

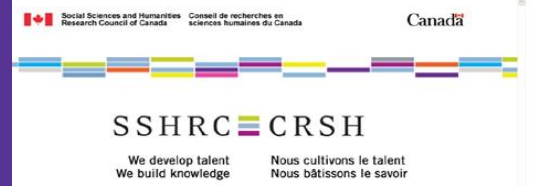
Coordinated Access: a Grassroots Investigation of a Municipal Response to Homelessness in Ontario

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November 2023



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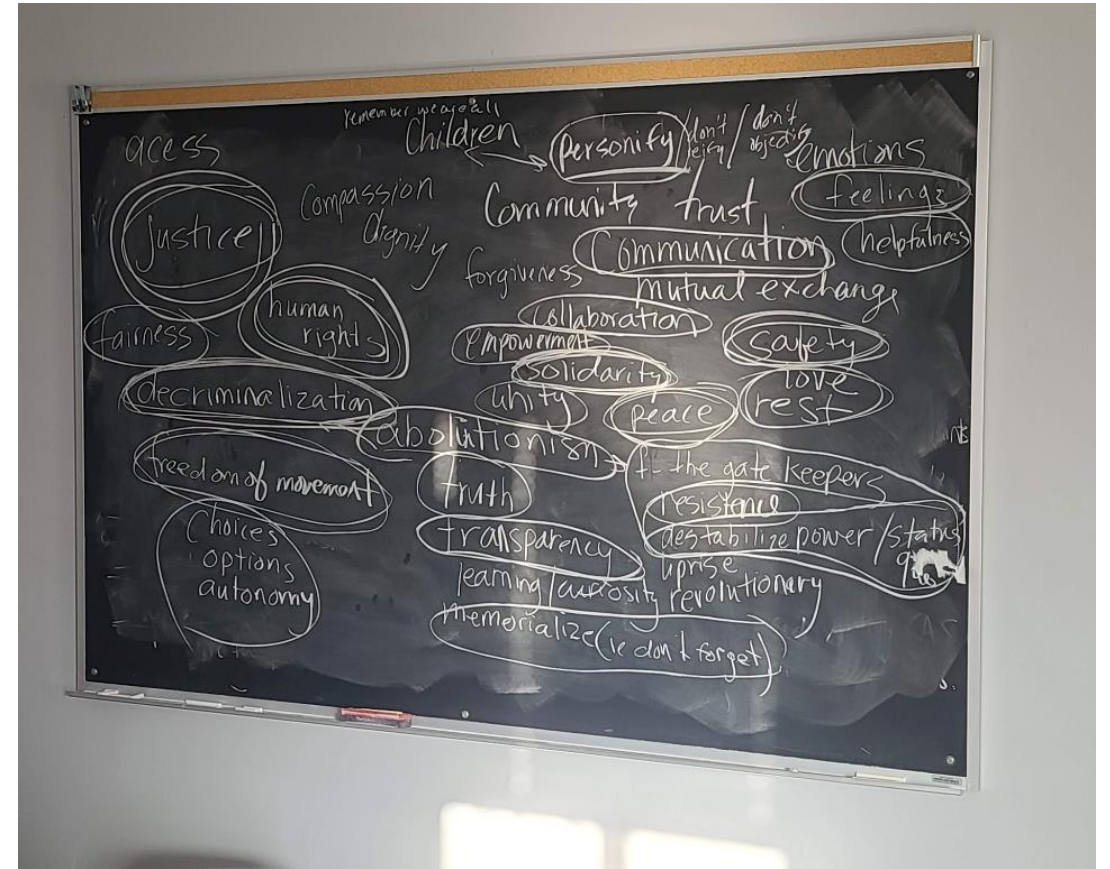
Canada



**BfE
Supercrew**



wewereallkidsonce
personify compassion
peace
resistance motions **humanrights** uprise (thegate)
access options feelings memorialize
freedomofmovement decriminalization jus
stabilizepower empowerment communication
helpfulness safety
community love solidarity
collaboration transparency choices
evolutionary autonomy fairness abolitionism
dignity exchange mutual truth forgiveness



Phase 1

Phase 1: is focused on the official process for getting housing in Peterborough, teasing out where there are problematic or promising gaps between official umbrella policies and processes, specific local policy adaptations, and people's experiences of service delivery/access

Outputs for Phase 1: 3-part illustrated zine series and community convening

What Shelters Exist?



