



# ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

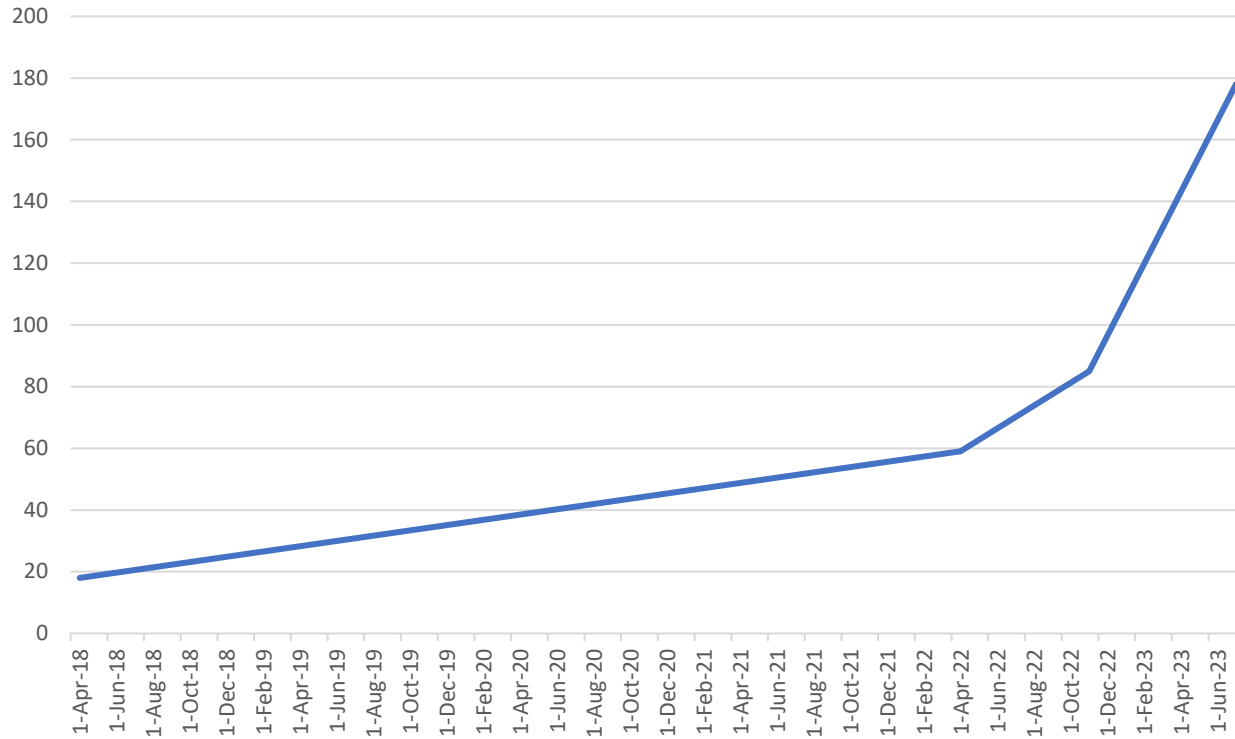
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**Monday Oct. 7, 2024**

*HRM's Approach to Homelessness  
and approach to winter sheltering*

**HALIFAX**

# Growing homelessness crisis

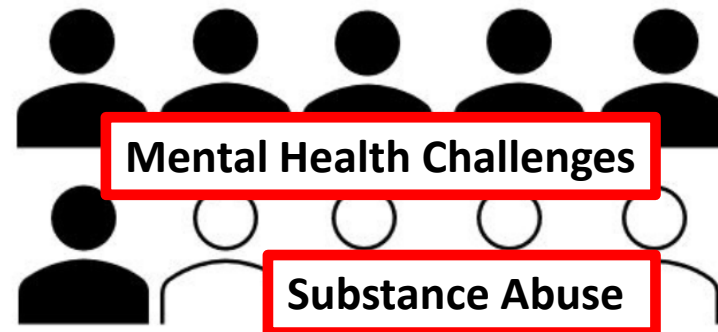
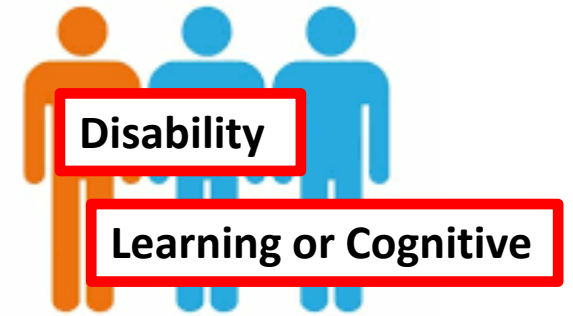


## Number of unhoused

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

By Name List: Over 1,285 as Oct. 2, 2024 –  4%/month

# Who are those people sleeping rough



# What the experts tell us

- People wants are simple: food, water, protection from elements, washroom, safe place to sleep and for valuables.
- People are highly stigmatized.
- Don't care about orders of Government ... just need help.
- Violence is a regular part of everyday life.
- 50% would call the police for help.

# The solution



## Deeply affordable housing

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

# HRMs Approach to Homelessness

**Homelessness and Housing, along with health care, community services, are all responsibilities of the Province of Nova Scotia.**

- Humanitarian aid
- Prevent people from becoming homeless
- Public education
- Facilitate the creation and preservation of affordable and deeply affordable housing
- Support Provincial sheltering and housing projects

# Accessibility Concerns

- High numbers of people sleeping rough struggling with disabilities.
- Some facilities are not accessible or fully accessible.
- Sleeping rough by its very nature is not accessible and many people struggle.
- Accessibility activities or initiatives focus primarily on permanent physical barriers.
- People working in the sector have inconsistent and, in some cases, insufficient training to support people.
- Insufficient support for staff who have a disability to be successful in their own employment.

# Intermediary options

- Day Centre and support services
- Communal shelters – Hfx Forum
- Temporary housing
  - Pallet Shelters
  - The Bridge or Waverly Inn
- Permanent housing
  - Overlook
  - Apartments
  - Tiny homes





# 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 now permitted.
- Population increasing faster than housing stock.
- Active loss of housing stock.
- Students and refugees without housing.
- Insufficient plans in place to address the need for deeply affordable and affordable housing.

# Next 6 months

- Shubie Campground – 17 RVs
  - 85 Pallet Shelters
  - Tiny Home for 70 people in Sackville – Oct and Dec
  - 55 Supportive Housing units at the Cove
  - One additional option for 25 people
- 
- Enough space for those sleeping rough IF structured to meet their needs ... which it will not be.

**HAVE  
THREE  
OPTIONS**



- Additional Winter Shelter
- Power in encampments
- Winter camping gear

# Big questions:

- 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?
- How do we prevent the growth of encampments in the future as more people need and want to shelter outside?
- How do we convince and support the Province and the Federal Governments to invest in deeply affordable supportive housing?

# Big questions:

- 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 ?
- At what point do we help too much and damage people's level of resilience?
- How do we support the sector so it can meet the needs?



**Max Chauvin, Director of Housing and Homelessness  
Halifax Regional Municipality**

**[chauvim@halifax.ca](mailto:chauvim@halifax.ca)**

**902 456 7420**