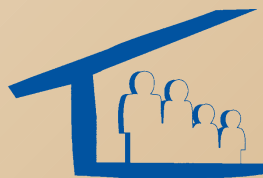


HOUSING OUR HOMELESS

UPDATE



calgary homeless foundation

A STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION
ASSESSING SHELTER NEEDS IN CALGARY

OCTOBER, 2001

VALUES

To preserve the dignity of an individual to have a place to call home,
a place that is adequate, accessible, safe and affordable.

To foster respect for the homeless.

To work in collaboration with the Calgary community.

To advocate social responsibility to address homelessness issues.

VISION

Calgarians will have access to housing where they feel safe and secure.

MISSION

To serve as a community partner in identifying
the causes of and solutions to homelessness.

To develop plans, in conjunction with all aspects of the community,
that will provide access to housing for the homeless in Calgary.

To provide leadership and focus to address homelessness issues in Calgary.

To raise such funds as may be necessary to achieve our Mission.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER AGENCIES

It must be understood that we are not a substitute or duplication of the many caregivers
and agencies who have been dedicated to helping the homeless in Calgary for many years.

We are committed to working with and assisting these agencies.

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calgary homeless foundation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

Since the publication of *Housing Our Homeless* in March 2000, considerable progress has been made by front-line community agencies, supported by governments, foundations and other donors, in providing the additional facilities required to alleviate homelessness. The purpose of this October 2001 update is twofold: 1) To update the community at large on the impact of housing investments 2) To update the community on emerging housing needs and trends in Calgary.

Housing Our Homeless is produced in collaboration with community agencies that provide housing services in Calgary. The Foundation recognizes eight sectors of housing, represented by agencies providing services for a particular group or need. The sectors are: Single Men and Women, Mental Health, Addictions, Youth, Seniors, Aboriginal, Family Violence, and Families. In the following sections, we provide updated information from community agencies on identified needs, accomplishments and trends in each of their sectors. The data submitted by the various sectors has been reviewed by the Calgary Homeless Foundation in an effort to determine a strategy to help meet identified need.

PROGRESS

Through a collaborative process, front-line agencies, the Foundation, donors, the Alberta Government, the Government of Canada, the City of Calgary and the United Way of Calgary and Area have invested over 30 million dollars per year over the last three years to alleviate homelessness and provide housing in Calgary. These investments include funding both capital and service programs, but do not include the operation of social housing units currently managed by government agencies or previously existing housing units or services, for example, seniors lodges.

When *Housing Our Homeless* was last published in 2000, the Calgary Homeless Foundation established a sector-wide target to create 2,032 additional units, in total, over three years. In the past 18 months, some 1,411 emergency, transitional and affordable units have been added to the community. However, 662 units were lost to decommissionings and closures, producing a net gain of 749 units. Realizing the need for housing constantly changes, the Foundation has now adjusted its three-year targets, following a review of need within the sectors.

The significant projects completed or commenced during the past 18 months include:

- *Aspen Family Services*
15-unit apartment building
- *Calgary Drop-In Centre*
New facility with 360 emergency and 140 transition beds
- *Calgary Home Builders*
80-unit apartment building
- *Calgary Housing Company*
47 subsidized apartment units
- *City of Calgary*
65 affordable units
- *Elizabeth Fry Berkana House*
6-unit apartment building
- *Horizon Housing*
50-unit apartment building plus an 8-bed duplex
- *John E. Robson House*
10 family units and a family resource centre
- *Mustard Seed Street Ministry*
Renovated facility for the Creative Centre
- *Native Addictions Services*
New 36-bed facility
- *Oxford House and Simon House*
Six houses and two duplexes
- *Safe Haven*
6-bedroom duplex
- *Servants Anonymous*
11 apartment units
- *Sheriff King*
7-unit addition
- *The Salvation Army Centre of Hope*
181 emergency beds and 138 transitional beds

In addition, during this period the Provincial government provided funding for approximately 115 new units under the Private Landlord Rent Supplement (PLRS) Program in Calgary.

The table below summarizes progress made in the past 18 months in terms of the three-year target established by the Foundation in the 2000 Housing Our Homeless report.

PROGRESS TOWARD 2000/2001 TARGETS

	FOUNDATION'S 3-YEAR TARGET (Est. March 23, 2000)			UNITS CREATED (March 23, 2000 to October 1, 2001)			EXCESS (SHORTFALL)		
	EMERGENCY UNITS	TRANSITIONAL UNITS	AFFORDABLE UNITS	EMERGENCY UNITS	TRANSITIONAL UNITS	AFFORDABLE UNITS	EMERGENCY UNITS	TRANSITIONAL UNITS	AFFORDABLE UNITS
SINGLES	350			113	233	0	(4)		0
MENTAL HEALTH	25	60	125	0	50	(15)	(22)	(10)	(140)
ADDICTIONS	60	70		0	19	N/A	(60)	(51)	
YOUTH		65		3	38	0	3	(27)	
SENIORS	N/A	N/A	45	0	0	0			(45)
ABORIGINAL	N/A	75	120	0	17	0		(58)	(120)
FAMILY VIOLENCE	7	50	250	7	0	0		(50)	(250)
FAMILIES		30	700	15	40	227	15	10	(473)

NOTES: • In the Addictions Sector, figures from the "Detox" and "Residential Treatment" categories have been included as "Emergency Units"
• Family Violence Sector figures include both women with children and women without children
• Please refer to individual sector reports for more detailed information regarding statistics

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY CONT'D

CURRENT SITUATION

In the year 2000, 11,000 individuals used the services of Calgary's emergency shelters. As well, approximately 900 families, including 1,980 children, were recorded as having spent a night at an emergency shelter facility. Nearly 800 of these families were women with children who were housed in women's emergency shelters due to situations involving family violence. Families and individuals living in poverty continue to experience a housing crisis, often spending more than 50% of their income on rent. It is estimated that more than 15,000 households in Calgary spend more than 50% of their income on rent and are at a high risk of becoming homeless. There is a growing number of people who are at risk of homelessness if action is not taken.

Although progress has been made, particularly in the area of emergency shelter and transitional housing, the need for programs and facilities continues to grow. In collaboration with community agencies, the Calgary Homeless Foundation is involved in research to better understand the cause of, and solutions to, homelessness.

A housing crisis created by a strong job market that is pushing up rents faster than wages is not unique to Calgary. A recent study completed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development reports similar conditions in American cities. The study found that between 1991 and 1997, the number of families with "worst case" housing needs increased more than three times among very low-income families with full-time wage earners. In addition, the study found that the low-cost housing supply was shrinking, furthering the housing crisis. In Calgary, the supply of rental accommodations has been reduced for various reasons. It appears that a reduced rental housing supply and rapidly increasing rental costs have combined to accelerate Calgary's homelessness and low-cost housing crisis.

Over the next year the Foundation will complete a study that will focus on the causes of homelessness and the economic impact of a lack of low-cost housing on Calgary. It is hoped that through this study we can increase the effectiveness of our housing investments and develop preventative approaches to homelessness.

