



“A PLACE FIRST”

A Community Plan on

Housing and Homelessness in Kingston



Produced by United Way
serving Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington

MAY 2009



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and Homelessness in Kingston



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INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1

There is no universally agreed upon definition of “homelessness”. For this report, we have considered homeless people to be those who do not have a permanent residence to which they can return whenever they so choose¹. It is not just the physical structure of a house that people cherish, it is the emotional and psychological feeling of having a sense of place for themselves.

The factors leading to homelessness are numerous and complex. Understanding these will guide and advise our community in seeking solutions to address homelessness and the lack of adequate affordable housing in Kingston.

There are essentially two approaches to dealing with the issue of homelessness. The first is providing a continuum of housing, with emergency shelters at one end and permanent housing at the other. The other is securing housing as a first step and then addressing other specific needs after the housing is in place.

“Be bold,” advised Iain De Jong, Manager of Toronto’s Streets to Homes program.

“Homeless people want housing. Continuums are neither linear nor continuous, and blind referrals don’t work”

Iain De Jong, Manager of Toronto’s Streets to Homes Program

Like many large urban centres dealing with a growing homeless population, the City of Toronto believes that moving people along the continuum of support, eventually leading to housing, does not work as well as the ‘Housing First’ model, an approach originating in New York in 1992 and now widely adopted.

Kingston is a beautiful city with a vibrant downtown, picturesque waterfront and scenic trails. It has an engaged group of citizens and a quality of life that attracts young families, professionals and retirees. Many of the city’s residents have stable incomes and a comfortable lifestyle.

¹ The City of Calgary, Affordable Housing Calgary, Definitions Related to Homelessness

However, like many other cities in Canada, it is a city divided. Some people find it hard to make ends meet, and homelessness continues to be a growing concern. Individuals and families struggle to pay for essentials such as food and utilities. They run the risk of losing their homes due to unforeseen circumstances. There are a number of people with mental health issues, addictions and disabilities who continue to need emergency shelters. We hear of residents who are the “hidden homeless” and move from one place to another, with no permanent place to call home.

Over the past six months, the United Way serving KFL&A has been working on the development of this plan. It is a collaborative community effort. We have analyzed data, consulted extensively with community members and have developed recommendations. Much of the data collected is presented in Appendix 1 and highlighted in Chapter 2.

This data shows that homelessness in Kingston is a growing problem, with many people at risk of losing their homes. One in two people pay 30% or more of their income on housing, higher than the national average of one in four. Even worse, one in five Kingstonians spend 50% or more of their income on housing, leaving them vulnerable and at-risk of losing their homes if any untoward event should occur.

By and large the approach taken to address this issue so far has been to provide people with housing options along a continuum. Shelters and hostels provide their growing base of clients with emergency shelter and struggle to find housing and supports for them. Agency resources are stretched and there is no coordinated community plan for case management and services to house and support their clients.

Our research indicates that many cities across North America have adopted a Housing First approach – to great success. Housing First programs in places like Vancouver, Calgary and Toronto have enabled people to get faster control of their lives and better access to the services that will help them effect real change.

We are recommending that, as a community, we need to fully embrace a Housing First model in Kingston. Once people are housed, all research indicates that they are better able to work with the supports provided to help them focus on the personal and lifestyle issues that they need to address.

This plan includes recommendations required to develop and implement a Housing First approach in Kingston along with the development of a coordinated effort for enhanced and intensive case management.

We also recommend that a Community Leadership Group be created to work with all stakeholders to develop a detailed plan to bring this model to Kingston, and to oversee its implementation. A comprehensive plan for coordinated case management will be critical to the success of this approach.

The Housing First model costs less in the long run. It will provide a long-term solution, rather than a ‘band-aid’ approach to the issue of homelessness. A collaborative community effort will be needed to increase our housing supply through development of new affordable housing re-development and increasing the availability of rent-geared-to-income units scattered across the city.

All levels of government, funding agencies, shelters, developers and the private sector will need to work together to find new, innovative ways to increase the housing supply and to eliminate homelessness.

MATT'S STORY

“I moved here to marry my girlfriend because she’s pregnant, but because I’m from the U.S., they won’t let me work. And no one will hire my girlfriend while she’s pregnant, so we’ve been homeless since we moved here.

We were sleeping anywhere for a while and then we moved into the shelters. We like Ryandale best because they let us stay together. Still, we can only stay here until May. The baby is due in August, but I won’t be allowed to get a job until October.

I’m angry and frustrated because it’s not like I’m sitting around doing drugs all day. I’m searching for options every day, but there’s nothing there.

And now I’m worried that Children’s Aid is going to take the baby away because there’s no way I can support a wife and child.”

INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1

2009 PLAN

Plan Objectives

The *2006 Community Plan on Homelessness and Affordable Housing in Kingston* identified the need for transitional housing as well as supports and services required to move individuals and families along the continuum of housing. The plan recommended collaborative and coordinated opportunities for service providers, agencies, support services, funders and all levels of government. (A status update is provided in Appendix 2)

Since then, our research and the data from other communities indicate that Housing First is a more effective approach. This 2009 plan will identify steps we, as a community, need to take to alleviate and reduce homelessness in Kingston. We hope it will provide a way forward as it identifies the action required to help the most vulnerable residents of our community.

Scope of Plan

This plan has focused on homelessness and affordable housing. There are a number of factors that lead to homelessness, including mental health, poverty and systemic issues. In this report, we have focused only on factors that relate to homelessness, rather than attempt to address all the underlying causes.

A number of local groups are working together to address some of the underlying causes. Some of these include the Human Services Justice Coordination Network, the Community Roundtable on Poverty Reduction and the Children & Youth Services Steering Committee.

Data Collection

Data for this report was collected from a number of sources including the City of Kingston, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), Government of Canada, Province of Ontario, Statistics Canada, KEDCO, Kingston and Frontenac Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Ontario Association of Food Banks, Service Canada Centre,

Ontario Not For Profit Housing Association (ONPHA), Local Health Integrated Networks (LHIN). Comparative data and information was also collected from community plans in Calgary, Ottawa and Toronto.

Community Consultation

Between December 2008 and April 2009, United Way staff consulted with a number of individuals and groups in the city. In all, 224 community members provided input, twice as many as in 2006.

Key informants interviews: number of key informants = 33

Key informant interviews were conducted with people from a number of sectors: business, government, education, health services, correctional services, community groups, as well as politicians, funders, City of Kingston staff, shelter staff and service providers

Public forums: total attendees = 64

Three public forums were held for shelter providers, support services, community groups and members of the public. These forums were advertised broadly through newspaper advertisements, broadcast faxes and emails to groups and individuals

Focus groups: total attendees = 114

A number of community groups were consulted including food and meal providers, hospital social workers, human services and justice, dental coalition, labour council, shelter/hostel providers and the roundtable on poverty

Input from clients/consumers in hostels: number consulted = 8

Student volunteers from Queen's University visited local agencies and met with clients in two emergency hostels

Written Submissions = 5

Some organizations and individuals provided written submissions

The Face of Homelessness

While many identify the panhandler on the street as the face of the homeless, many panhandlers are not homeless, and many who are homeless are not panhandling.

Shelters and hostels in Kingston have seen a growing number of working families who are suddenly faced with homelessness due to lack of work, illness or a sudden change in their family situation.

In addition, there are a number of people who are the 'hidden homeless', who are inadequately housed, finding themselves couch surfing or moving from one friend or family member to another. Statistics are not available for the number of people who are inadequately housed as they do not register on any system. Service providers agree that they could outnumber shelter users.

While the majority of hostel and shelter users are male, homeless females are more likely to seek shelter with friends and relatives, or to endure a destructive relationship to avoid being homeless. Many women with children avoid homeless shelters for a number of reasons. One reason stated is that they fear their children may be taken from them by Children's Aid Society, another reason is safety.

Plan Development

The United Way collated all input, researched local information extensively, reviewed statistical and anecdotal information and developed this plan. Members of the Homelessness Planning Committee and volunteers worked with United Way staff to finalize direction and priorities.

We would like to thank all those who took the time and provided input and guidance to us as we developed this plan.



Those who are homeless may fall into the following three categories:

- 1 The chronically homeless often have a number of complex issues including mental health, substance abuse or a history of hospitalization and/or incarceration.
- 2 People who are homeless episodically use shelters and leave when they get income or they may use shelters seasonally. They often have trouble sustaining employment and housing due to substance abuse or behavioural issues.
- 3 Some individuals or families may be homeless temporarily for a shorter duration, in times of economic hardship or temporary housing loss for a number of reasons.



KEY FINDINGS

2

Chapter

WHAT THE DATA TELLS US

Overall, there is evidence that a number of individuals and families are at risk of losing their homes. Rents are high, vacancy rates low and many households cannot afford to pay rent and eat healthy food. We have seen an increase in the demand for services like food banks, meal programs and addiction services.

This chapter highlights some of the key findings from the data collected. Appendix 1 of this plan contains detailed data and charts.

1. ECONOMY

The impact of the global economic crisis, while not directly felt in early 2009, may affect Kingston's economy this year. For now, Kingston is considered one of Canada's top 25 cities and has much to offer potential investors – its strategic location, its cost competitiveness, its brain power, its bilingual capability and its existing economy.

- Richard Florida rated Kingston in the top 10 for retirees, families and empty-nesters²
- In 2008, Standard & Poor's announced that Kingston's financial rating was A+³
- Kingston's economy expanded 1.7% in 2008, a slight decline in the rate of expansion from 2007 levels⁴

However, there is a wide income gap. Kingston has many who have good incomes and yet we also see a large number of individuals and families who struggle to pay for food and rent. In addition to those on social assistance...

Kingston has a large number of 'working poor' who cannot make ends meet.

² Globe and Mail - Our cities are good, but they'll need to be a lot better, by Richard Florida – April 11, 2009

³ Kingston Economic Development Corporation (KEDCO), Community Profile, The Economy

⁴ Conference Board Canada and DTZ Barnicke Canadian Perspectives 2009, Regional Markets Reports, Kingston

Employment and unemployment

- Kingston has a high proportion of public-sector jobs. Public sector employees make up 40% of the local workforce⁵
- The city had a strong job growth in 2008, about eight times the national rate. In 2008 employment growth in Kingston was 4.8%, compared to 0.6% nationally. Kingston's job market jumped by 3,700 full-time and part-time positions from December 2007 to December 2008.⁶
- Unemployment in the Kingston area fell – from 4.0% (December 2007) to 3.7% (December 2008).⁷

Ontario's minimum wage increases but individuals and families struggle

- Minimum Wage increased from \$6.85 in 2004 to \$9.50 in 2009, an increase of 38.68%.⁸ In spite of these increases, a person making minimum wage, working steadily through the year, cannot afford to pay rent and eat healthy food⁹

There is a wide income gap

- Kingston's median family income is \$67,908. This is lower than the provincial median income (\$69,156) but higher than the national median income (\$63,866)¹⁰
- Kingston's median family income has grown 16.25% from 2001 to 2006 which is higher than the provincial rate of growth at 13.32% and on par with the national rate at 16.08%¹¹
- There are large discrepancies in family income within Kingston. The highest median family income is \$131,948 in one neighbourhood and the lowest is \$35,247 in another¹²

Kingston has a highly educated workforce

- Kingston has the highest scientific and engineering PhD concentration in Canada.¹³ 1.67% of the population has a PhD, three times the national average of 0.56%¹⁴
- Kingston has a bilingual workforce with 14.038% of the population who are fluent in both English and French¹⁵

- Kingston has a well educated workforce
 - 73% of Kingston's labour force has a post secondary education
 - 24.11% have university degrees, compared to 20.49% for Ontario
 - 18.21% have no diploma, compared to 22.23% for Ontario
 - 26.63% have high school diplomas, compared to 26.76% for Ontario
- Early education
 - 18.6% of children in Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington are not developmentally ready for grade one. On average, 27.3% children in Ontario are not developmentally ready for grade one¹⁶
 - 55% of children in the area are at or above the provincial standard in the Grade 3 reading scores, compared to 62% of children in Ontario who are at or above the provincial standard in Grade 3 reading scores¹⁷

BARRY'S STORY

"I don't think of myself as a typical homeless person. I went to college for computer programming and I go to church every Sunday.

My problems started when I applied for Ontario Works and there was a typo on my form. The government thought I was trying to cheat them by using a fake name. I took them to court and won, but then I lost on appeal. I've been in a shelter for two years now. I feel like I've lost my identity.

I've had a few jobs, but they've all paid minimum wage, and it's hard to save up enough for an apartment.

And then, when the summer students start looking for jobs, people like me are the first ones they let go."

^{5,6,7} Statistics Canada

⁸ Government of Canada, Human Resources and Social Development Canada

⁹ Can These People Afford To Eat Well? Highlighting food security in Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington, KFL&A Public Health

¹⁰ Statistics Canada Community Profiles Census 2006

¹¹ Statistics Canada Community Profiles – Census 2001 & 2006 - Median income in 2000 & 2005 - All census families (\$)

¹² City of Kingston Neighbourhood Profiles

¹³ KEDCO, Community Profile, Labour Force

¹⁴ The Kingston Whig-Standard, Wednesday, March 25, 2009 – Method: Sun Media and the latest 2006 population census numbers and 2008 education attainment figures for the story. Only census metropolitan areas were used.

¹⁵ Statistics Canada, Community Profiles 2006 Census

¹⁶ The Offord Centre for Child Studies, McMaster University, Report: School Readiness To Learn Ontario Sk Cohort Results, 2006

¹⁷ Data Analyst Coordinator (DAC), Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington

KEY FINDINGS

Chapter 2

2. AFFORDABILITY

With high rents, many individuals and families struggle to pay rent and afford healthy food and utilities. Families and individuals who pay more than 30% of their income on rent do not have enough money left for necessities. By definition, a household spending 50% or more of its income on shelter would fall below the affordability standard.¹⁸

In Kingston:

- 48% or 1 in 2 Kingston households are spending more than 30% of their income on housing
- 21.79% or 1 in 5 spend half their income or more on housing, leaving very little for other basic needs¹⁹

Kingston's Average Rents are Increasing

The average rents in Kingston are high. The amounts identified as 'affordable' in fact are unaffordable for many.

- Over the last 5 years, average rents have increased between 14.6% and 55.9%
- Kingston has the highest rent (\$1,327) for a three-bedroom apartment in the province of Ontario²⁰

Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

The shelter allowance provided by OW and ODSP is insufficient for the average rent in Kingston. 6,634 people in Kingston access OW and ODSP.

- Consolidated caseload figures from 2003 to 2008 show an overall 11.54 % caseload reduction²¹

Low Income Cutoff (LICO)

LICOs (proxy for a "poverty line") are income thresholds, determined by analysing family expenditure data, below which families will devote a larger share of income to the necessities of food, shelter and clothing than the average family would.

