

# Women's Advisory Council Halifax

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# Statistics

- ▶ In Nova Scotia, women earn less than men in total income, despite equal participation in the workforce.
- ▶ 2019 report card: women in Halifax take home \$10,830 less per year than men, and over 17 per cent of all women in the city are living in poverty<sup>[1]</sup>.
- ▶ Women from marginalized communities, including Indigenous and racialized women, seniors, and those living with disabilities, are particularly susceptible to the effects of poverty<sup>[2]</sup>.

<sup>[1]</sup> Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. 2019. [The Best and Worst Places to be a Woman in Canada 2019.](#)

<sup>[2]</sup> Housing Nova Scotia [2019-2022 Action Plan](#)

# Statistics continued...

- Almost 70 per cent of public housing tenants are women.
- Over 60 per cent of applicants to public housing identify as female.
- Approximately 18 per cent of public housing tenants are lone-parent families, and most are female-led households.
- Two-thirds of public housing units are seniors' units, 65 per cent are female occupants.
- Approximately 60 per cent of rent-supplement clients are female.

<sup>[4]</sup> Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. [2021 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Nova Scotia.](#)

<sup>[5]</sup> Statistics Canada. 2017, [Nova Scotia Census Profile. 2016 Census.](#)

# Statistics continued...

- ▶ Nova Scotia has the third highest rate of children living in low-income households across Canada, and the highest rate in Atlantic Canada.
- ▶ 41,213 children or one in four children in Nova Scotia are living in poverty.
- ▶ In Nova Scotia over 53 percent children in lone parent families were found to be living below the poverty line<sup>[4]</sup> and are women-led<sup>[5]</sup>.

<sup>[3]</sup> [Housing Nova Scotia 2019-2022 Action Plan](#)

<sup>[4]</sup> [Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. 2021 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Nova Scotia.](#)

<sup>[5]</sup> [Statistics Canada. 2017, Nova Scotia Census Profile. 2016 Census.](#)

# What does it take to move a family from homelessness to housing?

Diverting Families from Shelter to Home reveals the answer: **appropriate supports.**

191 families with 361 children diverted from shelter

3 Steps

(Data from September 2017 - March 2021)



Average monthly one time financial & practical supports: **\$2429**  
April 2020 - March 2021

Average monthly rent subsidy of **\$245<sup>00</sup>**

**\$29,152**  
April 2020 - March 2021  
spent on one time financial supports  
such as: hotel stays, food security, oil, rent, power arrears, furniture, damage deposits

Parents are able to decide the level of support they receive.

**1. INTERVENE** Intervention reduces the trauma and stress parents and children are exposed to and can experience.

**2. HELP** Poverty is identified as a core reason for family instability. Diverting Families is able to reduce financial stress.

**3. SUPPORT** Case management support helps families to heal from trauma, build their self-confidence, and re-gain their autonomy.

Check-in's range from daily, weekly, biweekly, and monthly depending on family needs.

## STRUCTURE



Families led by single-mothers are the most common family structure in the program.

Repetitive episodes of couch surfing were common.

**PAST**  
Many parents had previously experienced periods of housing instability. For many, this started in childhood as a result of their own parents being homeless or insecurely housed.

**HOPE**  
Our hope is to have better outcomes for children at school, with their health and behaviours. By ending children's homelessness, we hope to stem the flow of people into homelessness in later years.

**Milestone!**  
This year marked a whole year without a child in the shelter!

Many had previous stays in shelter.

**35** Graduated

\*Segaert, Aaron. The National Shelter Study: Emergency Shelter Use in Canada, 2005-2009. [Ottawa, ON]: Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, 2012.

**49** families stably housed

Children are no longer ashamed of their housing.

# Diverting Families

# Diverting Families continued...



*“When you’re homeless, it’s like being in the middle of a storm. It’s very easy to get lost...”*

*At a time of such crisis, sometimes Adsum saw my needs before I did because I was so overwhelmed. Knowing they had my family’s best interests in mind allowed me to focus on my most important job – ensuring my boys were ok.*

*Being able to focus on being a mother – despite the chaos going on around me – was so important for my children’s well-being.”*

# Diverting Families continued...



*"I am so grateful for the support we have received from Adsum. I hope that mothers like me who might be afraid and hesitant to leave dangerous situations know that there are resources and services available for them through Adsum. There is hope."*



# Adsum Centre

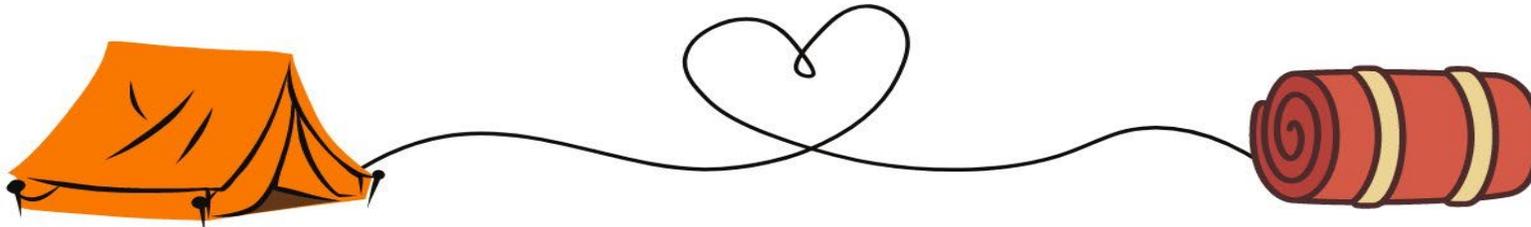
# The Sunflower



# The Sunflower continued...



# Shelter Diversion



WE ARE LOOKING FOR DONATIONS TO HELP THOSE SLEEPING OUTSIDE BY SETTING THEM UP WITH NECESSARY GEAR!

## **TENT AND SLEEPING BAG DRIVE!**

Wondering How You Can Help?

Donations of tents and sleeping bags in new or lightly used condition can be delivered:

**July 4 2022 - August 9 2022**

**Drop offs Mon-Fri 9:30-3:30**

**Tents: Welcome Housing @ 2330 Gottingen St,  
Halifax, NS B3K B36**

**Sleeping Bags: Adsum @ 2421 Brunswick Street  
Halifax, NS B3K 2Z4**



All donations dropped off will be distributed to those sleeping outside. Both sites will be giving to all genders. We acknowledge this is not a permanent solution to homelessness, but we feel it is important to support some of our most vulnerable community members this summer.