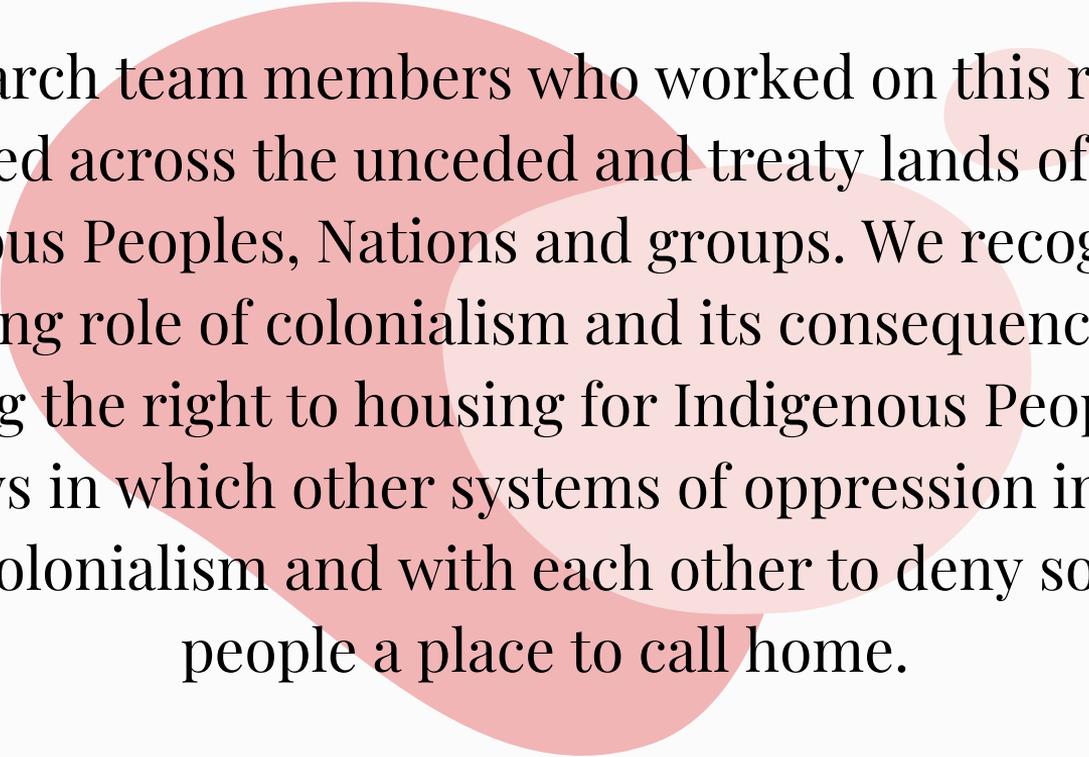


Presentation for CAEH 2022

RTH5: Dismantling Inequity and Reclaiming Human Rights

A National Housing Strategy By And For Whom? Documented Experiences Of People With Living Knowledge Of Housing Need

Dr. Leah Levac, Amanda Buchnea, Dr. Laura Pin, Rubina Karyar, Jes Annan, Erika Morton, Dr. Jayne Malenfant



The research team members who worked on this report are situated across the unceded and treaty lands of many Indigenous Peoples, Nations and groups. We recognize the ongoing role of colonialism and its consequences for achieving the right to housing for Indigenous Peoples, and the ways in which other systems of oppression intersect with colonialism and with each other to deny so many people a place to call home.

