

Experiencing Homelessness

The Fourth Report Card on Homelessness in Greater Moncton, 2011

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This 4th Report Card on Homelessness in Greater Moncton (using 2010 data) allows us to look back four years, since we started this publication, to assess what has been accomplished during that time. There are some “good news” events, and we try to give credit where credit is due. Everything is not *doom and gloom*. Some of the highlights of 2010 include:

- The John Howard Society opened a 10-unit transitional housing building for adult males;
- Tannery Court II opened in February, with 50 affordable units for non-elderly singles;
- Construction started on other affordable housing projects that will open in 2011, three of which will provide 50 units for seniors and 28 units for non-elderly singles (see page 5 for details);
- The At Home/Chez Soi project provided housing for 65 chronically homeless people with mental health challenges;
- There have also been changes at the provincial level that are starting to help people living in poverty. (see Provincial Report Card)

At the same time, however, there are
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The Current Situation**

Homelessness Indicators	2010	2009
Population of Greater Moncton (CMA-2006 census)	126,424	126,424
Number of individuals who stayed in a shelter bed	682*	737*
Number of times shelter beds were used	4,259*	4,550*
Average length of stay in emergency shelters (days)	6.24*	6.17*
Number of emergency shelter beds in Greater Moncton:		
For men	24*	24*
For women (domestic violence)	17	17
For women (not domestic violence)	6*	6*
Number of mats Harvest House (men & women)	20	20
Number of beds for drug/alcohol detox:	20	20
For men (plus one emergency)	13	13
For women	6	6
Number of food banks	6	6
Number of soup kitchens (4/3 supplemental)	7	6
Number of individuals assisted HungerCount	6,994	4,583
Housing Indicators		
Number of provincially-subsidized social housing units	1,447	1,390
Of these, # of units owned by the province	650	650
Of these, # provincially-subsidized in private dwelling	797	740
Number on the provincially-subsidized waiting list	808	640
New units in Affordable Rental Housing Program	63	33
Number of transitional housing beds/units	192	175
Number of long-term supportive housing beds/units	89	89
Rental vacancy rate	4.2%	3.8%
Average rent for a 2-bedroom apartment	\$691	\$675
Income Indicators		
Social assistance for a single person	\$537	\$294
# individuals on social assistance in Greater Moncton (includes those on disability assistance)	5,005	4,355
Minimum wage in NB	\$9.00	\$8.25

*House of Nazareth. Mats at Harvest House not included. ** Sources available inside document.

682* people were homeless and stayed in a shelter at some point in 2010.



The Greater Moncton Homelessness Steering Committee is an inter-agency committee representing 19 agencies in Greater Moncton that work with the homeless population and those at risk of becoming homeless. Established in 2000, the GMHSC provides leadership and coordinates communication among stakeholders and service providers to ensure the implementation of the Greater Moncton Community Plan on Homelessness. It also works to create public awareness about issues surrounding homelessness, poverty and housing. The *3rd Report Card on Homelessness in Greater Moncton* was published in 2010, using 2009 data. All four Report Cards are now available at www.monctonhomelessness.org.

Major changes for emergency shelters in 2010

Greater Moncton’s emergency shelters underwent significant changes in 2010. Early in the year, the House of Nazareth faced a major invasion of bed bugs. After a successful fundraising campaign, with overwhelming support from the community, the shelter was able to replace all beds and mattresses, and outfit them with new linens. In the spring, then-Minister of Social Development Kelly Lamrock announced provisional operational funding for shelters in the province, with \$250,000 allocated in the 2010-11 fiscal year, and \$500,000 and \$750,000 to be allocated in fiscal years 2011-12 and 2012-13, respectively. This funding is part of the new NB Housing Strategy, which includes a Homelessness Framework.

The House of Nazareth and Harvest House Ministries both received funding to alleviate health and safety concerns. In December, both, unfortunately, closed for a period of time to carry out major renovations. The former Harvest House Outreach Centre will, for the first time, be able to put those in need of shelter into real beds rather than mats on the floor. For the first time as well, men and women will be housed in separate rooms. At year’s end, Greater Moncton’s “inventory” of emergency shelters included the following:

- House of Nazareth, 30 beds (24 men, six women);
- Harvest House Ministries, 24 beds men; eight women; seven transitional units for men; **NEW in 2011**
- Crossroads for Women Inc., 17 beds (domestic violence, for women and children);
- Addictions Services, 20 detox beds (14 men; six women);
- Crisis Intervention Centre, five beds for emergencies (mental health).

