title:**

**Richards, Patricia. (2004). *Need & Demand Study, Supportive Housing for Single Mothers in Musquodoboit Harbour*. Safe Harbour Housing Society.**

**Keywords:** *Supportive housing, Single mothers, Family housing.*



The need and demand study is part of the development of a business plan for a housing model for poor single mothers and children in Musquodoboit. The research highlights the lack of rental housing and the high rents in the area. According to the report, there is no suitable affordable housing for low income single mothers with children in the area. The report estimates that more than 30 rental units are needed to meet demand. Lack of transportation, affordable childcare, access to employment are the barriers the target group faces when they are looking for housing. The proposed housing model is a seven-unit apartment building with in-house support and located close to amenities such as schools and medical facilities.

Source: Patricia Richards, R Richards Planning Consultant.

**40. NEW Title:**

**Richards, Patricia. (2003). *Public Perception of Homelessness and Housing Affordability in HRM. Summary Analysis of Corporate Research Associates Inc. 2003 Second Quarter Metro Quarterly Report*. Halifax Regional Municipality.**

**Keyword:** *Homelessness, Affordable housing, Public perception of homelessness.*



Corporate Research Associates were commissioned by HRM to include questions about housing, homelessness and housing affordability in their Metro Quarterly Review in April, 2003. The survey results illustrated some housing difficulties in HRM.

The survey highlighted a hidden homeless population. Out of 400 respondents, 7% (28) had someone staying with them due to financial problems, eviction or discrimination in seeking accommodation, recent immigration, domestic and/or other personal problems. Thirty six per cent of those surveyed said they or they know someone who had difficulty finding or maintaining housing in the last five years in HRM. Forty nine per cent of respondents said that homelessness was on the rise in HRM. Eighty nine percent of respondents said housing costs increased and 58% said the increase was significant.

Source: Halifax Regional Municipality, Planning and Development Services.

#### **41. NEW Title:**

**Sewell, Patricia et al. (2004). *Development of a Best Practice Model for Community Outreach & Housing for Persons with Mental Illness: A Mental Health Consumer Perspective*. Mental Health Action Research Connection.**

**Keywords:** *Housing, Mental illness, Mental health consumer, Community outreach.*

☆☆☆

This Participatory Action Research (PAR) project engaged mental health consumers as researchers. The project explored community outreach and housing for persons with mental illness, using a case study approach. Subjects were gathered from three community programs that use the international Fountain House Model of rehabilitation for the mentally ill. Extensive interviews were conducted with 25 mental health consumers, most of whom are part of the Community Outreach & Housing program at Connections Clubhouse.

Quantitative and qualitative information provided a rich resource in documenting and understanding the experience of mental health consumers living in their community. Focus groups provided perspectives from Connections Clubhouse and Community Care staff, as well as consumers working on the Peer Advocate team and a consumer outreach team. Data analysis supported the development of a Best Practice Model for community outreach and housing for persons with mental illness.

Source: Mental Health Action Research Connection, Halifax.

#### **42. Title:**

**Steinitz, Susanna. (2003, May). *Alice Housing Project "Third Step": Housing Problems and Solutions for Women Who Have Left Abusive Relationships*. Halifax: Alice Housing.**

**Keyword:** *Women, Women with Children, Abusive Relationships, Needs Assessment, Third Stage Housing Designs*

☆☆☆

This study is a needs assessment and strategy analysis for women who have left abusive relationships and are making transition into more independent, stable living in Halifax. The study goes into detail about affordable housing issues, the causes of homelessness for

women and explores options in a potential "third stage" housing development. It examines different types of third stage housing arrangements (home ownership, co-operative housing, and non-profit rental housing) and possible options (women and children only, enhanced privacy and safety features, longer term tenure, live-in superintendent, childcare and play space, location related to transportation and amenities etc.). The study is based on interviews with current and former clients of Alice Housing.

Alice Housing is second stage housing, which typically provides a "medium-term option for safe housing and on-going support, while enabling women who have left abusive relationships to experience a period of stability and security during which long-term plans can be made (p.7)". Alice Housing is also in a unique position to provide insights into the needs of women looking for third stage housing.

The study identifies potential funding sources with contacts and gives some estimates of costs of its proposed third-stage-housing unit. It also gives an analysis of a potential site, Shannon Park, which is a former Department of National Defense housing complex under the MacKay Bridge in Dartmouth. Shannon Park Development Association (SPDA), along with interested community organizations and a government agency, is assessing the possibility of developing affordable housing on the site.

Source: HRM Planning and Development

#### **43. NEW Title:**

**Tomalty, Ray and Ross Cantwell. (2004). *Municipal Land Use Policy and Housing Affordability*. Halifax Regional Municipality.**

***Keyword:*** *Municipal Land Use Policy, Affordable Housing, Halifax Regional Municipality.*

☆☆☆

The research aims to increase understanding of the impact that current municipal policies and regulations may have on housing affordability. The paper outlines the policy tools that can encourage or require the development and maintenance of affordable housing. The study identifies key housing affordability issues in HRM, describes and assesses the regulatory environment affecting the supply of affordable housing and provides recommendations on regulatory, financial and planning measures for HRM to encourage affordable housing. The paper recommends a number of short-term actions that require limited resources such as public education, an affordable housing facilitator, density bonusing, an inclusionary development policy, a housing reserve fund, affordable housing incentives and housing policy guidelines in HRM's Regional Plan.

Source: HRM Planning and Development Services

**44. Title:**

**Van Wart, Louise. (2000, September). *Testing the Limits: An Examination of Family Housing Affordability in Nova Scotia*. Master's Thesis, Dept. of Urban and Rural Planning, Dalhousie University.**

**Keyword:** *Affordable Housing, Income Disparity, Family Housing Needs, Cities in Nova Scotia*

☆☆☆

This thesis focuses on the housing situation of low-income families in Nova Scotia. The study quantifies households in need of affordable housing and identifies what aspects of housing need to be addressed. The study is based on six case studies of Antigonish, Cape Breton Regional Municipality, Halifax Census Metropolitan Area (Ch. 5), Kentville, Truro and Yarmouth.

Based on Census 1996 data, the study looks at the number of families who earn below the Household Income Limit in each case study area and paints a picture of their potential housing situation. The Household Income Limit is set by the Province of Nova Scotia. A household earning below the Household Income Limit pays more than 30% of their income on market housing. In each case study area there is not enough subsidized housing (public housing, non-profit or co-op housing) to house the families earning below the Household Income Limit. Therefore many of these families are living in market housing, most are probably in rental housing. These families are paying at least more than 30% of their income on housing and in some cases there could be families paying as much as 75% of their income on housing. Most of the families in housing difficulty are tenant single parents.

Source: HRM Planning and Development, DalTech Library

## Related Issues

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### 45. NEW Title:

**Arsenault, Be. (2002). *Mainline Needle Exchange Provincial Needs Assessment. Mainline Needle Exchange.***

**Keywords:** *Injection drug use, Needle exchange.*



The report is a synopsis of the Health Canada funded research project to assess the need for needle exchange services in the northern, western and southwestern regions of Nova Scotia. The injection drug use population in rural Nova Scotia has been isolated for a long time. Due to distance to services, finances and health, injection drug users in rural areas are not receiving adequate needle exchange services. The report's recommendations include:

- Continue establishing outreach in Truro, New Glasgow and Amherst;
- Funding to create community-based action groups for needle exchange programs, outreach and community education;
- Access to Needle Exchange Programs in Truro, New Glasgow and Amherst;
- Access to Methadone Maintenance in Truro and New Glasgow.

Source: Mainline Needle Exchange.

### 46. Title:

**Charlebois, Carol et al. (1995, February). *Sharing Courage: The Voices of Recovering Women*, a study of Women's experiences with Community Supports in Recovery, sponsored by Metro Non-Profit Housing Association and Funded by Health Canada.**

**Keyword:** *Women in Recovery, Empowerment, Supportive Housing*



The research examines women in recovery and provides suggestions of how services to help women in recovery in Halifax can be improved. The research design and implementation is based on a high degree of participation by the women themselves. The study created an opportunity for women to discover that their knowledge was an asset and to feel empowered.

