Making the Shift

Youth Homelessness Social Innovation Lab

Impact Report 2023 - 2024

MAKING THE SHIFT INC

canadian observatory on homelessness

A WAY HOME VERS UN CHEZ-SOI CANADA

Toronto Centre of Excellence on Youth Homelessness Prevention at York University

Canada

Funded by the Government of Canada's Networks of Centres of Excellence program.

Employment and Social Development Canada | Emploi et Développement social Canada

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Toronto Centre of Excellence on Youth Homelessness Prevention at York University

Hosted by York University and co-led by the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (COH), A Way Home Canada and our Making the Shift Youth Homelessness Social Innovation Lab, the Toronto Centre of Excellence (TCE) on Youth Homelessness Prevention at York University provides an opportunity to work internationally to contribute to the transformation of how we respond to and prevent youth homelessness.

education | YORK UNIVERSITÉ UNIVERSITY

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Who We Are

Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness

Making the Shift is a Youth Homelessness Social Innovation Lab, co-led by the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness and A Way Home Canada. Working in collaboration with researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and advocates, the Lab conducts, funds, and mobilizes cutting-edge research and prototypes promising program models in communities across Canada to prevent and end youth homelessness.

Here's how Making the Shift is transforming Canada's response to youth homelessness:

- → Funding cutting-edge, prevention-focused research projects
- → Building capacity for prevention across sectors through training, one-on-one coaching, program support, and facilitating dedicated communities of practice
- → Prototyping and evaluating the effectiveness of evidence-informed program models through community-based demonstration projects (MtS DEMS)
- → Mobilizing research findings to create sector-friendly policy, practice, and advocacy tools and resources
- → Expanding the network of researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and advocates who are committed to youth homelessness prevention
- → Mentoring the next generation of scholars working to prevent youth homelessness
- → Advancing an action-oriented research agenda focused on prevention
- → Leveraging our international community to exchange research knowledge, experience and best practices through our Toronto Centre of Excellence (TCE) designation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Board Chair and Directors Letter

Dear supporters and network members,

On behalf of the Making the Shift Board Directors, I'm delighted to report that Making the Shift continued to make significant progress over the last year to realize its vision to mobilize cutting-edge research in an effort to transform Canada's response to the issue of youth homelessness.

Some highlights from the past year:

- **There is growing support and evidence for youth homelessness prevention:** Our recent sector survey found that *90%* of respondents agree that *prevention is necessary* to solve youth homelessness. Additionally, *seven funded projects have been completed,* adding to the evidence supporting prevention efforts. MtS DEMS findings support *Housing First for Youth,* showing significant *improvements in housing stability and overall well-being.*
- **Knowledge mobilization continues to accelerate:** We had in-person representation at various conferences across Canada, Europe and the United States to showcase our work and make connections. In June 2023, we hosted a gathering in Toronto for our National Learning Community on Youth Homelessness, including an event focused on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. We also hosted a cross-border learning event on youth homelessness prevention for philanthropic organizations, starting in Toronto and concluding in Kelowna.
- **First International Transitions from Child Protection Symposium:** In October 2023, we supported the International Symposium on Transitions from Child Protection in Richmond, BC. The event brought together 147 individuals from the child welfare and youth homelessness sectors to facilitate cross-sectoral dialogue and identify promising practices for successful transitions to adulthood and preventing youth homelessness. The Symposium also included a partnership with the *National Council of Youth in Care Advocates* to showcase their call to action around the adoption of their Equitable Standards.

I am grateful for all the support we have received as we approach our final year. I want to extend my thanks to everyone who has contributed to building the Making the Shift body of evidence to prevent youth homelessness in Canada. This includes our Board members, committees, advisories, research network, scholars with lived experience, our allies across research, practice, and policy, and of course the staff team at Making the Shift. Together, we are making a significant impact on young people and their families. We are using the Making the Shift body of knowledge to transform our approach to youth homelessness in Canada, moving away from emergency services and focusing on prevention.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth McIsaac,

Board Chair, Making the Shift

Dear Supporters and Network Members,

We are thrilled to once again update you on the progress of the Making the Shift Youth Homelessness Social Innovation Lab as we enter our final year of the Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) grant. It's amazing how quickly these five years have passed. As our research projects come to an end, we wanted to share some of the ongoing activities aimed at mobilizing the evidence generated, expanding our reach, and measuring our impact on youth homelessness prevention.

In line with this, the Making the Shift Demonstration Projects have been leveraged to scale the Family and Natural Supports (FNS) training and model to 10 sites across Canada with the help of a grant from the Public Health Agency of Canada. The staff at the sites involved in the work emphasized the importance of the FNS model and expressed how it should be at the forefront of all their work. They also highlighted the need to train not just the team, but the entire agency to implement FNS principles across the board. One staff member stressed, "All people that work with young people should have an FNS approach. It should be mandatory." The research team is still reviewing and compiling the data from the 24-month project, but this work has been recognized as crucial, and the outcomes have been positive, thanks to the collaboration and partnership of all involved.

