



**Current members of GMHSC:**

- AIDS Moncton Inc.
- Atlantic People's Housing Ltd.
- Blanket Drive
- BUILT Network Moncton Inc.
- CMHC
- Codiac RCMP
- Community Chaplaincy for Ex-Offenders
- Elizabeth Fry Society of NB
- John Howard Society of Greater Moncton Inc.
- MAGMA
- Maison Nazareth House
- Mobile One Community Services Inc.
- Moncton Youth Residences Inc.
- New Life Mission Inc.
- The Salvation Army
- YMCA
- YWCA

**MANDATE**

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

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

[www.monctonhomelessness.org](http://www.monctonhomelessness.org)

Update Poverty Reduction Strategy

**NB government moves forward with homelessness framework**

A lot has happened since our last newsletter. In late June, the provincial government released its homelessness framework, *A Home for Everyone*, which was developed in cooperation with the four Homelessness Steering Committees in the province (including Greater Moncton), emergency shelter operators and service providers.

Part of New Brunswick's new housing strategy, *Hope is a Home*, the framework will provide government with direction to address chronic homelessness over the next five years. It has five goals:

- To provide a continuum of shelter and housing that is affordable, supportive and adequately resourced;
- To improve co-ordination of services across government departments and community social service agencies;
- To ensure that decisions regarding services for people who are homeless are based on information that is reliable and current;
- To develop a communications strategy to reduce stigma around homelessness issues; and
- To secure and provide outreach services for the homeless population to assess their needs and help them to access services such as social assistance, employment training and mental-health services.

Stable funding for emergency shelters is part of the framework. Shelters (for example, House of Nazareth in Moncton) will share \$250,000 in funding this fiscal year, with the funding increasing to \$500,000 next year and \$750,000 in the third and subsequent years.

Social Development Minister Kelly Lamrock told a press conference that the housing strategy – the latest plank to be rolled out in the province's poverty-reduction plan – aims to assist those people who are living on the streets, living in inadequate housing or spending so large a portion of their income on keeping a roof over their head that they're foregoing other necessary needs such as food and medicine, and may be at risk of becoming homeless.

**ReConnect Street Intervention Program has moved!**

Now located at 575 Main Street, Moncton **NEW ADDRESS!!**

Drop-in hours Monday – Thursday 1-3pm

ReConnect provides short-term and long-term assistance through outreach to youth and adults who are homeless, at risk of being homeless, or living in poverty, in an effort to increase their knowledge of available resources and to provide support in accessing them.

## ***Focus on training and supported employment***

Many people who are at risk of homelessness in Greater Moncton could be helped through training and supported employment. Many people at risk often have difficulty to work fulltime, because of health and disability issues, although they could perhaps work part-time. With training and support, many people who might otherwise be homeless do just that.

The **Canadian Association for Supported Employment** (<http://supportedemployment.ca/>) calls supported employment “real work in an integrated setting with ongoing support provided by an agency with expertise in finding employment for people with disabilities.” Real work is work that would be done by a typical member of the workforce if it were not done by a worker with a disability. Supported employment placements are work, not "vocational training," "work experience," or "work preparation." Supported employees work for at least minimum wage or the standard pay for the position.

An excellent example of supported training for people with mental health challenges is the **BUILT Network’s Skills Development Program**, which provides services to people with low self-esteem, low self-confidence, depression, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, bi-polar disorder and other mental health issues. This eight-week tuition-free program includes seven weeks of in-class instruction in a workplace setting with week eight reserved for job search and graduation.

The BUILT Network Skills Development is the only program of its type in New Brunswick providing services to people with mental health issues. It is unique in that it offers services to mental health consumer/survivors in a compassionate and supportive environment by people who truly understand mental health issues, barriers and how to eliminate and overcome them. This peer support program empowers people through skills enhancement and employment.

Up to 10 participants are accepted into each program. This format provides staff with the opportunity to work closely with participants to identify and overcome barriers that may exist in their quest to return to employment. Self-esteem, self-confidence, workplace skills and coping mechanisms are priorities. For more information, call (506) 383-8337 or [moncton@builtnetwork.ca](mailto:moncton@builtnetwork.ca)

### ***Stay-at-home mom builds confidence through BUILT-Network program***

Maria (not her real name) spent a dozen years at home, raising her three boys. When she left her husband of eight-and-a-half years, Maria, 37, ended up in another relationship that was abusive.