While recovery from addiction is a central theme of this research, housing needs are highlighted. A secure environment is essential in recovery processes and many women who battle addiction issues also need to secure housing during the period of recovery. It is pointed out that different housing services are needed for different stages of recovery. While it is most crucial to have a secure environment at the initial stage of recovery, it is also the very time women find most difficult to find housing. A lack of housing with staff

knowledgeable about treatment programs and recovery processes or with support services hinders the women's ability to effectively engage in the recovery process. Moreover, compared with men in recovery, women have unique needs in terms of physical security and affordable housing for mothers with children. Development of support groups, advocacy and fundraising for services are recommended. The report contains an inventory of services provided by different organizations, including shelters and short-term housing, related to women in recovery from substance and alcohol addictions.

Source: Paul O'Hara North End Community Health Centre

**47. Title:**

**Chaytor Consulting Services Ltd. (2003, February). *Community Support Worker Program for Metro Non Profit Housing Association: Evaluation Report.***

***Keyword:*** Supportive Housing, Diverse and Effective Services, Empowerment

☆☆☆

The report presents the current perception of recipients, providers and associated organizations of the Community Support Worker Program at the Metro Non Profit Housing Association (MNPHA). The MNPHA is a long standing non-profit housing organization committed to assisting those in need of housing and providing support that addresses needs surrounding the clients' life situations. The Community Support Worker Program provides emotional support, help in access to information, advocacy and opportunities for training in a variety of skills. According to the report the Community Support Worker Program has been successful in addressing the providing services beyond conventional and institutionalized support and has promoted informal and mutual aid. The evaluator suggests that, while unquantifiable care and emotional relationships are quintessential to the program's success, it may also be beneficial to come up with methods to gather data on participants to be able to better demonstrate the positive impact without being invasive.

Source: Community Action on Homelessness (or) HRM Planning and Development, Metro Non Profit Housing Association

**48. Title:**

**Gibson Smith, Carol. (1993). "Proud but Cautious" : Homophobic Abuse and Discrimination in Nova Scotia. Halifax: Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group.**

***Keyword:*** Discrimination, Homophobia, Eviction

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An extensive analysis of various forms of discrimination that lesbian, gay and bisexual individuals experience in Nova Scotia. The study data was collected through a survey of close to 300 people. One section (pp. 24-25) states that some lesbians and gay men

have had difficulties acquiring a mortgage because of homophobia, others have had difficulties renting, and still others have faced eviction.

Source: Phoenix Youth Programs

**49. Title:**

**Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth Project. (2001, March). *Stories from the Silent: Young Gay and Bisexual Men and Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment, stories of sexual assault and harassment as told by gay and bisexual youth from across Nova Scotia, a resource for professionals who are working with youth.* Halifax: Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth Project.**

**Keyword:** *Discrimination, Needs Assessment, Awareness of Service Providers*

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This study shares the voices of gay and bisexual young men who have experienced some forms of sexual assault and harassment. The experiences tell the stories of the dangers they face, how the experiences have affected their self-esteem and how vulnerable they are to danger while lacking a place to seek support. One section (p.10) reports a study from New York (Victim Services, 1991)<sup>16</sup> that 40-42% of youth living on the streets identify themselves as lesbian, gay or bisexual. Many of them get kicked out of their home when their parents learn that they are lesbian, gay or bisexual. Also, often youth leave home out of discomfort/pain of not being able to come out to their parents. They are extremely vulnerable to sexual assault and harassment on the street and sometimes find using shelters unsafe or feel unsure if they will be accepted. To support lesbian, gay and bisexual youth in general, awareness and education programs should be developed, and professionals and community members have to make efforts to establish a safe, non-homophobic culture/environment in the city.

Source: Phoenix Youth Programs

**50. NEW Title:**

**Leppard, Denise and Anne Aberdeen. (2000). *Aboriginal Injection Drug Users and Needle Exchange Programs: Identifying Barriers in Nova Scotia.* Mainline Needle Exchange, Halifax.**

**Keywords:** *IV drug use, Needle exchange.*

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The report looks at Aboriginal injection drug users and identifies barriers that prevent them for accessing treatment facilities. HIV infection is increasing among Aboriginal injection drug users, especially women, but there have been few studies done within this population. The staff at the Mainline Needle Exchange Program has seen an increase in

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<sup>16</sup> Victim Services/Traveller's Aid (1991). Streetwork Project Study. New York.

the number of Aboriginal injection drug users using their service. According to the report, the barriers to treatment included perceptions of treatment facilities, lack of access to facilities, fear of leaving their community, Aboriginal staffing issues, language and cultural sensitivities, fear of being stigmatized as a user and distrust in the confidentiality of the service.

Source: Mainline Needle Exchange, Halifax.

**51. NEW Title:**

**Mantley, Michael. (2004). *An Inside Look into Cocaine Addiction Through the Eyes of an Addict: Mainline Needle Exchange Cocaine Assessment Report*. Mainline Needle Exchange.**

**Keywords:** Injection drug use, Needle exchange



The purpose of the *Cocaine Assessment Report* was to develop a profile of the high-risk cocaine using population in Nova Scotia. The report aims to gain a greater understanding of the population and explore strategies to address the issue. The study was conducted using a participatory approach that involved the target population. The report recommends:

- More harm reduction programs for safer crack/cocaine use;
- Enhanced treatment services that include a mental health component;
- Additional programming for those in recovery;
- Linkages to key stakeholders.

Source: Mainline Needle Exchange.

**52. NEW Title:**

**Row, John, R., Connie MacLaren and Erin Skinner. (1998). *An Economic Evaluation of the Mainline Needle Exchange*. Main Line , Halifax, Canada.**

**Keywords:** IV drug use, Needle exchange, Health care costs.



The study evaluates the cost-effectiveness of the Mainline Needle Exchange program. Analysis was guided by the question: Is it more cost-effective to prevent the transmission of HIV through the Main Line Needle exchange program or to treat one individual who has become infected with HIV? The study finds that the Mainline Needle Exchange program is cost-effective. In fact, according to this research, the program saved the province approximately \$11 million.

Source: Main Line Needle Exchange, Halifax.

**53. Title:**

**WADE and Atlantic CED Institute. (2000). We Can't Walk Alone: A Path to Capacity Building in African Nova Scotian Communities. Truro, Nova Scotia: WADE and Atlantic CED Institute.**

***Keyword:** African Nova Scotian Communities, History, Discrimination, Capacity Building, Church, Rural Nova Scotia, Social Housing*

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The book describes various community socio-economic development endeavours of African Nova Scotians throughout history. A chapter is devoted to the history of housing development in the Preston Area. The chapter gives a detailed account of how Black Loyalists (escaped slaves who joined the British armies during the American Revolution of 1776), the Maroons (descendants of African slaves brought to Jamaica by the Spanish colonists) and the Black Refugees (escaped slaves who joined the British armies in the War of 1812) settled in the area. Land Title Clarification came about in 1958 allowing squatters to gain titles to land occupied by their family for up to 150 years. In 1960, co-op mortgages and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation mortgages became available. In the 1970s, a local church built a two-unit apartment building, and also the first African Nova Scotian senior citizens complex was created. In 1972 a total of 181 units of housing were built in North Preston and Cherry Brook, with some federal (37%) and provincial (41%) governments contributions. Ten units were public (rental) housing and 10 units were non-profit housing. The book explores racism and how racism is often unrecognizable in the planning systems of Nova Scotia but is still posing challenges to African Nova Scotian communities.

Source: St. Francis Xavier University COADY Institute, Excerpt available at HRM Planning and Development

# National

## With a Focus on HRM and/or Atlantic Canada

### Homelessness

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**54. Title:**

**Canada Mortgage and Housing Cooperation. (1995). *Inventory of Projects and Programs Addressing Homelessness*. Ottawa: Canada Mortgage and Housing Cooperation.**

**Keyword:** *Programs and Projects, Homelessness*

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This document lists 53 different homelessness projects and programs in Canada, the United States and some European countries. Out of 25 projects and programs from Canada, only one, formerly called the Long Term Services for Youth now called Phoenix Youth Programs, was an example from Nova Scotia. The majority of the projects and programs are from Ottawa and Toronto. The 53 projects and programs are categorized into: 1. Street outreach, 2. Emergency shelter, 3. Transitional/Supportive Housing, 4. Permanent Housing, 5. Rural response, 6. Community development/ enterprise, 7. Prevention and 8. Comprehensive. A brief description of each program and project contains each one's innovative features.