- LICO for Kingston (urban area with population between 100,000 - 499,999) is between \$18,659 for a single person and \$34,671 for a family of four
- In Kingston, 13.4% of the population (19,820) people live below the Low Income Cutoff level²²
- About 80% of those living under the LICO are served by programs for OW/ODSP. The remaining 20% would be considered working poor families by most definitions²³

The five scenarios demonstrate the financial reality of low-income families.

The scenarios show the total money left at the end of the month after paying the bills. The small amount of money left over, if any, does not allow for basic monthly necessities such as household supplies and toiletries, life and home insurance, over the counter medications, computer or internet services, gifts, recreation, and savings. These case studies were included in "Can These People Afford to Eat Well?" KFL&A Public Health 2008.

CASE STUDY 1

Mary Brown is a 68 year old single woman with no savings. Her only source of income are from the government. She does not qualify for the Canada Pension Plan because she has not contributed. She lives in a small one bedroom apartment while she waits for subsidized housing.

Source of Income	Amount Per Month	Monthly Expenses	Amount Per Month
Old Age Security	\$505.83	Rent - 1 bedroom apt. (utilities included)	\$701.00
Guaranteed Income Supplement - federal (GIS)	\$638.46	Food (\$30.70 x 4.33 x 1.15)	\$152.87
Guaranteed Annual Income Supplement for Seniors - provincial (GAINS)	\$83.00	Phone, cable, laundry, soap, personal items	\$198.00
GST Credit	\$30.17	Bus	\$44.00
TOTAL	\$1,257.46	Income tax	-
		TOTAL	\$1,095.87

Amount Remaining: \$1,257.46 - \$1,095.87 = \$161.59

¹⁸ CMHC

¹⁹ Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Data Products, Topic-based tabulations, Housing and shelter costs, Housing Affordability

²⁰ CMHC Rental Market Report Ontario Highlights Fall 2008

²¹ City of Kingston

²² Statistics Canada 2006 census Data Products, Topic-based tabulations, Low income, income status before tax

²³ City of Kingston, Cheryl Hitchen, CFS to Poverty Roundtable – December 2008

These case studies were included in “Can These People Afford to Eat Well?” KFL&A Public Health 2008.

CASE STUDY 2

James Hill is a 20 year old single male, struggling to find steady work. His only source of income is from Ontario Works.

Source of Income	Amount Per Month
Basic Allowance	\$211.00
Shelter Allowance	\$349.00
GST Credit	\$19.75
TOTAL	\$579.75

Amount Remaining: \$579.75 - \$1,168.78 = (\$589.03)

Monthly Expenses	Amount Per Month
Rent - 1 Bedroom apt (utilities included)	\$701.00
Food (\$44.95 x 4.33 x 1.15)	\$223.78
Phone, cable, laundry, soap, personal items	\$200.00
Bus	\$44.00
Income Tax	-
TOTAL	\$1,168.78

CASE STUDY 3

Patrick Jones is 38 years old, his wife is 34. They have two sons who are 12 and 16 years old. Mr. Jones and his youngest son both require glasses. They have limited access to some services as they currently live in Sharbot Lake. Mr. and Mrs. Jones recently found full-time jobs, in Sharbot Lake that pay minimum wage.

Source of Income	Amount Per Month
Combined Monthly Income (70 hrs x \$8.75/hr x 4.33)	\$2652.12
Basic Monthly Canada Child Tax Benefit	\$213.84
National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBS)	\$102.42
Ontario Child Benefit (\$98/yr)	\$8.17
GST Credit (\$169.87 quarterly)	\$56.62
TOTAL	\$3,033.17

Amount Remaining: \$3,033.17 - \$2,505.00 = \$528.17

Monthly Expenses	Amount Per Month
Rent - 3 bedroom apt. (utilities included)	\$1,100.00
Food (\$43.44 + \$31.33 + 34.61 + \$47.44 x 4.33)	\$679.03
Phone, cable, laundry, soap, personal items	\$406.00
Income tax, EI, CPP	\$319.97
TOTAL	\$2,505.00

CASE STUDY 4

Michael and Sally Adams have two sons, ages one and five years. Both parents do not work and their only source of income is the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). The Adams are on the waiting list for subsidized housing and are currently renting a two bedroom apartment in Kingston.

Source of Income	Amount Per Month
ODSP Basic Allowance	\$1,038.00
ODSP Shelter Allowance	\$802.00
Basic Monthly Canada Child Tax Benefit	\$213.84
National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBS)	\$312.16
Ontario Child Benefit (\$500/yr)	\$41.67
Universal Child Care Benefit June '07 to July '08 - \$100/month x 2	\$200.00
GST Credit (\$181.00 quarterly)	\$60.33
TOTAL	\$2,668.00

Amount Remaining: \$2,668.00 - \$2,095.29 = \$572.21

Monthly Expenses	Amount Per Month
Rent - 2 bedroom apt. (utilities included)	\$856.00
Food (\$43.44 + \$31.33 + 16.36 + \$23.23 x 4.33)	\$495.18
Phone, cable, laundry, soap, personal items	\$381.00
Bus (adults - \$65.00 x 2 - children under 6 are free)	\$130.00
NCBS payment to Ontario government (\$312.16 - \$78.99)	\$233.11
Income tax, EI, CPP	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$2,095.29

CASE STUDY 5

Linda Smith is a 35 year old single mother. Her son, John is 10 years old and her daughter Anne is 16. The children's father does not provide any child support. They are currently on the waiting list to get into subsidized housing. They are renting a three bedroom apartment in north Kingston.

Source of Income	Amount Per Month
Basic Allowance (Ontario Works)	\$615.00
Shelter Allowance (Ontario Works)	\$595.00
Basic Monthly Canada Child Tax Benefit	\$213.84
National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBS)	\$312.10
Ontario Child Benefit 2007 - \$250/child x 2 = \$500/yr	\$41.67
GST Credit (\$181.00 quarterly)	\$61.50
TOTAL	\$1,839.11

Amount Remaining: \$1,839.11 - \$2,324.58 = (\$485.47)

Monthly Expenses	Amount Per Month
Rent - 3 bedroom apt. (utilities included)	\$1,135.00
Food (\$43.44 + \$31.33 + 16.36 + \$23.23 x 4.33)	\$446.47
Phone, cable, laundry, soap, personal items	\$349.00
Bus (adults - \$65.00 + \$48.00 + \$48.00)	\$161.00
NCBS payment to Ontario government (\$312.16 - \$78.99)	\$233.11
Income tax	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$2,324.58

KEY FINDINGS

Chapter 2

3. HOUSING SUPPLY

With low vacancy rates and long social housing registry waitlists, there are not enough affordable housing units in Kingston.

Vacancy rates in Kingston are low

A “healthy” vacancy rate is considered to be 3 to 5%.²⁴

- Kingston’s vacancy rate went down to a low 1.3% in 2008. (The rate is now at its lowest level since 2002, when it was 0.9%)²⁵
- The number of households on the centralized waiting list for social housing has increased from 979 in 2005 to 1,073 in 2008, a 10.6% increase²⁶

Rent-geared-to-income

Based on provincially legislated eligibility criteria, not all families or individuals qualify for rent-geared-to-income assistance housing.

- A number of working poor or low income families may not be eligible for rent-geared-to-income assistance, but struggle to make ends meet²⁷
- The City of Kingston, through the provincial download, provides a minimum of 2,003 rent-geared-to-income (RGI) units in Kingston. In addition, the City receives funding that allows for additional rent supplement units. There are currently 2,092 RGI units.

“Social housing wait time for families is 6-24 months, for seniors 2 years and for singles it is 4+ years.”

Waiting lists for subsidized units are long

- In 2008 there were 1,073 applications for subsidized housing units, an increase of 10.6% over the previous year
- There was also a decrease in the number of households placed in subsidized units from the centralized waiting list, with just 321 households housed in 2008²⁸
- 50% of households on the rent-geared-to-income waiting list are on social assistance, the others are low-income individuals or families who are working and struggling to cope with basic expenses²⁹

Average wait times for social housing are high

- The wait time for social housing units are dependent upon the applicant’s areas of preference, vacancy turnover and bedroom size required.³⁰ Under the legislation, Housing Providers must refer to their Internal Transfer waiting list before offering units from the centralized waiting list
- Generally, for 3 and 4 bedroom units in the north end, the wait can be less than one year and in the case of one-bedroom units it can take longer than five years³¹
- In Kingston, the approximate wait time for families was 6-24 months, for seniors 2 years and for singles it was 4 years or more

New affordable housing is being built but is not always affordable

- Since 2006, 164 new affordable housing units have been built with 55 additional units planned for 2009
- The CMHC average market rent for a one bedroom affordable unit is \$701. Some of these are not affordable for those with low income or on social assistance. An individual or couple would need an annual income \$28,020 to pay \$701 based on 30% of their income³²
- Maximum household income for eligibility for a one-bedroom unit for the Social Housing wait list is \$26,500

²⁴ Where’s Home? 2005

²⁵ CMHC Rental Market Statistics 2008

^{26, 28, 29, 30, 31} Social Housing Registry, City of Kingston

²⁷ City of Kingston

³² City of Kingston, Report to Arts, Recreation and Community Policies Committee Report No.:

ARCP-08-042 - Information Report on Secondary Suites - Lance Thurston, Commissioner, Community Development Services Group – October 23, 2008

4. SERVICES

The demand for services is increasing. More residents are accessing meal programs, food bank usage, addiction services and counselling.

Emergency shelters/hostels are full

Kingston Hostels and Shelters all report longer stays and an increase in the number of people turned away. Ryandale Shelter has seen an increase in families and families with children. In a shelter system that is at or near capacity the arrival of a large family or multiple families leads to an over-capacity issue and people being turned away.

- Since 2006, there has been a 6% increase in the number of bed nights in Kingston's emergency hostels

Food Security: growing demand for food and meal programs

- Meal providers in Kingston have seen a 4% increase in the number of meals served in 2008
- 5600 families and individuals accessed the Partners in Mission Food Bank
 - New clients included 655 adults and 355 children in 2008
 - 30% of Food Bank users are single parents
 - 7,454 children were served in 2008
 - They have seen a 12% increase in demand, the highest increase they have seen
- In 2007 the Food Sharing Project served meals and healthy snacks to 5,218 students in schools across KFL&A. In 2008 they served 9,092 students

Need for addiction services is increasing

- Addiction Services (The Kingston Detoxification Centre, Options for Change Community Addictions Treatment Services and Kairos Addiction services for children, youth and young adults) all report an increase in the need for services and have needed to add additional programs over the past two years
- The Kingston Detoxification Centre reported that the length of stay has increased to approximately 5 days, with some staying 10 days. The previous average was 4 days

Many struggle to pay for utilities

- Gas and energy costs have increased over the past five years
 - Gas has increased by 62% since 2003
 - Heating fuel has increased by 89% since 2003³³
- Utility bank
 - Funding for Winter Warmth Program (Union Gas & The United Way), helping households avoid eviction due to non-payment of utilities doubled from 2006 to 2008
 - The City of Kingston receives funds annually from the province for a utility bank, which is administered by the Salvation Army for Kingston. 166 households were supported through this program. The average grant per household was \$465.58

Prevention of evictions

- Housing Help Centre has 2 eviction prevention workers, who work closely with their clients to avoid people becoming homeless due to evictions
- Kingston Community Legal Clinic provides eviction prevention services as well as representation before the Landlord and Tenant Board. About 36 hearings per year are held, averaging 22 applicants per hearing. 86% of these are brought forward by the landlord³⁴



³³ Ontario Association of Food Banks: A Gathering Storm The Price of Food, Gasoline, and Energy and Changing Economic Conditions in Ontario 2008

³⁴ Kingston Community Legal Clinic

KEY FINDINGS

Chapter 2

5. COST OF HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY

Poverty has a price tag

Poverty has a significant cost for governments. The federal and Ontario government are losing between \$10.4 billion to \$13.1 billion a year due to poverty, a loss equal to between 10.8 to 16.6% of the provincial budget. In real terms, poverty costs every household in Ontario between \$2,299 and \$2,895 every year.

Poverty has a very significant total economic cost in Ontario. When both private and public (or social) costs are combined, the total cost of poverty in Ontario is 5.5% to 6.6% of Ontario's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).³⁵

Cost of Homelessness

People who are homeless are more likely to access health care services, many of them are also more likely to spend time in correctional facilities. All studies in U.S.A. and Canada indicate that it is less to spend directly on supported social housing. In Canada, it is estimated that the cost of a homeless person is about \$134,000 per person per year, more than it would cost to house a person and provide supports.

“The Cost of Homelessness and the Value of Investment in Housing Support Services in Halifax Regional Municipality June 2006”, submitted by Cities & Environment Unit Dalhousie University, states that people in supportive housing on average spend only one third as much time in these facilities as the homeless population. They also have an eighty per cent housing retention rate. The actual costs vary, but the pattern is clear: homelessness is expensive and substantial cost savings of about 40% can be achieved by investing in the Housing First model.

In Kingston, the City and Province of Ontario currently pay \$45.70 per diem for an individual in an emergency shelter/ hostel. In addition, the agency needs to raise additional funds through the United Way, fundraising and other grants in order to cover the real cost of housing in a shelter. It would cost the community less to provide supported housing.

More than the financial cost, communities see a significant loss in terms of future productivity. Homeless people encounter obstacles in seeking employment and contributing to society. Homeless children face barriers to education and score below other children of the same age. The emotional and social costs may not be quantifiable, but the negative impact is real.



SUSTAINABILITY

Community sustainability integrates the economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects that allow us to enjoy our present quality of life while providing the stewardship required for future generations to be able to meet their own needs and enjoy a similar or better quality of life.

Through the creation of affordable housing, a community contributes to sustaining and enhancing the social infrastructure systems that we all rely on such as public health care, education, and security. Proactively reducing homelessness enables more people to positively contribute to the economic sustainability of our community. It stabilizes home environments so that our children have a better opportunity to develop into contributors to a sustainable community.

³⁵ The Cost of Poverty an Analysis of the Economic Cost of Poverty in Ontario, Ontario Association of Food Banks, November 2008

PUBLIC FORUM INPUT: FACTORS SHAPING HOMELESSNESS IN KINGSTON

Participants at public forums and focus groups were asked their opinion on homelessness in the city. Based on their input, the following were identified as key factors that lead to homelessness in Kingston:

Poverty

A key factor in becoming homeless is poverty. Many workers, especially working poor, are increasingly stressed about job security and making ends meet. They are at risk of losing their housing if factors beyond their control, such as illness or job loss, should come into effect.

Vacancy Rates

Lower vacancy rates result in higher rents. Economists believe that a vacancy rate of 3% is optimum. Vacancy rates in Kingston are 1.3% compared to Ontario's rate of 2.7%.

High Rents

Average rents have increased significantly in Kingston, making many units unaffordable. Over the past five years in Kingston average rents have increased. With the economic downturn and the cost of utilities, food and other essentials, high rents make it more difficult for many to manage their household budget.

