

# STILL WAITING

*Enough is enough.*



**I'm really worried  
about the day  
we can't do this  
anymore.**



**SEBASTIAN GAISSERT**  
Executive Director,  
Rideau Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre  
(A community partner in  
The Ottawa Mission's Food Truck Program)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**In April 2024, The Ottawa Mission issued our *No More Waiting* report concerning shocking levels of homelessness and food insecurity across our city, province and country.**

**In 2025, things are even worse:**

- ↳ Homelessness in Canada has increased by 20% since 2018.<sup>1</sup>
- ↳ Over 80,000 Ontarians are homeless, a 25% increase since 2022. Without significant intervention, homelessness could triple within this province to almost 300,000 by 2035.<sup>2</sup>
- ↳ Almost 23% of Canadians across 10 provinces are food insecure, including 2.1 million children.<sup>3</sup>
- ↳ Across Ontario, Toronto, Mississauga and Kingston have declared food insecurity emergencies.<sup>4</sup>

**While there have been recent investments in alleviating homelessness, they are insufficient to meet the overwhelming need. For example:**

- ↳ While \$561 million is currently invested federally in homelessness, achieving a 50% reduction in chronic homelessness would require an additional \$3.5 billion per year.<sup>5</sup>
- ↳ While Ontario has made investments in affordable housing, shelters and supportive housing, an estimated additional \$11 billion over 10 years and \$2 billion over eight years is needed to end chronic homelessness and ensure those living in encampments have stable housing.<sup>6</sup>

**Similarly, federal and provincial policies that ameliorate income security have been shown to also address food security, however, they are insufficient to meet the staggering need for food:**

- ↳ Federally, while public old-age pensions have reduced the risk of food insecurity for recipients, they must be age 65 or older, leaving younger people exposed.  
  
Similarly, the *Child Tax Benefit* has reduced the risk of severe food insecurity for recipients, but it has not decreased their overall risk.<sup>7</sup>
- ↳ Across jurisdictions within Canada, almost all income support rates are insufficient, with those dependent on disability and other supports living in deep poverty.  
  
In Ontario, despite recent enhancements, those relying on *Ontario Disability Support* and *Ontario Works* payments are living up to 60% below the poverty line, meaning they don't have enough income to meet their basic needs.<sup>8</sup>
- ↳ Enhancements to minimum wage levels also provide increased protection against food insecurity,<sup>9</sup> with higher minimum wage levels associated with reductions in food insecurity.<sup>10</sup>  
  
However, Ontario minimum wage levels remain below what is required to meet basic needs<sup>11</sup>.

## At the local level in Ottawa:

Homelessness has grown to almost 3,000 people, a 13% increase since 2021.

Of these people, an estimated 500+ are living on the street.<sup>12</sup>

Certain populations, including people who are racialized, newcomers, Indigenous populations, gender and sexual minorities, those who have serious health conditions and those on low incomes, bear a disproportionate burden of homelessness.<sup>13</sup>



**1 in 4**

Food insecurity has risen from one in seven to one in four households.<sup>14</sup>

Forty-six percent of those who were homeless stated that they needed support with food security.<sup>15</sup>

The cost of healthy food and shelter is 20–25% higher than provincial Disability Support Payments.<sup>16</sup>

## At The Ottawa Mission:

Our shelter has been at over 100% capacity for occupancy of shelter beds since 2017.

The only exception to this was during the pandemic when we closed some shelter beds to enhance social distancing from 2020–2023, with clients diverted to overflow shelters run by the City of Ottawa.

Since reopening these beds, we have returned to over 100% capacity,<sup>17</sup> with dozens of clients sleeping on mats in our chapel floor or on chairs in our lounge.<sup>18</sup>



**1,000,000+**

For the past two years, The Mission has served over one million meals to those who live in our shelter and vulnerable community members.<sup>19</sup>

Sadly, this year will be no different.

## And most tragically:

In January 2025, an Indigenous man who lived on the streets in Ottawa was found in medical distress in bitterly cold weather; he later died in hospital.<sup>20</sup>



Later that same month, a grandmother newcomer with untreated mental illness, who was homeless, died after being found outside.<sup>21</sup>

**The urgency and magnitude of homelessness and food insecurity across our city, province and country is the culmination of decades of policy failures by governments to:**

- 1 Address the root causes of these problems,** including growing poverty and income erosion, the withdrawal of governments from the housing market, the loss of affordable housing, the inadequate supply of supportive housing for those with high needs, food inflation; and
- 2 Allocate sufficient and sustained resources at each level of government to ameliorate these causes.**

Until these two things happen, homelessness and food insecurity will get even worse.

# Still waiting. Enough is enough.

# Lives are at stake.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### We call upon the government of Canada to:

- ↳ **Implement a *Homelessness Prevention and Housing Benefit*** to support up to 385,000 households at risk of homelessness and help over 50,000 people leave homelessness.
- ↳ **Create programs for non-profit housing providers** to support:
  - » the purchase of existing rental housing projects and hotels
  - » the facilitation of office-to-residential conversions
  - » the acquisition of vacant land for new builds
- ↳ **Enhance support to municipalities to provide assistance to refugees and asylum seekers** by implementing the *National Plan for Asylum with Dignity* by the *Canadian Council for Refugees*, which includes:
  - » Establishing reception centres in cities to orient arrivals and coordinate services.
  - » Providing federal funding for short term and transitional housing for refugee claimants.
  - » Making refugee claimants eligible for the support services offered to other newcomers.
  - » Ensuring that adequate legal aid coverage is available for refugee claimants.
  - » Streamlining the claims process and eliminating the backlog in the determination process.

### We call upon the government of Ontario to:

- ↳ **Address the erosion of affordable housing across Ontario** by:
  - » Reintroducing rent controls to buildings erected after November 2018.
  - » Fully implementing Bill 97 to amend the *Residential Tenancies Act* and prohibit bad-faith renovations.
- ↳ **End chronic homelessness by implementing the recommendations of the 2025 report on homelessness by the *Association of Municipalities of Ontario***, including:
  - » Investing \$11 billion over 10 years to create 75,000 new affordable and supportive housing units.
  - » Investing \$2 billion over eight years to ensure people in encampments are safely housed by increasing the capacity of support services and supportive, transitional and community housing.
- ↳ **Address inadequate incomes for vulnerable Ontarians** by:
  - » Increasing social assistance rates to enable vulnerable Ontarians to live with dignity and security.
  - » Increasing the provincial minimum wage to enable minimum wage earners to meet their expenses.
  - » Reviewing the UNESCO findings concerning the 2017–2019 Ontario basic income program, which showed positive impacts for participants, with a view to re-establishing this program.

### We call upon the City of Ottawa to:

- ↳ **Support measures to address food insecurity within the City's *Poverty Reduction Strategy*** appropriate to the need.
- ↳ **Support the expansion of not-for-profit housing in Ottawa** through:
  - » Supplying municipal land at no cost to not-for-profit housing providers and community land trusts.
  - » Revising zoning to support scaling up affordable housing.
  - » Changing the approval process for new not-for-profit housing.
- ↳ **Increase the annual budget of new affordable housing** by:
  - » Returning to the 2023 figure of \$30 million for investments in new affordable housing.
  - » Applying annual increases to this amount reflective of actual housing costs in Ottawa.

