



Homelessness & Housing

Guelph & Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination | May 2022

Homelessness describes the situation of an individual, family or community without stable, safe, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it. Someone experiencing homelessness may be unsheltered, emergency sheltered or provisionally accommodated (accommodation that is temporary).¹

Housing is considered affordable if shelter costs are less than 30 per cent of before tax income.



270

was the minimum number of people experiencing homelessness in Guelph-Wellington in October 2021.

(2021 Guelph-Wellington Everyone Counts Point-in-Time Count, County of Wellington & The Poverty Task Force, October 2021)



0 neighbourhoods

in Guelph are affordable for a full-time minimum wage worker to rent.

(Unaccommodating - Rental Housing Wage in Canada, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, 2019)



As of December 2021, there were **3206 households**

waiting for rent-geared-to-income housing in Guelph-Wellington.

(County of Wellington Housing Services, 2021)



42%

of Guelph-Wellington Point-in-Time Count respondents were younger than 18 when they first experienced homelessness.

(2021 Guelph-Wellington Everyone Counts Point-in-Time Count, County of Wellington & The Poverty Task Force, October 2021)



Over **735,000 households**

in Ontario are in core housing need meaning their dwelling is inadequate, unsuitable or unaffordable.

(Housing and Homelessness Programs in Ontario, Financial Accountability Office of Ontario, 2021)



Across Canada, for every **1 new unit** of affordable housing created, **15 units** of existing affordable housing are lost.

(Focus Consulting. Why Canada needs a non-market rental acquisition strategy, 2020)



Solutions

To address the homelessness & housing crisis, the government must...

- ✔ commit to preventing and eliminating homelessness,
- ✔ make renting a secure and viable option,
- ✔ build & acquire 99,000 homes which are deeply affordable nonprofit, co-op, and supportive housing over the next 10 years, as part of a broader supply-based approach to solving the housing crisis,
- ✔ implement an urban, rural and northern Indigenous Housing Strategy for Ontario with dedicated investments through an Indigenous-led approach,
- ✔ reinvest in existing community housing by supporting needed repairs and renewal, and ongoing funding for rental assistance.

Learn more: The Vote4Housing Campaign - www.vote4housing.ca

Learn More

Learn more about our community's efforts to end homelessness through Built for Zero: www.bfzcanada.ca

Understand how our community compares to others when it comes to rental affordability: www.policyalternatives.ca/rentalwages

Read about the work our community is doing to create permanent supportive housing to help end homelessness in Guelph-Wellington: www.gwpoverty.ca/permanent-supportive-housing

Take Action

Ask a candidate:

What actions will you and your party take to address the homelessness and housing crisis, so that everyone has a place to call home?

Take action as part of the Vote 4 Housing Ontario Campaign: www.vote4housing.ca

Be a YIMBY! Sign-up for the Poverty Task Force's Yes in My Backyard Campaign: www.gwpoverty.ca/yimby



¹ Gaetz, S.; Barr, C.; Friesen, A.; Harris, B.; Hill, C.; Kovacs-Burns, K.; Pauly, B.; Pearce, B.; Turner, A.; Marsolais, A. (2012) Canadian Definition of Homelessness. Toronto: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press. <https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/COHhomelessdefinition.pdf>