

MAKING WAVES

Systems Change in Newfoundland
and Labrador

CHRA National Congress

April 4, 2019





CHOICES FOR YOUTH

- Founded in 1990 after the Mr. Cashel Orphanage closure
- Non-profit, registered charity
- Professional services agency
- 1500+ youth served annually
- 130+ staff members
- Multiple service, programming and housing sites

Through innovative programming and social enterprises, we help youth and emerging adults secure stable housing, education and employment, while working toward family stability and better health.

HOUSING



EMPLOYMENT



FAMILY



HEALTH



WHO WE SERVE

We work with at-risk and homeless youth ages 16-29.

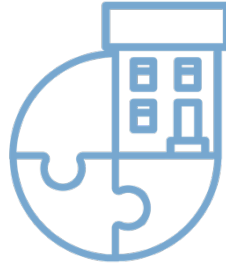
Common challenges we come across include:

- Family Conflict and/or Instability
- Disrupted Education
- Low Income and/or Poverty
- Marginalization and/or Discrimination
- Mental Health and/or Addictions Challenges
- Abuse and/or Other Forms of Victimization
- Experiences with the Child Welfare & Criminal Justice System

OUR APPROACH



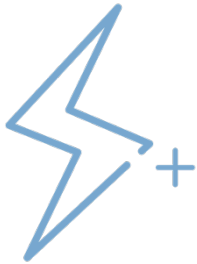
**Harm
Reduction**



**Housing First for
Youth**



**Trauma-Informed
& Recovery
Oriented Practice**



**Youth
Empowerment**



**Community
Partnerships**

AREAS OF WORK



**Outreach
& Health**



**Supportive
Housing & Shelter**



Family




**Social Enterprise &
Employment**

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR: GEOGRAPHY & CONTEXT

- **530,000 people; 228,000 in St. John's CMA**
- **No other communities larger than 25,000**
- **St. John's in the extreme east of the province; 8 hours drive to Corner Brook, 20+ hours to Happy-Valley Goose Bay**
- **Services for vulnerable populations concentrated in St. John's**
- **More than 40% of the St. John's homeless population come from outside the city**


NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR: HOW CFY FITS IN

- **The only organization in the province with a specific mandate to serve at-risk youth**
 - **Large, high-capacity organization**
 - **Investments in policy and advocacy work**
 - **Record of success and great relationships with government**
 - **Little experience with work outside of the city or with Indigenous communities**
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NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR: MAJOR SYSTEMS CHANGE

- **All-Party Committee on Mental Health and Addictions**
- **Premier's Task Force on Educational Outcomes**
- **New Children, Youth, and Families Act**
- **New Housing and Homelessness Plan**
- **Choices for Youth's Social Innovation Project and Provincial Expansion**
- **Integrated service delivery**
- **Statement of Principles**

OUR VISION

- **A network of integrated service delivery hubs across the province**
 - **Provincial coordinated access for youth**
 - **A shift of services towards prevention, family stability, and employment supports**
 - **More supportive housing for youth in more locations**
 - **Youth choice and youth voice**
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OUR APPROACH

- **Showing up in person**
 - **Identifying local partners**
 - **Understanding regional differences**
 - **Focusing on youth voices**
 - **Getting out ahead of government**
 - **Engaging national colleagues**
 - **Bringing in the “unusual suspects”**
 - **Doing our research**
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THANK YOU