Affordable housing, Social Housing Registry Waitlist

There is not enough affordable housing. The waiting period for people seeking rent-geared-to-income (RGI) assistance continues to be long. The definition of "affordable" is bound by policy and may not be at a level where many in need can qualify. Income levels for those eligible to be added to the waitlist are low.

Mental Illness and Addictions

An estimated 25 to 50% of homeless people have a mental illness. Up to 70% of those with a severe mental illness also abuse substances. Local mental health services have over a thousand outpatients. In spite of careful discharge planning, many end up using food banks and shelters.

Health Issues

People can become homeless due to health issues i.e. through a chronic illness, moving to another community due to health reasons or because of accessibility issues at home after hospitalization. Some patients are being discharged from hospitals into shelters.

PETER'S STORY

"I'm from London, Ontario, and I came to Kingston to see a cancer specialist. He told me I only had a few months to live, so I called my wife and told her I was staying here. That was two years ago.

I don't have any money, so I live in a shelter. The tumor is still in my head. It popped a blood vessel a while ago and they had to drill holes in my head to drain all the blood.

I hate living in a shelter. If the cancer doesn't kill me by September, I'll kill myself."

Government Policies

People often fall between the cracks because they have difficulty navigating through bureaucracy and red tape.

Personal

Family problems, illiteracy, lack of life skills and self esteem, and other personal issues can lead to homelessness.

Emergency Shelter Usage

The number of bed nights at shelters has increased from 15,979 in 2006 to 16,985 in 2008, an increase of 6.3%. A disturbing trend is the increase in the number of youth and families with children who require emergency shelter. Shelter services are stretched with a number of chronically homeless individuals who 'live' in shelters.



BEST PRACTICES

3

Chapter

HOUSING FIRST

Housing First is not a single model, but a set of general practices that communities may interpret and implement somewhat differently. The importance of this model has been recognized by the National Homelessness Initiative project, sponsored by the Mental Health Commission of Canada.

The distinguishing features of the Housing First approach are:

- 1 Direct, or nearly direct, placement of targeted homeless people into permanent housing. Even though the initial housing placement may be transitional in nature, the program commits to ensuring that the client is housed permanently
- 2 While supportive services may be offered and made readily available, the program does not require participation in these services to remain in the housing
- 3 The use of assertive outreach to engage and offer housing to homeless people with mental illness who are reluctant to enter shelters or engage in services. Once in housing, a low demand approach accommodates client alcohol and substance use, so that “relapse” will not result in the client losing housing³⁶
- 4 The continued effort to provide case management and to hold housing for clients, even if they leave their program for short periods is also part of the mandate

We hope that “Housing First” will provide a way forward as it identifies the action required to help the most vulnerable residents of our community.

³⁶ Marlatt and Tapert, 1993

JOSEPH STREET

In response to the growing number of individuals needing emergency shelter and the difficulty of finding appropriate housing for them, Home Base Housing developed fourteen new apartments on Joseph Street using the principles of the Housing First Model. This initiative has demonstrated itself to be very effective at providing housing and support. Immediately after opening, the number of individuals in the shelter system in Kingston declined. People who had lengthy histories of finding then losing a place have found a stable place to live. Phase II which will add an

additional 24 apartments is scheduled to open in July 2009. The success of this project has been based in large part on the cooperation of various agencies including Providence Care Mental Health, Street Health, Frontenac Community Mental Health Services, the other emergency shelters in the City and a host of community volunteers.



Housing and Human Rights in Canada

A UN report on adequate housing and human rights in Canada states that homelessness and inadequate housing in Canada should be addressed by reinstating or increasing social housing programs for those in need, improving and properly enforcing anti-discrimination legislation in the field of housing, increasing shelter allowances and social assistance rates to realistic levels, and providing adequate support services for persons with disabilities.

Reducing homelessness and the number of people living in inadequate housing requires Canada to adopt a comprehensive and coordinated national poverty reduction strategy. The report adds that, while three provinces have already taken important steps in this direction, the federal government should also be active in this area. This must include a review of the income available through social assistance and minimum wage in light of actual housing costs and a timetable for ensuring an adequate income to cover housing costs.

Sufficient income and housing assistance should be ensured to allow mothers to secure adequate housing and maintain custody of their children.

U.S.A.

New York

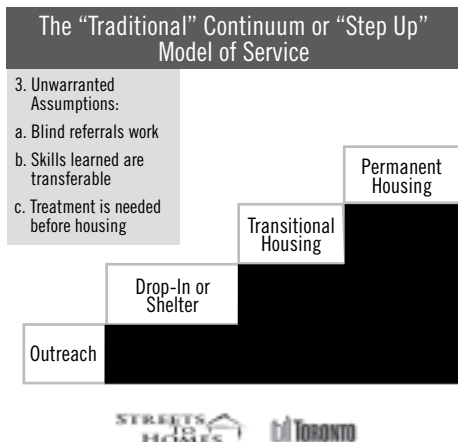
The first and most well known Housing First model is Pathways to Housing, located in New York City. Established in 1992, Pathways to Housing offers individuals, who are homeless and have psychiatric or substance-related disorders, direct access to permanent, independent apartments without requiring participation in psychiatric treatment or sobriety as a precondition for entering housing.³⁷ Housing and treatment services are separated.

The basis of the Housing First approach is that people are provided the services of a case manager to define and support them. The first priority is getting them housed. Once clients are housed, they are better prepared to address additional personal challenges, such as mental illness or substance-related issues.

Evidence to date suggests that permanent supportive housing for homeless single adults with mental illness increases housing tenure, reduces rates of hospitalization and lengths of stay, and decreases risk of new homelessness.³⁸

³⁷ Housing First, Consumer Choice, and Harm Reduction for Homeless Individuals With a Dual Diagnosis – Tsemberis, Gulcur, and Nakae, 2004

³⁸ Culhane, Metraux, and Hadley, 2002



The National Alliance to End Homelessness

The National Alliance to End Homelessness is a nonpartisan, mission-driven organization committed to preventing and ending homelessness in the United States. They believe that, while it often seems that placing homeless people in shelters is the most inexpensive way of meeting basic needs, this is deceptive. The cost of homelessness can be quite high. People who are homeless use a variety of public systems in an inefficient and costly way. Preventing a homeless episode or ensuring a speedy transition into stable permanent housing can result in a significant cost savings.

In some Housing First programs for families, the client pays 30% of their income towards rent, while the program helps supplement their food and clothing costs with a monthly or weekly stipend. The program realizes large cost savings through service provision, because it coordinates and links up with existing systems, rather than creating new ones.

Canada

Vancouver

The Housing First Initiative in Vancouver is based on providing housing first to the homeless, and then the services needed to support them once their lives are stabilized. A recent study by Simon Fraser University’s Centre for Applied Research in Mental Health and Addiction (CARMA) estimated that in British Columbia, the current financial cost to taxpayers for services to homeless people with severe addictions and/or mental illness is \$55,000 a year per person. In contrast, providing these people with adequate housing and supports cost \$37,000 a year per person. This saves taxpayers \$211 million dollars a year in direct costs.³⁹

Toronto

City of Toronto has found that the traditional continuum or ‘step up’ model of service is not as effective as the Housing First model. They have found that there is no evidence that blind referrals to services work, that life skills learned before being housed work or that treatments are more effective before the person is permanently housed.

Why Housing First?

- People learn skills required for stability when they are housed
- Housing First decreases the cost and demand for other services like health, criminal justice and emergency services
- People who are housed can separate homeless issues from other life issues
- Homeless people want housing

CHARLES’ STORY

“Charles has been living at In from the Cold since 2006. His condition has deteriorated steadily since then. He doesn’t bathe or change his clothes and he seems depressed and keeps to himself.

During the day, when the shelter is closed, most clients go to Martha’s Table, but Charles just stays by the door, waiting for us to re-open.

We’ve tried finding a better arrangement for him. We found him a room at Transition House, but he didn’t want to live there. We tried to move him to our Joseph Street property, where other former clients now live, but he wasn’t interested.

Charles is in his 60s, and his health isn’t getting any better. I’d like to see him in our Supportive Housing program, and I’ve talked to him about it a few times. But he says he’s happy here.”

³⁹ Out Of The Shadows At Last, Transforming Mental Health, Mental Illness And Addiction Services In Canada, May 2006
The Honourable Michael J. L. Kirby, Chair, The Honourable Wilbert Joseph Keon, Deputy Chair

The City of Toronto, seeing no evidence that moving people along the continuum of support works, has implemented the Housing First model. The goal of the “Streets to Homes” program is to end street homelessness. They found that the Housing First model works for all types of homelessness as it is client-focused. It helps landlords retain tenants with rent being paid directly to landlords. They also found that it was a more effective use of funding dollars as it helped to eliminate duplication of services.

Some of their findings include:

- 91% (2,300 homeless) remain housed after 3 years (2005-2008)
- Demand for other services also decreased. For example:
 - Policing: ‘Drunk Tank’ decreased by 75%, arrests decreased by 56%, court appearances decreased by 58%
 - Health: clinic visits decreased by 28%, emergency room visits decreased by 40%, hospital admissions decreased by 25%, emergency service such as 911 calls decreased by 35% and ambulance calls by 38%
- Clients reported
 - Higher self-esteem (82%)
 - An overall improvement in health (70%)
 - Improvement in safety (72%)
 - 31% stopped using drugs and 17% did not use alcohol since being housed

Calgary

The Calgary Homeless Foundation has developed a 10 Year Plan on homelessness. The Calgary Committee to End Homelessness is a community-based, multi-stakeholder leadership group. They follow a Housing First philosophy.

Their highest priority is moving homeless people into permanent housing with the supports necessary to sustain that housing. For this a coordinated intake and assessment and a city-wide case management is essential.

Housing is developed with a ‘scattered’ approach – no ghettos, no over-saturation of buildings. Their plan rewards personal accountability and initiative. They believe it will result in a net cost savings to taxpayers.

Kingston

Three years ago, Kingston Home Base Housing adopted a Housing First approach and embarked on building Phase I and II housing units at Joseph Street. The agency took people directly from shelters and housed them, providing them supports. Other agencies like Street Health and Frontenac

Mental Health Services were included to provide support to tenants once they were housed. The year Phase 1 was implemented resulted in a decrease in emergency shelter use.

Locally, the City of Kingston has used a continuum to demonstrate the range of housing options needed in a community, recognizing that people don’t move along linearly in housing or any other form of social support. The continuum is useful as an illustration of the range of housing needed in a community, but not as an example of how clients should be treated. Within the Kingston Model developed by the City of Kingston there is some mention of “Housing First”.

The South East LHIN noted in its Integrated Health Services Plan, October 2006, that access issues to community support for homeless people are especially problematic. They believe it is critical to have an integration of services in the provision of housing.

Based on these examples and the experience of other communities that have developed a Housing First approach, we believe it is critical that Kingston adopt this model across the community. Expanding the success of successful local initiatives, we need to create a coordinated, comprehensive, community-wide plan of action and develop a Kingston Housing First Model, with intensive case management and services.

TREE HOUSE BOYS

“One day we discovered that two teenaged brothers were living in our son’s tree house. At first we gave them food and left the back door open so that they could use the washroom.

We learned that their parents had abandoned them, so we called a social worker to see about getting them some financial aid and housing.

Ontario Works agreed to help the older boy, because he was 18. But the younger brother was under 18 and he didn’t qualify. It took some fancy footwork from the social worker, but eventually the younger brother qualified too.

Once the financial support was in place, we helped them find an apartment and co-signed the lease. We still check in on them whenever we get the chance.”



RECOMMENDATIONS

4

Chapter

Based on our findings, we recommend a community-wide shift in philosophy in our approach to housing in Kingston. There have been significant developments in communities across North America and locally that have demonstrated the effectiveness of the “Housing First” model. This approach moves the emphasis to consumer-driven recovery, rather than linear movement along a continuum.

1. Shelters/Hostels

There will always be a need for shelters and hostels for those who face crises and emergencies. Our community needs to ensure that we continue to provide support services, beds and meal programs for those who are homeless as well as those who are at risk of losing their homes.

We recommend sustaining and maintaining shelter beds to meet the community emergency needs and identify ways to:

- Reduce number of chronically homeless people in emergency shelters
- Reduce the average stay in emergency shelters to less than seven days

A coordinated plan needs to be developed, funded and implemented with strategic objectives.

2. Housing First

Building on the success of Housing First models across North America and local initiatives, working with community partner agencies, we recommend that a local Housing First approach be developed that recognizes housing as a first priority with the required supports to help maintain tenancy. Coordinated case management will be critical to the success of this approach.

We recommend recruiting a Community Leadership Group to work with all stakeholders and to oversee the planning and implementation of this model.

A coordinated plan needs to be developed, funded and implemented with the following objectives:

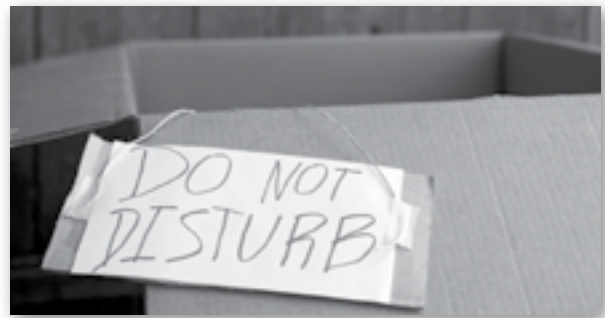
- Policies that encourage developers to make affordable units affordable
- Long-term strategies to eliminate family homelessness
- Increase in housing supply
- A comprehensive coordinated case management system

3. Keeping People Housed

One of the best ways to reduce homelessness is to prevent people from losing their homes. We recommend that place-based services and eviction prevention support need to be in place to help people stay housed.

Key objectives:

- Decrease in evictions
- More rent subsidies in place across the city, including support for low-income seniors and families



MARY AT IN FROM THE COLD

“No matter what a person is in jail for, it is very difficult to avoid homelessness unless you have some sort of support for family or friends.

After I got out of jail, I had trouble finding a place to live. I was renting a room in this one place, but there was a real drug atmosphere there and I needed to get away from that.

I’m living at In from the Cold because they don’t make you leave after a few weeks.

I’ve been to some of the other shelters, but I’ve seen a lot of favouritism at some of them, and I think the people who work there could be more compassionate.”

COUNCIL ON AGING

KATHERINE

“On the death of my husband, I moved to Kingston to be close to my son and his family. When he was being transferred to Ottawa, I didn’t want to move again, but living alone without nearby family was frightening. Last September, I learned about the supportive living project being proposed by the Council on Aging.

It has changed my life. I didn’t have to move. I’ve made good friends among the other seniors. We enjoy the twice a month programs and coffee party, the potlucks, the VON SMART program, fashion shows, special evening entertainment and being treated to a wonderful lunch by the St. Lawrence College Culinary Arts students.