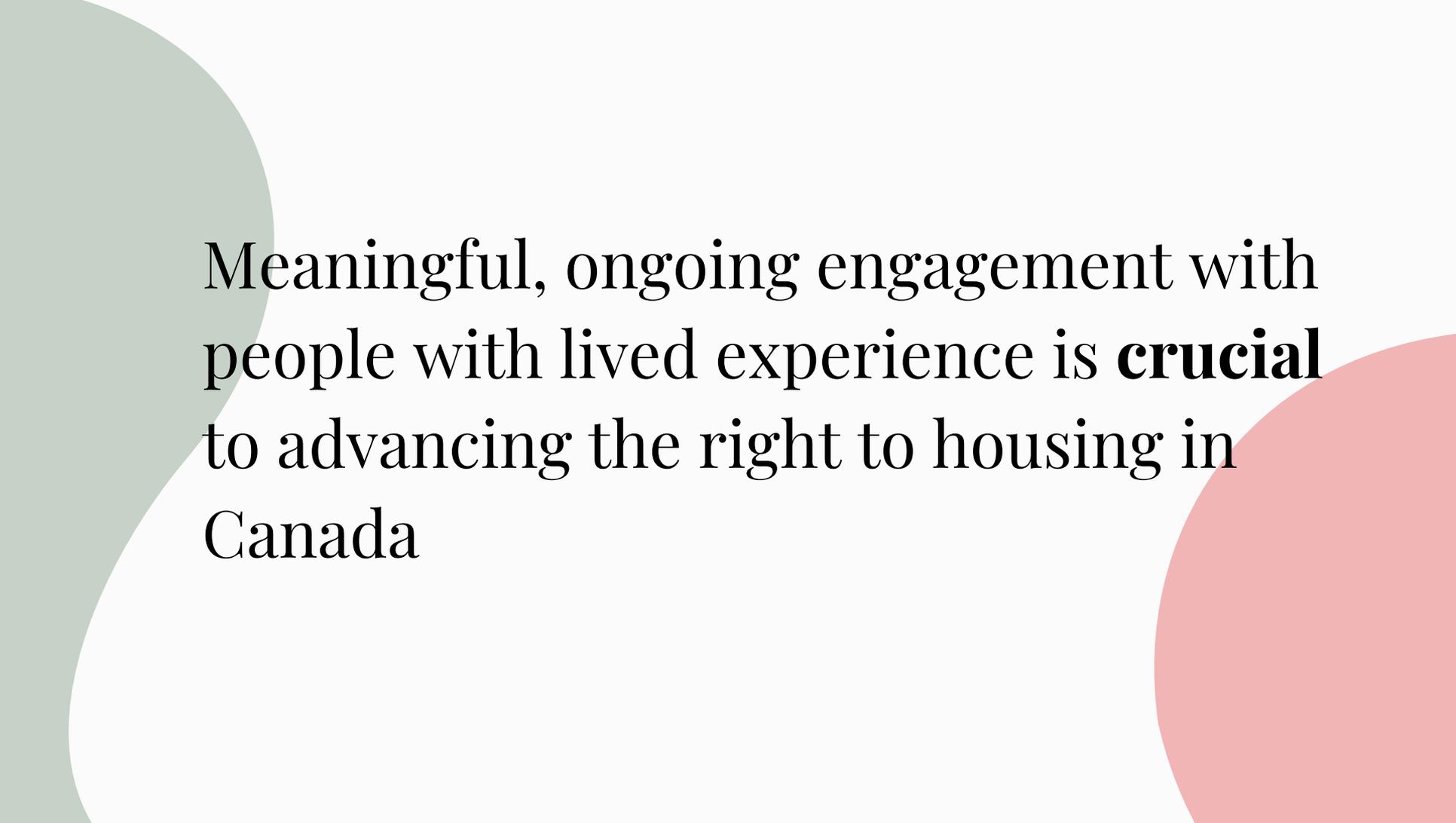
Background

The Council is committed to advancing the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing

- Report commissioned by working group of the National Housing Council (NHC) to make recommendations on LE engagement with National Housing Strategy (NHS)
- Other reports commissioned at the same time: <https://www.placetocalhome.ca/en/national-housing-council/media-newsroom>

Research Strategy

A robust secondary analysis of research and reports produced since 2000 where people with lived experience (LE) of homelessness or core housing need were involved—at minimum—as research subjects.

