

Report on Housing and Homelessness in Lennox and Addington

June 2010

Produced by:



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A REPORT ON HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS IN Lennox & Addington June 2010

Chapter 1: Introduction

Generally, homeless people are considered to be those who do not have a permanent residence to which they can return whenever they so chose.¹ 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.²

Rural homelessness requires a flexible definition of homelessness. There are fewer shelters in rural areas than in urban areas; therefore, people experiencing homelessness are less likely to live on the street or in a shelter and more likely to couch-surf, live in a car or camper, or with relatives in overcrowded or substandard housing. Restricting definitions of homelessness to include only those who are literally homeless – that is, on the streets or in shelters – does not fit well with the rural reality, and also may exclude many rural communities from accessing federal dollars to address homelessness.³

Lennox & Addington (L&A) has some of the same issues as rural areas across Ontario and Canada when it comes to rural homelessness. Those faced with homelessness or at risk of homelessness in L&A encounter the need for resources, a lack of affordable housing and little or no transportation to services.

Some individuals experiencing homelessness stay in motels for brief stays (1 to 3 days) since there is no emergency shelter in L&A. Some will move to cities like Kingston, Toronto or Ottawa to access emergency shelter. Others may stay in local motels on a monthly basis. In fact, one person stayed for a four month period before securing housing.⁴

At the request of the L&A Committee on Homelessness and Affordable Housing, over the past several months, the United Way serving KFL&A has coordinated the development of this report. It is a collaborative community effort. We have analyzed data, consulted with community members and have developed recommendations based on this research and consultation. The majority of the data collected is presented in Appendix 1 with highlights in Chapter 3. In addition to outlining the issues of rural homelessness, this report provides best practices from other rural areas in Ontario, Canada and the United States in Chapter 2 and Appendix 3.

There are a number of factors that lead to homelessness including, mental health, poverty and systemic issues. This report is limited to homelessness, affordable housing and factors that relate specifically to rural homelessness. While the other issues need a holistic approach by the community, the focus of this document is homelessness and affordable housing in L&A.

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

² “A Place First” A Community Plan on Housing and Homelessness in Kingston

³ Rural Homelessness, National Coalition for the Homeless

⁴ Napanee Area Community Health Centre

Objectives of the Report

The *2007 L&A Housing Needs Assessment* identified the need to initiate action on increasing shelter, services and social housing in Greater Nananee as this appeared to be the area with the greatest need in L&A.

Proposed priorities identified in the 2007 report were:

- pursue mixed/dispersed housing, increase prevention activities
- build on strengths
- support populations in most need
- provide a more complete range of household support needs
- increase affordable housing stock by working with landlords and builders to understand practical constraints and barriers
- build leadership through L&A municipalities

The assessment also encouraged collaborative and coordinated opportunities for service providers, agencies, support services, funders and all levels of government.

Since then, it is our understanding that some measures have been taken to move forward. This plan will identify steps still needed to address this growing issue.

Housing First

Housing First approaches are based on the idea that stable housing enables individuals to better address their barriers to employment, addictions and poor health.⁵

During our consultation we heard suggestions regarding developing a Housing First model for L&A. Implementing Housing First requires a community effort to increase the supply of affordable housing, and develop a system of coordinated services and case management.

Our research indicates that many cities across North America have adopted a Housing First approach – to great success. However, it is our recommendation that, to move to Housing First, L&A needs to implement a number of qualifying preliminary steps.

Data Collection and Community Consultation

Data for this report was collected from a number of sources. These have been referenced throughout the report.

23 key informants were consulted. Additionally a public forum and two focus groups were conducted. A list of sources and participants is included in Appendix 2.

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

⁵ A Response to Homelessness in Nanaimo: First Approach, Relevant Best Practices, January 2008

Chapter 2: The Face of Rural Homelessness

Causes of Rural Poverty

Over the last decade, rural Canada's economic and employment situation has had the most profound negative impact on its residents. While variations exist among provinces, when compared to their urban counterparts, rural residents are known to have lower incomes and fewer employment opportunities. These important causes of poverty encourage and sustain persistent rural-to-urban migration.

Although relatively few studies exist to statistically measure the specific causes of rural poverty, many of the same factors are likely contributing to both urban and rural poverty. Where there are differences between urban and rural causes, the depth of the problems may be different within each factor.

Rural Poverty Outcomes

Some of the impacts of poverty are similar in both rural and urban regions of Canada. These include impacts on education (not doing well in school and lack of ability to pay for post secondary school, especially university), risk of homelessness, increased need to use food banks and shorter life expectancies.

However, there are some marked differences in impacts of poverty between rural and urban regions. Poverty in rural areas can lead to a significant out-migration with many residents leaving in search of better employment. As rural areas already have small populations this can have an impact on vital social and health services, which may not be offered or may close.

In L&A, 46% of the population lives in the rural area but works outside the county, in Kingston and Belleville.⁶ This allows residents the benefits of a larger labour market and often increased income earnings, lowering the impact of poverty. L&A has high home ownership, higher education levels and growth in income levels.

Many poverty outcomes, which include problems associated with attaining quality housing, education and maintaining good health, are also causes of poverty. These intertwined 'attributes' of poverty point to a continuous vicious cycle with poverty's pervasive negative impacts influencing generation after generation of vulnerable population groups including those among rural Canadians.⁷

The American National Coalition states that rural homelessness, like urban homelessness, is the result of poverty and a lack of affordable housing. A lack of decent affordable housing underlies both rural and urban homelessness. While housing costs are lower in rural areas, so are rural incomes, leading to similarly high rent burdens.⁸

Efforts to end rural homelessness are complicated by isolation, lack of awareness and lack of resources. Helpful initiatives would include broadening the definition of homelessness to include those in temporary and/or dilapidated facilities, increasing outreach to isolated areas, and increasing networking and awareness on a national level. Ultimately, however, ending

⁶ L&A Economic Development

⁷ Rural Poverty Discussion Paper, Prepared for: Rural Secretariat Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Gov of Canada

⁸ Rural Homelessness, National Coalition for the Homeless (American)

A Report on Housing and Homelessness in L&A

homelessness in rural areas requires jobs that pay a living wage, adequate income supports for those who cannot work, affordable housing, access to health care and transportation.⁹

Seniors and youth

In rural areas, seniors and youth were identified as those most at risk.¹⁰ For youth experiencing homelessness, it is sometimes a case of family disagreements resulting in youth leaving home and moving from one friend's house to another or "couch surfing". In many cases, youth will move to the City away from family and friends, and access services such as the food bank and youth services which are available in Kingston, Ottawa and Toronto.¹¹

In Merrickville and Lanark counties, studies have shown that no less than 40 to 50% of the youth that are homeless in the cities are originally from small towns and rural/remote areas. It has been estimated that one-third of Canada's homeless population are youth.¹²

Anecdotally it is our understanding that this is the case with youth in L&A as there appears to be youth who migrate to the city for jobs, housing and access to social services. Statistics Canada 2006 Census reported the lowest percentage of the population in L&A is in the age range of 20 to 30 years at 9.41%.¹³

Seniors who can no longer look after their home find themselves with few options but to move to the City, away from friends and neighbours. There is virtually no supportive housing in rural areas across the country and only few low-rise affordable apartment buildings.¹⁴

Barriers in rural areas

The National Alliance to End Homelessness states that the main issue for homeless people and those at risk for homelessness in rural areas is lack of affordable and appropriate housing. The lack of main utility services is cited as the largest barrier to new development. Transportation (lack of public transportation) is also an issue, making it difficult for seniors and others to access services if they do not drive.

One of the key differences between rural and urban homelessness is a lower capacity in the homeless service provider infrastructure in rural areas as opposed to urban areas.¹⁵

Some best practices in resolving rural homelessness are listed in Appendix 3.

⁹ Rural Homelessness, National Coalition for the Homeless (American)

¹⁰ The Face of Rural Homelessness in Ottawa, by Social Data Research Ltd. October 3, 2005

¹¹ The Face of Rural Homelessness in Ottawa, by Social Data Research Ltd. October 3, 2005

¹² TYPS 2006 Background Paper Rural Youth Facts - Lanark County Transitions Report

¹³ Statistics Canada, Community Profiles, 2006 Census

¹⁴ The Face of Rural Homelessness in Ottawa, by Social Data Research Ltd. October 3, 2005

¹⁵ National Alliance to End Homelessness, Fact Checker, Rural Homelessness March 2007

Chapter 3: Key Findings

There appears to be a growing concern that those at risk of homelessness is on the rise in L&A with an increase in people needing services. One in every four households pay more than 30% of their income on housing in L&A, (23.08%, compared to 27.66% in Ontario). Should there be any unforeseen loss of income or crisis these households could be at risk of becoming homeless.

Agencies that serve the community have reported an increase in need for food, food vouchers, shelter, rent and utilities assistance. Older affordable housing buildings have burned or been torn down and are not being replaced with affordable housing options.

All levels of government, funding agencies, social services, developers and the private sector will need to work together to increase the affordable housing supply in L&A and reduce the burden and effects of homelessness on individuals, families and the community.

What the data tells us

This chapter provides our key findings. Appendix 1 of this plan contains detailed data and charts.

1. Demographic Profile

L&A population has grown at a slower rate than the province. With a population of 40,542, as reported by Statistics Canada 2006 census data, it has grown by 2.7% (from 39,461 reported in 2001). This is slightly below the growth of 5.4% nationally and 6.5% provincially.

2. Economics

There are some positive numbers for L&A.

L&A has a diverse economic base. There is an equal mix of manufacturing, service companies, retail, public service and self employment. With its proximity to Kingston and Belleville, there is significant labour force movement between the three communities. 46% of working people work outside L&A.¹⁶

Employment and Unemployment

L&A has an unemployment rate lower than the average in Ontario.

- Statistics Canada 2006 Census data shows that L&A has an employment rate of 59.7% with an unemployment rate of 5.1%. In comparison, at the same time, Ontario had an employment rate of 62.8% and an unemployment rate of 6.4%.¹⁷
- In 2008, the unemployment rate for KFL&A was 5.6%¹⁸ compared to 6.5% for Ontario.

Note: Due to employment and unemployment rates not being available specifically for the region of L&A since Statistics Canada 2006 Census, the area of Kinston, Frontenac, L&A (KFL&A) was used as the closest comparative for rates after 2006.

¹⁶ L&A Economic Development

¹⁷ Statistics Canada 2006 Census, Community Profiles

¹⁸ Statistics Canada

According to Statistics Canada 2006 Census data, L&A has 49.7% of the population over the age of 15 who work. The occupational field with the highest percentage of workers is sales and service at 26.6% followed by trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations at 19.1%.¹⁹

Ontario's minimum wage increases but individuals and families struggle

- Minimum Wage increased from \$6.85 in 2004 to \$10.25 in 2010, an increase of 49.63%.²⁰
- In spite of this, we believe it is difficult for working people to support a family while making minimum wage. Full time employment of 40 hours per week at \$10.25 per hour equals \$21,320 per year or approximately \$1,776.66 per month.