CONCLUSIONS

It is clear that in most cases, the emergency needs of the homeless sectors have been largely met. The new challenge is to facilitate the transition of the homeless through emergency shelter accommodations into other forms of accommodation and helping them gain the support and time they need to

regain their independence. More transitional and affordable housing units must be established to assist the homeless in achieving social and financial stability and avoid returning to the streets.

In the pursuit of the goal of alleviating homelessness in Calgary, the capital needs of each sector have been outlined under the heading of "Perceived Need in Sector". These units are the new capital challenges that the Foundation will seek to address.

Specific recommendations to meet the needs of each housing sector are part of this report's sector summaries.

This report identifies a need for:

- An estimate of the additional need for emergency and transitional units in the Singles Sector, following the opening of the new Drop-In Centre and Salvation Army facilities, and the possible closure of other buildings
- A focus on the provision of a continuum of services, rather than new capital projects for Aboriginal peoples

EMERGENCY HOUSING *(to meet immediate need)*

- Six detox beds in the Addictions Sector
- Three emergency beds for families escaping domestic violence

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

(to provide temporary housing and support services)

- 75 mental health units to provide support for those with mental illness
- 74 residential treatment and 40 transitional units for the pre-treatment and post-treatment of addictions
- 250 units (a combination of both transitional and affordable units) to help youths escape living on the streets
- 66 units to assist families escaping domestic violence regain their independence safely
- 50 units to help families avoid absolute homelessness

AFFORDABLE HOUSING *(to reduce and prevent homelessness)*

(It is suggested that the required units can be provided by a combination of shelter allowances and capital construction.)

- 600 units to meet the long-term housing needs of the mentally ill
- 65 units to provide housing for hard-to-house seniors
- 250 units to help those recovering from situations involving domestic violence.
- 4,800 units which will provide affordable accommodations to families who are at risk of homelessness
- 8,700 units to meet the needs of the Singles Sector

The following table displays the Foundation's newly-developed three-year target in response to the changing needs identified by each sector.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY CONT'D

NEW 2001/2002 CALGARY HOMELESS FOUNDATION TARGETS, BASED ON ADDITIONAL PERCEIVED NEED IN SECTOR

	CAPACITY October 1, 2001			ADDT'L PERCEIVED NEED IN SECTOR October 1, 2001			NEW TARGET ESTABLISHED 2001		
	EMERGENCY UNITS	TRANSITIONAL UNITS	AFFORDABLE UNITS	EMERGENCY UNITS	TRANSITIONAL UNITS	AFFORDABLE UNITS	EMERGENCY UNITS	TRANSITIONAL UNITS	AFFORDABLE UNITS
SINGLES	1,072	518	2,592	*			1,000		
MENTAL HEALTH	3	112	202		75	600		50	300
ADDICTIONS	214	149	N/A	80	40	N/A	80	40	N/A
YOUTH	16	48	0	0	250			100	
SENIORS	24	0	5,413	N/A	N/A	65	N/A	N/A	65
ABORIGINAL	N/A	42	290	**			**		
FAMILY VIOLENCE	97***	50***	0	3	66	250	3	66	200
FAMILIES	45	52	5,877		50	4,800		30	300

* To be determined upon opening of new shelters ** Focus on creating a continuum of services. Where units are required, they are addressed by other sectors *** Figures represent funded beds only

NOTES: • In the Addictions Sector, figures from the "Detox" and "Residential Treatment" categories have been included as "Emergency Units"

• Family Violence Sector figures include both women with children and women without children

• Please refer to individual sector reports for more detailed information regarding statistics

DEFINING THE NEED FOR COMMUNITY HOUSING

Housing is a critical element to establish individual and community well being. Apart from providing shelter housing, it plays a key role in our society by providing a stable environment that allows individuals to pursue employment, education and maintain independence. Housing in Canada is also one of the critical means for individuals to build assets and wealth. Lack of access to housing has a serious impact on individuals and their community's well being. A lack of access to housing could precipitate individuals into addiction, violence and reduce their ability to participate in their community.

The need for access to housing became evident in Calgary when the population of homeless individuals significantly increased. However, it would be misleading to think that only the homeless have problems accessing housing. It is an issue for a broad cross-section of the community. Housing needs in Calgary are represented in eight sectors of priority, they include: Single Men and Women, Mental Health, Addictions, Youth, Seniors, Aboriginal, Family Violence, and Families. There are forms of housing to address each sector and to address this broad section of need.

Access to housing can be determined by an individual's circumstances, for example; lifestyle issues such as addictions or lack of income. It could be said that currently we hold two views of housing needs. One is based on visible needs defined by the clients served by non-profit agencies. The

other is based on what the market would consider viable housing investments. To represent a broader range of housing needs, the following definitions have been developed for the purposes of this report:

EMERGENCY SHELTERS

Emergency shelters provide temporary, typically overnight accommodation to individuals who would otherwise sleep in the streets. Shelters may also provide supportive services in relation to addictions, health, education and employment needs.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Transitional housing aims to provide temporary accommodation (six months to two years) for individuals who wish to stabilize their housing situation while resolving other issues in their lives, such as unemployment, addictions, education and violence. Transitional Housing units typically have access to a mix of supportive services that enable an individual to move towards self-sufficiency.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Affordable housing aims to provide housing to individuals who are employed but spend more than 50% of their income in housing. Typically, affordable rental housing does not provide supportive services.

SECTOR 1 SINGLE MEN AND WOMEN

STATISTICS

SINGLE MEN AND WOMEN	CHANGE IN CAPACITY			PROGRESS TOWARD 3-YEAR TARGET			
	CAPACITY (March 23, 2000)	UNITS CREATED (March 23, 2000 to October 1, 2001)	CAPACITY (October 1, 2001)	PERCEIVED ADDT'L NEED IN SECTOR	FOUNDATION'S 3-YEAR TARGET (Est. March 23, 2000)	UNITS CREATED (March 23, 2000 to October 1, 2001)	EXCESS (SHORTFALL)
EMERGENCY UNITS	701	113**	1,072*	TBD, upon opening of new shelters	350	113	(4)
TRANSITIONAL UNITS	348	233***	518	TBD, upon opening of new shelters		233	
AFFORDABLE UNITS	2,592	0	2,592	8,700		0	

* Includes 100 beds designated as 'intox' (designation previously unreported) at the Drop-In Centre. Continued funding for 120 of the Drop-In Centre's emergency beds is currently under negotiation.

** Includes 2 units designated for families, 30 beds designated for mental health (currently unfunded) and 20 beds designated for women at The Salvation Army's Centre of Hope.

*** Includes 26 beds designated for addictions and 4 beds designated for women at The Salvation Army's Centre of Hope.

NOTE: As agencies strive to meet the changing needs of their clients on a day-to-day basis, they are often forced to use whichever units are immediately available. As a result, specific proportions of emergency and transitional beds are subject to change.