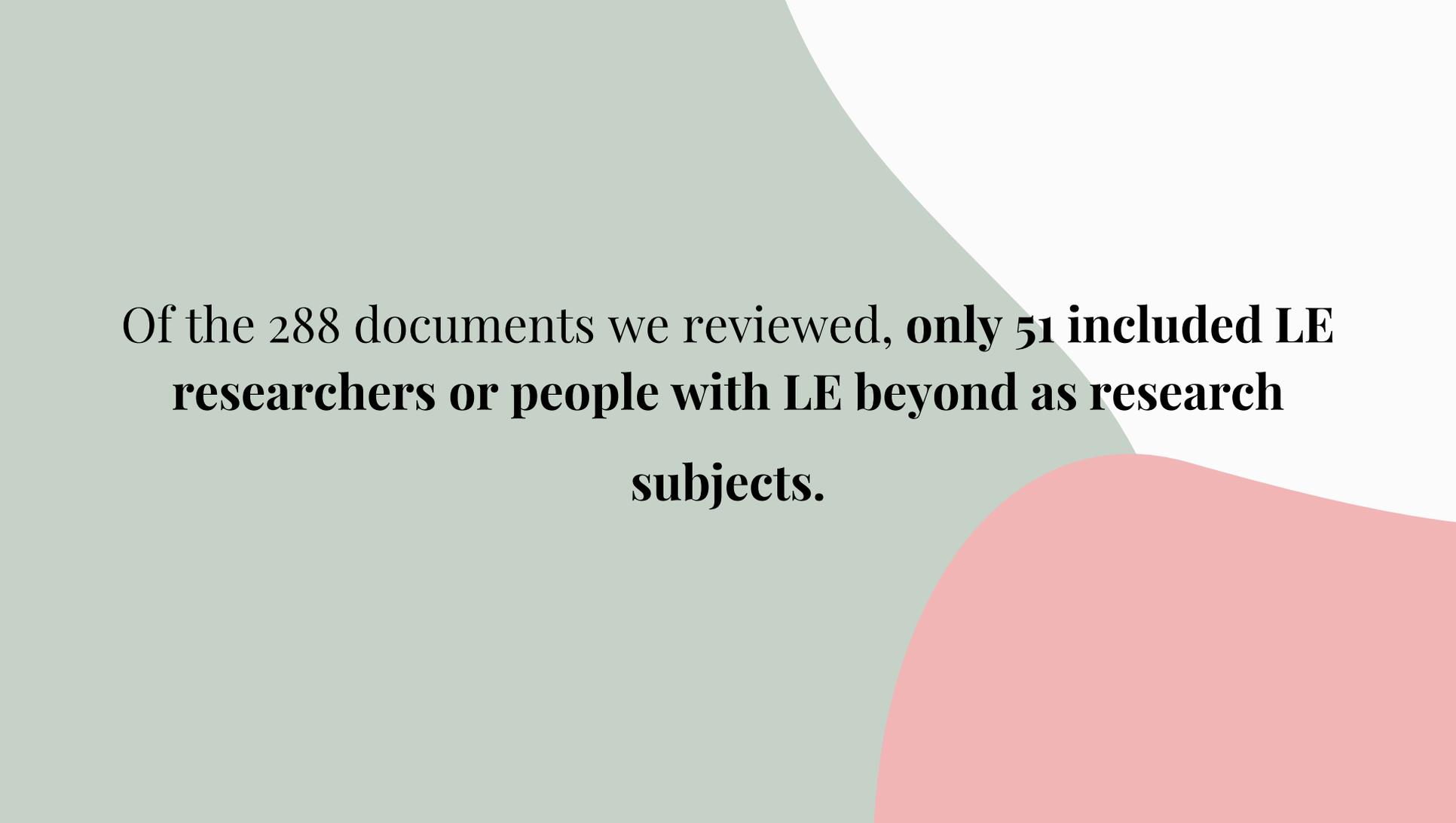


Meaningful, ongoing engagement with people with lived experience is **crucial** to advancing the right to housing in Canada

“Meaningful engagement with people with LE requires grounding engagement in **reciprocal, long-term relationships, which move beyond participation as knowledge extraction towards models of co-creation and partnership.** This requires a commitment to foregrounding LE knowledge at all stages of project development, through participation in the conceptual stages of a project and mutual negotiation of project parameters and boundaries” (Levac et al., 2022, p. 15)

Gaps in the Literature

- People with disabilities
- LGBTQIA+ people
- Families
- Racial discrimination especially anti-Black racism
- Older adults

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Of the 288 documents we reviewed, **only 51 included LE researchers or people with LE beyond as research subjects.**

The Role of People with LE Beyond as Research Subjects

# where people with LE were involved as more than research subjects	51
# focused on women and gender diverse people	11
# focused on newcomers, including immigrants and refugees	0
# focused on those who use substances and/or have psychiatric labels	5
# focused on youth	11
# focused on Indigenous Peoples	5
# focused on adults who identify as LGBTQ ₂ S+	1
# focused on older people	0
# focused on men	1
# focused on families	3
# focused on diverse social identities	14

Key Findings on Housing Experiences

1. People with LE highlight key challenges related to affordability; adequacy; and accessibility.
2. There are systemic barriers to accessing crucial housing-related supports and services for people with LE.
3. There is no universal experience: responding to unmet housing needs requires a diversified approach.