Incomes are lower in L&A but the rate of growth is higher

- Statistics Canada reports that L&A's median income for all census families has increased by 22.2% from 2001 at \$50,639 to 2006 at \$61,888. This is higher than the provincial rate of growth at 13.3% from 2001 to 2006.
- In spite of the higher growth rate the median income for L&A at \$61,888 is 10.5% lower than the median income for the province at \$69,156.²¹

There appears to be an income gap within the county

- There is a discrepancy in family income within L&A. The highest median family income in Loyalist is \$67,242 and the lowest in Addington Highlands is \$37,897.²²

L&A has a relatively well-educated population.

- L&A residents have a higher level of education. Only 19.8% of the population of L&A did not have a certificate, diploma or degree, compared to 22.2% for the province.²³

3. Affordability

Families and individuals who pay more than 30% of their income on housing do not have enough money left for nutritious meals and other necessities. .

23.08% of L&A households are paying 30% or more of their household income on housing. This is a lower number compared to 27.66% in Ontario.²⁴

As housing and rent costs increase, especially if they increase at a faster rate than tenants incomes, fewer units in the existing private rental stock are available at an affordable level

¹⁹ Statistics Canada 2006 Census, Community Profiles

²⁰ Government of Canada, Human Resources and Social Development Canada

²¹ Statistics Canada, 2001 & 2006 Census, Community Profiles

²² Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Community Profiles

²³ Statistics Canada Census 2006, Community Profiles

²⁴ Statistics Canada, Census 2006, Data Products, Topic-based tabulations, housing affordability

Increase in Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

Since 2004, the total number of ODSP caseloads has increased by 22.60% in 2009. The number of Ontario Works (OW) recipients has remained fairly consistent during the same time period.²⁵

At this time 1,640 people access OW and ODSP, or 4.04% of L&A's population. This is a lower percentage than Kingston, where 5.66% (6,634) of the population accessed OW and ODSP.

Smaller percentage live below the 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. Using rural benchmarks, LICO for a single person is \$15,262 and for a household of four it is \$28,361.²⁶

In L&A, there is a smaller percentage of the population living below LICO than Ontario.

- 9.5% of the population (3,724) people live below the Low Income Cutoff level compared to 14.7% in Ontario.
- Of this population, 11.8% were children below 18 years of age compared to 18.0% in Ontario.²⁷

4. Housing

There were comments from residents who felt that L&A does not appear to have many housing options for individuals or families who may become homeless. There is also concern that there are fewer affordable housing options.

- Statistics Canada reports that there was a drop in the overall percentage of rental units available in L&A from 20.6% in 2001 to 19.7% in 2006. More homes (owned dwellings) have been built than rental units from 2001 to 2006.
- The percentage of owned dwellings in L&A for 2001 was 76.59%. This increased to 80.27% in 2006.
- The actual number of owned dwellings has increased by 1,245 (from 11,225 in 2001 to 12,470 in 2006).
- The actual number of rental units has increased by 50 (from 3,015 in 2001 to 3,065 in 2006). Out of the 3,065 rental units the number of affordable units is unknown.²⁸
- This is an increase of 11.09% for new owned dwellings versus 1.65% for new rental units.

Vacancy rates in Greater Napanee are low

Vacancy rates or average rents are not available for L&A as a whole. However, CMHC does provide vacancy rates and average rents for Greater Napanee.

- A "healthy" vacancy rate is considered to be 3 to 5%.²⁹
- Greater Napanee's vacancy rate for October 2009 was slightly below average (2.5% compared to Ontario's vacancy rate of 3.5%).
- Since October 2006 the lowest vacancy rate reported for Greater Napanee was 1.1% in October 2007 and the highest vacancy rate was 2.6% in April 2008.³⁰

²⁵ Prince Edward – L&A Social Services

²⁶ Statistics Canada. Low income cut-offs for 2008 and low income measures for 2007. June 2009 Catalogue no. 75F0002M — No. 002. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/75f0002m/75f0002m2009002-eng.pdf>

²⁷ Statistics Canada, Census 2006 Community Profiles

²⁸ Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Community Profiles

²⁹ Where's Home? 2005

³⁰ CMHC, Rental Market Report Ontario Highlights

Rent-gear-to-income (RGI)

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

- The Social Housing Registry of L&A has 379 RGI units in inventory as of September 15, 2009.³¹ This number has increased from 300 RGI units reported in the L&A Housing Needs Assessment by United Way in May 2007.

Social Housing Registry waiting list

For the purpose of this report the only reference material used is specific to areas served in L&A. The number of RGI units has increased, i.e. more individuals and families were supported.

- From January 1, 2009 to September 15, 2009, 70 households on the waitlist have been housed. Of the 70 housed in 2009, 63 were newly housed and 7 were transferred from a two-bedroom to a three-bedroom unit.³²
- On September 15, 2009, there were 341 households on the Social Housing Registry of L&A waiting list.
- There is some duplication as a result of households that may have applied for more than one bedroom unit size and/or may have applied in more than one area.³³ Eliminating duplication, 260 households were reported to be on the L&A waiting list as of September 15, 2009.³⁴

Average wait times for social housing vary

The wait time for social housing units are dependent upon the applicant's areas of preference, vacancy turnover and bedroom size requested. Depending on the unit type and location the average wait time may vary from 0.5 to 5.5 years.

- The longest wait appears to be for a 1 bedroom or a 3 bedroom unit, where wait times can range from one year to five and a half years.
- Families looking for 2 or 4 bedrooms have a slightly shorter wait (one to two years) and seniors looking for a one bedroom wait from six months to two years.

5. Services

Emergency shelter

In L&A, many agencies provide short term accommodation in motels. There is only one emergency shelter, i.e. L&A Interval House which is a shelter for abused women age 16 and over with or without children and has a capacity of 13 beds.

- The average length of stay at the women's shelter has increased by 86.95% from 23 days in 2007 to 43 days in 2009.
- The Transitional Housing Program of the L&A Interval House has 27 bed spaces which operate at capacity 100% of the time.³⁵
- The length of stay in the L&A Interval House Emergency Housing Program is for a maximum of 3 nights only and is funded by the County through motel chits.

³¹ The Social Housing Registry of Prince Edward-L&A

³² The Social Housing Registry of Prince Edward-L&A

³³ The Social Housing Registry of Prince Edward-L&A

³⁴ The Social Housing Registry of Prince Edward-L&A

³⁵ L&A Interval House

Emergency shelter provided by other agencies.

- Salvation Army - usually clients only receive one night's stay at a motel paid for by the Salvation Army. Most of the clients in need of emergency shelter are transients or travelers.³⁶
- The Morning Star Relief Mission funds 1 to 2 nights stay in a motel for those who are homeless, transient homeless or in need of a short-term place to stay. It has helped 8 different people (3 per year for 2007, 2008 & 2009) with an additional 3 people per year stay at the Morning Star Relief Mission for 3 nights only due to the need of shelter.³⁷
- Some homeless people are staying at local motels on a monthly basis for extended stays. One person stayed for a four month period until they were able to secure housing. Another individual is planning on remaining there for some time as they do not have the resources to rent.³⁸

There has been an increase in the number of people looking for food security

L&A agencies have noted an increase in the number of people served who need food and meal programs since 2007.

- Salvation Army food bank in L&A served 349 families (1,230 people) in 2009. 33.01% or 406 of these were children, an increase from 28.40% in 2007.
- The Good Food Box and the Healthy Lunch Box Programs currently have four host sites available. 499 Good Food Boxes and 81 Healthy Lunch Boxes were distributed in 2009
- Morning Star Relief Mission served 4,160 meals in 2008 and 5,200 meals in 2009. The number of food vouchers issued increased from 60 in 2008 to 72 in 2009 with the amount of the food voucher increasing from \$25 to \$40 dependant on family size.³⁹
- St Patrick's Conference, St Vincent de Paul, in Napanee, started up in October 2007 and offers services in L&A. Food voucher distribution has increased significantly by 260% in 2009 (221 at a cost of \$8,642) since 2008 (85 at a cost of \$6,568) possibly due to the fact that awareness of the service has risen. Families with children account for 50% of the total food vouchers issued.⁴⁰
- L&A Seniors Outreach Services in Napanee subsidizes 12% of their clients who live on low incomes for Meals on Wheels and other programs.

The need for addiction and mental health services is increasing

L&A Addiction and Community Mental Health Services has seen an increase in the number of clients served since 2007 in all programs. This may be due to the amalgamation of Mental Health Services and Addiction Services, community awareness of the programs and the closure of inpatient mental health beds.

- Residential services of L&A Addiction and Community Mental Health Services has 12 bachelor apartments with client support provided through agency services. Clients considered for tenancy are individuals suffering from a serious mental illness that are homeless or at risk of being homeless. There is a wait list of 3-4 people.
- The Crisis Safe Bed started April 1, 2008 and has one bed that provides a short term (7-10 day) community-based alternative for people who are experiencing mental health crisis who

³⁶ Napanee Salvation Army

³⁷ Morning Star Relief Mission

³⁸ Napanee Area Community Health Centre

³⁹ Morning Star Relief Mission

⁴⁰ St Vincent de Paul Society

do not clinically require acute inpatient hospitalization. The average stay has been 10 days. If needed this program has paid for a hotel room up to 10 days.⁴¹

Many people struggle to pay for utilities

There has been an increase in demand for funding assistance. The Salvation Army provides funding assistance for utilities through the Winter Warmth and Family Assistance Programs.

The Family Assistance Program has eligibility and limited funding allocation criteria for assistance with rent and utilities. The Winter Warmth Program is funded by United Way, with support from Union Gas and Hydro One, to help households avoid eviction due to non-payment of utilities.

- In 2008 there were 4 households who were assisted with rent/accommodations and 19 households were assisted with utilities.
- In 2009 there were 4 households who received assistance with rent and 27 households were assisted with utilities.⁴²

There is a need for resources to keep people housed

In L&A there are few resources for someone facing eviction.