In October, we proudly sponsored the 2023 International Transitions from Child Protection Symposium in Richmond, BC, which brought together 147 first-voice and community advocates, policymakers, researchers and service providers to address the challenges faced by youth "aging out" of the child protection system. The symposium explored gaps within support systems and emphasized the need for a comprehensive, multi-sector approach involving various government levels and sectors. We were inspired by the rich discussions that took place during the two-day gathering, which served as a catalyst for self-reflection, dialogue, and, most importantly, action as we work together to create positive change for youth leaving care. Thanks so much to Porticus and the Home Depot Canada Foundation for their sponsorship of the Symposium!

We are focused on promoting the work of Making the Shift within all levels of government as part of our knowledge mobilization strategy. We worked with Strategy Corp, a strategic government relations firm, to implement strategies for the Ontario and Federal Governments that were developed in previous years. Our meetings with various government departments have focused on promoting youth homelessness prevention in government approaches, cementing our role as a trustworthy advisor and partner to the government. Simultaneously, we have been working diligently to elevate youth homelessness as a top governmental priority. This year, we took an additional step by submitting a written proposal for the 2024 federal budget pre-consultations, urging the government to consider a Federal Youth Homelessness Prevention Strategy and highlighting the compelling evidence generated by Making the Shift.

We have also been elevating the visibility of Making the Shift and youth homelessness prevention on the international stage. Through our designation as a Geneva UN Charter Centre of Excellence, known as the "Toronto Centre of Excellence on Youth Homelessness Prevention at York University" (Toronto Centre), the team presented at various conferences and events in the United States, United Kingdom and Europe, including the National Network for Youth conference in Washington, D.C., the Housing First Europe HUB in Scotland and the European Observatory on Homelessness Conference in Belgium. Our presentations focused on the entire scope of the Making the Shift work and emerging findings from the demonstration projects. The Toronto Centre not only allows us to amplify the work of Making the Shift on an international level but also serves as a significant platform for knowledge exchange across UNECE Member States. We are grateful to York University for their support in maximizing the impact of this designation.

Finally, as we prepare for the upcoming Making the Shift Youth Homelessness Prevention Conference in February 2025, we are excited to host this important event to close out our Networks of Centres of Excellence grant. The conference will provide an opportunity to learn from and connect with researchers, service providers, experts with lived experience, advocates, and thought leaders from Canada and around the world. We are hopeful that this event will kick-start the positive, lasting legacy of the NCE grant, create long-lasting partnerships, and help sustain momentum for preventing youth homelessness in Canada. We look forward to seeing you there!

Stephen Gaetz,
Scientific Director

Melanie Redman,
Partnership and Implementation Director

2023-2024 Impact and Highlights

By the Numbers

- 39 MtS research projects funded, with investment totalling $8.39 million.
- 618 individuals were provided with our Training and Technical Assistance to increase their understanding of how to implement and deliver prevention-focused services to young people.
- 2,534 users completed self-directed e-learning built from emerging evidence from the MtS Demonstration Lab on the Homelessness Learning Hub.
- 143 community practitioners were trained through our Indigenous-created and led, Indigenous Homelessness Training.
- 2,393 young people have been supported by MtS DEMS sites since inception, including access to stable housing, family mediation, mental health and physical health resources, and basic needs.

Building our body of evidence

- We have a total of 39 funded projects across 22 institutions, covering most of our research agenda.
- Two funded research projects came to completion, bringing our total of finished projects to eight.
- Preliminary data analysis for MtS DEMS is showing promising results, suggesting that the Housing First for Youth approach yields increased housing stability over treatment-as-usual.
- Preliminary findings from 10 MtS DEMS sites across Canada that have implemented the Family and Natural Supports (FNS) intervention indicate that young people experienced significant improvements in mental health, family relationships and stable living. Likewise, the FNS experienced increased emotional support, tangible support and positive social interactions.

Supporting our Network

- Awarded two winners of the 2023 MtS Youth Homelessness Prevention Awards, Niginan Housing Ventures's Omamoo Wango Gamik and Wyndham House's Concurrent Specialized Hub $10,000 each, supported by presenting donor Canada Life, to celebrate promising practices to prevent youth homelessness in communities across Canada.
- Shared our learnings from the Making the Shift body of knowledge at numerous international conferences and events. These have occurred in Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Scotland, Spain, and the United States under our designation as a Geneva UN Centre of Excellence with the UNECE.
- Hosted the third year of the LivEx Bursary, the only known bursary of its kind for students with lived experience of youth homelessness. Five scholars from across Canada were awarded $3,000 each.

