Atlantic Summer Institute 2019 Resources to Accompany Presentation:

Developing Your Community Strategy to End Youth Homelessness: Case Studies and Tools from A Way Home Canada, St. John's N.F.L.D. and Saint John and N.B.

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Policy, Planning and Practice Resources to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness

Key Websites
A Way Home Canada – National Coalition to Prevent and End youth Homelessness
The Homeless Hub – The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness
The Homeless Learning Hub – Includes Systems Planning Curriculum Modules
Helpseeker
End Homelessness St. John's
Saint John Human Development Council

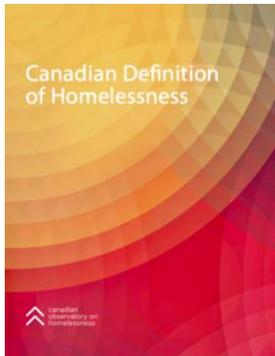| Policy Tools	
Links to doc.	**Description**
	The Roadmap for the Prevention of Youth Homelessness – Full Report It is time for a proactive, rather than reactive, approach to youth homelessness. The Roadmap for the Prevention of Youth Homelessness is designed to help service providers, policy makers, communities, advocates, researchers, and all people in Canada better understand the meaning of youth homelessness prevention. It provides a clear definition of youth homelessness prevention, a prevention typology, and a common language for policy and practice, outlining: • What is youth homelessness prevention, and what isn't it? • Who is responsible for youth homelessness prevention? • What are systems approaches to prevention? • What program models and interventions exist? • What is the evidence for youth homelessness prevention? **Why is this Important?** The Roadmap is a useful guide to why and how prevention can contribute to a comprehensive systems response to youth homelessness, detailing evidence-based and informed program models that can help communities and governments implement plans to prevent and end youth homelessness. The Roadmap has been directly informed by consultations with youth across Canada who have experienced homelessness. In order to reform our response to youth homelessness, it is critical that youths' voices, experiences, and insights are the cornerstone of the work.
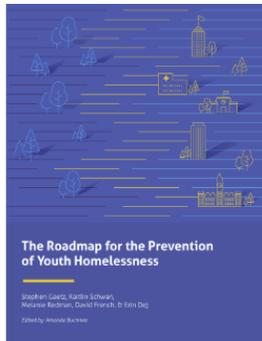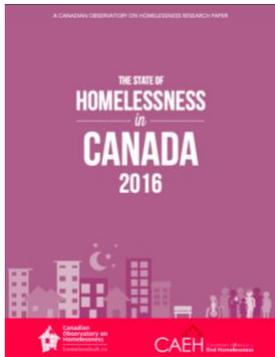
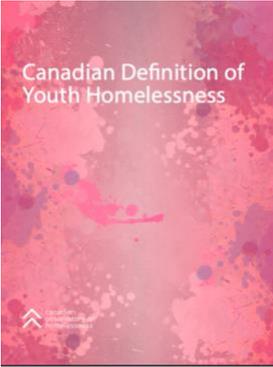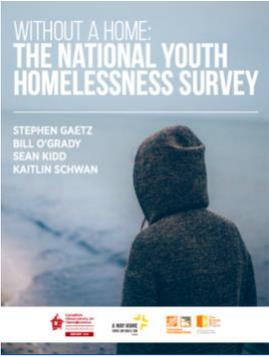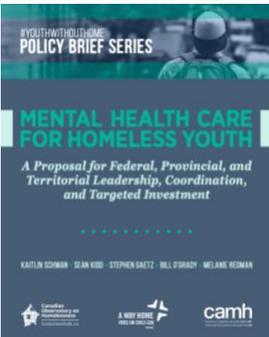|	
	The State of Homelessness in Canada 2016 The *State of Homelessness in Canada 2016 (SOH)* provides a roadmap for the way forward. Including a series of joint recommendations – drafted by the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness and the Canadian Alliance to end Homelessness – for the National Housing Strategy. **Why is this important?** The SOH articulates recommendations that have influenced formation of the National Housing Strategy and Federal priorities. Specifically, sections include policy, programs and practice underway across Canada that can be leveraged to further influence community system planning and prioritization.
	Canadian Definition of Homelessness The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (COH) has developed a definition and typology of homelessness intended to improve understanding, measurement and responses to homelessness in Canada by providing a common 'language' for addressing this complex problem. **Why is this important?** In collaboration with national, regional and local stakeholders, including people with lived experience, the definition draws on a shared history of attempting to define homelessness in Canada, but also on effective models from other jurisdictions (most particularly, the ETHOS definition from Europe). The result is a useable, understandable definition of homelessness that is uniquely Canadian yet allows for national and international comparison.

