



Network News

April 2025

"Housing is absolutely essential to human flourishing. Without stable shelter, it all falls apart."

- *Matthew Desmond*



Bare Mountain Trail, Clarenville, NL

Network Updates

What's new with the Network?

A Year in Review



What a year it's been! We recently hosted our AGM and used it as an opportunity to reflect on the year we had as it was full of change and excitement!

We made the move from St. John's to Grand Falls-Windsor, allowing us to be more connected to our rural goals. We saw the switch of Executive Directors, we wished Cyril all the best and welcomed Sherri. We also welcomed Samantha as our Outreach Coordinator.

This year has been a fresh start - a reset and refocus. The running theme of almost every conversation was connection; re-establishing our Network Newsletter and monthly Housing Support Worker meetings, reconnecting with our CABs and developing new connections with other community organizations.

We started by making trips out to visit CABs and meeting with the members to find out what's happening in their communities and what they want to accomplish. We also took this opportunity to have a new Strategic Plan created to help guide our decisions and actions in the future!

One of our goals is to become a centralized point of connection & information sharing. To action this goal we started developing profiles for the CABs, created digital tracking forms for Housing Support Workers and are actively facilitating various training opportunities and networking sessions that are relevant to Frontline Workers and organizations within the Network.

As you would've seen in the last newsletter, we were fortunate enough to attend the Making the Shift: Prevention of Youth Homelessness International Conference in Toronto this past February. This was an opportunity to learn about youth homelessness prevention structures and network with industry leaders. Taking opportunities to learn about partnerships and programs and allowing us to pass along these tools and help communities tailor them to their specific needs, contributes to NLHHN being the centralized point of connect for rural and remote NL.

We have so many plans for the next year that we can't wait to bring to life. If there's ever an opportunity for collaboration, especially in the ever changing political and economical climates we are all facing, now is the time to connect with NLHHN. We are always open to chat and see what kind of roll we can play!

Moving Forward

What's next for the NLHHN?

NLHHN 2025 Annual Conference: SAVE THE DATE

We are extremely excited to announce that we have confirmed dates for our 2025 Provincial Conference!

Tuesday October 7th - Thursday October 9th
Quality Inn, Gander, NL

formal registration will be available in the Spring

The conference will be open to members of our Network, partnering organizations and other stakeholders working towards addressing the housing and homelessness challenges. We still have our planning form available for you to have your say in what kinds of information and experiences you'd like to take away from this event. All feedback will be taken into consideration with our planning committee.

Please take a few moments to fill out our Google Form to give your feedback!

2025 Conference Planning

Highlight of the Month

Showcasing our Network Members and their contributions

**The Regional Action Committee on Housing (REACH) -
Clareville, NL**



The Regional Action Committee on Housing (REACH) is a non-profit, community-based organization covering Clarendville-Bonavista region that aims to provide housing, emotional and social supports to individuals who experience barriers to accessing mainstream services, including: people experiencing homelessness or precarious housing, people escaping intimate partner violence, people living with a variety of mental health complexities, people who use substances, people recently released from incarceration, and people living in poverty.

REACH has two separate support services in the Clarendville area: the REACH Hub and the REACH House.

- The **REACH Hub** is a wrap-around care support service that includes, housing support worker services and community outreach, weekly warm meals, drop-in safe space, personal laundry support, gently used clothing (Kelsey's Closet), the distribution of harm reduction supplies and resources, personal and housing items, Crest Bus food bank transportation and activities intended to facilitate physical / mental wellbeing through our *Wellness Wednesday's*.

- The **REACH House** is a emergency housing unit, consisting of three bedrooms (up to 6 guests), and shared kitchen, bathroom and living room area. Individuals living within the REACH House are provided with support by our Shelter Support Worker and receive regular check-ins. With the assistance of the Shelter Support Worker, we endeavor to help individuals gain independence and develop life skills that will contribute to their future tenancy.

The REACH Hub and REACH House are governed by a volunteer board of directors, consisting of a variety of community partners in the Clarendville area. Our board members and staffed Housing Support Worker and Shelter Support Worker are dedicated to improving the overall health and well-being of our service participants through a housing-first and harm reduction approach to care. As many of the individuals accessing support through REACH are living within complex situations, we endeavor to provide support that prioritizes our participants autonomy, while providing system navigation support including referral to additional wrap-around care supports.

