

**H4W**

Homes for women



**TPE**

Toits pour elles

**Canada's National Housing Strategy  
&  
Housing as a System Response to  
Ending Violence Against Women**



# Addressing Violence Against Women



LIFE BEYOND SHELTER

TOWARD COORDINATED PUBLIC POLICIES  
FOR WOMEN'S SAFETY AND VIOLENCE  
PREVENTION



Poverty  
Housing & homelessness  
Legal environment  
Life in the North  
Lack of Inclusion

# Making the Connections: Violence Against Women & Women's Homelessness

“Until abused women are recognized as homeless, the matter of male violence against women will confound our understanding of the etiology, scope, and experiences of homelessness, as well as our ability to redress the problem.”

Countless Abused Women  
Homeless & Inadequately Housed, 2000



[www.rosecampaign.ca](http://www.rosecampaign.ca)



**YWCA**  
C A N A D A

A TURNING POINT  
FOR WOMEN  
UN POINT TOURNANT  
POUR LES FEMMES

[www.campagnedesroses.ca](http://www.campagnedesroses.ca)





Every year, 100,000 women  
and children leave their homes  
for the safety of a shelter for  
abused women.

That's enough to fill  
this arena 5 times.

#WeAllKnowSomeone

[www.rosecampaign.ca](http://www.rosecampaign.ca)

**Most girls who leave home are escaping sexual abuse and violence.**

**Guess what they find in the street?**



**On December 6, take action against women and girls.**

**[www.rosecampaign.ca](http://www.rosecampaign.ca)**





**YWCA**  
C A N A D A

A TURNING POINT  
FOR WOMEN

UN POINT TOURNANT  
POUR LES FEMMES

## International Women's Day Bulletin

# WHEN THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

## A Snapshot of Women's Homelessness in Canada

**M**ORE THAN A CENTURY AFTER the first International Women's Day, there are women in Canada who remain severely disadvantaged and without a crucial necessity of life: A safe home. Despite 100 years of progress toward women's equality, recent decades have seen a tragic and needless rise in women's homelessness in this country.

1992 and 1998. Young women are homeless in alarming numbers. Families experience homelessness, and single parent families, mostly led by women, make up the majority of homeless families.

Without a roof over their heads and a door to lock safely behind them, women are at great risk of physical, emotional and psychological harm.

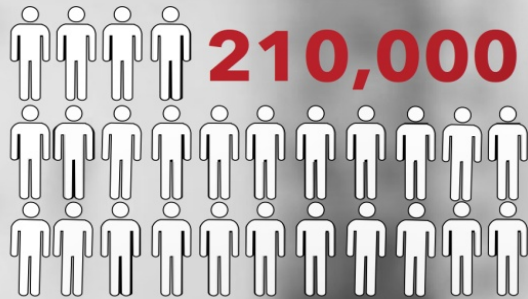
out their welcome and closing off a crucial lifeline.

Every year, tens of thousands of women leave their homes, many with their children, for the temporary safety of a shelter for abused women. For these women, violence is the immediate cause of their homelessness and a women's shelter or transition house may be the bridge to safe.

# WHEN YOU PICTURE A HOMELESS PERSON

## DO YOU SEE A WOMAN?

LOOK AGAIN



11,000

girls and young women  
16-24 years of age use  
homeless shelters

63%

use shelters for  
abused women

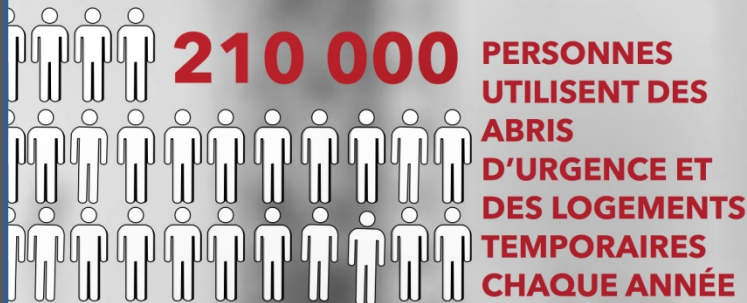
37%

use homeless shelters

Sources: Saegert, The National Shelter Study: Emergency Shelter Use in Canada 2005-2009, 2012. Gaetz, Donaldson, Richter & Gulliver, The State of Homelessness in Canada 2013. Statistics Canada, Residents of Canada's Shelters for Abused women, 2010.

