



# Network News

January 2025

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"Affordable housing isn't a benefit; it's a right, the foundation of a just society"



Placentia, NL

*Taken January 15th during a visit to the Community Connections Housing Coalition*

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# Network Updates

What's new with the Network?

## December Recap

A Message from our Executive Director

I find it hard to believe that it has been eight months since I started with NLHHN. 2024 has been a unique year for the Network - the relocation to Central was a very favorable move and staff have been busy reconnecting and engaging with the regions and getting to understand each regions unique and common challenges.



2024 ended with NLHHN staff taking part in two very special events that took place in December. December 13th we helped with the Random Act of Kindness Day where we randomly passed out "an act of kindness" to individuals. These ranged from gift cards to treat bags and everyone that received them, just because, loved receiving them.

December 23rd was the Annual Christmas Dinner (more information provided below), I was able to help with the prep work and then became one of the delivery personnel who ensured the clientele received the items. It truly was a great experience - the best part of my Christmas was helping to make someone else's.

2025 - we have started off strong and we are looking forward to what is to come. There is great work being done in every region to address the challenges that are being faced everyday. NLHHN will continue to educate, bring awareness and advocate for better tools, resources and combined efforts to continue the work needed to help all those affected. We will continue to work with all CABs to ensure they are connected and well represented as we move forward with our Strategic Plan in 2025.

-Sherri Chippett

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## January Visits

A message from our Outreach Coordinator

We started 2025 with a little road trip to kick off site visits for the year! Site visits are a great way to connect with our CAB members in person - to help build and strengthen our relationships and to get a better idea of what they do daily, how things operate, what their goals are and to learn first-hand how we can help with their success!

We met with Lilly Mulrooney and the Community Connections Housing Coalition at their meeting in Placentia. We had the opportunity to learn about what type of situations they face and the unique



challenges experienced in their region. We discussed recruitment plans to help grow their Coalition and are looking forward to future events in the area! We also learned about their Community Bus program that helps community members get to appointments, go shopping and visit family members. Having this resource in their community has had such an impact on residents moral; hearing their stories was amazing!

We then met with Lorraine Brown and Krista Loveless hearing about challenges they face within the Carbonear area and the history of their Community Advisory Board (CAB). This is another community group that we are excited to work with to help grow and connect organizations with like minded goals - revitalizing the CAB in that region.

On our way home we made one last stop into Clarenville and met with Jenni at the Reach Housing Hub! We toured the building and seen their fully stocked Kelsey's Closet, their Harm Reduction supplies and witnessed their space in action! We learned about the emergency shelter in Clarenville and again, some of the unique challenges that community members face in the region. Reach Hub always has fantastic programs on the go and they're always working towards more!

These site visits were a great way to get to meet everyone and see what "boots on the ground" efforts are goin on in the communities. Seeing their impacts and hearing the stories from participants offered a whole new level of appreciation for the work everyone does.

I'm so glad the weather co-operated and we had such a successful visit. I am very much looking forward to the next ones with everyone else!

-Samantha Penney

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## Moving Forward

What's next for the NLHHN?

### NLHHN 2025 Annual Conference

We are in the preliminary stages of planning for our Annual Conference for 2025! We are currently looking at some date options and would like to hear from you what would work best!

The conference will be open to members of our Network, partnering organizations and other stakeholders working towards addressing the housing and homelessness challenges. We know how busy schedules can be, so we would like to get a head start with a time frame that would be ideal for a larger attendance!

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

**2025 Conference Planning**

# Training Assessment

Did you know that one of our goals is to provide and facilitate training opportunities to support our network members?



We will be starting our project soon to help determine gaps in training needs but in the mean time would love to get your feedback!

If you are either a frontline worker or an organization that helps support housing and homeless needs in rural and remote Newfoundland and Labrador we'd appreciate it if you took a few moments to fill out our Google form to give us an idea as to what kind of training or conversation topics that you'd like to see offered in 2025.

[Training Feedback Form](#)

## International Conference on the Prevention of Youth Homelessness

We're excited to say that the NLHHN will be attending the International Conference on the Prevention of Youth Homelessness happening in Toronto in February!

This event is hosted by A Way Home Canada and the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness.