Recommendations for the National Housing Council and National Housing Strategy

1. Prioritize LE Knowledge in Research, Policy, and Planning

- Fund housing research that prioritizes diverse people with LE as research designers, implementers, analysts, authors, and disseminators
- Better account for, and disaggregate, LE voices in community housing and homelessness plans and needs assessments

Examples of Promising Practices from the Literature

Investigating the Impacts of COVID-19 Among LGBTQ2S+ Youth Experiencing Homelessness (Abramovich et al., 2021)

- Hired a Peer Support Worker who identified as LGBTQ2S+ and within same age range to coordinate online recruitment
- Contributed to creation of data collection materials

2. Advance Deep Affordability and Adequacy

- Use a definition of affordability that meaningfully relates to the needs of people with LE, and that draws on existing recommendations by people with LE
- Ensure NHS funding streams contribute to the creation of a more diverse housing stock that responds to unmet housing needs while also incorporating culturally appropriate housing and trauma-informed approaches
- Create an Indigenous-led housing strategy that responds to the needs of Indigenous Peoples

Examples from the Literature - Parkdale Peoples' Economy Community Benefits Framework

- Workshops with community members, service providers and agencies to develop community definitions of affordable housing and targets for future developments
 - Permanent affordability
 - Deep affordability
 - Affordability linked to accessibility

<https://parkdalepeopleseconomy.ca/Downloads/parkdale-community-benefits-framework1.pdf>

3. Recognizing the Right to Housing Depends on an Intersectional Lens

- Apply gender-based analysis plus (GBA+) to all dimensions of the NHS.
- Centre diverse people with LE in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of housing-related supports and programs

Examples of Promising Practices from the Literature

Finding Home: Community Integration Experiences of Formerly Homeless Women With Problematic Substance Use in Housing First (Bassi et al., 2020)

- Multiple meetings with participants including neighbourhood walk-along and photo-elicitation interviews, and follow up interviews
- Neighbourhood meetings to build trust and rapport

