Towards Integrated Solutions to Youth Homelessness

CHRA ACHRU

Canadian Housing and Renewal Association

A Home for the Housing Sector

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Part 1

The CONTEXT

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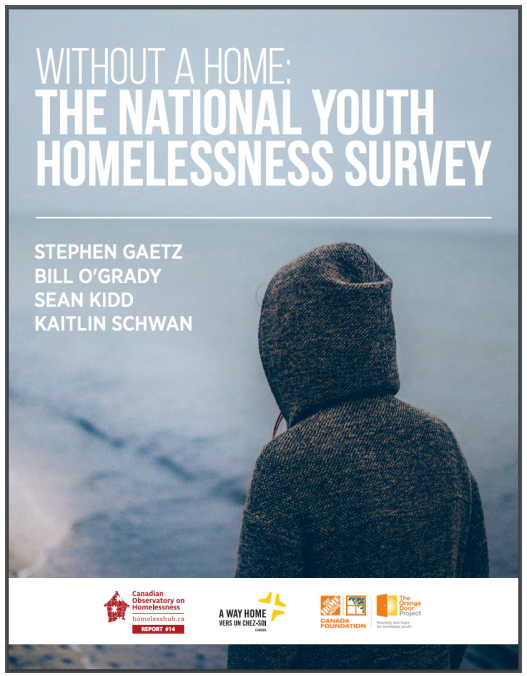
The Evidence

Survey Results from the first Without a Home study (2016)



- **Overrepresented minorities**: LGBTQ2S – 29.5%; Indigenous 30.5%; Racialized, 28.5%
- 40.1% had **first experience of homelessness** before the age of 16.
- Homelessness **compromises health and well-being**: 85.4% had significant mental health problems, and 42% reported at least one suicide attempt
- 58% reported previous involvement with **child protection** (compared with 0.3% for housed youth)
- **NEET**: 50.5% not in employment, education or training
- **Criminal Victimization**: Exponentially more likely to be a victim of crime
- Vulnerability to **sex trafficking**

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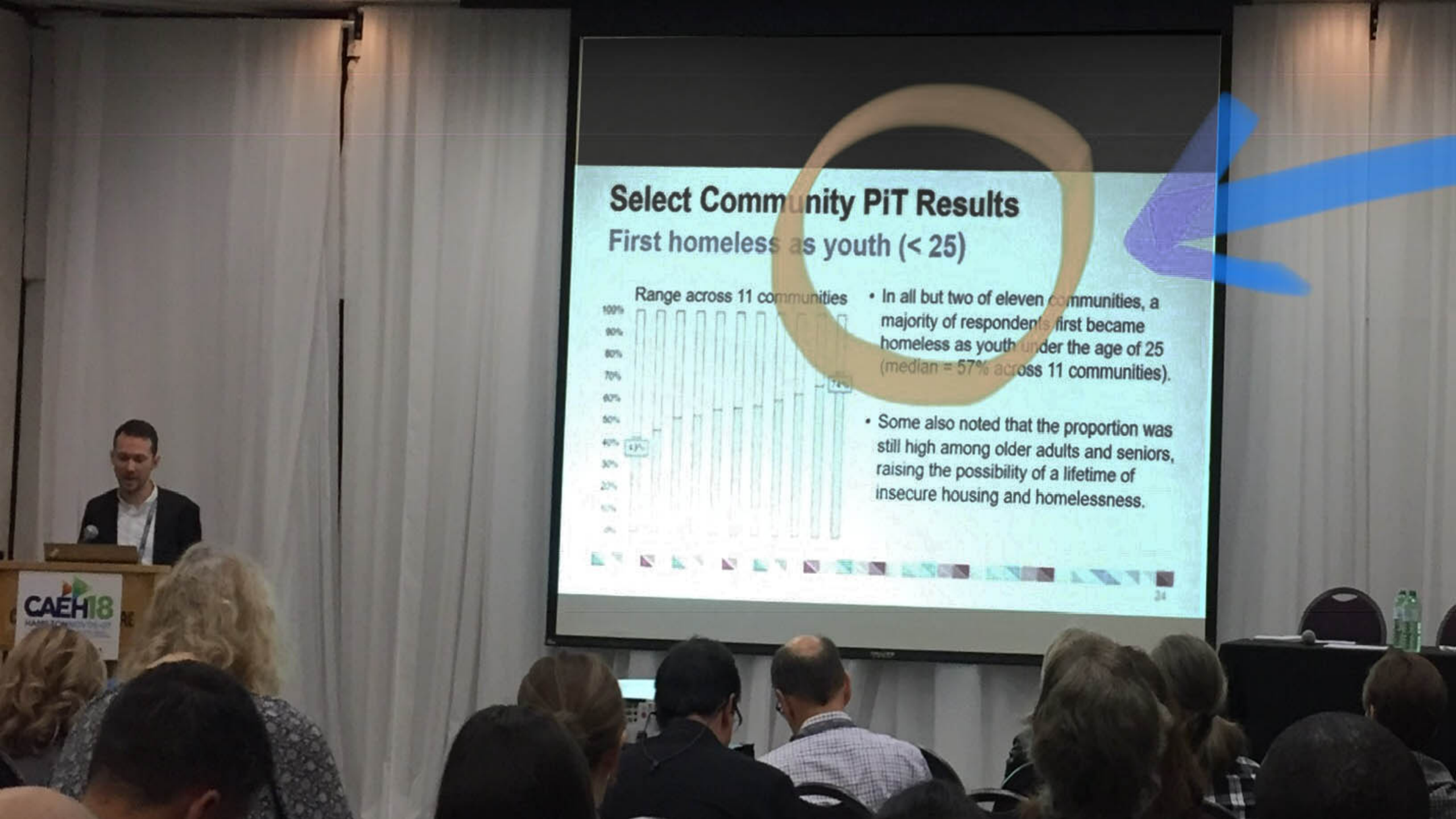
- Stephen Gaetz, Bill O'Grady, Sean Kidd & Kaitlin Schwan. (2016). *Without a Home: The National Youth Homelessness Survey*. Toronto: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press.