# INTRODUCTION

In April 2024, The Ottawa Mission issued our *No More Waiting* report concerning shocking levels of homelessness and food insecurity across our city, province and country. In that report, we stated that **“We have reached a tipping point in Ottawa, our province and our country where housing precarity and food insecurity are now so severe that the lives of millions of people are compromised by these conjoined factors.”**<sup>22</sup>



One year later, in April 2025, we know that things are even worse: **homelessness and food insecurity are now at levels so extreme that people’s lives are at stake.**

**While governments have put forward investments to address these threats — the result of decades of policy failures and wholly inadequate investments in programs that millions of people rely upon — they are insufficient to meet this overwhelming need.**

**The impact of these failures has left millions of people across Canada, our province, and our city on the brink.**

In particular, people who are:

- Indigenous
- racialized
- newcomers
- living with disabilities
- female, gender and sexual minorities
- on income support
- students
- employed in low wage positions
- renting their homes

**As governments argue over which level has the responsibility to address homelessness and food insecurity, community agencies have stepped in to meet these needs — stretching us to the breaking point.**

### *Still waiting.*

**Governments must meet the needs of their citizens. They must step up to meet these needs and enact policies and investments that address the root causes of homelessness and food insecurity,** including poverty and the erosion of incomes, disappearing affordable housing, the scarcity of supportive housing for people who need support, food inflation, and many other factors.

### *Enough is enough.*

# STILL WAITING: HOMELESSNESS

## *Canada and the Federal Response*

In May 2024, the Office of the *Parliamentary Budget Officer* (PBO) released an analysis of the federal *National Housing Strategy* (NHS). It showed that **from 2019–2020 to 2022–2023, the NHS supported placements in more stable housing for 17,849 people, emergency housing funding for 5,399 people, and core prevention services for 31,164 people on an annual basis.**<sup>23</sup>

**However, during this same period, the number of homeless people in Canada increased by 20% compared to 2018, the number of chronically homeless people increased by 38%, and the number of individuals living in unsheltered locations also increased 88%.**<sup>24</sup>

***It is declared to be the housing policy of the Government of Canada to... recognize that the right to adequate housing is a fundamental human right affirmed in international law.***

— “ —  
National Housing Strategy Act,  
S.C. 2019

**The NHS originally set the target of reducing chronic homelessness by 50% by 2027–2028; more recently the federal government revised this commitment to ending chronic homelessness by 2030.** But *Reaching Home*, the main program under the NHS, does not have reductions in chronic homelessness as a performance indicator.<sup>25,26</sup> The 2024 PBO analysis concluded that *Reaching Home* has not implemented sufficient programming to achieve the 50% target. **To achieve this target, *Reaching Home* would have to provide 144,413 units of supportive housing for clients with higher acuity needs at a cost of an additional \$3.5 billion — seven times the current budget of the NHS.**<sup>27</sup>

Federal spending on housing has significantly increased under the NHS from prior years, and the 2024 federal budget did make additional commitments such as:

- ↳ An enhancement of \$1.3 billion to *Reaching Home*.<sup>28</sup>
- ↳ An enhancement of \$1 billion for the *Affordable Housing Fund* to support non-profit, coop, and public housing providers.<sup>29</sup>
- ↳ The \$1.5 billion *Canada Rental Protection Fund* (CRPF) to protect the stock of affordable housing.<sup>30</sup>
- ↳ Converting the *Canada Lands Company* into the *Public Lands for Homes Plan*.<sup>31</sup>
- ↳ Extension of the *Apartment Construction Loan Program* to projects directed to students and seniors.<sup>32</sup>
- ↳ Proposed restrictions on the purchase of existing family homes by large corporate investors.<sup>33</sup>
- ↳ Providing \$1.1 billion over three years to extend the *Interim Housing Assistance Program* (IHAP), which provides housing support for asylum seekers. Funding in 2026–27 will be conditional on provincial and municipal investments in permanent transitional housing for asylum claimants.<sup>34</sup>
- ↳ Allocating \$4.3 billion over seven years for the *Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy*.<sup>35</sup>

While these measures are helpful:

- ↳ **Without specific reductions in homelessness as part of *Reaching Home's* performance indicators, measuring progress toward the 50% reduction in chronic homelessness is compromised.**
- ↳ **There were no additional investments into the *Canada Housing Benefit*, which provides funding to low-income renters in the private market to help them keep their homes.<sup>36</sup>**
- ↳ **Federal investment in preserving affordable housing are insufficient to the urgency and magnitude of the loss of affordable housing.** For example, Canada is losing 46,000 affordable units annually to rent increases, demolitions, and conversions, but the CRPF will prevent only the loss of 2,500 units.<sup>37</sup>
- ↳ **As units are lost, rents have become increasingly unaffordable.** In all provinces except Manitoba, minimum wage increases fell behind what would be needed as a minimum wage to afford an apartment without spending more than 30% of a renter's income on housing.<sup>38</sup>
- ↳ **Estimates concerning investments to address housing needs for Indigenous Peoples living in urban, rural and northern areas range from \$4.3 billion to \$5.6 billion per year over ten years,<sup>39</sup> but the government has committed only \$600 million per year over seven years.<sup>40</sup>**
- ↳ **Homelessness among newcomers has increased significantly since 2017 and the introduction of the IHAP.** A federal government analysis based on data from 2017–2019 showed that emergency shelter use by newcomers (immigrants, refugees, refugee claimants, and visa holders) had risen from 7% to 8.5% over that period.<sup>41</sup> Toronto had a 500% increase in refugee claimants in shelters from 2021–2023. 60–85% of shelter beds were occupied by refugee claimants in Vancouver.<sup>42</sup> And in our shelter, the number of newcomers surged in 2023 to levels never seen before.<sup>43</sup>

In terms of the most shocking manifestation of homelessness, in February 2024, the *Office of the Federal Housing Advocate* issued a report on the unprecedented growth of encampments across Canada in the wake of the pandemic, the accelerated erosion of affordable housing and double-digit rent increases. This review determined that **20–25% of people who are homeless are living in encampments, which are neither safe nor sustainable modes of housing.**

**Encampments in Canada are one of the most visible and most serious failures of governments to protect the human right to adequate housing.**

— “ —

Encampments, Canadian Human Rights Commission, no date

The Advocate issued an urgent plea for a *National Encampments Response Plan* by August 31, 2024 based on:

- ↳ **Immediate action to save lives**, including ensuring that people in encampments have the basic necessities to survive and live in dignity.
- ↳ **Ending forced evictions of encampments** and put in place alternatives designed after meaningful engagement with residents.
- ↳ **Working with all governments and providing support to municipalities** — the level of government forced to deal with encampments.
- ↳ **Respecting the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples and respecting and upholding human rights**, including the right to adequate housing.
- ↳ **Offering people permanent housing options** as rapidly as possible.
- ↳ **Addressing the root causes of encampments.**<sup>44</sup>