- The Community Advocacy and Legal Centre serving L&A does not have numbers on eviction cases. Clients that call with housing related issues in addition to needing legal assistance are mailed information about tenants rights and a copy of the production “Are you in need of housing assistance?”.
- The number of calls for housing related issues increased from 79 in 2008 to 93 in 2009.
- Residents of L&A have a hard time accessing the Landlord and Tenant Board process, some of the hearings go to Belleville and some of the hearings go to Kingston, depending on the tenant’s location.⁴³

6. Cost of Homelessness and Poverty

Poverty has a price tag

Poverty has a significant cost for governments. The Federal and Ontario governments 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).⁴⁴

⁴¹ L&A Addiction and Community Mental Health Services

⁴² Napanee Salvation Army

⁴³ Community Advocacy & Legal Centre

⁴⁴ The Cost of Poverty an Analysis of the Economic Cost of Poverty in Ontario, Ontario Association of Food Banks, November 2008

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 chronically homeless person is about \$134,000 per person per year⁴⁵, more than it would cost to house a person and provide supports.

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.

Input from public forums: factors shaping homelessness in L&A

Input was sought through public forums regarding factors that shape homelessness in L&A. A number of factors were identified:

1. Lack of affordable housing
 - Not enough landlords are willing to house individuals or families on low incomes.
 - Older affordable housing buildings that have been torn down have not been replaced.
 - There is a need for more rent supplements and subsidies
 - There isn't enough affordable housing
2. Lack of transportation
 - There is a need for a plan to increase transportation services (include the northern area).
3. High utility costs
 - The need for increased OW & ODSP funds was expressed
4. There are many people couch-surfing and staying in motels
 - Need for emergency shelter was expressed
 - More affordable housing options would help
 - The possibility of transitional housing for longer stays was discussed
5. Poverty and unemployment
 - OW & ODSP rates are too low to cover costs of rent, utilities and basic nutrition
 - There appears to be a lack of jobs in the area
 - Many need transportation to access work
6. Need for more support services
 - Need for a long term community plan
 - Agencies lack stable funding
 - More supports for seniors and youth are needed
7. Need for greater communication and awareness
 - Better communication needed e.g. closure of psych beds
 - Need for awareness

⁴⁵ Calgary Homeless Foundation, Report on the Cost of Homelessness in the City of Calgary, RSM Richter & Associates Inc., January 28, 2008

Chapter 4: Recommendations

We have heard from a number of individuals in L&A that they would like to create a Housing First model in L&A. Based on consultation with the L&A Homelessness Community Group, it is recommended that L&A explore a model that incorporates housing individuals and families, while developing the necessary community supports.

The Housing First model requires specific intake, strong support services, case management and a supply of affordable housing. While working to obtain these, L&A can move towards adopting a housing first model.

1. Supports & Services:

1.1. Case Management

For any housing model to be successful, it is important to set up the supports for those who choose to access them and make informed choices about their future. Currently, in Kingston, as part of the steps following the release of “A Place First”, a committee is working on a coordinated case management approach. There is currently representation from L&A.

It is recommended that L&A continue to participate as, once this approach is developed, it will be ready for implementation in Kingston and in the neighbouring counties.

1.2. Youth Centres

Youth centres play a vital role in prevention by providing supportive intervention. The Transitions Report documented high-risk youth were more likely to go to a local youth centre for assistance than other social services. The more the youth centre is open and available, the better the support for high-risk youth.⁴⁶

It is recommended that L&A explore the feasibility of providing services for youth, either through existing agencies or by developing a youth-focused organization, providing the necessary supports and services.

1.3 Shelters and Help Centres

As outlined in previous chapters, there is no shelter in L&A for the general homeless population. There is also currently no place, like a Housing Help Centre, to provide resources and information to those who are homeless or may be at risk of becoming homeless.

Based on a quick survey of shelters in Kingston, there does not appear to be a high volume of clients from L&A; at least not enough to justify creating a new organization to provide supports or emergency shelter. However, L&A residents who are homeless may be accessing other communities or may be couch-surfing or living in inadequate housing.

It is recommended that the Housing Facilitator explore the options available to see if it is feasible to have a satellite service delivered through an existing provider that has the expertise and resources to provide services in L&A.

2. Keeping People Housed

⁴⁶ TYPs 2006 Background Paper Rural Youth Facts - Lanark County Transitions Report

It is always better for people to be housed in the community where they have familiarity and supports. It is important that steps be taken to keep them housed in L&A and avoid relocating families to Kingston and Ottawa, away from family, friends and supports.

2.1. Prevention

Preventing the occurrence of homelessness is the most economic and sustained way of ending homelessness. For communities that have limited funding, providing people at risk of homelessness with prevention services, such as paying back rent or utilities and case management, can significantly decrease the number of people moving into homelessness.⁴⁷

It is recommended that the County and other funders, like the United Way and the Community Foundation, review existing services and explore the development of eviction prevention services.

2.2. Data Collection

To develop these services, it will be important to retain and strengthen supports and build on networks and collaboration between services. There is a need to set out uniform minimum guidelines for data collection to assist in building a case to assist in acquiring funding. To understand trend over time and determine the full scope of the needs of the homeless or those at risk of becoming homeless in L&A, there is a need for more concrete data from all agencies and services.

It is recommended that there be some coordination for consistent and accurate collection of data by all agencies and the county.

3. Affordable housing supply

3.1. Increase supply of affordable housing

Based on all that we have heard and the low vacancy rate, the community will need to increase the supply of affordable housing in the county.

- Focus on separating youth from those who are acclimatized to being homeless
- Mixed housing – ensure that new housing does not exceed saturation point
- Scatter housing throughout the community

It is recommended that the County and United Way work with the private and public sectors to identify ways to acquire and build affordable housing that is mixed, scattered and accessible to services.

3.2. Intake agency/affordable housing organization

There is a need for a centralized intake agency or affordable housing organization to assist individuals and families find housing as soon as possible through RGI, subsidies, assistance with utilities, first time housing ownership plans (if available), etc.

It is recommended that a centralized system for intake be formalized for all of L&A.

⁴⁷ National Alliance to End Homelessness, Fact Checker, Rural Homelessness March 2007

4. Implementation, oversight and accountability

The Napanee Area Community Health Centre has received federal funding to hire an individual to further explore some of the issues identified in this report. It is our recommendation that this individual will develop an implementation plan, timelines and an assessment of the resources required to address the issue of homelessness.

Structure:

The L&A Homelessness Community Group is a group of **service providers** involved in the issue of homelessness. It is important that this group continue with their network as they provide valuable insight into the issues and have knowledge and experience in this area. They can take on the implementation of specific recommendations from this plan.

It is also recommended that a **second** group/committee oversee the direction and ensure resources are available. This group will involve decision makers and funders and will include representation from the Community Group to ensure linkage and coordination. Terms of reference and membership will need to be developed to include the oversight of implementation, action plans, measures of success, milestones and timelines.

We believe that both groups working together can make a difference to the issue of homelessness in L&A.

5. Action plan, resources and funding

Any initiative that addresses a significant issue will require funding and resources. The Napanee Area Community Health Centre has received funding from the federal government to hire a facilitator. The facilitator will develop an action plan with specific objectives and timelines. Once this plan is developed, the committees will be provided with some specific areas that will require resources and funding.

Once the action plan has been approved, the facilitator will explore funding opportunities for these areas. To assist with finding these funding sources, it is recommended that the oversight group include funders. Through their network, there may be additional resources identified to assist with implementing a plan.

Appendix 1: Data

Wherever possible, we have collected most of our data for L&A and the municipalities that make up the county. However, in some cases, data was only available for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington (KFL&A), some data from Statistics Canada was only available for the geographic region of Kingston-Pembroke.

Demographic Profile

Population and Growth Percentage for L&A from 1996 – 2006

	Year	Addington Highlands	Stone Mills	Greater Napanee	Loyalist	L&A County	Ontario
Population	1996	2,429	7,229	14,994	14,551	39,203	10,753,573
	2001	2,402	7,337	15,132	14,590	39,461	11,410,046
	2006	2,512	7,568	15,400	15,062	40,542	12,160,282
Growth Percentage	1996-2001	-1.1%	1.5%	0.9%	0.2%	0.6%	6.1%
	2001-2006	4.5%	3.1%	1.7%	3.2%	2.7%	6.5%
	1996-2006	3.4%	4.7%	2.7%	3.5%	3.4%	13.0%

⁴⁸

L&A's population has grown from 1996 to 2006 by 3.4% with the majority of growth occurring between 2001 and 2006 at 2.7%. For the province, growth was greater at 13.0% from 1996 to 2006 and 6.5% from 2001 to 2006.

Census 2006 Age Characteristics for L&A

Years of Age	Addington Highlands	Stone Mills	Greater Napanee	Loyalist	L&A County	Ontario
Total Population	2,510	7,565	15,400	15,060	40,540	12,160,285
0-20	485	2,020	3,455	3,540	9,510	3,043,920
20-30	205	640	1,500	1,470	3,815	1,540,950
30-50	560	2,400	4,060	4,430	11,455	3,700,330
50-65	670	1,680	3,430	3,310	9,085	2,225,915
Over 65	605	830	2,945	2,320	6,685	1,649,180
Median age of the populations	50.1	41.0	44.4	42.7	43.3	39.0
% of population aged 15 and over	86.5%	80.7%	83.8%	83.2%	83.2%	81.8%

⁴⁹

In L&A the percentage of the population between 0 and 14 years of age is 16.8%. The provincial percentage for the same age group is 18.2%.

⁴⁸ Statistics Canada, 2001 & 2006 Census, Community Profiles

⁴⁹ Statistics Canada 2006 Census, Community Profiles

Census 2006 Aboriginal Population

	Addington Highlands	Stone Mills	Greater Napanee	Loyalist	L&A County	Ontario
Total Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal identity population	2,445	7,565	14,915	14,350	39,270	12,028,900
Aboriginal identity population	215	270	415	365	1,270	242,490
Non-Aboriginal identity population	2,230	7,290	14,500	13,985	38,005	11,786,405
% of Aboriginal identity population	8.79%	3.56%	2.78%	2.54%	3.23%	2.01%

⁵⁰

L&A has a higher makeup of Aboriginal population (3.23%) than the province (2.01%).

Lone Parent Population

Census 2006 Lone Parents

	Addington Highlands	Stone Mills	Greater Napanee	Loyalist	L&A County	Ontario
Total Lone Parents	80	240	610	645	1,575	540,715
Female Lone Parents	60	180	460	555	1,255	441,105
Male Lone Parents	20	60	150	90	320	99,605
% of Total Population for all Lone Parents	3.18%	3.17%	3.96%	4.28%	3.88%	4.44%
% Female Lone Parents	2.38%	2.37%	2.98%	3.68%	3.09%	3.62%
% Male Lone Parents	0.79%	.079%	0.97%	0.59%	0.78%	0.82%

⁵¹

L&A has a lower percentage of lone parent families at 3.88% of the total population than the provincial rate of 4.44%. The highest number of lone parent families is in Loyalist at 4.28% (645).