Select Community PiT Results
First homeless as youth (< 25)
Range across 11 communities
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
74%
• In all but two of eleven communities, a majority of respondents first became homeless as youth under the age of 25 (median = 57% across 11 communities).
• Some also noted that the proportion was still high among older adults and seniors, raising the possibility of a lifetime of insecure housing and homelessness.
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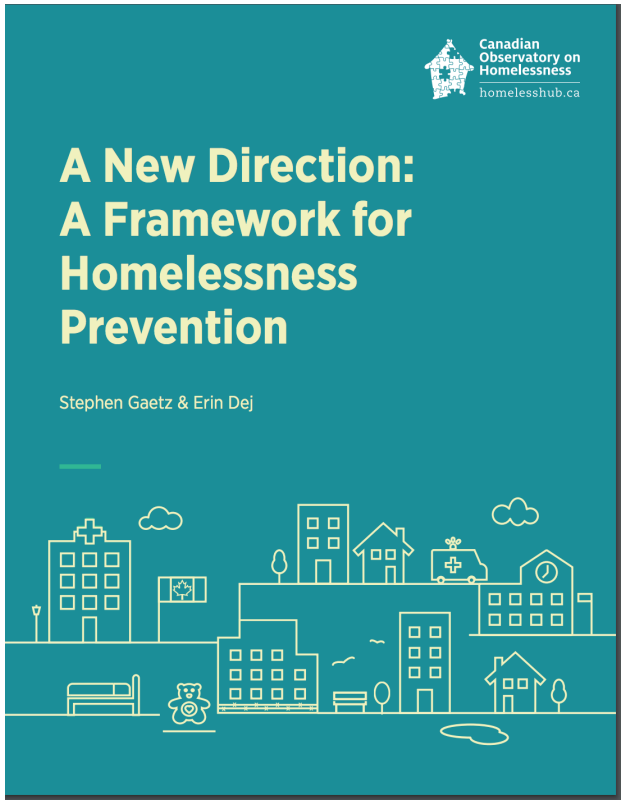
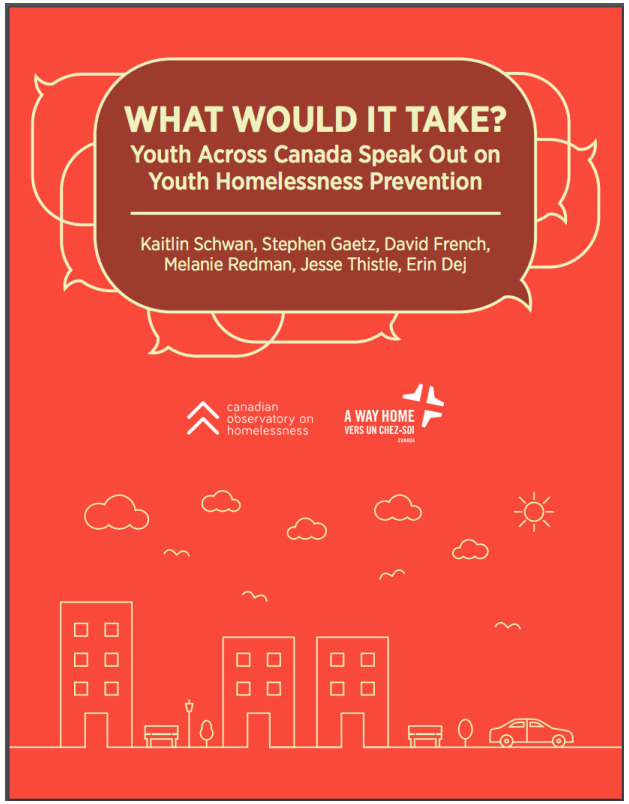
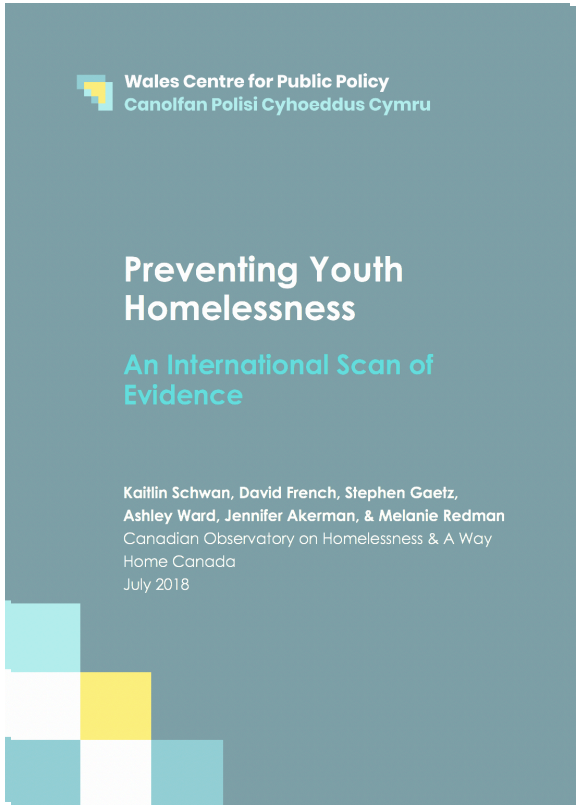
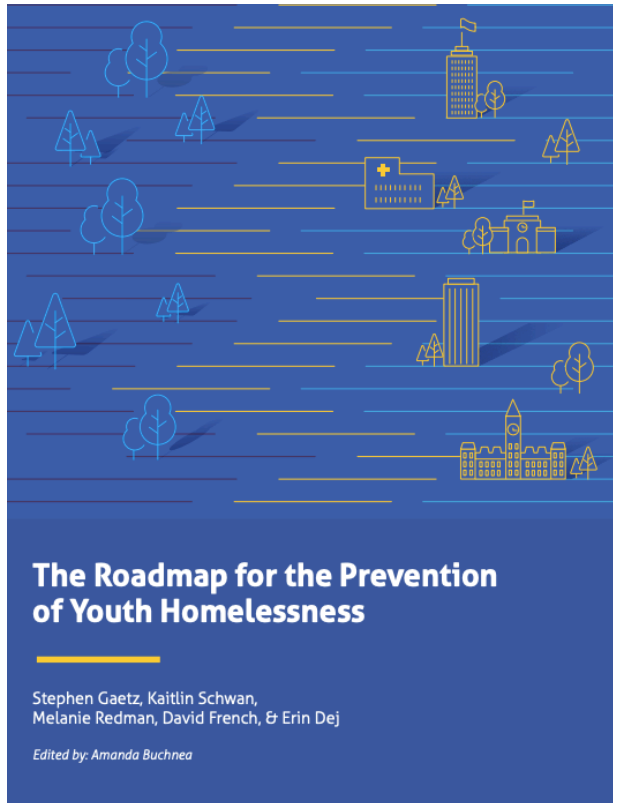
Doing the ground work