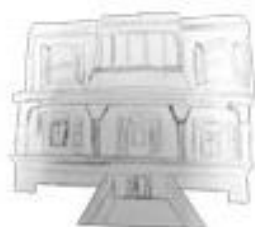
Brock Mission

- For men ages 24 and up
- 32 beds available
- Open 24/7
- Meals provided, laundry and shower facilities available



Cameron House

- For women ages 24 and up
- 7 beds available
- Open 24/7
- Operated by Brock Mission



YES Shelter

- For youth (ages 23 and lower) and families
- 15 beds for youth
- 15 beds for families
- Open 24/7
- Meals provided, laundry and shower facilities available



Overflow Shelter

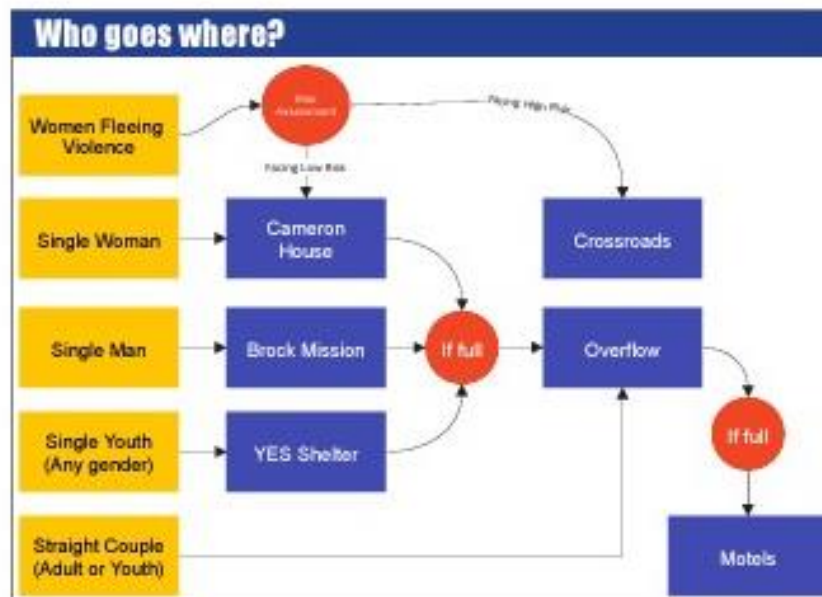
- For those who cannot be served by the other shelters
- 32 beds available
- Open 24/7
- Operated by Brock Mission
- Meals provided and showers available; no laundry facilities

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Crossroads

- For women and families fleeing domestic violence
- Open 24/7
- Operated by YWCA



NOTE: A client will sometimes be given a motel room if the shelter options available are inaccessible or dangerous to them. For example, we know of at least one trans person who was given a motel room because there were no safe options for them in the gender-segregated shelter system.

However, we could find no official process for how these requests are made and evaluated.