In the 2024 federal budget, \$250 million was allocated under *Reaching Home* to address encampments. Funding was contingent on matching funding from provinces.<sup>45</sup> On September 18, the Minister of Housing, Sean Fraser, released a statement indicating that Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario had not responded to the federal offer to partner to address encampments, noting that **“We will approach five cities first given their readiness to quickly adopt cost-matched responses. They are: Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto, Regina, and Saskatoon. This list is not exhaustive, as we will be approaching more communities that have demonstrated an ability to quickly respond to encampments.”**<sup>46</sup>

**If 20–25% of the estimated 300,000 people who are homeless are living in encampments, funding targeted to select municipalities (on whatever basis) has no possibility of reaching all those who sleep on the street or in tents each night.**

## Ontario and the Provincial Response

In January 2025, the *Association of Municipalities of Ontario* issued a report on homelessness in this province, where an estimated 81,515 people were homeless in 2024 — an increase of more than 25% since 2022. Without significant intervention, homelessness in Ontario may double over the next decade. If there is an economic downturn, homelessness could reach nearly 300,000 people.<sup>47</sup>

This report also noted that:

- ↳ **Homelessness in northern Ontario has grown four times faster than in non-northern communities**, and is increasing more quickly in rural communities as well.
- ↳ **In 2024, 268,241 people were waiting for rent-geared-to-income (RGI) housing, with a median wait time of almost five years.** Some households wait up to 12 years. The waitlist has very few vacancies, so it is not a surprise that annual total waitlist numbers for RGI housing surpass the number of actual units.
- ↳ **Chronic homelessness has tripled over the past decade and accounts for over 50% of known cases of homelessness.** Nearly one-quarter of those who are chronically homeless in Ontario are children or youth; chronic homelessness at such a young age can perpetuate cycles of homelessness into adulthood.
- ↳ **Almost 640,000 households (or 12.1%) are in core housing need, which means that their housing is unaffordable** (they spend more than 30% of their income), unsuitable, or inadequate. About 260,000 households spend more than 50% of their income on housing. These high levels of unaffordability, inadequacy and unsuitability pose a significant risk for people to fall into homelessness.
- ↳ **Chronic homelessness has increased almost six-fold for refugees and asylum seekers and more than doubled for immigrants from 2021–2024.**
- ↳ **Many different households are disproportionately affected by core housing need**, including those led by people who are<sup>48,49</sup>:

single mothers (23.1%)	refugee claimants (22.3%)	Black (21.4%)	new migrants (19.4%)	over age 85 (18.8%)	under age 25 (17.3%)
women (15.6%)	racialized (15.6%)	over age 65 (14%)	Transgender or non-binary (12.6%)	Indigenous (12.4%)	

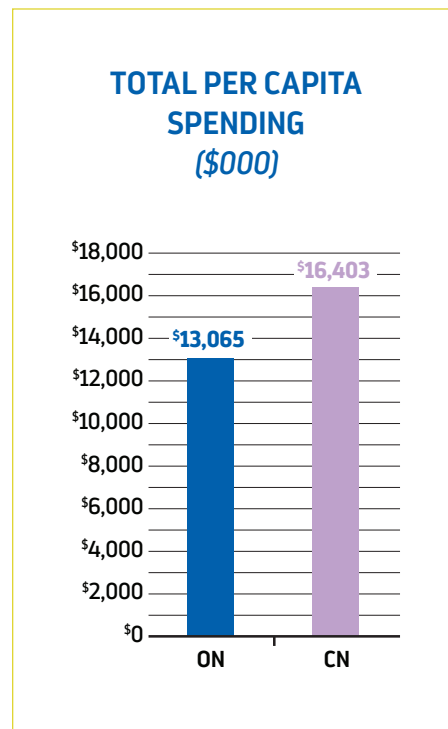
In terms of programming to address homelessness, the AMO observed that:

- ↳ While homelessness prevention programs have expanded, increases in supportive housing remains slow, with **only one space for every 14 people who are homeless**.
- ↳ **From 2019–2024, the province’s emergency shelter capacity increased by 34%**. At the same time, the number of people experiencing homelessness grew by 32%, while those experiencing chronic homelessness grew by an astonishing 138%, indicating a deepening trend toward more people becoming trapped in homelessness and unable to transition into stable housing.
- ↳ So it is not surprising that **emergency shelters account for the clear majority of funding within the provincial homelessness continuum at 65.2%**, compared to transitional housing at 6% and supportive housing at 11.6%. Homelessness and diversion programming made up 4.9%.
- ↳ In terms of government support for homelessness and housing at each level of government, while federal spending has increased, it has been surpassed by municipal spending, especially for housing.<sup>50</sup> The report points out that **“without a proportional increase in provincial contributions to match growing municipal investments, the sustainability of this funding model could face significant challenges.”**<sup>51</sup>

**The AMO report attributes this growing level of chronic homelessness to deep gaps in healthcare, mental health services, the justice system, and other public services.**<sup>52,53</sup> This is not surprising given an analysis by the *Financial Accountability Office of Ontario* (FAO) released in April 2024 showing that **Ontario’s total spending is the lowest in Canada**. Based on 2022 figures, Ontario’s total spending per capita was the lowest among all provinces and below the rest of Canada average. While Ontario received the lowest in per capita federal transfers, it also collected the lowest tax revenue per capita as well as the lowest non-tax revenue per capita.<sup>54</sup>

Ontario is the only jurisdiction in Canada where funding for social housing has been downloaded to municipalities. According to the AMO report, **“municipal spending on homelessness and housing programs has sky-rocketed since 2020, growing to more than \$2.1 billion in 2024. On deeply affordable housing alone, municipalities have increased spending by nearly \$900 million since 2016. Provincial spending during that time grew by just around \$45 million.”**<sup>55</sup>

Ontario’s approach to housing has focused mostly on supply, for example, setting a target of building 1.5 million homes from 2022–2031. However, at the present time, the province is not on track to meet this target.<sup>56,57</sup> In fact, **while housing starts increased in 7 out of 10 provinces in 2024 and rose by almost 20,000 units in the rest of Canada, they declined by almost 15,000 in Ontario.**



Prices for single family homes have not become more affordable either.<sup>58</sup> And, in Ontario, the problem of out of control rents is particularly acute: **in 2024, the average rent for a one-bedroom apartment was about \$200 more than rents for the Canadian average.**<sup>59</sup> Out of the top 10 metropolitan census areas with the highest rents and the largest gaps between these rents and the provincial minimum wage, five are in Ontario (Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton, Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo, and Guelph).<sup>60</sup>

The province has also decided in 2024 to add new long-term care to its housing start count, which accounted for 9,835 of the 109,011 units added for 2023–2024 (9%).<sup>61</sup>

While Ontario has made investments in affordable housing, shelters and supportive housing, the AMO has recommended that the province invest an additional:

**\$11-billion over 10 years to create more than 75,000 new affordable and supportive housing units.** This approach would prevent people from becoming chronically homeless by creating stable exits from homelessness.

**\$2 billion over eight years to tackle the immediate priority of ensuring all people living in encampments are safely and appropriately housed** by greatly increasing the capacity of support services and supportive, transitional and community housing.