Mobilizing knowledge

- Brought together researchers and practitioners for the MtS webinar series that aimed to facilitate dialogue and knowledge sharing to implement prevention-based practices and services across Canada. This year we held four webinars focusing on themes such as designing data infrastructure to prevent youth homelessness, award-winning innovations in youth homelessness prevention, strengthening family and natural supports, and Black youth homelessness prevention.
- Collaborated on a panel event, hosted by 360kids, "Getting from Here to There: Equity-based and Indigenous Justice Challenges, Gaps and Opportunities towards ending Youth Homelessness." This community forum explored the challenges and promising practices rooted in equity and Indigenous justice to prevent and respond to youth homelessness in a trauma-informed, healing-centered, and affirming manner.
- Actionized government relations strategies to share emerging research findings from the Making the Shift body of work, resulting in 13 meetings or presentations to various departments across all levels of government and tabled a pre-budget submission to the federal government.
- Supported 618 individuals to increase their understanding of how to implement and deliver prevention-focused services to young people through our Training and Technical Assistance offerings, including in-person training, case consultations, program implementation coaching, program model presentations, fidelity reviews, and communities of practice. A repository of completed funded project summaries was launched to ensure accessibility beyond academics.
- Making the Shift supported resources were downloaded 5,817 times from the Homeless Hub, representing a 164% increase over last year.

FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECT

Voices Unheard: Indigenous Youth Coping with Homelessness During COVID-19

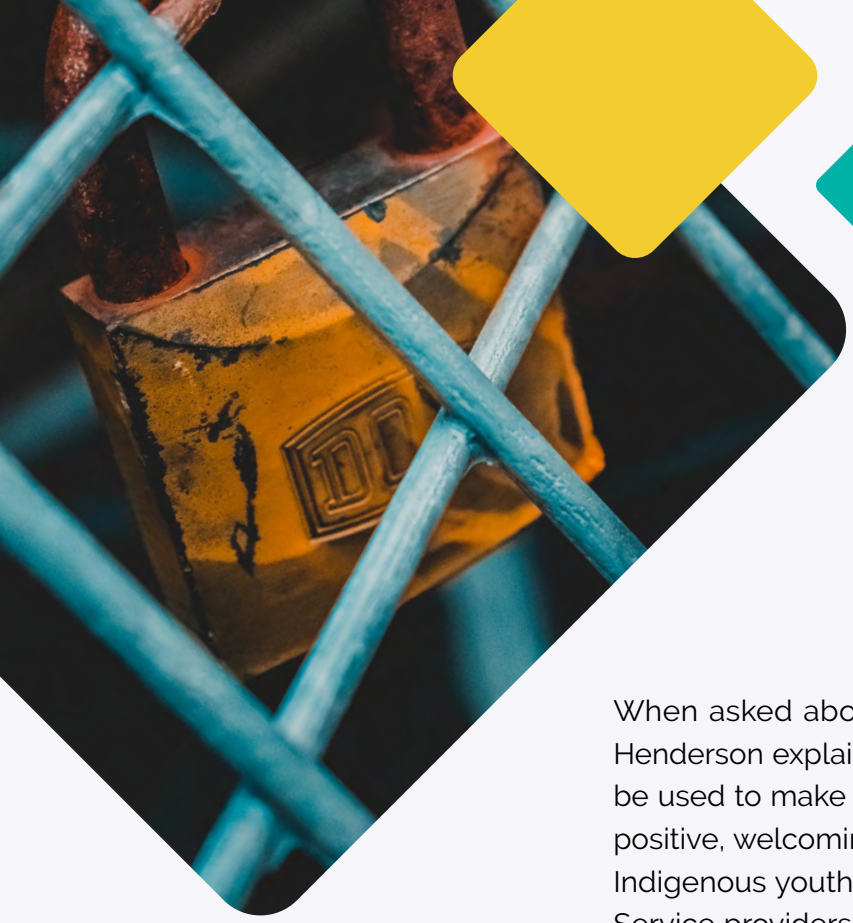
Preventing homelessness for Indigenous youth involves more than just providing housing. It entails nurturing their well-being, fostering cultural connections, and supporting the healing process through programs and services that are tailored to meet their needs.

This concept was at the core of the research conducted by MtS Principal Investigators Jennifer Dreaver and Joanna Henderson in the Kenora region of Northwestern Ontario. Their research has shed light on the unique challenges faced by Indigenous youth who were homeless or at risk of homelessness during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dreaver emphasized the motivation behind this project, stating, "We wanted to share the experiences of a population whose voices were largely unheard throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically Indigenous youth in the Kenora region." She continued, "This project aimed to provide essential information about the gaps, barriers, and needs of these young people, including their perspectives on how health and social services can be improved to better meet their needs."

