

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

**L'Alliance
pour mettre un terme à
l'itinérance**



**Alliance
to End Homelessness
Ottawa**

At the Alliance, it's been another year of growth and opportunity.

The 2015-16 year moved quickly, fuelled in part by continued – and even growing – momentum, both politically and within the community, with regards to community efforts to end homelessness. Without a doubt, there are significant windows of opportunity for input into public policy and program directions. And community momentum is high.

Building on the Alliance's three strategic directions – to inform, to learn and to inspire – our work has increasingly been moving in yet another direction: to mobilize. Whether through A Way Home Ottawa, the Refugee613 Housing Task Force, or a dialogue between the non-profit and private sectors on inclusionary zoning (all outlined below – in an overview of the organization's activities during the 2015-2016 year), we continue to convene, and in so doing, are working to enhance our community's capacity to prevent and end homelessness. From the Board, to each committee, to our member agencies and their many volunteers – and widening to include others within the community, elected office and the private sector - we aim to work with all of Ottawa in pursuit of our vision of a community where everyone has an affordable, appropriate home.

Thank you for working with us.



***At its May 28, 2015 Gala,
United Way Ottawa
awarded the Alliance to End
Homelessness with the
Community Builder of the
Year Award, Turning Lives
Around.***

ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP

<p>Action-Logement / Action-Housing Bruce House Canadian Mental Health Association, Ottawa Branch Carlington Community Health Centre Catholic Immigration Centre Centre 454 Centre 507 Drop-In Centre des services communautaires / Vanier Community Service Centre Centre for Research on Educational and Community Services, University of Ottawa Centretown Citizens Ottawa Corporation Centretown Community Health Centre City of Ottawa, Housing Services Branch Community Legal Services Ottawa Centre Cooperative Housing Association Eastern Ontario Cornerstone Housing for Women/LePilier Daybreak Non-Profit Shelter Elizabeth Fry Society of Ottawa Gloucester Housing Corporation Housing Help Jericho Road Christian Ministries John Howard Society of Ottawa Lowertown Community Resource Centre Minwaashin Lodge / Oshki Kizis Healing Lodge Montfort Renaissance Multifaith Housing Initiative</p>	<p>Nepean Housing Corporation Nepean, Rideau, Osgoode Community Resource Centre Operation Come Home Options Bytown Non-Profit Housing Corporation Ottawa Community Housing Corporation Ottawa Inner City Health Inc. Ottawa Inner City Ministries Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Centre Ottawa Salus Corporation Pinecrest-Queensway Community Health Centre Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre, Community Mental Health Sandy Hill Community Health Centre Shepherds of Good Hope Somerset West Community Health Centre South-East Ottawa Community Health Centre St. Joe's Women's Centre St. Luke's Table The Ottawa Mission The Salvation Army Ottawa Booth Centre The Well/La Source Tungasuvvingat Inuit Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre Wigwamen Incorporated YMCA-YWCA, National Capital Region Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa</p>
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2015-2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive

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Ex-Officio Members:

City of Ottawa (Shelley VanBuskirk; Elizabeth Farrell)

United Way Ottawa (Matthew Beutel)

Executive Director: Mike Bulthuis



Annual Progress Report on Ending Homelessness: Our 11th annual Progress Report on Ending Homelessness in Ottawa - outlining progress towards our community's ten-year plan to end homelessness - was released in June, 2015. Preparations began over the year for the release of the 12th annual report (the 2015 Progress Report, published in April 2016). This annual publication was again made with the generous funding support of the Community Foundation of Ottawa.

In its work, the Alliance pursued additional **Political Advocacy** in numerous ways:

- federally, co-organized “Actions for Housing Now,” a one-day forum (funded by Tyee Solutions Society) held at Carleton University in February (2016), to better understand the ways various federal departmental mandates could be advanced via strengthened housing policies and programs.
- federally, developed a 2015 election resource page on the Alliance website, gathering local and national resources (information and tools), media clips, commentary and specific points to consider in engaging candidates.
- federally, participated in 2015 Election Housing for All Roundtables.
- federally, established relationships with incoming MPs, meeting with Minister Catherine McKenna (Ottawa Centre), MP Karen McCrimmon (Kanata-Carleton, and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Veterans Affairs), MP Anita Vandenbeld (Ottawa West Nepean), MP Chandra Arya (Nepean), along with participation in numerous pre-budget consultations.
- provincially, developed a submission (July 2015) to Ontario’s consultation on development of its Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy.
- provincially, presented deputations at pre-budget consultations hosted by the Associate Minister of Finance, the Honourable Mitzie Hunter (and joined by local MPPs Marie-France Lalonde (Ottawa—Orléans), John Fraser (Ottawa South) and Grant Crack (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell), and by the Ontario Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs.
- provincially, endorsed the work of the Coalition for the Repeal of the *Safe Streets Act*.
- provincially, met on numerous occasions with local MPPs, incl Yasir Naqvi, John Fraser, Marie-France Lalonde, Madeleine Meilleur and Bob Chiarelli.
- municipally, presented to the Community and Protective Services Committee in December (2015) emphasizing the need to continue to support our 10-year plan, highlighting decreasing municipal spending
- municipally, joined representatives of Making Voices Count (a coalition convened by City for All Women Initiative (CAWI) and the Coalition of CHRCs)



A Way Home Ottawa: With funding support from the United Way, the Alliance is convening partners to develop an integrated community strategy to prevent and end youth homelessness in Ottawa. Kaite Burkholder Harris joined the Alliance in October, 2015 (as its second staff member!), serving as Project Manager.

