



*This volunteer panel is comprised of residents of Huron and Perth County who have current or past involvement with systems such as: welfare, court, child welfare, education, healthcare (mental health, addictions, disability); immigration, the Indian Act and other systems that can regulate someone's life and/or experience discrimination based on age, gender, race, income, sexual orientation, disability, etc. Responses help decision-makers think about and work to improve the systems and programs that many people in our community rely upon.*

# housing & homelessness

## SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT



Social Research &  
Planning Council  
A Supported Partner of United Way Perth-Huron

### What type of housing is needed in your community?

**MOST** said **rent-geared to income housing** was needed, followed by affordable rentals specifically 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms

**OVER HALF** chose **affordable homes to rent** and buy; including duplexes and townhouses

**SOME** chose **co-operative housing** and **supportive housing** and **rooming houses**.

### What supports do you think are needed for people to stay in their homes?

**MOST** chose an **increases in income security rates** (OW, ODSP, Canada Pension etc.) and **higher employment income** (e.g. living wage).

**MANY** also chose **mental health and addiction services** and access to the internet.

**OVER 50%** chose **transportation** and **rent subsidies/ financial assistance** and **rent control**.

**HALF** included help managing money/opportunities to develop strong **financial skills** and **affordable childcare**.

### What supports would be helpful to people who are currently experiencing homelessness?

**85%** chose: **shelters** and **meal programs** and **transition housing** and **supportive housing**.

### If there were one thing that could be done to fix the housing crisis, what would it be?

**OVERWHELMINGLY**, it was stated that there was more than just 'one thing' needed to fix the housing crisis. Most agreed that there is a **serious shortage of quality affordable housing, more housing options** are needed, specifically geared towards lower **income individuals**.

**MANY** noted that jobs should pay a **living wage** or more to afford skyrocketing rents.

Surveyors revealed **rent caps** and **rent subsidies** were critical to keeping people in their homes, especially when landlords discriminate or drastically increase rents after renovations.

**MORE THAN HALF** stated that income assistance rates, especially ODSP, are far too low.

**SOME** noted the need for programs to obtain long term housing, including mental health and addiction supports.

### What is the one thing you wish politicians knew about rural housing and homelessness issues?

*"There are not enough full time, well paying (with benefits) jobs in rural areas to support the high cost of market rents in rural areas."*

*"The problem exists and needs attention no matter how little or large the population in a region."*

*"How hard it is to live on the amount of money they give us because sometimes it is a choice of paying for rent or food."*

*"It can happen to anyone. Couch surfing is also homelessness."*

*"Shelters don't fix the problem."*