Ontario does have non-budgetary options to reduce the risk of homelessness for people at particular risk of losing their homes. This includes reintroducing rent controls for buildings erected after November 2018, and enacting amendments to strengthen protections for tenants as part of the *Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act* (Bill 97), which deal with renovictions. **From 2017–2022, the number of N-13 [renoviction] notices increased by over 300%.**<sup>62</sup> Although Bill 97 was passed in 2023, the section concerning renovictions has yet to be proclaimed.<sup>63</sup>

Ontario’s approach to encampments, estimated by the AMO to number at least 1,400 in the province, has focused on enforcement through the *Ontario Restoring Safety to Parks and Public Spaces Act*, which pledges \$75.5 million to **“address the growing problem of homeless encampments and crack down on illegal drug use in parks and public spaces.”**<sup>64</sup>

In 2023, a Superior Court justice ruled that a municipal bylaw could not be used to evict people in encampments since it would violate the security of the person provisions with the *Canadian Charter of Rights*.<sup>65</sup>



This legislation follows the earlier decision in 2024 by the province to close 10 supervised consumption sites (SCS) where people who use substances such as opioids were in a safer environment than if they used alone or in a public place since healthcare professionals could revive them if they overdosed. **Ontario’s Auditor General has stated that the province’s opioid strategy is outdated and does not address the needs of people who use opioids, even with the province’s proposed alternative HART Hub<sup>66</sup> model.** The Auditor General also stated that the decision to close SCSs was made without proper planning, impact analysis, or public consultation.<sup>67</sup>

## The City of Ottawa and the Municipal Response

In October 2024, the City of Ottawa conducted its third *Point in Time* (PiT) count, a survey over a five-day period to collect information concerning those experiencing homelessness in our community. This latest count mirrored many of the trends regarding homelessness at the provincial and national level regarding the increase in homelessness, who is homeless, and why. For example:

**Homelessness in Ottawa rose to 2,952 people,** an increase from 2,612 in 2021 and 1,654 in 2018.<sup>68</sup>

↳ 56% identified as male, 36% identified as female, and 11% identified as 2SLGBTIQA+.<sup>69</sup>

↳ 64% were racialized (an increase of 9%), and of this group, 64% identified as Black.

**The number of immigrants, refugees and refugee claimants increased significantly — up from 20% in 2021 to 40% in 2024.** 56% have been in Canada for less than one year and 20% for more than five years.

**19% identified as Indigenous** — significantly lower than the 32% from the 2021 PiT count. The survey notes that fear of discrimination is noted as why more individuals and families do not self-identify.

Chronic homelessness has declined from 57% to 49% of the total population of those who are homeless.

**Of those who are chronically homeless, 18% identified as Indigenous.** This represents 78% of the Indigenous population surveyed and suggests that Indigenous People bear a far greater burden of chronic homelessness.

**The number of veterans (Canadian military and RCMP) has remained the same at 4%.**

**11% of people indicated that their housing loss was related to conflict with their spouse or partner,** about the same as the 2021 count (12%).

**While singles were the majority of persons who are homeless, 10% were accompanied by children.**

Of these people, 72% were women, 85% were racialized, and 49% identified as immigrants or refugees who had been in Canada for less than one year.

Finding affordable accommodation is particularly challenging for families, with very low vacancy rates for units with two or more bedrooms.

**Health conditions are a main contributor to homelessness:** 26% of respondents reported physical illness and 24% stated they had a physical limitation; 37% noted that they used substances; 42% stated that they had a mental health condition; and 13% had an acquired brain injury.

Poverty and insufficient income support plays a significant role in homelessness, with **46% of respondents stating that they were on welfare and/or social assistance, and 20% on disability supports.**

**Gaps in the continuum of care continue to pose a risk for homelessness,** with 19% of respondents having previous experience with foster care, and 53% staying in public health or correctional systems.

**Where people were homeless also changed significantly from the 2021 count,** with those staying in emergency shelters at 43% (a decline of 12%) and 24% staying in transitional housing (an increase of 11%), including transitional spaces for newcomers.

**There has been a shocking increase in the number of homeless people who are unsheltered, tripling from 190 in the 2021 count to 556 people living unsheltered or in encampments.**

While the period of data collection was extended for the 2024 PiT count, the City has acknowledged that more people are living unsheltered or in encampments.<sup>70</sup>

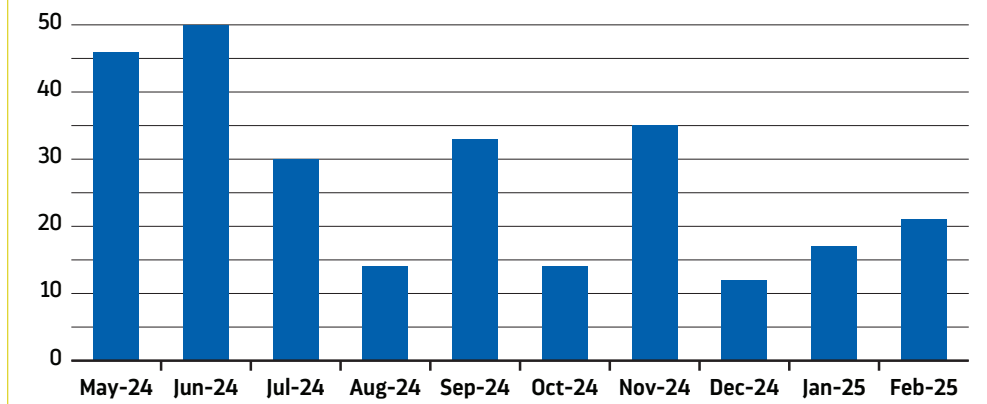
When we released our *No More Waiting* report in April 2024, we noted that our shelter (like all other shelters in Ottawa) had returned to over 100% capacity since the end of the pandemic.

Post-pandemic mental health distress, substance use, the loss of affordable housing, and food inflation coupled with an influx of asylum seekers with nowhere else to go meant that in addition to people sleeping on our overflow mats in our chapel, many more slept on hard plastic chairs in our lounge - sometimes for days — waiting for a bed to open up.

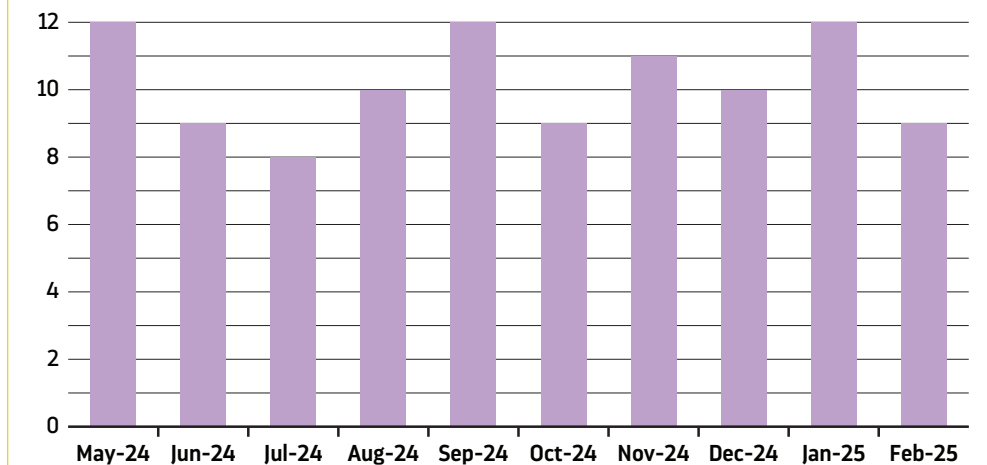
Other clients are turned away after we do everything we could to find alternate accommodation for them.<sup>71</sup>