Economics

Ontario was the only province to experience a substantial employment decline in May 2009, down 60,000, bringing total job losses since October 2008 to 234,000 or 3.5%. While Ontario accounts for 39% of the total working-age population in Canada, it has experienced 64% of overall employment losses since the start of the labour market downturn.

Ontario's unemployment rate in May 2009 rose by 0.7 percentage points from the previous month to 9.4%, the highest in 15 years.⁵² Since then the provincial unemployment rate has dropped slightly to 9.2% in January 2010 while the national unemployment rate is 8.3%. The national employment rate for January 2010 is 61.5%, on par with the provincial rate at 61.1%.⁵³

⁵⁰ Statistics Canada 2006 Census, Community Profiles

⁵¹ Statistics Canada 2006 Census, Community Profiles

⁵² Statistics Canada, Latest release from the Labour Force Survey, June 5, 2009

⁵³ Statistics Canada

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Census 2006 Labour Force Activity

	Addington Highlands	Stone Mills	Greater Napanee	Loyalist	L&A County	Ontario
Total population 15 years and over	2,115	6,100	12,415	11,810	32,445	9,819,420
In the labour force	960	4,100	7,675	7,680	20,415	6,587,580
Employed	890	3,935	7,230	7,315	19,370	6,164,245
Unemployed	65	165	445	370	1,040	423,335
Not in the labour force	1,160	2,000	4,745	4,130	12,030	3,231,840
Participation rate	45.4%	67.2%	61.8%	65.0%	62.9%	67.1%
Employment rate	42.1%	64.5%	58.2%	61.9%	59.7%	62.8%
Unemployment rate	6.8%	4.0%	5.8%	4.8%	5.1%	6.4%

⁵⁴

Statistics Canada 2006 Census reported a 59.7% employment rate for L&A with a 5.1% unemployment rate, compared to 62.8% employment rate for Ontario and 6.4% unemployment rate.

Since Statistics Canada 2006 Census there is no specific data on L&A. As a result, the information reported below is for the larger economic region of Kingston-Pembroke.

Since January 2009, the size of the labour force in the Kingston-Pembroke economic region decreased by 6.08% (14,000) to 216,100 in January 2010. The region saw a slight decrease in the participation rate and the employment rate decreased from 59.8% in January 2009 to 54.4% in January 2010. As a result, the unemployment rate has increased by 2.7% since January 2009 to 8.9% in January 2010 leaving an additional 5,000 people unemployed for the Kingston-Pembroke economic region.⁵⁵

Labour force characteristics, unadjusted, by economic region (3 month moving average)

ER 3515 Kingston – Pembroke (includes L&A)							
	Population	Labour force	Employment	Unemployment	Participation rate	Unemployment rate	Employment rate
	Thousands				Percentage %		
Jan 2010	361.7	216.1	196.9	19.3	59.7	8.9	54.4
Jan 2009	360.8	230.1	215.8	14.3	63.8	6.2	59.8
Ontario							
	Population	Labour force	Employment	Unemployment	Participation rate	Unemployment rate	Employment rate
	Thousands				Percentage %		
Jan 2010	10,728.3	7,139.1	6,517.0	622.1	66.5	8.7	60.7
Jan 2009	10,581.3	7,102.4	6,591.6	510.8	67.1	7.2	62.3

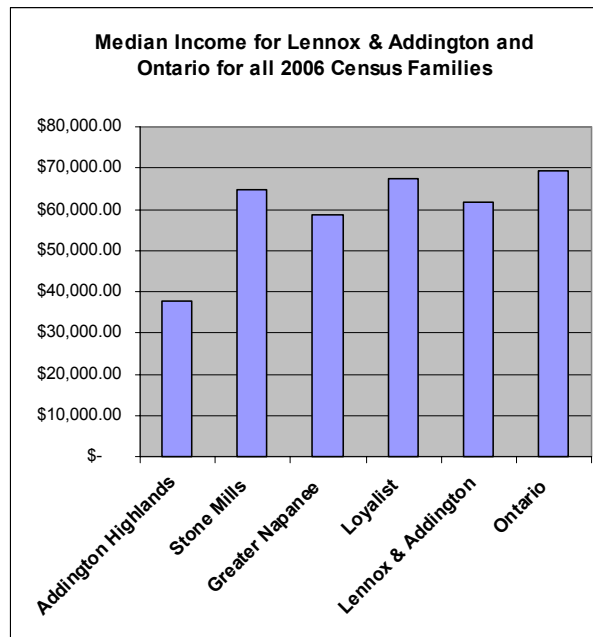
⁵⁶

⁵⁴ Statistics Canada 2006 Census, Community Profiles

⁵⁵ Statistics Canada

⁵⁶ Statistics Canada Labour Force

Median Income for L&A



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Median Income for All 2001 & 2006 Census Families

	2001	2006	Rate of Growth
Addington Highlands	\$31,849	\$37,897	18.9%
Stone Mills	\$54,182	\$64,826	19.6%
Greater Napanee	\$47,388	\$58,538	23.5%
Loyalist	\$55,451	\$67,242	21.2%

	2001	2006	Rate of Growth
L&A	\$50,639	\$61,888	22.2%
Ontario	\$61,024	\$69,156	13.3%

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Statistics Canada reports that L&A's median income for all census families has increased by 22.2% from 2001 at \$50,639 to 2006 at \$61,888. This is higher than the provincial rate of growth at 13.3% from 2001 to 2006. In spite of the higher growth rate the median income for L&A, at \$61,888, is 10.5% lower than the province at \$69,156.

⁵⁷ Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Community Profiles

⁵⁸ Statistics Canada, 2001 & 2006 Census, Community Profiles

L&A Median Full-time Employment Income by Gender

Worked 49-52 weeks full time

	L&A			Ontario			Ontario employment income differences in percentages		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Count (number of persons)	11,810	6,965	4,840	3,690,670	2,116,730	1,573,940	-	-	-
Median employment income \$	\$41,921.6	\$45,960.1	\$37,259.7	\$44,747.9	\$50,057.2	\$38,914.1	6.3%	8.2%	4.2%
Standard error of employment income \$	\$1,947.3	\$3,240.6	\$804.9	\$95.4	\$157.4	\$68.7	-	-	-

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In Ontario the median employment income is higher than that earned in L&A for both men (a difference of 8.2%) and women (4.2%) who worked 49-52 weeks full-time.

L&A Workforce by Type of Occupation

Management	7.7%
Business, finance and administration	15.2%
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	4.9%
Health	6.8%
Occupations in social science, education, government service and religion	7.2%
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	2.1%
Sales and service	26.6%
Trades, transport, equipment operators and related occupations	19.1%
Occupations unique to primary industry	4.5%
Occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities	5.5%

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Statistics Canada, 2006 Census data reports that L&A has a total of 20,165 workers over the age of 15. The occupational field with the highest percentage of workers is in sales and service at 26.6% followed by trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations at 19.1%; both occupational fields are traditionally in the low to mid pay range.

L&A Workforce by Industry

Other services	22.76%	Health care and social services	9.07%
Business services	13.95%	Construction	6.74%
Health care and social services	13.09%	Education services	5.18%
Retail trade	12.44%	Agriculture and other resource-based industries	3.74%
Manufacturing	10.56%	Finance and real estate	2.35%
		Wholesale trade	

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Lenox and Addington has a diverse economic base. There is an equal mix of manufacturing, service companies, retail, public service and self employment. What is interesting about L&A's economy is the influence of both Kingston and Belleville. There is significant labour force

⁵⁹ 1000 Islands Workforce Development Board – information based on Statistics Canada 2006 Census

⁶⁰ Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Community Profiles

⁶¹ Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Community Profiles

movement between the three communities. When looking at places of work, 46% of county workers work outside of L&A.⁶²

Education

Census 2006 Educational Attainment for the Total Population 15 years and over

	Addington Highlands	Stone Mills	Greater Napanee	Loyalist	L&A County	Ontario
Total population 15 years and over	2,115	6,100	12,420	11,810	32,445	9,819,420
No certificate, diploma or degree	830	1,305	3,405	2,485	8,030	2,183,625
	33.0%	17.2%	22.1%	16.5%	19.8%	22.2%
High school diploma	580	1,840	3,800	3,610	9,830	2,628,575
	23.1%	24.3%	24.6%	23.9%	24.2%	26.7%
Apprenticeship/trades certificate or diploma	200	805	1,425	1,180	3,610	785,115
	9.4%	13.2%	11.5%	10.0%	11.1%	8.0%
College, CEGEP certificate or diploma	305	1,260	2,460	2,930	6,950	1,804,775
	14.4%	20.6%	19.8%	24.8%	21.4%	18.3%
University certificate, diploma or degree	140	715	965	1,335	3,150	2,012,060
	5.5%	9.4%	6.2%	8.8%	7.7%	20.4%

⁶³

The high school diploma rate for L&A is 24.2% close to the provincial rate of 26.7%. Those without a high school diploma are 19.8% of the total population 15 years and over compared to 22.2% for the province. L&A is strong in the areas of apprenticeships or trades at 11.1% versus the province at 8.0% and college at 21.4% versus the province at 18.3%. With greater numbers choosing apprenticeships, trades or college over university, L&A has a lower rate of 7.7% with a university certificate, diploma or degree than the province at 20.4%.⁶⁴

L&A Percentage of People Aged 20+ without High School Diploma Compared to Kingston, Frontenac, L&A (KFL&A) Region and Ontario

Indicator Area	Addington Highlands	Stone Mills	Greater Napanee	Loyalist	KFL&A	Ontario
Age 20+ without a High School Diploma	35.7%	18.9%	22.0%	18.0%	18.9%	16.9%

⁶⁵

Language

There is 6.62% (2,685) of the total population in L&A who have knowledge of both English and French. The greatest concentration of bilingual people is in Loyalist at 2.85% (1,155) and Greater Napanee at 2.54% (1,030). The provincial percentage is 11.45% (1,377,330) of people who have knowledge of both English and French.⁶⁶

⁶² L&A Economic Development

⁶³ Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Community Profiles

⁶⁴ Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Community Profiles

⁶⁵ Community Profiles: Indicators for Children & Youth in the Southeast Region, 2007; www.seregion.ca, M. Hughes, Data Analysis Coordinator HFLA

⁶⁶ Statistics Canada 2006 Census, Community Profiles

Full Time Employment Education Levels, Occupations and Related Median Incomes

The following tables demonstrate how L&A compares to the Province of Ontario in full time employment (49 to 52 weeks per year) education levels, different occupations and related incomes based on Statistics Canada 2006 Census data.