# QUAND TU IMAGINES UNE PERSONNE SANS-ABRI VOIS-TU UNE FEMME ?

RÉFLÉCHIS ENCORE



**11 000**

filles et jeunes femmes  
âgées de **16 à 24 ans** se  
retrouvent dans des refuges  
pour sans-abri

**63%**

se retrouvent dans des  
abris pour femmes  
violentées

**37%**

se retrouvent dans  
des refuges pour  
sans-abri



# H4W TPE

Homes for women Toits pour elles

**Without a roof  
over her head  
and a door to  
lock behind,  
a woman isn't  
safe.**

**Take the pledge  
to end women's  
homelessness.**

**[h4w-tpe.ca](http://h4w-tpe.ca)**



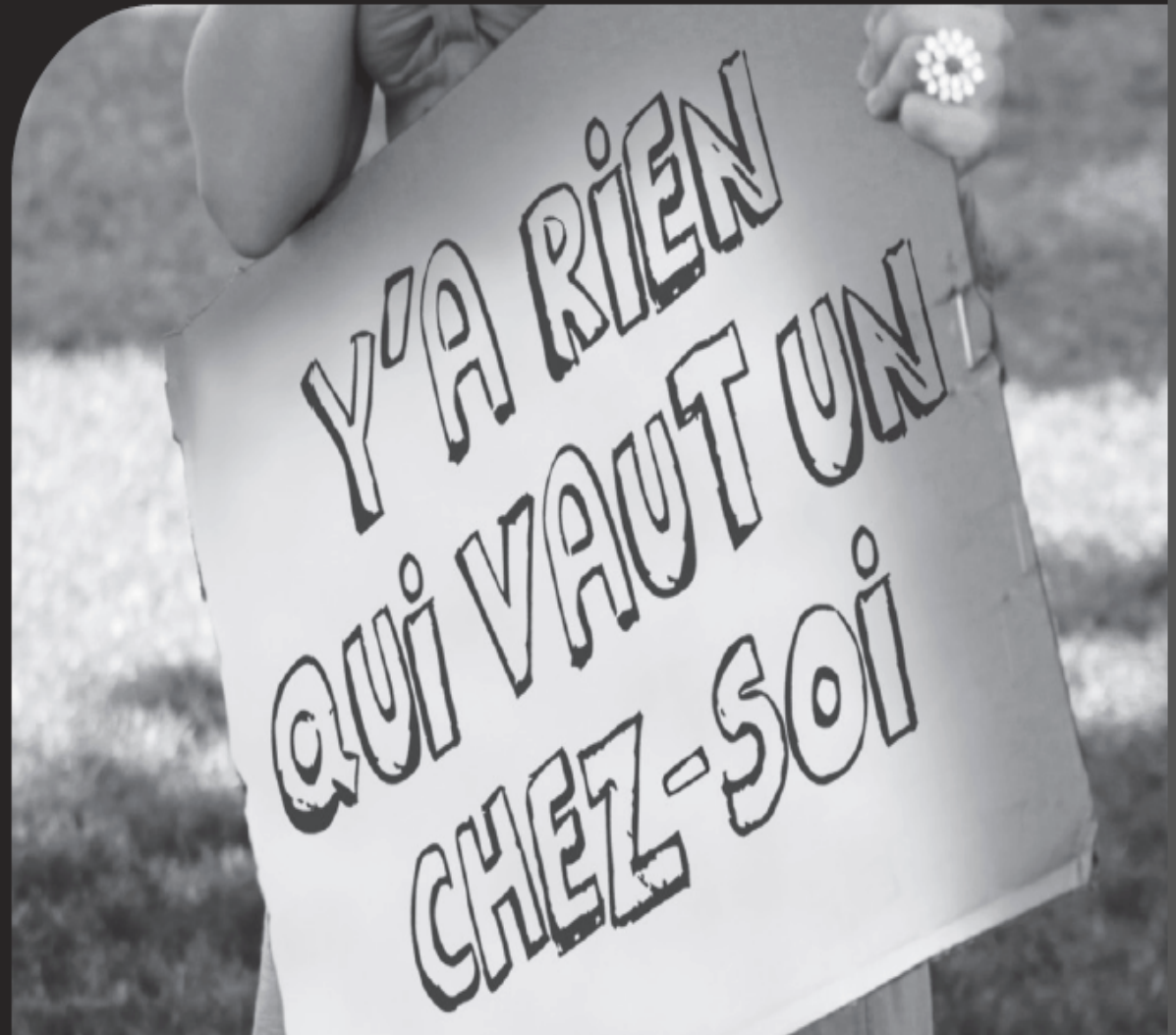
# TPE H4W

Toits pour elles Homes for women

**Sans un toit et  
une porte à  
verrouiller, une  
femme n'est  
jamais en sécurité.**

**Engagez-vous  
à mettre fin  
à l'itinérance  
des femmes.**

**[h4w-tpe.ca](http://h4w-tpe.ca)**



# H4W

Homes for women



# TPE

Toits pour elles



**Prison is no place  
for a woman  
without a home.**

**Take the pledge  
to end women's  
homelessness.**

**[h4w-tpe.ca](http://h4w-tpe.ca)**

**TPE**  **H4W**  
Toits pour elles Homes for women



**La prison n'est pas l'endroit pour une femme sans abri.**

**Engagez-vous à mettre fin à l'itinérance des femmes.**

**[h4w-tpe.ca](http://h4w-tpe.ca)**



EVERY WOMAN HAS  
THE RIGHT TO A SAFE,  
AFFORDABLE HOME

YWCA |  |   
www.ywcanorfolk.org | ●●●●●

EVERY WOMAN HAS  
THE RIGHT TO A SAFE,  
AFFORDABLE HOME

YWCA |  |   
www.ywcanorfolk.org | ●●●●●

EVERY WOMAN HAS  
THE RIGHT TO A SAFE,  
AFFORDABLE HOME

YWCA |  |   
www.ywcanorfolk.org | ●●●●●

EVERY WOMAN HAS  
THE RIGHT TO A SAFE,  
AFFORDABLE HOME

YWCA |  |   
www.ywcanorfolk.org | ●●●●●

EVERY WOMAN HAS  
THE RIGHT TO A SAFE,  
AFFORDABLE HOME

YWCA |  |   
www.ywcanorfolk.org | ●●●●●

HOUSING  
IS A  
HUMAN  
RIGHT!

# COUNT WOMEN AND GIRLS IN TO A NATIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING STRATEGY

ACCESS TO HOUSING AND EXPERIENCES OF HOMELESSNESS DIFFER ON THE BASIS OF GENDER.

WOMEN ARE MORE LIKELY TO:

▶ LIVE ON LOW INCOMES



70% OF PART-TIME WORKERS

60% OF MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS

▶ LIVE TO OLD AGE



72% OF OVER 90 ARE WOMEN

28% OF SENIOR WOMEN LIVE IN POVERTY

▶ LIVE WITH CHILDREN



79% OF SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES LED BY WOMEN

