

March 21, 2024

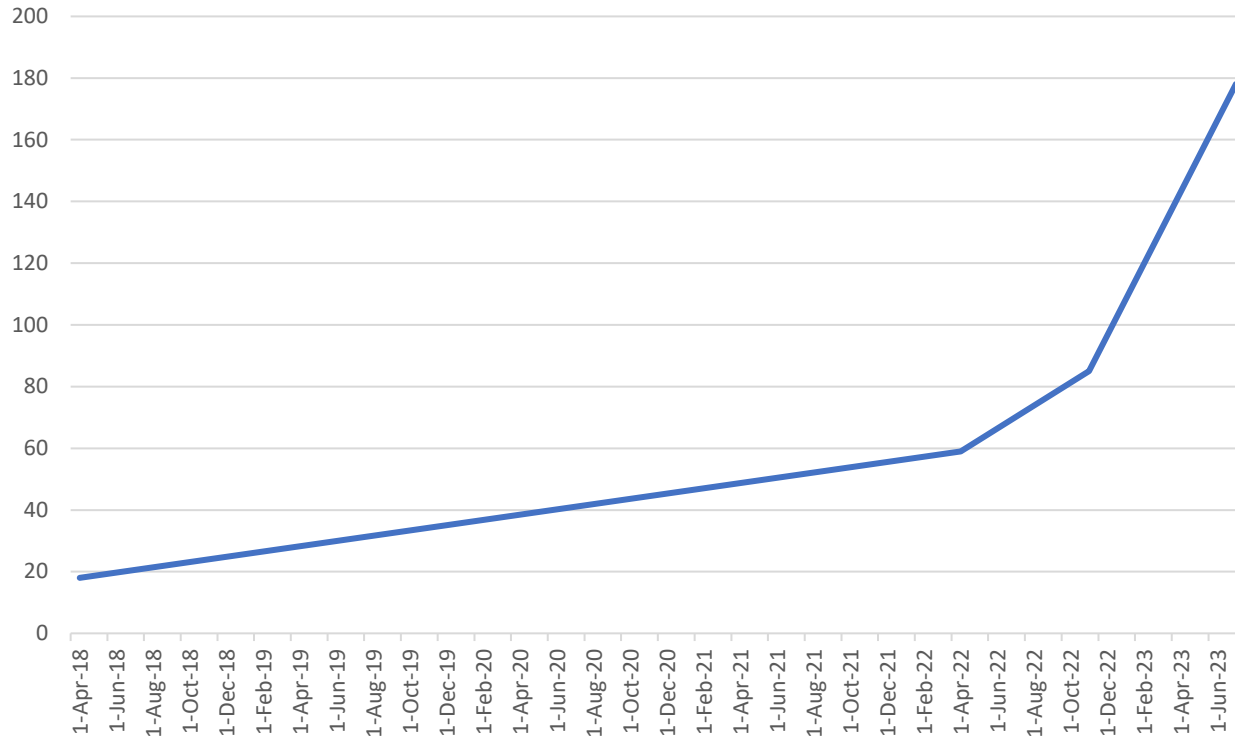
HALIFAX

Housing and Homeless Update

HRM Youth Advisory Council

Power House

Growing homelessness crisis



Number of unhoused

2018: 18 people
April 2022: 59 people
Nov. 2022: 85 people
July 2023: 178 people
Fall 2023: 200+ people (est)

By Name List: Over 1,180 as March 19, 2024 – 4%/month

Marginalized overrepresented

- First Nations, Metis, Inuit or Indigenous Ancestry 22%
- African NS, Black, Caribbean, or African Descent 15%
- 2SLGBTQ+ 15%
- Former Youth in Care 27%

Disabilities and health issues

- Mental health challenges 63%
- Substance use 59%
- Physically disabled 37%
- Learning or cognitive delays 36%
- After birth brain injury 22%

I'd like to be in my own apartment. They said it would be two or more years. I can't wait that long. I'll be in the ground before then!

The solution



Deeply affordable housing

- Permanent housing
- Housing geared to income.
- Safe, supportive, sustainable, and accessible.
- Continuous building to meet demand.

The future

- Rental pressures will continue for the foreseeable future.
- More than 30,000 households are in core housing need.
- January 1, 2024: 5% rent increases.
- Population increasing faster than housing stock.
- Students and refugees without housing.
- Insufficient public plans in place to address the need for deeply affordable housing.

***People in the shelters will kill you to take your money.
People could rob me in my tent. No where is safe.***

Community impact

- People trying to help (and in some cases) doing harm
- Loss of recreation assets
- Waste and garbage maintenance
- Health and safety concerns
- Trauma within and around encampments
- Predatory criminal element
- Impact on local business
- Impact on tourism and events

I would call the police if there was a crisis. I know I am not supposed to say that. But I have no friends on the street. I can't trust no one, and no one has my back. So, if I need help from police, I will call them. However, if I do call them, I am a rat. I then become labelled and even more unsafe.

The Ultimate Goal

That every resident should have a home that is safe, supportive, and sustainable and that all homes should be purposely constructed for long-term human habitation, built to safety codes and standards, and be in a suitable location based on municipal planning strategies

A real bed in a house or apartment.

A warm house, not even a house, just four walls and a building that is not outside.

At least something inside.

