



Storied Lives — Trailer

Full Transcript

[musical intro]

Speaker 1: *“How are you supposed to live on, you know, \$733 a month?”*

Speaker 2: *“If you’re a black person with mental health problems, it is highly unlikely you will find the care that you need.”*

Speaker 3: *“The greatest barrier to fleeing violence is housing.”*

Speaker 4: *“Their rights just aren’t as protected.”*

Speaker 5: *“Who owns this problem? Whose problem is it?”*

Narrator: Welcome to Storied Lives — a podcast that looks at the lived realities of poverty through an intersectional lens. This is a collaboration between the Guelph and Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination and the University of Guelph’s Community Engaged Scholarship Institute and Live Work Well Research Centre. We invited people living with poverty to share their stories with us. During a series of focus groups, participants revealed how multiple overlapping and compounding oppressions shaped their experiences in unique ways. Using their testimonies we created four composite stories — fictional narratives based on true accounts. Every scenario in these stories happened or was informed by themes that emerged in the focus groups:

Speaker 6: *“Only a few torn corners of my tarp are left, flickering in the wind. Everything is gone.”*

Speaker 7: *“Finally, a dream job calls about my resume, but it doesn’t matter. I can’t miss work for an interview.”*

Speaker 8: *“I limp around with old painkiller prescriptions crinkling in my pocket for months because I don’t have the money to fill it.”*

Speaker 9: *“They all said Canada has services to help refugees get settled. It feels like settling for.”*

Narrator: Each episode pairs one composite story and one interview with a notable guest who contributes additional perspective grounded in their own work, research, and advocacy:

Speaker 11: *“What does right to housing look like? It isn’t just about having a roof over your head.”*

Speaker 12: *“It’s just becoming increasingly difficult for a newcomer or an immigrant to build a stable, safe, dignified life here in Canada.”*

Speaker 13: *“We have to address racial stereotypes, racial assumptions, as a real barrier to the provision of quality care.”*

Speaker 14: *“It is a social safety net, but it’s not a net that actually catches you. It’s one that entangles you.”*

Narrator: We are also collecting data to help researchers better advocate for poverty elimination. To contribute to this goal, please complete two brief surveys: one before you listen to a podcast episode and one afterwards. Click on the link in the podcast show notes and follow the prompts. When you finish the survey, you’ll be entered in a draw for a chance to win one of five \$40 gift cards.

Speaker 15: *“Sometimes people think that these issues are so large and so intractable that they can’t be solved. But the truth is...”*

Speaker 16: *“...if you asked people that live in poverty, what they need, they can tell you quite clearly what they need.”*

Speaker 17: *“This isn’t good enough. We don’t have enough affordable housing. This system isn’t working for us.”*

Speaker 18: *“Policy changes can have a positive impact.”*

Speaker 20: *“This is the time you must seize the moment, put this to rest. Maybe, that’s what will happen. Maybe that’s what will happen.”*