Source: Phoenix Youth Programs

**55. Title:**

**Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation. (1999). *Roundtables on Best Practices Addressing Homelessness: Background Reports and Summaries, Distinct Housing Needs Series*. Ottawa: Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation.**

**Keyword:** *Best Practices*

☆☆☆

In June 1999, five roundtables sponsored and hosted by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) were held in response to needs expressed by various organizations working with homeless individuals. CMHC's services are divided into five regions across Canada: Atlantic; Quebec; Ontario; Prairies, Nunavut and Northwest Territories; and British Columbia and Yukon Territory. One roundtable was held in each region. The goals of the roundtables were to bring together front line agencies and other key people involved with the homeless population to explore successful approaches to addressing homelessness, exchange information, facilitate new links and partnerships and develop region-wide information networks.

The Atlantic regional roundtable was organized by a representative of the Metro Non Profit Housing Association and the CMHC committee. A representative of the North End Community Health Centre wrote the summary of the roundtable.

The report stresses that it is critical for practitioners to be proactive and client driven, establish consensus among different levels of government, enhance a climate for individuals and groups to network, collaborate and overcome bureaucratic obstacles.

Suggestions from the roundtable include:

1. Exploring innovative funding arrangements and partnerships,
2. Maximizing existing information, human and institutional resources,
3. Mixing high income and low-income households in a neighborhood,
4. Addressing prevention aspects of homelessness and
5. Strengthening activism by developing networks.

Source: Dalhousie Killam Library, HRM Planning and Development, NS Community Services Housing Services Division.

**56. Title:**

**Kraus, Deborah et al. (2001). *Environmental Scan on Youth Homelessness: Final Report*, submitted to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Ottawa: Canada Mortgage and Housing Cooperation.**

***Keyword:*** Youth Homelessness, Causes and Effects, Service Gaps

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The report provides an overview of homeless youth across Canada and provides a comparison of the homeless youth situation across Canadian major cities. The target group of the study is youth between 16 to 24 years of age. The report summarizes the general characteristics of homeless youth. They tend to have had exposure to physical violence, mental health problems, alcohol and drug abuse, sexual abuse and conflicts with the law. Homelessness is a significant problem among Aboriginal youth but these youth usually avoid using shelters because they fear discrimination. Lesbian, gay and bisexual youth are also at risk of ending up on the street because their families often reject them. Some health problems such as HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B and C, tuberculosis, scabies and sexually transmitted diseases were highlighted as concerns.

The homeless youth situation in Atlantic Canada is summarized. The report highlights an increasing number of youth living on the streets in Halifax as well as a lack of affordable housing. Other issues include: a shortage of treatment centres to address issues of addictions among youth and the gap in income support for 16-18 year olds.

Source: Community Action on Homelessness

**57. Title:**

**Luba Serge (ed.). (1999). *Documentation of Best Practices Addressing Homelessness, Distinct Housing Needs Series*, Ottawa: Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation.**

**Keyword:** *Best Practices, Phoenix Youth Programs*

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Ten homelessness programs and projects across Canada are introduced in this document. The description for each program and project was written by the agencies themselves, with funding from CMHC. The names and services are:

1. Sandy Merriman House (Victoria Cool Aid Society), Victoria, British Columbia--an emergency shelter/drop in program for homeless and low-income women;
2. Lookout Emergency Aid Society, Vancouver, British Columbia--24 hour/7day services for a variety of needs including emergency shelter, low income housing and residence, advocacy, referrals, free clothing, medication and money administration, outreach and life skill programs;
3. Community Action Plan (City of Calgary), Calgary, Alberta;
4. Native Women's Transition Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba--a long-term residence for native women in transition;
5. Rosbrook House, Winnipeg, Manitoba--a neighborhood centre for children and youth;
6. StreetCity, Toronto, Ontario--permanent housing for chronically homeless people with an opportunity to participate in housing management;
7. The Anglican Social Services Centre/Centre 454, Ottawa, Ontario--recreational programming and counseling, laundry, shower facilities, hygiene products, a secure mailing address, message service, telephones, resume and tax preparation, emergency bus tickets, haircut vouchers;
8. La Fédération des organismes sans but lucratif d'habitation de Montréal, Montreal Québec--permanent housing for men and women of age 18 years or older, gender mixed, with rent equivalent of 25% of tenants' income;
9. Centre résidentiel et communautaire Jacques-Cartier, Québec City, Québec--Support program for troubled youth aged 16 to 30, promoting stable lifestyle and providing work experience with housing included; and
10. **Phoenix Youth Programs, Halifax, Nova Scotia**--A variety of support programs for youth including long-term housing, supervised apartment program, in independent living option, ongoing support after leaving the residential program, as well as advocacy.

Source: HRM Planning and Development, Phoenix Youth Programs has its section as an independent document entitled, *Phoenix Youth Programs: The Story*.

**58. Title:**

**Novac, Silvia et al. (2002). *On Her Own: Young Women and Homelessness in Canada*. Ottawa: Canadian Housing and Renewal Association.**

***Keyword:* Youth, Women, Services in Halifax, Large Cities in Canada**

☆☆☆

This study reveals the homelessness issues of young women in major cities and identifies policy implications to meet the specific needs of young homeless women. Three major case studies were conducted in Vancouver, Toronto and Montréal, and five additional case study results in **Halifax**, St. John's, Edmonton, Winnipeg, and Yellowknife are also reported.

The section on Halifax (pp. 107-110) describes the situation for young homeless women through interviews with housing service providers such as Stepping Stone, Adsum House, Shelter for Learning/Native Youth Education, Arc Outreach, Matrix, Exodus House and Phoenix House. It is estimated that there are 200 to 300 homeless people on any given night in Halifax but there is no information on their age. Homeless young women in Halifax tend to stay in hostels or couch surf and rarely sleep rough. Some women trade sex for a place to sleep. Few young women of African descent, immigrant women or Aboriginal women use the emergency women's shelter. Aboriginal youth tend to stay with friends or relatives rather than use the shelter system. Some lesbian and bisexual youth, particularly from rural areas, move to Halifax to escape community censure and to access the services available in Halifax. Drug abuse (including crack, marijuana, acid, ecstasy, heroin and prescription drugs) was reported as a growing problem. The report states that Hepatitis C, HIV and chlamydia are on the rise, and different forms of self-harming behaviours such as "slashing" and eating disorders are common. The vast majority of the young women who use shelters have been traumatized by abuse. An outreach group sees 35 to 50 young women a week, at least 85% of whom have been physically or sexually abused in their early years.

Source: Nova Scotia Community Services, Housing Services Division

# Example and Reference Studies in Canada (National) and Other Cities

## Homelessness

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### 59. Title:

**Arboleda-Flórez, J. and Holley, H.L. (1997, December). *Calgary Homelessness Study: Final Report, December 1997*. Calgary: The Ad Hoc Committee for Calgary's Homeless Initiative.**

**Keyword:** *Profiling, Research Methodology, Calgary*

☆☆☆

This study was funded by Alberta Health and conducted by the Ad Hoc Steering Committee for Calgary's Homeless Initiative. The objectives of the study were:

1. Report on the feasibility of establishing an inter-agency minimum dataset that could be used to provide ongoing estimates of the numbers of homeless in Calgary who require agency services, as well as utilization patterns and
2. Provide a client perspective on homelessness, its determinants, and possible solutions.

A representative sample of 250 shelter users was interviewed using a semi-structured interview format. Respondents told interviewers how they came to be homeless, their social and financial situations, perceived health status, and provided information and opinions concerning a number of possible barriers to obtaining stable housing. Forty five percent of respondents were employed and most were motivated to improve their employment situations. Most often, barriers to obtaining stable employment were related to practical needs such as access to transportation or a telephone, as well as a lack of skills and experience demanded in the job market. Almost half the respondents reported receiving some medical or psychiatric care since becoming homeless and 43% were unsure where to go for mental health services.

The report's major recommendations include:

1. Improvement of accountability for agencies that receive external funding (particularly public funds),
2. Development of an inter-agency data consortium and tracking system,
3. Maintenance of data in agencies to include a unified information set that records age, gender, ethnicity, known health problems, employment status, date of contacts, referral place, reasons for refusal (if applicable), and referred place,
4. Permission for using the data for further analyses and
5. Urgent provision of physical and mental health services.

