



**United Way**  
**Peterborough & District**  
uwpeterborough.ca

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** – January 5, 2022

## **United Way Peterborough and District Announces "Emergency Winter Response to Homelessness Initiative"**

**PETERBOROUGH, ON (January 5, 2022)** – United Way Peterborough & District is pleased to announce its Emergency Winter Response to Homelessness Initiative, funded by the Government of Canada's Reaching Home program.

As the Community Entity for the Government of Canada's *Reaching Home* program, United Way Peterborough & District was recently informed of a \$1.12 million incremental increase in funding, bringing the total annual community allocation to \$1,469,224. UWP convened a community conversation with agencies, city officials, and advocates, all of whom are dealing directly with the issue of homelessness in the community. The purpose was to understand more clearly how best to invest the money as an emergency response to homelessness during the winter.

United Way Peterborough & District CEO Jim Russell notes **"The leadership of the Federal Government in prioritizing ending homelessness is greatly appreciated. Our consultation identified 4 critical areas for the coming months."**

Those included:

- Outreach particularly outside of 9-5
- Safe after-hours drop-in space for people banned or choosing not to enter shelter system
- Health care outreach and COVID testing for homeless individuals
- Adding more permanent housing options for people experiencing homelessness

Ten community partners will be funded through to March 31, 2022. (see attached).

**"Everyone deserves a safe and affordable place to call home. Our government is committed to supporting our most vulnerable, especially those in the Peterborough area who are experiencing or are at risk of being homeless. We will continue to do our part to help those who need it most and ensure no one is left behind."**

-Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion

The success of this initiative will be monitored through ongoing data collection. The United Way will produce a final report on the outcomes and impact of their Emergency Winter Response to Homelessness Initiative.

**"This is clearly a stopgap, for the next 4 months. We want to make sure as much as possible that people do not die alone in the cold. What is critically needed is permanent safe, affordable housing for people."** Russell states.



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For more information, please contact:

Jim Russell, CEO, United Way Peterborough & District  
T: 705-742-8839 E: [jrussell@uwpeterborough.ca](mailto:jrussell@uwpeterborough.ca)



## Emergency Winter Response to Homelessness Initiative

### THE URBAN CLINIC - BROCK STREET MISSION

Funding allocated to Brock Street Mission will help to establish a drop-in, volunteer Nurse Practitioner-led clinic, providing primary health care services and rapid COVID testing 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### PEER SUPPORT HOUSING OUTREACH PROGRAM

Funding to the Elizabeth Fry Society of Peterborough will hire 2 individuals with lived experience of homelessness as Peer Support Housing Outreach workers part-time for the next 5 months. This program supports individuals being released from the hospital or correctional institutions who are experiencing housing instability and/or homelessness.

### CARE AT THE CORE - PARN

Peterborough Aids Resource Network funding will provide emergency financial assistance to clients experiencing housing insecurity or homelessness and link homeless Cis and Trans women who use substances with community-based health resources. Funding will also enhance the HIV and Hepatitis C prevention and support work conducted through the Harm Reduction Works program.

### OVERNIGHT WINTER DROP IN

An after hours, low-barrier, warm space will be provided One City Peterborough through the funding that clients will be able to access after hours, between midnight and 6:00 am. Trained staff will also be available.

### TRANSITIONAL HOUSING START UP

Canadian Mental Health HKPR funding will be used for start-up expenses related to the opening and operating of their new transitional housing facility.

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH RESPONSE INITIATIVE (CORI)

This program focuses on those who are living outside, couchsurfing or with service restrictions from shelters and supportive housing providers. One City Peterborough provides outreach services to assist individuals in acquiring survival gear, navigating services available to them such as coordinated access, housing wait-lists and medical and mental health resources and appeals processes with organizations with which they have service restrictions.

### A NEW BEGINNING - JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY OF PETERBOROUGH

Funding will be used to finalize the renovation and setup of new, local transitional housing that will welcome initial clients in January. Six of the first clients will be from the By-name-Priority-List. A Case Manager will assist with the transition from homelessness to housed and, work with clients to establish routines, focus on living skills and building community.

### REACHING HOME HOUSING SUPPORT PROGRAM

Over the past year the Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre has successfully managed a housing and homelessness program, however the project is only funded until December 31, 2021. Through this funding they will be able to continue to operate the program until March 31, 2022, providing housing services, prevention and shelter diversion services and client support services.

### HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION FLEX FUNDS - COMMUNITY COUNSELLING AND RESOURCE CENTRE

The Homelessness Prevention Flex Fund will respond to housing-related needs that cannot be addressed by other funds, but that prevent loss of housing and promote housing stability.

### HOSTILE UNIT TAKEOVER CMHA HKPR

Funding will be used by Canadian Mental Health Association HKPR to provide individuals who are victims of Housing Unit Takeovers, with motel accommodations, food vouchers, and funds for transportation. Funds will also assist in the eviction of squatters from these individuals units, provide a deep clean and complete any repairs to the unit required.

“ THIS IS CLEARLY A STOP GAP, FOR THE NEXT 4 MONTHS. WE WANT TO MAKE SURE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE THAT PEOPLE DO NOT DIE ALONE IN THE COLD. WHAT IS CRITICALLY NEEDED IS PERMANENT SAFE, AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR PEOPLE. ”

-JIM RUSSELL, CEO, UNITED WAY PETERBOROUGH & DISTRICT