All of us look forward to having someone in the building to call when we need help. To me, it’s like a miracle.”

NEXT STEPS

The Housing First model has been shown to be successful in meeting housing and support needs. Many of the issues and gaps identified in this report can be addressed through a community commitment to the Housing First philosophy and by taking concrete, measurable actions to implement a Housing First model across the city. Changes and enhancements to the existing service delivery will ensure a successful transition to Housing First.

Shelters/Hostels

To maintain and sustain existing shelter beds and resources

- Work with emergency hostel providers to develop strategies to return to core service delivery of providing short term accommodation for those with emergency shelter needs
- Evaluate the gaps and challenges in the current hostel system and identify the best options for the emergency shelter system in Kingston to meet the community's ongoing, dynamic and emergency needs

Housing First Model

Create a Community Leadership Group to develop strategic long-term action plans for a Housing First model in Kingston and oversee its development and implementation

- Identify existing committees⁴⁰ working on homelessness and find opportunities to find common goals and accommodate these by merging, developing communication protocols and/or sub-committees
- Identify opportunities and barriers to the successful implementation of Housing First model; develop strategies to address these barriers
- Identify key stakeholders critical to the successful implementation of Housing First
- Identify resources required and financial implications of this model
- Arrange for community planners and stakeholders to learn from the expertise of those who have successfully implemented this model

All levels of government, funding agencies, shelter providers, developers and the private sector need to work together to find new, innovative ways to increase the housing supply to eliminate homelessness

- Encourage City Council to support the development of housing that is 'affordable' to those with low incomes
- Create innovative partnerships with private sector and engage local developers, landlords and others to increase the number of affordable rental units
- Assist families with children to find housing as soon as possible through RGI, subsidies, assistance with utilities, first time house ownership plans, etc.
- Implement the recommendations in the City's Kingston Model for Affordable Housing that allow those in financial need greater access to housing in the public sector
- Consider all types of housing when growing housing supply – new, existing, second suites, renovations, transitional, co-ops, supportive housing
- Use a 'scattered' approach and develop mixed housing with affordable units throughout the city rather than concentrated in any one area. Ensure that these units have access to services, especially transportation
- Identify level of service required to provide time-limited transitional housing to bridge the gap between emergency hostel provision and permanent housing and ensure adequate supports for those in transition
- Continue to work with local institutions, health service providers and the South East LHIN to ensure that discharge planning processes provide options that discourage the utilization of emergency hostels as an acceptable housing option for those with medical, mental health and addiction issues

- Provide information to the South East LHIN on the lack of sufficient support, 'basket of services' required to maintain people in their housing
- Support the priority of the South East LHIN to reduce barriers in accessing mental health and addictions services and advocate for the implementation of a coordinated access system for these programs

Coordinated intensive case management

- Build a coordinated network and develop a plan for client-focused, recovery-driven case management. Create a system to identify the needs of those who are homeless and ensure that people do not fall between the cracks
- Working with community service providers, this plan will develop a model for coordinated, intensive case management by the appropriate service providers.
- The South East LHIN plan has identified that mental health services need to be increased in the region and the lack of sufficient case management resources is clearly impacting the ability for people to maintain their housing tenancies.
- Find supportive housing for those with mental health, addiction and health issues with place-based services.
- Work with provincial, federal, municipal, health and local funding partners to ensure that adequate resources are available to provide necessary supports to maintain tenancies for those with mental health, medical needs and addictions as well as seniors

Keep People Housed with Place-Based Services and Supports

All levels of government, funding agencies, shelter providers, developers and the private sector need to work together to find new, innovative ways to increase the housing supply to eliminate homelessness

- Provide supports to seniors in buildings – provide onsite services like meals, exercise facilities, health professionals, nurses, etc. in buildings so seniors are not required to move to Long Term Care facilities

- Eviction prevention – increase prevention strategies in order to keep people housed
 - Reinforce emergency prevention through emergency financial assistance
 - Create opportunities for the most vulnerable to increase incomes so they can retain housing
 - Streamline access to supportive, transitional and/or RGI housing and services
 - Continue local eviction prevention programs and supports that help to maintain housing (Rent Bank, Utility Bank, Winter Warmth, eviction prevention assistance)



Serving our Seniors Project

In September, 2008, the Council on Aging launched a supportive-living project designed to prevent early admission to long-term care.

The project provides living space for 37 seniors in apartments at 237 Bath Road, and aims to prevent social isolation, stimulate activity, improve nutrition, and provide 24/7 PSW support with minimal capital investment.

The first two goals have been met. We have developed a communal meal plan within the seniors' price range and plans for a commercial kitchen and 24/7 on-site support are now in development.

Homestead Land Holdings, SE CCAC, Queen's Studies in Family Medicine and the VON Exercise Program are involved community partners.

⁴⁰ There are many initiatives underway in the community that relate to housing needs. These must be understood and accommodated in some fashion, including: Queen's University/ City of Kingston Housing Working Group; Poverty Roundtable and subcommittees; Homelessness Planning Committee; Affordable Housing Development Committee; Kingston Non-Profit Housing Advisory Committee; Kingston Shelters Planning Committee; Housing and Homelessness One Table (HHOT); Social Issues Networking Group (SING); Streets to Homes Project Proposal; The Kingston Affordable Housing Model Update Initiative; Housing First Supported Living Housing Proposal, Low-Income Housing Working Group, etc..

Appendix 1

Wherever possible, we have collected data for the city of Kingston. However, in some cases, data was available for Kingston CMA (which includes Kingston and Frontenac), and some data and charts from Statistics Canada cover the geographic region of Kingston-Pembroke.

The Economics of Homelessness

In 2009, Richard Florida rated Kingston in the top 10 for retirees, families and empty-nesters.⁴¹ In 2008, Standard & Poor's announced that Kingston's financial rating will remain A+ with a "positive" outlook – the rating that it achieved in 2007 – and noted that the City has "good prospects" for 2009.⁴²

Kingston's economy expanded 1.7% in 2008, a slight decline from 2007 levels. This decline was due primarily to the ongoing softening in manufacturing activity resulting from the overall strength of the Canadian dollar and a slide in residential construction caused by three consecutive years of negative population growth.

The economy is forecast to expand by 1.9% in 2009 and 2.2% in 2010. Some of the major projects continuing into 2009 include the \$230 million Queen's Centre and campus revitalization; \$190 million budgeted for underground and roads infrastructure upgrades; \$115 million Ravensview water treatment upgrade; and an \$80 million investment in waterfront living. The Wolfe Island Wind Project, an 86 turbine wind farm estimated to cost \$410 million, will also give the construction sector a boost.⁴³

Kingston's Economic Outlook

	2007	2008	2009 forecast	2010 forecast
Real GDP*	2.50%	1.70%	1.90%	2.20%
Population*	-0.40%	-0.20%	0.20%	0.30%
Employment*	1.30%	0.80%	1.00%	0.70%
Unemployment Rate	5.40%	5.50%	5.60%	5.50%
Personal Income per Capita	\$35,926	\$37,080	\$38,148	\$39,381
Total Housing Starts	900	600	700	700
Retail Sales*	4.50%	5.10%	4.40%	4.50%
CPI*	1.80%	1.20%	2.00%	2.00%

Source: Conference Board Canada

*Percentage Change from Previous Year

⁴¹ Globe and Mail - Our cities are good, but they'll need to be a lot better, by Richard Florida – April 11, 2009

⁴² Kingston Economic Development Corporation (KEDCO), Community Profile, The Economy

⁴³ Conference Board Canada and DTZ Barnicke Canadian Perspectives 2009, Regional Markets Reports, Kingston

⁴⁴ DTZ Barnicke Canadian Perspectives 2009, Executive Reports, Provincial Update

⁴⁵ Statistics Canada, Table 6-1 Labour force characteristics – by province and economic region & Table 5-1 Labour force characteristics by census metropolitan area

Employment and unemployment

Kingston's unemployment rate has been in the range of 4.4 and 5.5% in 2008, which is below the regional, provincial and national rate of unemployment.

	Kingston CMA*	Canada	Ontario
Population	155,000	33,441,277	12,929,000
Employment	50.96%	63.6%	63.6%
Unemployment rate	5.5%	6.1%	6.5%
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	1.7%	1%	0%
Consumer Price Index	1.2%	1.4%	2.3%

Kingston Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), this area covers the City of Kingston, Frontenac Islands, Loyalist Township and South Frontenac.⁴⁴

Labour Force Activity 2008 Comparison with Ontario and Canada

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	Kingston CMA	Kingston-Pembroke	Ontario	Canada
Population	126,200	360,700	10,545,600	27,010,400
Labour Force	84,200	239,500	7,210,800	18,394,000
Employed	80,500	225,000	6,753,600	17,297,600
Unemployed	3,700	14,500	457,300	1,096,400
Participation Rate	66.7%	66.4%	68.4%	68.1%
Unemployment Rate	4.4%	6.1%	6.3%	6.0%
Employment Rate	63.8%	62.4%	64.0%	64.0%

Kingston-Pembroke Unemployment rate of 6.1% has been on par with Canada's unemployment rate at 6.0% but has a lower employment rate of 62.4% compared to Canada at 64.0% and Ontario at 64.0%.

The following chart demonstrates six years of labour force activity in the Kingston-Pembroke region between December 2000 and October 2008.

The population in this region grew 3% between 2003 and 2008 with a 10% increase in the labour force and 12% increase in employment. Most of this increase occurred between 2003 and 2007, with growth relatively flat between 2007 and 2008.

In the past 8 years the unemployment rate has fluctuated between 4.9% (lowest rate in 2004) and 7.3% (highest rate in 2002) but has remained consistent for the past 4 years between 5.3% in 2005 and 5.5% in 2008.

Labour Force Activity Economic Region 3515 – Kingston – Pembroke

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Age 15+	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	5 year % Change
Population	350,400	353,200	356,600	358,200	359,600	360,800	2.96%
Labour Force	210,000	221,400	211,400	213,100	231,000	231,400	10.19%
Employed	194,900	210,600	200,400	201,600	218,500	218,600	12.16%
Unemployed	15,100	10,800	11,100	11,500	12,400	12,800	-15.23%
Not in Labour Force	140,400	131,800	145,200	145,100	128,600	121,200	-13.67%
Participation Rate	59.9	62.7	59.3	59.5	64.2	64.1	-
Unemployment Rate	7.2	4.9	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.5	-
Employment Rate	55.6	59.6	56.2	56.3	60.8	60.6	-

The employment rate for region 3515 Kingston – Pembroke for December 2008 is 60.6% which is lower than the national rate of 64.0% noted in October 2008 and the provincial rate of 64.0% in October 2008.

Workforce in Kingston

Statistics Canada, 2006 Census data reports that the Kingston Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) has a total of 79,035 workers over the age of 15.

The workforce is broken down in the following industries⁴⁷:

Other Services	26.41%	Construction	6.03%
Health Care and Social Services	14.29%	Manufacturing	5.45%
Business Services	14.21%	Finance and Real Estate	4.88%
Educational Services	12.49%	Wholesale Trade	2.30%
Retail Trade	12.27%	Agriculture & Other	1.66%

Kingston experienced surprisingly strong job growth last year – about eight times the national rate. According to Statistics Canada, Kingston's job market jumped by 3,700 full and part-time positions between December 2007 and December 2008.⁴⁸

Kingston's economy tends to be more recession-proof than most because of its high proportion of public-sector jobs.⁴⁹ Public sector employees make up 40% of the local workforce; this includes large institutions and organizations like Queen's University, Canadian Forces Base Kingston, Correctional Service Canada, Kingston General Hospital and Providence Care.

In 2008 employment growth in Kingston was 4.8% - compared to 0.6% nationally. Unemployment in the Kingston area fell – from 4.0% (December 2007) to 3.7% (December 2008).⁵⁰

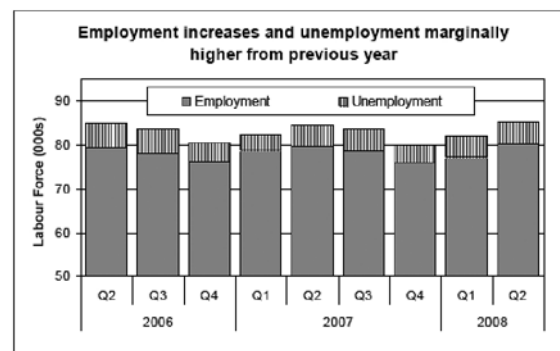
The accommodation and food sector was up 1,400 over the year. Yet retail showed a decrease of 2,200 jobs. Professional, scientific and technical services experienced the second-highest rise with 2,000 jobs.⁵¹

Employment Insurance

Employment Insurance provides temporary financial help to unemployed Canadians while they look for work or upgrade their skills, while they are pregnant or caring for a newborn or adopted child, or while they are sick. People on regular claims are unemployed and seeking work.

Conditions in the Kingston CMA labour market improved in the second quarter of 2008. Full-time employment increased by 6.3% (+3,800), but was offset by part-time employment decreasing. The net result was an employment gain of 3.9% (+3,000).

The labour force increased by 4.0% (+3,300), primarily due to 3,200 workers rejoining the labour force in the second quarter of 2008. Since the labour force increased more than the employed workforce, unemployment increased slightly.



Service Canada April-June 2008

⁴⁶ Labour Force Survey – Statistics Canada

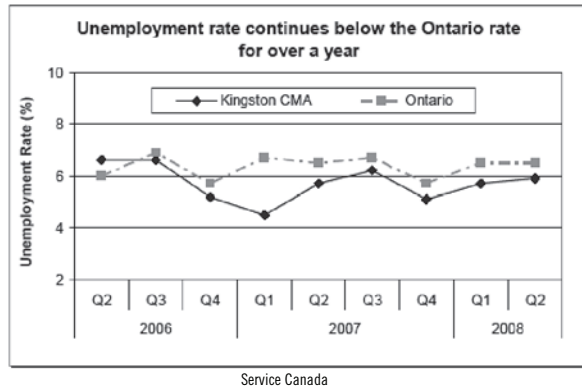
⁴⁷ Statistics Canada, Community Profiles, 2006 Census Labour Data for Kingston CMA

^{48, 49} The Kingston Whig-Standard, January 15, 2009 – by Paul Schliesmann, Whig-Standard Staff Writer

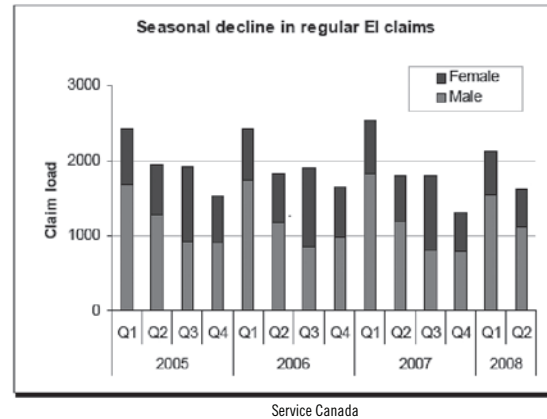
⁵⁰ Statistics Canada

⁵¹ The Kingston Whig-Standard, January 15, 2009 – Kingston's job growth 'surprising' Annual employment grew eight times national rate – by Paul Schliesmann, Whig-Standard Staff Writer

Appendix 1



Employment Insurance (EI) Claim Load



Regular Employment Insurance Claimants – Kingston Area

	April to June 2008			January to March 2008			April to June 2007		
	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male
Kingston SCC Area	1,591	509	1,082	2,112	560	1,552	1,796	599	1,198

The Income gap

Kingston's median family income for census families, according to 2006 Census data, is \$67,908.