Source: HRM Planning and Development

**60. Title:**

**Beavis, Mary Ann et al. (1997, January). *Literature Review: Aboriginal Peoples and Homelessness*. Ottawa: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.**

***Keyword:*** *Aboriginal Peoples and Homelessness, Poverty, Health, Unique Strategies*

☆☆☆

The Literature Review found that there is very little literature that addresses the issue of Aboriginal homelessness in Canada. A lot of the literature related to Aboriginal homelessness is from Western Canada

Risk factors or causes of homelessness among Aboriginal population have similarities with non-Aboriginal populations (such as socio-economic factors and health related issues), but there are also some unique factors that need to be recognized and addressed in dealing with Aboriginal homelessness. For example, severely depressed conditions on reserve and in remote communities force Aboriginal individuals to move to cities where there may be employment opportunities. However, racism and discrimination hinder them not only from attaining employment, but also from getting assistance to alleviate living situations while unemployed.

The Literature Review suggests research on:

1. Developing a better profile of homeless populations,
2. Scrutinizing causes of homelessness among Aboriginal people such as discrimination, and
3. Examining the appropriateness of existing services.

Cultural appropriateness, philosophies of shelters, spirituality, traditional healing practices and self-determination are some of the special issues that need to be considered. Also, it needs to be determined whether the same strategies applied to non-Aboriginal homeless individuals are unproductive, or even harmful when applied to the Aboriginal homeless population.

Source: Dalhousie University Killam Library

**61. Title:**

**British Columbia Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security. (2000). *Local Responses to Homelessness: A Planning Guide for B.C. Communities*. Victoria: British Columbia Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security and Ministry of Municipal Affairs.**

***Keyword:*** *Community Development, Guidebook, Community Based Housing Planning, Participation, Financing, British Columbia*

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This community planning guidebook/toolbook is for working on community based projects and programs that address homelessness. It highlights the homelessness issue in British Columbia communities and provides case studies of housing projects and programs with their strategies. The report outlines the financial information of case projects including sources and amount of funding. Financing tends to come from government agencies, private business and foundations. Innovative financing schemes are used in some projects/programs such as soft lending, land grants and company donations. The guidebook also includes a list of initiatives (mainly in British Columbia) that respond to homelessness, including surveys, affordable housing funds, rent bank, eviction prevention programs, supportive housing, non-profit SRO hotels and the preservation and rehabilitation of existing housing.

Source: Nova Scotia Community Services, Housing Services Division

**62. Title:**

**Calgary Homeless Foundation. (2003, March). *Homeless Research Workshop, March 20, 2003, Calgary Drop In Centre.***

**Keyword:** *Research Methodology, Turning Research into Action, Calgary, Alberta*

☆☆

This is a report of the Calgary Homeless Foundation's Homeless Research Workshop held on March 20, 2003. The workshop included researchers and government officials and highlighted issues on homelessness research and key gaps in knowledge. The key gaps identified include:

1. Understanding of how government policy changes impact homelessness,
2. Factors contributing to successful transitions,
3. Effective interventions for sub-populations of the homeless,
4. How effective are current solutions? and
5. How to present a compelling case for intervention and move it through the political system, etc.

Group discussions in the workshop dealt with critical questions on homelessness strategies which included:

1. What factors are making homelessness worse?
2. What things are in place, working and making a difference,
3. What should be priorities,
4. What key factors impact on ability to do research and
5. What key factors impact on turning research findings into action?

Source: Downloadable at:

<http://www.calgaryhomeless.com/images/products/documents/1223/D134DEAA-E41D-41BE-BAE1-0C3320D3AE0F.pdf>

**63. Title:**

**Eberle, Margaret et al. (2001). *Homelessness-Causes and Effects*. Vancouver: British Columbia, Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security. Volume 1-4.**

*Vol. 1. The relationship between homelessness and the health, social services and criminal justice systems*

*Vol. 2 A profile, policy review and analysis of homelessness in British Columbia*

*Vol. 3 The cost of homelessness in British Columbia, and*

*Vol. 4. Background report: A profile and policy review of homelessness in the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec and Alberta*

**Keyword:** *Homeless Profiling, Trends, Methodology, British Columbia*

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The study presents a wide range of perspectives on homelessness in British Columbia. Volume 1 explains how homelessness leads to health problems and increased needs for social services and how homeless people usually lack substantial means to live, therefore tend to rely on criminal activities. Volume 2 provides the results of a survey of shelter clients on a November day in 1999. The survey looks at age, race, gender, geographical location, family unit/marital status, employment status, duration of last permanent address, reason for admission to shelter and health (visible) conditions. . Volume 2 also gives comparative analysis on income, unemployment rates, vacancy rates, welfare adequacy, and spending on community mental support among BC, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec.

Volume 3 calculated the combined costs of providing social services including health care, criminal justice and social services plus shelter costs per person for one to be \$30,000 to \$40,000. The combined costs of services and housing for individuals properly housed ranged from \$22,000 to \$28,000.

Volume 4 presents profiles of homelessness in Ontario, Quebec and Alberta. It also provides brief overviews of each province's policy context and current housing programs. In Ontario, the provincial government allocated \$4 million to a Homelessness Initiative Fund, through which some innovative approaches by municipalities to address homelessness have been funded. In Quebec, there is a focus on prevention and social integration through the current policy of the Ministry of Health and Social Services. In Alberta, through refinancing the social housing mortgagee debt in 1998, the provincial government eliminated the requirement for municipal contributions for provincially owned family social housing. The savings were used in Edmonton (\$1.3 million) and Calgary (\$965,000) to address homelessness. This and \$2 million from the province's lottery fund enabled the City of Calgary to leverage its saving into \$4.4 million and establish the Calgary Homeless Foundation.

Source: Nova Scotia Community Services, Housing Services Division

**64. Title:**

**Eberle Planning and Research et al. (2002). *Research Project on Homelessness in Greater Vancouver*. Vancouver: Greater Vancouver Regional District.**

***Keyword:*** *At-Risk Homeless, Homeless, Profiling, Methodology, Data, Greater Vancouver, Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative*

☆☆☆

This three-volume study, funded by Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI), profiles homeless and at-risk (mainly economic risk) people in Greater Vancouver. Volume two is a detailed result of the in-depth look at characteristics of homeless and at-risk populations as well as the trend and magnitude of the problems. Volume 3 provides a detailed explanation of the methodology used for this study. Volume 3 also discusses the issues of protection of privacy, qualification and training of interviewers, how to approach candidates for an interview, honorariums and the importance of reporting back to participants after the interviews. The numbers in the study are based on the 1996 Census.

Some findings include:

1. A significant share of Aboriginal persons at-risk of homelessness were children under the age of 10 years (25%),
2. Females and immigrants comprised the largest sub-groups among those at-risk of homelessness (51% and 41%),
3. Persons with disabilities who were at-risk of homelessness comprised 13% of all at-risk persons in the GVRD, 37% of which were seniors.
4. 7.5% of women region-wide are at-risk of homelessness.
5. At-risk youth had an average age of 14 years. Most were living with their parents (54%), males were over-represented among youth aged 10 to 14 years, and older youth were more likely to be of Aboriginal ethnicity.

Source: Downloadable at:

[http://www.gvrd.bc.ca/homelessness/pdfs/research\\_project.pdf](http://www.gvrd.bc.ca/homelessness/pdfs/research_project.pdf)

**65. Title:**

**Gardiner, Helen et al. (2002, October). *2002 Calgary Homelessness Study: Final Report October 2002*. Calgary: Calgary Homeless Foundation.**

**HRM Planning and Development**

**Keyword:** *Profiling, Trend, Homeless Count, Absolute Homeless, Relative Homeless, Calgary*

☆☆☆

The report attempts to address issues of methodology to quantify homeless populations and suggests frameworks as to how to better design research. This study does not attempt to show the overall count of the homeless population in Calgary but focuses on analyzing the preset percentage of the homeless population that participated in the study. Surveys are detailed and extensive in qualitative accounts. Some findings include:

1. Both the frequency and duration of homelessness have increased since 1997,
2. The number of homeless women is increasing,
3. There are increases in the number of older male homeless and younger female homeless people from 1997,
4. Relative homeless groups earn less than the absolute homeless group and
5. About half of the absolute homeless group and more than half of relative homeless group are experiencing some degree of mental illness.

A number of recommendations are made including:

1. Lobbying to raise minimum wage,
2. Offering a "one-stop" approach to accessing services,
3. Developing community outreach teams for connecting homeless people to services,
4. Establishing an administrative/legal advocacy group (to show how to apply for a health care card, for example),
5. Providing transit passes to homeless people, and
6. Addressing systemic issues, which sustain homelessness.