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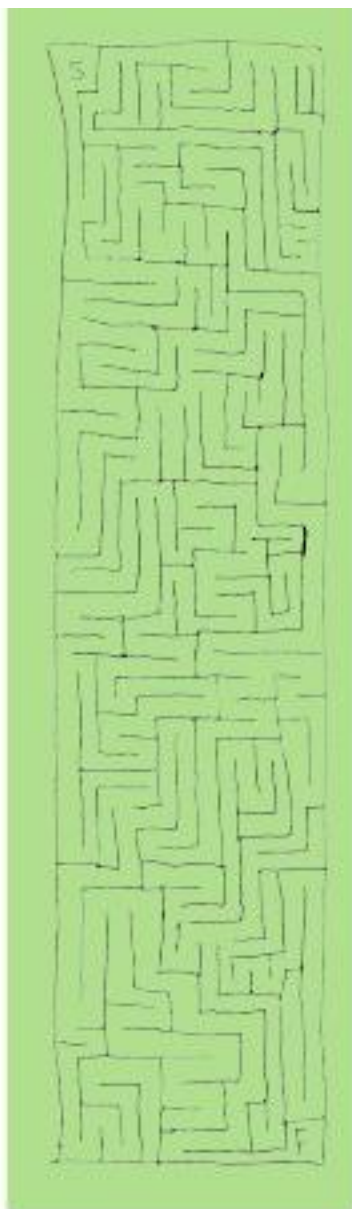
As a young person with a baby on the way, **Tamara** is eligible for one of the 13 apartments in the YES Shelter's RISE transitional housing program. She hopes there is a vacancy there soon.



As an adult male with a medium acuity score, **Arthur** isn't eligible for very many BNPL resources. In fact, there's only one program he could qualify for: The John Howard Society's 6-room congregate living facility for men. But this is a new facility, and it's already full. Arthur hopes when the next room there opens up, he'll be offered it. But that might take years. And it isn't a sure thing; there are other men eligible for that resource on the BNPL, and they might be assessed to have higher need than Arthur.



Sam was assessed to have very high acuity. That means he could be eligible for one of the 15 transitional housing units at the Brock Mission. However, those units come with rules that prohibit on-site substance use and possession, which could pose trouble for Sam. A better option for him might be FourCAST's permanent supportive housing program. But to succeed in the FourCAST program, a private-sector landlord will have to agree to rent to Sam — and that's not a sure bet.



Matching

When a spot in a BNPL housing program becomes available, this process is supposed to be followed:

First, a system coordinator filters the BNPL to exclude people who are ineligible for the resource (filtering out adults if it's a youth unit, for example). Then, they use the priority matrix to identify the top four eligible candidates, and send these four names to the service provider with the vacancy.

The service provider uses their discretion to choose someone from this shortlist of four. But, there are rules in place to ensure people aren't repeatedly denied housing at this stage of the process. Once an individual or family makes a shortlist for the fourth time, their name will be the only one given to the service provider.

The service provider will spend up to 14 days trying to locate the individual or family to offer them housing, after which time it will consider other people from the shortlist.

How long does it take?

Accessing housing through the By Name Priority List can take a long time. One set of data suggested that it takes an average of a year to be offered housing.

Ultimately, though, it depends on what priority level you are placed in, what programs you are eligible for, and what units become vacant.

