

WHAT I'VE LEARNED FROM OTHER COUNTRIES' BATTLES WITH HOMELESSNESS

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Data That Makes a Difference (Calgary)

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Overview

- How do they work?
- Key learnings
- Future study tours

How do they work?

- They're 5 days long.
- You pay a registration fee—roughly equivalent of a conference (but pro-rated).
- Like a conference, you book your own travel (usually in low season).
- I recommend a hotel (usual at a discount) and you book your own room.

How do they work (cont'd)?

- Usually 3-4 webinars before the study tour starts. The goal here is largely to 'hit the ground running.'
- I draft a rather thick report shortly after the study tour— saves you having to take copious notes during tour, helps with your 'report back' to colleagues, and serves as a resource for those not fortunate enough to attend.
- Report includes contact info of local site tour leaders.

How do they work (cont'd)?

- In order to plan it, I start reach out to officials in destination city—sometimes 2 years ahead of time.
- Typically, the destination city has to be doing innovative things in the sector in order to justify the trip.
- Lots of culling during initial conversations (essentially, I weed out the 'meh' sites ahead of time).

How do they work (cont'd)?

- We usually sell out.
- We typically limit participation at 30 people.

How do they work (cont'd)?

- Professional networking is a key aspect here.
- Popular among senior leadership in the non-profit sector.
- Some senior public servants
- Some elected official
- Some academics

Let's shift gears a bit

- I'll now offer some key learnings from each study tour...

New York City

- Legal rights don't always generate their intended outcomes.
- Safe Havens (private rooms, and every resident has their own bathroom and television).
- Role of public libraries
- Community Access (some tenants have serious mental health challenges and others do not).

London

- Uber-style solution to home repairs and maintenance.
- Poplar HARCA moving from 80% deep subsidy to 50%.
- L&Q Housing: 108K units, 64K w very low rent. More than 4K employees, ~450 on the development team.
- Street Link app: general public 'calls in' rough sleeping
- Prison 'in reach.' 10 prisons, 30 FTE staff.

Helsinki

- Robust public social spending + taxing
- In Finland, 10.9% of housing is ‘social renting.’
- Robust demand-side assistance
- Supported employment opportunities for tenants (cleaning, snow shoveling, basic maintenance), paying < min wage (up to 4 hrs/day). Workers paid in cash, 2X a week. Does not negatively affect their income assistance.

Dublin and Belfast

- Presentation on childhood adversity experienced by youth (ACE scores).
- Housing First for Youth (HF4Y)
 - 24-7 staff team, scattered site, pick up youth at parties and at nightclubs, attach coins onto clothing, 4 engagements were day

Amsterdam and Rotterdam: Feb 2027



REMINDER

AFFORDABLE HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS STUDY TOUR

Amsterdam & Rotterdam

February 22-26, 2027

Registration opens May 1, 2026

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Toronto: Sep 2027

- I'd like to take a group to Toronto in September 2027.
- Please reach out to me if that interests you.

Sydney and Melbourne: Feb 2028

- I've begun planning Sydney/Melbourne for Feb 2028.
- Stay tuned for details.

Thank you

- If you'd like to learn more about content of previous study tours, or if you'd like to learn more about a future one, please reach out to me:
- Email: falvo.nicholas@gmail.com