Source: Downloadable at:

<http://www.calgaryhomeless.com/images/products/documents/1223/A1DD99E8-919C-4023-A708-51A3869ABFAC.PDF>

**66. Title:**

**Golden, Anne. (1999, January). Taking Responsibility for Homelessness: An Action Plan for Toronto, Report of the Mayor's Homelessness Action Task Force.**

*Keyword: Action Plan, Strategies, Toronto*

☆☆☆

This 294-page Action Plan for homelessness in Toronto examines homelessness and various options and recommendations for action suggested in *Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness: Interim Report of the Mayor's Homelessness Action Task Force*. Chapter 9 presents 105 recommendations for action including:

1. Appointment of coordinating and facilitating personnel at government levels,
2. Establishment of programs that can finance supportive housing schemes,
3. Concrete numbers of facilities, such as shelters, and permanent low-cost housing,
4. Appointment of personnel that better connect government efforts to Aboriginal people's groups,
5. Development of programs for the refugee population, comprehensive health strategy by the Ministry of Health and Toronto Public Health and
6. Changes to by-laws that can accommodate the housing options for low-income people.

Also included are suggestions of preventive strategies such as rent banks, shelter allowances, anti-discrimination measures, community economic development and legal assistance.

Source: Downloadable at: [http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/pdf/homeless\\_action.pdf](http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/pdf/homeless_action.pdf)

**67. Title:**

**Mayor's Homelessness Action Task Force. (1998, July). *Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness: Interim Report of the Mayor's Homelessness Action Task Force*. Toronto: Mayor's Homelessness Action Task Force.**

*Keyword: Homelessness Count, Profiling, Toronto*

☆☆☆

This report outlines the homelessness situation in Toronto. In Toronto, on any given night, about 3,000 individuals are staying in shelters, about 37,000 are on a waiting list for subsidized social housing and an additional 40,000 are precariously housed and not wait-listed. In 1996, about 26,000 different people used the shelter system in the city. The study states that 25% of homeless people on the street are Aboriginal people, though they represent only 3% of the total population in the city. Also, 19% of the homeless population are children. Increasing poverty, lack of supportive housing and coordination of support services, high costs of maintaining shelters, physical and social barriers for homeless people to access health care are some of the identified problems with homelessness and housing affordability in Toronto. The Task Force notes that the

problem of homelessness is solvable. Coordinated services and concrete action suggested for services catering targeted groups/clients will dramatically reduce the problems. The three levels of government must work together and more effectively use available funds, improve responsiveness and plan for better continuity of efforts.

Source: HRM Planning and Development, Downloadable at:

<http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/pdf/homelessness.pdf>

**68. NEW Title:**

**Moore, E. and A. Skaburskis. (2003). *Shelter Costs and Income in Canada: Social and Geographic Dimensions*. National Homelessness Initiative.**

**Keywords:** *Shelter cost to income ratios, Housing affordability.*

☆☆☆

This report has been prepared to provide background information on the nature and extent of the risk of homelessness. The report uses data on shelter costs and before-tax income from the Family Expenditure (FAMEX), Survey of Household Spending (SHS) and the 1991 and 1996 Public Use Microdata Files (PUMF). The data is used to measure affordability problems by two variables: households who spend more than 30 percent of income on shelter and households who spend more than 50 percent of income on shelter.

Findings indicate that affordability problems for Canada as a whole increased over the last two decades, even during the 1990s when other economic indicators were improving. There are strong differences in regional and urban experiences. Affordability problems are also most serious in the largest cities both in terms of level and degree of increase between 1991 and 1996. Affordability problems are highly concentrated among low-income renters who fall below Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-Off (LICO), older women and female lone-parent families.

For the most vulnerable groups, affordability problems worsened during the 1990s, reflecting the larger context of increasing income inequality in Canada. The underlying premise of the report is that declining affordability of housing is an indicator of a higher risk environment for the occurrence of homelessness.

Source: <http://www.homelessness.gc.ca/research/projects>

**69. Title:**

**Novac, Silvia et al. (1999, April). *Women on the Rough Edge: A Decade of Change for Long-term Homeless Women*. Ottawa: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.**

**Keyword:** *Women, Long-term Homeless, Shelter, Profiling, Decline of Housing Services for Women, Toronto*

☆☆☆

The study is an analysis of hostel users who are long-term homeless women. The study profiles age groups, educational levels, income, ethnicity/race, marital status, recipient/non-recipient of social assistance and health status (such as mental illness, alcohol or drug addition, and physical health problems). As well, the study includes an information database set collected by the Toronto Hostel Services Division covering all publicly subsidized hostels and shelter for the period 1988 to 1996 (this research came out in 1999). The database records information of homeless women and highlights the services they use. Long-term homelessness is placed higher in program priority.

For example, in 1996 alone, more than 26,000 individuals used Toronto hostels, of which 4,300 were long-term users, which actually counts for 46% of the bed nights. The study reports that 71% of homeless women were diagnosed as schizophrenic, while the rest (29%) had other psychiatric disorders.

The study also interviews frontline housing service workers. Some observations from the interviews include:

1. That there is a general feeling of increased public awareness about homeless women, while also felt is a decrease in sympathy toward them,
2. That more women with children are homeless (which had been unheard of a decade before) and
3. That shelter services are less gender sensitive now a decade or two ago due to the decline of a shelter system based on feminist philosophy. The agencies that replaced these shelters apply a more generic approach.

Source: HRM Planning and Development

**70. Title:**

**Quantz, Darryl and Frankish, Jim. (2002, June). *Homelessness Research in the Greater Vancouver Regional District: An Agenda for Moving Forward*. Institute of Health Promotion Research, University of British Columbia.**

**Keyword:** *Information Database, Literature Review on Local Homelessness Studies, Connecting Research into Action, Greater Vancouver*

☆☆☆

This research presents a synthesis of existing homelessness research in the Greater Vancouver area, identifying gaps and recommending future research to promote an

effective use of information in policy and program design and delivery. A number of research studies on homelessness issues were done in the Greater Vancouver Region, mainly by community organizations, government and academic institutions between 1987 and 2002.

Most of the research explored topics related to homelessness, such as health, housing stock, Single Room Occupants, policy and service delivery. Some of the research looked at concepts around homelessness, needs assessments, explorations of homelessness study methods and evaluation of housing projects and programs for homeless people.

This study also emphasizes the importance of research, reporting that 82% of respondents in their community survey indicated they use research for funding applications, setting priorities and developing programs and services. Also addressed was the need for effective dissemination of and better access to research studies. There is a need for an equal partnership between community and research institutions as well as a higher level of community participation in research design.

Source: HRM Planning and Development, Information database (Virtual Library) accessible at: <http://www.hvl.ihpr.ubc.ca/index.htm>

# Housing

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## 71. Title:

**Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. (1998). *Housing Canada's Youth, Distinct Housing Needs Series*, prepared by INRS-Urbanisation, Institut national de la recherche scientifique.**

**Keyword:** *Youth's Trend in Living Arrangement, Youth Homelessness*

☆☆

The research presents national trends of young people's (under 25 and between 25 to 29) housing situation or living arrangements. Chapter 4 summarizes homelessness issues faced by young people, pointing out that although an abundance of literature is available on the topic, few studies have been done to reveal the extent of the homeless youth population. Moreover, issues that surround homeless youth are complex. It is beneficial to employ holistic approaches, where housing is part of the strategy, to address the issues faced by homeless youth or youth at risk of homelessness. According to the report, too often, resources that support innovative initiatives "fall woefully short" (p. 36).

Source: NS Community Services

## 72. Title:

**Federation of Canadian Municipalities. (2000, April). *Toward a National Housing Strategy: A Working Paper Prepared for the FCM Big City Mayors Caucus*.**

**Keyword:** *National Housing Strategy, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Affordable Housing, Leadership*

☆☆

This working paper is from a workshop with the Big City Mayors in Canada about the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) attempts to identify policy and program options for a National Housing Strategy. The National Housing Strategy aims to reduce homelessness and the housing crisis in cities by half over the next decade.

In the current climate where Canada has no national housing policy, the housing debate has focused on "who is responsible for housing" rather on the critical question of what should be done. The need for housing, however, has persisted and intensified. The FCM stresses the shortage in rental housing. Little rental housing has been built since 1993. FCM states that the situation will continue to worsen unless governments create incentives for the private housing sector to build rental housing units. Over the next ten years, growth in household numbers will cause demand for an extra 38,000 to 50,000 rental units each year and about half of all household growth is expected to come from lower income tenant households requiring affordable housing.

