



Network News

March 2025

"The ache for home lives in all of us, the safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned"

-Maya Angelou



Gander, NL
Photo Submitted by Amanda Noseworthy

Network Updates

What's new with the Network?

Making the Shift - Preventing Youth Homelessness International Convention

From February 24th to 26th, A Way Home and The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness hosted a conference focusing on the concept of shifting the perspective of youth homelessness to prevention and the theories and practices that support it.

Both our Outreach Coordinator and Executive Director were fortunate enough to attend this event and soak up all the valuable knowledge. Samantha and Sherri attended 14 different sessions and 6 plenaries on varying topics surrounding Youth Housing and Homelessness needs, the research being done to support program development and what other communities are doing that work right across Canada and internationally!

Some highlights that came from these sessions included learning about Diversion Approaches, the importance of Cross Sector Partnerships, Integrated services, Housing First for Youth (HF4Y) and Family and Natural Supports (FNS).

Tools and programs like Direct Cash Transfer Payments, NightStop (diversion through community hosting) and DiversionFirst (community collaborations to prevent youth from entering the justice system) work in preventing youth homelessness at early stages. The role of cross sector partnerships and integrated services help to prevent someone from being lost in a system. HF4Y and the role of FNS ensure that someone's basic needs are met first and encourage the relationships within existing support systems.

Making the Shift was the culmination of research from various organizations. It was an incredible experience to learn about not only what other communities do that work, but to hear from experienced professionals in the field that are so hopeful and energetic to see the changes that are coming. This experience offered opportunities to network and learn from different people whose paths might have never crossed other wise. It sparked conversations about stories, unique partnerships and even unique ways to use AI!

We are so beyond grateful to have had the chance to experience the inaugural event. With pages and pages of notes from sessions, we can't wait to share this information with our Network and CAB members to hopefully adopt and use into their organizations in their own unique ways!



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](#)

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](#)

Highlight of the Month

Showcasing our Network Members and their contributions

Housing and Homelessness Hub - Gander, NL

"The Gander and Area Community Advisory Board was formed sometime in 2004. Its intent at that time was to advocate for a Housing Support Worker. The CAB was successful in this advocacy work and for the most part until Covid happened in 2020, the CAB supported the work of the HSW and continued to advocate for housing solutions in the area. During Covid there were no meetings held. In 2022, the members engaged each other again and began meeting. Some long time members and also some new people joined together. There was a sense of wanting to do more. In 2022 and 2023, the CAB engaged in strategic planning sessions along with the opportunity to propose New Beginnings for a space purchased by the Town of Gander. As this unfolded, there was a stronger need for more than just advocacy so the group decided to become incorporated and the CAB was awarded the RFP so the work on New Beginnings began."

The HHH serves Gander and area. They have serviced people from Lewisporte and area. Gambo / Glovertown area, then also Gander Bay and further down the New-Wes-Valley area, as well as New World Island area.

"At this time we are proceeding with the New Beginnings project. We have also advocated with Evangel Church for them to secure funding to open Journey House (12 person men's shelter/transition home), with Central Residential Services Board to open both a "family" shelter and Hope's Landing (16 bed transition home)."

The HHH has a large membership group! There are currently 21 people representing community organizations, municipal, provincial and federal governments and

departments.

"We recently became incorporated (August 2023) Our directors were voted on by the membership at the annual meeting last year. Our executive is comprised of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. We also have a total of 3 Directors (at large)."

To contact the Housing and Homelessness Hub you can reach out to their Chairperson or Housing Support Worker:

Pastor Kimberly Beers (Chairperson)

Email - pastorkimberly@thecrossingchurch.ca

Phone - (709) 896-7574

Olivia Woodfine (Housing Support Worker)

Email - olivia.woodfine@salvationarmy.ca

Phone - (709) 256-4270



Housing and Homelessness Hub
Gander



GOOD NEWS STORY

Sharing a positive story from within the Network

Stephenville Annual Pancake Day Brunch

In February 2025, the Housing Stability Initiative along with the Stephenville Lions Club, Keyin College, NLHHN and other community partners hosted the annual pancake day brunch.

201 meals were served consisting of pancakes, bologna, baked beans, dessert, tea and coffee.

With February being Violence Prevention Month, the Bay St. George Coalition to End Violence also contributed to this event with desserts and information around violence prevention.

Keyin College sponsored this event and participated by having the CYW students serving the meals to patrons and the PCA students held a blood pressure clinic.



Another successful pancake day brunch thanks to our volunteers, sponsors and partnerships.



What's Happening

Special events happening within our Network



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NEW DATE:

**Thursday, March 27th 2025
12pm-1pm**

We will be offering a virtual and in-person option, with a luncheon for those able to attend in person.

Click below for registration options:

[In Person](#)

[Virtual Registration](#)

Please complete your registration by Tuesday, May 25th 2025.

If you have any questions please reach out to
Samantha: outreachcoordinator@nlhhn.org

Home Again Furniture Bank - Heads Without Beds

**Heads Without Beds - Community
Edition**

If you have any questions please contact:

Maureen Lymburner, Director of Development
(709) 325-0072
maureenlymburner@homeagainfb.com



Canadian Mental Health Association - Newfoundland and Labrador

CMHA-NL will be launching a Wellbeing Learning Hub/Recovery College for all regions throughout NL beginning this spring, consisting of both virtual and in person mental health sessions. The Wellbeing learning hub is based off the UK Recovery College format and

includes sessions developed and co-facilitated by folks with a mixture of lived experience of mental health as well as subject matter expertise.

In particular we are hoping to engage and recruit participants in our communities who may not otherwise have an opportunity to attend a session on mental health due to barriers that could exist, especially relating to cost or travel.