NET UNITS ADDED 2001

	# OF UNITS CREATED	HOUSING TYPE
EMERGENCY UNITS		
Calgary Drop-In Centre	35	Mats/Beds
The Salvation Army	40	Beds
YMCA/Mary Dover House	38	Beds
Adjustment (see below)	(258)	
TRANSITIONAL UNITS		
Calgary Drop-In Centre	140**	Bedrooms, Beds
The Salvation Army	93	Beds
Adjustment (see below)	63	
AFFORDABLE UNITS		
Calgary Housing Co.	*	Subsidized PLRS Units
TOTAL UNITS ADDED 2001	346	

* 115 new PLRS (Private Landlord Rent Supplement) units are available to the Singles Sector (recorded in the Families Sector)

** 40 of these units remain unfunded.

UNITS PLANNED 2001/2000

B4 (CFB Calgary) -80 Temporary Beds Being Lost, 2002
Calgary Home Builders Residences 40 Affordable Units

NOTE: The various openings, decommissionings and re-designations that have characterized the Singles Sector in the past 18 months have been difficult to trace accurately. The 'adjustment' categories in this table are necessary in order to capture the net results of these shifts in total capacity since Housing Our Homeless was last published.



PROFILE

Over the past decade, there has been a continuing increase in the number of people seeking emergency shelter. The causes of this increase are diverse and not well understood, however they include migration of people seeking better opportunities, rising rent and utility rates, stagnant income growth in low-income groups, family break-up, addictions and mental illness. It is very difficult to predict future homeless numbers.

Over the past year, the Singles Sector has seen the greatest improvement in the quality and number of spaces available. The new Calgary Drop-In Centre and the Salvation Army's Centre of Hope will provide a healthier living environment and enhanced programs and services for clients to assist them in dealing with the issues that caused their homelessness and help them return to independent living.

Current facilities include two locations, Sunalta and West Hillhurst, that are approved only for temporary use. In addition the B-4 (CFB Calgary) location providing 80 beds, is slated for closure in 2002.

Shelter operators will be assessing the situation over the winter of 2001/2002 after the two new facilities are fully operational, and decisions will be reached on the need for the continued operation of temporary facilities. In view of the problems in predicting the future need for emergency shelter capacity, great care must be taken to ensure that the system is able to accommodate unexpected demand.

CHALLENGES

The Singles Sector continues to provide shelter and services to a very diverse range of clients, including those with addictions, mental illnesses, various adult age groups, different genders and transients simply passing through the community. Such variety in clientele present a continual challenge in providing appropriate support.

Despite the opening of the two new centres, there is still a need for additional shelter space and additional funding, particularly in the winter.

This sector's greatest need is for transitional and particularly affordable housing space. Such accommodations allow clients to 'flow' through the system, continually improving their situation until they are finally able to function in the community, unassisted.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Although there appears to be an ever-increasing demand for additional shelter space, an accurate estimate of the need for more units will not be known until the net impact of facility expansions and decommissions is determined. At that time, an assessment will be undertaken to gain an estimate of demand for emergency, transitional and affordable housing yet to be addressed. As previously mentioned, however, additional transitional and affordable accommodations would augment the system greatly and allow the homeless to gain further independence.
- 2) Retain use of Sunalta and West Hillhurst shelters.

STAKEHOLDERS

Calgary Alpha House Society
Calgary Drop-In Centre
Calgary Housing Company
Human Resources Development Canada
Inn From The Cold
Mustard Seed Street Ministry
The Salvation Army
Victory Outreach Centre
YWCA

SECTOR 2 MENTAL HEALTH

STATISTICS

MENTAL HEALTH	CHANGE IN CAPACITY			PROGRESS TOWARD 3-YEAR TARGET			
	CAPACITY (March 23, 2000)	UNITS CREATED (March 23, 2000 to October 1, 2001)	CAPACITY (October 1, 2001)	PERCEIVED ADD'L NEED IN SECTOR	FOUNDATION'S 3-YEAR TARGET (Est. March 23, 2000)	UNITS CREATED (March 23, 2000 to October 1, 2001)	EXCESS (SHORTFALL)
EMERGENCY UNITS	3	0	3		25	3	(22)
TRANSITIONAL UNITS	62	50	112	75	60	50	(10)
AFFORDABLE UNITS	217	(15) (Net)	202	600	125	(15)	(140)



TOTAL UNITS ADDED 2001		
	# OF UNITS CREATED	HOUSING TYPE
EMERGENCY UNITS		
<i>The Salvation Army</i>	*	10 Diversion, 20 Intervention Beds
TRANSITIONAL UNITS		
<i>Horizon Housing Society</i>	50	Apartments
AFFORDABLE UNITS		
<i>Order of Good Cheer</i>	8	Bedrooms
<i>CHOOSE The Fellowship</i>	(23)	Bedrooms
TOTAL UNITS ADDED 2001	35 Net	

* 30 units created in the Salvation Army's Centre of Hope have been designated for mental health (recorded in Singles Sector), but are not yet funded.

UNITS PLANNED 2001/2002

Horizon Housing Society 40 Apartments

PROFILE

The Mental Health community continues to offer emergency shelter/respice care, transitional housing and low-cost housing in an effort to meet the needs of its clients.

The vast majority of clients or potential clients in this sector continue to have little or no income, are marginally employable, require life-skill training, have few formal or informal social support systems to rely on and require easier access to treatment services, crisis intervention and customized individual support.

Significant gains in transitional housing stock have been made in this sector in the past year. In particular, the successful acquisition of 50 additional apartment units for Horizon Housing has assisted those coping with mental illnesses to gain a measure of independence and become contributing members of the community.

In addition, the Order of Good Cheer, a philanthropic organization, has purchased a duplex for the Horizon Housing Society which will provide respice care and transitional housing for up to eight clients at a time.

CHALLENGES

Operating funds for support services may not be available even if there is capital funding to secure new units. This was identified in the initial Housing Our Homeless report as a critical issue.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Provide operating funding on a multi-year basis to provide support services to clients. The value of capital funding for new mental health housing units will be negated if necessary client services cannot be delivered. A coordinated approach to capital and operating funding is required.
- 2) Proceed with the development of 40 units of supported affordable housing for Horizon Housing clientele in the Calgary Home Builders Residence.

STAKEHOLDERS

Bridging the Gap
Calgary Alternative Support Services
Calgary Association of Self Help
Calgary Mental Health Consumers Network
Community Lamda
Horizon Housing Society
Human Resources Development Canada
Mental Health Housing Subcommittee

- Alberta Mental Health Board
- Calgary Health Region
- Canadian Mental Health Advisory Committee
- The City of Calgary

Organization for Bipolar Affective Disorders Society
Schizophrenia Society (Calgary Chapter)
The Salvation Army

SECTOR 3 ADDICTIONS

STATISTICS

ADDICTIONS	CHANGE IN CAPACITY			PROGRESS TOWARD 3-YEAR TARGET			
	CAPACITY (March 23, 2000)	UNITS CREATED (March 23, 2000 to October 1, 2001)	CAPACITY (October 1, 2001)	PERCEIVED ADD'T'L NEED IN SECTOR	FOUNDATION'S 3-YEAR TARGET (Est. March 23, 2000)	UNITS CREATED (March 23, 2000 to October 1, 2001)	EXCESS (SHORTFALL)
EMERGENCY UNITS	51	0	51*	0	0	0	0
DETOX UNITS	60	0	60	6		0	0
RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT	103	0	103**	74	60	0	(60)
TRANSITIONAL UNITS	130	19	149***	40	70	19	(51)

* 100 intax beds are also available the Calgary Drop-In Centre (recorded in Singles Sector)

** The Addictions Sector also has access to 17 residential treatment beds at Native Addictions Services (recorded in Aboriginal Sector).