To solve the housing problem, the FCM proposes that municipal governments move to fill the leadership void by re-engaging Canadians and their national and provincial leaders in the housing debate, and ultimately by compelling them to accept their share of responsibility. Each level of government should play a role in their specific areas of jurisdiction and responsibility. The proposed Strategy is based on four components:

1. A program of locally designed and administered initiatives supported by a federal or joint federal/provincial capital fund,
2. A program to encourage private rental production,
3. An effort to attract new funding for the development, acquisition or rehabilitation of affordable housing, and
4. Income supplement programs to help tenants unable to afford market rents.

Next steps suggested include updating housing need data, development of full policy program proposals, involvement of affordable housing experts at the community, building public and political support for the National Housing Strategy, etc. *A National Affordable Housing Strategy*, which came out in October 2000 (downloadable at: <http://www.fcm.ca/newfcm/Java/frame.htm>) shows proposed measures.

Source: Downloadable at <http://www.fcm.ca/newfcm/Java/frame.htm>

### **73. Title:**

**Hulchanski, David, J. (2002, December). *Housing Policy for Tomorrow's Cities, Discussion Paper F/27, Family Network. Ottawa: Canadian Policy Research Networks.***

***Keyword:*** *Housing Policy, Needs Assessment, National Strategies*

☆☆☆

This report is an account of the federal government's role in providing housing for Canadians and a strong argument on what role it should take at present and in the future. Since the country began building social and public housing, Canada has spent only about 1% of its budget on programs and subsidies for social housing built across the country (about half a million units). Canada has the most private-sector-dominated, market-based housing system of any Western nation and the smallest social housing sector of any major Western nation except the United States. About 5% of Canada's households live in non-market social housing, compared with 40% in the Netherlands, 22% in the United Kingdom, 15% in France and Germany, and 2% in the United States (p. 9). Whereas before the 1980s very few people went unhoused, and no one was born homeless, today many thousands of Canadians have no housing and are excluded from community networks and the mainstream patterns of day-to-day life.

The report asserts that addressing the current housing situation in Canada requires five types of programs:

1. Capital subsidies in the social housing supply are required to bring down overall rent levels,

2. Rent supplements, which can make housing affordable for very low-income households,
3. Programs that address the housing needs of people requiring supportive housing,
4. Programs for rehabilitation of aging housing, and
5. Programs that assist people who are homeless.

These five programs could make great progress in alleviating the more severe aspects of Canada's housing problem, yet they would likely require only about another 1% of annual federal spending.

Source: HRM Planning and Development

Downloadable at: <http://www.cprn.com/cprn.html>

#### **74. NEW Title**

**Hulchanski, D., Murdie, R.A., Campsie, P. 2004. Adequate and Affordable Housing for All. Research, Policy, Practice. Research Abstracts from the International Housing Research Conference. University of Toronto, 2004. Toronto: Centre for Urban and Community Studies Press**

***Keyword:*** *international housing and homelessness research*

This publication provides a synopsis of about 300 presentations from 40 countries made at the International Sociological association (ISA) conference in Toronto. Abstracts are organized according to themes such as discrimination, social exclusion and social integration, homelessness, housing, health and environment, housing and aging, housing design, housing need, housing policy, urban governance and others.

Source: CUCS [www.urbancentre.utoronto.ca](http://www.urbancentre.utoronto.ca)

#### **75. Title:**

**Mattu, Parveen. (2002, April). *A Survey on the Extent of Substandard Housing Problems Faced by Immigrants and Refugees in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia*. Vancouver: Multilingual Orientation Service Association for Immigrant Communities (MOSAIC).**

***Keyword:*** *Homelessness, At-Risk of Homelessness, Immigrants, Refugees, Needs Assessments, Participation, Cultural Awareness, Landlord, Strategies to Break Bad Cycle*

☆☆☆

This is a study conducted by the Multilingual Orientation Service Association for Immigrant Communities (MOSAIC), in partnership with Kwantlen University College in British Columbia. MOSAIC is a non-profit organization, which provides services to immigrants.

The research employed eleven focus groups with immigrants and refugees who have experienced sub-standard housing conditions and negative treatment from their landlord because of their backgrounds and their vulnerable status as newcomers to Canada. In addition, a questionnaire, key informant interviews and literature review were conducted.

The study found that immigrants and refugees often experience and fall into a cycle of deprivation due to:

- Language barrier, little knowledge of Canadian culture and laws, they do not know their rights and the services available to them,
- lack of acknowledgment of immigrants' educational achievements and credentials,
- lack of available information on services for newcomers and instructions on application processes,
- lack of legal information on tenants' rights and landlords' responsibilities, they are often taken advantage of by landlords,
- a small stock of affordable rental housing and
- difficulties encountered finding employment or from working for minimum wage.

A number of suggestions were made by both service providers and participating immigrants and refugees to improve the situation, alleviate the risk of becoming homeless and the number of cases where immigrants and refugees have to deal with substandard housing. The suggestions include:

1. Stricter regulations and enforcement on substandard housing stock and landlord/housing managers;
2. Promotion of cultural awareness among landlords;
3. Contribution and participation of immigrants and refugees in planning, decision-making and implementation of relevant housing service work;
4. Distribution of information resources in different languages; management of security deposits by a third party;
5. Encouragement to immigrant and refugee representatives to participate in discussions such as that of the Greater Vancouver Regional District Homelessness Steering Committee; and
6. Improvement of information accessibility, utilizing public places such as city halls, community centres, and income assistance offices equipped with a unified database of referral agencies and service information.

Source: Downloadable at: <http://www.hvl.ihpr.ubc.ca/pdf/Mattu2002.pdf>

## **76. NEW Title**

**TD Economics. (2003). Affordable Housing in Canada: In Search of a New Paradigm. TD Bank Financial Group.**

**Keyword:** *Affordable housing, Low-income households, Affordable housing supply.*

☆☆☆

This report is a fourth in a series by the TD Bank Financial Group on urban challenges in Canada. The document begins by explaining that after ten years of economic expansion in Canada, one in five households is unable to afford acceptable shelter “a strikingly high number especially in view of the country’s ranking well atop the United Nations human-development survey”.

Of the nine major markets the report studies, Halifax has the highest share of renter households with an affordability problem. The report talks about the social and health issues related to housing, as well as the link between housing and economic policy. An inadequate supply of affordable housing can negatively impact business investment and growth.

TD argues that the affordable housing problem is primarily a result of low incomes. Their solution to the affordable housing problem therefore involves raising market incomes at the lower income brackets. There is also a need to address current supply shortages and remove market barriers that contribute to supply shortages. Accordingly, the research is critical of new government housing initiatives, as they only address supply and do not address low incomes.

Source: <http://www.urbancentre.utoronto.ca/elibrary.html>

## Related Issues

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### 77. Title:

**Canada, Prime Minister's Caucus Task Force on Urban Issues (Sgro Report). (2002, November). *Canada's Urban Strategy: A Blueprint for Action, Final Report.***

**Keyword:** *Urban Issues, Affordable Housing, Transportation, Sustainable Infrastructure, CMHC*

☆☆

The report, put together by the Prime Minister's Caucus Task Force on Urban Issues, is based on consultations and an interim report. The report recommends action in three priority areas for a national urban strategy:

1. Affordable housing,
2. Transit/Transportation, and
3. Sustainable infrastructure.

The Task Force also recommends actions regarding affordable housing:

1. Re-examination of CMHC mandate and insurance programs to accommodate some financial needs for non-profit housing groups,
2. Tax system changes that promote incentives for the private sector to build more low-income housing,
3. Programs that serve targeted groups such as urban aboriginal populations and seniors, as well as
4. Providing mortgage insurance for "brownfield" (contaminated site) redevelopment and revitalization in areas where there is a shortage of affordable housing.

The report states that the Federal Affordable Housing Program, which will provide \$680 million to affordable housing in the next 5 years, is "just not sufficient to meet the needs across the country (p. 12)." Partnerships between private and public sector to tackle development of affordable housing is crucial and the private housing industry will respond "if conditions, such as equal tax treatment, are made favorable (ibid)."