That partner is now serving time for the violence inflicted upon Maria and her children. After a third relationship, which soured when she realized that the man was addicted to drugs and also abusive, Maria had hit rock bottom in terms of her self-esteem.

“I was at the point,” she says, “that I hated going out. I didn’t want to be around people. My nerves were shot.” She had been working at a convenience store but couldn’t earn enough to support her children, all of whom have attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

It was then that her social worker, who happens to be a member of the Board of Directors of the BUILT Network, suggested she might want to go back to school. Maria had graduated with a secretarial diploma in the early 1990s, and in the organization’s Skills Development Program she could update her computer skills and work on her self-esteem at the same time.

“In the first class, there were only three people, and I still wouldn’t talk,” she says. “But the ladies there are just so positive, so cheery, they really got me out of my shell.”

Twelve weeks later, Maria has landed a job at an in-bound call centre, and is looking forward to a new career. “The BUILT Network staff really helped me feel like a worthwhile person,” she says.

Here are some other agencies in Greater Moncton that provide training and/or supported employment (this list is not intended to be exhaustive):

- Employment Support Peer-Helpers Program  
Type of Service: Adequately preparing clients with mental illness by giving them the tools necessary to enable them to find employment  
97 Cameron Street  
Moncton (NB) E1C 5Y7  
Tel: (506) 387-7706

- CCRW Employment Services  
Type of Service: Employment and Career Counselling  
529 Main Street, Suite 100  
Moncton, NB E1C 1C4  
Tel: (506) 858-1650  
TTY: (506) 858-1657  
E-mail: [inclusion@ccrw.org](mailto:inclusion@ccrw.org)  
Website: [www.ccrw.org](http://www.ccrw.org)

The **New Brunswick Association for Supported Services and Employment Inc. (NBASSE)** is an association of member agencies providing activity-based day services and employment supports to persons with intellectual disabilities. All member agencies provide these services following the Adult Developmental Activities, Programs and Training (ADAPT) standards outlined by the provincial Department of Social Development. [www.nbasse.com](http://www.nbasse.com)

NBASSE members in Moncton:

- Ergon Inc.  
Type of Service: Work and Life Skills Training  
150 Weldon St  
Moncton NB, E1C 5W4  
Tel: 506-857-0014  
Email: [ergoninc@nb.aibn.com](mailto:ergoninc@nb.aibn.com)

- Moncton Employment and Training Services Inc.  
Type of Service: Vocational and Employment Services  
1250 St. George Blvd.  
Moncton, NB E1E 3S1  
Tel: (506) 858-9404  
E-mail: [metsinc@nb.aibn.com](mailto:metsinc@nb.aibn.com)

- **ReConnect's** new storefront location at 575 Main Street, Moncton features a new **Employment Centre** with computer access to help clients with resumes and job search. It also has a resource centre to assist with apartment searches and accessing community services. Call 506-856-4362.

- **ReConnect's "Working for Change" program** provides job opportunities to clients of Reconnect through downtown businesses. A few businesses are currently committed to a certain amount of dollars per month, which is paid to and administered by the program. This helps to get clients to work and contributes towards whatever financial needs they may have in order to do so. Call 506-856-4362.

- **Service Canada**

**Skills link for youth at risk** (mostly group settings) - eight to 10 youth at risk for 12 - 26 weeks, with life skills in the morning and volunteer or work placement in the afternoon. Service providers that have used this program regularly include the John Howard Society of Greater Moncton and Moncton Youth Residences. <http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/fra/sc/jeunes/connexioncompetences.shtml>

Service Canada also pays **Wage subsidies for employers** willing and ready to hire and supervise people living with handicaps. Employers can contact Service Canada directly if they have someone in mind living with a disability whom they would like to hire. For both programs, employers/organizations can contact the general line for information and forms at 851-6718.

<http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/of/index.shtml>

WE WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS, IDEAS AND FEEDBACK.

SEND TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER SUE CALHOUN [moncton.homelessness@gmail.com](mailto:moncton.homelessness@gmail.com)

*If you have questions about the Homelessness Partnership Strategy,*  
contact Mireille Roy at Service Canada 506-851-3554 or [mireille.roy@servicecanada.gc.ca](mailto:mireille.roy@servicecanada.gc.ca)

**The 3rd Report Card on Homelessness in Greater Moncton now available at**

[www.moncton.homelessness.org](http://www.moncton.homelessness.org)