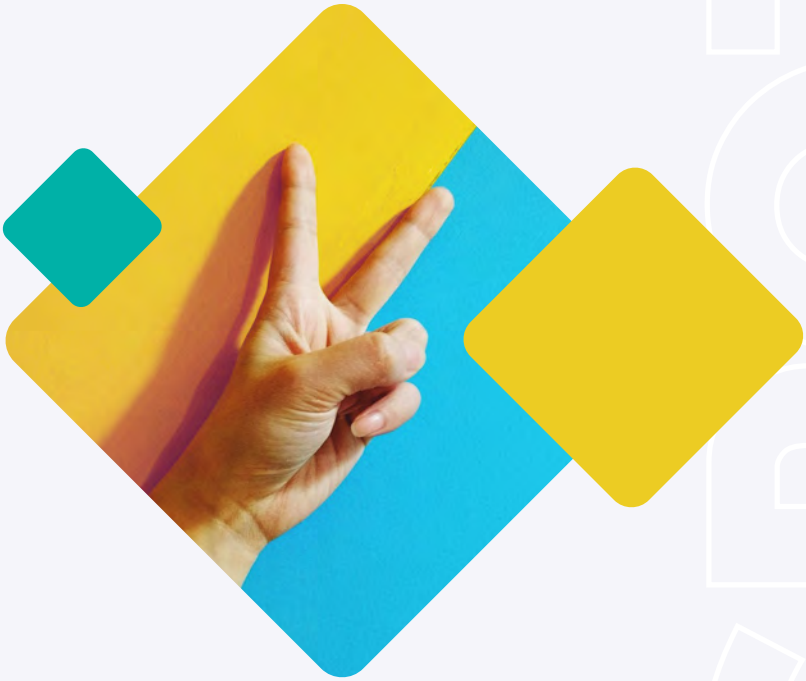
The research process involved interviews conducted in spaces frequented by youth, with the support of a youth peer research assistant. Cultural items, including traditional medicines, were utilized to create a comfortable environment for the participants to share their experiences with or being at risk of homelessness during the pandemic. Additionally, focus groups and an Anishinaabe Symbol-based Reflection exercise were organized, and art pieces were developed to further express the participants' stories about homelessness.

The study brought to light the significant gaps and barriers faced by Indigenous youth, including racism, stigma, age restrictions for homelessness services, safety issues, and a lack of culturally safe services. The participants pointed out specific programs and services that they could benefit from, such as life skills training, supportive/transitional housing, cultural connections, peer support, and services tailored to the unique needs of youth.



When asked about the potential impact of the research, Henderson explained, "Our hope is that this information will be used to make service improvements, leading to a more positive, welcoming, and responsive service experience for Indigenous youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Service providers, funders, and decision-makers of various kinds can review this information and identify actionable changes that will benefit this population."

Ultimately, this research offers valuable insights for service providers and decision-makers to consider and implement changes aimed at providing culturally informed services to Indigenous youth experiencing homelessness.



DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Upstream Kelowna: Building a Path to a Brighter Future for Youth

Upstream Kelowna is one of three demonstration sites in Dr. Rachel Laforest and Dr. Jacqueline Sohn's MtS-funded *The Upstream Project Canada: Implementation Lessons from Three Demonstration Sites and Implications for Scaling* project. The insights gained from these sites will help establish a framework for scaling this innovation and will inform systemic changes aimed at creating more equitable opportunities and outcomes for youth at risk of homelessness.

In Canada, thousands of young people are at risk of or experience homelessness every year, with over 40% first experiencing homelessness before they reach the age of 16. However, amidst this challenging landscape, initiatives like Upstream Canada are making a remarkable difference. Created to address the root causes of youth homelessness, Upstream Canada focuses on early intervention and prevention, targeting youth between the ages of 12 and 16.

Upstream Kelowna, which is being led by Making the Shift community partner Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs in Kelowna, British Columbia, has shown great promise in addressing risk factors such as school disengagement, mental health issues, family dysfunction, housing precarity, and poverty.

By collaborating with schools and community-based social service organizations, the program has significantly contributed to the well-being of vulnerable youth by providing them with much-needed support and guidance. One of the educators involved in the program shared, "We as teachers, obviously, care about [the students]. But some of them don't make that connection. And for them to be able to connect with [an Upstream worker] and see that there's a way out now, instead of waiting until they're out of school to have a way out, I think it's really cool."

The impact of Upstream Kelowna has been significant, diverting numerous students from emergency services and setting them on paths toward more positive life trajectories. Out of 744 students across two middle schools in Kelowna, an impressive 81% actively participated in the assessment process. Surprisingly, 60% of these students were previously under the radar and not known to the school as being at risk. Additionally, 266 students were identified as at risk of school disengagement, highlighting the widespread impact of the program.

This valuable outreach has brought to light the challenges faced by youth who might otherwise have gone unnoticed. As one youth shared, "I definitely wasn't obvious. I am almost a straight-A student and I'm pretty good in class and stuff, but I was struggling with home stuff. And [teachers] would never know that. Kids are just pretty good at hiding it." This further emphasizes the significance of the program's reach, showing that even academically successful students can face hidden struggles that programs like Upstream Kelowna are adept at addressing.