**Source:** Downloadable at: [http://www.liberal.parl.gc.ca/urb/BluePrint\\_English.pdf](http://www.liberal.parl.gc.ca/urb/BluePrint_English.pdf)

Interim report, *Canada's Urban Strategy: A Vision for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* is downloadable at: [http://www.liberal.parl.gc.ca/urb/Vision\\_English.pdf](http://www.liberal.parl.gc.ca/urb/Vision_English.pdf)

**78. NEW Title:**

**Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. (2002). *Best Practices Concurrent Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders*. Health Canada.**

**Keywords:** Addiction, Mental health, Substance abuse, Substance use disorder.

☆☆

This is a comprehensive report on best practices for treating individuals with concurrent addictions and mental health problems. Research shows the high prevalence of “co-morbidity and its implications for the course, cost and outcome of treatment and other support services”. This report presents an updated synthesis of the best research information and offers specific recommendations for screening, assessment and treatment/support. The report argues for the integrated treatment of mental health and substance abuse problems. There is a need for a broad psycho-social perspective that combines acute treatment, medication management and symptom reduction with support for the person in a wide variety of areas, including housing, employment, recreation and social networks. The value of services that are consumer-run and which bring an experiential perspective to service delivery are acknowledged.

Source: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hecs-sesc/cds/publications/index.htm>

**79. NEW Title:**

**HomeComing Community Choice Coalition. (2003). *Yes, In My Backyard. A Guide for Ontario’s supportive housing providers*.**

**Keyword:** NIMBY, housing rights of people with mental illness, planning approval process

☆☆☆

This is a tool kit for organizations that want to develop supportive housing for people with mental illness under the Canadian charter of Rights and Freedoms. It describes the rights of people with mental illness and the Ontario Human Rights Code, it outlines the planning approval process and what organizations may expect, suggests ways to prepare for community consultations, describes strategies that have helped supportive housing developers navigate through community opposition and offers answers to the most predictable objections to supportive housing projects.

Source: Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association  
[http://www.onpha.on.ca/affordable\\_housing\\_initiatives/nimby](http://www.onpha.on.ca/affordable_housing_initiatives/nimby)

**80. Title:**

**Lane, Phil Jr. et al. (2002). *Mapping the Healing Journey: The Final Report of a First Nation Research Project on Healing in Canadian Aboriginal Communities*. Ottawa: Aboriginal Corrections Policy Unit, Solicitor General Canada.**

**Keyword:** *Aboriginal Peoples, Community Capacity Building, Holistic Approach, Culturally Appropriate Strategies*

☆☆

This report describes the healing practices of Aboriginal communities that help individuals and communities reclaim identities, build capacities to cope with difficulties (for example, poverty, unemployment, abusive relationships, family violence, substance and alcohol abuse) perpetuated in many Aboriginal communities, as well as develop economic capacity. While the focus of this report is not homelessness, this source suggests how all issues are connected and healing practices can help alleviate the effects and causes of homelessness.

The healing practices of Aboriginal communities may be viewed as the sum of personal counseling, motivation, support groups, church and school activities. This holistic strategy does not suggest strategies/solutions for each symptom (such as providing supportive housing for the mentally ill or building a methadone clinic for heroine addicts). All community members can participate in and go through an individual healing journey. The report provides examples of community experiences, including the Eskasoni Healing Movement, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia (p.25).

Source: Dalhousie University Library, Downloadable at:  
[http://www.sgc.gc.ca/publications/abor\\_corrections/pdf/APC2002\\_e.pdf](http://www.sgc.gc.ca/publications/abor_corrections/pdf/APC2002_e.pdf)

**81. NEW Title:**

**Pourier, Shannon. (1998). *Residential Recovery Support Programs for Women: A Discussion Paper*. Halifax Regional Drug Prevention Network.**

**Keywords:** *Alcohol and drug addiction, Residential recovery, Support programs.*

☆

The purpose of this paper is to examine under what conditions residential recovery support programs are effective in the prevention of relapse to alcohol and drug addiction. The research evaluates studies of residential versus non-residential aftercare, looks at the role of social support in recovery and relapse prevention, and looks at the client factors related to treatment outcome.

Source: Halifax Regional Drug Prevention Network.

**82. NEW Title**

**Ross, David. (2003) *Policy Approaches to Address the Impact of Poverty on Health, A Scan of Policy Literature*. Canadian Institute for Health Information.**

**Keywords:** *Poverty, Poverty and health, Health indicators.*



The paper identifies the public policy strategies designed to alleviate the health impacts of poverty, either by reducing poverty or mitigating its effects on health. The paper reviews demonstration projects and community intervention programs. The projects and programs range from income support, home visiting for new mothers, pre-school, community mobilization and neighbourhood improvement, program interventions for youth at risk and health promotion interventions to reduce negative health behaviours. The scan of policy literature found a heavy focus on programming for babies, children and mothers. The majority of interventions target the most disadvantaged i.e., lone-parent families, Aboriginal people and those excluded because of race or ethnicity.

Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information.

**83. NEW Title:**

**Wynne-Edwards, Jeannie. *Overcoming Community Opposition to Homelessness Sheltering Projects under the National Homelessness Initiative*. National Homelessness Initiative.**

**Keywords:** *NIMBY (Not in My Back Yard), Homelessness, Homeless shelters.*



The study examines NIMBY (Not in My Back Yard) opposition to the development of shelter facilities i.e., emergency shelters, transitional and supportive housing and affordable housing for homeless men and women and their families or for those at risk of homelessness. The study analyzes fourteen case studies from seven cities across the country. The study outlines best practices and lessons learned. Through a better understanding of fears and issues underlying NIMBY opposition and through the application of conflict theory, this paper outlines recommendations to address NIMBY responses to developing and implementing shelter projects.

Source: National Homelessness Initiative, National Secretariat on Homelessness

**84. NEW Title:**

**Kates, Steven. M. 2004 (unpublished). The Adoption of Methamphetamine among Homeless Youth in downtown Vancouver: An Explanatory Case Study (How Crystal Meth Spreads Among Homeless Youth). skates@sfu.ca**

**Keywords:** *homeless youth, street life, addictions, crystal meth, spread of crystal meth*

☆☆☆

This study was motivated by a recent Province of British Columbia study which established that 71% of homeless teenagers in the City of Vancouver use methamphetamine (also called jib, meth, crystal meth, ice, crank, or speed). The author followed two homeless youth in Vancouver for a period of two months to identify and elaborate on the adoption practices associated with this drug that initiate and reinforce addiction. The study hypothesizes that the low cost of the drug and adoption practices (related to barter among homeless youth) will lead to a fast spread and adoption of the drug among homeless youth in other Canadian municipalities. This is an exploratory study. Further research and attention is needed on this issue.

**85. NEW Title:**

**Burt, Marta R. 2004. The Do-It-Yourself Cost-Study Guide. Assessing Public Costs Before and After Permanent Supportive Housing: A Guide for state and Local Jurisdictions. Corporation for Supportive Housing Evidence Series. [www.csh.org](http://www.csh.org)**

**Keywords:** *supportive housing, cost avoidance analysis, methodology, practical issues*

☆☆☆

This guide provides a step-by step guide for non-profit groups interested in conducting their own cost avoidance studies modeled on the New York/New York initiative (Culhane, Metraux, Hadley, 2002). The longitudinal study demonstrated that supportive housing for previously chronically homeless individuals with severe mental health illnesses – permanent housing with attendant social services – in the past considered to be prohibitively expensive in fact contributed to a reduced use of acute services to a degree that nearly offset the cost of supported housing. The guide by Martha Burt demystifies the complicated process for local organizations, provides options and minimum requirements for conducting similar studies that may demonstrate the value of providing supportive housing services.

