Getting Home After Violence

BC Society of Transition Houses

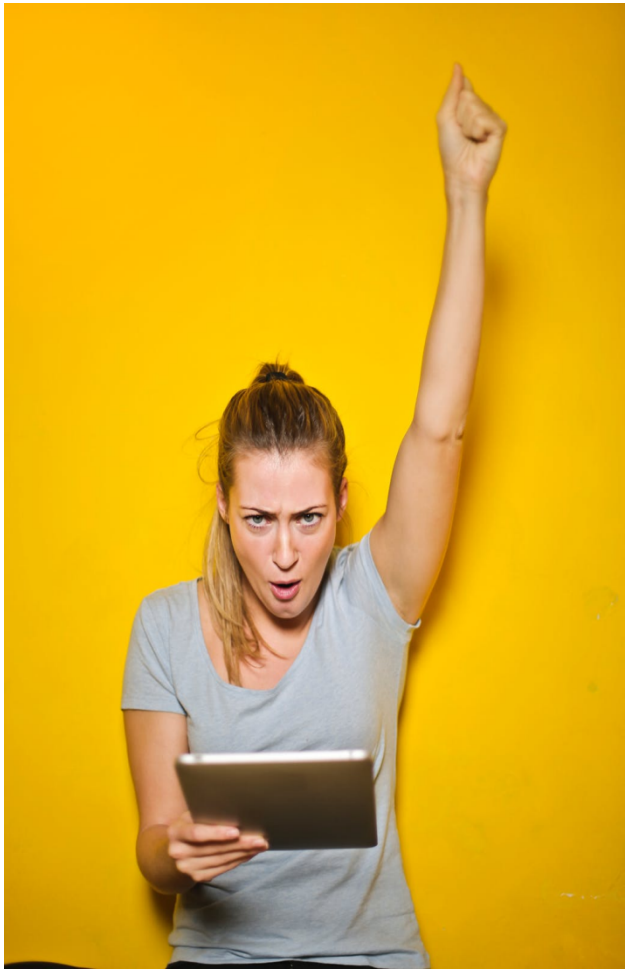
SideDoor
hope lives here

WORKSHOP GOALS

- Find out about the barriers to safe, long term, affordable housing for women and girls experiencing violence.
- Explore the unique opportunity to contribute to sustainable solutions for women in this circumstance.
- Share ways to integrate the research, best-practices, and existing options and think what this means for your own housing community/organization.

SPECTRUM ACTIVITY

Raise a hand to show your opinion!



Canada’s housing strategy is well-positioned to address the housing needs of women and girls experiencing violence.

The housing sector puts safety, confidentiality and privacy as a priority in its work.

Reducing the barriers to housing for women and girls experiencing violence can be achieved through local partnerships.

SideDoor

- formed in 1995 and is the Northwest Territories' only organization dedicated to preventing, reducing and ending youth homelessness.
- is a registered, nonprofit, charitable, community-based agency
- founded as a result of an identified need among youth, the community and government to have an empowerment-based program available to youth for whom 'home' was not an option

SideDoor Celebrating 20 YEARS Supporting YOUth 1995-2015

Vision

SideDoor exists to:

PREVENT,

REDUCE and

END youth homelessness in Yellowknife

At SideDoor we focus on providing support & services, equaling opportunities (HOPE) for youth.

H.O.P.E

H - Healthy Choices

O - Overcoming Obstacles

P - Practical Supports and Life Skills

E - Emergency Shelter/Safe Haven

4 Pillars: Supports and Services

- 1. Employment, Literacy and Training
- 2. Housing and Tenancy Supports
- 3. Mental Health and Addictions
- 4. Practical Supports and Life Skills

SideDoor Resource Centre for YOUth

Beyond Sheltering

LOFT: Emergency Shelter - 7 days a week/24hrs per day

LIFT: Hope's Haven - Transitional Housing

LAUNCH: HOME4U - Permanent Housing

- All Youth, ages 14-24
- Continuum of Care – Systems Integration
  - Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing co-located
  - Housing options/choice