Full-Time Employment Education Levels by Gender for L&A and Ontario

Worked 49-52 weeks full time							Overall Percentage by Highest Certificate	
	L&A			Ontario				
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	L&A	Ontario
Highest certificate								
No certificate, diploma or degree	1,105	790	315	375,225	245,255	129,965	9.35%	10.16%
In percentage		71.49%	28.50%		65.36%	34.63%		
High school certificate or equivalent	3,735	2,325	1,410	938,850	532,050	407,800	31.62%	25.43%
In percentage		62.24%	37.75%		56.67%	43.43%		
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	1,615	1,310	300	327,165	244,870	82,290	13.67%	8.86%
In percentage		81.11%	18.57%		74.84%	25.15%		
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	3,530	1,670	1,860	882,640	454,810	427,835	29.88%	23.91%
In percentage		47.30%	52.69%		51.52%	48.47%		
University certificate, diploma or degree	1,830	875	955	1,165,795	639,745	526,055	15.49%	31.58%
In percentage		47.81%	52.18%		54.87%	45.12%		

In L&A there is a higher rate of people with certificates working 49 to 52 weeks per year than the provincial rates in the following areas: high school at 31.62% versus 25.43%, apprenticeship or trades at 13.67% versus 8.86% and college at 29.88% versus 23.91%.

For all levels of University certificates, diplomas or degrees there is a significantly lower rate of 15.49% than the provincial rate at 31.58%. It is interesting to note that there are 44.4% of women who have earned their doctorate in L&A versus the province at 28.97%.

⁶⁷ 1000 Islands Workforce Development Board – information based on Statistics Canada 2006 Census

**Where people work in L&A by
occupational field and occupation with the associated median income**

Occupational Field	Occupations with the Highest Number Employed in the Occupational Field for L&A	Total Percentage		Median Income	
		L&A	Ontario	L&A	Ontario
Total – all occupations		-	-	\$41,921.6	\$44,747.9
Management		10.16%	13.89%	\$49,805.4	\$62,749.5
	Managers in Retail Trade	3.06%	2.66%	\$35,718.8	\$37,924.8
Business, Finance and Administration		16.38%	20.13%	\$35,671.1	\$40,858.7
	Clerical	8.97%	10.32%	\$32,680.9	\$37,099.9
Health		6.90%	5.02%	\$46,768.1	\$53,191.2
	Nurse Supervisors and Registered Nurses	2.41%	1.61%	\$60,160.7	\$64,911.4
Social Science, Education, Government, Service and Religion		8.12%	8.89%	\$47,823.8	\$55,745.8
	Secondary and Elementary School Teachers and Educational Counsellors	2.54%	3.30%	\$60,943.7	\$63,853.7
Sales and Service		20.61%	16.34%	\$33,332.2	\$30,869.7
	Intermediate Sales and Service*	9.18%	6.59%	\$41,250.4	\$31,156.7
Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators and Related Occupations		19.64%	14.87%	\$44,264.7	\$44,821.3
	Motor Vehicle and Transit Drivers	4.19%	3.01%	\$44,959.3	\$40,008.0

⁶⁸ *The top three occupations under Intermediate Sales and Service are Retail Salespersons and Sales Clerks, Protective Services and Cleaners.

The examples of L&A full time employment occupations and occupational fields listed above demonstrate that the majority are not working in the higher paying fields or positions within each field. The occupation listed has the highest percentage of L&A people working in that occupational field.

The top three are:

- Sales and service at 20.61% with a median income of \$33,332.2
 - Intermediate sales and service at 9.18% with a median income of \$41,250.4
- Trades, transport, equipment operators and related occupations at 19.64% with a median income of \$44,264.7
 - Motor vehicle and transit drivers at 4.19% with a median income of \$44,959.3
- Business, finance and administration at 16.38% with a median income of \$35,671.1
 - Clerical at 8.97% with a median income of \$32,680.9

Affordability

High housing costs and low income individuals and families

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

⁶⁸ 1000 Islands Workforce Development Board – information based on Statistics Canada 2006 Census

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According to Statistics Canada 2006 Census data, 23.08% of L&A households (versus 27.66% of Ontario households) are paying 30% or more of their household income on housing with the presence of a mortgage.

In L&A 3.15% of lone-parent family households and 8.58% of one person households pay 30% or more of their income on housing. Ontario is at par with 3.75% lone-parent family households and significantly higher with 10.93% one person households paying 30% or more of their income on housing.

2006 Census 30% or more of income spent on Housing Costs with tenure and presence of mortgage

	Total Household Types	Lone-Parent Family Households	One Person Households
L&A	3,510	480	1,305
	23.08%	3.15%	8.58%
Ontario	1,245,435	169,060	492,010
	27.66%	3.75%	10.93%
Canada	3,038,245	392,870	1,371,325
	24.88%	3.21%	11.23%

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The rate for households paying more than 30% of the household income on rent was not available for L&A. The closest area reported is for the Kingston Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) with 48.00% of households paying more than 30% of their income on rent compared to 44.58% for Ontario.⁷⁰

Rental Units

Greater Napanee Average Rent by Unit Type

	October 2006	April 2007	October 2007	April 2008	October 2008	April 2009	October 2009	3 year % Increase
Bachelor	\$437	\$536	\$512	\$506	\$500	\$522	\$520	18.99%
1 Bedroom	\$535	\$572	\$586	\$575	\$578	\$592	\$612	14.39%
2 Bedroom	\$670	\$688	\$699	\$714	\$714	\$718	\$724	8.05%
3 Bedroom	\$669	\$726	\$736	\$745	\$757	\$796	\$806	20.47%

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In the table above the three year percentage increase on average rent in Greater Napanee ranges from 8.05% to 20.47%. Even though the percentage of increase seems high, the average rent in Greater Napanee is lower than the provincial average. For a bachelor apartment the average rent in Greater Napanee is \$520 versus \$688 for the province. A two-bedroom is \$724 versus \$955 for the province.

⁶⁹ Statistics Canada, Census 2006, Data Products, Topic-based tabulations, housing affordability

⁷⁰ Statistics Canada, Census 2006, Data Products, Topic-based tabulations, housing affordability

⁷¹ CMHC, Rental Market Report Ontario Highlights, Fall 2009

**October 2009 Private Apartment Average Rent (\$) by Bedroom Type
Ontario – Eastern Ontario – Non-CMA Centres**

Centre	Bachelor	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom
Belleville CA	\$549	\$714	\$811	\$919
Brockville CA	\$505	\$610	\$726	\$737
Cornwall CA	\$495	\$561	\$675	\$723
Greater Napanee Town	\$520	\$612	\$724	\$806
Pembroke CA	\$423	\$565	\$661	\$775
Prince Edward County	\$492	\$574	\$703	-
Ontario 10,000+	\$688	\$824	\$955	\$1,167

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Dwellings

Census 2006 Occupied Private Dwelling Characteristics

	Addington Highlands	Stone Mills	Greater Napanee	Loyalist	L&A County	Ontario
Total private dwellings occupied by usual residents	1,050	2,805	6,120	5,565	15,535	4,555,025
Number of owned dwellings	860	2,560	4,590	4,460	12,470	3,235,495
Number of rented dwellings	190	245	1,525	1,105	3,065	1,312,290
Average value of owned dwelling (\$)	\$150,894	\$190,284	\$186,641	\$221,610	\$197,573	\$297,479
Percentage of owned dwellings	81.9%	91.3%	75.1%	80.2%	80.3%	71.2%
Percentage of renters	18.1%	8.7%	24.9%	19.8%	19.7%	28.8%

73

Since the Statistics Canada 2001 Census the total number of dwellings has increased from 14,655 to 15,535 (2006 Census), an increase of 5.66%. The percentage of rented dwellings has decreased from 20.6% in 2001 to 19.7% in 2006. Compared to an urban area there are fewer rental properties. Kingston, for example, has 37.76% rented dwellings in 2006.

The number of rented dwellings has increased by 50 (from 3,015) a difference of 1.65% from the 2001 to 2006 Census. The number of owned dwellings (homes) has increased by 1,245 (from 11,225 in 2001 to 12,470 in 2006), a difference of 11.09%.

During the same time period the average value of owned dwellings in L&A has increased by \$68,042 (52.52%) from \$129,531 and in Ontario it increased by \$97,595 (48.82%) from \$199,884.

⁷² CMHC, Rental Market Report Ontario Highlights, Fall 2009

⁷³ Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Community Profiles

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Census 2006 Selected Household Characteristics

	Addington Highlands	Stone Mills	Greater Napanee	Loyalist	L&A County	Ontario
Average Household Size	2.3	2.7	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.6
Median monthly payments for rented dwellings (\$)	676	701	645	685	669	801
Median monthly payments for owner-occupied dwellings (\$)	450	942	782	920	836	1,046

⁷⁴ *2001 Census reported on Average gross monthly payments for rented dwellings which are not a fair comparison to median monthly payments, therefore it is not noted in the chart above.

Ontario's Minimum Wage Increases

Minimum Wage increases from 2004 to 2009

Ontario	1995-2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2004-2010 % increase
	\$6.85	\$7.45	\$7.75	\$8.00	\$8.75	\$9.50	\$10.25	49.63%

⁷⁵

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 \$10.25 in March 31, 2010, an increase of 49.63%.

The major industries employing minimum wage earners are: accommodation and food, retail, trade and agriculture.⁷⁶

Low Income Cut-offs (LICO) for 2008

LICOs are income thresholds, determined by analyzing 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.⁷⁷

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.

For the purpose of this report the LICO for L&A will be considered Rural in the table below as most communities within L&A have a population under 30,000. Therefore the LICO for a single person is \$15,262 and for a household of four it is \$28,361.

⁷⁴ Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Community Profiles

⁷⁵ Government of Canada, Human Resources and Social Development Canada

⁷⁶ Ontario Ministry of Labour News, March 28, 2008

⁷⁷ City of Kingston

Statistics Canada's Before-Tax Low Income Cut-offs (1992 base) for 2008					
Family Size	Community Size				
	Urban Areas				Rural Areas
	Cities of 500,000+	100,000-499,999	30,000-99,999	Less than 30,000	
1	\$22,171	\$19,094	\$18,976	\$17,364	\$15,262
2	\$27,601	\$23,769	\$23,623	\$21,615	\$19,000
3	\$33,933	\$29,222	\$29,041	\$26,573	\$23,358
4	\$41,198	\$35,480	\$35,261	\$32,264	\$28,361
5	\$46,727	\$40,239	\$39,992	\$36,594	\$32,165
6	\$52,699	\$45,385	\$45,105	\$41,272	\$36,278
7 +	\$58,673	\$50,529	\$50,218	\$45,950	\$40,390

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Percentage of low income before tax for persons in L&A with comparison to KFL&A and Ontario

	L&A			KFL&A			Ontario		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
All Persons	9.5%	8.5%	10.5%	12.9%	12.1%	13.6%	14.7%	13.7%	15.6%
Persons less than 18 years of age	11.8%	11.4%	12.3%	13.7%	14.4%	12.9%	18.0%	17.9%	18.1%

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L&A has 9.5% of its population who were below the low income cut-off as reported in the Statistics Canada 2006 Census with 11.8% who were children less than 18 years of age. This is lower than the province at 14.7% of its total population and 18.0% who were children less than 18 years of age.