## **Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) Research Highlights<sup>17</sup> for interest (2001-2004)**

*2001 Census Housing Series: Issue 5 Growth in Household Incomes and Shelter Costs, 1991-2001. Socio-economic Series 04-027. June, 2004.*

*An International Comparison of Housing Need Indicators in Australia, Canada, England and the United States. Socio-economic Series 04-032. June, 2004.*

*2001 Census Housing Series: Issue 4 Canada's Metropolitan Areas. Socio-economic Series 04-008. May, 2004.*

*Strategies to Preserve the Rental Housing Stock in Greater Vancouver. Socio-economic Series 04-026. May, 2004.*

*Housing Education Program: Eastmain Pilot Project. Socio-economic Series 04-010. April, 2004.*

*Residential Integration of Youth Migrants in Quebec. Socio-economic Serie 04-021. April, 2004.*

*Refugee Housing Information Needs: Research Conducted in the Region of Niagra. Socio-economic Series 04-025.*

*Housing and Population Health – Research Framework. Socio-economic Series 04-016. March, 2004.*

*Housing, Long Term Care Facilities and Services for Homeless and Low-Income Urban Aboriginal People Living with HIV/AIDS. Socio-economic Series 04-019. March, 2004.*

*Transitional Housing: Objectives, Indicators of Success, and Outcomes. Socio-economic Series 04-017. February 2004.*

*2001 Census Housing Series: Issue 2-The Geography of Household Growth and Core Housing Need. Socio-economic Series 04-001. February 2004.*

*Residential Intensification Case Studies: Built Projects. Socio-economic Series 04-014. February, 2004.*

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<sup>17</sup> To find the Research Highlights go to <http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/publications/en/rh-pr/index.html> and type the first few words of the title.

*Life Lease Housing in Canada: A Preliminary Exploration of some Consumer Protection Issues. Socio-economic Series 03-013. August, 2003.*

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## Selected Web Sites

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Below is a list of Websites that provide useful information on housing and homelessness. For websites and contact addresses of local community organizations and members of Community Action on Homelessness, go to CAH website (below), click [sitemap](#), and choose [agencies list](#).

### *Affordable Housing Design Advisor*

<http://designadvisor.org/>

This site was developed by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. The site includes issues of housing affordability, housing density, how to achieve good design, a gallery of projects and a good design checklist.

### *Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute*

[www.ahuri.edu.au](http://www.ahuri.edu.au)

The Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute is dedicated to drawing together researchers, policy-makers, industry and the community in order:

- to achieve better housing market outcomes,
- to achieve efficient and effective housing assistance program and
- to build viable communities.

### *Calgary Homeless Foundation*

<http://www.homeless.com>

Local businessman Art Smith, supported by Premier Ralph Klein, Mayor Al Duerr, as well as the Calgary Chamber of Commerce and United Way of Calgary & Areas Foundation Sponsors, founded the Calgary Homeless Foundation. The foundation's mission is:

1. To serve as a community partner in identifying the causes of and solutions to homelessness;
2. To develop plans, in conjunction with all aspects of the community that will provide access to housing for the homeless in Calgary;
3. To provide leadership and focus to address homelessness issues in Calgary; and
4. To raise such funds as may be necessary to achieve our mission.

### *Canada's Drug Strategy*

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hecs-sesc/cds/>

Canada's Drug Strategy Division of Health Canada is the focal point within the federal government for harm reduction, prevention and treatment and rehabilitation initiatives concerning alcohol and other drugs issues.

The goal of Canada's Drug Strategy is to reduce the harm associated with alcohol and other drugs to individuals, families, and communities. The strategy is a balance between reducing the supply of drugs and reducing the demand for drugs. It involves a variety of partners including 14 federal departments, provincial/territorial governments and addictions agencies, non-governmental organizations, professional associations, law enforcement agencies, the private sector and community groups.

*Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)*

<http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/>

CMHC is the government's national housing agency. CMHC conducts national housing research and produces regular housing market reports. The CMHC website includes the Canadian Housing Information Collection (CHIC) which is a catalogue of housing research across the country.

*Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*

<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/charter/#garantie>

This web site contains a copy of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

*City of Calgary*

<http://www.calgary.ca>

→Search "homeless"

The site contains research studies, data and strategic plans on homelessness.

*Community Action on Homelessness, Halifax Regional Municipality*

<http://www.cahhalifax.org>

In the Halifax area, men, women, young people and increasingly families are finding themselves without housing. Community Action on Homelessness works with the community in advancing solutions to homelessness and the challenge some of our community members face in accessing safe and affordable housing. The organization's mission is "to work in partnerships within our community, to advance community solutions that address homelessness and the right to a home as a key to the 'quality of life' for everyone in our community". The site provides important updates for what is happening on local homelessness issues and on national policies that affect housing issues in HRM. In addition, some local studies and information resources are available online such as the *Community Action Plan on Homelessness* and the *Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia* reports.

*Communities Scotland*

[http://www.communitiesscotland.gov.uk/Web/Site/Library/library\\_research.asp](http://www.communitiesscotland.gov.uk/Web/Site/Library/library_research.asp)

Communities Scotland is a Scottish agency whose aim is to improve the quality of life for people in Scotland by regenerating disadvantaged communities and helping deliver better housing. The web site contains research sponsored by Communities Scotland and other organizations.

*Greater Vancouver Regional District "Homelessness"*

<http://www.gvrd.bc.ca/homelessness/index.html>

Provides information on a regional homelessness plan, research data and maps and some links to relevant local and governmental agencies.

*Green Affordable Housing – Smart Communities Network*

<http://www.sustainable.doe.gov/buildings/gbothtoc.shtml>

This is the web site for the US Department of Energy's Smart Communities' Network. One of the department's core missions is to make sure the nation has ample supplies of clean,

affordable energy. The department has a research and development program that focuses on technologies that make buildings more energy-efficient.

### *Housing Again*

<http://www.housingagain.web.net/>

The site is sponsored by a partnership of housing groups and the [volunteer@action](#) on line program. The site is dedicated to promoting affordable housing and providing up-to-date information on the topic. There is a resource database of housing research and there is a space to share ideas and opinions on housing. The site also offers a subscription to a Bulletin.

### *National Homelessness Initiative*

[http://www.homelessness.gc.ca/home/index\\_e.asp](http://www.homelessness.gc.ca/home/index_e.asp)

The National Homelessness Initiative (NHI) works with governments and community organizations to alleviate homelessness. The National Research Program (NRP) under the NHI invests in research on homelessness. Summaries of research funded under the NRP are on this site.

### *The Native Council of Nova Scotia*

<http://ncns.ednet.ns.ca>

The site has a directory of different Aboriginal and First Nations groups and information on the Mi'kmaq Treaty process. It also has a brief description of a housing project by the Rural and Native Housing Group that helps to improve the housing standards of low/fixed income homeowners.

### *Raising the Roof*

<http://www.raisingtheroof.org/>

Raising the Roof is Canada's only national charity dedicated to long-term solutions to homelessness. The organization works to:

- Build awareness about homelessness and what can be done.
- Raise funds for community groups working to alleviate homelessness.
- Give corporations, organizations and people from all walks of life ways to develop and join in strategies to address and prevent homelessness nationally and in their own communities.

This site has information about homelessness, how to get involved in solutions and community events. The site is a resource on homelessness issues.

### *Smart Growth Canada Network*

[http://www.smartgrowth.ca/home\\_e.html](http://www.smartgrowth.ca/home_e.html)

This web site is a network for people interested in smart growth.

### *Squeegee Punks in Traffic (S.P.I.T)*

<http://www.spit.ca/>

Information about a book and film *S.P.I.T.* portraying the lives of squeegee-kids in downtown Toronto from the eyes of Roach, who lived his life as a squeegee-kid himself for a long time. The site also provides links to groups of interest such as Collective

Opposed to Police Brutality, Homeless People's Network, Ontario Coalition Against Poverty, and some film groups.

*Statistics Canada 2001 Census. Selected Tables of Social and Economic Characteristics of Individuals, Families and Households.*

<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/Products/Standard/themes/ListProducts.cfm?Temporal=2001&APATH=3&Theme=55&FREE=0>

Allows a search by topic results for: Social and Economic Characteristics of Individuals, Families and Households and indicates Statistics Canada products that contain requested information.

*UK Neighborhood Renewal Unit*

<http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk/>

The Neighbourhood Renewal Unit is responsible for the New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal: A National Strategy. The strategy is the Government of England's vision for narrowing the gap between deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of the country. At a regional level, neighbourhood renewal teams have been set up in government offices to provide a direct channel of communication from neighbourhood / community groups to the neighbourhood renewal unit.

*University of British Columbia Homelessness Virtual Library*

[www.hvl.ihpr.ubc.ca](http://www.hvl.ihpr.ubc.ca)

A list with pdf documents of local studies found in Quantz and Frankish's literature review project in 2002 (see the above bibliography). The project was funded by Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) under the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI).

*University of Ottawa Centre for Research on Community Services*

<http://www.socialsciences.uottawa.ca/crcs/eng/projects.asp>

The Centre for Research on Community Services (CRCS) conducts research and provides training that contributes to the development of effective health and social services for vulnerable populations in the community.