*** The Addictions Sector also has access to 3 transitional units at Native Addictions Services (recorded in Aboriginal Sector), 60 at the Calgary Drop-In Centre (recorded in Singles Sector) and 14 at Mustard Seed Street Ministry (recorded in Singles Sector.) This figure has been adjusted to compensate for inaccurate count in 2000.



TOTAL UNITS ADDED 2001		
	# OF UNITS CREATED	HOUSING TYPE
EMERGENCY UNITS		
DETOX UNITS		
RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT		
<i>The Salvation Army</i>	**	Beds
TRANSITIONAL UNITS		
<i>Simon House</i>	8	Bedrooms
<i>Oxford House</i>	11 Net*	Bedrooms
TOTAL UNITS ADDED 2001	19	

* Oxford House gained 19 new bedrooms, but gave up 8 previously held. They also added 9 new units dedicated for Aboriginal peoples. (recorded in Aboriginal Sector).

** 26 units created in the Salvation Army's Centre of Hope have been designated for addictions (recorded in Singles Sector)

PROFILE

Individuals with drug, alcohol and other addictions comprise a large portion of the homeless population. Emergency shelters report that close to half of the individuals accessing their services are experiencing problems with addictions or misuse of substances.

The issue of addiction recovery for individuals can be complex. Some people do not recognize, or are unwilling to acknowledge, they need help with addiction problems. There are also issues of culture and gender. The Aboriginal population is disproportionately represented in this group and there are other cultural groups that need culturally relevant treatment. Men and women also present diverse treatment requirements based on gender differences which often need to be addressed separately. Many individuals who are struggling with addictions are also struggling with mental health issues. These concerns need to be addressed concurrently to prevent one issue diverting from progress with the other issue. No one program or service will resolve all of the issues. Treatment requires a network of services working together to meet the range of needs present.

CHALLENGES

The interaction of addiction and homelessness works like a vicious cycle and makes intervention more challenging. The addiction makes it difficult for the individual to maintain a stable living environment and homelessness makes it difficult to deal with the addiction. Often the individual faces both addiction and mental illness and these need to be considered when treating these individuals.

Complicating the issue further, treatment centres in Calgary report waiting lists ranging from two weeks to two months. Those who are successful in accessing treatment may experience similar difficulties after treatment is completed – either losing housing they maintained prior to treatment or returning to the street if they were previously homeless.

Gaps have been identified in both pre-treatment and post-treatment. People who are experiencing problems with both homelessness and addiction are considered high risk for relapsing after receiving detox or residential services. As well, members of this population generally require a longer term of treatment to stabilize their lifestyle. There needs to be a seamless connection between services so individuals do not “fall between the cracks” – either not getting into services that would meet their needs, or being delayed in access to those services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Proceed with a 50-unit facility for Aventa.
- 2) Re-establish the Fresh Start program, with a 25-unit facility.
- 3) Acquire further transitional residences for both Oxford House and Simon House.

STAKEHOLDERS

AADAC
Aventa
Calgary Alpha House Society
Calgary Drop-In Centre
Human Resources Development Canada
Native Addictions Services
Oxford House Foundation of Canada
Recovery Acres
Renfrew Recovery Centre
Simon House Recovery Centre
The Salvation Army
Youville

SECTOR 4 YOUTH

STATISTICS

YOUTH	CHANGE IN CAPACITY			PROGRESS TOWARD 3-YEAR TARGET			
	CAPACITY (March 23, 2000)	UNITS CREATED (March 23, 2000 to October 1, 2001)	CAPACITY (October 1, 2001)	PERCEIVED ADDIT'L NEED IN SECTOR	FOUNDATION'S 3-YEAR TARGET (Est. March 23, 2000)	UNITS CREATED (March 23, 2000 to October 1, 2001)	EXCESS (SHORTFALL)
EMERGENCY UNITS	13	3	16	0		3	3
TRANSITIONAL UNITS	10	38	48	250	50 + 15 (for 15-24 year olds)	38	(27)
AFFORDABLE UNITS	0	0	0			0	

TOTAL UNITS ADDED 2001		
	# OF UNITS CREATED	HOUSING TYPE
NEW EMERGENCY UNITS		
<i>Avenue 15</i>	3 Beds	Shelter Addition
NEW TRANSITIONAL UNITS		
<i>McMan Community Services</i>	6 Beds	Group Living
<i>Servants Anonymous</i>	11 Beds	
<i>Safe Haven Foundation of Canada</i>	6 Beds	Parented Homes (2)
<i>Aspen Family & Comm. Network</i>	15 Beds**	Supported Apt. Program
NEW AFFORDABLE UNITS		
TOTAL UNITS ADDED 2001	41*	

* Funding was also provided to initiate the Avenue 15 Side Door Outreach Program to provide support services and meals to Child Welfare Status Homeless Youth to encourage access to youth-appropriate services.

** 12 spaces Supported Independent Living for Status youth, 3 spaces for unsupported youth.

PROFILE

The Youth Sector continues to offer and advocate for appropriate youth and young adult emergency shelter, youth transitional housing, and affordable housing for youth aged 16 to 24.

Youth under 20 in this sector are differentiated according to whether or not they are in the care of (have "status" with) child protection authorities.

While youth with child protection "status" have access to needed supports, in 1993 the Province discontinued the provision of adult financial assistance to "non-status" youth under 18. The only exception is the Child Financial Support program, which may provide, to an adult willing to care for a child, a basic provincial benefit of between \$81 and \$114 a month depending on the age of the child.

An over-burdened child protection system often does not consider homelessness a qualifier for child protection status. Some unsupported youth of this age do not want to be placed in a foster home. If they cannot find, or lose their jobs, they are even too young to access food banks.

Last year, the Youth Alternative Housing Committee (YAHC) and Street Youth Task Force hosted conferences which brought youth and the youth-serving community together to address the needs and legal rights of "non-status" unsupported youth.

The underlying philosophy of these conferences was that youth should be involved in decisions regarding services

and initiatives created on their behalf. Conference participants developed recommendations related to the development of housing and support services, including the provision of youth resource centres, an increase in the availability of supported housing, re-instatement of Supports For Independence (SFI) for youth and addressing weaknesses in child welfare legislation were developed at these conferences.