Kingston's median family income has grown 16.25% from 2001 to 2006 which is higher than the provincial rate of growth at 13.32% and on par with the national rate at 16.08%.⁵²

Median Family Income

	2001 Census	2006 Census	Percentage of Change
Kingston	\$58,413	\$67,908	16.25%
Ontario	\$61,024	\$69,156	13.32%
Canada	\$55,016	\$63,866	16.08%

There are large discrepancies in median family income within Kingston. The highest median family income is \$131,948 in one neighbourhood and the lowest is \$35,247 in another.⁵⁴

Consumer Bankruptcies

The number of consumer bankruptcies in Kingston was higher than the average in Ontario and Canada from 2000 to 2007, as evident in the following charts. In 2008, given the current economic situation, Kingston's rate is now lower than the provincial and national rates.

Annual Consumer Insolvency Rates by Province and Economic Region 2000-2007 (Per 1000 Population Aged 18 Years and Older)

	Rates	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Canada	Insolvency	3.7	3.9	3.8	4.1	4.0	4.1	3.8	3.9
	Bankruptcy	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.1	3.1
	Proposal	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8
Ontario	Insolvency	3.3	3.5	3.7	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.0	4.3
	Bankruptcy	2.6	2.8	2.9	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.0	3.1
	Proposal	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.2
Kingston – Pembroke	Insolvency	4.6	4.7	5.0	5.4	4.8	5.1	4.7	5.1
	Bankruptcy	3.8	3.9	3.8	4.2	3.9	4.2	3.7	4.0
	Proposal	0.8	0.8	1.2	1.2	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.1

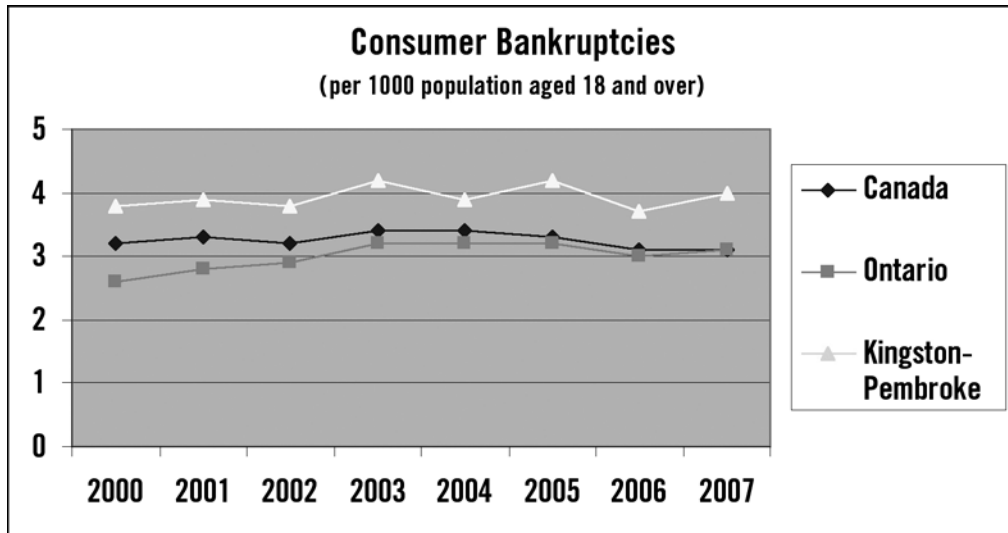
⁵² Service Canada Centre (SCC) administrative data National Labour Market Information System

⁵³ Statistics Canada Community Profiles – Census 2001 & 2006 - Median income in 2000 & 2005 - All census families (\$)

⁵⁴ City of Kingston Neighbourhood Profiles

⁵⁵ Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada

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2007-2008 Insolvencies Filed by Consumers

	Volume			Assets Declared at Time of Filing (\$)	Liabilities Declared at Time of Filing (\$)
	2008	2007	% Change	2008	
Canada	123 234	108 905	13.2	7 7 900 434 949	18 488 777 741
Bankruptcies	96 774	86 140	12.3	5 208 259 379	14 487 689 760
Proposals	26 460	22 765	16.2	2 692 175 570	4 001 087 981
Ontario	53 294	46 454	14.7	4 156 211 218	9 740 310 673
Bankruptcies	38 637	34 024	13.6	2 505 464 843	7 726 322 263
Proposals	14 657	12 430	17.9	1 650 746 375	2 013 988 410
Kingston CMA	632	598	5.7	29 681 059	45 225 931
Bankruptcies	519	488	6.4	20 748 643	36 547 160
Proposals	113	110	2.7	8 932 416	8 678 771

2007-2008 Insolvency by Consumers by Economic Region (ER)

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	Volume			Assets Declared at Time of Filing (\$)	Liabilities Declared at Time of Filing (\$)
	2008	2007	% Change	2008	
Ontario ER	50 442	43 413	16.2	3 483 851 097	5 052 746 517
Bankruptcies	36 200	31 439	15.1	1 902 984 483	3 454 235 938
Proposals	14 242	11 974	18.9	1 580 866 614	1 598 510 579
Kingston-Pembroke 3515	2 013	1 748	15.2	116 414 684	161 188 497
Bankruptcies	1 570	1 374	14.3	76 716 659	121 137 356
Proposals	443	374	18.4	39 698 026	40 051 141

The difference between Insolvency and Bankruptcy:

- **Insolvency** is the inability to pay debt. Individuals in insolvency may choose credit counselling (debt settlement) or bankruptcy.
- **Bankruptcy** is a legal proceeding that relieves you of the responsibility of paying your debts or provides you with protection while attempting to repay your debts. There are two types of bankruptcies:
 - Liquidation - in which your debts are wiped out, discharged.
 - Reorganization - in which you provide the court with a plan for how you intend to repay your debts.
 - Discharge (of debt) is a bankruptcy court's erasure of the debts of a person or business that has filed for bankruptcy.⁵⁸

⁵⁶ Chart produced from data on page 24

⁵⁷ Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada, Insolvency Statistics in Canada – 2008

⁵⁸ Dictionary and Nolo: Law Books, Legal Forms and Legal Software, glossary of terms

Appendix 1

Education Levels in Kingston

73% of Kingston's labour force has a post secondary education. Kingston has more PhD holders per capita than any other major Canadian city. According to a 2007 Statistics Canada report, Kingston has the highest scientific and engineering PhD concentration in Canada.⁵⁹ In a city of 152,360 people (Kingston CMA), 2,545 hold earned doctorates. That means 1.67% of the population has a PhD, triple the national average of 0.56%.

Top 5 Cities in Canada Measured by PhDs Per Capita

City	Percentage of PhDs Per Capita ⁶⁰
Kingston, ON	1.67%
Guelph, ON	1.40%
Victoria, BC	1.27%
Ottawa – Gatineau	1.22%
Saskatoon, SK	1.05%

• Kingston has a bilingual workforce with 14.038% of the population who are fluent in both English and French⁶¹

There is room for improvement in some areas:

- 18.6% of the children in KFL&A are not developmentally ready for grade one (27.3% is the average in Ontario)
- 55% are at or above the provincial standard in the Grade 3 reading scores (62% is the average in Ontario)⁶²
- High School diploma rate for Kingston is 26.63%, at par with the provincial average at 26.76% and the national average at 25.53%
- Kingston has a lower percentage of people without a High School diploma at 18.21% than the provincial or national averages at 22.23% and 23.76%⁶⁴

Education Level Attained by Percentage of Population

	Kingston	Ontario	Canada
No Certificate, Diploma or Degree	18.21%	22.23%	23.76%
High School Diploma	26.63%	26.76%	25.53%
University Certificate, Diploma or Degree	24.11%	20.49%	18.14%

Affordability: High rental costs and low income individuals and families

Families and individuals who pay more than 30% of their income on rent do not have enough money left for nutritious meals and other necessities. As rents increase, especially if they increase at a faster rate than tenant incomes, fewer units in the existing private rental stock are available at an affordable level. This means more rental units move into the range where tenants will have to pay more than 30% of their income for rent.

According to Statistics Canada 2006 census data, 48.0% of total Kingston households are paying 30% or more of their household income on rental costs. 55.01% of lone-parent family households and 58.51% of one-person households pay 30% or more of their income on rental costs.⁶⁵

A household spending 50% or more of its income on shelter would fall below the affordability standard.⁶⁶ The 2006 census data states 21.79% of households in Kingston spend more than 50% of their income on rent. 22.69% of lone-parent family households and 29.87% of one-person households are spending 50% or more of their income on rental costs.⁶⁷

Percentage of Income Spent on Rental Costs for Kingston CMA, Ontario and Canada

	Percentage of income spent on rental costs	Total Household Types	Lone-Parent Family Households	One Person Households
Kingston CMA	30% or more	9,635	1,345	5,190
	50% or more	4,375	555	2,650
	30% or more	48.00%	55.01%	58.51%
	50% or more	21.79%	22.69%	29.87%
Ontario	30% or more	580,265	92,855	300,020
	50% or more	261,225	43,100	142,265
	30% or more	44.58%	50.96%	55.10%
	50% or more	20.07%	23.65%	26.13%
Canada	30% or more	1,546,980	222,295	885,405
	50% or more	697,405	94,400	428,890
	30% or more	40.26%	44.76%	51.61%
	50% or more	18.15%	19.01%	25.00%

⁵⁹ KEDCO, Community Profile, Labour Force

⁶⁰ The Kingston Whig-Standard, Wednesday, March 25, 2009 – Method: Sun Media and the latest 2006 population census numbers and 2008 education attainment figures for the story. Only census metropolitan areas were used.

^{61, 63, 64, 65, 67} Statistics Canada – Community Profiles – 2006 Census

⁶² The Offord Centre for Child Studies, McMaster University, Report: School Readiness To Learn Ontario Sk Cohort Results, 2006

⁶⁶ CMHC

⁶⁸ Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Data Products, Topic-based tabulations, Housing and shelter costs, Housing affordability, Gross Rent as a Percentage of 2005 Household Income (10), Household Type (11) and Age Groups of Primary Household Maintainer (8) for the Private Households with Household Income Greater than Zero, in Tenant-occupied Private Non-farm, Non-reserve Dwellings

Average market rents for 1 bedroom and 2 bedroom apartments

Kingston Housing Statistics: Increase in Average Rents

	One-bedroom	Two-bedroom
1999	\$542	\$ 658
2000	\$574	\$684
2001	\$608	\$713
2002	\$598	\$727
2003	\$627	\$768
2004	\$646	\$785
2005	\$660	\$807
2006	\$688	\$841
2007	\$701	\$856
2008	\$743	\$880

Kingston Average Rent by Type of Unit

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	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	5 year % Increase
Bachelor	\$ 471	\$	\$ 513	\$ 553	\$ 556	\$ 558	18.47%
1 Bedroom	\$627	\$646	\$660	\$688	\$701	\$743	18.50%
2 Bedroom	\$768	\$785	\$807	\$841	\$856	\$880	14.58%
3 Bedroom	\$851	-	\$995	\$1,051	\$1,135	\$1,327	55.93%

Kingston's Average Rents

The average rent for a two-bedroom apartment in existing structures increased by 3.1%, well above the 2.6% increase in the overall cost of living index.

The October 2008 survey shows both the rent increases and vacancy rates in Kingston exhibited similar trends among all the zones. Although the area of Zone 4 (refer to availability rate map) remains home to the highest rents, there appears little difference between the downtown and outlying areas.

Kingston has the highest rent for a 3 bedroom apartment in the province of Ontario at \$1,327.⁷⁰

2008 Private Apartment Average Rents (\$) by Bedroom Type Ontario - CMAs

71

Centre	Bachelor	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom
Barrie CMA	694	860	954	1,144
Guelph CMA	616	766	869	1,021
Kingston CMA	558	743	880	1,327
London CMA	525	671	834	967
Ottawa-Gatineau CMA	671	827	995	1,227
Peterborough CMA	578	717	850	1,043
Toronto CMA	764	927	1,095	1,288
Windsor CMA	503	645	772	883
Ontario 10,000+	691	820	948	1,168

Rental Market Outlook

As a result of increased concern among potential first time home buyers about the Canadian economic outlook, coupled with no new additions of purpose-built rental stock, the apartment vacancy rate in Kingston is expected to remain relatively low, projected at 1.5% in October 2009. Although an overall slow job market is anticipated for 2009, job creation among the lower paying sectors will remain strong and contribute to additional tightness in the rental market.⁷²

Ontario's Minimum Wage Increases

Minimum Wage increases from 2004 to 2009

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Ontario	1995-2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2004-2009 % increase
	\$6.85	\$7.45	\$7.75	\$8.00	\$8.75	\$9.50	38.68%

Ontarians saw the first minimum wage increase since 1995 in 2004; the rate remained the same during this period at \$6.85. The general minimum wage for Ontario workers increased to \$9.50 in March 31, 2009, an increase of 38.68%. A further increase will bring the minimum wage to \$10.25 on March 31, 2010.

The major industries employing minimum wage earners are: accommodation and food, retail trade, and agriculture.⁷⁴

⁶⁹ CMHC & City of Kingston CMHC Rental Market Statistics Fall 2007 & Fall 2008 reports

⁷⁰ CMHC Rental Market Report Ontario Highlights Fall 2008

⁷¹ CMHC Rental Market Report Ontario Highlights Fall 2008, Table 1.1.2_1 Private Apartment Average Rents (\$) by Bedroom Type Ontario - CMAs

⁷² CMHC Rental Market Report Kingston CMA Fall 2008

⁷³ Government of Canada, Human Resources and Social Development Canada

⁷⁴ Ontario Ministry of Labour News, March 28, 2008

Appendix 1

New rates effective November/December 2008

The following are the current annual rates for Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program which include the Basic Needs and Maximum Shelter allowances as a total amount.

