



# CHOICES FOR YOUTH

## OUR NUMBERS NEED TO GO DOWN

Systems Change for Prevention in Rural Newfoundland and Labrador



**CHOICES** FOR **YOUTH**

- **Founded in 1990 after the Mr. Cashel closure**
- **Non-profit, registered charity**
- **Professional services agency**
- **1600+ youth served annually**
- **130+ staff members**
- **Multiple service, programming and housing sites**

**Through innovative programming and social enterprises, we help youth and emerging adults secure stable housing, education and employment, while working toward family stability and better health.**

**HOUSING**



**EMPLOYMENT**



**FAMILY**



**HEALTH**



# MIGRATION AND PREVENTION

- **Client numbers rising (800 in 2014, 1600 in 2018)**
- **3 prevention challenges/opportunities for CFY**
  - **Geography**
  - **Age**
  - **Acuity**

# NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR: CONTEXT

- **525,000 people, 50% around St. John's**
- **Rural population highly distributed**
- **Innu, Inuit and Mi'kmaq communities and governments**
- **Services concentrated in St. John's**

# RURAL AND REMOTE HOMELESSNESS RESPONSES IN NL

- **1 Emergency shelter outside of St. John's (Happy Valley-Goose Bay)**
- **Some emergency-access units**
- **Transition Houses**
- **Minimal supportive housing**
- **Regional housing support workers**
- **Local community coalitions & religious orgs**

# THE VISION

- A network of integrated service sites in regional hubs around the province
- Co-locating primary care, mental health care, addictions care, housing support, employment support, case management
- Shared backbone support
- Lots of local variation

# POLICY ALIGNMENTS

- All-party Committee On Mental Health And Addictions
- Educational Outcomes Task Force
- New Child Welfare Legislation
- Housing And Homelessness Plan

# OUR DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

- Early consultations – from the ballroom to the back deck
- Deep dives into service integration (with government partners)
- Statement of principles
- Developing a model
- Forming local teams
- Adopting and adapting



# OUR TEAMS

- Municipalities
- Health authorities
- Government departments
- Indigenous governments & organizations
- Community agencies

CHOICES  
FOR YOUTH

HELPING AT-RISK YOUTH SECURE  
EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT



CHOICES FOR YOUTH

# NEXT STEPS

- **Combining local work into a joint proposal**
- **Engaging with major funders**
- **Negotiating scale and roll-out**
- **Policy work and systems change**



“We Are Ready” report: [www.choicesforyouth.ca/expansion](http://www.choicesforyouth.ca/expansion)  
Statement of Principles: [www.choicesforyouth.ca/principles](http://www.choicesforyouth.ca/principles)

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