The youth sector also obtained legal opinions which recommended further strategies to assist homeless or potentially homeless youths, including: establishment of a housing registry, supported housing options for youth in treatment for addiction or mental health issues, transitional services and residential support for youth involved in the justice system, supported housing options for 15 to 17 year-old unsupported youth, and low-cost housing options for 18 to 24 year-old youth.

CHALLENGES

The increase in the number of homeless youth, both locally and nationally, is attributable to multiple inter-related factors including poverty, shortages in affordable housing, family breakdown and instability, a child welfare system reluctant to serve older adolescents (and its expectation of self-sufficient independence for its wards before they turn twenty), and the unwillingness of all levels of government to assume responsibility for street youth. Addressing the problem of youth homelessness requires multi-faceted, coordinated interventions involving all levels of government, the not-for-profit and corporate sectors.

...A myriad of factors complicate the provision of services, including addictions, cultural issues, histories of abuse and neglect, and varying degrees of maturity and independence among the population... There is no one model or program which youth, service providers, and researchers endorse as the ideal response to the needs of homeless young people. Rather, what is needed is a continuum of housing models which includes: emergency shelter, longer-term shelter, therapeutic residential programs, transitional housing, supported independent living, and co-operative or supported apartment living.

Homeless Youth: Falling Between the Cracks
An Investigation of Youth Homelessness
in Calgary, August 18, 2000

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Establish a "Youth Centre of Excellence" by a consortium of youth service providers. This will include 20 to 25 transitional beds, a recreation centre and an employment centre.
- 2) Create a 20-room youth facility at the Sunrise Residence, to be developed through the cooperation of various youth agencies.

STAKEHOLDERS

Aspen Family and Community Network/
Families In Transition
Boys and Girls Club of Calgary
Bridging the Gap
Calgary John Howard Society
Canadian Red Cross (Southern Alberta)
Children's Advocate
Calgary Rockyview Child and
Family Services Authority
Human Resources Development Canada
McMan Youth, Family and Community
Services Association
Safe Haven Foundation
Servants Anonymous
Street Teams/Safehouse Society (Calgary)
Youth Alternative Housing Committee
Youth Criminal Defense Office
Woods Homes



SECTOR 5 SENIORS

STATISTICS

SENIORS	CHANGE IN CAPACITY			PROGRESS TOWARD 3-YEAR TARGET			
	CAPACITY (March 23, 2000)	UNITS CREATED (March 23, 2000 to October 1, 2001)	CAPACITY (October 1, 2001)	PERCEIVED ADDIT'L NEED IN SECTOR	FOUNDATION'S 3-YEAR TARGET (Est. March 23, 2000)	UNITS CREATED (March 23, 2000 to October 1, 2001)	EXCESS (SHORTFALL)
EMERGENCY UNITS	24	0	24*	N/A**		0	0
TRANSITIONAL UNITS	0	0	0	N/A**		0	0
AFFORDABLE UNITS	5,413	0	5,413	65***	45	0	(45)

* 10 of the 24 beds are unfunded, and remain unused

** Addressed in other sectors

*** For Hard-to-House Seniors

TOTAL UNITS ADDED 2001		
	# OF UNITS CREATED	HOUSING TYPE
EMERGENCY UNITS	0	
TRANSITIONAL UNITS	0	
AFFORDABLE UNITS	0	
TOTAL UNITS ADDED 2001	0	

PROFILE

There is a well-established, but aging housing system for senior citizens, involving the financial support of the Federal and Provincial Governments, and the City of Calgary. As such, the Calgary Homeless Foundation plays a somewhat limited role in assisting the Seniors Sector in the development of capital projects.

The focus of the Foundation is on specialized housing needed for seniors (age 55 and up) who have been characterized as 'hard to house.' These individuals have typically exhausted their housing options and, quite often, experience absolute homelessness. They do not manage structure and expectations well, and often present a combination of serious problems. These will include mental health, addictions, gambling, and medical/ physiological conditions such as organic brain dysfunction due to injury, addiction, or aging. It is estimated that approximately 100-150 individuals currently live in this circumstance in our city.

CHALLENGES

Two factors are having an adverse effect on seniors. Rising utility costs are forcing some to consider options such as selling their homesto reduce their living costs. Secondly, Calgary's rental rates for existing units are increasing. It is anticipated that the demand for affordable accommodation will substantially increase in the coming years as the population ages. Calgary's price-escalating rental market is not expected to subside anytime soon. Demand for lodge accommodation operated by the Metropolitan Calgary Foundation (CF) for low-income seniors also continues to significantly exceed supply.

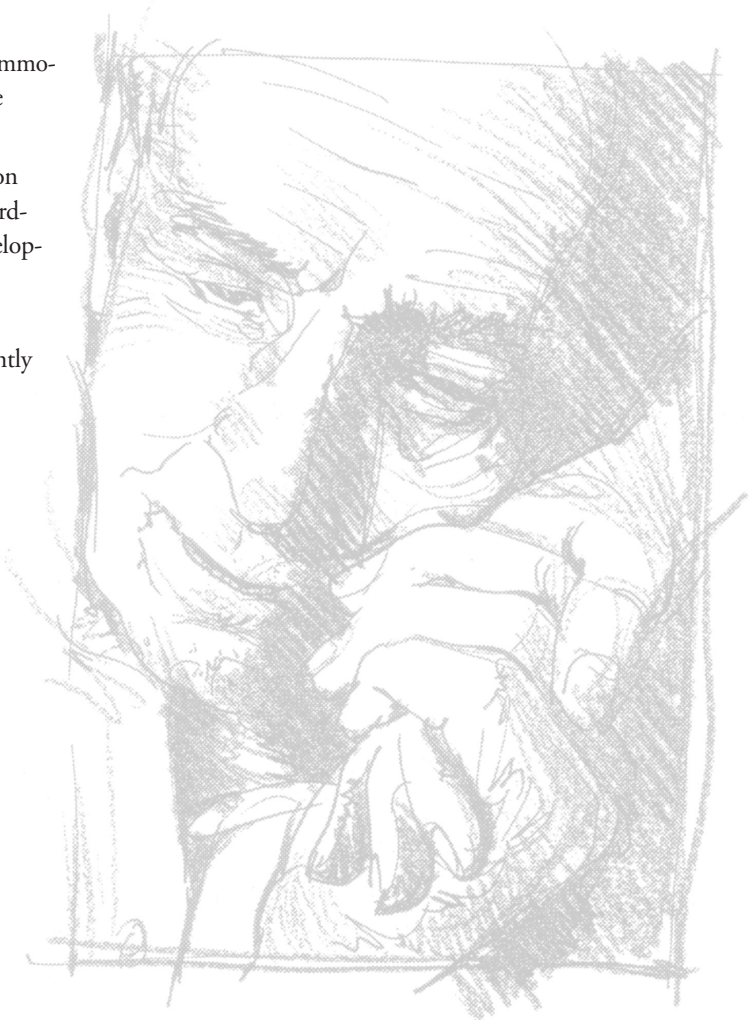
Further support for affordable housing initiatives for seniors is greatly needed. The Government of Alberta has not added significantly to its supply of housing since the mid 1990s. As well, Calgary has not seen any increase in the supply of affordable apartment accommodation in the past ten years for this sector's population.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Develop a specialized facility of 65 units to accommodate "Hard-to-House" seniors as well address the growing demand of an aging population
- 2) All levels of government place more emphasis on developing affordable housing for seniors. Affordability is facilitated when the hard costs of development are reduced through a land donation or substantial grants.
- 3) Secure funding for beds that exist but are currently not used by the Seniors Sector, due to lack of operational funds.