Family Type	Ontario Works (OW)	Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)	Statistics Canada's Before-Tax Low Income Cut-offs for 2007	Minimum Wage (\$9.50/hr 40 hr/wk, before taxes)
Single	\$6,864	\$12,240	\$18,659	\$19,760
Couple	\$11,868	\$18,624	\$23,228	\$39,520
Single Parent + 1 Child*	\$11,040	\$17,076	\$23,228	\$19,760
Single Parent + 2 Children**	\$11,808	\$18,516	\$28,556	\$19,760
Couple +1 Child*	\$12,432	\$19,356	\$28,556	\$39,520

*Child under 13 years of age. **One child under 13 years of age, one child 13 years of age or older.⁷⁵

Definition or Abstract for Low Income Cutoff (LICO)

LICOs are income thresholds, determined by analysing family expenditure data, below which families will devote a larger share of income to the necessities of food, shelter and clothing than the average family would. To reflect differences in the costs of necessities among different community and family sizes, LICOs are defined for five categories of community size and seven of family size.⁷⁶

Statistics Canada's Low Income Cutoff (LICO) is Canada's most commonly used proxy for a "poverty line." LICOs are established for various sizes of families in various sizes of urban areas. Anyone earning below these thresholds is said to be facing hardship.

- LICO for Kingston (urban area with population between 100,000-499,999) is between \$18,659 for a single person and \$34,671 for a household of four
- In Kingston, 13.4% of the population (19,820) lives below the LICO level
- About 80% of those living under the LICO are served by programs for OW/ODSP cases in the City or in the Service Manager area serves. The balance of 20% would be considered working poor families by most definitions⁷⁸

Census 2006 Persons Below LICO for Kingston with a Comparison to Ontario

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Economic Family Structure and Presence of Children	Income Status Before Tax (4)				
	Total - Income status before tax ²	Low income	Other	Kingston Prevalence of low income (before tax) %	Ontario Prevalence of low income (before tax) %
Total - Persons in private households ¹⁹	147,455	19,820	127,635	13.4	14.7

Statistics Canada's Before-Tax Low Income Cutoffs (1992 Base) for 2007

79

Family Size	Community Size				
	Cities of 500,000+	100,000-499,999	30,000-99,999	Less Than 30,000	Rural Areas
1	\$21,666	\$18,659	\$18,544	\$16,968	\$14,914
2	\$26,972	\$23,228	\$23,084	\$21,123	\$18,567
3	\$33,159	\$28,556	\$28,379	\$25,968	\$22,826
4	\$40,259	\$34,671	\$34,457	\$31,529	\$27,714
5	\$45,662	\$39,322	\$39,081	\$35,760	\$31,432
6	\$51,498	\$44,350	\$44,077	\$40,331	\$35,452
7+	\$57,336	\$49,377	\$49,073	\$44,903	\$39,470

⁷⁵ Income Security Advocacy Centre – 2% Rate Increase – November 2008; and Ontario Ministry of Labour

⁷⁶ City of Kingston

⁷⁷ Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Data Products, Topic-based tabulations, Low income, Income Status before tax

⁷⁸ City of Kingston, Cheryl Hitchen, CFS to Poverty Roundtable – December 2008

⁷⁹ National Council of Welfare, Poverty Lines 2007

Kingston Frontenac Social Assistance Caseloads and Expenditures 2003 - 2008

Ontario Works

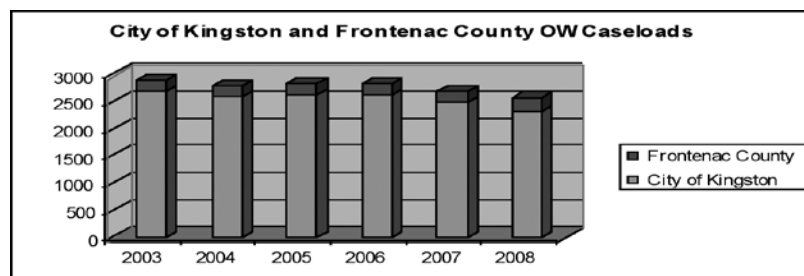
Ontario Works provides employment and financial assistance to people who are in temporary financial need. The employment assistance helps people become and stay employed and includes job search support services, basic education and job skills training, community and employment placement, supports to self-employment, Learning Earning and Parenting program, addiction services and earning exemptions that allow participants to earn income as they move back into the workforce.

Ontario Works Program

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Kingston	2709	2610	2628	2634	2503	2339
Frontenac	210	202	217	209	199	243
Caseload Total	2919	2812	2845	2843	2702	2582
Kingston	\$ 21,315,437	\$ 20,140,424	\$ 20,936,979	\$ 21,351,503	\$ 20,490,897	\$ 19,570,580
Frontenac	\$ 1,648,682	\$ 1,594,986	\$ 1,682,719	\$ 1,610,162	\$ 1,507,515	\$ 1,835,646
Total	22,964,118	21,735,411	22,619,697	22,961,665	21,998,411	21,406,226

The above Ontario Works costs represent 100% of actual allowances and benefits issued by the City of Kingston and are cost shared with the Province on an 80/20 basis.

Consolidated caseload figures for OW from 2003 to 2008 show an overall 11.54 % caseload reduction.



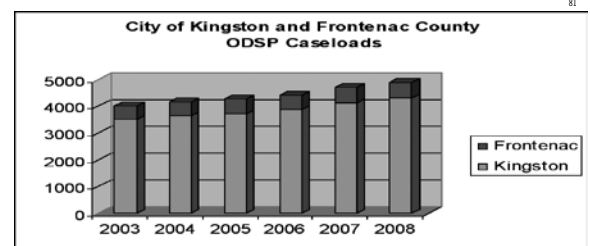
Ontario Disability Support Program

The Ontario Disability Support Program was designed to meet the income and employment support needs of people with disabilities. The employment supports component of the program offers a range of goods and services to help people with disabilities to look for, obtain or maintain jobs on a volunteer basis.⁸⁰

Estimated Ontario Disability Support Program**

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Kingston	3517	3640	3713	3875	4132	4295
Frontenac	489	520	552	554	580	608
Caseload Total	4006	4160	4265	4429	4712	4903

**ODSP program is delivered by the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) and the Municipalities' contribution is monetary only.



Utilities

- Gas and energy costs have increased over the past five years
- Gas has increased by 62% since 2003
- Heating fuel increased by 89% since 2003⁸²
- Utility fund/bank:
 - Funding for Winter Warmth Program (Union Gas & The United Way), helping households avoid eviction due to non-payment of utilities doubled from 2006 to 2008
 - The City of Kingston receives funds annually from the province for a utility bank, which is administered by the Salvation Army for Kingston. 166 households were supported through this program. The average grant per household was \$465.58

⁸⁰ Ministry of Community and Social Services, Government of Ontario

⁸¹ City of Kingston

⁸² Ontario Association of Food Banks: A Gathering Storm The Price of Food, Gasoline, and Energy and Changing Economic Conditions in Ontario 2008

Housing Supply

Vacancy rates in Kingston

A “healthy” vacancy rate is considered to be 3 to 5%. Vacancy rates rise and fall depending upon a range of factors, such as interest rates, employment growth, demographic changes and net migration.⁸³

Kingston’s vacancy rate has been below 3% in each year until 2007 and earlier in 2008 where vacancy rates reached 3.2% and 3.0%. Kingston’s vacancy rate dropped from 3.2 per cent in 2007 to 1.3 per cent in 2008. As a result the local rate is now at its lowest level since 2002, (when the rate was 0.9 per cent).⁸⁴

The average rental apartment vacancy rate in Canada’s 34 major centres decreased to 2.2% in 2008 from 2.6% in 2007. In October 2008, vacancy rates were moderately lower in Ontario by 0.6 percentage point to 2.7 per cent.

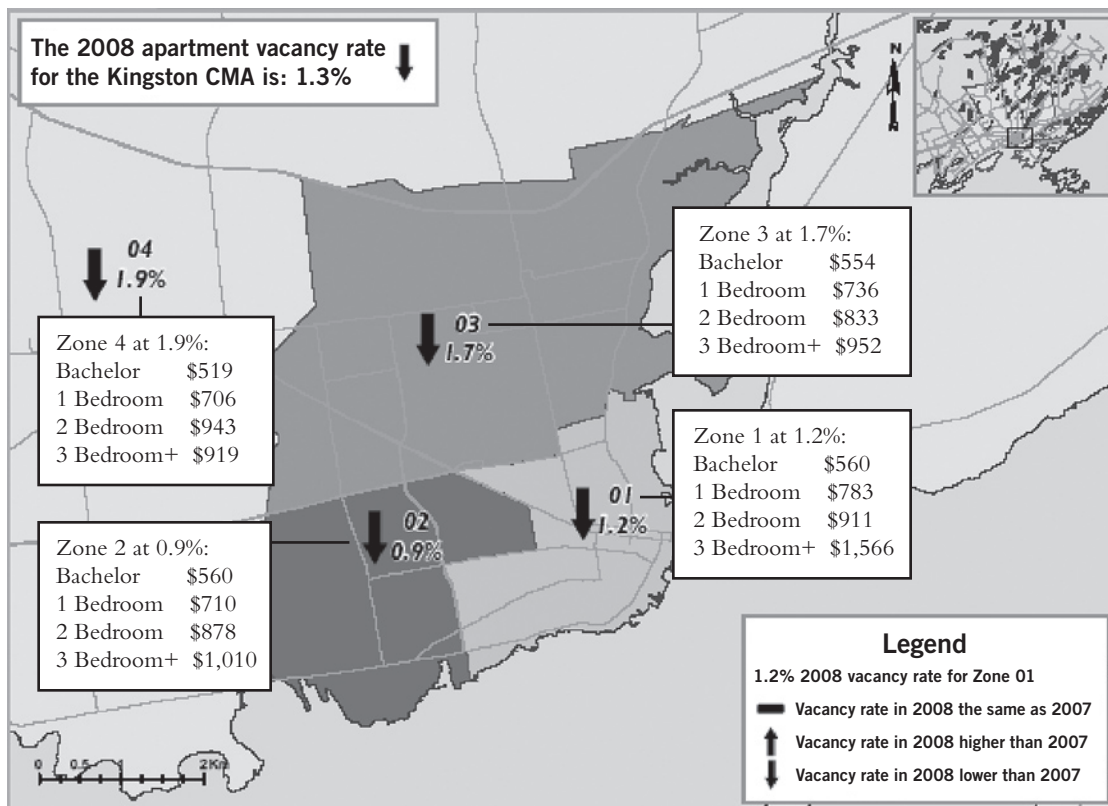
The centres with the highest vacancy rates in 2008 were Windsor (14.6 per cent), St. Catharines-Niagara (4.3 per cent), and Oshawa (4.2 per cent). On the other hand, the major urban centres with the lowest vacancy rates were Kelowna (0.3 per cent), Victoria (0.5 per cent), Vancouver (0.5 per cent), and Regina (0.5 per cent).⁸⁶

Availability rate: The availability rate includes units that may be vacated over the next few months.

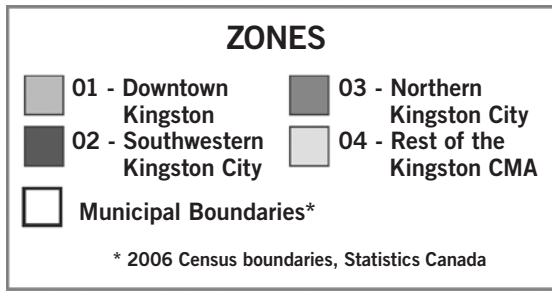
Rental Vacancy Rates in Kingston

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2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
1.8	1.5	0.9	1.9	2.4	2.4	2.1	3.2	1.3



⁸³ Where's Home? 2005
⁸⁴ CMHC Rental Market Report Kingston CMA Fall 2008
⁸⁵ CMHC Rental Market Statistics 2008
⁸⁶ CMHC, News Release, 2008, National Rental Vacancy Rate Decreases in 2008



Zone 1: The average vacancy rate in the downtown area dropped from 4.3% in 2007 to 1.2% in 2008.

Zone 2: The vacancy rate retreated again to 0.9%, down 0.4 percentage points from the previous year. For two consecutive years, this zone has registered the lowest average vacancy rate across the entire Kingston CMA.

Zone 3: The vacancy rate declined 1.6 percentage points to 1.7% from October 2007.

Zone 4: A similar drop in average occurred where the rate fell from 4.4% in 2007 to 1.9% in 2008.

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RMS ZONE DESCRIPTIONS - KINGSTON CMA	
Zone 1	Downtown Kingston - Southern and Eastern boundaries determined by Lake Ontario and the Cataraqui River respectively. Western boundary determined by the following streets: Sir John A Macdonald, Albert, Princess, Division and Montreal. Northern boundary determined by the following streets: Concession, Joseph and Railway.
Zone 2	Southwestern Kingston City - Southern and Western boundaries determined by Lake Ontario and the Little Cataraqui River respectively. Eastern boundary abuts Zone 1.
Zone 3	Northern Kingston City - Southern boundary determined by Zones 1 and 2. Eastern, Northern and Western boundaries determined by Kingston's former city limits.
Zone 4	Rest of Kingston CMA
Zones 1-4	Kingston CMA

Social Housing Registry Program

Household income limits by type of unit

Not all families or individuals qualify for rent-geared-to-income assistance housing. With a high demand for subsidized housing, a number of people are ineligible to be on the list based on eligibility criteria including maximum household incomes for those seeking rent-geared-to-income (RGI) assistance.

The chart below lists the maximum income levels for households to be placed on the waiting list in the City of Kingston. The chart also illustrates the income limits for those households considered high need.

Income Limits for the City of Kingston Social Housing Wait List as of January 2009

Type of Unit	Maximum Household Income for eligibility	High Need Household Income Limits
Bachelor	\$21,000	\$12,600
1 Bedroom	26,500	15,900
2 Bedroom	32,000	19,200
3 Bedroom	35,000	21,000
4 Bedroom	41,000	24,600

There are a number of working poor or low income families who may not be eligible for rent-geared-to-income assistance, but struggle to make ends meet.⁸⁸

Subsidized units

Year end statistics from the Social Housing Registry show the following:

City of Kingston Social Housing Registry

	Number of Applications	Number Placed into Housing
2005	979	383
2006	1155	381
2007	970	325
2008	1073	321

In 2008 there were 1,073 applications received, an increase of 10.6% over the previous year. There was also a decrease in the number of households placed in subsidized units from the centralized waiting list in 2008, with 321 households being housed, averaging 26.75 per month.⁸⁹

Average wait times for social housing

The wait time for social housing units are dependent upon the applicant's areas of preference, vacancy turnover and bedroom size required.⁹⁰

Under the legislation, Housing Providers must refer to their Internal Transfer waiting list before offering units from the centralized waiting list. It is therefore difficult to say how long

⁸⁷ CMHC Rental Market Report Kingston Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) Fall 2008

⁸⁸ City of Kingston

^{89,90} Social Housing Registry, City of Kingston

Appendix 1

someone may have to wait for housing. In some cases, for 3 and 4 bedroom units in the north end, the wait can be less than one year and in the case of one bedroom units it can take longer than five years.⁹¹ The chart below provides statistics from the City of Kingston's data at year end in 2006, 2007 and 2008 as well as the estimates on the wait times.⁹²

Social Housing Wait List for the City of Kingston

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Year	Total Number of Active Households On Wait List	Seniors	Non-Senior Singles	Families	# with Incomes Considered High Need by Income	Approx. Time Seniors Wait for Housing	Approx. Time Singles Wait for Housing	Approx. Time Families Wait for Housing
2006	956	85	627	244	896	2 yrs	3 yrs +	6-12 Months
2007	1012	66	604	342	813	2 yrs	3 yrs +	6-24 Months
2008	1090	66	637	387	859	2 yrs	4 yrs +	6-24 Months

Ontario Rental Housing Tribunal

According to the Kingston Community Legal Clinic, most of the tenants facing eviction are behind in their rent. Most of these tenants have problems with income, having lost their jobs, or having been found ineligible for social assistance. The Legal Clinic represents tenants who need assistance with social assistance appeals and employment insurance appeals.

