



A PUBLICATION OF THE GREATER MONCTON HOMELESSNESS STEERING COMMITTEE

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Projects funded in Greater Moncton under Homelessness Partnering Strategy 2007-09

- Food Dépot Alimentaire, to improve capacity to distribute food to 23 food banks
- Maison Nazareth House, to improve infrastructure and reduce electricity costs
- John Howard Society, to create 20 Transitional Housing units for adult males
- Moncton Youth Residences, to improve services to homeless/at risk youth and to ensure long-term sustainability of Transitional Housing
- Volunteer Centre of Southeastern NB, to improve access to information on services available to homeless/at risk of homelessness population
- Mobile One Community Services, to provide a "central entry point" for programs and services for those who may be homeless/at risk because of mental health and/or substance use problems
- YMCA ReConnect, to sustain the Street Workers program
- YWCA, to explore the need for emergency shelter for women and children
- John Howard Society, to contract a Community Development Officer

Welcome to our first edition!

The Greater Moncton Homelessness Steering Committee is an inter-agency committee representing all agencies in Greater Moncton that work with the homeless population and those at risk of becoming homeless.

Established in 2000, the GMHSC provides leadership and coordinates communication among stakeholders and service providers to ensure the implementation of the Greater Moncton Community Plan on Homelessness. It also works to create public awareness about issues surrounding homelessness, poverty and housing.

This publication is one way that we hope to raise awareness in the coming years. Through it, we will keep you informed about new research, projects and upcoming activities in which you may want to be involved. We also hope to bring the reality of homelessness in Greater Moncton more onto the public agenda. *We welcome your feedback!*

Current members of the GMHSC include:

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|---|-------------------------------|
| Atlantic People's Housing Ltd. | Moncton Youth Residences Inc. |
| Community Chaplaincy for Ex-Offenders | New Life Mission Inc. |
| John Howard Society of Greater Moncton Inc. | SIDA/AIDS Moncton Inc. |
| Maison Nazareth House | The Salvation Army |
| Moncton Headstart Inc. | YMCA |
| Mobile One Community Services Inc. | YWCA |

UN Rapporteur says Canada has a housing crisis

Canada has received both a sharp reprimand and a strong call to action in the preliminary observations of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing, Miloon Kothari, in his preliminary observations at the end of his fact-finding mission to Canada (October 22, 2007).

“Everything I witnessed on this mission confirms the deep and devastating impact of this national crisis on the lives of women, youth, children and men,” said Mr. Kothari. “Canada is one of the richest countries in the world, which makes the prevalence of this crisis all the more striking.” Mr. Kothari’s preliminary observations are a devastating indictment of almost two decades of funding cuts by governments in Canada, not just of housing programs but also income assistance and other initiatives. “Canada has a reputation around the world for its progressive housing policies and programmes, but that is no longer the case,” said Mr. Kothari. Read the full report at www.wellesleyinstitute.com/un-canada-take-action-housing-homelessness

Poverty leading cause of homelessness in Canada

A report released in June of 2007 says that poverty is the leading cause of homelessness in Canada, not substance abuse or mental illness. "Roughly half of all Canadians live in fear of poverty, and 49 per cent polled believe they might be poverty stricken if they missed one or two paycheques," writes Gordon Laird, author of *Homelessness in a growth economy: Canada's 21st century paradox*.

Prepared for the Calgary-based Sheldon Chumir Foundation for Ethics in Leadership, the report says Canada's homeless population is somewhere between 200,000 and 300,000 people, while another 1.7 million residents struggle with "housing affordability issues." The author argues that homelessness is now chronic, and is quickly becoming one of Canada's defining social issues. He makes a case for a national housing strategy and a more robust income security program. Read the full report at www.gordonlaird.com/

Gordon Laird will speak in Moncton on February 7, 2008. Stay tuned for details!

Homelessness not a black and white issue



Homelessness is a complex issue, no doubt about it. It's about the lack of safe and affordable housing, the lack of sustainable livelihoods, the lack of government commitment to a housing strategy that meets the needs of our province's and our country's most vulnerable citizens.

One way to look at the homelessness issue is to view housing on a continuum, where the ultimate goal for many is home ownership.

- Home ownership
- Rental housing
- Subsidized housing
- Transitional housing
- Emergency shelter
- Homeless

There are housing needs that span the housing continuum. A community's strength is its ability to respond to those needs, to help individuals and families move up the continuum. In coming months, we will profile efforts in Greater Moncton to do just that.

People touched by homelessness Man chooses jail over the street

—Moncton Times-Transcript
October 25, 2007

"A homeless man who pelted vehicles and buildings with bottles in downtown Moncton on Saturday was acting out of extreme frustration in an attempt to get arrested.

"Charles Mazerolle, 55, appeared in Moncton provincial court yesterday morning for sentencing on a charge of mischief for smashing the window of a vehicle with a bottle. Police arrested him Saturday morning after receiving several complaints of a homeless man wheeling a shopping cart in the Foundry Street area, removing bottles from the cart and throwing them.

"Mazerolle was arrested and pleaded guilty to the crime on Monday. The bearded man with long hair returned to court yesterday for sentencing in front of Judge Irwin Lampert.

"The judge heard a strange yet sad tale of a man with no place to live, who battles problems with alcohol, controlling his emotions and possible mental illness...

"Lampert asked Mazerolle, who has a long record of committing mischief and other petty crimes, if he would be doing him a favour by sending him to jail.

"Yes sir, I need the rest," said the defendant.

"Lampert said it's a sad commentary on society when a man needs to be sent to jail to ensure he gets his meals and has a place to sleep. "A rich society like ours and we have people living like that? It's sad," said the judge. He sentenced Mazerolle to 45 days in jail..."

WE WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS, IDEAS AND FEEDBACK. SEND TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER SUE CALHOUN
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If you have questions about the Homelessness Partnership Strategy, contact Mireille Roy at Service Canada 506-851-3554 or
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