For Canada in 2007, 2,952,000 individuals (9.2% of the population), including 637,000 children, had annual incomes below the Statistics Canada after-tax low income cut-off (LICO); for a single person, the after-tax LICO in 2007 was \$11,745. Between 2002 and 2007, 20% of Canadians experienced at least one year of low income and 8% experienced at least three years of low income. It is a distressing fact that working families account for about 40% of people living in low income in Canada.⁸⁰

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, and earning exemptions that allow participants to earn income as they move back into the workforce.⁸¹

⁷⁸ Statistics Canada. Low income cut-offs for 2008 and low income measures for 2007. June 2009 Catalogue no. 75F0002M — No. 002. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/75f0002m/75f0002m2009002-eng.pdf>

⁷⁹ Statistics Canada, Census 2006 Community Profiles

⁸⁰ Food Banks Canada, Hunger Count 2009

⁸¹ City of Kingston

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Ontario Works Program for L&A

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Caseload Total	592	588	553	536	542	566

⁸²

The increase in caseloads for 2009 is 4.42% over 2008 numbers. There may be a link between the caseload and labour market.

Ontario Disabilities 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 and maintain jobs on a volunteer basis.⁸³

Ontario Disabilities Support Program for L&A

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Caseload Total	876	912	984	1,042	1,053	1,074

⁸⁴

The total number of ODSP caseloads has increased by 22.60% from 2004 to 2009.

Maximum OW and ODSP Monthly Shelter Allowance & Average Rents for L&A

Benefit Unit Size	OW Maximum Monthly Shelter Allowance	ODSP Maximum Monthly Shelter Allowance	Greater Napanee Average Rent (\$) by Unit Type
1	\$356	\$454	bachelor - \$520
2	\$560	\$714	1 bedroom - \$612
3	\$607	\$775	2 bedrooms - \$724
4	\$660	\$842	3 bedrooms - \$806
5	\$711	\$907	-
6 or more	\$738	\$941	-

⁸⁵

Housing Assistance Program, Prince-Edward, L&A Social Services

The Housing Assistance Program (HAP) provides financial assistance to vulnerable individuals and families who are facing significant hardship with their shelter costs. Financial assistance is in the form of an “interest free” loan to applicants upon review and approval of a financial and needs assessment. A repayment plan is included in the assessment. Loan repayments are very minimal and range from \$5.00 to 5% of the loan.

The HAP program utilizes three funding envelopes:

- Homelessness Funding since 2002
- Emergency Energy (Electricity) Bank since 2005
- Rent Bank since 2004

⁸² Prince Edward – L&A Social Services

⁸³ City of Kingston

⁸⁴ Prince Edward – L&A Social Services

⁸⁵ County of L&A, Housing Services

Housing Assistance Program Number of Households Served in L&A

	2007	2008	2009
Homelessness Funding			
Number of Households	26	27	46
Approximate total cost*	\$40,200	\$41,000	\$41,500
Emergency Energy Bank			
Number of Households	6	5	7
Approximate total cost*	\$6,624	\$6,624	\$6,624
Rent Bank			
Number of Households	11	11	31
Approximate total cost*	\$8,400	\$13,800	\$28,000

⁸⁶ *Totals are approximate as exact amounts for L&A have not been separately calculated, rather provided as 60% of total costs for Prince-Edward, L&A.

Since 2007 there has been a 76.9% increase in the number of households who needed assistance with housing costs from the homelessness funding and 181.8% increase for assistance with rent. There has been an increase in the number of applications for assistance and increased amounts of more than one arrears for rent and/or utility bills.⁸⁷

Housing

Vacancy Rates

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.⁸⁸

Vacancy rates or average rents are not available for L&A as a whole, however, CMHC does provide vacancy rates and average rents for Greater Napanee.

Vacancy Rates for Ontario – Eastern Ontario – Non-CMA Centres

Centre	April 2007	October 2007	April 2008	October 2008	April 2009	October 2009
Belleville CA	-	-	2.6%	3.7%	4.0%	5.6%
Brockville CA	-	-	2.5%	3.3%	5.0%	4.6%
Cornwall CA	-	-	3.3%	4.2%	4.1%	3.8%
Greater Napanee Town	1.6%	1.1%	2.6%	1.3%	2.1%	2.5%
Mississippi Mills Town	-	-	-	1.2%	2.8%	1.2%
Pembroke CA	-	-	1.3%	1.1%	1.9%	0.3%
Petawawa CA	-	-	0.4%	1.1%	3.2%	1.5%
Prince Edward County	-	-	2.8%	3.1%	3.3%	5.1%
Ontario	3.9%	3.3%	3.1%	2.7%	3.3%	3.5%

Greater Napanee struggles with a low vacancy rate ranging from 1.1% to 2.6% with the current vacancy rate at 2.5%. The lowest ranking area in the eastern Ontario region is Pembroke CA which has been below 1.9% for the past two years with a current vacancy rate of 0.3%.⁹⁰

⁸⁶ Prince-Edward, L&A Social Services, Housing Assistance Program

⁸⁷ Prince-Edward, L&A Social Services, Housing Assistance Program

⁸⁸ Where’s Home? 2005

⁸⁹ CMHC, Rental Market Statistics – various reports final one being Fall 2009

Social Housing Registry Waiting List

For the purpose of this report the only reference material used is specific to areas served in L&A. L&A is subdivided into 6 geographic areas:

- Amherstview
- Flinton
- Napanee
- Northbrook
- Odessa
- Tamworth

There are 260 households without duplication reported on the L&A waiting list for September 15, 2009. Duplication can occur when households apply for more than one bedroom unit size and/or apply in more than one area. Therefore, the total households reported on the Social Housing Registry waiting list for L&A is 341.⁹¹

Depending on the unit type and location the average wait time may vary from 0.5 to 5.5 years.

2008-2009 Social Housing Registry Wait Time for L&A

	Unit Type	Approximate Wait Time
Family Units	2 and 4 bedroom	1 - 2 years
Family Units	3 bedroom	1 - 5.5 years
Adult Units	1 bedroom	1 - 5 years
Senior Units	1 bedroom	0.5 – 2 years

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**The Social Housing Registry for L&A
Waiting List Statistics by Bedroom Size – September 15, 2009**

Unit Type	Unit Size	Number of Applicants
Family	2 Bedrooms	48
	3 Bedrooms	46
	4 Bedrooms	13
Total		107
*Sub-Total without duplication		*97
Adult	1 Bedroom	123
	2 Bedrooms	5
Total		128
Senior	1 Bedroom	48
	2 Bedrooms	3
Total		51
Total Applicants		286
*Total without duplication		*260

⁹³ *This number represents the total households with no duplication between areas or unit sizes.

The total of 286 shows no duplication of household applications between areas only, the total without duplication of 260 has screened out applicants who applied for more than one unit size.

⁹⁰ CMHC, Rental Market Statistics – various reports final one being Fall 2009

⁹¹ The Social Housing Registry of Prince Edward-L&A

⁹² The Social Housing Registry of Prince Edward-L&A

⁹³ The Social Housing Registry of Prince Edward-L&A

**The Social Housing Registry of L&A
Waiting List Statistics – September 15, 2009**

Type	Total Households on Waiting List	Total Units in Inventory
Family	129	118
Adult	152	109
Senior	60	152
Total units	*341	379

⁹⁴ *With duplication

- The number of households on the waiting list for December 2008 was 318 with the same number of RGI units at 379. The monthly average was 374.3 households with 70 housed.
- As of September 15, 2009 there are 341 households on the waiting list with 70 housed year-to-date. Of the 70 housed, 63 were newly housed and 7 were transferred from a two-bedroom to a three-bedroom unit.
- The 2009 year to date monthly average of 311.8 households on the waiting list has decreased of 16.69% (62.5) from the monthly average of 374.3 in 2008. This is partly to do with a full review of the L&A waiting list that ensured households are still in need and have not moved away or been housed elsewhere.⁹⁵

Eviction Prevention

In L&A there are few resources for someone facing eviction to turn to.

- The Queen’s Legal Aid L&A housing matters has only had one file for each year from 2007 to 2009 related to landlord and tenant matters. Their main work in Napanee is with the criminal court.⁹⁶
- The Community Advocacy and Legal Centre is a non-profit legal clinic that provides free legal advice and advocacy services for low-income individuals in L&A. They do not have numbers on eviction cases. Clients that call with housing related issues in addition to needing legal assistance are mailed information about tenants rights and a copy of the production “are you in need of housing assistance”.

Community Advocacy and Legal Centre serving L&A

	2007	2008	2009
Number of Calls for Housing Related Issues	82	79	93

⁹⁷

Residents in L&A have a difficult time accessing the Landlord and Tenant Board process, some of the hearings go to Belleville and some of the hearings go to Kingston, depending on the tenant’s location.⁹⁸

⁹⁴ The Social Housing Registry of Prince Edward-L&A

⁹⁵ The Social Housing Registry of Prince Edward-L&A

⁹⁶ Queen’s Legal Aid

⁹⁷ Community Advocacy & Legal Centre

⁹⁸ Community Advocacy & Legal Centre

Rent Geared to Income (RGI) Units

**The Social Housing Registry of L&A Rent Geared to Income (RGI) Units
in Inventory by location September 15, 2009***

Location	Unit Type	Unit Size	Units in Inventory
Amherstview	Family & Adult	1 + 2 bedrooms	11
Flinton	Family & Senior	1, 2 + 3 bedrooms	14
Napanee	Family, Adult & Senior	1, 2, 3 + 4 bedrooms	266
Northbrook	Senior	1 + 2 bedrooms	25
Odessa	Family & Senior	1, 2 + 3 bedrooms	37
Tamworth	Adult	2 bedrooms	26
Total units			379

⁹⁹ * This report includes only RGI units available to CWL referral process (no Market Rent Units/No Federal Program Units included)

There is a total of 379 RGI units available in L&A with the majority being in Napanee with 266 RGI units.

Services

L&A Addiction and Community Mental Health Services

All programs within the Agency have seen an increase in the number of clients served since 2007. One reason is the amalgamation of Mental Health Services and Addiction Services. Community awareness of the programs has increased the referrals to the agency. Closure of inpatient mental health beds has also increased demands on Agency services.