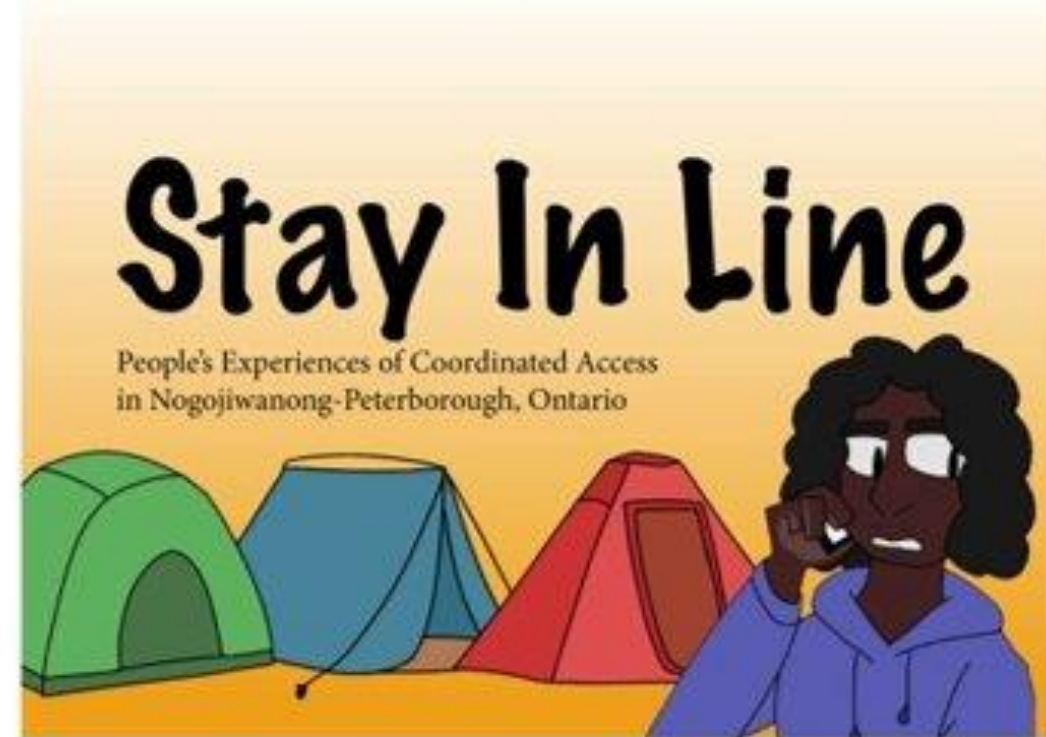
For a unit or program spot to become available, someone has to move out of it. With rents so high and the vacancy rate so low in Peterborough, that doesn't happen very often.

Phase 2

Phase 2: a description of those who have housing needs, and who are not using the current system and an investigation of the reasons why

Outputs for Phase 2: part 2 of a 3 zine series; a report and a community convening

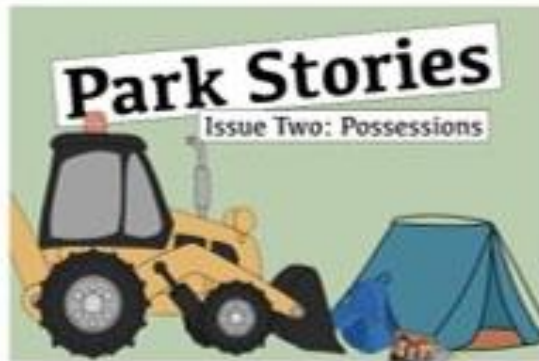
Our latest zine explains Peterborough's challenges with Coordinated Access





2023-07-27

ZINE: The traumatic impacts of encampment evictions



2023-06-22

ZINE: Why it's so hard to hang on to your belongings while homeless

Why do people tent?

When the conversation about tent city comes up, there is a tendency to frame it as a choice people make. Caleb, one of the local service providers we spoke with gave us a powerful take on what the "choice" to tent really looks like: "They're choosing between a really crappy room in a rooming house where they feel unsafe and living outside where they feel like they at least have some sort of autonomy over their life. We often put it, "people choose to be homeless," as if their choice of housing is a good one! But it's not a good one. It's not a good one" Caleb also pointed out that the community tends to get upset at people who "choose" to be homeless instead of asking, "what is it that is making more and more people choose not to use our shelters? Why is it better to be outside in friggin wintertime than to use the shelters?"



Interviewer says: So you haven't used the shelters in Peterborough have you? Angus: Yes, we have. We have used CMHA Safe Beds. The other issue with navigating the shelters here has been that we opted for a tent, because many of the shelters in the area we did intake with, and then realised that they would separate us. And we weren't comfortable with that. Because again, like I had been assaulted

When it comes to trying to access housing Leylah another local service provider told us "there are many, many reasons that somebody may struggle to find a place to live, why somebody who's experiencing homelessness may struggle to find a place to rent. And only some of that is cost. There is rampant discrimination, despite it being illegal, against people who draw on any kind of social assistance. It is rampant and everybody's aware of it". Leylah also points out that wording like "suitable for a working professional. Proof of income required" can be found on many housing listings.

Data Poems



Thank you for listening, please feel free to contact
Dr. Naomi Nichols at naominichols@trentu.ca for
more information about the project