	Canadian Definition of Indigenous Homelessness Indigenous homelessness is a human condition that describes First Nations, Métis and Inuit individuals, families or communities lacking stable, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means or ability to acquire such housing. Unlike the common colonialist definition of homelessness, Indigenous homelessness is not defined as lacking a structure of habitation; rather, it is more fully described and understood through a composite lens of Indigenous worldviews including individuals, families and communities isolated from their relationships to land, water, place, family, kin, each other, animals, cultures, languages and identities. **Why is this important?** Shifting our understanding of homelessness beyond simple lack of habitation to the deeper historical, systemic and traumatic colonial relationships that produce Indigenous homelessness, is part of the critical work that non-Indigenous communities and governments must undertake both in our goal to end homelessness and our duty towards truth and reconciliation. As a lack of home, much as a sense of place or homeplace, is a culturally understood experience, we must recognize an Indigenous definition of homelessness that informs policy-making to solve the tragedy of Indigenous homelessness.
	Canadian Definition of Youth Homelessness Age matters when considering homelessness. Unlike the majority of homeless adults, young people leave homes defined by relationships (both social and economic) in which they are typically dependent upon adult caregivers. Young people who are in the process of transitioning toward adulthood, may have yet to acquire the personal, social and life skills that make independent living possible or appropriate. Many young people are in the throws of physical, cognitive, social and emotional development. **Why is this important?** Finally, the fact that the age at which one is legally considered a child or adult is inconsistent across jurisdictions and policy areas can result in barriers to accessing services and supports and can create problems in terms of continuity of care. For these reasons and others, youth-based strategies and

	interventions that address the needs of young people between the ages of 13-24 must be distinct from those developed for adults who experience homelessness.
	Without a Home: The National Youth Homelessness Survey The *Without a Home* study was the first pan-Canadian study of young people who experience homelessness. With 1,103 respondents from 47 different communities across 10 provinces and territories, this study's sample size enabled researchers to develop detailed analyses and to draw important conclusions. **Why is this important?** The data included within the report can bolster engagement efforts within your community system planning efforts. Important to bring in cross system partners within this process and this resource can help them understand where they "fit" within a broad system response.
	Mental Health Care for Homeless Youth: A Proposal for Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Leadership, Coordination, and Targeted Investment Homeless youth in Canada often struggle to access appropriate services that are equipped to support the co-occurring mental health and addictions challenges they face. This is an issue of failed systems and poor coordination across systems. **Why is this important?** The brief highlights where investments need to be made at the Federal and Provincial levels around mental health. This details can be coupled with community leverage points when engaging with provincial/territorial counterparts when designing your integrated system of care.
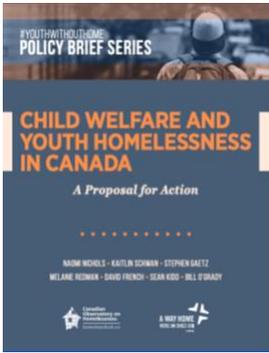
	Child Welfare and Youth Homelessness in Canada: A Proposal for Action Research has shown that child welfare involvement and homelessness are closely linked, and that involvement in child protection is associated with an increased risk of homelessness. **Why is this important?** In consultation with research experts, government officials and services providers, the brief distills actions that can draw together the risks for young people involved in child intervention/welfare and syncs up recommendations that can further support prevention-based actions that should be reinforced within community plans. Child Intervention/Welfare should be at the top of the list of stakeholders to engage within community system planning for youth.
	WHAT WOULD IT TAKE? Youth Across Canada Speak Out on Youth Homelessness Prevention The doc details, from a youth perspective, valuable insights drawn from their experiences that can challenge our current thinking and point to a new approach that more effectively helps young people before they end up on the streets. **Why is this important?** The elements here not only reinforce the need for youth to be engaged in all levels of planning, program design and prioritization at the CE level, but it also sheds a light on where youth feel prevention efforts can be maximized.