STAKEHOLDERS

Alberta Seniors
Calgary Drop-In Centre
Calgary Health Region – Specialized Housing
CPL Mount Royal Care Centre
Gracewood Housing Group Ltd.
Human Resources Development Canada
Kerby Centre
Metropolitan Calgary Foundation
Native Addictions Services
The Salvation Army
Trinity Place Foundation of Alberta



SECTOR 6 ABORIGINAL

STATISTICS

ABORIGINAL	CHANGE IN CAPACITY			PROGRESS TOWARD 3-YEAR TARGET			
	CAPACITY (March 23, 2000)	UNITS CREATED (March 23, 2000 to October 1, 2001)	CAPACITY (October 1, 2001)	PERCEIVED ADD'T'L NEED IN SECTOR	FOUNDATION'S 3-YEAR TARGET (Est. March 23, 2000)	UNITS CREATED (March 23, 2000 to October 1, 2001)	EXCESS (SHORTFALL)
EMERGENCY UNITS	N/A	0	N/A	**	N/A	0	0
TRANSITIONAL UNITS	25	17	42	**	75	17	(58)
AFFORDABLE UNITS	290*	0	290	**	120	0	(120)

* All 290 of these units are part of the Metis Urban Housing stock

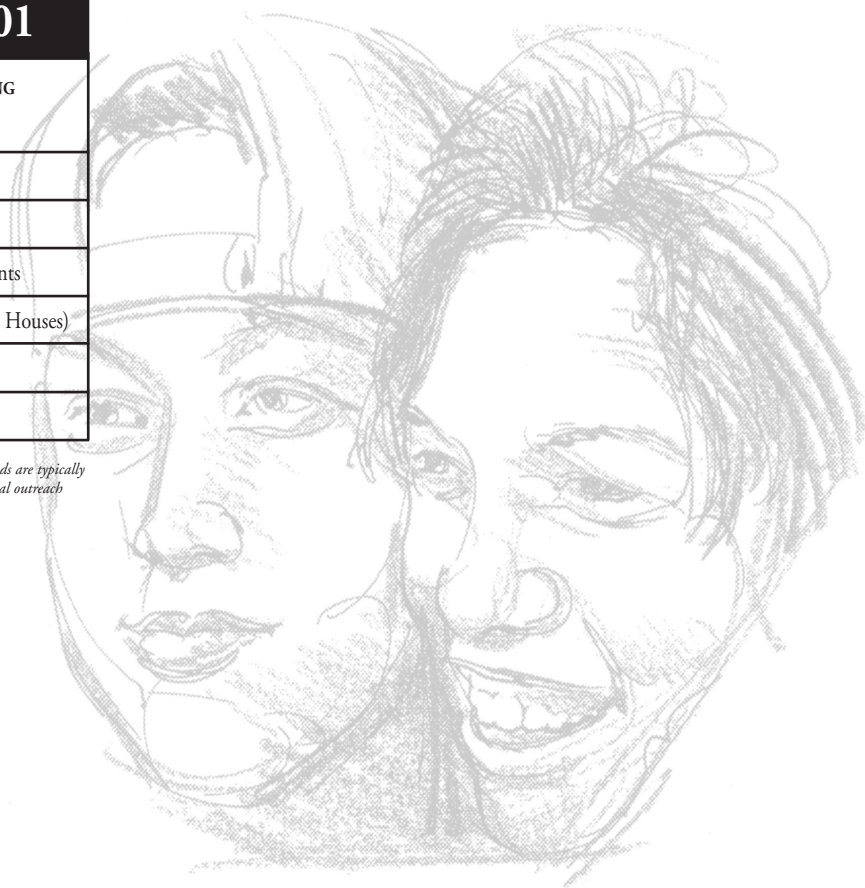
** Focus on continuum of services. Where units are required, they are addressed in other sectors

TOTAL UNITS ADDED 2001		
	# OF UNITS CREATED	HOUSING TYPE
EMERGENCY UNITS		
TRANSITIONAL UNITS		
<i>Berkana House</i>	8	Apartments
<i>Oxford House</i>	9*	Bedrooms (in Houses)
AFFORDABLE UNITS		
TOTAL UNITS ADDED 2001	17	

* Specifically designated for Aboriginal clients, however 25 to 30% of their 100 beds are typically occupied by Aboriginal clients. Oxford House also employs one full-time Aboriginal outreach worker. See also Addictions Sector.

Units Planned 2001/2002

Native Addiction Services 16 Beds



PROFILE

The Aboriginal sector is unique in that it also addresses issues identified by the other seven sectors. The Aboriginal Standing Committee on Housing and Homelessness has been involved in assisting the other sectors in their planning, and has also realized success on its own. Aboriginal peoples have access to various shelter and housing facilities within the community, but continue to need specialized services that address specific cultural identity concerns.

An emphasis must be placed on developing a continuum of services approach which better addresses the root causes of homelessness unique to the Aboriginal Sector.

The Aboriginal sector is striving to provide emergency, pre-treatment/post-treatment, youth transition, family, and accommodation/services for seniors. Currently it has been able to provide support for the development of post-treatment housing (Oxford House), and will be providing units for pre-treatment (NAS), youth (Metis Nation) and transition housing for women leaving the corrections system (Berkana House). As well, nearly 9,000 client contacts were made by outreach providers in the year 2000.

CHALLENGES

The extremely high cost of providing affordable housing, and failure to increase affordable housing stock since 1992 are significant barriers to this sector, as in others.

The fact that housing resources do not follow people from their home reserve is a problem.

Racism continues to affect equitable access to housing for Aboriginal people.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Governments act in cooperation to increase the supply of affordable housing.
- 2) Develop a continuum of services approach to address root causes of aboriginal homelessness.