	House of Nazareth		Harvest House	
	2010	2009	2010	2009
Total number of clients	682*	737	n/a	234
Total number of nights stayed	4,259	4,550	n/a	4,759
Average number of nights stayed per client	6.24	6.17	n/a	23.8
Average number of beds occupied per night	11.67	12.47	n/a	n/a
Total meals served (including bagged lunches)	24,452	22,840	n/a	n/a
Clients “Boutique Encore”	12,053	16,742	n/a	n/a

* representing 425 different individuals;

Source: House of Nazareth Annual Reports; HIFIS Report Harvest House



At year’s end, major renovations were underway at both Harvest House Ministries (left) and the House of Nazareth. Harvest House’s expansion will include 24 emergency beds for men, eight for women and seven transitional units for men. House of Nazareth underwent a long-overdue upgrading of major systems (i.e., electrical, plumbing, flooring).

Continuing to feed the hungry....

Despite an economy that seems to be on the rebound, many people in Greater Moncton continue to fall through the cracks. Food Banks Canada's *HungerCount* 2010 report found that food bank use in March 2010 was the highest level of food bank use on record. Food bank use in Canada has risen by 28% over the last two years; in New Brunswick, by 18%. More than 18,500 individuals in the province visited a food bank in March 2010. In NBAFB District 5,* 6,994 individuals were assisted, of whom:

- 37% were children;
- 17% of households reported employment income;
- 52% received social assistance;
- 3.2% were seniors.

Source: <http://foodbanksCanada.ca/main.cfm>; * District 5 includes Greater Moncton, Riverside-Albert, Dorchester, Petitcodiac, Port Elgin, Richibucto, Rogersville, Sackville, Shediac, Sussex & Memramcook.

Food Dépot Alimentaire is a warehouse that distributes food to 21 food banks and soup kitchens in Westmoreland, Albert and Kent counties. Amounts distributed are based on donations received. Average monthly distribution statistics for the past three years:

2010 – 172,929 lbs/month

2009 – 190,004 lbs/month

2008 – 158,723 lbs/month

Use of ReConnect outreach program spikes in 2010

YMCA of Greater Moncton's ReConnect Street Intervention Program provides short-term and long-term assistance through outreach to youth and adults who are homeless or at-risk of being homeless, in an effort to increase their knowledge of available resources (i.e. food, clothing, shelter, education, employment and counselling) and to provide support in accessing them.

In 2010, ReConnect found a new home at 575 Main Street, Moncton. The new location features an employment and resource centre (for housing search, etc). In 2010, ReConnect saw a 25% increase in the number of people served through the program, from 3,500 drop-ins in 2009 to over 5,000 in 2010 (not unique individuals). This increase has been predominantly attributed to the growth of our community, increased visibility and accessibility of the new location, word of mouth and our community being a central destination for ex-offenders.

In response to the growing needs of our community, ReConnect now employs four Outreach Workers who act as a mobile intervention unit in the mornings to help handle the high demand of people in need. There is also a drop-in service most afternoons at the Main Street location. The mobile intervention unit performs regular walkabouts of St. George and Main Streets with the objective of building relationships with people who are homeless and at risk. The agency has also partnered with Service Canada and other organizations to offer the Skills Link Youth Employment Program. YMCA CEO Zane Korytko sums up the program this way: "It's due to community support and collaboration that this vital program is still able to meet the needs of those most vulnerable in our community." For more information on the ReConnect Street Intervention program please visit: www.ymcamoncton.com or call (506) 856-4362.



ReConnect moved to a storefront location on Main Street in 2010.

At Home/Chez Soi

An extraordinary example of community cooperation

In February 2008, the federal government allocated \$110 million to the Mental Health Commission of Canada to find ways to help the growing number of homeless people who have a mental illness. Moncton was one of five cities in Canada chosen for a research demonstration project. The project takes a *Housing First* approach, which is based on the theory that once a person is given a place to live, s/he can then better concentrate on other personal issues, such as mental health and addictions.