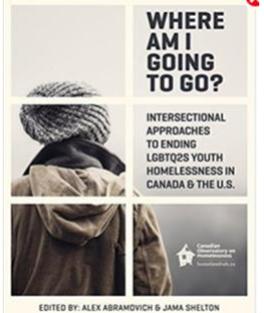| Practice tools	
	Housing First in Canada: Supporting Communities to End Homelessness *Housing First in Canada: Supporting Communities to End Homelessness* is the first book that examines how this approach has been applied in Canada. The book begins with a framework for Housing First that explains the core principles of the approach, as well as how it works in practice. The book also presents eight case studies of Housing First in Canada, exploring not just the results of its implementation, but how different communities made the shift from 'treatment as usual' to a new approach. Here we explore the challenges of making the case locally, the planning process, adapting the model to local contexts (urban vs. small town) or targeted populations (Aboriginal people, youth), and implementation. **Why is this important?** Much has been learned by communities that have employed Housing First and we conclude the book with a chapter that highlights key lessons learned. The book provides a wealth of information for those who want to understand the concept of Housing First and how to move forward with implementation.
	THIS is Housing First for Youth - A Program Model Guide Housing First for Youth (HF4Y) is a rights-based intervention for young people (aged 13-24) who experience homelessness, or who are at risk. It is designed to address the needs of developing adolescents and young adults by providing them with immediate access to housing that is safe, affordable and appropriate, and the necessary and age-appropriate supports that focus on health, well-being, life skills, engagement in education and employment, and social inclusion. The goal of HF4Y is not simply to provide housing stability, but to support young people as youth and facilitate a healthy transition to adulthood. HF4Y can be considered both as an intervention or program model, as well as a philosophy guiding a community's response to youth homelessness. **Why is this important?** To ensure fidelity across Canada, the practical pieces of the Program Model Guide will help with drawing conclusions on how to fund HF4Y in communities and the uniqueness of it when contrasted with Housing First in general. Particular attention should be placed on the adaptations section of the Guide.
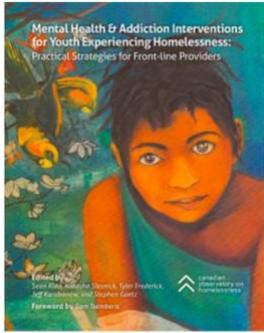
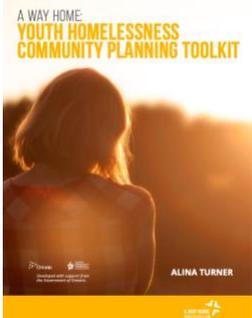|	
	Mental Health & Addictions Interventions for Youth Experiencing Homelessness: Practical Strategies for Front-line Providers Young people experiencing homelessness face many forms of extreme adversity including high rates of mental health and addiction challenges. These challenges lead to high mortality rates and increase the risk of chronic homelessness. In turn, the health service systems and providers in most settings are poorly equipped and resourced to meet the mental health needs of the homeless youth population. **Why is this important?** This intervention guide was developed to provide timely and relevant guidance to direct service providers on how to intervene more effectively with youth who have experienced homelessness.
	Where Am I Going to Go? Intersectional Approaches to Ending LGBTQ2S Youth Homelessness in Canada & the U.S. This book is an effort to address LGBTQ2S (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning and two-spirit) youth homelessness in both Canada & the U.S. It includes an examination of the identity-related structural barriers LGBTQ2S youth experiencing homelessness face while accessing adequate services and transitioning out of homelessness, as well as program models that successfully address those barriers. **Why is this important?** Each chapter addresses a specific need and its associated barriers, accompanied by a case study of a successful program that acts as a solution. It will share new knowledge, inform the development of LGBTQ2S-inclusive and affirming systems and service provision at the local, regional and national levels.
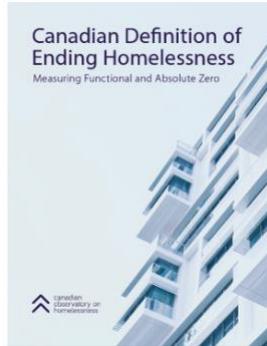
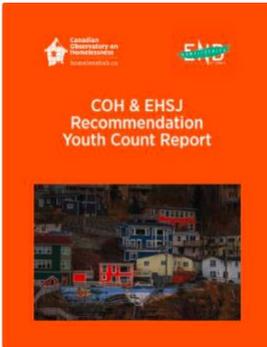| Planning tools	
	Canadian Definition of Ending Homelessness: Measuring Functional and Absolute Zero The concept of "ending homelessness" has been central in public policy and service responses in recent years. Just consider the number of plans, strategies, policy directions and funding announcements to end homelessness - not just in Canada, but internationally. However, there is no consistently recognized definition of what an end of homelessness looks like. There is no agreement as to what the indicators and targets should be confirming such an achievement, nor a process to verify whether communities have met their goals. **Why is this important?** The definition was developed through a collaborative process which included a comprehensive review of 60 jurisdictions and consultations with people with lived experience, service providers, researchers and policy makers. This document is an overview of the definition, which is founded on the concepts of Functional and Absolute Zero.
	A Way Home: Youth Homelessness Community Planning Toolkit This toolkit: Outlines the key elements of a systems approach to prevent, reduce and end youth homelessness using best and promising practices, ● Provides guidance to local communities on a step-by-step approach to develop plans that advance solutions to end youth homelessness, ● Highlights Canadian examples of innovation and locally developed resources to enhance knowledge exchange advancing the national movement and ● Is not intended to reinvent the wheel; where resources are readily available it points the reader to these as appropriate and draws on existing research and materials throughout.
	Section 1 - Getting Ready ● Background on this toolkit