**While the number of refugees seeking shelter is starting to decrease in Ottawa<sup>72,73,74</sup> our data continues to show a demand for shelter beds that exceeds availability in this city.**

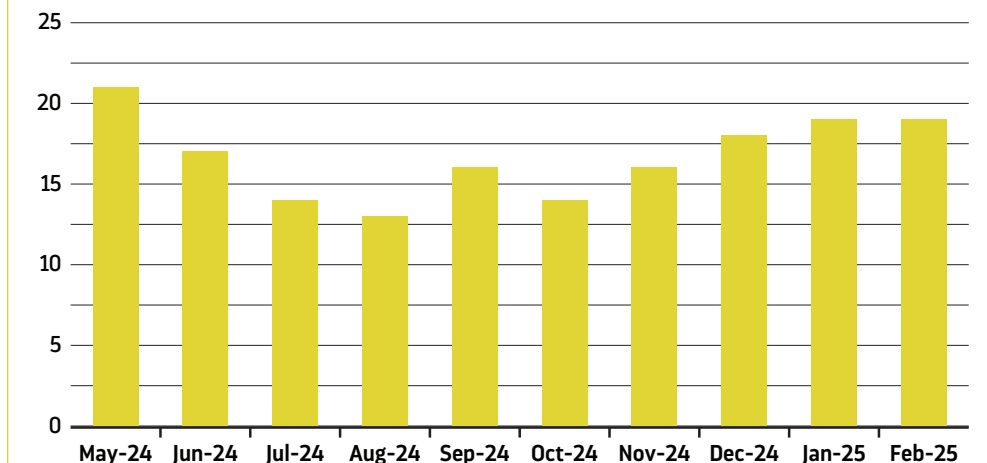
**% OF NEW SHELTER CLIENTS WHO ARE REFUGEES**  
by month • The Ottawa Mission



**AVERAGE # OF TURNAWAYS**  
all clients • The Ottawa Mission



**AVERAGE # OF PEOPLE IN LOUNGE OVERNIGHT**  
all clients • The Ottawa Mission





While Canada is a leader in resettling refugees approved by the United Nations prior to their arrival here, we do not have an equivalent system for people who claim asylum after they arrive in Canada. Canada is a signatory to international covenants which protect the right to claim asylum, and ultimately most claimants are successful. However, they must navigate a complex and confusing system with little support.

**The Canadian Council for Refugees has put forward a national plan to settle claimants, including:**

- ↳ Establishing reception centres in cities with large numbers of claimants to orient arrivals and coordinate services, in collaboration with provincial and municipal governments and civil society.
- ↳ Providing federal funding for transitional housing for refugee claimants, scaling up the experiences of civil society, diaspora and community groups, to complement provincial and municipal efforts.
- ↳ Making refugee claimants eligible for support services offered to other newcomers under the *IRCC Settlement Program*.
- ↳ Ensuring that adequate legal aid coverage is available for refugee claimants supported by multi-year funding.
- ↳ Streamlining the initial stage of the claims process and eliminating the backlog in the subsequent determination process with small but significant adjustments.<sup>75</sup>

*I tried to apply for many positions, but didn't get the chance to be selected.*

*As a mother, I need to take care of my family. That's why I choose to take this short course.*

— “ —  
 Jeanne,  
 a Food Services Training Program student from Rwanda who worked in the Prime Minister's office there.  
 (CBC's "The House," October 12, 2024)

*I arrived; I have no place to go. So at the airport, the Immigration print out a document. So I just looked through, and tick 'Ottawa Mission'.*

— “ —  
 Rexford,  
 a gay man from Ghana, who arrived at The Mission in 2024 after his home country made it illegal to identify as LGBTQ and where he faced intimidation.  
 (CBC's "The House," October 12, 2024)

**On March 11, 2025, the City of Ottawa announced that it would no longer be building “sprung shelters” to accommodate asylum seekers.** The City based this decision on federal immigration changes and a decline in asylum seekers from over 1,000 to 820 system-wide, opportunities to access community spaces for them, and concerns that these structures would not be ready for next winter.

**The City is continuing negotiations with Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) concerning the proposed newcomers reception centre for Ottawa.**<sup>76,77</sup>

We will follow the impact of this change as it unfolds across Ottawa and within our own shelter since, while our own numbers of refugees have declined, they remain higher than they were before the pandemic.

**The City of Ottawa, like all municipalities in Ontario given their responsibility for social housing, is partially dependent on provincial and federal programs for housing and homelessness since it has very limited mechanisms to raise money.**<sup>78</sup> As such, the City of Ottawa's 2024 budget incorporates funds from the province's *Homelessness Prevention Program* funding to support housing loss prevention, supportive housing and general housing assistance, as well as funding for shelter and transitional housing operations. The budget also includes federal funds from *Reaching Home*.<sup>79</sup>

The budget also included \$22.9 million from the City's *Vacant Tax Unit* program for new affordable and supportive housing. **The City anticipates that its annual investment for new affordable and supportive housing will range from \$138.3 million to potentially up to \$162.7 million over the next six years.**<sup>80</sup> While the anticipated growth in this budget item is welcome, the 2024 allocation is less than the \$30 million within the City of Ottawa's 2023 budget, which doubled the allocation from the 2022 budget of \$15 million.<sup>81</sup>

Like the province, the City of Ottawa has non-budgetary options to address homelessness. **In January 2025, The Ottawa Mission appeared before the City's Planning and Housing Committee to urge members to adopt Councilor Ariel Troster's motion to revisit a recommendation by staff not to move forward with developing an anti-renoviction bylaw.** During that meeting, we noted that *“it's frustrating and demoralizing for us to help vulnerable community members find housing, only to see them back in our shelter after being renovicted. This is often devastating to their mental health, and puts some at greater risk of relapse for addictions. It's also a burden to the City of Ottawa, which provides funding to our shelter and others for beds and meals. Far better to prevent people from becoming homeless through measures such as a renoviction bylaw than trying to find very scarce affordable housing after they've re-entered the shelter system.”*<sup>82</sup> After discussion, the Committee endorsed Councilor Troster's motion for staff to revisit the development of such a bylaw, which was later endorsed by City Council.<sup>83</sup>

Nelda Giroux, 72, told the committee she had received an eviction notice last November.

She has a pension, but can't afford another apartment. She was contemplating living in her car, but can't afford the car, either.