STAKEHOLDERS

Awo Taan Native Women's Shelter
Calgary Alpha House Society
Canadian Red Cross (Southern Alberta)
Calgary Health Region – 8th & 8th
City of Calgary – Aboriginal Services
CUPS
Eagle Connections Society
Elizabeth Fry Society
Human Resources Development Canada
Metis Seniors
Metis Nation of Alberta – Zone 3
Mr. Brian Slater
Ms. Donna McPhee
Native Addictions Services
Oxford House Foundation of Canada
Treaty Seven Tribal Council
United Way of Calgary & Area

SECTOR 7 FAMILY VIOLENCE

STATISTICS

FAMILY VIOLENCE	CHANGE IN CAPACITY			PROGRESS TOWARD 3-YEAR TARGET			
	CAPACITY (March 23, 2000)	UNITS CREATED (March 23, 2000 to October 1, 2001)	CAPACITY (October 1, 2001) FUNDED/EXISTING	PERCEIVED ADD'T'L NEED IN SECTOR	FOUNDATION'S 3-YEAR TARGET (Est. March 23, 2000)	UNITS CREATED (March 23, 2000 to October 1, 2001)	EXCESS (SHORTFALL)
WOMEN WITHOUT CHILDREN							
EMERGENCY UNITS	7	0	7/7			0	0
TRANSITIONAL UNITS	8	0	8/8			0	0
AFFORDABLE UNITS	0	0	0		125	0	(125)
WOMEN WITH CHILDREN							
EMERGENCY UNITS	74*	7**	90/102***	3	7	7	0
TRANSITIONAL UNITS	42	0	42/42	66	50	0	(50)
AFFORDABLE UNITS	0	0	0	250	125	0	(125)

* Five of these beds exist, but remain unused due to the lack of operating funds.

** These seven beds now exist, but are not funded and therefore remain unused; six other beds existed previously with no funding, but they have now been contracted and are in use.

*** Number adjusted from inaccurate 2000 count.

TOTAL UNITS ADDED 2001		
	# OF UNITS CREATED	HOUSING TYPE
EMERGENCY UNITS		
<i>Sheriff King</i>	7	New Beds Not Yet Funded.
TRANSITIONAL UNITS		
AFFORDABLE UNITS		
TOTAL UNITS ADDED 2001	7	



PROFILE

The Family Violence Sector, through the efforts of the Calgary Family Violence Shelter Network, provides both emergency and second-stage shelters for families fleeing violence. There are currently four emergency shelters in Calgary (Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter (CWES); Sheriff King Home; Awo Taan; Kerby Rotary House Seniors Shelter and three second-stage shelters (Brenda Strafford; Discovery House; and Sonshine Centre). In addition, the YWCA/Mary Dover House provides short-term emergency housing support to all the above shelters when they are full and women and children are either waiting for emergency or second-stage shelter.

The Family Violence Sector is currently in dire need of contracted beds, as it is estimated that for every woman admitted to an emergency shelter, seven are turned away; in second-stage shelters, the estimated turn away ratio is 5:1. There are currently 12 beds in the sector which are not funded and can therefore not be accessed by clients.

CHALLENGES

The following factors are significantly impacting the flow of women and children through emergency and second-stage shelters:

- The current Supports For Independence (SFI) rate is a significant barrier to women accessing housing. The monthly rent allowance for a single woman with two children is \$400, with the average cost of a two-bedroom apartment being greater than \$700.
- Many women fleeing violence have several children which often present a barrier as many landlords will not rent to women with multiple children.
- Social housing for women without children is difficult to access.
- Lack of availability and flexibility of housing – families must go where the units are rather than having the flexibility of going where they may have support systems close by, where children would not have to change schools.
- Women trying to access low-cost housing often face barriers related to past histories with the social service agencies.
- Many women do not have the available funds to cover security deposits for housing.
- The average stay of clients in both emergency and second-stage shelter is increasing due to shortage of both second-stage and safe affordable housing. Turn-away numbers are therefore projected to increase.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Create new transitional apartment units through the Brenda Strafford Foundation.
- 2) Develop a 16-unit apartment building through Discovery House, which would provide secure, low-cost housing units for women and children leaving emergency and second-stage housing.
- 3) Secure funding for beds that exist but are currently not used by the Family Violence Sector, due to lack of operational funds.

STAKEHOLDERS

Awo Taan Native Women's Shelter
Brenda Strafford Foundation
Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter
Discovery House
Kerby Rotary House Seniors Shelter
Sonshine Centre
Women in Need
YWCA Family Violence Prevention Centre
and Sheriff King Home
YWCA/Mary Dover House

SECTOR 8 FAMILIES

STATISTICS

FAMILIES	CHANGE IN CAPACITY			PROGRESS TOWARD 3-YEAR TARGET			
	CAPACITY (March 23, 2000)	UNITS CREATED (March 23, 2000 to October 1, 2001)	CAPACITY (October 1, 2001)	PERCEIVED ADDIT'L NEED IN SECTOR	FOUNDATION'S 3-YEAR TARGET (Est. March 23, 2000)	UNITS CREATED (March 23, 2000 to October 1, 2001)	EXCESS (SHORTFALL)
EMERGENCY UNITS	30	15	45			15	15
TRANSITIONAL UNITS	12*	40	52	50	30	40	10
AFFORDABLE UNITS	5,650	227**	5,877	4,800	700	227	(473)

* Including 10 temporary units.

** Includes 115 new PLRS units, also available to Singles Sector.

TOTAL UNITS ADDED 2001		
	# OF UNITS CREATED	HOUSING TYPE
EMERGENCY UNITS		
<i>Inn From The Cold</i>	15	Beds (Expansion of Daily Current Maximum)
TRANSITIONAL UNITS		
<i>Families In Transition</i>	30	Supported Units
<i>John E. Robson House</i>	10	Townhouses and Resource Centre
<i>The Salvation Army</i>	*	Two Seven-Bedroom Apartments for Families
AFFORDABLE UNITS		
<i>Calgary Housing Company</i>	115	PLRS Units
<i>Calgary Housing Company</i>	47	Subsidized Apartments ("West End Apartments")
<i>City of Calgary</i>	65	Affordable Units (CFB West)
TOTAL UNITS ADDED 2001	282	

* Two family units are available at The Salvation Army's Centre of Hope (recorded in Singles Sector).

PROFILE

Homeless families in Calgary are largely invisible as it is difficult for a family unit to live on the street. By the time a family reaches a state of homelessness, it has often become separated. Children live with relatives or are placed into the custody of government agencies; the parents may then access shelters available to single men and women. Families fleeing violence can access emergency shelters designed for that purpose (See Family Violence Sector). However, many families choose to live with friends or relatives for short periods of time. It is unknown, and difficult to estimate, how many families cope with their housing needs in this manner.

The risk of becoming homeless for low-income families in Calgary has greatly increased. This risk is fueled by increased utility costs and rent increases due to a tight housing market. The City of Calgary Social Research Unit estimates that there are over 15,000 households that spend more than 50% of their income in rent and over 33,000 children living in households with very low incomes. These families are at risk of becoming homeless due to economic circumstances.

Apart from families that are at risk of becoming homeless due to a low income, there are also families faced with extraneous circumstances that can lead to homelessness, such as: addictions, family violence, divorce or migrating to Calgary with limited resources.

In an effort to better understand the number of families that are homeless in Calgary, the Families Sector has begun to develop a methodology to collect more specific data and create an accurate annual count. The data gathered in such a count would be invaluable in helping the sector meet the needs of those they serve.

CHALLENGES

Low income is only one cause of homelessness for families; addictions, family violence, divorce, forced migration or other life crises may also be causes.