Services Provided with Number of Clients Served from 2007 to 2009

Programs and Services	April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008	April 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009	April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010
Intensive Case Management	105	91	94
Criminal Justice and Support	92	71	91
Release from Custody	83	153	192
Counselling and Treatment	262	242	204
Court Diversion	40	43	48
Social Rehabilitation	34	53	44
Residential	15	21	17
Mental Health Crisis Intervention	614	785	1,006
Crisis Safe Bed	-	8	27
Substance Abuse	520	649	519
Concurrent Disorder	142	88	64
Problem Gambling	5	7	17

¹⁰⁰

⁹⁹ The Social Housing Registry of Prince Edward-L&A

¹⁰⁰ L&A Addiction and Community Mental Health Services

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Residential services consist of 12 bachelor apartments with client support provided through agency services. Clients considered for tenancy are individuals suffering from a serious mental illness that are homeless or at risk of being homeless. There is a steady wait list of 3-4 people. Priority will be given to those individuals currently residing in provincial psychiatric hospitals.

The Crisis Safe Bed started April 1, 2008 and has one bed that provides a short term (7-10 day) community based alternative for people who are experiencing mental health crisis who do not clinically require acute inpatient hospitalization. The average stay has been 10 days. If needed this program has paid for a hotel room up to 10 days.

The Mental Health Crisis Intervention program has increased by 40% since 2007 and Release from Custody increased by 131% since 2007. This is due to greater awareness of mental illness resulting in an increase in referrals to the programs.¹⁰¹

Salvation Army

The Salvation Army has seen an increase in the use of the food bank and other assistance programs since 2007 in L&A.

Salvation Army Services & Assistance

	2007		2008		2009	
	Households Assisted	Total Cost	Households Assisted	Total Cost	Households Assisted	Total Cost
Clothing	47	\$1,024.75	41	\$1,367.50	37	\$1,097.00
Household Vouchers	10	\$108.00	12	\$175.00	9	\$118.00
Rent/ Accommodations	3	\$306.59	4	\$1,106.45	4	\$500.89
Transportation	9	\$187.59	8	\$96.25	7	\$304.66
Utilities	2	\$765.88	19	\$6,632.41	27	\$6,895.78

¹⁰²

- The Rent/Accommodation funds were used for emergency assistance only.
- Utility funds include assistance from Winter Warmth and Family Assistance Programs.
 - The Winter Warmth Program is funded by Union Gas and United Way to help households avoid eviction due to non-payment of utilities.
 - The Family Assistance Program has eligibility and limited funding allocation criteria for assistance with rent and utilities.

Salvation Army new programs since 2007 include:

Backpack program

Good Food Box & Healthy Lunch Box

Family Assistance Program

¹⁰³

Winter Warmth Program

Children's Ministry Program

Creative Cooking Program

¹⁰¹ L&A Addiction and Community Mental Health Services

¹⁰² Napanee Salvation Army

¹⁰³ Napanee Salvation Army

Morning Star Relief Mission

The need for counseling services has increased from an average of 8-10 hours per week in 2007 to 10-15 hours per week in 2009. Other services provided are a Drop-in centre on every Monday and Wednesday from 7:00 to 9:00 pm, worship services on Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoon and Christmas dinner.¹⁰⁴

Kairos

Kairos offers counselling services at Quinte Detention Centre for inmates from the L&A area as they integrate back into the community. The number of clients served remains steady since 2007 where 61 individuals were counselled with 30 needing accommodations. From January to October 2009 there were 38 individuals counselled with 13 needing accommodations.¹⁰⁵

Peer 17

Peer 17 is a drop-in centre for individuals aged 16 and above who suffer from a mental illness. The Peer Support initiative services provided include:

- Peer Support – both individual and group-based
- Social/Recreational activities and opportunities
- Educational Opportunities and Supports
- Access to Resources – computer, software, fax, library and materials.

The number of people who come to the centre from the addictions transitional house has increased due to the short stay provided at the transitional house. With a lack of housing in the area these individuals are homeless and couch-surf and have a hard time finding housing.¹⁰⁶

The Mental Health Support Network took over Peer 17 in April 2008. In 2009 there were 1,968 visits to services by 300 unique individuals, of whom 74 were new clients.¹⁰⁷

Pathways for Children and Youth

Pathways for Children and Youth provides many different services helping children and youth age birth to 18 years and their families in L&A. Services include: Intake, Community Site Services, Resource Services, Intensive Child and Family Services, Early Years, Nexus (Day Treatment) Services, Out of Home Services (OOH), Integrated Family Solutions, Autism Intervention Program, Wraparound and School Support Program.

¹⁰⁴ Morning Star Relief Mission

¹⁰⁵ KAIROS

¹⁰⁶ Mental Health Support Network, Peer 17

¹⁰⁷ Mental Health Support Network, Peer 17

A Report on Housing and Homelessness in L&A

Programs & Services with numbers served

Services	2007	2008	Time period for 2009
Community Site Services			January-July 2009
Number Served	375	431	359
Programs & Services			January-August 2009
Intensive Child and Family Services	19	16	14
Early Years (0 – 6 years)	7	7	5
Out of Home Services (OOH)	6	4	4
Integrated Family Solutions	19	16	14
Autism Intervention Program	24	24	14
Resource Services			January-August 2009
Behavioural Paediatrics	24	29	21
Psychiatry	5	6	6
Psychometrics	14	23	12
Nexus (Day Treatment) Services			January-September 2009
Number Served	24	30	20

¹⁰⁸

Pathway's community site services provide assessment, intervention and consultations, individual, family and group counselling, case management as well as parenting programs. The Intensive Child and Family Services and Early Years Service provide intensive, short-term and flexible support to children/youth and their families. Participants may have single or multiple needs.

The tables below show the income range and percentage of surveyed clients that use Pathway services; this does not include all clients.

Percentage of Respondents in the various income categories

Year	\$0- \$9,999	\$10,000- \$14,999	\$15,000- \$19,999	\$20,000- \$29,999	\$30,000- \$39,999	\$40,000- \$49,999	\$50,000- \$59,999	Greater than \$60K
2002-2003	8.1	14.5	14.5	14.5	21.0	6.5	11.3	9.7
2004	6.1	17.2	13.1	14.1	16.2	7.1	7.1	19.2
2005	7.2	8.7	10.1	14.5	13.0	11.6	10.1	24.6
2006	7.5	13.2	13.2	15.1	13.2	9.4	5.7	22.6
2007	10.0	8.3	5.0	18.3	20.0	13.3	3.3	21.7
2008	2.2	4.3	14.1	9.8	12.0	16.3	10.9	30.4
2009	10.3	6.9	11.5	12.6	13.8	10.3	11.5	23.0
Total	7.1	10.3	11.9	13.8	15.3	10.7	8.8	22.0

¹⁰⁸ Pathways for Children and Youth

A Report on Housing and Homelessness in L&A

Percentage of Respondents below various income categories

Year	Below \$10,000	Below \$15,000	Below \$20,000	Below \$30,000	Below \$40,000	Below \$50,000	Below \$60,000
2002-2003	8.1	22.6	37.1	51.6	72.6	79.0	90.3
2004	6.1	23.2	36.4	50.5	66.7	73.7	80.8
2005	7.2	15.9	26.1	40.6	53.6	65.2	75.4
2006	7.5	20.8	34.0	49.1	62.3	71.7	77.4
2007	10.0	18.3	23.3	41.7	61.7	75.0	78.3
2008	2.2	6.5	20.7	30.4	42.4	58.7	69.6
2009	10.3	17.2	28.7	41.4	55.2	65.5	77.0
Total	7.1	17.4	29.3	43.1	58.4	69.2	78.0

¹⁰⁹

There are 58.4% of the clients served who earn an income below \$40,000 per year.

L&A Seniors Outreach Services in Napanee

L&A Senior Outreach Services (SOS) Community Support Services helps keep seniors in their homes. Services provided: Meals, Grocery Delivery, Library Book Delivery, Transportation, Foot Care, Lifeline, Friendly Visits, Adult Day Service, In-Home Caregiver Relief, "55 Alive" Driver Refresher Course, Income Tax & Forms Assistance and Social Activities.

SOS sees seniors living on very low incomes, 12% of its clients are subsidized for programs like Meals on Wheels, Transportation and Lifeline.¹¹⁰ Though Old Age Security (OAS) and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) bring the majority of low-income seniors above the after-tax LICO, the maximum OAS/GIS payment of about \$14,000 per year is still quite meagre.¹¹¹

L&A Seniors Outreach Services

	April 2006 to March 2007		April 2007 to March 2008		April 2008 to March 2009	
	Number of Units	Number Served	Number of Units	Number Served	Number of Units	Number Served
Meals on Wheels	11,500	196	11,409	210	9,081	198
Dinners/Social	7,292	1,165	4,693	748	4,219	438
Transportation	12,897	235	5,331	269	8,132	233
Friendly Visits	1,476	91	1,905	87	1,843	70
Security Checks	10,206	348	-	-	-	-
Foot Care	1,331	241	1,173	234	1,336	248
Adult Day Service	2,009.5	54	1,409	49	1,401	56
Caregiver Respite	1,813	28	1,422	41	1,779	45

¹¹²

The Meals on Wheels program dropped by 21.0% from 11,500 in 2006-2007 to 9,081 in 2008-2009 due to an effort to revamp the program to serve more people in more areas. The number of people served increased in 2007-2008 to 210 but dropped again to 198 in 2008-2009.

SOS has a grocery delivery service to a maximum of 15 seniors who have a real mobility problem and are house bound. The In-home Caregiver Respite Program has a waiting list due

¹⁰⁹ Pathways for Children and Youth

¹¹⁰ L&A Seniors Outreach Services

¹¹¹ Food Banks Canada, Hunger Count 2009

¹¹² L&A Seniors Outreach Services

to no subsidies for additional certified Personal Support Workers. Transportation uses up all reserve funds as it is an area that is continually in need. For all other programs there are subsidies which are 70% funded by the Ministry and 30% by donations and fundraising.¹¹³

Shelter

L&A Interval House

L&A Interval House is a shelter for abused women age 16 and over with or without children and has a capacity of 13 beds funded by the provincial government. There is no other shelter in L&A.

**L&A Interval House Number of People Served
April 1st to March 31st**

	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
Residential Services:				
Number of Women	102	116	106	103
Number of Children	66	71	77	67
Days of Residential Care (bed nights)	2,897	3,165	3,189	3,147
Average length of stay	23	32	41	43
Number of Crisis Calls	284	414	668	-
Outreach Services:				
Number of Women	328	338	341	347
# of Direct Service Hours	2,789	2,846	1,651	1,771
Transitional Services:				
Number of Women	112	118	121	118
# of Direct Service Hours	1,380	1,589	1,651	1,696
# of Transitional Plans	89	112	109	113

¹¹⁴

The average length of stay has increased by 86.95% from 23 days in 2007 to 43 days in 2010 and applies to the shelter only. The Transitional Housing Program has 27 bed spaces which operate at capacity 100% of the time. The length of stay in the Emergency Housing Program is for a maximum of 3 nights only and is funded by the county through motel chits.

