



# Youth Homelessness Toolkits

Allyson Marsolais  
Director of Operations

*Canadian Observatory on Homelessness/The Homeless Hub  
@homelesshub*

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# CANADIAN OBSERVATORY ON HOMELESSNESS

## Collaboration

### WORKING WITH

- Co-apps/Collaborators
- Institutional Partners
- Lived Experience WG
- International links
- Members/Supporters
- Decision Makers
- Policy Makers
- Funders

## Research PRIORITY AREAS

- Systems models
- Housing & Support
- Aboriginal Issues
- Youth
- Prevention
- Legal and Justice Issues
- Measuring Progress
- Knowledge Mobilization

## Knowledge Mobilization HOMELESS HUB

- Research products
- Dissemination
- Social Media
- Marketing and Communications
- Research/Evaluation

CREATING IMPACT TO  
END HOMELESSNESS

# Youth Homelessness



The reality is that youth homelessness, as a pervasive problem, is relatively new in Canada.

# What Do We Know – Numbers?

Across Canada thousands of youth are homeless...

7,000 on any  
given night



Up to 40,000 in a year



# The Reality Is...

...youth aren't ready to be independent and lack skills to survive on their own.



# Can We End Youth Homelessness?

Ending youth homelessness means eliminating a broad social problem that traps young people in an ongoing state of homelessness.

# Not Homelessness Jr.

Youth homelessness is distinct from adult homelessness, both in terms of its causes and consequences, but also in how we must consider and apply interventions.

# Solutions – Education & Training



Formal academic education, as well as life skills and jobs-based training, is important to help homeless youth succeed.



# Solutions – Employment & Training



Life Skills are as important as job skills when training youth experiencing homelessness.

# Youth Toolkit Creation

Toolkits make replication/duplication easier

- No need to start from scratch

Toolkits have:

- Online toolkit
- PDF version
- Multiple short videos.

# Youth Toolkits

Brief review of literature

Phone and filmed in-person interviews

- Staff, youth, volunteers and partners

Collected relevant material

# Youth Toolkit Creation

Materials analyzed for relevance

Videos edited and had graphics added

Written toolkit includes:

- Summary of program
- Homeless Hub thoughts
- Key Resources

# Youth Toolkit Creation

## Collaborative process

- Participants in videos reviewed/approved
- Key staff reviewed content of written toolkit
- Discussion about key issues and content

# Youth Employment Toolkit

Developed with Choices for Youth in St. John's,  
Newfoundland

Focuses on their Train for Trades program - a support and  
employment program for at-risk and homeless youth.

94 pages in length

14 videos

# Youth Transitional Housing Toolkit

Developed with Covenant House Vancouver and Covenant House Toronto

Looks at overall Transitional Housing programs

Special focus on the Rights of Passage program

118 pages in length

23 videos

# Youth Toolkits - Videos



Each video captures pieces of the experience in participants' own words

All videos are captioned for accessibility





# TABLE OF CONTENTS



## Purpose of the Toolkit

This toolkit is designed for shelters, housing providers, youth organizations concerned about homeless and at-risk youth for providing a youth employment project for at-risk youth that is flexible and adaptable. The case studies and research on the Trades program at Choices for Youth in St. John's, New

Groups are encouraged to consider this model as a practical model necessary to create their own program that meets the needs of their community.

**For more information about the Toolkit please contact:**

The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness/Homeless Hub

Email: [thehub@edu.yorku.ca](mailto:thehub@edu.yorku.ca)

The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness acknowledges with thanks the financial support of The Home Depot Canada Foundation. Thanks to the staff, partners and service users (past and present) of Choices for Youth and Train for Trades who assisted in the development of the toolkit by taking part in interviews, providing data and resources or reviewing information.

- OVERVIEW +**
- YOUTH EMPLOYMENT BACKGROUNDER +**
- SOCIAL ENTERPRISE BACKGROUNDER**
- ENERGY ISSUES BACKGROUNDER +**
- UNDERSTANDING EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (EI) +**

### **APPLYING FOR THE PROGRAM —**

- Criteria**
- Application/Screening Process**
- Duration**
- Completion**

- SAFETY +**
- PARTNERSHIPS +**
- POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**
- STAFFING +**



## → LENGTH OF STAY

In order to stay in the program, a youth must work their program, follow the rules of their respective ROP and engage in their day plan.

**CHT:** Youth in Toronto are able to stay for one year. Occasionally, short extensions are made – particularly for youth who are addressing mental health or addictions issues – increasing the duration up to 18 months. While CHT would like to extend their length of stay options, they are limited by provincial legislation that puts limits on the length of time a program like this can house youth.