	- Introduction to youth homelessness and youth plans - Essential elements of youth plans
	Section 2 - Getting Started - Collective Impact and ending youth homelessness - Determining community readiness - Developing your backbone infrastructure and workplan
	Section 3 - Getting Going - Research, needs assessment, and data analysis - Consultation approach - Working with key stakeholders, including youth, government, etc
	Section 4 - Getting it Done - Writing the plan - Determining costs and performance measures - Implementation considerations
	Youth Homelessness Community Planning Webinar Series The series was designed to support the Community Planning Toolkit. From community planning fundamentals to research, Collective Impact, performance measurement and focused topics such as child protection and rural youth homelessness each webinar recording unpacks elements of youth homelessness community planning through access to experts and peers. Webinars include: - Youth Homelessness Community Planning 101 - Collective Impact and Youth Homelessness Community Planning - Measuring an End to Youth Homelessness Part 1 - Measuring an End to Youth Homelessness Part 2 - Introducing the Youth Homelessness Assessment and Prioritization (YAP), Tool - Rural and Remote Youth Homelessness in Canada

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	System Planning Collective Webinar Series The Systems Planning Collective is dedicated to helping communities and governments to prevent and end all forms of homelessness in Canada by supporting evidence-based systems planning, capacity building and technical assistance. Recent webinars include: ● System Planning 101 ● How Communities can Utilize Coordinated Access for Systems Planning ● Homeless-Serving System Governance and the HPS Renewal ● System Mapping 101 ●
	Homelessness Learning Hub – Systems Planning Curriculum Modules
	COH & EHSJ Recommendation Youth Count Report The primary purpose of the count was to enumerate the number of people experiencinghomelessness in St. John's on a single day, it also provided an opportunity for those experiencing homelessness to share their stories. One hundred and one trained volunteers and front-line staff conducted surveys with individuals experiencing homelessness on the day and night of the St. John's count.

Everyone Counts – St. Johns' Homelessness Point In Time count 2016

St. John's first homeless population count reveals the need for housing and support services.