In 2022/23, Upstream Kelowna served approximately 59 youth per month, with services lasting for an average of five months. Moving forward, the goal is to expand Upstream Canada to all eight public middle schools in Kelowna, increasing the reach and impact of the program. By doing so, Upstream Canada aims to uplift more young people, prevent homelessness, and ensure that no youth falls through the gaps of society's safety nets.

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Centring Lived Experience in Research: A Collection of Resources to Support Inclusive and Compassionate Engagement

Whether developing surveys or engaging with research participants, how can we be sure we are not perpetuating patterns of oppression and harm? How do we centre lived experience in our research work? Are we genuinely being inclusive of the communities we aim to reach? Is our language effectively communicating our intended message?

These questions prompted Making the Shift Demonstration Lab (MtS DEMS) researchers, in partnership with the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (COH), to curate a collection of resources for the Homelessness Learning Hub. They serve as a starting point for those working towards including people with living experience in a more meaningful way in research, programming and decision-making processes.

For researchers, the collection shares practical advice, covering topics such as inclusive survey design, clarity of language, and respectful remuneration practices. The resources also highlight the importance of approaching the research process with intention and compassion while being mindful of inclusionary and exclusionary practices. This involves considering those who have been historically invisibilized and continuously left out.

While the intent of this collection is not necessarily to provide definite answers to the questions posed above, it presents various viewpoints on these issues. One thing is evident: people with lived/living experience must lead this work. “Nothing about us, without us” is the message here.

Through the development of this collection, the MtS DEMS team aims to prompt meaningful conversations and encourage researchers to approach their work with intention and empathy. Ultimately, incorporating diverse perspectives, especially those of individuals who have lived or living experience of homelessness, is essential for creating more authentic and impactful research outcomes.

We encourage you to explore this collection and consider the valuable perspectives it offers.

INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

International Transitions from Child Protection Symposium

In October 2023, the two-day International Transitions from Child Protection Symposium was held in Richmond, British Columbia. The Symposium was co-hosted by A Way Home Canada, the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness and our Making the Shift Youth Homelessness Social Innovation Lab and sponsored by the Home Depot Canada Foundation and Porticus and funded in part by the Government of Canada.

The symposium united individuals from Canada and abroad connected to the child welfare and youth homelessness sectors, including decision-makers, researchers, policymakers, service providers, and first-voice advocates speaking with lived experience of the child welfare system, homelessness, or both. The symposium was intended to facilitate cross-sectoral dialogue, providing an opportunity to identify promising practices and opportunities for action, ensuring successful transitions to adulthood, preventing youth homelessness, and fostering positive life outcomes for youth in and from care.

It is well known that having experience with child welfare increases the risk of youth homelessness and can lead to various negative outcomes, such as early substance use, lower educational achievement, a higher number of adverse childhood experiences, mental health issues, involvement with the justice system, and more (Barker et al., 2014; Bonakdar et al., 2023; Gaetz et al., 2016; Ryan et al., 2013). First-voice advocates consistently highlight the challenges perpetuated by current systems, and these accounts are supported by service providers, public service data, and academic research (Doucet & The National Council of Youth in Care Advocates, 2020).

These outcomes for youth are entirely preventable and are a result of failures in our child welfare systems and the sociopolitical context they exist. We discussed policy failures, including inconsistent child welfare policies, injustice in youth "aging out" of care, difficulties in developing relationships, the impact of colonialism, discrimination, and the need for trauma-informed, culturally safe, harm-reduction approaches. We also touched on the dangers of emphasizing "independence" over "interdependence" and the dominant paternalistic approach in child welfare that fails to center youth voice and youth choice in this work.

The symposium provided a holistic perspective on transitions from care and encouraged us to think about the issue through a new lens. It also facilitated cross-country connections, provided insight into how other sectors approach transitions, and showcased inspiring work and nuanced research in the field. Most importantly, it emphasized the hope for equitable transitions for youth in and from care and the possibility of change.

Moving forward, we are committed to sustaining the connections established during the symposium and fostering new collaborations with organizations and sectors that share similar priorities. What was clear to us, is that no single organization or sector can create the change that we hope to see on their own. We recognize the value of diverse approaches to the issue and believe that by uniting our efforts, we can collectively contribute to a more comprehensive and impactful response.

The symposium also highlighted the need for consistent adoption of Equitable Standards, accountability and evaluation of policies and programs. This reaffirms our commitment to supporting the important work of the National Council of Youth in Care Advocates, who are advancing calls for change in 8 pillars that impact transitions to adulthood. These pillars are an example of one of the many initiatives led by first-voice advocates, and are a great place for all of us to start to align our actions toward more just and equitable transitions from care.