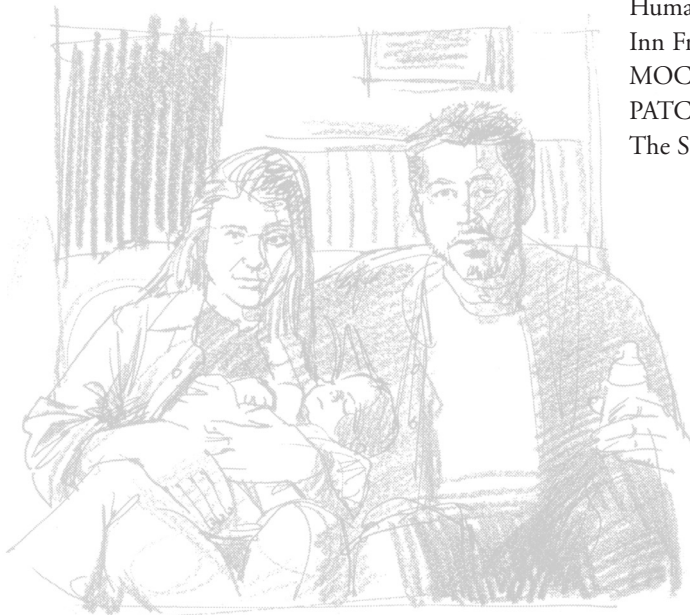
The difficulty of a family unit being on the street often leads to the separation of family members before a state of homelessness is reached.

Minimum incomes, including Supports For Independence (SFI) incomes, are not keeping pace with the inflating cost of market housing, which limits housing options.

Many families in a housing crisis have difficulty addressing employment, health and education issues.

Due to a lack of competitive investment returns, the private sector is effectively unable to respond to the critical need to construct affordable housing.

At this time there is no current evidence that points to one single way to address low-cost housing needs in Calgary. Although the need for additional Private Landlord Rent Supplement (PLRS) units is critical, other avenues must also be explored. To create a solution it will be necessary for all Calgarians to make a commitment to retain our community well-being and seek to resolve Calgary's low-cost housing needs.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Increase the number of affordable rental housing units through a combination of measures, including:

- 1) Implement a Federal/Provincial/Municipal program for new affordable housing, with flexibility to involve the private and not-for-profit sectors.
- 2) Increase funding of Private Landlord Rent Supplement (PLRS) units.
- 3) Allow Private Landlord Rent Supplement (PLRS) designations to be “portable” to accommodate moving requirements of tenants.
- 4) Encourage the City of Calgary to conduct their homeless street count on an annual basis.
- 5) Provide supportive service funds for families experiencing or at high risk of experiencing absolute homelessness.

STAKEHOLDERS

Alberta Human Resources and Employment
Alberta Seniors
Aspen Family and Community Network/
Families in Transition
Calgary Housing Company
Canadian Red Cross (Calgary)
City of Calgary (Corporate Properties)
City of Calgary (Social Planning)
CUPS
Hillhurst-Sunnyside Non-Profit Housing
Hull Child and Family Services
Human Resources Development Canada
Inn From The Cold
MOCA Family Resource Centre
PATCH Program (Hull Home)
The Salvation Army

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Calgary Homeless Foundation would once again like to extend thanks to the numerous volunteers and front-line agencies who provided assistance in the writing of this year's Housing Our Homeless Update.

Further progress has been made in refining our method of data collection and reporting during the production of this report. With each passing year, the cooperation and collaboration involved in creating a solid report continues to improve. In particular, the work of the interagency committee to create a more accurate and scientifically-based count of the homeless in the Singles Sector is the first of its kind in Canada, to our knowledge, and will be an invaluable tool in understanding and addressing the needs of those whom they serve.

This report reveals that, although great accomplishments have been realized in the provision of housing for the homeless in the different sectors, much remains to be done. The issue of homelessness is not new to Calgary, and in many cases much of the community's effort is expended in attempting to chip away at the backlog of need that has accumulated over the years before we were able to focus on strategies to address future needs. Nonetheless, we continue to gain ground every year through the efforts of a multitude of concerned organizations and individuals.

We wish to recognize the groups and agencies listed below for their contribution to the information contained within.

AADAC	City of Calgary Community and Social Development	Mount Royal College – Native Students Centre
ACTSS		Mustard Seed Street Ministry
Alberta Human Resources and Employment	City of Calgary Finance-Economics Development	Native Addictions Services
Alberta Mental Health Board	City of Calgary (Social Planning)	North Central Community Resource Group
Alberta Seniors	Community Lamda	Office of the Children's Advocate
Aspen Family and Community Network/ Families in Transition	CPL Mount Royal Care Centre	Organization for Bipolar Affective Disorders Society
Aventa	Calgary Health Region – 8th & 8th	Oxford House Foundation of Canada
Avenue 15	Calgary Health Region – Specialized Housing	PATCH Program (Hull Home)
Awo Taan Native Women's Shelter	CUPS	Recovery Acres
Boys and Girls Club of Calgary	Discovery House	Regional Health Advisory Committee
Brenda Strafford Foundation	Eagle Connections Society	Renfrew Recovery Centre
Brian Olson, Calgary Homeless Foundation	Elizabeth Fry Society	Safe Haven Foundation
Bridging The Gap	Exit Community Outreach	Schizophrenia Society (Calgary Chapter)
Calgary Alpha House Society	Gracewood Housing Group Ltd	Servants Anonymous
Calgary Alternative Support Services	Hillhurst-Sunnyside Non-Profit Housing	Simon House Recovery Centre
Calgary Association of Self Help	Horizon Housing Society	Sonshine Centre
Calgary Drop-In Centre	Hull Child and Family Services	Stepping Out
Calgary Homeless Foundation	Human Resources Development Canada	Street Teams/Safehouse Society Calgary
Calgary Housing Company	Inn From The Cold	The Salvation Army
Calgary John Howard Society	Interagency Planning Committee	Treaty Seven Tribal Council
Calgary Mental Health Consumers Network	Kay Wong, City of Calgary	Trinity Place Foundation of Alberta
Calgary Native Friendship Society	Kerby Centre	United Way of Calgary and Area
Calgary Native Women's Shelter	McMan Youth, Family & Community Services Association	Victory Outreach Centre
Calgary Rockyview Child and Family Services Authority	Mennonite Central Committee	Women In Need
Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter	Mental Health Housing Subcommittee	Woods Homes
Canadian Mental Health Advisory Committee	Metis Nation of Alberta - Zone 3	YWCA Family Violence Prevention Service
Canadian Mental Health Association	Metis Seniors	YWCA/Mary Dover House
Canadian Red Cross (Southern Alberta)	Metropolitan Calgary Foundation	YWCA/Sheriff King Home
Children's Advocate	MOCA Family Resource Centre	Youth Criminal Defense Office
City of Calgary (Aboriginal Services)		Youth Alternative Housing Committee
City of Calgary (Corporate Properties)		Youville



calgary homeless foundation

McDougall Centre

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