The Journey…

- Engagement / Networking / Tours
- Community Consultation / Research
- Youth Focus Groups
  - Youth Voice and Choice
  - Lived Experience

HOPE4U: Supportive Housing

- HOPE's Haven opened June 12, 2015 at 5114-52nd Street, Yellowknife
- HOPE's Haven aims to address the needs of youth who are not suited to traditional affordable housing options
- Focus on youth transitioning out of care

SideDoor Hope's Haven for YOUth

HOPE'S Haven

The program is based on an empowerment philosophy that all young people have a right to:

- safe housing based on their needs
- a standard of living adequate for their physical, mental, moral, and social development
- an environment of tolerance, dignity, peace, and equality
- protection from abuse
- an environment that fosters mutual accountability, responsibility, and independence
- participation in decision-making that affects their lives

SideDoor Nothing 4 YOUth Without YOUth

HOME4U: Housing + Supports

- Housing First 4 YOUth
  - 2017 Pilot project. Permanently housed 10 single youth.
    - One funding source: $50,000
  - 2018-19. 29 youth housed, single youth and couples.
    - All funding sources: $225,000.
  - 2019-20. Goal to house 15 youth.
    - One funding source: $187,500
- Focus on Prevention and Re-housing
  - Transitioning youth out of emergency shelters and transitional housing to permanent housing.

Tenant Relations/Partnership

- Northern Property REIT
- Building Maintainer
- Income Support
- City of Yellowknife
- Wellness
- Fully furnished/supplied unit

Foundations for Ending Homelessness for YOUth

- Harm Reduction – *In the absence of perfect solutions SideDoor will apply solutions that cause the least amount of harm*
- Transitioning Youth out of Care –
  - *Navigators / Outcome Star / Promising Practices /*
  - *Trauma Informed / Recovery Model*
- Wellness –*Addictions, Mental Health, Physical Health and Disabilities*
- Education and Employment Supports
- Housing and Tenancy Supports

Getting Home Project

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Project Goals

- Improve access to co-op and non-profit housing
- Specific supports for immigrant, refugee, and indigenous women to access housing
- The development of on-going and sustainable supports that improve access to long-term housing for women

The Getting Home Project

Safe, secure and affordable housing

3 year project to work with 4 diverse sites

Local and policy levels

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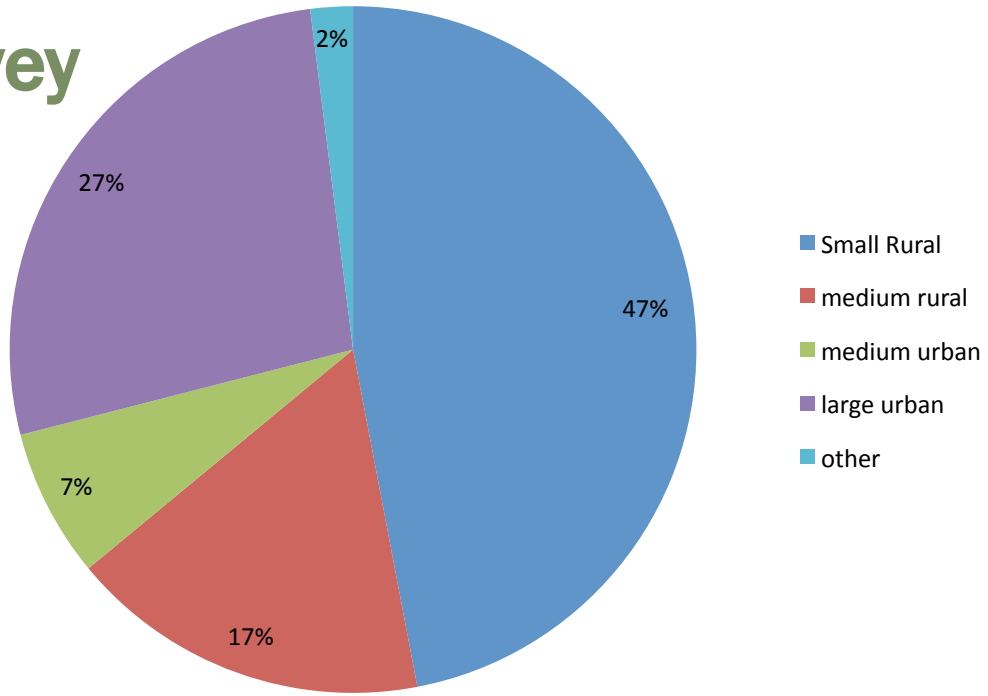
Community Needs Assessment

