

We Know These Facts

Though there are 12,200 shelter beds in the city, each night Toronto Central Intake turns away more than 200 callers looking for a bed.

Encampments in Toronto now exist in 72 parks, up from 45 in March 2021. Clearing tents from parks is not a solution. It just moves people around.

From January to June 2024, Toronto recorded 135 deaths among homeless people. The median female age of death at 36 years was considerably younger than in the previous two years (42 years of age in 2022 and 43 years of age in 2023).

Children and youth account for about 20% of the homeless. Children who grow up homeless are more likely to be homeless as adults.

Indigenous people represent about 15% of the homeless population in Toronto, despite making up only 2.5% of the city's population.

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eculinks.ca info@eculinks.ca

In 2024 Ontario's homeless figures grew to 81,515 people across Ontario, a 25% increase from 2022. Additionally chronic homelessness is growing across Ontario with 41,512 persons experiencing chronic homelessness in 2024.

People are trapped in shelters, tents or couch-surfing for extended periods of time because there is nowhere to go. The province is not building or supporting the housing we need: transitional housing and supportive housing, so that people can exit the shelter system and rebuild their lives.

For every \$10 invested in supportive housing, \$21 is saved in costs related to healthcare, justice and other services.

Access to stable, affordable housing significantly impacts one's health and well-being.

In Canada, homeless individuals are 8-10 times more likely to experience premature death. Affordable rent-geared-to-income housing can reduce these risks.



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Between 2016 and 2024 Ontario's funding for housing and homelessness services grew from \$1.9 Billion to \$4.1 Billion.

Ontario's goal is to end chronic homelessness by 2030. However, while federal investments in homelessness funding have increased significantly in recent years, municipalities account for over 65% of housing expenditures by 2024. Ontario is the only province that has downloaded these costs to municipalities which do not have the means to raise the funds needed to address the homelessness crisis.

As a faith community we are called to respond with compassion and action to support those in need.

What can you do ?

- Support local shelters. Shelters are critical to saving lives of homeless individuals.
- Advocate with provincial electoral candidates for increased funding for transitional and supportive housing to allow people to move out of temporary shelters and rebuild their lives.
- Advocate for increased funds to municipalities for rental subsidies to keep families housed.
- Advocate for increases to Ontario Works (OW) and the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) funding to keep individuals and families out of poverty.

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