Currently, the Landlord and Tenant Board conduct hearings in Kingston three out of every four weeks (about 36 hearings per year). On these days, the average number of applications is 22. Of these, 86% are brought by the Landlord.

Of tenants who are assisted by a lawyer, law student or licensed paralegal, few are "involuntarily" evicted. Of those who appear unrepresented, and who do not engage the services of tenant duty counsel, there is a high risk of eviction.⁹⁴

New Affordable Homes in Kingston

The City of Kingston received funding from the federal and provincial government for 2,003 subsidized units in 2001. In order to access these units, applicants must apply to The Social Housing Registry to be deemed eligible for subsidized housing and to be added to the Centralized Waiting List.

In 2004 and 2007 The City of Kingston received funding under both phases of Strong Start and the Home Ownership Program allowing for the development of 219 Affordable units. 164 of these are completed and 55 are currently under construction.

New Affordable Homes in Kingston from 2006 to 2009

95

	Number of Units	Date
Round 1, Pilot Projects		
Kingston Home Base Housing (Phase 1)	14	July 2006
The Elizabeth Fry Society of Kingston	6	May 2007
R. Paul Martin Construction Co. Ltd.	93	June 2008
Sub-Total	113	
Strong Start		
Kingston & Frontenac Housing Corporation	49	December 2007
Tipi Moza (Iron Homes)	2	February 2007
Sub-Total	51	
Total Affordable Housing Units Completed	164	
Wave 1 – Residual Program		
Home Base Housing (Phase 2)	24	July 2009
Sub-Total	24	
Wave 1 – Dual Diagnosis and HARS Conversion		
Frontenac Community Mental Health Services	23	Spring 2009
	8	
Additional units to be completed in 2009	55	
The Home Ownership Program**		March 31, 2009

**Introduced in 2006, the program provides down payment assistance up to \$7,244 to individuals and families for the purchase of a home. Kingston received a total of 45 allocations for this program.

⁹¹ Social Housing Registry, City of Kingston

^{92, 93, 95} City of Kingston

⁹⁴ Kingston Community Legal Clinic

Services

Definition of Emergency Shelters and Emergency hostel services

“Emergency shelters” is a term used to describe all facilities that provide temporary short term accommodation to people who are homeless or in transition. This description is inclusive of providers who may have agreements to provide “emergency hostel services”, as well as providers of shelter for victims of domestic violence.

“Emergency hostel services” are defined under the Ontario Works Act as “the provision of board, lodging and personal needs to homeless persons on a short term, infrequent basis, but does not include the provision of services to residents of interval or transition homes for abused women.” Service Managers enter into agreements with community providers for the provision of emergency hostel services and funding is based on per diem for bed nights used by O.W. eligible users.⁹⁶

Hostels	Mandate	No. of Beds
Ryandale	Family and individuals	11
Dawn House	Women and their children	10
Harbour Light	Men	7
Kingston Youth Shelter	Ages 16-24	8
In From the Cold	Singles/couples over 15 yrs.	24
Total hostel beds		60

Alternative Housing Providers	Mandate	No. of Beds
Bridge House Inc.	Women and their children from out of town visiting penitentiaries	10
Elizabeth Fry Society of Kingston	Women and their children transitioning from prisons/jails into the community	10
Shelter	Mandate	No. of Beds
Kingston Interval House	Abused women and their children	25
Total beds		45

Emergency Hostel Approved bed nights

The City of Kingston provides funding support to five not-for-profit agencies that are providing emergency board, lodging and personal needs services to persons in need. The city’s contribution is cost shared with the Province through the Ontario Works program. This funding is provided on a per diem basis at a current cost of \$45.70 per day, based on use by clients who are deemed eligible for social assistance.

Emergency Hostel use

Hostels and the City of Kingston track the number of bed nights used in a year. This does not reflect the number of individuals who used emergency shelters in a year.

The City of Kingston hostel bed nights paid for through Ontario Works Emergency Hostel Per Diems. Per diems are provided to the hostels for those who qualify based on specific criteria.

Report on Paid Bed Nights 2004 – 2008

	Year End Totals on Bed Nights				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Ryandale	3995	4060	3814	3814	3637
Dawn House	3170	3221	2954	3003	3045
Harbour Light	2234	1960	1828	1609	1780
Kingston Youth Shelter	2309	2641	2765	2958	2581
In From The Cold	3968	5530	4618	5373	5942
Totals	15,676	17,412	15,979	16,757	16,985

OW Emergency Hostel bed nights do not include Interval House or Bridge House.

Number of Unique Individuals

	2008
Ryandale	206
Dawn House	128
Harbour Light	270
Kingston Youth Shelter	113
In From The Cold	305
Totals	1,022

^{96, 97, 98, 99} City of Kingston

HOSTELS TO HOMES

In 2006, the Province introduced a pilot project entitled “Hostels to Homes” to assist the chronically homeless in transitioning from hostels into permanent housing. Home Base Housing is the service provider delivering the program on behalf of the City of Kingston in partnership with a Community and Family Services Ontario Works case manager. Under this program, Home Base Housing has developed individualized personal support plans with participants to help them obtain appropriate units, attach to their housing, attach to the network of community supports, and to establish their own personal support networks. Additional community based ancillary supports are also utilized where appropriate to ensure that participants are effectively accessing those community services. Twenty-one (21) participants have been served under the first round of this program. To date 23 participants have been assisted by the second round of the program.

This approach is not only cost effective but has led to stable tenancies for a very hard-to-house population. This is in keeping with the “Housing First” model and could be expanded.

Food and meal programs

A number of meal programs assist those who are homeless and living in shelters. The food providers networking group evolved from recommendations in the 2004 Community Plan on Homelessness and Affordable Housing.

Meal Providers in Kingston have noted a 4% increase in demand for the services they provide of offering a free or low-cost meal to those in need.

The chart below outlines the real need for change.

	2007 (first 6 months>) Meals Served	2008 (first 6 months>) Meals Served	Increase + / Decrease -
Martha's Table	9,786	13,415	+37%
Salvation Army Gathering Place	4,028	6,518	+64%
Lunch by George St. George's Cathedral	7,076	7,156	+1%
St. Vincent de Paul Society	6,857	9,326	+36%
Partners in Mission Food Bank	4,621	4,437	-3%*
Food Sharing Project (school meals)	453,936	464,934	+2.4%
Totals	486,304	505,786	+4.0 %

*Food Bank director Sandy Singers attributed the decrease to making more cooperative living arrangements as a way of getting by. This means that fewer but larger hampers are being distributed.¹⁰⁰

Many low income individuals and families, a number of whom are at risk of losing their home, turn to food banks for assistance. According to the *Ontario Hunger Report 2008 the Leading Edge of the Storm*, a large population turns to food banks every month in our province. A total of 314,258 Ontarians were served by food banks in Ontario in March 2008.

37.6% of Ontarians are forced to turn to food banks are children, over 20% are persons with disabilities, and 19.7% work or have recently lost their jobs. Between September 2007 and September 2008, food banks in Ontario have reported an average increase of 13% in the number of neighbours turning to them for support. Although many major centres have witnessed significant growth in demand, the greatest increases have been seen in mid-sized communities that have been hit hard by job losses.¹⁰¹

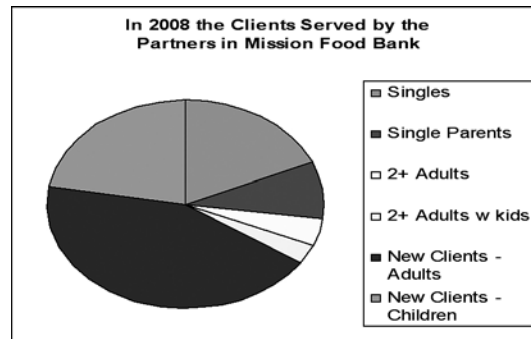
The Partners In Mission Food Bank in Kingston served 5600 unique clients in 2008. They have seen a growing need among families with children.

- New clients in 2008 include 655 adults and 335 children.
- The total number of children served was 7,454 in 2008
- 30% of Food Bank users are single parents.
- In the first quarter of 2009 the Food Bank saw an 8% increase in demand compared to the same quarter in 2008.

¹⁰⁰ Food Providers Networking Group

¹⁰¹ Ontario Hunger Report 2008 The Leading Edge of The Storm (December 2008) – Key Trends and Key Facts

Breakdown by income source and clients who use Food Bank services



The Food Sharing Project, an agency that provides nourishment for students to improve their readiness to learn, currently coordinates 218 breakfast, snack and lunch programs throughout Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington and serves an average of 4,395 meals everyday.

In 2007 the Food Sharing Project served 5,218 students. In 2008 they served 9,092 students at 80 school sites.

Number of Programs	
Breakfast/Morning Meal	52
Lunch	68
Snack	98
Number of Meals per day	
329,583 meals/75 days	4,395 meals per day (average)

In 2008, Salvation Army served 40,699 meals.

Mental Illness and Addictions

An estimated 25 to 50% of homeless people have a mental illness and up to 70% of those with a severe mental illness also abuse substances. “The homeless population is disturbingly large and even more disturbing growing in size, in scope and in its connection to mental illness,” Kirby said. “Recent research shows 1 in 7 users of emergency shelters across Canada are children and almost a third of Canada’s homeless are youths aged 16–24. Street counts of homeless people indicate their numbers have increased at an alarming rate. For example in Calgary, the homeless population grew by 740% from 1994 to 2006, and by 235% in Vancouver.”

Aboriginal peoples are disproportionately represented among the homeless and the mentally ill. Many immigrants and refugees also live in poverty in substandard housing.¹⁰⁴

Canadian studies indicate that rates of substance abuse are higher among homeless individuals than among the general population. For example, in Toronto, 68% of shelter users reported a lifetime diagnosis of substance abuse or dependence.¹⁰⁵

A number of homeless individuals need addiction treatment as part of their support services.

Addiction Services

The Kingston Detoxification Centre, as part of Hotel Dieu Hospital, is the only one between Cornwall and Oshawa. The centre is a 22 bed facility open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week offering short-term, non-medical treatment for men and women who want to detoxify from alcohol or other drugs, who are waiting for intake into a treatment program, or who are in danger of relapse.¹⁰⁶

- On average, 12 clients per day are seen at the centre. A typical client would be between 36-44 years old
- The wait list has decreased from 8-12 hours to 4 hours on average
- There were 1100 admissions in 2008, down from 1500 in 2006. It is assumed that this decrease has occurred due to the number of folks who have passed away in very recent years or who were chronically homeless and now have long-term housing in some of the areas new supportive living environments
- The length of stay has increased to approximately 5 days on average, with a number of folks staying approximately 10 days due to the increase in opiate use and the longer withdrawal process. The previous average stay was 4 days¹⁰⁷

¹⁰² The Partners in Mission Food Bank

¹⁰³ The Food Sharing Project, Pamela Richmond, Coordinator

¹⁰⁴ Mental Health Commission of Canada Outlines Startling Statistics at Public Forum on Homelessness & Mental Illness, Vancouver, April 28, 2009 - message from the Honourable Michael Kirby, Chair of the Mental Health Commission of Canada

¹⁰⁵ Improving the Health of Canadians 2007-2008 Mental Health and Homelessness, Canadian Population Health Initiative, Canadian Institute for Health Information pp.16 - P. Goering et al., “Characteristics of Persons Who Are Homeless for the First Time,” *Psychiatric Services* 53, 11 (2002): pp. 1472–1474.

¹⁰⁶ Kingston Detoxification Centre, Hotel Dieu Hospital

¹⁰⁷ Lisa Dwyer, Director, Hotel Dieu Hospital Detox Centre

Appendix 1

The Street Health Centre is part of Kingston Community Health Centres. It is a multi-service clinic offering a range of outreach, education, counselling, prevention, treatment and primary care services. They serve communities that have difficulty accessing mainstream health services and that face multiple barriers to health. This includes individuals who have addiction problems, who are homeless, previously incarcerated, or involved in high-risk activities.

The Street Health Centre (SHC) has 750 active medical patients and serves an estimated client community of 2500. The SHC is open 365 days a year and also provides outreach services to local shelters and the Rideau Heights area. Needle exchange program and harm reductions supplies are also provided.¹⁰⁸

Options for Change Community Addictions

Treatment Services offers outpatient treatment programs for people with substance use problems or problems with gambling, and family members/friends concerned about someone's substance use or gambling. Core services include assessment and referral, individual counselling and an intensive day treatment program.

- Number of people served in 2008 approximately 944. Provides community addictions treatment services to people who are concerned about their substance use, family members and problem gamblers
- It takes approximately 5-6 weeks for someone to get an appointment with the agency. This is consistent with 2006
- Since 2006 a number of group treatment programs have been added in addition to individual counselling. There is also a program called Motherwise for women who are pregnant or parenting children age 0-6 and are substance involved

Addiction services for children, youth and young adults

Kairos is a local agency that provides education, consultation, counselling and prevention in addition to their core treatment services. They offer services through secondary schools and a growing concern is the number of children in elementary schools who require treatment and counselling. Some of these children are as young as 8 years of age. The total number of clients served per year has increased by about 70% since the year 2000.

The trend since 2006 is the increased availability of cocaine. The 3 A's apply: Affordability, Accessibility and Availability. Cocaine and marijuana are the same cost or cheaper than 30 years ago.

