



A Shared Leadership Process for Ending Rural Homelessness

Session Engagement Report Back Public Health 2024

At the Canadian Public Health Association's national Conference in 2024, Homeless No More shared their process and engaged with approx. 90 participants on two questions. Below is a summary of participant discussions.

- What specific policy asks would impact system change toward ending homelessness in your region?
- What conditions, enablers, and/or barriers exist to make meaningful change in relation to ending homelessness?

Policy and Advocacy

- Change in Declarations: Advocating for human rights changes, particularly related to housing.
- Advocacy: Efforts to influence government actions and policies, such as mandating low-income/affordable housing in new developments.
- Policy Reforms in Specific Sectors: Including in public health, institutional care, healthcare facilities, and shelters.
- Basic Income Guarantee: Implementing a livable basic income guarantee.
- Housing Policies: Emphasizing housing as a human right and addressing rent caps and tenant protections.
- Tax Policies: Implementing wealth/inheritance taxes, tax on multiple properties.

Community and Support Systems

- Community Engagement: Supporting community involvement and enabling individuals to set their own goals and inform our work.
- Supportive Housing and Shelters: Removing barriers in shelters, supporting policies for community development, and supporting a harm reduction approach.
- Culturally Safe Resources: Addressing specific needs in shelters for all genders, and ensuring cultural safety.

Barriers and Enablers

- **Structural Barriers:** Recognizing and addressing systemic issues such as racism and discrimination, and the for-profit nature in the commodification of housing.
- **Stigma and Public Perception:** Overcoming stigma and raising awareness about homelessness.
- **Coordination and Communication:** Improving coordination across government levels and services, and enhancing communication and political will.
- **Resource Allocation:** Addressing funding, staffing, and resource limitations for service providers and community organizations.

Preventive and Coordinated Approaches

- **Preventive Policies:** Focusing on upstream actions and prevention, addressing root causes like childhood trauma and social determinants of health.
- **Coordinated Care Models:** Providing a comprehensive approach to addressing homelessness, including substance use and multimorbidity.
- **Affordable Housing Supply:** Increasing the supply of affordable and supportive housing.
- **Financial Support and Literacy:** Providing financial literacy education and supporting income guarantees.

Specific Solutions and Innovations

- **Basic Income Guarantee and Financial Support:** Emphasizing the need for a universal basic income and increased social supports.
- **Alternative Housing Models:** Proposing models such as fast-tracking housing options, providing individualized approaches and non-profit supported housing.
- **Community-Led Solutions:** Encouraging community-driven initiatives and listening to voices with lived experiences.

These themes encapsulate the major points raised across the flip charts, highlighting the need for systemic change, supportive policies, community engagement, and targeted financial and preventive measures to address homelessness comprehensively.