- Province-wide Survey
- Focus Group
- Interviews
- Literature Review



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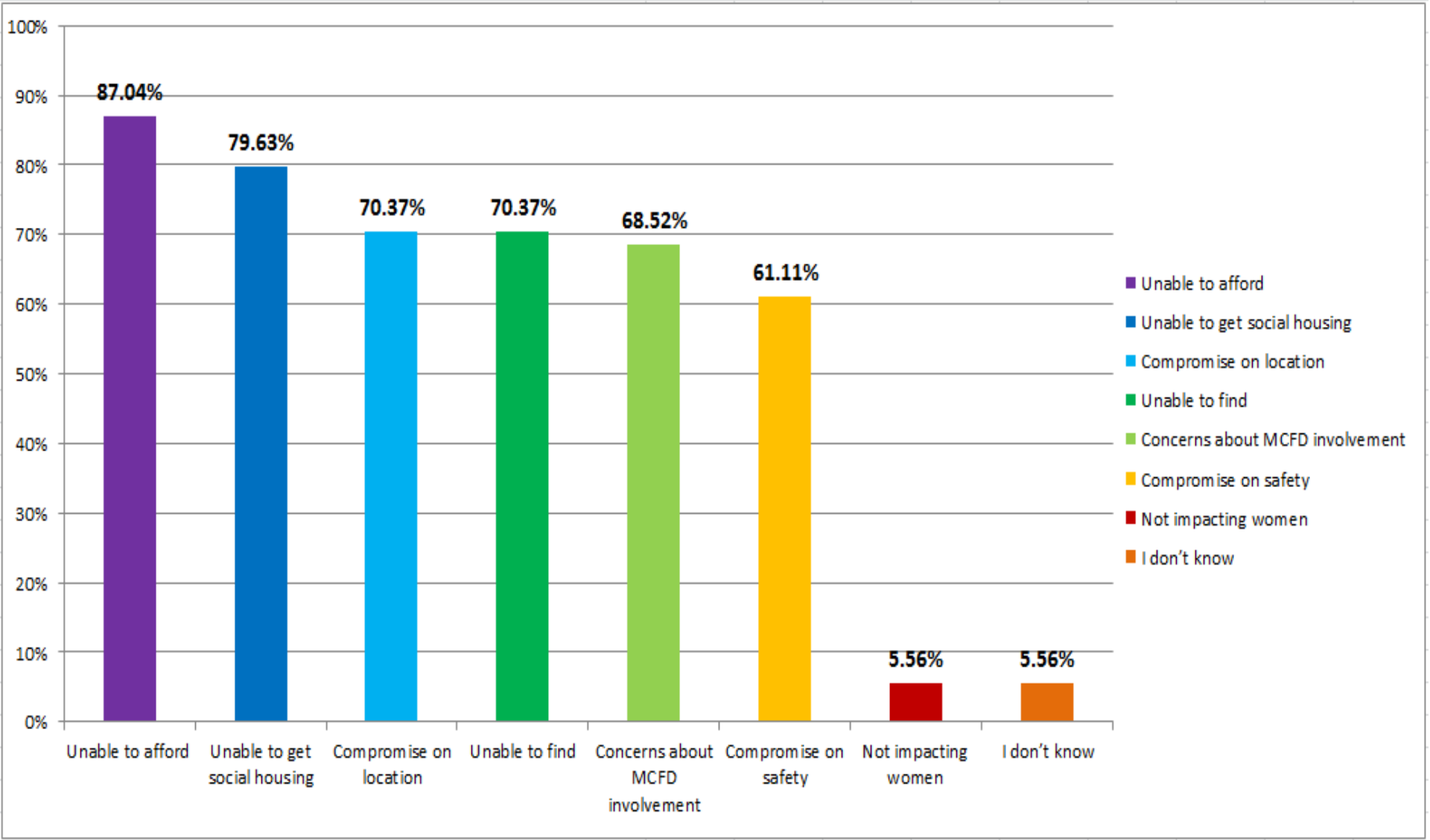
Major Barriers in the Private Market

- Affordability
- Availability
- Discrimination
- Safety and Confidentiality
- Family size

How are the NOS impacting women who use your agency?