The guiding Principles of REACH include:

- Housing-First Approach
- Harm Reduction Approach
- Advocacy for Safe & Affordable Housing
- Program Participants are Reflected in our Services
- Everyone Deserves Love, Compassion and Kindness
- Respect, Dignity & Autonomy



Our Housing Support Worker provide system navigation and support for many complex situations on a regular basis, including but not limited to:

- Emotional support:
 - Suicide, depression, stress, substance-related challenges, poverty, food insecurity etc.
- Support obtaining personal documents (i.e. Photo ID, Birth Certificate, SIN etc.)
- Support accessing detox and treatment services.
- Assisting with income support applications and navigating issues with CSSD Case Workers
- Supporting employed program participants in submitting their mail back forms to income support.
- Supporting individuals to submit medical transportation documents.
- Newfoundland & Labrador Housing Applications
- Canadian Housing Benefit Applications and Inspections
- Assisting with Mental Health & Addiction subsidies available through NL Health Services
- Supporting program participants navigate community resources and programs.
- Providing referrals to community partners, as needed
- Supporting participants with landlord / tenant issues and mediation
- Eviction prevention by maintaining connection with individuals and landlords engaged in our services, past and present.
- Assisting with transportation to appointments, foodbanks, apartment viewings, pharmacies etc to present participants
- Shelter diversion and Shelter Navigation
- Furniture search and collection for program participants

Here is an Overview of Supports that the REACH Hub offers:

Kelsey's Closet

- Named after one of our loved program participants, Kelsey Ellis who died suddenly in 2023, Kelsey's Closet provides access to previously enjoyed clothing items, completely free of charge. Folx in need are welcome to browse the closet and select as many items as needed.

Laundry Services

- A washer and dryer are available on-site that is free for anyone in need. Laundry detergent also provided.

Full Friday Meal

- In response to food insecurity, we prepare and serve a free warm meal every Friday between 12:00PM-1:30PM. Meals are often sponsored by community organizations, but are also provided by REACH.

Harm Reduction Corner

- Safe Injection / Inhalation Supplies, Naloxone, Fentanyl / Benzodiazepine Test Strips, Condoms, Pregnancy Tests, HIV Self-Test Kits, Harm Reduction Resources on Hepatitis C / HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care.

Outreach Office

- Available to all community partners. Well utilized by the Rural Initiative Outreach Team (RIOT); CSSD; NL Health Services etc.

Wellness Wednesdays

- Activities intended to foster positive connection and support to peers and community through art, music, hiking etc.

Drop-in Space

- This is a place that our participants can come to hangout, watch TV, have some snacks & refreshments and connect with informal support.

Library

- Books are available to anyone, free of charge!

Household Item Donations

- We accept gently used household items (i.e. toasters, kettles, dishes etc.). These items very are helpful for setting up accomodations when individuals are moving into new rentals etc.

Community Groups

- REACH provides our space to local AA / NA groups to facilitate their groups in the evenings.

The Reach Hub can be contacted via phone or email:

Phone: (709)466-6812

Email: clarenvillehousing@gmail.com



GOOD NEWS STORY

Sharing a positive story from within the Network

HVGB Housing and Homelessness Coalition - New Website!

A big congratulations to the Happy Valley-Goose Bay Housing and Homelessness Coalition on the launch of their new website! This is a fantastic tool for centralized resources in the area and staying up to date on everything they are doing!

Check out their new website [HERE](#)

What's Happening

Special events happening within our Network

CAEH - End the Housing Game

The Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness on behalf of the Housing Canada Coalition has produced a fantastic video leading up to the Canadian Federal Election surrounding the fight to make housing easier for Canadians. We as a nation "have a critical opportunity to push for real action from all parties. But for that to happen we need our voices to be heard"

"When we come together, we can end the game and ensure every Canadian has a safe, secure and affordable home."

Watch the vide from CAEH [HERE](#)

The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness & The Homeless Hub

The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness and The Homeless Hub are offering an online panel on April 30 at 1:30 NL time (1:00 in Labrador) – titled: **Working with Landlord to Prevent Evictions.**

This is a free session offered online!

For more information or to register [CLICK HERE](#)

ONLINE PANEL: PREVENTION MATTERS! SESSION 12

WORKING WITH LANDLORDS TO PREVENT EVICTIONS

Creating lasting, positive relationships with landlords requires time, but this investment is essential.

HOST:
 **Erika Morton**
 Canadian Observatory on Homelessness

PANELISTS



Chris Clay
 Native Council of Prince Edward Island



Janin Bartholemew
 R.E.S.T Centres

DATE: April 30th, 2025 | TIME: 12:00 ET

CMHA-NL Wellbeing Learning Hub

The CMHA-NL Wellbeing Learning Hub will offer free workshops and classes on a wide range of topics related to mental health and wellbeing. Anyone 18+ from across the province may join the workshops to learn more about mental health and wellbeing – your own, that of your loved ones, and that of your community.

