

MEDIA RELEASE

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A Youth Housing Study for BC's Capital Region

An estimated 616 individual youth and young adults are in need of housing in BC's Capital Region. Homeless or unstably housed youth from 13 to 30 years of age have been reported to require a range of different supports and services.

These are some of many findings of a youth housing survey to estimate the number of youth and young adults aged 13-30 in housing need, outline gaps in service and assets and provide a basis for beginning to develop a 10-year housing plan for youth. Twenty-six youth service agencies responded to the survey undertaken in March 2008.

"Service providers confirmed what I see and hear all too often in my work with youth in this region," says Marion Little, Executive Director of Threshold Housing Society. "They told us about the lack of safe, affordable, supportive housing. They told us they are seeing more young families with nowhere to live, and more young mothers who need long-term supports. They confirmed the need for housing services for youth and young adults who live beyond the downtown core."

As well as identifying gaps in services, the report lists some recommendations for consideration.

"This report adds to what we already know. It illustrates the need for a youth housing plan for the region. The information in the report will be helpful for other housing and homelessness initiatives," says Brian Hill of CAFCA. "In fact, youth service providers are meeting soon to plan some specific steps they can take to address the huge challenges related to youth housing."

Threshold Housing Society and CAFCA contracted the Community Council to explore youth housing needs in March 2008.

The full report is available at
www.communitycouncil.ca/pdf/YouthHousingReport_FINAL_09-17-08.pdf.

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