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Data points to some important conclusions

First, we are waiting too long to intervene.

Second, experience of homelessness has a devastating impact on health, safety, mental health and well-being.

Third, some young people – Indigenous, LGBTQ2S, newcomer youth – experience additional burden of discrimination and exclusion.

Fourth, the emergency response does not prevent or end youth homelessness.

Fifth, our public systems are failing to prevent youth homelessness.

Sixth, people with lived experience of youth homeless strongly profess the need to shift to prevention.

Prevention as a Fusion Policy issue

If higher levels of government provide a legislative and policy framework, as well as funding to support homelessness prevention, the homelessness sector and other community-based services will still have a key role in supporting marginalized and socially excluded populations.

Success relies on

Systems Integration

Mainstream Services

- Health
- Education
- Corrections
- Child protection

Homelessness Service Providers

Government and Funders

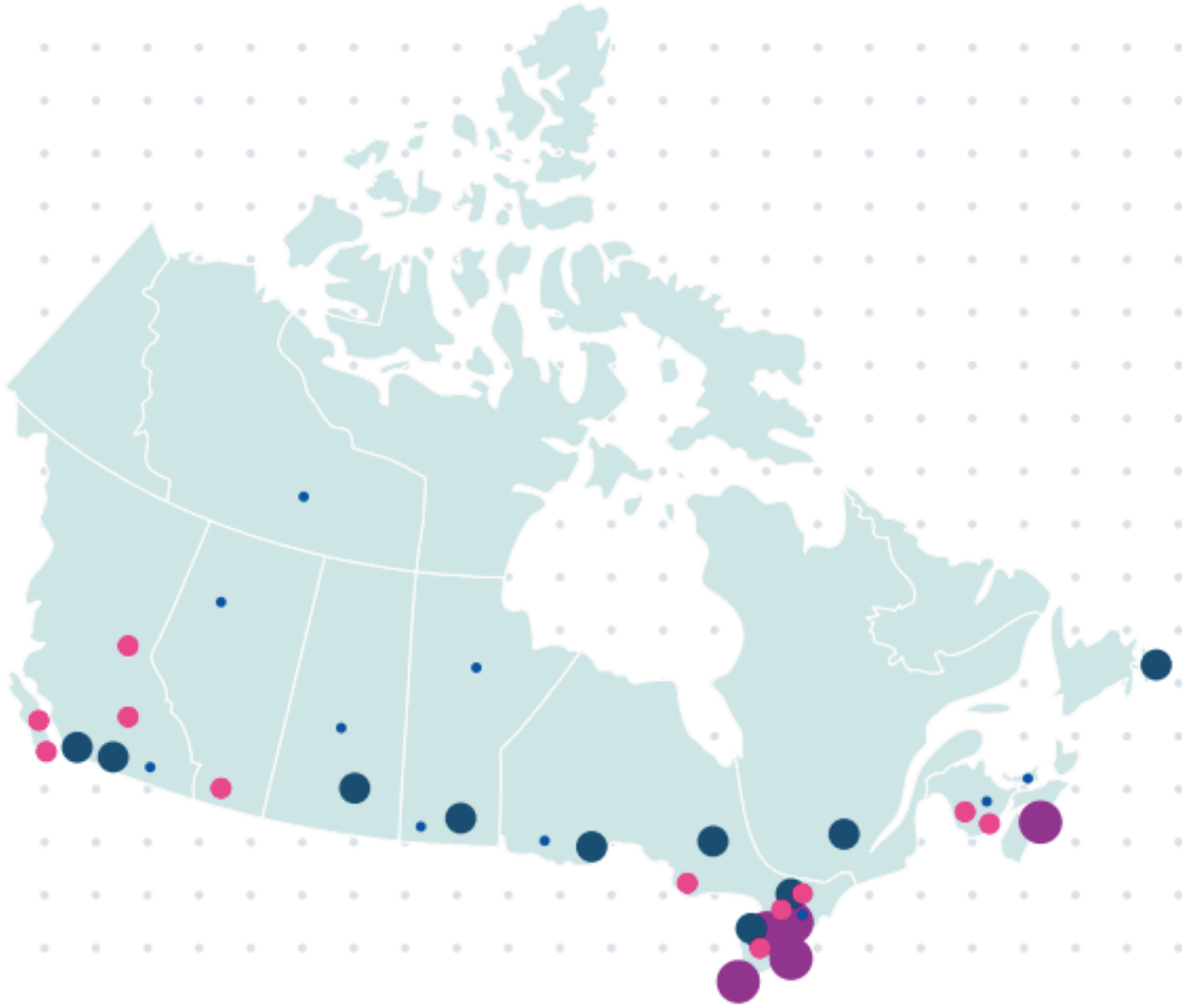
Unusual Suspects

- Landlords
- Police
- Private Sector
- Lawyers

SYSTEMS PLANNING TO PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS:

Community Progress and Priorities Across Canada

SYSTEMS PLANNING COLLECTIVE



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COMMUNITY SYSTEMS PLANNING TO PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS:

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Participants identified needing more technical support, training, and resources around these priority areas.

Policy Development

Relationship/ Trust-Building

Performance Management

Financial Scenario Modelling

Government Relations

Private Sector Engagement

Systems Mapping

Systems Integration

Change Management

Actionable Data & Analytics

Creating Action Plans

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SYSTEMSPLANNING
COLLECTIVE

Policy tools

Planning & practice tools

Voices need action!

Youth across Canada were clear:

We are waiting too long to intervene when a young person is at risk of homelessness.

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Part 2

The CASE STUDIES

greater victoria
coalition to end
homelessness