Funded Research Projects and Network Members

We have a total of thirty-nine research projects, with 8 projects concluded and thirty-one projects underway. For more information about these projects and their impact, visit our website project page.

Concluded Projects

EQUIP Housing: Enacting culturally safe housing stability for Indigenous youth finding home

Principal Investigator: *Abe Oudshoorn, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry*

Network Member: *Western University*

Understanding Black Youth's Experiences of Homelessness and the Role of Prevention

Principal Investigator: *Stephen Gaetz, Scientific Director, Making the Shift & Carl James, Professor, Faculty of Education & Gillian Parekh, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education*

Network Member: *York University*

Responding to Youth Homelessness in the Midst of a Pandemic: Shifting to collaborative, prevention-based services in a large urban setting

Principal Investigator: *Amanda Noble, Assistant Professor, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work & Naomi Thulien, Assistant Professor School of Nursing, McMaster University*

Network Member: *University of Toronto*

Understanding Young Women's Experiences of Loneliness and Isolation During COVID-19 and Beyond: Participatory research to envision a way forward

Principal Investigator: *Erin Dej, Assistant Professor, Criminology*

Network Member: *Wilfrid Laurier University*

The Impacts Of COVID-19 On LGBTQ2S Youth At-Risk Of, And Experiencing, Homelessness

Principal Investigator: *Alex Abramovich, Independent Scientist, Institute for Mental Health Policy Research*

Network Member: *Centre for Addiction and Mental Health*

Opportunities for Innovation: Indigenous youth coping with homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic in the Kenora region

Principal Investigator: *Joanna Henderson, Director; Senior Scientist; Margaret and Wallace McCain Centre for Child, Youth and Family Mental Health; Child, Youth and Emerging Adult Program & Jennifer Dreaver, Children Mental Health Leader, Mental Health & Addictions (MHA), Kenora Chiefs Advisory (KCA)*

Network Member: *Centre for Addiction and Mental Health*

First Nations Interventions

Principal Investigator: *Alex Wilson, Professor and Academic Director, Department of Educational Foundations and the Aboriginal Education Research Centre, College of Education*

Network Member: *University of Saskatchewan*

Exploring Frameworks and Processes for Tracking and Monitoring Service and Housing Wait Times Relevant to the Prevention and Exit from Youth Homelessness

Principal Investigator: *Tyler Frederick, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities*

Network Member: *University of Ontario Institute of Technology*

Projects In Progress

A National Study of Tertiary Prevention Models for Youth Exiting Homelessness

Principal Investigator: *Sean Kidd, Senior Scientist; Division Chief, Psychology & Chris Mushquash, Associate Professor Department of Psychology Lakehead University*

Network Member: *Centre for Addiction and Mental Health*

Examining the Effectiveness of an Integrated Housing, Mental Health and Addiction Service Model for Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Principal Investigator: *Maritt Kirst, Assistant Professor, Psychology*

Network Member: *Wilfrid Laurier University*

Youth Transition from Child Welfare to Precarious Living Conditions: A mixed methods longitudinal study of risk and protective factors in Nova Scotia

Principal Investigator: *Michael Ungar, Professor, Social Work; Canada Research Chair in Child, Family and Community Resilience*

Network Member: *Dalhousie University*

Preventing Discharge to No Fixed Address - Youth (NFA-Y)

Principal Investigator: *Cheryl Forchuk, Scientist; Distinguished University Professor Nursing and Psychiatry, Western University*

Network Member: *Lawson Health Research Institute*

One House Many Nations: A community first approach to address homelessness amongst First Nation youth

Principal Investigator: *Alex Wilson, Professor and Academic Director, Department of Educational Foundations and the Aboriginal Education Research Centre, College of Education*

Network Member: *University of Saskatchewan*

The Upstream Project Canada: Implementation lessons from three demonstration sites and implications for scaling

Principal Investigator: *Rachel Laforest, Associate Professor, Political Science & Jacqueline Sohn, Post-Doctoral Fellow, York University*

Network Member: *Queen's University*

Ai'aoskiikowaata (providing guidance to youth): Supporting healthy transitions from government care to independent living

Principal Investigator: *Janice Victor, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences*

Network Member: *University of Lethbridge*

On the Move: A mixed methods study of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous homelessness and migration in Northeastern Ontario

Principal Investigator: *Carol Kauppi, Professor, School of Social Work; Director, Centre for Research in Social Justice and Policy*

Network Member: *Laurentian University*

Establishing and Mitigating Youth Housing Stability in Response to COVID-19: Engaging with the BC Interior

Principal Investigator: *John Graham, Professor and Director, School of Social Work - Faculty of Health and Social Development & Jordan Babando, Sessional Lecturer, Ryerson University*

Network Member: *University of British Columbia*

Decolonizing Transitions from Care for Indigenous Youth

Principal Investigator: *Cynthia Puddu, Assistant Professor and Director of Community Engaged Scholarship*