**About the event:** Over three days, we'll bring together researchers, service providers, lived experts, advocates, and thought leaders from Canada and abroad to mobilize cutting-edge research on prevention and innovative developments in policy and practice. The conference will offer a unique opportunity to learn from research that showcases evidence-based solutions to youth homelessness.

Our priority with attending this event is education, networking and resource collection. We are excited to learn about the efforts being made using different strategies and research and bring these resources back to our Network members. We're also very hopeful to find new funding/grant opportunities as well.

Stay tuned for a recap of this conference and what we learn.

## Highlight of the Month

Showcasing our Network Members and their contributions

### Central Housing and Homelessness Network

The Central Housing and Homelessness Network (CHHN) was established 15 years ago to tackle housing and homelessness challenges in the Exploits Region. The Community Advisory Board (CAB), comprised of community partners and government departments with a vested interest in housing issues, meets bi-monthly to discuss ongoing concerns and coordinate efforts. Over the years, the CAB has spearheaded numerous successful initiatives, including a critical response during the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time, the CAB operated an emergency shelter to provide a safe space for vulnerable individuals needing to isolate but lacking appropriate accommodations.

The CHHN offers resources throughout the Exploits region.

The best way to contact the CHHN would be through either:  
Housing Resource Coordinator (Mark Gray) @ (709)489-3344 or [chhn@evccnl.org](mailto:chhn@evccnl.org)  
Board Chair (Katherine Arnold) @ (709)290-4708 or [vpscglfw@gmail.com](mailto:vpscglfw@gmail.com)

The Central Housing and Homelessness Network (CHHN), along with several community partners that make up the Community Advisory Board (CAB), operates a Healthy Eating Lunch Program in all five schools in the Grand Falls-Windsor area. Currently, 65 school-age children receive lunches five days a week through the program, ensuring they have a meal when they otherwise might not, or when families are unable to provide food for them. This initiative began five years ago when the Housing Support Worker observed that some children were not attending school because their families lacked the resources to send them with lunch or snacks.

Since 2014, CHHN has hosted an annual Christmas Dinner for individuals and families who have received support throughout the year. In partnership with Violence Prevention South and Central and Status of Women Central, we successfully organize this event each holiday season. The dinner serves approximately 120 individuals, providing a hot turkey meal, dessert, and a gift for each child in the family. Additionally, each adult receives either a gift card or a stocking, depending on availability for that year.





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## GOOD NEWS STORY

Sharing a positive story from within the Network

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### New Beginnings in Gander for the Housing and Homelessness Hub!

In partnership with the Town of Gander, the Housing and Homelessness Hub announced their project, New Beginnings, a plan aimed at addressing housing insecurity and enhancing overall well-being by purchasing the property at 59 Elizabeth Dr. and transforming it into a multi-purpose site.

“This project is so much more than a roof over your head. In fact, our aim for this project is to address the need — whether a person needs emergency or short-term or long-term housing. All these housing options can be found under one roof with the added support from wrap-around services on site. With the collaboration within the partnerships that are present, we are confident that New Beginnings will accomplish these goals.”

Congratulations to everyone involved, we can't wait to see the impact this project has on your community!

[See the full story here](#)

### "Can we Solve Homelessness in NL?"

Earlier this month, our board of director chair person Noreen Careen spoke with Adam Walsh from CBC's The Signal along with Doug Pawson and Jennifer Tipple

from End Homelessness St. John's and Krystal Saunders, Housing Support Services Manager with the Nunatsiavut government to discuss what the housing and homelessness crisis looks like here in Newfoundland and Labrador, along with what they view as solutions.

We're so grateful for Noreen for highlighting the unique challenges that rural and remote NL in particular face and how a reallocation of resources and in general, more affordable housing, can help to address the crisis!

[Listen to the full conversation here!](#)

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## What's Happening

Special events happening within our Network

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### Child Poverty Report Card - Labrador-Grenfell Region Conversation Invitation

Jimmy Pratt Foundation, Choices for Youth and CSC NL would like to extend an invitation for community stakeholders who work in child, youth and family poverty to participate in a Regional Forum. These discussions will inform recommendations for the 2024 Report Card on Child Poverty in Newfoundland and Labrador. It is critical that people living and working in the regions of our province contribute their experience and ideas to ensure that this year's Report Card is a collective and regional initiative.