Coordinated by former Moncton-Dieppe-Riverview MP Claudette Bradshaw, the At Home/Chez Soi project has been an extraordinary example of cooperation among community agencies serving the homeless and those at risk in the tri-city area. Those accepted into the program have been housed in one-bedroom apartments, and provided with an ACT (Assertive Community Treatment) team.

Because it is a research project, approximately half of those accepted into the program are randomized by computer into a control group, meaning “services as usual.” Moncton is the only one of the five sites to have a rural component. Twenty-five people diagnosed with a mental illness who were either living in special care homes or with families have now been accepted into the program, and 23 have been housed to date. Statistics as of the end of December show:

- 77 participants in Greater Moncton were benefiting from services provided by the ACT Team (65 were housed);
- 69 people had been assigned to the control group;
- 25 participants from Southeast NB were being followed by the Shediac ACT team (23 were housed).

Comments from the non-profit sector on the impact of At Home/Chez Soi:

“I would say that the project has fostered a greater sense of hope and optimism on the street.”

“I heard that some very ‘bruised’ people have been taken in and that you have persevered in keeping them in your project in spite of the trouble they made. Congratulations!”

“Those that have received housing are in stable housing. If nothing else about them changes, it makes me happy to not have to worry about them sleeping outside.”

“We have seen a big change in most who have received housing. They seem happier, and look like they are taking better care of themselves physically.”

In Greater Moncton

Social assistance rolls increase by 650 in 2010

More people in Greater Moncton were on social assistance in 2010. Some 5,005 individuals in Greater Moncton were living on provincial Social Assistance at the end of December 2010, up from 4,355 a year earlier. Of these:

- 4,010 (80%) received \$537 per month;
- 995 (20%) received \$618 per month;
- 51.8% were women;
- 48.2% were men.

Unless they are able to access NB Housing, a person living on social assistance has few choices when it comes to housing – a rooming house (at approximately \$325 a month) or the street (although two individuals on social assistance before January 1st, 2010 can now share an apartment without impacting their cheques, except if they are in a conjugal relationship). Source: Planning, Research and Evaluation, Department of Social Development

Average Monthly Rents in Greater Moncton			
Unit size	Oct 2010	Oct 2009	Oct 2008
Bachelor	\$456	\$443	\$427
1 Bedroom	\$577	\$573	\$547
2 Bedrooms	\$691	\$675	\$656
3+ Bedrooms	\$787	\$755	\$725

Source: CMHC Rental Market Reports, Fall 2008, 2009, 2010
www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/hoficlincl/homain/stda/index.cfm

Inventory of affordable housing increases in 2010

For someone leaving an emergency shelter, the next stop is probably a rooming house or if the person is lucky, transitional housing that will help her or him to move along the housing continuum. Here's what Greater Moncton's inventory of housing looked like in 2010.

Transitional housing
Crossroads for Women Second Stage Housing – six units
John Howard Society of Southeastern NB – 10 units NEW IN 2010
Moncton Youth Residences Inc. – eight transition beds (four female, four male)
MacDonald Independent Living Centre – 34 units (physical disabilities)
Moncton Community Residences Inc. – serves 134 people in various living arrangements (intellectual/developmental challenges)
Long-term supportive housing
Alternative Residences Inc. (mental health clients) – three group homes (23 beds); one Transition home (8 beds); 16 one-bedroom apartments; five bungalows/duplexes (30 beds)
Future Horizons Housing Inc. – 12 units (Headstart Inc. clients)
Social housing
The provincial Department of Social Development (SD) owns 650 units of Public Housing and Rural/Native Housing in Greater Moncton. It also provides rent supplements for another 797 units in private buildings. (Note: These figures include only units that were completed and occupied during 2010.) This compares to 647 units owned, with rent supplements for another 669 units in private buildings in 2007, based on data used in our First Report Card on Homelessness in Greater Moncton in 2008.
There is typically a long waiting list to access these units; at the end of 2010, 808 individuals and families were on the list, including 416 non-elderly singles and 203 seniors. This compares to 671 on the waiting list at the end of 2007.
Included in these figures are four units leased from the department by AIDS Moncton Inc. for use by its clients, and two units leased by Crossroads for Women Inc. for its clients. None of the provincially owned or privately owned units offers any programming or services to clients.
St. James Court – 13 units for single parent families earning less than \$31,000 per year
Other
Halfway houses for those exiting correctional services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannell House, 20 beds for men • Greenfield House, 16 beds for men, five for women



The John Howard Society's new 10-unit transitional housing project for adult males is a much-welcomed addition to the transitional housing inventory in Greater Moncton.

