



Homelessness 101

Many Ways to Home

Changing the Face of Your Community
Our Role, Our Response

Discussion

Research Matters: Read, Listen,
& Watch to Find Out More

Why has the homeless population become larger, or more visible, in your community? Or, has it become smaller, or less visible in your community? Explain.

At a Glance

1. The Canadian Definition of Homelessness
2. 3 Types of Homelessness
3. Homelessness: An Issue of Basic Human Rights
4. Homelessness: Myth vs. Fact
5. What Causes Homelessness

The Canadian Definition of Homelessness



The situation of an individual, family or community without stable, safe, permanent, appropriate housing or the immediate prospect, means and ability to acquire it



(Gaetz, 2012)

[Canadian Observatory on Homelessness \(COH\)](#)

Learn More: [Indigenous Homelessness Definition](#), [Youth Homelessness Definition](#), [Ending Homelessness Definition](#)



3 Types of Homelessness

1. Transitional
 - a. It could be any of us. Something happens that we can't afford: the car breaks down, job loss, the affordable housing crisis, eviction, addiction, etc.
2. Episodic
 - a. The people who are in and out of homelessness.
3. Chronic
 - a. The people who are perpetually homeless.

(Rideau, 2017)

Watch (10 minutes)
[A Solution For Homelessness | Adam Rideau - TED \[YouTube\]](#)

Homelessness: An Issue of Basic Human Rights

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 25 U

Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

General Assembly
of the United Nations
December 10, 1948
[UN Declaration of
Human Rights](#)

Homelessness: Myth vs. Fact

[Myths and Questions
About Homelessness](#)

Myth: People experiencing homelessness are lazy.

Fact: Just to survive, many homeless people are in constant search of the necessities of life, such as food, shelter and a source of income.

Myth: All People experiencing homelessness are addicts.

Fact: Many homeless people do not struggle with substance abuse problems or addiction. Similar to the general population there are a percentage of people who struggle with addiction or mental illness (*find out how many in Abbotsford, in module 2*).

[\(Homeless Hub\)](#)

Homelessness: Myth vs. Fact

[Myths and Questions
About Homelessness](#)

Myth: People experiencing homelessness should just find a job.

Fact: There are homeless people with jobs. A job is much harder to maintain with no permanent address, no access to regular showers, barriers to transportation, and other difficulties with mental illness.

Myth: There are plenty of adequate services and supports to help those experiencing homelessness.

Fact: Many current homeless solutions are emergency services such as shelters and food banks. For those in a transitional or non emergency situations, such as poverty, these services aren't adequate. There needs to be a focus on the lack of affordable housing, and the criminalization of homelessness preventing people from a permanent and suitable shelter (see *Finland's solution to homelessness in module 3*).

[\(Homeless Hub\)](#)

What Causes Homelessness

THE RESULT OF
MULTIPLE FACTORS

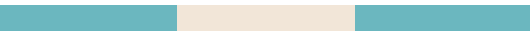
Lack Affordable and Appropriate Housing - Cognitive Challenges - Racism and Discrimination - Behavioral Challenges - Systematic Societal Barriers - Physical Challenges - Individual/Household Financial Challenges - Mental Challenges

(Gaetz, 2012)

Learn More:

[Canadian Observatory on Homelessness \[PDF\]](#)

[Causes of Homelessness \[Article\]](#)



Resources

Gaetz, S.; Barr, C.; Friesen, A.; Harris, B.; Hill, C.; Kovacs-Burns, K.; Pauly, B.; Pearce, B.; Turner, A.; Marsolais, A. (2012) *Canadian Definition of Homelessness*. Toronto: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press.

Homeless Hub. (n.d.). *Myths and Questions About Homelessness*. Retrieved from <https://www.homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/homelessness-101/myths-and-questions-about-homelessness>

Rideau, A. (2017). *A solution for homelessness: Community-Based Problem Solving | Adam Rideau | TEDxTemecula*. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBWfIF2jo1k>

United Nations. (1948). *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Retrieved From <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

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