Network Member: *MacEwan University*

Using Administrative Data to Understand and Provide Effective Response to Youth Homelessness

Principal Investigator: *Ron Kneebone, Professor, Department of Economics*

Network Member: *University of Calgary*

Making the Prevention Shift in Québec: Prévention Itinérance Jeunesse (PIJ)

Principal Investigator: *Sue-Ann MacDonald, Associate Professor, School of Social Work*

Network Member: *Université de Montréal*

Looking South (and slightly North-East) for School-Based Prevention Ideas: An international comparative policy and practice analysis in Canada, Australia, Wales, and the United States

Principal Investigator: *Jaqueline Kennelly, Full Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology*

Network Member: *Carleton University*

Making the Shift Youth Homelessness Shelter Diversion Study

Principal Investigator: *Katrina Milaney, Associate Professor, Department of Community Health Sciences*

Network Member: *University of Calgary*

Youth Homelessness and Sex Trafficking in Canada

Principal Investigator: *Amanda Noble, Assistant Professor, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work*

Network Member: *University of Toronto*

Co-Creating a Data and Knowledge Roadmap to Support Youth Homelessness Research, Operations, and Policy in Canada

Principal Investigator: *Yale Belanger, Professor, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Arts and Science & Robyn Blackadar, President and CEO, PolicyWise for Children and Families*

Network Member: *University of Lethbridge*

Preventing Youth Homelessness: A life journey approach using linked multi-sector administrative data and community engagement

Principal Investigator: *Jino Distasio, Professor, Department of Geography, Faculty of Geography*

Network Member: *University of Winnipeg*

Youth Homelessness Data Infrastructure (YHDI)

Principal Investigator: *Martin Goyette, Professor*

Network Member: *École nationale d'administration publique (ENAP)*

Using Health and Community Data to Prevent Youth Homelessness

Principal Investigator: *Geoffrey Messier, Professor, Department of Electrical & Software Engineering, Schulich School of Engineers*

Network Member: *University of Calgary*

Improving Frontend User Experiences by Mapping the Backend Architecture: A cross-sectoral data and infrastructure audit

Principal Investigator: *Naomi Nichols, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology*

Network Member: *Trent University*

Examining Long Term Trajectories in the Transition Away from Youth Homelessness in Four Cities across Canada

Principal Investigator: *Tyler Frederick, Assistant Professor, Department of Criminology & Justice, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities*

Network Member: *University of Ontario Institute of Technology*

Post-Secondary Student Homelessness (PSSH) in Canada: Informing prevention through qualitative analysis

Principal Investigator: *Eric Weissman, Assistant Professor, Department Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts*

Network Member: *University of New Brunswick Saint John*

Pathways Interrupted: 2SLGBTQ youth leading responses to hidden homelessness in Ontario, Canada

Principal Investigator: *Alex Abramovich, Scientist, Institute for Mental Health Policy Research*

Network Member: *Centre for Addiction and Mental Health*

Building a Human Rights and Youth-Centred Approach to Eviction Law and Practice

Principal Investigator: *Sarah Buhler, Associate Professor, College of Law*

Network Member: *University of Saskatchewan*

Youth Leaving Care - From State Care into Homelessness: Prevention and early intervention

Principal Investigator: *Barbar Fallon, Professor, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work & Elena Lifshits Carrera, Manager, Policy and Research*

Network Member: *University of Toronto*

Pursuing Justice: Bilateral interactions among the criminal justice and housing sectors for preventing youth homelessness

Principal Investigator: *Erin Dej, Assistant Professor, Criminology*

Network Member: *Wilfrid Laurier University*

Sharing Our Stories: Pathways into and out of homelessness for Métis Nation youth in Living Ontario

Principal Investigator: *Sarah Edwards, Assistant Professor, Dalla Lana School of Public Health*

Network Member: *University of Toronto, Association of Native Child and Family Services Agencies of Ontario*

Between Homelessness and Care (and Back Again): Navigating complex institutional trajectories among young people who use drugs in Greater Vancouver

Principal Investigator: *Danya Fast, Assistant Professor, Medicine*

Network Member: *University of British Columbia*

Identifying Pathways, Key Turning Points and Potential Points of Intervention into Youth Homelessness for Pregnant Youth and Young Mothers

Principal Investigator: *Christine Stitch, Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics & Occupational Health*

Network Member: *McGill University*

Transitioning Youth Out of Homelessness 2.0: A pilot randomized rent subsidy and identity capital intervention for youth exiting homelessness

Principal Investigator: *Naomi Thulien, Staff Scientist, Map Centre for Urban Health Solutions*

Network Member: *Unity Health Toronto*

Art as Knowledge Mobilization: Amplifying youth voices to inform harm reduction practices for preventing youth homelessnes

Principal Investigator: *Ciann Wilson, Associate Professor, Community Psychology*

Network Member: *Wilfred Laurier University*

List of Demonstration Projects

Twelve demonstration projects in 10 communities are implementing and testing two models: Family and Natural Supports and Upstream. For more information about the demonstration projects and their impact, visit our website project page.