*“I always told people it wouldn't happen to me,” she said. “It could happen to any one of you.”*

— “ —  
 Ottawa planning committee asks for review of potential renoviction bylaw, Ottawa Citizen, January 15, 2025

**The City of Ottawa can also pursue other non-budgetary options as recommended by Professor Carolyn Whitzman in a report commissioned by the Alliance to End Homelessness Ottawa to expand non-profit affordable housing by:**

- ↳ Supplying municipal land at no cost to not-for-profit housing providers and community land trusts.
- ↳ Revising zoning to support scaling up affordable housing.
- ↳ Changing the approval process for new not-for-profit housing.<sup>84</sup>

## STILL WAITING: FOOD INSECURITY

Food insecurity often accompanies housing precarity since a primary reason for utilizing hunger relief services such as food banks and meal services is the cost of housing and lack of affordable housing. As one example, the *Canadian Association of Food Banks* (CAFB) reported in 2024 that **monthly visits to food banks in Canada had climbed to over 2 million — the highest number in its history — and a 90% increase from 2019.**

The CAFB identified the lack of affordable housing as a primary reason for food insecurity and particular vulnerability of renters who struggle to pay monthly housing costs. It also noted the fraying of Canada’s social safety net for people with disabilities and single employable people under the age of 65 who are not covered by benefits for seniors, as well as the vulnerability of low wage workers and those who are unemployed.

The CAFB also noted that in terms of facing the overwhelming need, **“there are signs that the food-banking system is reaching its absolute limit.”**<sup>85</sup>

**The number of people who live in poverty in Ontario significantly increased in 2024 to 10.9%**, in particular, people who relied on *Ontario Works* (OW) and *Ontario Disability Support Payments* (ODSP), or who were unemployed.<sup>86,87</sup> In 2017, Ontario unveiled a pilot basic income program. An independent analysis of the pilot by UNESCO found positive impacts in physical health, mental health, and well-being for both participants and others in their households as well as improvements in economic and employment prospects. In particular, food security was enhanced for program participants, who reported that they ate better (86%) and went without food less often (69%).<sup>88</sup> Although the program was scheduled to run for three years, it was discontinued after 18 months in 2019 after the government changed in 2018.

**At the local level, in 2024, Ottawa Public Health raised the estimated level of food insecurity in our community from one in seven to one in four households — an increase of 75%.**

Given the increase in homelessness as well as lingering food inflation, this is not necessarily a surprise. After paying for rent and food each month, those particularly vulnerable to food insecurity are:

Single parent households with two pre-school children who rely on OW, who have \$445 left.

Families of four refugee claimants with one full-time minimum wage earner, who have \$100 left.

Families of four who rely on OW, who incur a deficit of \$230.

A single pregnant person who relies on OW, who incurs a deficit of \$360.<sup>89</sup>

In Ontario, the link between housing precarity and food insecurity is also tangible.

In this province, **45.7% of people spend more than 30% of their income on housing, and 24.5% of people are food insecure.**



**In the fall of 2024, the City of Ottawa unveiled its *Poverty Reduction Strategy*, which had been in development since 2021.<sup>90</sup> Food security is one of its five pillars. The strategy will run from 2025–2029. Priorities concerning food security in 2025 include holding a community-led *Food Security Forum* in partnership with the food sector and establishing a City working group to coordinate efforts and enhance a food security lens in City plans and strategies.**

**In the City’s 2025 budget, it provided \$200,000 to approximately three dozen food security organizations — out of a total budget of \$5 billion in operating and \$1.7 billion in capital funding.<sup>91</sup>**

# CONCLUSION

**Over five years ago, in January 2020, the City of Ottawa unanimously declared a housing and homelessness emergency.**

**Since then, more and more people have fallen into homelessness across our city, province and country. More people are living in shelters, couch surfing, or living on the street.**



On January 7, 2025, an Indigenous man in his forties who lived on the street in Ottawa was found in medical distress and later died in hospital. At that time, Ottawa was experiencing a brutal cold snap, with overnight temperatures plunging to -24°C with the wind chill.<sup>92</sup>

Later, on January 10, a Congolese newcomer grandmother died outside in Ottawa in bitter temperatures. An advocate for women and girls in her home country, she had moved to Ottawa to be closer to her family, but began to suffer mental health problems after her arrival and was staying in an emergency shelter shortly before her death.<sup>93</sup>

At our shelter, while there are fewer people sleeping in our lounge, what will happen if we experience another influx of asylum seekers, say perhaps from the United States? **And why should anyone fleeing war, persecution or violence have to sleep on a chair in our lounge? And why should anyone have to sleep on a chapel floor, or in a shelter dorm, when there are many options to increase the supply of affordable and supportive housing?**

At The Ottawa Mission, prior to the pandemic, our annual meal total was just over 495,000 meals. **In 2020, we introduced our food truck program as a response to skyrocketing rates of food insecurity during the pandemic** with one truck, five stops and 500 meals per week. **In 2025, that program has grown to two trucks, 39 stops, and over 10,000 meals per week.**

Many program stops are located close to *Ottawa Community Housing* buildings so that vulnerable residents have access to healthy food.



As a result, in 2022–2023 and 2023–2024, our shelter served over 1 million and 1.1 million meals respectively to people across our community who would have otherwise gone hungry. **At the time of writing this report (mid-March 2025), we have already served over one million meals, and will likely serve about 1.3 million.**

In the words of one food truck program client named Ryan, who often runs out of money two weeks before the end of the month: **“I just wait. I go two, three days without eating, sometimes four.”** But when our truck comes, **“I don’t have to go hungry today.”**<sup>94</sup>

That was over four years ago, in November 2020, when the program had 14 stops and served 2,000 meals a week. Many, many more people now turn to us for help when they have nothing to eat. The program, which costs almost \$900,000 annually, is funded entirely by donations to The Ottawa Mission.

**Why should so many people in our community — and across our province and our country — have to go hungry, sometimes for days?**

In its 2023 *Giving Report*, *Canada Helps* noted that:

- ↳ 57% of charities say that their ability to meet service demand significantly or moderately exceeds capacity.
- ↳ 55% say volunteer levels are below pre-pandemic levels.
- ↳ Almost 60% have the same number of paid staff working with heightened service demands, and 15% have decreased staff since the pandemic started.
- ↳ 50.8% of charities are highly concerned about staff burnout.
- ↳ 80% experienced an increase in the cost to deliver services.
- ↳ Despite the increasing need for services provided by charitable organizations, 45.5% of charities report that fundraising levels are equal to pre-pandemic levels, and for 31.3%, funding is below. Across all key funding sources (individuals, corporations, governments, and other charities), significantly more charities reported declines in donations than those reporting increases.<sup>95</sup>

**Governments continue to fail to meet the needs of their citizens.** How many more people who never thought they would become homeless or go hungry will turn to charities like ours for help when governments are not there for them?

**Charities continue to step up to try to meet those needs, but our capacity is not infinite.**

# Enough is enough.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### We call upon the government of Canada to:

- ↳ Implement a *Homelessness Prevention and Housing Benefit* to support up to 385,000 households at risk of homelessness and help over 50,000 people leave homelessness.
- ↳ Create programs for non-profit housing providers to support:
  - » the purchase of existing rental housing projects and hotels
  - » the facilitation of office-to-residential conversions
  - » the acquisition of vacant land for new builds
- ↳ Enhance support to municipalities to provide assistance to refugees and asylum seekers by implementing the *National Plan for Asylum with Dignity* by the *Canadian Council for Refugees*, which includes:
  - » Establishing reception centres in cities to orient arrivals and coordinate services.
  - » Providing federal funding for short term and transitional housing for refugee claimants.
  - » Making refugee claimants eligible for the support services offered to other newcomers.
  - » Ensuring that adequate legal aid coverage is available for refugee claimants.
  - » Streamlining the claims process and eliminating the backlog in the determination process.