On a cold, snowy November 30, 2016 End Homelessness St. John's (EHSJ), its partners and over 100volunteers, conducted St. John's first biennial homeless point-in-time (PiT) count, titled 'EveryoneCounts'. This initiative included a count of the number of people experiencing homelessness3inSt. John's on a single day as well as a focused youth outreach approach during the count week toenhance our knowledge of homelessness among this population. On November 30, 2016 therewere at least 166 people experiencing homelessness in St. John's, including 38 youth aged 16 to24 years. This number represents the minimum number of people experiencing homelessness inSt. John's on one day. This is just the tip of the iceberg, however: during the course of a year, EHSJestimates that approximately 800 people experience homelessness in St. John's.
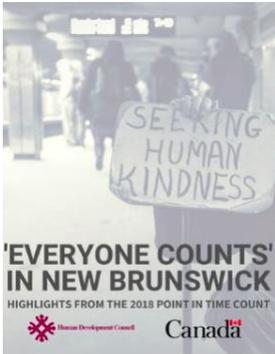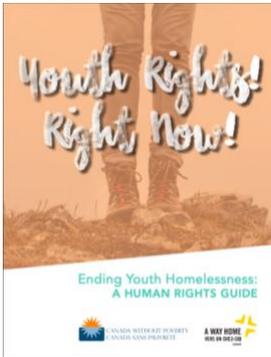
Everyone Counts in New Brunswick: Highlights from the 2018 Point In Time Count

This report highlights New Brunswick findings from the national 2018 Point-in-Time(PiT)Count, "Everyone Counts". The count, which took place in
Fredericton, Moncton, Saint John, and Bathurst, occurred on March15th, 2018. This was the second nationallycoordinatedPiTCountundertheGovernmentofCanada'sHomelessnessPartneringStrategy(HPS).The first, conducted in 2016, included 32 cities nationwide. In2018, this expanded to more than 60 cities. InNewBrunswick,countswereplannedincloseconsultationwiththecities'CommunityAdvisoryBoardsonHomelessness(CABs),andthefourcitiesworkedinpartnershiptoensureconsistencyacrosstheregion.Thefindingspresentedinthisreport,basedonsurveysconductedwith269people,includebasicdemographicinformation,commonreasonsforhousingloss,andmostneededsocialservices.Beyondthehighlightspresentedhere,thedatagatheredthroughthisprojectofferstheopportunityforgreateranalysisinthemonthsandyearstocome
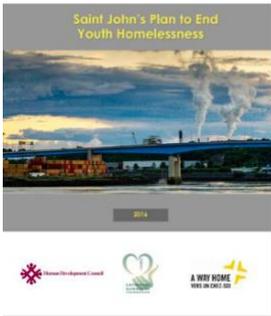
	Saint John's Plan to End Youth Homelessness A framework to begin the important work, as a community, on preventing and ending youth homelessness. The framework is presented in this report, along with background information on Youth Homelessness at the national, provincial, and local levels.
	Youth Rights! Right Now! Ending Youth Homelessness: A Human Rights Guide The guide, based on research, consultations, input from youth and the expertise of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, Ms. Leilani Farha, argues that all young people have a fundamental, legal right to be free of homelessness and to have access to adequate housing. **Why is this important?** The guide brings human rights to the forefront of decision making with an aim to assist in the identification of systemic causes of homelessness and human rights solutions. It includes steps that policy-makers, front-line workers, researchers and others can embrace a human rights approach. Critical tips within the Guide forefront the importance of ensuring human rights play a prominent role in planning for a refined youth homelessness response.

Choices for Youth: We Are Ready

Youth homelessness in rural and remote communities lacks the attention it receives in urban centres and young people are often forced to leave their communities to seek services. However, there is important strategic and collaborative work emerging from rural communities that should be shared and scaled across all communities. This report details efforts to expand services and programs to communities around Newfoundland and Labrador.

Why is this Important?

We Are Ready offers a collaborative process tailored for rural areas through coordinated and combined efforts for prevention, better supports, and smarter interventions ultimately offering models that support young people to remain in their home communities.