Date: Tuesday, May 6 2025

Time: 6:00pm to 7:30pm NST. Light refreshments provided.

Location: Youth 2000 Centre, 34 Bond Street, Grand Falls-Windsor NL, A2B 1J4

Cost: No charge, attendees must be 18+

Topic: This presentation is focused on navigating difficult emotions, thoughts, and feelings during times of uncertainty. We'll explore how to recognize and understand emotional responses and introduce a variety of evidence-based strategies to help manage them. The session will also highlight self-help and self-care techniques you can use in everyday life, along with local and provincial resources available to support your mental health and well-being

For more information or to register [CLICK HERE](#)



Canadian Mental Health Association
 CMHA Newfoundland-Labrador
Mental health for all

WELLBEING LEARNING HUB

IN PERSON GRAND FALLS-WINDSOR: COPING WITH UNCERTAINTY

6 - 7:30PM **6** **MAY**



FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
 18+ TO REGISTER

Let's Talk Well-Being, Grand Falls-Windsor!

Join us for the Well-Being Fair: a community event focused on the social determinants of health – the real-life conditions that shape how healthy we are, like where we live, how we get around, and what supports are available to us.

Date: May 7, 2025

Time: 12:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Location: Gordon Pinsent Centre for the Arts

Panel discussions include:

- Childcare
- Transportation
- Housing
- Food Security

For more information about the panels, visit:

[Well-Being Fair - Grand Falls-Windsor](#)

Let's explore how we can build a healthier, stronger Grand Falls-Windsor together. Register now: Fill out our [Online Form](#) or call **709-489-0418**.

#PerfectlyCentered



Training Opportunities

Courses, Information Sessions and Presentations to help support our Network members

NavNet + NLHHN

Our next Learning + Networking session with NavNet will be happening in June and will be surrounding Seniors and their wellbeing - A session that you're not going to want to miss!

More details will be announced soon. Keep an eye to our [Facebook](#) and [website](#)!



The Homelessness Learning Hub

The Homelessness Hub offers material that you can review and learn at your own pace.

Materials are based on best practices and evidence-based research on homelessness.

[Check out their learning material here](#)

Funding Opportunities

Financial Benefits to help your organization

The Town of Gander - Community Partnership Fund



Community Partnership Fund

Non-Profits & Charities

Two Funding Streams:
Operating & Capital

Apply Now

Deadline: May 9, 2025

Building Community, Together.

The Community Partnership Fund (CPF) supports local organizations that aim to improve life in Gander. Through two funding streams—operational and capital funding—CPF contributes to the development of inclusive programs, enhances infrastructure, and promotes community well-being.

Applications are being accepted until May 9th!

Click below for more information regarding funding streams, eligibility and to access the application form!

[**Download the Application Here**](#)

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation offers 24 grant and loan options. The eligibility, purpose and availability all vary. There are funds available for building community housing facilities, repairs and upgrades to existing shelters, First Nation community specific and research and development stages!

Take a look at what they have available to help your projects.

[**CMHC Funding Opportunities**](#)

Regional Representation

Network and Board Of Directors



Our Community Advisory Boards are always growing and changing and looking for fresh new perspectives from professionals, Living and Lived Experiences or Community Volunteers.

We have multiple areas that will be starting their recruiting process in the coming weeks and months. Now is the time to start thinking about if your experience or role may be of benefit to the housing and homeless sector in rural and remote NL.

Stay tuned for more details to come directly from the Community Advisory Boards themselves.

How can you help in addressing the challenges of housing & homelessness?

No matter how much you can afford to give, as a one-off donation, through regular giving, or by fundraising for charity, your donation matters. Every donation received adds up and helps charities get to work and make a positive difference.

[Donate](#)

May 2025 Network Newsletter Submissions

The deadline for this months submission is Monday, April 26th, 2025 @ 4:00PM

What can you submit?

- Send us any information related to upcoming trainings, staff or volunteer highlights and shoutouts, programs, events, job postings, etc. that could be of interest to community organizations and their staff.

Submission Guidelines:

- Please submit either images and/or text exactly as you would like it to be included
- Word count of 200 words or less
- Two images per entry such as logo or poster. Either PNG or JPG
- Between 480 - 650 pixel image width and file size less than 5MB
- We can not attach videos, PDF's, Word/Excel files

Submit entries via email to
outreachcoordinator@nlhhn.org

Or by filling out our new form!

Newsletter Submissions

Don't Forget to follow us online:



Newfoundland and Labrador Housing and Homelessness Network | 83 King Street | Grand Falls-Windsor, NL A2B 1H2 CA

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