**CHV:** The length of stay at Covenant House Vancouver was recently increased from “one year with the possibility of extension to two years” to “up to the youth’s 25th birthday”. This means a

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## Homeless Hub Thoughts:

Agencies setting up a similar program need to take a few factors into consideration when establishing duration of stay.

- What are the legislative guidelines that affect duration?
- How many spaces are available and does a longer stay reduce access for other youth? In other words – is it better to allow more youth shorter stays or fewer youth longer stays?
- What needs are the youth presenting with and are these issues going to require longer or shorter interventions?
- What other transitional housing programs exist in the community for the same population (if any)?
- What kinds of partnerships can be established to provide support to youth in the program that cannot be met in-house? For example, a mental health agency may be able to provide counselling and support services to a youth allowing him/her to remain in the program longer.

# Youth Toolkits – Promotion - Twitter



← Twitter Cover with both toolkits linked



**Homeless Hub**  
@homelesshub



Following

This month on #HHChat we discuss the tools



**Homeless Hub** @homelesshub · 42m

Reducing stigma & building partnerships are just some benefits of @choicesforyouth programs. [bit.ly/1GKlzG0](https://bit.ly/1GKlzG0)  
#HomelessYouthSucceed



#HHChat

Twitter Tweet

# Youth Toolkits – Promotion - Facebook



The graphic is a square with a light green background and a dark blue footer. It features the Homeless Hub logo and website in the top left, a hashtag in the top right, a quote in the center, a testimonial below the quote, and a link to the toolkit in the footer. Blue arrows point from labels to these elements.

**Logo**

the homeless hub  
www.homelesshub.ca

#HomelessYouthSucceed

**Quote from youth @T4T**

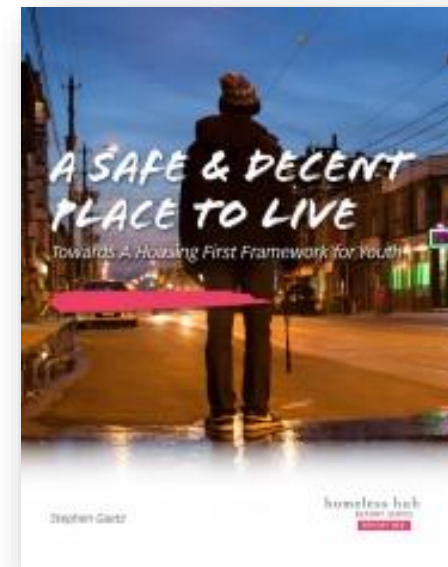
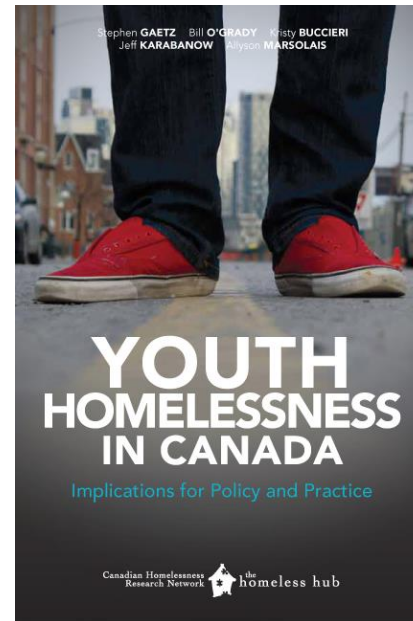
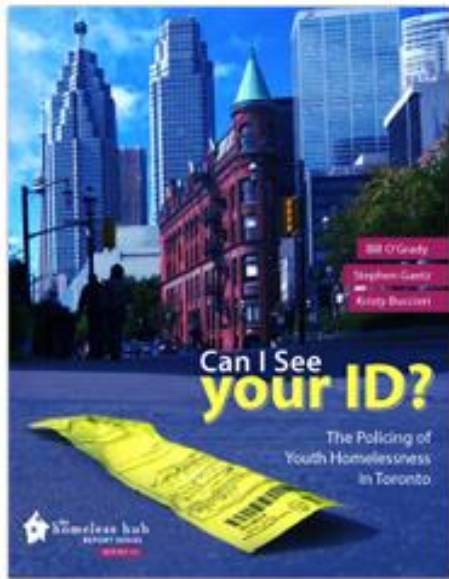
“I came in, I had no training, no experience doing what I’m doing. And within days I was getting things done like a professional!”

Matthew, age 21, Tier 1 participant, Train for Trades.

**Link to toolkit**

Learn more in the youth employment toolkit:  
[www.homelesshub.ca/employmenttoolkit](http://www.homelesshub.ca/employmenttoolkit)

# More Resources on Youth Homelessness





Questions?

Allyson Marsolais  
amarsolais@edu.yorku.ca

[www.homelesshub.ca](http://www.homelesshub.ca)

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