Please see the attached poster for our 1st session on Stress Management scheduled virtually for March 27 from 12:00PM-1:30PM. We encourage you to share this poster with your clients, support groups, parents, post secondary students, community members or others who you feel could benefit from the session.

Registration for this session is completely FREE and can be done through Eventbrite at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/WLHMar27>



The poster features the logo of the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Newfoundland-Labrador at the top left, with the tagline "Mental health for all". The main title "WELLBEING LEARNING HUB WEBINAR" is prominently displayed in bold, black and blue text. Below the title, the topic "Stress Management" is listed. The date "MARCH 27, 2025" and time "12 - 1:30PM NST" are clearly marked with calendar and clock icons. A green box on the right lists the topics: "What Is Stress?", "Types of Stress", "What Causes Stress", "Coping Techniques", "Relaxation Skills", and "Self Care For Stress and more!". An illustration of a person on a video call is shown at the bottom left. A QR code and the registration link are provided at the bottom right.

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

WELLBEING LEARNING HUB WEBINAR

Stress Management

 MARCH 27, 2025

 12 - 1:30PM NST

Topics Include:

- What Is Stress?
- Types of Stress
- What Causes Stress
- Coping Techniques
- Relaxation Skills
- Self Care For Stress and more!

This event is free and open to the public 18+. Register below!



<https://tinyurl.com/WLHMar27>

Town of Grand Falls-Windsor's Wellness Initiatives

Understanding Dementia



Understanding Dementia


This session is ideal for caregivers, family members, healthcare professionals, and anyone interested in learning more about dementia.




Tuesday, April 15, 2025

1:00-3:00 PM

The Classic Theater (10 High Street)



To register, scan the QR Code,
or call our Community Services
Department at 709-489-0450



[Register Here](#)

fasdNL Conference registration is officially open!

fasdNL is hosting From Lived Experience to Collective Action: Strengthening Community Responses to FASD, Substance Use and Harm Reduction in Atlantic Canada. Interested in attending our conference?

Event Dates: April 9th-11th, 2025

Location: The Lantern, St. John's, NL

Register now to get early bird pricing! <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/from-lived-experience-to-collective-action-strengthening-community-responses-to-fasd-substance-use-tickets-927366818117?aff=oddtcreator>

For more information, visit <http://www.fasdnl.ca/2025conference.html>.

Questions? Email contact@fasdnl.ca

A promotional poster for the 2025 Atlantic Conference. The background shows a row of colorful residential buildings under a blue sky with clouds. A white rounded rectangle in the upper center contains the text "2025 ATLANTIC CONFERENCE" in red and blue. Below this, the text "Registration is Open!" is written in white. Further down, the conference theme is stated: "From Lived Experience to Collective Action: Strengthening Community Responses to FASD, Substance Use, and Harm Reduction in Atlantic Canada". Registration information includes the dates "April 9th-11th, 2025" and the location "The Lantern, St. John's, NL". Logos for "fasd NL" and "fasdATLANTIC" are displayed, along with the website "www.fasdNL.ca/2025conference" and social media handles "@fasdNL".

**2025
ATLANTIC
CONFERENCE**

Registration is Open!

From Lived Experience to Collective Action: Strengthening Community Responses to FASD, Substance Use, and Harm Reduction in Atlantic Canada

To register, visit
<https://shorturl.at/JJ3Da>

April 9th-11th, 2025 The Lantern, St. John's, NL

fasd NL fasdATLANTIC

www.fasdNL.ca/2025conference @fasdNL

CIHI Surveys on Mental Health and Substance Use

The Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) has re-launched two mental health and substance use (MHSU) surveys to understand peoples' experiences accessing MHSU services.

These surveys are completely voluntary, and responses are kept anonymous. The surveys are available in English and French until May 17, 2025. Help us spread the word! Scan the QR code or access the Early Intervention and Navigation surveys linked. Share the surveys with your social networks, families, and friends!

Results from last year's surveys are available here:

- Navigation of Mental Health and Substance Use Services (age 15 and older) · Early Intervention for Mental Health and Substance Use Among Children and Youth (age 13 to 24)

Thank you for your help with this important initiative. Contact hpspecialprojects@cihi.ca with any questions.

We're in this together

Help improve mental health and substance
use services in Canada

Share your experience for the
chance to win a \$100 gift card



Training Opportunities

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

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](#)

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

The Community Housing Transformation Centre

Green Kickstarter Fund



The grants offered through this fund are designed to improve tenants' quality of life through eco-responsible initiatives.

The Green Kickstarter Fund supports small-scale projects that foster sustainable communities by cutting greenhouse gas emissions, conserving water, improving air quality, promoting food self-sufficiency, encouraging waste reduction, and enhancing active transport.

These grants are exclusively available to non-profit housing providers. Co-ops are invited to apply for subsidies offered by the **Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada**.

Applications will be accepted from March 1 to March 31, 2025, until midnight (PT).

[Download the Application Here](#)

The Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness

Homelessness Reduction Innovation Fund

Homelessness Reduction Innovation Fund



The Homelessness Reduction Innovation Fund will provide one-time grants for innovative projects aimed at achieving measurable reductions in homelessness.

HRIF grants will be distributed to communities for targeted, data-informed projects that measurably reduce homelessness. CAEH will offer one-on-one guidance and coaching to communities on their initiatives and share successful approaches with other communities across the country.

The Homelessness Reduction Innovation Fund is part of the federal government's commitment to *Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy*, as announced in Budget 2024. This project is funded by the Government of Canada

[Check out Eligibility and Key Dates 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](#)

April 2025 Network Newsletter Submissions

The deadline for this months submission is
Monday, April 14th, 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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