OVER 50% OF WOMEN ARRIVE TO SHELTERS WITH CHILDREN

▶ LOSE HOUSING <sup>DUE TO</sup> VIOLENCE

8,000 WOMEN & CHILDREN IN SHELTERS ON A SINGLE NIGHT



78% IN SHELTER DUE TO VIOLENCE

15 Ways to Count Women & Girls In to the National Housing Strategy

A SAFE HOME IS A HUMAN RIGHT. COUNT WOMEN AND GIRLS IN.



# Use Gender-based+ Analysis to Create an Inclusive Strategy



- ① **Increase access to affordable housing for low-income women**, through increasing the stock of affordable housing and measures to make housing more affordable.
- ② **Increase access to affordable housing for low-income mothers** with sufficient room to house their children safely.
- ③ **Include innovative affordable housing programs dedicated to senior women.**



# Connect the National Housing Strategy to Violence Against Women and Girls



- ④ **Expand access to emergency shelters for women escaping violence** and address gaps in access for Deaf women and women with disabilities, First Nation, Métis and Inuit women, trans women and gender non-conforming, and racialized and immigrant women.
- ⑤ **Invest in new long-term affordable housing for women** with trauma-informed support services.
- ⑥ **Connect to the Federal Strategy on Gender-based Violence.**





# Address and Prevent Homelessness for Women and Girls



- ⑦ **Expand gender-specific programs, services, and shelters for women and girls** with trauma-informed services.
- ⑧ **Invest in affordable and supportive housing specific to young women, girls,** trans and gender non-conforming young people and provide homes free of sexual abuse, violence, transphobia and homophobia.
- ⑨ **Expand research and data collection** on women and girls.



# Implement National Policies for Affordable Housing with a Gender Lens...



- ⑩ **Develop a Northern Strategy for women and girls** with sufficient investment to bring access to affordable housing and emergency shelter to a national standard.
- ⑪ **Include a self-determined Aboriginal Housing Strategy with a gender lens** and leadership from the Native Women's Association of Canada and Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association among others.
- ⑫ **Support effective models of Housing First for Women** by including successful community-based adaptations of Housing First.



