



April 17, 2009

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Provincial Plan to End Homelessness

The [Government of Alberta](#) approved an ambitious 10-year plan aimed at ending homelessness in Alberta by 2019 in March 2009.

The plan, developed by the Alberta Secretariat for Action on Homelessness, identifies specific actions and immediate priorities to support the creation of permanent, safe housing for the homeless and outlines the associated services needed to break the cycle of homelessness. The provincial 10-year plan aligns with, and supports, municipal plans to end homelessness.

"I want to thank the members of the Alberta Secretariat for developing this outstanding plan," said Yvonne Fritz Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs. "They have addressed the complex and often interconnected issues related to homelessness and highlighted the need to provide homeless people with a safe, permanent place to live."

The plan adopts a 'Housing First' approach of providing immediate housing along with client-centred support services such as mental health services, addictions counseling, employment training and other tailored supports as needed.

"This plan, combined with the support of the provincial government and our communities, means we can ultimately end homelessness in our province," said Steve Snyder, Chair, Alberta Secretariat for Action on Homelessness. "In preparing our plan, the Secretariat has received the support of many organizations and individuals. Their tireless efforts have been instrumental in

Homeward Trust Job Postings

Homeward Trust is currently recruiting for the following positions:

- Director, Business Services
- Funding Facilitator

For information on these posts and the job descriptions please go to: www.homewardtrust.ca/employment

Resumes should be forwarded to Jori Hunter, Operations Manager, Homeward Trust, jhunter@homewardtrust.ca by May 15th 2009.

Please note our new address:

6th Floor

10242-105 Street

Edmonton T5J 3L5

780 496 2630

[Click Here](#)

Web Forum & CMHC Tools



Homeward Trust is pleased to

ensuring Alberta leads Canada on this key social issue."

Premier Ed Stelmach established the Alberta Secretariat for Action on Homelessness in January 2008. The 12-member group worked closely with municipalities and non-profit organizations to explore the best practices and successful programs from across North America. The Secretariat and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs will work with municipalities and communities to implement this plan.

Budget 2009, announced on April 7th, that \$400 million is available for capital over 3 years and \$32 million for supports / operating costs. This is a good, generous start to implementing the 10 Year Plan in Edmonton.

To view the Plan [click here](#).

Budget 2009

The Budget presented by Iris Evans, Minister of Finance and Enterprise, on April 7th will meet some of the housing and support requirements as laid out in the Province's Plan to End Homelessness over the next couple of years and will support the rolling out of the Housing First model.

- \$178 million in capital grants to support construction of affordable housing units. A total of \$468 million will be provided over three years as the province works towards its commitment to build 11,000 new affordable housing units.
- \$100 million in capital grants to support implementation of the 10-year plan to end homelessness in Alberta. With total capital grants of \$400 million over three years, 2,700 housing units specifically for the homeless will be provided.
- \$106.5 million in operating funding for homeless programs, including \$40.5 million for emergency/transitional shelters and \$32 million for outreach support services.
- \$56 million for the rent supplement program.

"This is a real opportunity to make a significant difference to homeless Edmontonians; to help them off the streets and into homes, with appropriate wrap around supports to help them build a better

announce it will be hosting a CMHC Affordable Housing Web Forum

starting at 10 am at Homeward Trust, Thursday, April 23 on First Nations Land Practices and Policies. To register for the Web / Teleconference Forum please contact [Gertrude Faryna](#) at Homeward Trust.

CMHC has a wide variety of tools and resources, why not visit their website for the latest in affordable housing.

[CMHC Affordable Housing Centre](#): Link that provides general information about the Affordable Housing Centre and the tools and products they offer.

[CMHC Seed Funding](#): Link to the Seed Funding program which is targeted to groups in the early stages of developing an affordable housing proposal.

[CMHC Proposal Development Funding \(PDF\)](#): Link to the PDF program which helps groups bring their proposal to a point where they can apply for mortgage funding.

[CMHC Tools and Resources](#): Link to free tools and resources that many affordable housing groups have used in the past

[CMHC tools](#)

Toque Tuesday 2009

This year's Raising the Roof, Toque Tuesday campaign came to a close at the end of March.

The campaign, which has run for 4 years in Edmonton, is a community response to helping homeless people. Toques went on sale at different locations including West Edmonton Mall, Downtown and at the Edmonton Oilers Game. The campaign is part of a wider awareness raising campaign that Raising the Roof undertakes each year.



life," says Susan McGee, Executive Director, Homeward Trust. " The initial commitment of \$400m over 3 years to capital and \$32m per year in operating is a really good start," McGee added.

>> [Budget 2009](#)

Countdown to Homeless Connect 2



Planning for Homeless Connect 2 is well underway - with the various volunteer committees working flat out to make the next event really successful.

The Services Committee headed by Larisa Kreider and Cecilia Blassetti are keen to identify service providers who can provide appropriate services to the homeless population at this event, "We had a really good response last year, so we want to ensure that we build on the support of the community, and provide appropriate services. It's also about educating the community about what services are out there", says *Cecilia, Executive Director, Boyle Macauley Health Centre*.

The Sponsorship Committee is also identifying sponsors for a range of items - namely the Comfort Kit; items such as new tooth brushes, tooth paste, personal hygiene items, juice boxes, granola bars, pens and notepads and of course a re-useable bag to place all the items in, are all things that are still in short supply. *Earl Pasechnik, United Way In Kind Centre*, says "We'd like to encourage as many businesses to support this event as possible by either donating specific items or by hosting a 'Donation Drive' in their workplace. It's worth knowing, that any unused items will be distributed back into the not for profit community so that homeless people will go on benefitting from the items donated."

