

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Call for Proposals - HKD Funding**
- **From Homeless to Home Project**
- **Homelessness Report Cards**
- **First Steps Fundraiser**
- **Learn about Outflow**
- **Organization Profile - Family Plus / Life Solutions**

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Homelessness Report Card

More than 2,300 people in New Brunswick were homeless and stayed in a shelter at some point in 2008. That's one of the findings in New Brunswick's first Homelessness Report Card. The report presents a profile of homelessness in the province and introduces many organizations that work to reduce the impact of homelessness. The Greater Saint John Homelessness Steering Committee also released Saint John's first homelessness report card, Experiencing Homelessness, and it found that in 2008 more than 1,100 people stayed in a shelter. Future progress or lack of progress will be measured and reported on an annual basis using this report card template.



The first Homelessness Report Card for New Brunswick was a collaborative effort of the Community Homelessness Network Inc. (Bathurst), the Fredericton Community Action Group on Homelessness, the Greater Moncton Homelessness Steering Committee, and the Greater Saint John Homelessness Steering Committee. It presents a profile of homelessness in the province and the four designated communities under the Federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy (Bathurst, Fredericton, Moncton, and Saint John).

The committees hope that these report cards will raise awareness and bring attention to the issue of homelessness in the province. The report cards are based on a template developed by the Ottawa Alliance to End Homelessness. The Saint John report card was the final in a series of report cards released by other communities in the province this year. Work is already underway in Moncton to release their second report card this month.

To find copies of the full reports, [click here](#). If you would like to receive printed copies contact Belinda Allen at (506) 636-8541 or email belinda@sjhdc.ca.

Greater Saint John Homelessness Steering Committee

With the 2009-2011 round of HPS funding being announced, the GSJHSC took some time to begin planning for the upcoming two years. The committee is committed to focusing on the priorities established in the Greater Saint John Community Plan which include:

- Increase the community's awareness, and ownership, of the issues and solutions related to homelessness.
- Establish and/or enhance outreach programs and services, improving the coordination of existing services for homelessness.
- Provide emergency and supportive shelter services.
- Increase the number of affordable/social, transitional, second stage, and supportive housing units available in the Saint John region. Along with providing the necessary supports, skills and training for successful future independent living.
- To promote opportunities for training, education and literacy skill development.
- To establish and/or expand emergency counselling, referral and support services for at-risk of homelessness individuals.

Membership includes representation from: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), Coverdale Emergency Shelter, Human Development Council, the Department of Social Development (provincial government), Ridgewood Addictions Services, ONE Change, the Community Health Centre, Fresh Start Women's Shelter, First Steps Housing Project, the Resource Centre for Youth (TRC), Housing Alternatives, John Howard Society, Service Canada, the City of Saint John, the Saint John Learning Exchange, the Salvation Army, the Saint John Community Chaplaincy, AIDS Saint John, the Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative (BCAPI), Saint John Non-Profit Housing, and Outflow.

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

Research / Best Practices

TRANSITION HOME SURVEY

Results from the Transition Home Survey, completed by Statistics Canada for 2007/2008 are now available. For more information, [click here](#).

FINDING HOME - POLICY OPTIONS FOR ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

[Finding Home](#) is a new (free) e-book on homelessness in Canada with 29 chapters (so far) on justice, Aboriginal people, immigrants and refugees, women, children and youth, health, and - of course - housing.

A section on housing rights is being planned. The e-book includes summaries of recently completed research reports as well as the best and most policy-relevant published articles from scholarly journals. The e-book is organized into themes that represent specific groups of homeless people and issues that intersect with homelessness, along with a section on research issues. The book is designed to grow over time as new chapters are added.

HOMELESS HUB - PHASE II

Phase II of the Homeless Hub was completed in June. Visit the site at www.homelesshub.ca. They have a new look, they have added to their library which now contains over 25,000 homelessness resources; they've enhanced their Topics and Subtopics section; they've added an Education section with curriculum units and resources for teachers and students; and they've added networking tools that allow you to create a personal profile; connect to your own research; add resources to your favourites; "talk back" to and rate the resources.