### We call upon the government of Ontario to:

- ↳ Address the erosion of affordable housing across Ontario by:
  - » Reintroducing rent controls to buildings erected after November 2018.
  - » Fully implementing Bill 97 to amend the *Residential Tenancies Act* and prohibit bad-faith renovations.
- ↳ End chronic homelessness by implementing the recommendations of the 2025 report on homelessness by the *Association of Municipalities of Ontario*, including:
  - » Investing \$11-billion over 10 years to create 75,000 new affordable and supportive housing units.
  - » Investing \$2 billion over eight years to ensure people in encampments are safely housed by increasing the capacity of support services and supportive, transitional and community housing.
- ↳ Address inadequate incomes for vulnerable Ontarians by:
  - » Increasing social assistance rates to enable vulnerable Ontarians to live with dignity and security.
  - » Increasing the provincial minimum wage to enable earners to meet their expenses.
  - » Reviewing the UNESCO findings concerning the 2017–2019 Ontario basic income program, which showed positive impacts for participants, with a view to re-establishing this program.

### We call upon the City of Ottawa to:

- ↳ Support measures to address food insecurity within the City's *Poverty Reduction Strategy* appropriate to the need.
- ↳ Support the expansion of not-for-profit housing in Ottawa through:
  - » Supplying municipal land at no cost to not-for-profit housing providers and community land trusts.
  - » Revising zoning to support scaling up affordable housing.
  - » Changing the approval process for new not-for-profit housing.
- ↳ Increase the annual budget of new affordable housing by:
  - » Returning to the 2023 figure of \$30 million for investments in new affordable housing.
  - » Applying annual increases to this amount reflective of actual housing costs in Ottawa.

1 Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer. Federal Spending to Address Homelessness, May 22, 2024.

2 Association of Municipalities of Ontario. Municipalities Under Pressure: The Growing Human and Financial Cost of Ontario's Homelessness Crisis, January 9, 2025.

3 PROOF, University of Toronto. New data on household food insecurity in 2023, April 26, 2024.

4 Global News. Kingston becomes latest Ontario city to declare food insecurity an emergency, January 25, 2025.

5 Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer, op.cit.

6 Association of Municipalities of Ontario, op.cit.

7 PROOF. What can be done to reduce food insecurity in Canada? (No date).

8 Ontario ACORN. 2025 Ontario Election Platform. Vote ODSP/OW, January 2025.

9 What can be done to reduce food insecurity in Canada? Op.cit

10 PROOF Food Insecurity Policy Research and Food First NL. The Minimum Wage: A Powerful Tool to Reduce Food Insecurity Submission to the Minimum Wage Review Committee, March 2022.

11 A Time for Urgent Action. The 2024 Report of the National Advisory Council on Poverty, 2024.

12 City of Ottawa Point in Time Count dashboard results, February 2025.

13 Ibid.

14 Ottawa Public Health. Food Affordability in Ottawa: The 2024 Nutritious Food Basket, October 2024.

15 Point in Time Count dashboard results, op.cit.

16 City of Ottawa. RISE UP: A Collective Impact Approach to Reduce Poverty 2025–2029. Ottawa's Poverty Reduction Strategy.

17 In October 2022, our shelter returned to 105% capacity as pandemic restrictions were loosened. See Ottawa Mission Impact Report, 2022–2023.

18 Ottawa Mission. No More Waiting: A Call to Action Against Homelessness and Food Insecurity, 2024.

19 Ottawa Mission Impact Report 2023–2024.

20 CTV News Ottawa. "Homeless man found 'frozen to death' in downtown Ottawa, councillor says," January 7, 2025.

21 CBC News Ottawa. "‘Maman Tawembi’: Newcomer, advocate dies after being found outside in the cold," January 27, 2025.

22 The Ottawa Mission. No More Waiting: A Call to Action Against Homelessness and Food Insecurity, April 2024.

23 Federal Spending to Address Homelessness, op. cit.

24 Ibid.

25 Ibid.

26 Reaching Home was launched in 2019 with its main goal of preventing a reducing homelessness in Canada. It is budgeted at \$5 billion over nine years (2019–2028). Government of Canada. Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy. Date modified: 2025-01-28.

27 Ibid.

28 Budget 2024.

29 Over \$14 billion was allocated to the Affordable Housing Fund to build 60,000 new affordable homes and repair 240,000 additional homes. Government of Canada, Budget 2024.

30 This was a new initiative under Budget 2024.

31 Budget 2024.

32 Ibid.

33 From November 19 – December 19, 2024, the federal government held consultations on this initiative. Further information is supposed to be forthcoming in the 2025 federal budget. Government of Canada. 2024 Fall Economic Statement.

34 Ibid. The federal government regards this responsibility as provincial, while nonetheless having provided \$960 million from 2017–2023 under the IHAP.

35 Ibid. Funding for the Strategy was first announced in the 2023 federal budget.

36 Ibid. The CHB was enhanced with a \$500 top-up in 2023–2024.

37 Canadian Centre for Housing Rights. "Canada has a new Housing Plan — Here's what you need to know," April 17, 2024.

38 Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. Out of Control Rents: Rental wages in Canada, 2023, September 2024.

39 CMHC. Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy. Housing Funding, no date.

40 "Canada has a new Housing Plan — Here's what you need to know," op.cit.

41 Government of Canada. Homelessness Data Snapshot: Homelessness experienced by Newcomers to Canada, Date modified: 2022-12-21.

42 Canada needs a national strategy for homeless refugee claimants, The Conversation, March 31, 2024.

43 No More Waiting, op.cit.

44 Office of the Federal Housing Advocate. Upholding Dignity and Human Rights: The Federal Housing Advocate's review of homeless encampments, February 2024.

45 Government of Canada. 2024 Budget, Chapter 1: More Affordable Homes, April 2024.

46 Government of Canada. Statement by Minister Sean Fraser on Status of Negotiations with Provinces and Territories to Address Encampments, October 22, 2024.

47 Municipalities Under Pressure: The Growing Human and Financial Cost of Ontario's Homelessness Crisis, op.cit.

48 Ibid.

49 The AMO report points out that while Indigenous People are clearly overrepresented in Ontario's homeless population since they comprise 2.9% of the province's population, the report underrepresents the extent of Indigenous homelessness in the province since "Current definitions of homelessness, rooted in colonial frameworks, fail to align with Indigenous understandings of home, community, and displacement. Colonial-centred definitions and methodologies do not acknowledge key aspects of Indigenous experiences, such as intergenerational trauma, systemic racism, and land dispossession, all of which are central to understanding housing instability in Indigenous communities." Ibid.

