

# Experiencing Homelessness 2014

## in New Brunswick

This is the 5th Report Card on Homelessness in New Brunswick. Using 2013 data, it presents a profile of homelessness in the province and, in particular, in the four designated communities under the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (Bathurst, Fredericton, Moncton and Saint John). Over the years, concerted efforts to address homelessness have been made by government, service and shelter providers, the faith community, and countless volunteers who support the more than 1,400 individuals whose only option is to stay at a shelter. Despite our collective efforts, shelter use increased 7.5% from 2012 to 2013. Some other key events in 2013:

- There were 90 fewer units in the provincial subsidized housing inventory in 2013.
- The number of individuals on the NB Housing wait list increased by 86.
- 19,989 New Brunswickers were helped by food banks in March 2013, up 27.8% since 2008. Over 33% were children. (HungerCount 2013)
- Social assistance rates increased by 4% in September, although not for many people receiving \$537/month.
- The government announced plans to introduce a catastrophic drug plan in 2014. Voluntary in the first year, the plan is expected to impact 70,000 uninsured families in New Brunswick. It will be mandatory in Year 2.
- In December 2013, the government also announced the province is creating a Network of Excellence and a 15-bed treatment centre for services for youth with complex mental health issues. Private sector developers had until Feb 28th to submit proposals to build.

### 2013 Report Indicators

Emergency shelter use in NB	2012	2013
Total number of unique individuals admitted to a shelter	1,309	1,407
Total number of nights stayed	30,845	31,802
Average length of stay in a shelter (nights)	14.8	13.4
Housing Indicators in NB	2012	2013
Provincially subsidized housing units	13,530	13,440
Individuals on waiting list for provincially subsidized units	5,416	5,502
Market rental vacancy (October)	6.9%	8.9%
Market rental average rent (2-bedroom apt)	\$707	\$715
Individuals in core housing need (2006 Census)	29,400	29,400
Income Indicators in NB	2012	2013
Social assistance for a single person (TAP)	\$537	\$537
# of recipients on NB Income Assistance (Dec)	39,063	38,537*
Minimum wage (Dec)	\$10.00	\$10.00

\* An additional 10,000 people receive assistance such as daycare subsidies and white card but not a monthly cheque.

### community contacts

<p><b>Community Homelessness Network Inc. (Bathurst)</b>            Laura Aubie: 506.545.0805, <a href="mailto:outreachbyc@nbnet.nb.ca">outreachbyc@nbnet.nb.ca</a></p>	<p><b>Greater Moncton Homelessness Steering Committee</b>            Sue Calhoun: 506.877.2343, <a href="mailto:scalhoun@nbnet.nb.ca">scalhoun@nbnet.nb.ca</a></p>
<p><b>The Fredericton Community Action Group on Homelessness</b>            Karolyn Martin: 506.444.8199, <a href="mailto:coordinator@cagh.ca">coordinator@cagh.ca</a></p>	<p><b>Greater Saint John Homelessness Steering Committee</b>            Jenny O'Connell: 506.636.8549, <a href="mailto:jenny@sjhdc.ca">jenny@sjhdc.ca</a></p>