Please register below.

*If you are unable to attend the scheduled session but would like for your contributions to be included, please email [lindseyhynes@cscnl.ca](mailto:lindseyhynes@cscnl.ca) before January 31st to arrange a one-on-one interview.*

Labrador-Grenfell Region (Virtual)

Date: January 31st, 2025

Time: 10am-11:30am in most parts of Labrador, 10:30-12pm NST

Location: Online using Zoom

[Please Register Here](#)

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

[Postponed until further notice](#)

Stay tuned for more updates on the new date.



If you have any questions please reach out to Samantha: [outreachcoordinator@nlhhn.org](mailto:outreachcoordinator@nlhhn.org)

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## Training Opportunities

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

### CMHA - Mental Health First Aid

CMHA-NL is offering a FREE Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) public course in Gander, NL at the Gander Public Library on Wednesday February 19th 2025 from 9:00am to 5:00pm

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is the support provided to a person who may be experiencing a decline in their mental well-being or a mental health crisis. Course participants will learn how to:

- Recognize signs that a person may be experiencing a decline in their mental well-being or a mental health crisis.
- Have conversations that encourage a person to:
  - o Talk about declines in their mental well-being.
  - o Discuss professional and other supports that could help with recovery to improved mental well-being.
  - o Reach out to these supports.
- Assist in a mental health or substance use crisis.
- Use MHFA actions to maintain one's own mental well-being.

This 9-hour course opens with a 1.5-hour self-directed module (Module 1) that focuses on the information and strategies that participants will discuss and practice throughout the two 3-hour in-person classroom modules (Modules 2 and 3).

Participants must be age 18+. Registration is offered on a first come, first serve basis, and will close on Thursday February 6th.

If interested, please reach out to Jillian Maloney, Central Regional Manager, CMHA-NL via email [jmaloney@cmhanl.ca](mailto:jmaloney@cmhanl.ca)



Do you have any training opportunities, networking events or presentations coming up that you'd like to advertise for? Don't forget to send us the details so we can include it in our monthly newsletter to help increase your participation!

## Funding Opportunities

Financial Benefits to help your organization



### New Call for 2025-2026

Reaching Homes Rural and Remote Newfoundland and Labrador announced a call for applications.

Check out your eligibility at  
[www.rhrnl.ca](http://www.rhrnl.ca)

Staff are available to answer any questions and to support the application process.

Ryan Johnson [rhadmin@rhrnl.ca](mailto:rhadmin@rhrnl.ca)  
Jennifer Quigley [jennifer@rhrnl.ca](mailto:jennifer@rhrnl.ca)



### Industry, Energy and Technology

The program can provide up to \$5000 to regional organizations and \$10,000 to provincial.

Check it out here to see if this is one your organization can avail of.  
[www.gov.nl.ca/iet/](http://www.gov.nl.ca/iet/)

If you have any questions, contact Jeff Lawlor at [jefflawlor@gov.nl.ca](mailto:jefflawlor@gov.nl.ca)



### Central Wellness Coalition

Each year the CWC provides

## United Way NL -Community Fund Grant

The United Way NL collects donations throughout the year and offers a Community Fund Grant to **registered charities** in NL for various projects.

The Community Fund invests into different programs and groups that help to support one of our three pillars of community involvement: All that Kids Can Be, Moving from Poverty to Possibility, and Healthy People, Strong Communities.

Check out the applications eligibility, purpose and all details at [Community Fund - United Way](#)

**Deadline for applications is January 29th!**

approximately \$30,000 in funding to community groups to support health and wellness initiatives, activities and programs. This money is distributed in various ways including the popular “community grants” and “community initiatives funding”.

Check out their website at [Home - Central Wellness Coalition](#) to learn more about the programs and how you can apply.

**Community Grants Program applications are open until February 12th 2025!**

## 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](#)

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## February 2025 Network Newsletter Submissions

The deadline for this months submission is  
Monday, February 17th, 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@nlhnh.org](mailto:outreachcoordinator@nlhnh.org)

Or by filling out our new form!

[Newsletter Submissions](#)

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