



The Alliance to End Homelessness

www.endhomelessnessottawa.ca

ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS STEERING COMMITTEE

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The Ottawa Mission

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Labour Market and Social Development Programs Branch, Service Canada/Human Resources and Skill Development Canada

Marc Provost (*Ex Officio*)
Program Manager
Residential Services, City of Ottawa

ATEH Coordinator

Lynne Browne
Office 613-241-1573 ext 205
Cell 613-513-6647
lbrowne@ysb.on.ca
147 Besserer St., Ottawa, ON K1N 6A7

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FEDERAL ELECTION 2011

Hungry? Join Federal Candidates as they dine at an emergency shelter

The Alliance to End Homelessness (ATEH) is calling on federal candidates to put their commitment to end homelessness and address the need for affordable housing on the table – a table at an Ottawa emergency shelter.

The “lunch date” will be with people who stay at the shelter or live in the community on very low incomes. Hundreds line up daily for such meals at emergency shelters and other programs across the city.

In advance of the federal election, candidates are invited to dine at the Shepherds of Good Hope, 233 Murray St., on Tuesday, April 26 at 11:30 a.m. to “enjoy good company and a meal with a side order of homelessness and housing.”

“Federal spending provides significant and necessary investments in ending homelessness and in creating affordable housing in our community.” said ATEH Chair Marion Wright. *“For instance, a new building project, Cornerstone’s 42 new supportive housing units set to open in May, received 5 ¼ million from the federal government. The nine affordable housing projects now underway in Ottawa are funded in large part by joint federal/provincial money.”*

“Federal investment in our community covered 32% of the 21,557 households helped last year through programs like Housing Loss Prevention and housing searches or street outreach and drop-ins,” said Ms. Wright.

“When we think about how much more than these current efforts will be needed to meet targets to end homelessness by 2020, it’s no surprise that we worry about each federal party’s intentions,” said Ms. Wright. *It’s also why we ask people to “Vote Housing” on May 2nd.*

Event: Candidates invited to lunch at an emergency shelter
Hosted by: The Alliance to End Homelessness
Time: **Tuesday, April 26, 2011, 11:30 a.m.,**
Location: The Shepherds of Good Hope, 233 Murray Street, Ottawa

After having lunch there will be an opportunity to ask the Candidates these three questions:

Question 1, we know that creating a National Housing Strategy that includes, committing \$2 billion per year on new social housing units, protecting the 600,000 existing social housing units across Canada, and reinvesting money from expiring social housing operating agreements will have a significant impact on reducing homelessness in Canada. We know this to be true. *If elected or re-elected, will you commit to a strategy that makes these three things happen?*

Question 2, we know that the Federal Spending Estimates for 2011 show the government making a 39% cut in Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

spending (Canada's national housing agency) from 3.1 billion in 2010 to \$1.9 billion in 2011.
If elected or re-elected, will you commit to reversing this 39% cut?

Question 3, we know that those 2011 Estimates also show an 11% cut in Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy from \$124 million in 2010 down to \$110 million in 2011).
If elected or re-elected, will you commit to reversing this 11% cut?

All candidates in Ottawa are invited but specific invitations were sent to assure broad representation:

John Baird	Ottawa West-Nepean, CONSERVATIVE PARTY
Mauril Bélanger	Ottawa-Vanier, LIBERAL PARTY
Paul Dewar	Ottawa Centre, NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY
Jean-Luc Cooke	Nepean Carleton, GREEN PARTY

The Alliance to End Homelessness recently released its *Report Card on Ending Homelessness in Ottawa, Jan-Dec 2010*. It revealed that:

- 7,156 homeless individuals stayed in an emergency shelter in 2010, including 1,408 children.
- Homeless families with children are spending an average of 72 days in shelter before finding housing, a whopping increase of 9 days since the previous year.
- Housing affordability is worse than ever, resulting in a first-ever "F" grade in this category.
- While 344 new affordable housing units were added to housing stock in the past year, this falls far below the ATEH target of 1,000 per year, which would end homelessness in Ottawa by 2020.

ATEH is an Ottawa based non-partisan group that represents 75 community organizations taking action together to end homelessness.

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Photo Opportunities at the Lunch

Out of respect for the people who eat at the shelter who are homeless or living in the community on very low incomes, permission to take photos of those individuals will be arranged with Public Relations staff at the Shepherds of Good Hope.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lynne Browne

Coordinator, Alliance to End Homelessness

Cell: **(613) 513-6647**

lbrowne@ysb.on.ca

Office 613-241-7913, ext 205

147 Besserer Street, Ottawa ON K1N 6A7

2010 Report Card available on the Alliance website: www.endhomelessnessottawa.ca