



The Alliance to End Homelessness

147 Besserer Street Ottawa Ontario K1N 6A7 613-241-7913 x 205
Coordinator – Lynne Browne – lbrowne@ysb.on.ca

Steering Committee for the Alliance to End Homelessness

Stephen Arbuckle

Acting Administrative
Director, General Psychiatry and
The Intensive Assessment and
Intervention Programs,
Royal Ottawa Hospital

Tim Aubry

Director, Centre for Research
on Community Services,
University of Ottawa

Captain David Vincent

Executive Director,
Booth Centre Salvation Army

Pat Connolly

Director, The Well

Sue Garvey

Director, Cornerstone

Mary Ann Glazer

Executive Director,
Shepherds of Good Hope

Linden Holmes

Program Supervisor,
Community Services,
Ministry of Community and
Social Services

Rosine Kaley

Executive Director,
Action-Logement

Terrie Meehan

Community Member

Marilyn Mills

Director of Health Services,
Pinecrest Queensway Health
and Community Services

Diane Morrison

Executive Director,
Union Mission

Wendy Muckle

Director,
Inner City Health Project

Trudy Sutton

Executive Director,
Housing Help

Denise Vallely

Director,
Community Programs,
Youth Services Bureau

Connie Woloschuk

Manager, Residential Services,
Housing Branch,
City of Ottawa

Marion Wright

Executive Director,
Ottawa Branch, Canadian
Mental Health Association

Brief for the Eastern Ontario Liberal Caucus

October 22, 2004

The Alliance to End Homelessness in Ottawa welcomes the opportunity to discuss our ideas and concerns about homelessness and housing in Ottawa. Our coalition represents a broad cross section of 72 organizational members and funders who provide services and shelter to those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Ottawa.

In its work, the Alliance is finding a critical and growing need for the Province to increase funding for services that help people at risk of homelessness keep their homes. The Province is on the right track helping Ottawa offer assistance with housing loss prevention programs, drop-in programs and other services available during the day. Increasing funding for such programs is the most effective way to help to stop the flow of people who may eventually need to use a shelter.

We are pleased the Province is recognizing the need for a broad approach to meeting the housing needs of low-income citizens. In the long term, we encourage the Province to fully match Federal funds made available for affordable housing and to work toward a significant increase in social housing funding for cities. In the short term, we applaud the recent increase in minimum wage and OW and ODSP, but recognize that further increases are needed to help people keep their homes. At the same time, we urge that the Province recognize the great need for sufficient low-income rental accommodation in the private market.

Secondly, the Alliance is finding that Ottawa needs increased supports for people in supportive and transitional housing. Here in Ottawa, we have put emphasis on using federal SCPI funds for bricks and mortar, but what is missing are sufficient ongoing Provincial supports and services that are needed to accommodate homeless persons with a variety of special needs - addictions, mental illness, history of abuse etc.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services has the infrastructure for supports in place as does the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care for mental health and addictions supports, but we urge you to consider an increase of at least 3% this next year. We also commend the Province for its recognition of the importance of local flexibility in the proposed consolidation the five MCSS funding streams for homelessness and urge that those discussions be followed through on.

Finally, the Alliance with its extensive membership would be very pleased to facilitate a greater awareness of both our achievements and the ongoing and emerging needs in responding to homelessness and the need for affordable housing in Ontario's second largest city. Perhaps this could be accomplished by the organization of a meeting pulling together Ottawa's local agencies and service providers and the relevant Ministries.

Note: A Fact Sheet, since replaced by the Report Card on Homelessness in Ottawa, and information on the Alliance to End Homelessness, including its membership list were also submitted.