ENDING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS IN OTTAWA

[Destination: Home](#) was released in May 2009 and identifies a vision and plan for ending chronic homelessness in Ottawa. The outline three core strategies: housing first, support services, and engagement.

HELP BUILD A HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS MAP OF CANADA!

Canada urgently needs a national housing plan – millions of Canadians are calling for one, and the United Nations has added its voice. The best national housing plan is built from the community up – a plan that identifies local housing and homelessness needs across the country, and pinpoints effective local housing and homeless initiatives that deserve support. Building from the community up allows us to identify the resources needed to support a comprehensive national housing plan – including funding, legislation, programs and services.

You can help build a national housing and homelessness plan from the community up by helping to build a national housing and homelessness map of Canada. The Wellesley Institute has launched this work and you can find the map [here](#).

Tell us about an advocacy group that is campaigning to end homelessness and/or work for better homes; or about a housing or homelessness project, or a program or service, that is making a difference in your community. There's no limit on the number of entries – the map will grow as we hear more from you. The more information that you can supply, the better, including web links.

Join the campaign to build a national housing plan from the community up by adding your housing and homelessness info to the national map!

CALL FOR PROPOSALS - HOMELESSNESS KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT

The Homelessness Partnering Secretariat is inviting applicants to submit proposals for projects that will identify good practices with respect to homelessness in Canada and that will improve data development and address data gaps with respect to homelessness in Canada.

For more information on the call for proposals, [click here](#). Application deadline is October 15, 2009.



On Saturday, September 26th, First Steps Housing Project Inc. will be hosting the inaugural Front Steps for First Steps - the Big Night In Fundraiser 2009. They are asking community members to host fun home parties instead of going out to an event. Choose a theme, invite the guests and have them make a donation to First Steps. As a host you will receive invitations, donation cards, tracking sheets, party hosting tips, and the chance to win some incredible prizes.

First Steps provides a safe home for young mothers and their children where life skills can be taught and where self-esteem and confidence can be nurtured. Since opening, First Steps has provided the resources needed to escape homelessness, poverty and abuse and offered access to healthy living, positive parenting and education to over 200 young women and their children.

For more information on the event and to find out how you can get involved call Sharon Amirault or Pam Peiser at (506) 693-2228.

first steps housing project inc.

THIS IS SERITHA'S STORY...

Life before First Steps was completely out of control, with no guidance, no structure and no home. I am Seritha and I am an addict. I have been since I was 14. My life was unmanageable. I wanted to forget and not feel and I was lost. My childhood was filled with abuse. Stability was unheard of. As I got older things got worse and I began to long for a sense of belonging. So I turned to drugs. It was sadly so easy to fit in that world. I lost who I was and nothing mattered but the drugs. Lesson after lesson, struggle after struggle, I got addicted to crack cocaine (the devil I now call it). Life was over. Then I got pregnant with my son. I knew this was a wake up call. I was afraid and did not know where to go or what to do. I ended up at First Steps. Now I know what stability is... it was the longest I have ever lived anywhere. Thank God for the Apartment Program or I would still be living there! They taught me routine and healthy lifestyle things... things that were unheard of before. I got off the crack and learned to parent by watching others. I think some people learned from me too. It is great that way, learning from each other. When I was clean I felt like part of a family, a big sister. I would be the welcoming committee for new girls scared to death. I had a sense of belonging. I will tell you, life wasn't easy as I tried to stay clean to protect my unborn baby. Now I am in the Apartment Program with my amazing son. Being a mother is the most important thing to me. One thing that makes me really happy is waking up to him touching my face and saying "mommy". I know he will not grow up like I did. I know because I will be there every step of the way to protect and guide him as the First Steps staff and residents taught me. I still call staff pretending I need a question answered, but really I want to talk or to share my successes. I have made great bonds with staff and residents and even though we all move on, First Steps will always be a part of my life and my healthy son's life. I have not used crack cocaine in almost 2 years. I know that I will always be an addict, but am sure I will never use again. Life is too good! Thank you for giving me a second chance at life

THE FROM HOMELESS TO HOME PROJECT

This project created five ways to learn from people who have been homeless in Ottawa and bring to life for a broad audience the findings from the Panel Study on Homelessness in Ottawa.

With funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada through its Homelessness and Diversity Issues initiative, the project sets out to share with the broader community answers to these questions – *Who is homeless in Ottawa? How do people move into and out of homelessness? What challenges do they face? How do people become homeless can community organizations, governments and people in the community work together to end homelessness?*

[Click here to view:](#)

**Interviews with 11 people share their experience of homelessness & housing;
Booklet Research Highlights;
Documentary Film: From Homeless to Home;
Radio Show; and
Stories in the Report Card on Ending Homelessness in Ottawa, Jan-Dec 2007.**

Saint John Services

Shelters

Coverdale Centre for Women Inc.
 Halfway House - 634-1649
 Emergency Wet Shelter - 672-6285
 The Salvation Army - Booth Residential Services -
 634-7021
 Hestia House (women and children leaving domestic
 violence) - 634-7571
 First Steps Housing Project (pregnant and parenting
 mothers age 16-29) - 693-2228

Youth

The Resource Centre for Youth (TRC) - 632-5531
 (The Oasis Room, Switch 180 Case Management)
 Youth Choices - 634-0788
 ONE Change - ONE L.I.F.E. Program - 635-2035

Housing

Saint John Non-Profit Housing Inc. - 658-1925
 Housing Alternatives Inc. - 632-9393
 Second Stage Safe Haven - 632-9289

Food Services

Food Banks (for a full list of food banks and those
 who provide food services please visit
www.sainjohninfo.ca or www.sjdc.ca)
 Romero House - 642-7447

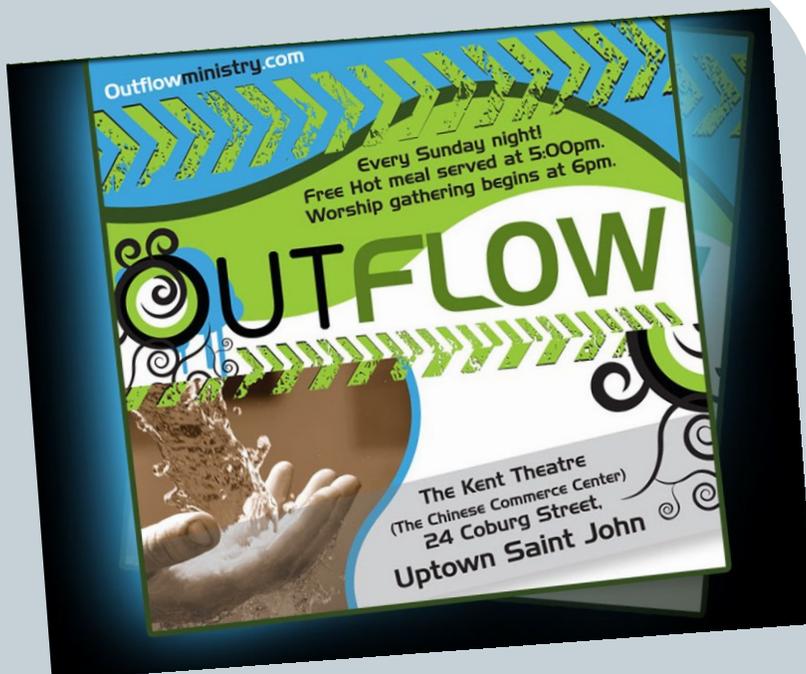
Health

AIDS Saint John - 652-2437
 Community Health Centre - 632-5537
 Open Door Club - 658-3196
 Ridgewood Addiction Services - 674-4300

Other

Family Resource Centre - 633-2182
 Urban Core Support Network - 642-9033
 John Howard Society - 657-5547
 Saint John Community Chaplaincy - 634-8218
 PASAGE Saint John - 642-4035

For information on other community services call
 the INFO-Line at 633-4636 or search our online
 database at www.saintjohninfor.ca



Outflow Ministry

The purpose of Outflow (as it is known on the street) is to feed and help the homeless, low income, and marginalized in the City of Saint John. They started in October 2008 by serving a hot meal every Sunday night in the Kent Theatre on Coburg Street. There is also a worship gathering after the meal for those who are interested (this is not mandatory). On average they serve 200 people every week and are able to do so entirely by donations and volunteers.