The Alliance co-hosted the launch of A Way Home Ottawa (AWHO) concurrently with events marking the birth of A Way Home Canada on October 29-30, 2015. Over 130 individuals came together on October 30 for our first AWHO Community Planning Institute, welcoming input into the necessary directions to be taken in developing Ottawa's plan.

In early 2016, with funding support from the Catherine Donnelly Foundation, seven young people were brought onboard to serve as our Youth Leadership Team. With support from Jacqueline Kennelly (Carleton University) and MITACs, Kaite, Justin Langille and the Youth Leadership Team consulted widely with the community to identify priority recommendations. Work continued towards the release of Initial Findings and Priority Recommendations in September, 2016.



Developing a Community Agenda to Engage Planning in the Development of Affordable Housing Options: With United Way support, we convened an initial Roundtable in June, 2015, bringing together planners, policy experts, developers and others to identify how municipal planning tools could further leverage affordable housing. Dr. Abra Adamo completed a Policy Scan of national best practices, which was shared with participants of a subsequent roundtable – organized in collaboration with the Greater Ottawa Home Builders Association, in May, 2016 – exploring the potential for a local Inclusionary Zoning framework.

Refugee613 Housing Task Force: Under the auspices of Refugee613, the Alliance co-convened a community-wide network of individuals and organizations, representing non-profit, private sector and community voices to creatively identify potential housing options for incoming refugees. The Housing Task Force brought together landlords, settlement services, non-profit housing providers, cooperatives, the City of Ottawa, housing search agencies, faith communities, schools and concerned residents into a common space to inspire and share information of various actions being taken across our community to provide short-term and long-term accommodation to incoming refugees.

Additional efforts to inform community action included:

- Presentations on housing / homelessness in Ottawa at the National Poverty Summit (May 2015), member agencies through the year, the DILA Youth Action Showcase (May 2015), the Ottawa Social Housing Network, community associations and partner organizations (including a presentation at the Ottawa Food Bank AGM, pictured), university / college guest lectures, and the federal government's Homelessness Partnering Strategy's Regional Staff meeting (September 2015).
- Continuing to reach 700 subscribers through the Alliance listserv, while also reaching over 1700 followers (up from 1300 the year prior) on Twitter and 970 on Facebook (up from 750 the year prior).



WE LEARN



2015 Community Forum on Ending Homelessness:

Our 12th annual forum took place on November 24, 2015. Over 180 registrants participated at the Forum – held for the first time at the RA Centre. Sponsorship was offered by four member agencies: CMHA-Ottawa, John Howard Society of Ottawa, Ottawa Inner City

Health and Shepherds of Good Hope. The Forum featured an address by Dr. Travis Baggett, a panel on health equity, and afternoon concurrent workshops. The day closed with words of inspiration and a Call to Action by UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, Leilani Farha.

Building a community with Homes for All: We were excited to host a researcher-community networking event, aimed at cultivating new researcher-community partnerships and to strengthen existing ones, at Pressed Café, in April 2016. Juno-award-winning musician and percussionist Jesse Stewart (pictured) joined rock and roll group the Big Bucket Band, and DJ Kwesi, a member of the A Way Home Ottawa youth leadership team!

Leading Research: Work continued on a research initiative oriented towards the housing



and safety-related needs of sex workers, while work began on an initiative addressing the pathways to homelessness among veterans (in partnership with Soldiers Helping Soldiers). Heading into summer, 2016, Rachel Gopaul, a University of Ottawa law student, began an internship with the Alliance, co-supervised with Charlie MacDonald (Community Legal Services Ottawa) to explore research on the connections between the justice and correctional system and experiences of housing vulnerability and homelessness in Ottawa.

WE INSPIRE



Convened by community leaders and affordable housing stakeholders, the Alliance continues to sponsor Broadening the Base – a *community-centered, collaborative and inclusive Ottawa initiative with the purpose of catalyzing and leveraging land, property,*

philanthropic and development resources to support the building of new affordable housing.

In 2015-16, five Design Circles – led by community champions (including: Bill Shields, Barry Hobin, George Brown, Doug McLarty, Linda Eagen, Richard Kluska, Tessa Hebb, Brian Toller, Manjit Basi and Eric Collard) – continued their work, led by our new Project Coordinator, Gina Grosenick. Funding was made available via several Alliance member agencies and through a Province of Ontario grant. The BtB team began supporting a number of specific initiatives - working collaboratively to explore how ideas to develop affordable housing (drawing on innovative financing models, partnerships, funding, etc.).

20,000 Homes: In partnership with the City, the Ottawa Police, local community and business partners, the United Way and volunteers from across the community, the Alliance convened a week of action in April 2015, wherein teams of volunteers and service providers engaged nearly 500 homeless individuals to better understand their needs. The list of individuals generated – with their corresponding needs assessments – has since been incorporated into the City’s coordinated services approach.

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