HAMILTON
Good Shepherd Centres
Family and Natural Supports

TORONTO
Covenant House
Family and Natural Supports

CALGARY
Trellis (formerly Boys and Girls Club of Calgary)
Family and Natural Supports

KELOWNA
BGC - Okanagan
Upstream

KELOWNA
Canadian Mental Health Association - Kelowna
Family and Natural Supports

YORK REGION
360 Kids
Family and Natural Supports

FREDERICTON
Youth in Transition
Family and Natural Supports

GRAND PRAIRIE
Sunrise House (Grande Prairie Youth Emergency Shelter)
Family and Natural Supports

VICTORIA
Threshold Housing Society
Family and Natural Supports

VANCOUVER
Pacific Community Resource Society
Family and Natural Supports

ST. JOHNS
Choices for Youth
Upstream

ST. JOHNS
Choices for Youth
Family and Natural Supports

List of Network Partners

In addition to the committees listed here, the Making the Shift team is appreciative of the ongoing work, advice and partnerships provided by the MtS Scholars with Lived Experience (LivEx) Network, Indigenous, and International Advisories.

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- **Eric Weissman**
  Associate Professor, Sociology, Department of Social Sciences, University of New Brunswick
- **Veniecia Laylor**
  Senior Analyst, Social Finance

Research Management Committee

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- **Melanie Redman**
  President and CEO, A Way Home Canada
- **Cheryl Forchuk**
  Theme 1 Lead (Shifting to Prevention and Early Intervention), Scientist, Assistant Director, Lawson Health Research Institute
- **Katrina Milaney**
  Theme 2 Lead (Sustaining Successful Exits from Homelessness), Assistant Professor in Community Rehabilitation and Disability Studies, University of Calgary
- **Maritt Kirst**
  Theme 3 Lead (Enabling Health, Well-Being, and Inclusion), Assistant Professor and Co-Program Coordinator, Community Psychology Program, Department of Psychology Co-Director, Centre for Community Learning, Research and Action (CCRLA), Wilfrid Laurier University
- **Victoria Smye**
  Theme 4 Lead (Enhancing Outcomes for Indigienous Youth) Director & Associate Professor, Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing, Western University
- **Nicole Kozloff**
  Theme 5 Lead (Leveraging Data and Technology to Drive Policy and Practice), Clinician-Scientist, Slaight Family Centre for Youth in Transition, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)
- **Kathleen Worton**
  Senior Specialist, Research, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)
- **Patrick Hunter**
  Manager of Data Analysis & Reporting, Infrastructure Canada
- **Duncan Farthing-Nichol**
  Litigation and Policy Manager, Indigenous Services Canada
- **Matt Morton**
  Executive Director, Constellation Lab (CoLab), Constellation Fund
- **Jayne Malenfant**
  Assistant Professor, Integrated Studies in Education, McGill University and LivEx Member

Implementation Management Committee

- **David Phipps (Co-Chair)**
  Assistant Vice-President, Research Strategy & Impact, York University
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- **David French**
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  CEO, 360 Kids
- **Michael Nowina**
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- **Mike Gawliuk**
  Director, Service Delivery and Program Innovation, CMHA Kelowna
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  Director, Policy and Research, UNICEF Canada
- **Stephen Gaetz**
  President & CEO, Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, York University
- **Amy Bilodeau**
  Senior Manager, Community Investment, The Home Depot Canada
- **Alex Nelson**
  Doctoral Candidate, Western University and MtS LivEx Member

Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position as of March 31, 2024

	2024	2023
Funds available for use	$5,297,977	$9,885,398
Accounts receivable	$28,986	$23,040
Funding advanced	$1,126,361	$1,269,191
	$6,453,324	**$11,177,629**
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$259,083	$229,251
Deferred revenues	$6,194,241	$10,948,378
	$6,453,324	**$11,177,629**
Unrestricted	-	-
	$6,453,324	$11,177,629

Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets Year Ended March 31, 2024

	2024	2023
REVENUES	-	-
	$5,274,430	**$4,321,965**
EXPENSES		
Research	$3,880,909	$2,864,064
General and administrative	$764,345	$605,863
Training	$172,294	$388,481
Knowledge mobilization and communication	$456,882	$463,557
	$5,274,430	**$4,321,965**
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	-	-
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF PERIOD	-	-
	-	-

MAKING THE SHIFT INC

canadian
observatory on
homelessness

A WAY HOME
VERS UN CHEZ-SOI
CANADA

Toronto Centre of Excellence on
Youth Homelessness Prevention
at York University