Major Barriers in Social Housing

- Availability / Waitlists
- Application Process
- Family size / National Occupancy Standards
- Pets
- Transportation

Financial Barriers

- Affordability
- Poverty
- Energy poverty and utility bills
- Damage deposits and other start up costs

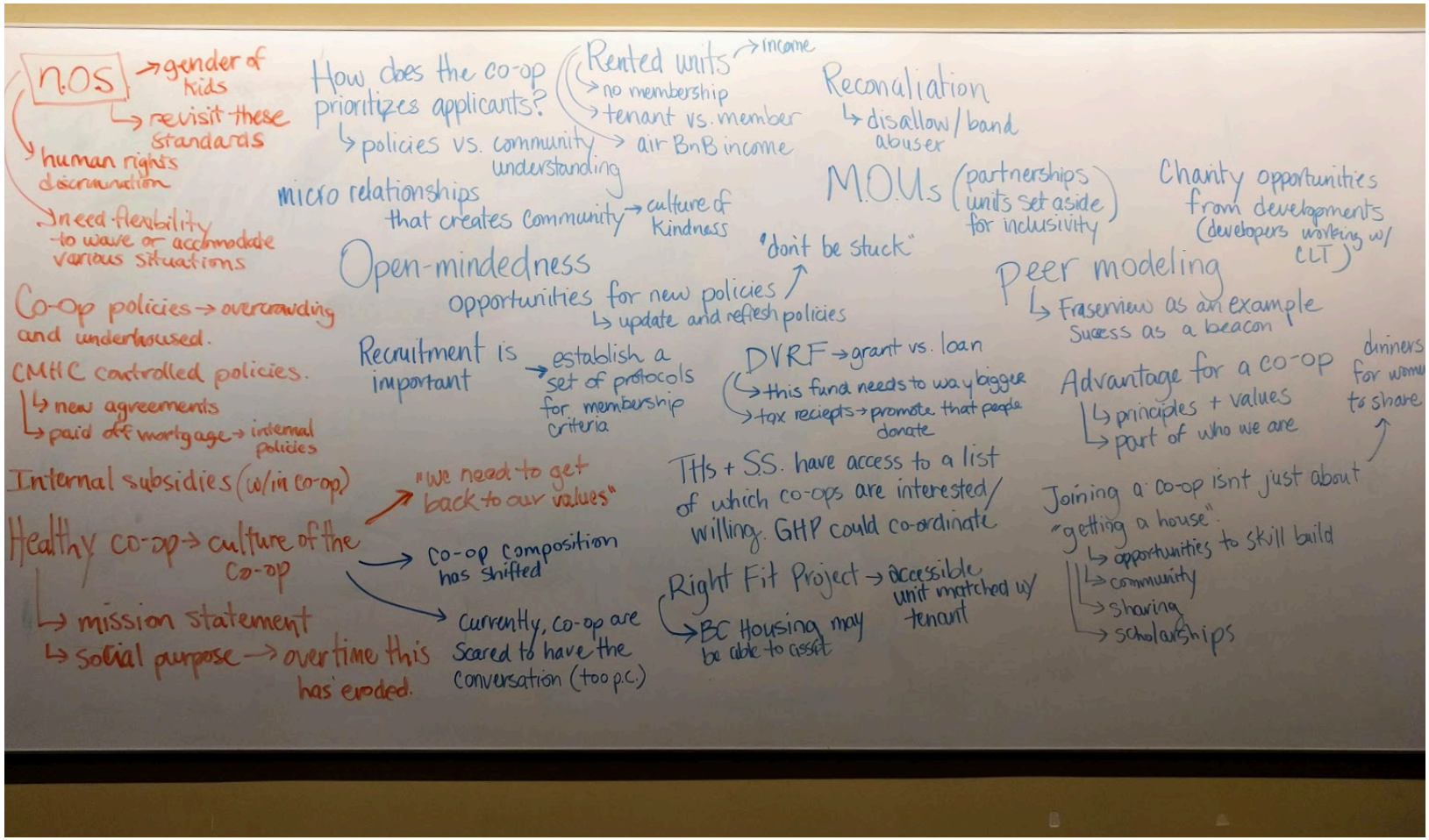
Themes

- Hopelessness

  "[The unaffordability of housing is causing] a sense of hopelessness. Women [are] no longer able to choose where they want to live or how much they can afford. Women [return] to partners or other abusive situations because of [the] need for housing"

- Frustration for women and workers