The Sponsorship Committee is also targeting food and beverage providers so that we can provide a hot nutritious meal on May 24th. "We're delighted to announce that the REALTORS Association of Edmonton have generously donated \$3000 towards the purchase of the Volunteer T-Shirts - this is great news and it means that all the volunteers helping out on the day will be easily identifiable. Coinomatic have also said they will loan us washers

We will know the final amounts raised later in year, once all the Toque sales have been finalized and audited.



Our thanks go to the Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation for their continued support of the campaign, to Direct Energy for fielding so many volunteers, to West Edmonton Mall, and to all the other volunteers - thanks a job well done!

[Toque Tuesday 2009](#)

Volunteer for Homeless Connect



There are many volunteer opportunities available at Homeless Connect, from greeting guests, to helping with registration, to guiding guests through the service area. All of these positions require good listening skills, flexibility and a good sense of humour! To register please visit www.homelessconnect.ca.

[Click Here](#)

Hackers Fore Housing Charity Golf Tournament

Register now for the 7th Annual Hackers Fore Housing Charity Golf Tournament, Wednesday June 10th at the Belvedere Golf and Country Club.

and driers, so that homeless people visiting Homeless Connect can wash and dry their clothes."

Wendy Myshak, Homeless Connect Coordinator is upbeat about recruiting volunteers for the event, "We had such awesome feedback from the last event - people want to volunteer and help homeless people and Homeless Connect is the perfect vehicle for community engagement. We still have many spots available so email connect@homewardtrust.ca or go to our website www.homelessconnect.ca."

>> [Homeless Connect](#)

HEPF Changes

Effective April 1st, the rent shortfall component of the Homeless and Eviction Prevention Fund (HEP) Fund will be transferred to a housing program called the "Direct to Tenant Rent Supplement Program under the department of Housing and Urban Affairs. This program is managed in Edmonton by Capital Region Housing Corporation.

Direct to Tenant Rent Supplement assistance is delivered for a 12 month period, allowing for greater financial peace of mind, so recipients can undertake job retraining, employment counselling or locate to affordable housing that is within their means. Eligibility for the Direct to Tenant Rent Supplement assistance is assessed every 12 months.



People will continue to receive rent shortfall benefits while the program is being transitioned to HUA. The transition is likely to be completed by July 1st.

>> [HEP Fund Changes](#)

Focus: Parklands Housing First - Boyle Street

Homeward Trust supported Boyle Street Community Services to develop the Parklands

Organized by Capital Region Housing Corporation, this event hopes to raise \$30,000 towards The Home Program which helps low income families access affordable housing. Registration deadline is June 1st. The fun begins at 6.30 am with registration, breakfast and the driving range. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

Contact Kent Fletcher for further information: 780 498 1971 or kent@arrowcon.ca

[The Home Program](#)

HEP workshop

The Alberta Quality of Life Commission, Edmonton Social Planning Council and Service Alberta are hosting an information session on **May 27th** at King's University 9125 -50 St. Edmonton. "**Unlocking the Answers to Rental Questions**" will bring presenters from Service Alberta and Employment and Immigration to answer questions about the Residential Tenancies Act (RTA) and the Homeless and Eviction Fund (HEP).

You're invited to attend one of two **free sessions** - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Registration is limited to **100** at each session so please register early.

For additional information contact **Lorraine Pawluk, Service Alberta at (403) 297-5712.**

The Quality of Life Commission
Edmonton Social Planning Council
[HEP Fund Workshop invitation](#)

Bissell Centre Open House

The Bissell Centre will be hosting an Open House on April 23 between 2pm -

project to help homeless people access homes whilst providing suitable supports to ensure they stay housed, based on the Housing First model. The project to date has housed 178 people including 70 children from 28 families. In all they have worked with 272 clients and are working with a further 50



individuals to find them suitable homes.

The project brings together outreach work undertaken by Colin Inglis and his team of

outreach workers and the housing / support team.

So how does it work?

The Parklands Outreach Workers work in the River Valley areas, meeting and visiting with homeless people who live in campsites around the area. "As the relationship develops and trust builds, there comes a point when that homeless individual is ready to make the change and wants to be housed. When this decision is reached, the housing and support workers at Boyle Street spring into action, identifying some housing options. Discussions take place with a Landlord and clients are shown different properties, so there is a sense of choice and ownership," says Colin Inglis, Housing Services Manager, Boyle Street.

"We also help the individual access resources from Social Services, and help with things like getting furniture, food from the Food Bank, etc. Each individual or family is then supported with regular visits from Boyle



Street staff: things like taking people to dental and medical appointments, to other life skills, essentially anything that helps them get back on their feet. The support is crucial, without it, our clients could end up back on the streets. We also connect our clients to existing community services so that they can access these and it also develops a sense of community belonging."

The Parklands project works with both singles and

5.30pm. Address: 10527 96 Street Edmonton. This is followed by their Annual General Meeting at 7pm.

[Bissell Centre Open House](#)

Homeward Trust Board of Directors



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Homeward Trust is recruiting new Board members. If you are interested in joining Homeward Trust's Board please see the posting on our website www.homewardtrust.ca/employment. Thanks!

[Click Here](#)

families, following the Housing First principles of housing with supports. The Project has been extended to October 2009.

>> [Parklands Housing First](#)

If you would like to contribute to the Homeward Trust newsletter please contact Kalpana Robbins, 780 496 2632 krobbins@homewardtrust.ca



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