Roles for the municipality

The Province of Nova Scotia holds the formal responsibilities for social services, health care, and housing. People with no place to go often end up sheltering in parks or other municipal property. HRM has four roles it can play in helping to address the homelessness crisis.

1. Supporting all residents sheltering outside
2. Supporting precariously housed persons and families to stay housed
3. Supporting public education efforts
4. Facilitating the construction and maintenance of affordable and deeply affordable housing

Recent Activities

- Active groups opposing encampments, shelters, and supportive housing
- Commitment to tiny homes, pallet shelters and other spaces
- Replacement space for the Forum
- Closure of encampment sites



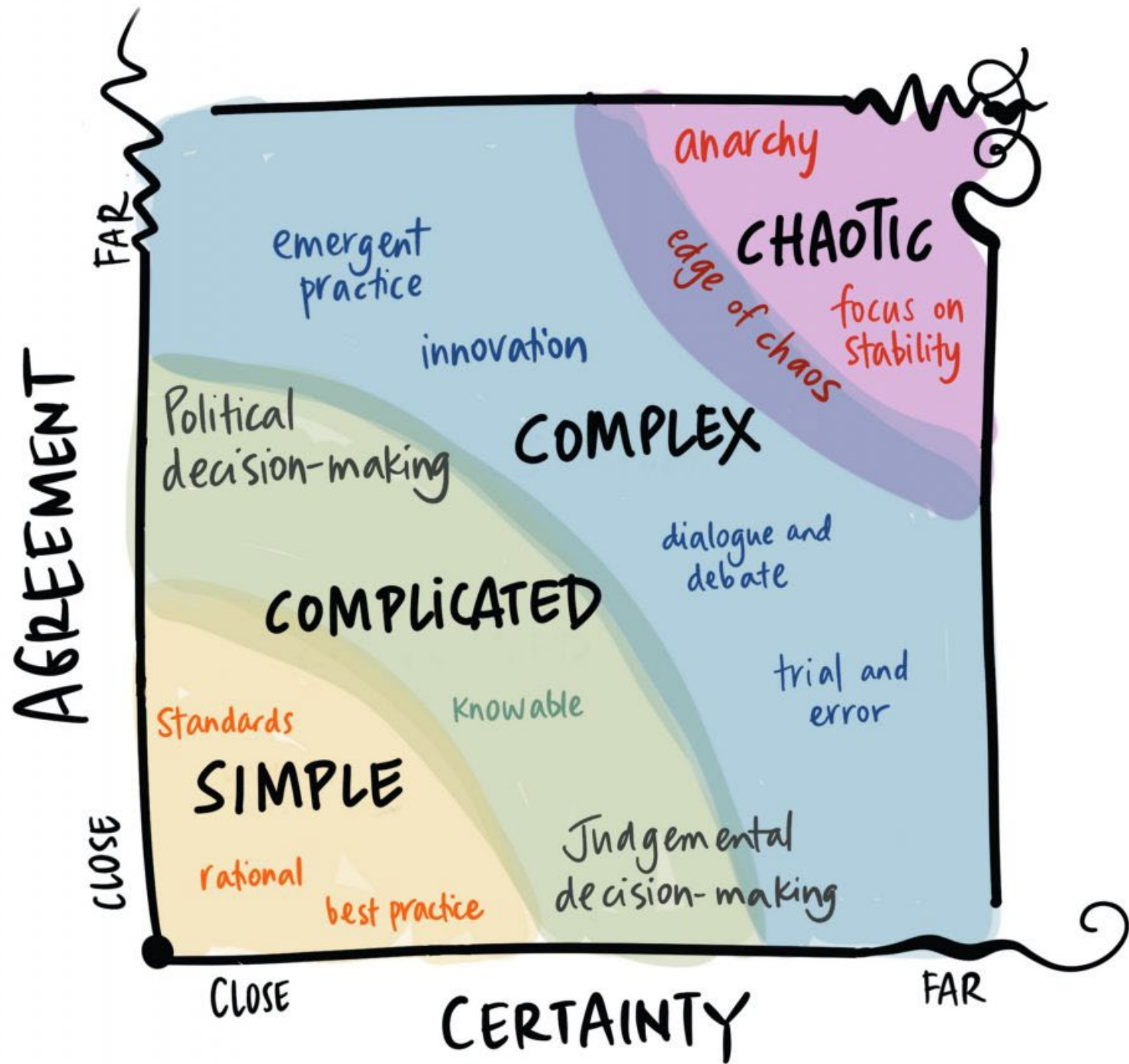
NO
PALLETT
HOMES
IN THE PIER

Big questions:

- How do we preserve existing stock?
- How do we address the number of people living in vehicles?
- How do we address active hatred and abuse of persons experiencing homelessness?
- How do we convince the Province and the Federal Governments to invest in deeply affordable housing?
- How do we address the issues with encampments and not create concentration camps in the process?
- How do we engage with those that have 'check out'?

Big questions:

- How do we address the issues with encampments, people sleeping rough and not create concentration camps in the process?
- How do we support trauma informed and harm reduction practices but address significant core issues to the crisis such as serious criminal activity around drugs and human trafficking ?
- How do we address gaping holes in the system, beyond housing, such as space for couples, youth, seniors, single room occupancy, and harm reduction based facilities?





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