- Trading safety for housing

Focus Group: Findings



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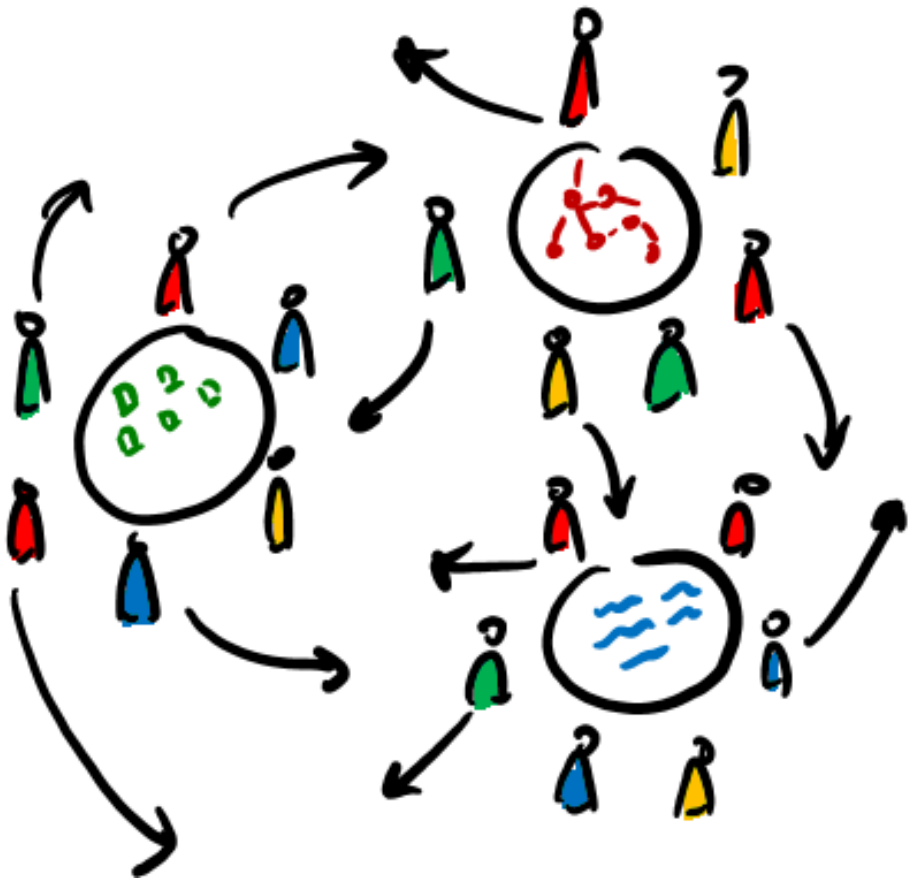
Next Steps

- Community Action Plans
- Continue to advocate for policy change and funding
- Dissemination of project results and recommendations

Housing Partnerships

- Best practices
- Current partnerships
- Things to consider

Small Group Discussions



Small Groups

Imagine a future where your community or organization is a leader in supporting affordable housing solutions for women and girls experiencing violence.

What does that look like?

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