Emergency Housing Program

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Number of People	91	68	92	66
Bed nights	135	123	142	122

¹¹⁵

Emergency Shelter

Motel Stays

Agency	Length of stay
Morning Star Relief Mission	1-2 nights
Salvation Army	1 night
L&A Interval House – Emergency Housing Program	max of 3 nights

¹¹⁶

¹¹³ L&A Seniors Outreach Services

¹¹⁴ L&A Interval House

¹¹⁵ L&A Interval House

Emergency shelter motel stays are for those who are in crisis, homeless or transient homeless in need of a short-term place to stay. The Morning Star Relief Mission has helped 8 different people (3 per year for 2007, 2008 & 2009) with an additional 3 people per year who stay at the Morning Star Relief Mission for 3 nights due to the need of shelter.¹¹⁷

Food

Food Banks Canada

In the month of March 2009, 794,738 people (2.4% of Canadians) were assisted by a food bank in Canada. This is an 18% increase compared to the same period in 2008 – the largest year-over-year increase on record. 37% (293,677) of those assisted are children. In Ontario 374,230 individuals (2.9% of Ontarians) were assisted in March 2009, 37.6% are children. Ontario food banks helped an additional 59,972 (19.1%) individuals compared to last year.

Food Bank Use in Canada and Ontario

Province/Territory	Total Assisted, March 2009	Total Assisted, March 2008	Change, 2008-2009	Percent Change, 2008-2009	Percent Children, March 2009
Ontario	374,230	314,258	59,972	19.1%	37.6%
Canada	794,738	675,735	119,003	17.6%	37.2%

49% of food bank users are families with children (single parent 25% and two parents 23.8%), single person 39.2% and couple, no children 12%.

Where do food bank clients live in Canada?

Type of Housing	Urban Areas	Rural Areas
Market Rent	59.6%	51.9%
Social Housing	26.7%	15.0%
Own Home	6.1%	14.7%
With Family or Friends	3.0%	6.2%
Band Housing	2.9%	10.9%
Shelter	1.0%	0.5%
On the Street	0.7%	0.8%

There are 11.0% of Canadians assisted who live in small towns or rural areas.

Primary Income Source for Urban and Rural Areas

Source of Income	Urban Areas	Rural Areas
Social Assistance	51.5%	50.8%
Employment	13.6%	11.0%
Disability	13.0%	14.0%
Pension	6.3%	9.3%
Employment Insurance	5.3%	7.2%
No Income	5.2%	3.8%
Other Income	4.4%	3.1%
Student Loan	1.1%	0.7%

¹¹⁶ Morning Star Relief Mission, Salvation Army and the L&A Interval House

¹¹⁷ Morning Star Relief Mission

¹¹⁸ Food Banks Canada, Hunger Count 2009

¹¹⁹ Food Banks Canada, Hunger Count 2009

¹²⁰ Food Banks Canada, Hunger Count 2009

Primary sources of income for Ontario versus Canada

	Employment	Social Assistance	Employment Insurance	Disability
Ontario	13.0%	43.0%	5.0%	22.0%
Canada	13.6%	51.5%	5.3%	13.0%

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L&A Food Banks and Food Services

There are five Food Banks located in L&A: Napanee Salvation Army, Tweed Salvation Army, Deseronto – Helping Hands, Amherstview – Partners in Mission, Northbrook.

Transportation to the Food Bank is an issue for people on a fixed income that live out of town. The Food Bank provides only 2 to 3 days worth of food.

Salvation Army Food Bank L&A

	2007	2008	2009
Singles	174	190	207
Children	238	395	406
Families	279	366	349
Total people served	838	1,150	1,230
Total cost	\$29,745.36	\$31,531.00	\$45,530.60

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In 2008 366 families, or 1,150 individuals, were served, of these 34% or 395 were children. This has increased from 28.40% in 2007. In 2009, 1,230 individuals were served. 33% or 406 were children.

The Salvation Army took over the Good Food Box and the Healthy Lunch Box Programs in October of 2007. Currently there are four host sites available with another possible site in the works. L&A's North end is currently not being served due to lack of transportation, funding and staff.

L&A Good Food Box and Health Lunch Box Program

	October to December 2007	2008	2009
Good Food Box	100	365	499
Healthy Lunch Box	49	83	81

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Food Vouchers

	2007	2008	2009
Morning Star Relief Mission			
Food Vouchers per month	4	5	6
Total Food Vouchers	48	60	72
Value of Food Voucher	\$25	\$25	\$25-\$40
St Vincent de Paul Society			
Total Food Vouchers	-	85	221
Total Cost	-	\$6,568	\$8,642

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¹²¹ Food Banks Canada, Hunger Count 2009

¹²² Napanee Salvation Army

¹²³ Napanee Salvation Army

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The Morning Star Relief Mission, in Napanee, serves lunch every Wednesday and dinner every Saturday. There is a pool of 150 low income poverty people who use these services.

- 80 meals per week were served in 2007 and 2008, and 100 meals per week in 2009.
- 20,000 meals have been served over the past 8 years.¹²⁵

St Patrick's Conference, St Vincent de Paul, in Napanee, started offering services to the Community of L&A in October 2007.

- Families with children account for 50% of the total food vouchers issued.
- Food voucher distribution has increased significantly by 260% in 2009 since 2008.
- St Vincent de Paul has noted significant numbers of single people report needing to share accommodation with roommates in order to afford housing.
- During 2009, vouchers have been limited to one per month per household with the amount of the voucher depending on number of people in the household.
- Every voucher distribution is accompanied by a team visit to assess ongoing household needs and to ensure people are aware of the other community resources.¹²⁶

¹²⁴ Morning Star Relief Mission and St Vincent de Paul Society

¹²⁵ Morning Star Relief Mission

¹²⁶ St Vincent de Paul Society

Appendix 2: Data Collection, Community Consultation, Focus Groups and Public Forum

Data Collection

Data for this report was collected from a number of sources including the County of L&A, Government of Canada, Government of Ontario, Statistics Canada, Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), 1000 Islands Workforce Development Board, L&A Economic Development, Data Analysis Coordinator (DAC), Community Profiles Indicators for Children & Youth in the Southeast Region, City of Kingston, Ontario Ministry of Labour, Prince Edward – L&A Social Services (PELASS), The Social Housing Registry of Prince Edward – L&A, Queen’s Legal Aid, Community Advocacy & Legal Centre, L&A Addiction and Community Mental Health Services, Food Banks Canada. Comparative data and information was also collected from community plans in Ottawa, Lanark, Calgary and the National Alliance to End Homelessness in the United States.

Community Consultation

There were 23 key informants who were consulted. Additionally a public forum and two focus groups were conducted.

Community Members (23)

Adrian Van Asseldonck	Helen Maberly	Pam Kent
Constable Jackie Perry	Jenny Munroe	Rev. David Smith
Constable Kelly Rathwell	Karen Efron	Rev. Rod McNeil
Dana Henry	Kim Harrington	Scott Arsenaault
David Williams	Larry Keech	Stafford Murphy
George Moniz	Maria Stebelsky	Sue Andrew-Allen
Gina Cockburn	Mary Ann Murray	Wendy McDonald
Greg Moon	Murray Kennally	

Focus Groups (21 participants)

L&A Homelessness Community Group (12 responses), L&A County Council/Municipal Government (9 responses)

Public Forum (18 participants)

18 community members were in attendance.

Volunteer Facilitator at Forum

Annedale McTavish, Helen Maberly

Plan Compilation, Development and Data Collection

United Way Staff: Bhavana Varma, Darlene Medhurst and Heidi Liu

The United Way thanks all those listed above as well as those who may not be mentioned here and who provided valuable input and guidance throughout the process.

Appendix 3: Best practices in Rural Homelessness - The National Alliance to End Homelessness

Regional Themes Emerge from a County Planning Process

- Affordable Housing
- Prevention/Emergency Level
- Prevention/Systems Level
- Provider Coordination¹²⁷

Promising Practices: Rural Homeless Initiative of Southeast and Central Ohio (RHISCO) Looking across the full range of strategies proposed in ten year plans prepared by counties participating in the Rural Homeless Initiative of Southeast and Central Ohio (RHISCO) Project, a number of specific strategies recurred. These strategies match those that other communities around the country have used to reduce homelessness.

Goals:

- Improve point in time counts
- Increase supportive housing
- Improve access to information

Tactics:

- Engage the mainstream (key stakeholders, providers and the homeless) in planning
- Get serious about the real estate function
- Collaborate and coordinate services to better serve the community
- Build on homelessness prevention
- Promote intraregional collaboration

Opportunities and Obstacles to overcome

As with any project of this scope, there were numerous challenges to be addressed along the way, as well as opportunities for improvement.

These challenges can be broadly captured in the following categories:

1. Community awareness, misconceptions, and moral judgments
2. Data gathering
3. Federal homelessness funding
4. Resource constraints
5. Lack of affordable housing
6. Promoting regional approaches

Obstacles faced by rural providers:

- Lack of public transportation
- Single agencies providing multiple services
- Personnel wear several “hats”
- Sense of isolation
- Fewer resources – funding
- Difficult for staff to attend trainings & meetings

¹²⁷ Rural Homelessness Initiative of SouthEast and Central Ohio: A National Model for Planning to End Rural Homelessness, January 2008

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Coordinate resources within the community. The range of services needed by homeless people are seldom available in any one agency in rural communities. Agencies need to communicate with the goal of “no wrong door” – homeless people who seek help anywhere in a community will end up getting the help they need.

Improve prevention of homelessness. Because of the lack of shelter and other emergency resources for people once they become homeless, prevention is especially important. This involves crisis intervention and work with mainstream programs to monitor housing status and plan for housing as part of discharge from institutions.

Over the course of the first two years of the Rural Homeless Initiative of Southeast and Central Ohio RHISCO project, five important lessons became apparent:

- Rural communities participating in this project were willing to make a sustained commitment of time and energy, showing that they viewed homelessness as a serious problem and its solution worth pursuing.
- Communities vary in their capacity to develop and implement plans to end homelessness.
- Regional themes emerged across communities: affordable housing, prevention of homelessness through intervention in individual and family crises, prevention of homelessness as an outcome of publicly funded systems, data systems and provider coordination.
- The issues that emerged for the RHISCO counties mirrored issues that are identified by communities around the country, and the solutions are similar although they must be scaled to the size of the community.
- The need for stable permanent housing is key.¹²⁸

¹²⁸ Rural Homelessness Initiative of Southeast and Central Ohio: A National Model for Planning to End Rural Homelessness, January 2008

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