Thursday evenings are spent up-town doing anything from free BBQs in King's Square, buying groceries or a meal, handing out hot chocolate and blankets, finding housing, paying rent, helping with renovations, and filling any other need they are able to meet.

They have recently rented a storefront on Waterloo Street and are renovating to get ready to open as a drop-in centre where they will provide food and necessities, someone to talk with, internet and computer access, resume help, as well as a safe, relaxing environment for anyone to come to. Their goal is to be in operation 7 days a week!

For more information visit:
www.outflowministry.com.



CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

ADVANCING AFFORDABLE HOUSING SOLUTIONS

"At first, I thought I wouldn't be able to keep my son - I felt that there was no room for a baby in my life. I got more support than I thought I'd ever have ...At first, I thought I wouldn't be able to keep my son, but they showed me I had the potential to be a great mom."

Jessica Cavan, Resident, First Steps, Saint John, NB



Together, we can create and preserve affordable housing that makes our communities better places to live, work and grow.

CMHC has a team of experts in Atlantic Canada that work with the private, public, and non-profit sectors to help produce successful affordable housing in your communities.

This team draws on the full range of CMHC's tools, resources and people to provide information and ideas to help to develop affordable housing initiatives.

On National Housing Day, **November 22**, CMHC applauds the efforts of the people and organizations committed to advancing affordable housing.

Get inspired! Find out about successful initiatives from across Canada through the project profiles and success stories available on our website at www.cmhc.ca/affordablehousing.



"I can turn off the lights and lock the doors. These are little things to some people, but they mean everything."

Lynne Maclean,
Resident,
Independence Place,
Summerside, PEI

"There's definitely a need for more of this type of housing. We're always looking for a place where we could build another one. We'd love to work with others on similar projects and share our expertise."

Peter Ghosn,
Architectural Designer, Jacob's Manor, Halifax, NS



Connect with CMHC and find out how to make your affordable housing vision a reality.

Call the CMHC Affordable Housing Centre at:
1-800-668-2642



Family Plus / Life Solutions by Julia Arsenault

Family Plus/Life Solutions has been serving the Saint John area since 1929. The Agency is a private, not-for-profit organization helping men, women, children and families manage the challenges of today's living conditions. As well as serving the general public, Family Plus also holds contracts with provincial and federal government departments, for whom the Agency provides various professional services. They also contract with many businesses in New Brunswick to provide Employee and Family Assistance Programs. Their Agency works in conjunction with the other Family Service agencies in Canada, as well as being a member of Family Service Canada.

Their vision: Family Plus will be guided by a strong sense of social responsibility and a highly dedicated team, grounded in sound business practices, striving to work in partnership with community agencies and funders to promote self-development, family wellness and work solutions for today's diverse

communities. They offer a variety of services designed to help individuals and families function better and build closer relationships. They counseling services, workshops and programs address such issues such as managing stress, dealing with conflict, influencing others, and building self-esteem. Here are some of their programs:

- Anger management program
- Balancing life and work program
- Community services program
- Counselling (couples, families, and individuals)
- Educational assessments program
- Government sponsored
- Grief program
- Parenting program
- Self-esteem program
- Stress management program

- Workplace programs

Family Plus is a great place to get your family or just yourself back on your feet and make you feel a lot better. It might be hard to take the first step towards helping yourself but after attending one of these programs you will see how much just talking about things can really help.



Human Development Council

Send your comments, ideas and feedback to Belinda Allen, Community Development Coordinator

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Stay Tuned.....

September 18, 2009 - Lunch Discussion with Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, C.M.

11:45am to 1:00pm, Church of St. Andrew and St. David, 164 Germain St., Event is FREE of charge, but registration is required at 634-1673.

September 26, 2009 - Front Steps for First Steps, The BIG NIGHT IN Fundraiser 2009

See full event details on page 3, contact First Steps at 693-2228 for more information.

November 22, 2009 - National Housing Day

Stay tuned for details around local events to be hosted Wednesday, November 18th and Thursday, November 19th.

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