



## **Policy to Eradicate Homelessness in Canada Operation Housing for Everyone by 2020**

Homelessness is an extreme form of poverty and social exclusion. Simply put, people who are homeless do not have safe, affordable, appropriate, permanent housing to which they can return whenever they choose. This includes people who are absolutely homeless and are living on the streets or in shelters, the 'hidden homeless' who are staying with friends, relatives or in institutional settings, and those 'at risk' of homelessness, whose current economic and housing situation is precarious.

Homelessness can result from a combination of individual and structural factors. Individual factors that can contribute to homelessness include: deep poverty, mental or physical illness, addiction, trauma, abuse, lack of education and a lack of supportive relationships.

The NCP/C Operations to Eradicate Homelessness has been launched to build a national movement to end homelessness from the community upward. We believe we can eradicate homelessness in Canada. We believe we can do it one person, one village, one town, one community, one city and one province at a time. What's needed is a Plan of Action.

There are plenty of people at the local level across Canada who has the knowledge and the expertise to get the job done. Everything you need to know to end homelessness is known in your communities or is available from others. There are many effective partnerships at the community level that engage government, non-profit agencies and private sector groups in innovative initiatives. And the financial resources exist.

What's missing is a practical, community-based approach and political will that shifts the focus from managing homelessness to a system focused on ending it. We need to move from crisis responses such as like shelters and soup kitchens to a permanent solution, appropriate, safe and affordable housing with the support necessary to sustain it.

Become a partner of the NCP/C and join a growing coalition of individuals and organizations working to eradicate homelessness in Canada. Our Partners share our commitment to end homelessness in Canada, support the Housing for Everyone by 2020 philosophy and agree to act within their capacity to achieve our shared mission. Let us all send a clear and unmistakable message to our fellow Canadians and our Governments that an end to homelessness is feasible, possible and achievable.



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