



March 17, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CMHA PEI releases a new report on housing supports in Prince County

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island – The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), has just released a new report titled, Needs Analysis of Housing Supports in the Prince County Region.

The report, completed by MRSB Consulting Services Inc. and AOR Solutions, encompasses best practices, an environmental scan and lived experiences from 14 key informant interviews, including community groups, service providers and government representatives.

Beginning in June of 2020, background research was conducted to gather information on homelessness in Prince Edward Island and current best practices. In those findings, it was determined the housing environment in Prince County is shifting due to population growth, demographic shifts, and an increase in tourism, making it difficult for some residents to maintain housing.

This latest report was compiled to understand the Prince County Region's current housing needs and the capacity of existing service and shelter providers. The report identifies gaps in services and shelter, provides advice on potential solutions and identifies support models and funding opportunities. The report also recognizes affordable and adequate housing, emergency shelter, supportive housing, transportation, daytime support, addictions and mental health, coordination and communication, and data collection as service area gaps that affect homeless individuals in the Prince County region. Short and long-term recommendations are also listed to address needs.

"Appropriate housing is a basic human need that should be available to everyone. Without it, mental health and addiction issues increase and it becomes very difficult to get and maintain employment and to feel safe and secure. CMHA is looking forward to the continued partnership with the Department of Social Development and Housing to address housing needs across PEI and now that we have a report specifically related to Prince County we will be able to move ahead and address the needs in that region." says Cecil Villard, CMHA PEI President.

"This report builds on the work started with community partners through the Community Needs Assessment on Emergency Shelter," says Brad Trivers, Minister of Social Development and Housing. "A significant amount of progress has been made to create emergency, supportive and social housing along with wrap-around services to support those facing housing needs. This report allows government to make evidence-based decisions to support Islanders in the Prince County Region facing housing challenges. The department has already begun to work with community partners to move forward on this report's recommendations."

The report was funded by the Community Housing Fund, a joint initiative of CMHA and the Department of Social Development and Housing.

The full report can be viewed online [here](#). For more information contact: Shelley Muzika, Executive Director, CMHA PEI at: 902-628-3652 or by email: accounting@cmha.pe.ca.

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