

Re: Item 9.1.2



# Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee.

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**Thursday Nov. 14, 2024**

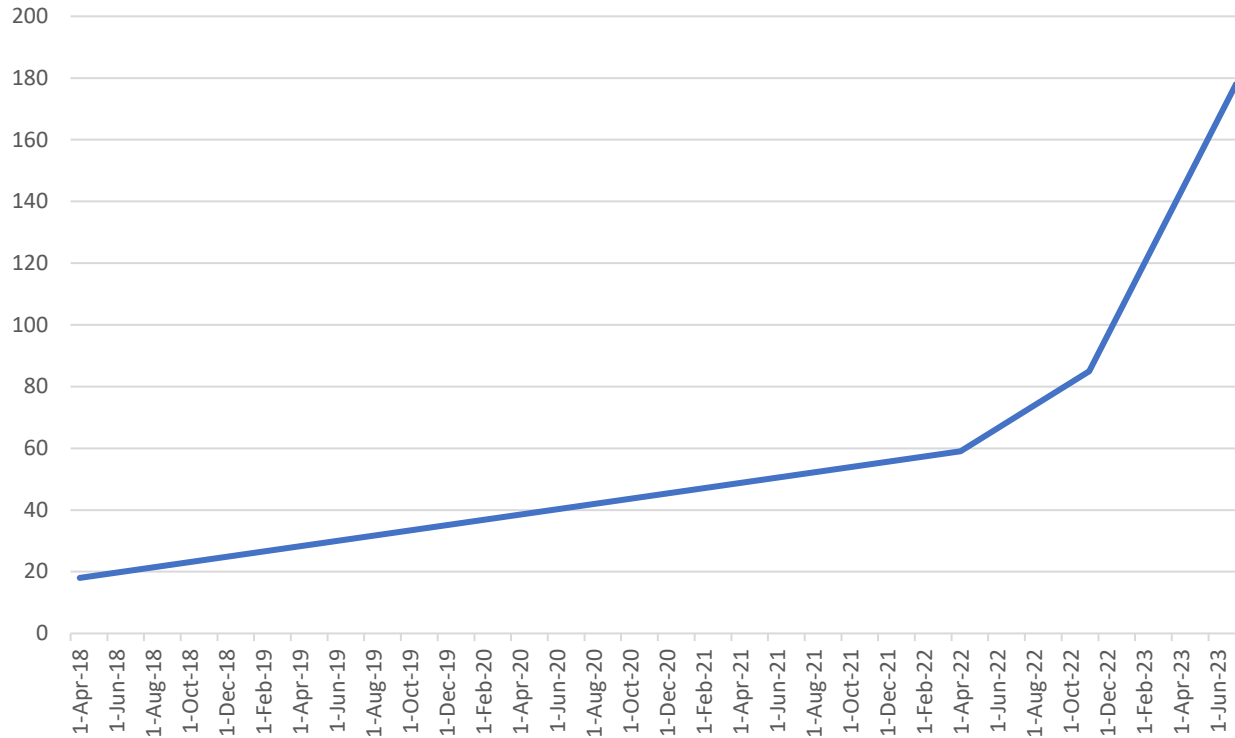
*HRM's Approach to Homelessness  
and approach to winter sheltering*

**HALIFAX**

# Homeless is a symptom

- Lack of suitable housing stock
- Poverty
- Access to health care
- Sense of community and belonging
- Food insecurity
- Racism, classism, intolerance
- Access to education
- Disability
- Criminalization

# Growing homelessness crisis

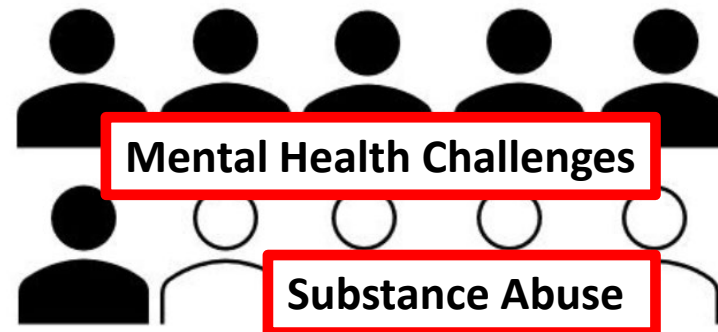


## Number of unhoused

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

By Name List: Over 1,314 as Nov. 12, 2024 –  4%/month

# Who are those people sleeping rough

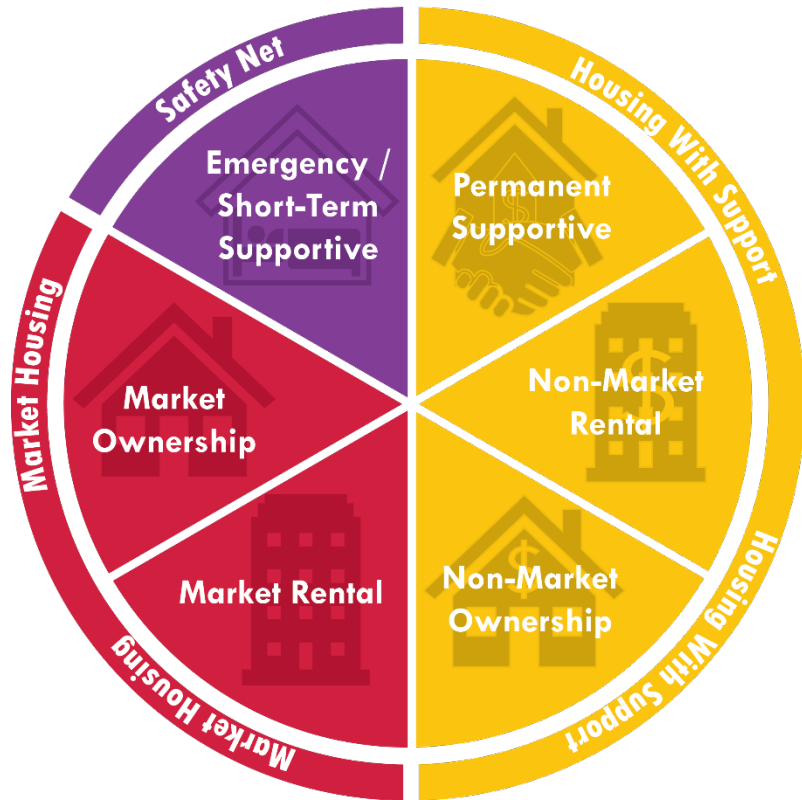


# What the experts tell us

- 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

# Encampments are bad

- No stability & security
- Severe stress
- Mental and physical health
- Violence
- Unsanitary conditions
- Ability to live and progress
- Loss of public spaces
- Garbage and waste
- Community cohesion
- Crime
- Economic impact
- Opportunity costs



# Designation of Encampments

**“It's not good. There is no good. It's what there is!”**

- Restricted by available space
- Needs of clients
- Impact in the community
  
- Groups of 4 – 6 tents is ideal
- Need outstrips ability to manage the numbers of people experiencing homelessness and sheltering in encampments without more resources.

# 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 people 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.

# Current and Pending Activities

- Shubie Campground – 17 RVs
  - 85 Pallet Shelters
  - Tiny Home for 70 people in Sackville
  - 55 Supportive Housing units
  - One additional option for 25 people
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- Enough space for those sleeping rough IF structured to meet their needs.

**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?



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