Out of 82 elementary school students 11% of them abuse coke, 14% were abusing ecstasy and 5% were abusing speed. There are 28 students using Alcohol, 44 using Marijuana and 31 using Nicotine.¹⁰⁹

Number of Clients Served by Kairos

110

	Adults	Children and Youth	Probation	Quinte Detention Centre	Young Offenders Program	Students	Total
2008	72	407	169	131	78	429	857
2007	76	401	176	138	70	433	861
2006	94	381	174	153	100	415	872
2005	80	412	165	145	72	444	855
2004	85	412	173	118	n/a	428	806
2003	62	413	144	103	n/a	471	758

¹⁰⁸ Street Health Centre, 2009

¹⁰⁹ Kairos Annual Report, January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008

¹¹⁰ Kairos Annual Report 2006-2007

UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATIONS

Appendix 2

From 2006 Community Plan

The *2006 Community Plan on Homelessness and Affordable Housing in Kingston* included some recommendations. The priorities were divided into two sections:

- Section 1 looked at what is required to move individuals and families along the continuum of support into permanent, sustainable affordable housing
- Section 2 looked at the coordination and collaboration that is required in Kingston to deal with this issue

The recommendations and updates are captured in this appendix.

2006 Recommendations

Transition Supports: find ways to transition homeless youth, aboriginal individuals, adults and families to permanent housing. They must be provided with supports, transitional housing and, eventually, access to affordable housing through

- Identification and initial contact to access needs
- Rent subsidies
- Maintaining and/or increasing number of transitional beds

Status update: 2009

34 supportive units were added, along with rent supplements from the City.

- Ryandale added a transitional house in 2007-2008 with 8 units which housed 15 residents in 2008. Of these, 6 moved to housing, 1 moved to long-term treatment, 2 went back to the streets and 6 remain in residence
- Kingston Home Base Housing added 14 one-bedroom units. Emergency Shelter use declined following the opening of these units. 24 one bedroom supportive housing units will be added by July 2009. Additional decline in shelter usage is anticipated following the opening of these units
- The Elizabeth Fry Society completed 6 supportive housing units in May 2007. 9 clients were placed into the supported housing units, of which 3 have moved to permanent housing
- Frontenac Community Mental Health Services has 40 rent subsidies for people who have a serious mental illness
- 183 people moved out of Providence Care – Mental Health Services into the community. 30 of them had been in hospital more than a year, some had been in hospital for 30 years

2006 Recommendations

Continue to provide shelters and supports to chronically homeless.

- Shelter beds
- Supports for emotional care & counselling

Status update: 2009

Shelter beds: Shelters and hostels continued to support those who are chronically homeless.

- 1,022 individuals were served by hostels in 2008
- In From the Cold has added 9 bunk beds in 2008 - an increase from 19 to 24 beds per night
- Ryandale averages 100% capacity & reports having to turn away 7 families from June – Oct 2008
- Salvation Army provided 1,920 shelter bed nights in 2008

Supports:

- Hostels to Homes (H2H) is a pilot project. It is designed to assist the chronically homeless in transitioning from hostels into permanent housing. 15 chronically homeless participants were served in 2007, of which 11 were housed. 21 participants were assisted in 2008, of which 18 were housed

UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATIONS

Appendix 2

From 2006 Community Plan

2006 Recommendations

Services/supports

- Access to Meal/Food programs

Status update: 2009

Demand for meal programs increased in 2008:

- Martha's Table increased by 37%, The Gathering Place by 64%, Lunch by George by 1% and St. Vincent de Paul by 36%
- The Partners In Mission Food Bank have seen demand increase by 12%. They served 5600 clients in 2008. 7,454 children were served. 30% of Food Bank users are single parents
- In 2007 the Food Sharing Project served 5,218 students. In 2008 they served 9,092 students at 80 school sites
- Salvation Army served 40,699 meals in 2008

2006 Recommendations

Children & youth: Need for

- Youth shelter beds
- Counselling Services

Status update: 2009

- Youth Shelter has received additional funding for beds for the winter months since 2007, serving 26 additional youth through the winter. The agency served 210 youth in 2008. They averaged 90% occupancy with 2,667 bed nights
- Youth Net offers transitional housing to homeless youth bridging between life on the streets or in emergency shelters to living independently. In 2008, 40 youth were served and it has been noted that there has been a decrease in the average age, from 18 years to 17
- Ryandale Shelter provided shelter to families with children. In 2008, 25 children and youth stayed at the shelter

2006 Recommendations

Need for:

- Day services
- Programs and services i.e. counselling, information, peer support and mentoring, education, recreation and skills development

Status update: 2009

- The Street Health Centre (SHC) has 750 active medical patients & is open 365 days a year and also provide outreach services to local shelters and the Rideau Heights area
- Options for Change Community Addictions Treatment Services offers outpatient treatment programs 5 days a week for people with substance use problems. They served 944 people in 2008
- Salvation Army Family Services served 5,565 families in 2008

2006 Recommendations

Discharge planning co-ordination – hospitals & corrections

Discharge planning – co-ordination of discharge planning providers
Recovery/Health Care Room

Status update: 2009

Discharge planning

- Shelters and hostels continue to receive discharges from hospital beds. These clients have health issues and may be temporarily or permanently homeless
- Correctional Services Canada (CSC) has initiated a 2-year (2008-2010) Service Canada & Corrections pilot project to provide SIN numbers and Aboriginal status cards to those leaving the penitentiaries
- CSC Social workers link with mental health services to assist those being discharged from federal penitentiaries
- Frontenac Mental Health has provided shelters with an outreach worker 3 days per week to support clients with mental health issues. Contacts and working relationship with local Police Services have also been strengthened
- A network of local mental health and addictions services, Joint Operational Leadership Team (JOLT) has been undertaking a project to minimize barriers to accessing services through the creation of a coordinated access system. Although Phase I has been completed, a lack of funding to fully develop the plan has caused delays in implementation
- Frontenac Community Mental Health Services will build 23 one-bedroom units and 4 two-bedroom congregate units with rent supplement subsidies scheduled to begin in the spring 2009
- SMILE Program: Seniors Managing Independent Living Easily. This program makes it possible for frail and elderly seniors to receive help with the activities of daily living allowing them to remain safe in their own homes. The program was developed by the South East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) working with seniors and health service providers. The program is fully supported by the South East LHIN

2006 Recommendations

Housing Maintenance Supports required

- Eviction prevention Worker
- Supports to maintain housing

Status update: 2009

- Housing Help Centre had 2 eviction prevention workers since 2007. In 2008 the service assisted 289 households of these 272 remained housed
- Winter Warmth Program (Union Gas & The United Way) funding has increased from \$17,500 in 2006 to \$33,500 in 2008. 120 families avoided eviction through the winter warmth program
- The Utility Bank, funded through the City of Kingston and administered by the Salvation Army, assisted 116 families

2006 Recommendations

Coordination and collaboration

- Research, information
- Funders

Status update: 2009

- HHOT (Homelessness and Housing One Table) committee established
- HPC (Homelessness Planning Committee established) to continue planning and implementation efforts
- Poverty Round Table established by Mayor's Taskforce on Poverty

2006 Recommendations

More Affordable Housing

Status update: 2009

A total of 164 affordable units added

- R. Paul Martin Construction Co. Ltd. completed construction of a 118 unit apartment building at 1610 Bath Road in June 2008. This project includes 93 Affordable units.
- Kingston & Frontenac Housing Corporation built a 49-unit senior citizens apartment building at 129 Van Order Drive - 10 units are rent-geared-to-income in December 2007.
- Tipi Moza (Iron Homes - Aboriginal housing) renovated the former RCMP building in February 2007 into 2 modified units. One of these has a rent supplement attached
- Kingston HBH added 14 supported units and E. Fry added 6 supported units

RENT-GEARED-TO-INCOME HOUSING PROVIDERS

Appendix 3

Housing Provider	Mandate (if any)	Number of RGI Units
Kingston & Frontenac Housing Corporation	Singles & Families	967 + 494
Kingston Co-operative Homes Inc.	Singles & Families	8
Bridge House Kingston	Alternative housing provider -	10
Kingston Home Base Non-Profit-Housing Inc.	Alternative housing provider	60
Town Homes Kingston	Family and Seniors	265
Royal Canadian Legion Villa	Seniors	44
St. Andrew-Thomas Senior Citizen Residence	Seniors	20
The Elizabeth Fry Society of Kingston	Alternative housing provider	36
Loughborough Housing Corporation "Maple Ridge"	Seniors	28
North Frontenac Non-Profit Housing Corporation	Families	18
Weller Arms Non-Profit	Seniors	24
Porto Village Non-Profit Housing	Singles and Families	43
Lois Miller Co-operative	Singles and Families	21
Marion Community Homes	Seniors	22
Zion United Church Foundation Inc.	Seniors	15
Tipi Moza	Aboriginal	17
		2092
Frontenac Community Mental Health Services	People with a serious mental illness	115
		2207

¹¹¹ City of Kingston

CITY OF KINGSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PROFILES

Appendix 4

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	Neighbourhood	Total Population	Average Family Income	Median Family Income	Average House-hold Size	% Home-ownership	% Lone-Parent Families	
							Female Parent	Male Parent
	City of Kingston	117,207	\$83,163	\$69,530	2.3	62.2	80.8	19.2
1	Sharpton / Glenvale	1,960	93,031	80,303	2.7	91	18.2	81.8
2	Elginburg / Silver / Shannon's Corners	2,600	84,918	82,244	2.7	88	64.3	35.7
3	Glenburnie	750	138,064	98,183	2.7	91	75	25
4	Cataraqui Westbrook	4,510	74,572	71,969	2.8	89	72.7	27.3
5	Cataraqui North	1,810	82,467	74,250	2.5	86	92.9	7.1
6	Woodbine	630	124,827	110,673	2.9	90	50	50
7	Westwoods	5,180	109,399	106,144	3.1	98	66.7	33.3
8	Sutton Mills	4,845	80,686	74,910	2.6	65	83	17
9	Mile Square	1,955	102,049	78,037	2.7	97	52.9	47.1
10	Bayridge West	3,095	92,017	84,040	2.6	94	62.5	37.5
11	Bayridge East	3,330	79,955	77,279	2.8	87	90	10
12	Gardiners / Meadowbrook	5,000	73,034	65,982	2.3	75	87	13
13	Waterloo Village	2,000	85,787	81,252	2.7	90	84.6	15.4
14	Lemoine Point	1,345	97,697	92,885	2.8	94	100	0
15	Auden Park	4,810	85,434	80,602	2.6	77	87.5	12.5
16	Henderson	3,370	98,007	91,023	2.6	93	65.5	34.5
18	Reddendale	1,315	142,245	111,355	2.5	92	100	0
19	Strathcona Park	3,260	82,923	73,773	2.4	77.3	78.6	21.4
21	Kingscourt	4,155	56,786	52,356	2.3	61	84.8	15.2
22	Williamsville	2,478	53,761	47,778	1.9	30	78.3	21.7
23	Marker's Acres	2,735	60,046	56,279	2.4	66	71	29
24	Rideau Heights	5,600	39,022	35,247	2.3	33	90.1	9.9
25	Inner Harbour	7,390	56,520	56,520	1.9	36	73.9	26.1
26	Grenville Park	1,695	67,608	62,161	2	44	80	20
27	Hillendale	2,610	47,240	39,002	1.9	22	94.1	5.9
28	Polson Park	2,945	57,742	50,530	2	30	87.5	12.5
29	Calvin Park	3,675	65,400	60,403	2.2	42	94.4	5.6
30	Fairway Hills	2,450	87,608	73,244	1.9	37	91.2	8.8
31	Portsmouth	2,740	79,417	75,564	2	53	82.8	17.2
33	Sunnyside	5,580	94,001	83,115	2	52	91.7	8.3
34	Alwington	1,160	161,322	131,948	2.4	82.6	50	50
35	Queen's	1,255	76,210	66,216	2	9.7	100	0
36	Sydenham	2,865	103,968	83,446	1.6	31	75	25
37	Cataraqui River East	3,020	98,193	85,111	2.7	96.5	82.6	17.4
38	CFB Kingston	1,930	64,041	61,433	2.7	34.5	55.6	22.2
39	Ravensview	985	146,441	120,809	2.7	91.5	100	0
40	Greenwood Park / St. Lawrence S.	3,335	109,573	104,874	3	95.5	81.8	18.2
41	St. Lawrence North	1,800	130,652	94,021	2.6	88.3	71.4	28.6
42	Kingston Mills	585	79,801	77,640	2.3	91.8	33.3	66.7
43	Joyceville / Brewer's Mills	2,025	86,209	74,693	2.1	95.8	80	20

¹¹² City of Kingston, Based on Statistics Canada 2006 Census Data

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

Appendix 5

Community Members

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| - Alan Mathany | - Donna O'Neil | - John Done | - Martha Rudden | - Ruth Archibald |
| - Alica Coffin | - Gary Davison | - John Gerretsen | - Mary Huttley | - Sandy Singers |
| - Allen Prowse | - Harvey Rosen | - John Palmer | - Matthew Gventer | - Scott Runte |
| - Alice Gazeley | - Heidi Schmidt | - John Osborne | - Meghan Stouffer | - Sharon Smith |
| - Ann Cooney | - Hugh Segal | - Jonathan Vandersteen | - Leuprecht | - Siphon Ibeakanma |
| - Beverley Harvey | - Jamie Swift | - Karen Baldwin-Porter | - Moe Royer | - Stefan Amyotte |
| - Bonita McCourt | - Jean Gower | - Kathleen Beeman | - Naomi Mori | - Steph D'Souza |
| - Brian Brophy | - Jeff Kennedy | - Kathy Guitard | - Nancy Mclean | - Stephen Fox |
| - Brian Dodo | - Jeff Garrah | - Lily Inglis | - Natasha Alliston | - Stephen Tanner |
| - Carolyn Davies | - Jen Cameron | - Kathy Horton | - Pat Foster | - Sue Morrison |
| - Cheryl Hitchen | - Jennifer Schneider | - Kim McCormick | - Patricia Asselstine | - Tanie Steacy |
| - Chris McBride | - Jennifer Wagar | - Kendra O'Brien | - Patricia Price | - Tara Kainer |
| - Christine MacMillan | - Jim Docherty | - Linda Kewecki | - Pauline Lally | - Tina Chamberlain |
| - Don Mcguinness | - Jim de Hoop | - Lilian Van Wijk | - Peggy Davis | - Tom Greening |
| - Dave Jackson | - Jody Riddle | - Lisa Finateri | - Peter Milliken | - Una Byrne |
| - David Swerfeger | - Joe Pacheco | - Marijana Matovic | - Ross Toller | - Vicky Huehn |
| - Dawna Cameron | - Jo Willan | | - Rob Hutchinson | |
| - Don Mcguinness | - Joanne Sands | | - Robert Turner | |

Focus Groups

City of Kingston Staff, Human Services & Justice Coordination Network, Hospital Social Workers, Kingston Dental Coalition, Housing and Homelessness One Table, Homelessness Planning committee, Kingston & District Labour Council, Meal Food Providers Network Poverty Roundtable, Shelters/Hostels Group

Submissions and Consultations

Mental Health Service Providers, Social Issues Networking Group, Social Planning Council, Community Roundtable on Poverty, Pay It Forward, Streets To Home, In From the Cold, Home Base Housing

Plan Review

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“A Place First”

A Community Plan on Housing and Homelessness in Kingston



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