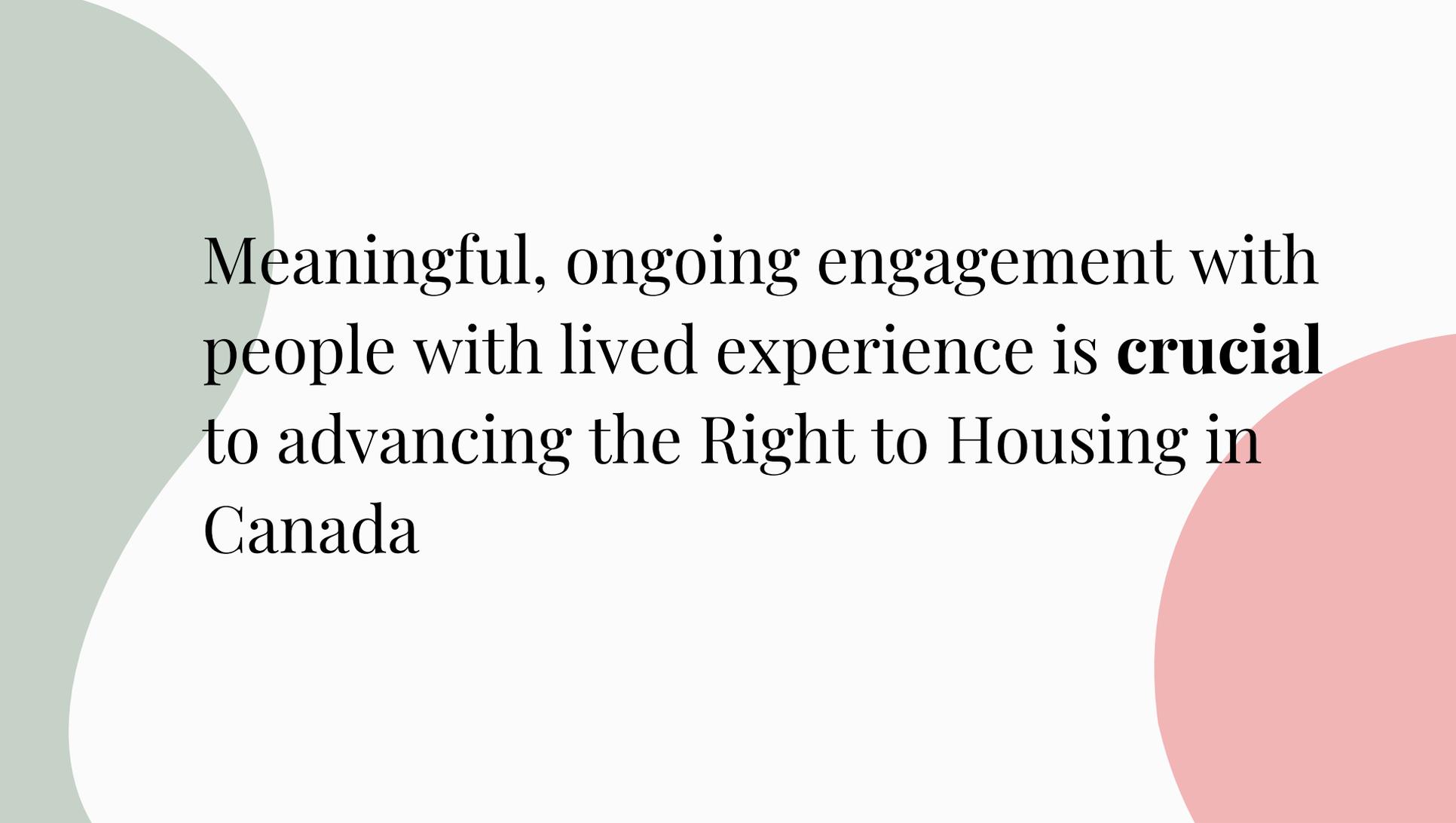
4. Be Accountable to People with LE

- Put existing LE recommendations into practice and commission further engagement when developing accountability mechanisms so that important reports do not “collect dust on shelves.”
- Develop a plan to make the NHS and NHC accountable to people with LE moving forward.

Examples from the Literature

National Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing & Homelessness: A Case for Support and Conceptual Model (Basplay et al, 2021)

- In alignment with UNDRIP, TRC, MMIWG, and in response to gross violations of the right to housing for Indigenous Peoples, Basplay proposes the need and a model for a national Indigenous led housing and homelessness organization to define policy, and administer funding for housing and supports
- The proposed model includes a Lived Experience Advisory Council to provide information, guidance and recommendations



Meaningful, ongoing engagement with people with lived experience is **crucial** to advancing the Right to Housing in Canada

Thank You!

Get in touch!

Dr. Leah Levac llevac@uoguelph.ca

Dr. Laura Pin lpin@wlu.ca

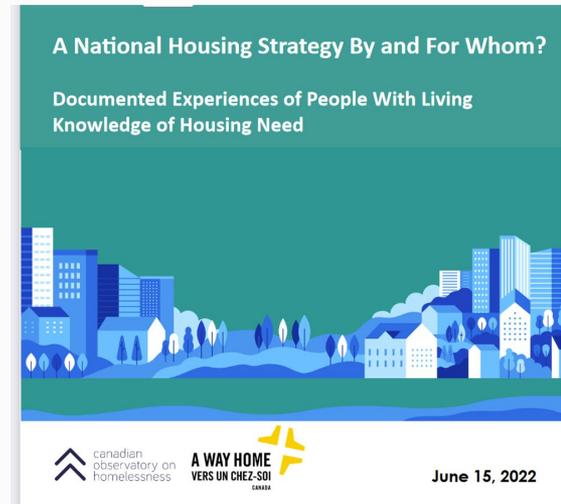
Dr. Jayne Malenfant jayne.malenfant@mcgill.ca

Jes Annan jcannan@ucalgary.ca

Rubina Karyar rkaryar@yorku.ca

Amanda Buchnea abuchnea@uoguelph.ca

Erika Morton emorton2@yorku.ca



Read the Report!

<https://www.placetocalhome.ca/en/national-housing-council/media-newsroom/a-national-housing-strategy-by-and-for-whom>

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Questions/Discussion