50 Ibid.

51 Ibid.

52 Ibid.

53 This assumption is shared by the PBO's analysis. "A key reason why increased federal spending has not resulted in a proportionate reduction in homelessness is that federal spending represents a relatively small share of total spending to address homelessness. As a result, a given increase in federal spending does not result in a proportionately large increase in total spending. An evaluation for 2015–16 found that provinces and municipalities spent \$13.02 for every dollar contributed by the federal government, meaning that federal funding covered 7.1% of spending. Likewise, when Reaching Home was first announced federal funding covered 14% of planned spending to address homelessness under municipalities' 2019 to 2024 community plans." Federal Spending to Address Homelessness, op. cit.

54 Financial Accountability Office of Ontario. 2022–23 Interprovincial Budget Comparison Comparing Ontario's Revenues, Spending, Budget Balance and Net Debt with Other Provinces, April 2024.

55 Municipalities Under Pressure: The Growing Human and Financial Cost of Ontario's Homelessness Crisis, op.cit.

56 Doug Ford promised to 'Get It Done' last election. How did he do?" CBC News, February 3, 2025.

57 "Ford made several promises on housing. Critics say he 'ripped up' rules with few results," The Globe and Mail, February 15, 2025.

58 Mike Moffat. On housing, Doug Ford deserves a big red F. The Hub, February 6, 2025.

59 "Ford made several promises on housing. Critics say he 'ripped up' rules with few results," op.cit.

60 Out of Control Rents, op.cit.

61 "Ford government begins boosting housing numbers with LTC beds, basements," Global News, February 23, 2024.

62 ACORN Canada. Ontario Renovation Report 2024, February 2024.

63 "Pellerin: Ask your election candidates how they'll prevent renovations," Ottawa Citizen, January 30, 2025.

64 Office of the Premier. "Ontario Restoring Safety to Parks and Public Spaces," News Release, December 12, 2024.

65 "Ford pledges tough new legislation to dismantle homeless encampments," CBC News, December 5, 2024.

66 HART Hubs will offer primary care, mental health services, addictions care, access to social services and employment support as well as 540 supportive housing units and addiction recovery and treatment beds. Harm reduction supports such as supervised consumption of substances or access to clean needles will not be allowed under the model. "Ontario announces locations of 18 new HART Hubs," CTV News, January 27, 2025.

67 Independent Auditor's Report. Performance Audit: Implementation and Oversight of Ontario's Opioid Strategy, Annual Report 2024.

68 It should be noted that the number of surveys differed with each successive PiT count, from 1,400 in 2018 to 1,346 in 2021, to 2,595 in 2024. City of Ottawa. 2024 Ottawa Point-in-Time Count, Executive Summary, 2025.

69 2,256 individuals responded to this question. Of this group, 21% are under age 25 and 36% experienced homelessness at age 19 or younger.

70 2024 Ottawa Point in Time count, op.cit.

71 At The Ottawa Mission, during the night, before anyone is turned anyone away, Frontline staff try to refer them to one of the other shelters if there is availability there. These staff also inform those seeking help of other locations they can sit in such as Center 507. We also encourage these clients to contact 311, so the City may refer them somewhere.

72 The highest point of monthly intakes who were refugees in our previous report was 79% for October 2023.

- 73 The highest number of people turned away in our previous report was 40 for September 2023. Note: We have shifted how monthly turnaways are calculated, starting in January 2025. Our calculation of total turnaways no longer includes the addition of number of people in the lounge. Therefore, turnaways will be reported as solely those who are inquiring about beds and subsequently turned away due to lack of capacity. We will continue to report the number of individuals staying overnight in our Lounge separately. The new calculations are a more accurate representation of client needs and reduces the number of clients counted twice.
- 74 The highest number of people sleeping on chairs in our lounge from our last report was 57.
- 75 Canadian Council for Refugees. "A National Plan for Asylum with Dignity: Five Key Pillars. Policy Brief, April 4, 2024.
- 76 Memo from Kale Brown, Interim Director, Housing and Homelessness Services Community and Social Services, to the Mayor and Members of Council, Newcomer Reception System & Integrated Transition to Housing Strategy, March 12, 2025.
- 77 CBC Ottawa Morning. "City pulling plug on newcomer reception centres," March 12, 2025.
- 78 Municipalities receive just 10% of the taxes paid by Canadians, while the other 90% goes to the federal and provincial governments. CBC. The Sunday Magazine. "The federal government used to build social housing. Then it stopped. How is that going?", August 27, 2023.
- 79 City of Ottawa. "Committee approves draft budget for community and social services, recreation, culture and parks," press release, November 26, 2024.
- 80 City of Ottawa. "Committee approves budget with \$22.9-million investment in affordable and supportive housing," November 20, 2024..
- 81 City of Ottawa. 2023 Progress Report 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan 2020 – 2030, 2023.
- 82 The Ottawa Mission. Remarks before the Planning and Housing Community Concerning a Proposed Renovation Bylaw, January 15, 2024.
- 83 City of Ottawa. "Council approves start of work on Renovictions By-law," January 22, 2025.
- 84 Dr. Carolyn Whitzman. Our City Starts With Home: Scaling Up Non-Profit Housing in Ottawa," April 2023.
- 85 Canadian Association of Food Banks. Hunger Count 2024.
- 86 Ibid.
- 87 Ontario's social welfare payments across all forms of households (unattached single considered employable; unattached single with a disability; single parent, one child; couple, two children) were "below, and in one case less than half of, Canada's Official Poverty Line (MBM) in 2023, and all four were below the Deep Income Poverty threshold (MBM-DIP). This means that all four households were living not only in poverty in 2023, but in deep poverty." Maytree and Caledon Institute. Welfare in Canada, 2023, July 2024.
- 88 UNESCO Inclusive Policy Lab. "On how Ontario trialed basic income," 24 Feb 2022.
- 89 Food Affordability in Ottawa: The 2024 Nutritious Food Basket, op.cit.
- 90 "Ottawa's Poverty Reduction Strategy 2025 – 2029," Report to Community Services Committee on 22 October 2024 and Council 30 October 2024.
- 91 The Ottawa Food Bank, one of the organizations who received funding, had requested \$5 million in emergency funding. CBC. "Council passes 2025 budget with 3.9% tax hike," December 11, 2024.
- 92 "Homeless man found 'frozen to death' in downtown Ottawa, councillor says," op.cit.
- 93 "'Maman Tawembi': Newcomer, advocate dies after being found outside in the cold," op.cit.
- 94 "'I don't have to go hungry today': The Ottawa Mission's 'loaner' food truck serves up 2,000 meals a week," Ottawa Citizen, November 25, 2020.
- 95 Canada Helps. The Giving Report 2023.

*I know I'm not  
the only one.*

**People who are not  
in our position think that  
it's only the homeless  
who need to come for help,  
but it's not true anymore.**

“

ISABELLE,  
Ottawa Mission food truck client,  
quoted in CBC's The National,  
"Inflation front line: the shift in  
who needs a free meal,"  
July 2022

OPEN  
**24**  
HOURS  
A DAY

---

**365**  
DAYS  
A YEAR

THE **ottawa**  
**mission**  
ottawamission.com

*more than a shelter*



Development Office, 46 Daly Ave, Ottawa, ON K1N 6E4

613.234.1155 • [ottawamission.com](http://ottawamission.com)

