

# Affordable Housing & Homelessness Working Group NEWSLETTER

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## DR CATHERINE LEVITEN-REID DEVELOPS PARTNERSHIPS IN HOUSING RESEARCH

Last fall, local research on rental housing stock was acknowledged by CMHC for research excellence. With award funds, members of the Affordable Housing and Homelessness Working Group delivered four workshops this summer in communities similar to the CBRM. The workshops focused on how to do this research, on the benefits of partnership, and on strategies for sharing results. Workshops were delivered to multi-sectoral groups in Caraquet, NB, Corner Brook, NL, Comox Valley, BC and Port Hawkesbury, NS.

Catherine Leviten-Reid was awarded a partnership development grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

The focus of this grant is to develop a national partnership and research program that evaluates the shelter and non-shelter outcomes for tenants in greatest need. Partners include Cape Breton Community Housing Association, New Dawn, United Way Greater Toronto, the City of Saskatoon, Quint Development Corporation, BC Housing, and faculty at Carleton University, the University of Saskatchewan, the University of British Columbia and the University of New Brunswick.



## COMMUNITY COLLABORATION PRODUCES BIG RESULTS



The goal of Under One Umbrella (UOU), now in its seventh year, is to provide free support services under one roof in one day to those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. In order to strengthen the links between people and social supports, UOU seeks ways to partner with community and businesses in making this a meaningful and effective day for its participants. This year's event took place on October 5th at Centre 200 and served approximately **900 individuals** from Cape Breton Regional Municipality. During the day, participants were able to access a variety of services such as a visit with a doctor, well woman's clinic, foot care, apply for a birth certificate, chiropractic as well as many community-based resources. Always a highlight every year, participants have access to winter clothing, a hot meal, and a free haircut.

UOU is not possible without the hundreds of volunteers that give their time to make sure the day is a success. Many service clubs, businesses and organizations have donated funds and their time over the last seven years. The numbers speak to the importance of UOU in terms of the people who attend but also speaks to the strength of our community to come together to provide a caring environment and valuable day.



Service providers setting up for UOU.

*"For someone who doesn't have very much this event was so great, I was able to pick out clothing and see what programs are available to me, I was also able to eat which was nice cause I was so hungry"*



Sarah Ross, Public Health Nutritionist and AnneCharlotte Chiasson, Atlantic Superstore Dietitian provide healthy eating information.

*"I really enjoyed myself, the meal was great and I got clothing, which I didn't have very much of. Overall it was very beneficial for me."*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Province of Nova Scotia, through Housing Nova Scotia (HNS), has entered into a ten-year cost-matched funding agreement with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) with planned investments of provincial and federal funding of nearly \$400 million.

This action plan covers the first three years of the agreement, from 2019/20 to 2021/22. Over the course of the next three years, we will invest nearly \$90 million to improve the lives of Nova Scotians and advance shared outcomes under the National Housing Strategy.

The plan has a balance of new programming to advance NHS objectives and provincial priorities, as well as continued programming including home repair/adaptation programs. HNS estimates that, over the next three years, the initiatives in this action plan will reduce housing need for 3,000 households, as follows:

Executive Summary taken from Housing Nova Scotia 2019 – 2022 Action Plan.

Click here for full document or visit [housing.novascotia.ca](http://housing.novascotia.ca)

## NEW PROGRAMMING

- Over 100 households living in public housing will benefit from accessibility improvements to public housing units, with 30 of these units planned to become fully accessible.
- Over 70 Indigenous households in housing need will benefit from repair of Urban Native housing units and construction of four new units.
- Nearly 70 households will access new rental units in the community housing sector through a new transformation fund.
- 40 low-income households will be able to access new rental housing through a new Transformation/Co-Investment Fund.
- Over 300 low-income households living in community housing will benefit from a new program to support infrastructure and redevelopment of existing non-profit and co-operative housing buildings.
- 100 households will benefit from a new rent-supplement unit located in the private rental market.
- 130 households in core housing need will have access to a new rent supplement located in a non-profit or co-operative housing building.

## CONTINUED PROGRAMMING

- Over 1,300 low-income homeowners will be assisted to remain in their home through repair/adaptation programs.
- Over 200 households will be able to access new affordable and rehabilitated rental housing under the Affordable Housing Program and the Rental Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program.
- Over 450 low-income households will benefit from investments in repair and renewal of public housing.
- 2,100 existing social housing units with an expiring operating agreement will continue to be maintained as social housing. These units are part of the baseline of 11,615 existing social housing units.
- Existing supports for homelessness with the Shelter Enhancement Program will continue.

## RENTAL WAGE TABLE FOR NOVA SCOTIA

	Average Nova Scotian Rental Prices in Primary Market, CMHC 2018	Monthly income required to pay average rent	Hourly wage required to pay average rent	Weekly hours need to work at current minimum wage to afford average rent
One Bedroom	\$ 873.00	\$ 2,910.00	\$ 18.19	63
Two Bedroom	\$ 1,090.00	\$ 3,633.33	\$ 22.71	79