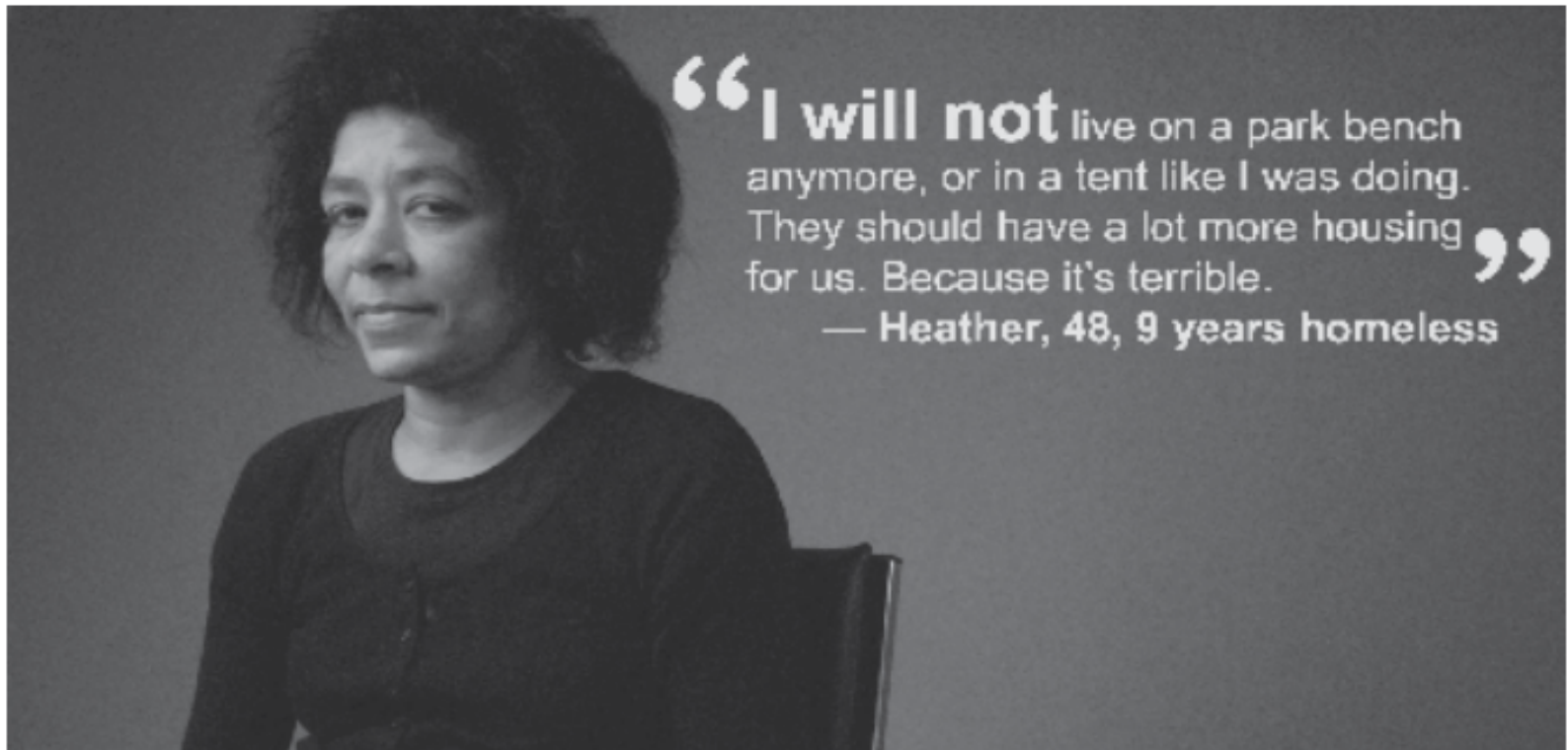
# ...Implement National Policies for Affordable Housing with a Gender Lens



- ⑬ **Connect to women's experiences of criminalization** and incarceration.
- ⑭ **Use safe design safe** incorporating gender-based safety audits in housing funded through the NHS.
- ⑮ **Invest in innovative supportive housing programs** for women and girls, including young mothers, Indigenous families, women with disabilities, survivors of violence coping with trauma and substance abuse, and women at high risk of criminalization.

## Research Bulletin #2

# WOMEN & HOMELESSNESS



“I will not live on a park bench anymore, or in a tent like I was doing. They should have a lot more housing for us. Because it's terrible.”  
— Heather, 48, 9 years homeless

**H4W**

Homes for women



**TPE**

Toits pour elles

[www.homesforwomen.ca](http://www.homesforwomen.ca)

[www.toitspourelles.ca](http://www.toitspourelles.ca)

[www.ywcacanada.ca](http://www.ywcacanada.ca)

[adecter@ywcacanada.ca](mailto:adecter@ywcacanada.ca)