OTHER GOOD NEWS IN 2010

50 units

The Tannery Court II building opened in February, with affordable housing units for non-elderly singles. The project is managed by AVIDE.

50 units

Construction started on a 50-unit building for seniors at 101 Norwood Street in Moncton. St. Augustine's Housing Ltd. is developing this project.

28 units

Construction started on a 28-unit building on Fleet Street that will include 14 affordable units for non-elderly singles. Concept PED Holdings Inc. and Danbe Construction Consultants will build a second building on Fleet Street in 2011, with another 14 affordable units.

(Note: Except for Tannery Court II, the above projects are not included in SD statistics because they were not occupied at end 2010. Construction was underway on several other affordable housing buildings in Greater Moncton at end 2010, although these had yet to be formally announced.)

Supportive housing for women is the Greater Moncton Homelessness Steering Committee's number one priority in 2011.

What is Homelessness?

- Living on the street.
- Staying overnight in emergency shelters.
- Staying in places not meant for human habitation.
- Moving continuously among temporary housing arrangements provided by friends family or strangers (“couch surfing”).

Could YOU be at risk of homelessness?

Families and individuals can lose their housing for any number of reasons: fleeing abuse, losing a job or having an income too low to stay in suitable housing.

Some people are at risk because of mental health issues or substance use problems or they lack life skills or ability to live on their own.

What can YOU do to help?

1. **Educate** yourself and others about the problem of homelessness.
2. **Volunteer** your time to work directly with people experiencing homelessness.
3. **Advocate** on behalf of people who are homeless.
4. **Contribute** to and help organizations that work to end homelessness.
5. **Become aware of the language you use** and refrain from using words that refer to people experiencing homelessness in derogatory ways.
6. **Be aware of and help change attitudes** about homelessness among your friends, family and people within the community to help reduce NIMBY (“not in my backyard”) reactions.

The Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) has been renewed for another three years (2011-14). This will ensure the continuity of services for clients who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness, and allow us to build upon 10 years of federal government investments to address homelessness in Canadian communities. For details, contact Mireille Roy at Service Canada 506-533-5882 or mireille.roy@servicecanada.gc.ca

(continued from page 1) still a lot of people in Greater Moncton who are homeless, precariously housed or at risk of homelessness. Since we started doing these Report Cards, the number of people staying at shelters has been relatively stable, at over 700 per year. (The number is lower this year because both shelters closed in December.)

Moncton continues to be the growth centre in NB. The population increased by 3.7% in 1996-2001 and 6.5% in 2001-06 (2001 Census). In fact, Moncton was the only CMA in the Atlantic provinces whose growth rate (+6.5%) surpassed the national average (+5.4%). This trend continues. The unemployment rate is also one of the lowest in the country. The result is that many people have arrived in Moncton from the north of the province, Ontario and farther west, expecting to find employment. Their skills do not necessarily match demand, and they end up in minimum wage jobs or unemployed and often on the street. In the last half of 2010, the number of drop-ins at the YMCA’s ReConnect Street Intervention program spiked (see page 3), leaving the organization stretched to meet demand.

According to HungerCount, the use of food banks in Canada is at an all-time high. We’re below the national increase of 24% over two years but with 18% of New Brunswickers still making use of food banks, we have nothing to brag about. There were 650 more people in Greater Moncton receiving social assistance in 2010, compared to a year earlier. Injection drug use also seems to be at an all-time high, with OxyContin now the drug of choice. At our Affordable Housing luncheon in November, which focused on supportive housing for women, the speaker from Addictions and Mental Health Services used discomfiting statistics: at any given time, the caseload of women using their services (e.g. detox, methadone program, mental health counseling) is 1,200, and 20% of these (240 women) are homeless or have serious housing challenges. So...*still a lot of work to do.*

This **Fourth Report Card on Homelessness in Greater Moncton** is an opportunity to inform the community about the issue of homelessness and how it is being addressed in our community. The Greater Moncton Homelessness Steering Committee and its 19 agency members are working hard to end and prevent homelessness in Greater Moncton. www.monctonhomelessness.org