

WHAT WOULD IT TAKE?

**Youth Across Canada Speak Out on
Youth Homelessness Prevention**

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Youth Across Canada Speak Out on Youth Homelessness Prevention

114

Youth Participants

17 *focus groups*

12 *communities*

7 *provinces & territories*

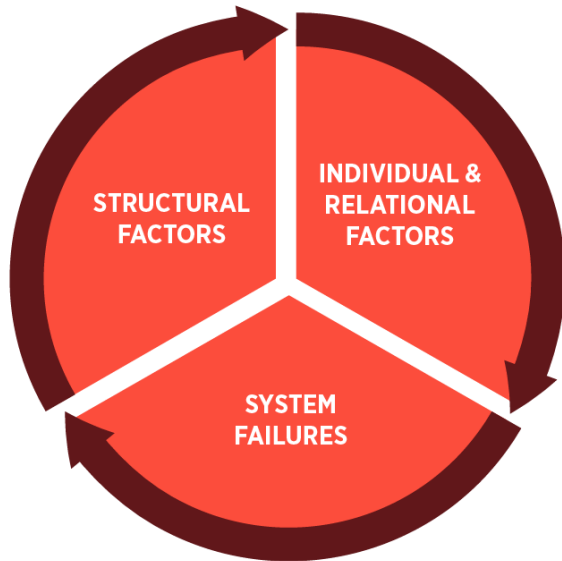


Focus Group Questions

- *What would have prevented you from experiencing homelessness?*
- *What kinds of programs or services would help prevent homelessness for young people who are at risk?*
- *Who should be involved in preventing homelessness for young people?*
- *What do you want to tell the Canadian government about preventing youth homelessness?*

KEY FINDINGS

Youth's Perspectives on Prevention



- + We are waiting too long to intervene
- + Causes and consequences of youth homelessness are mutually reinforcing, trapping youth
- + Inequity, discrimination, and colonialism
- + Staff behaviours and attitudes
- + Systems failures are key drivers of homelessness for youth, and where prevention could be most effective

We're waiting too long

“To access BC housing or any youth rent subsidies, you have to be homeless for a minimum of six months before they’ll even look at you. Six months is a long time. And there’s no need for any youth to go through that just to get a house. Cause some of them can make it through that time period, but some can’t.”

– Vancouver Youth



Structures & systems trapping youth

“If you don’t have ID, you can’t sometimes get work, and you can’t make money to buy an ID, to get work, and to get a home.”

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Edmonton Youth

Inequity, discrimination, & colonialism

“Colonization, like if that didn’t happen, I feel like I would be so good.”

- Vancouver Youth

Staff behaviours & attitudes

“Everybody thought I was lying. I was in an abusive home and everyone thought I was fine every day. My life was terrible for all these years ... And the Ministry should take care of all these kids because my life was ruined. The Ministry wouldn’t help.”

– Vancouver Youth



Systems failures as key drivers of homelessness

“They build these incentive programs for you where they will give you ... MONEY if you complete these goals. But unless you’re homeless, you can’t use it. Well, I’m like, I can barely feed my fucking kid right now, because I have no money, but I have a roof over his head. So, my goal for me is to feed my kid. Is that enough? Am I homeless? No. I’ll go find another program I can’t get into because I’m too well off. I might be well off, but I’m not doing good.”

– Calgary Youth

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things
we need
to do





1. Work upstream to address **STRUCTURAL FACTORS**



2. Supporting young people exiting **PUBLIC SYSTEMS**



3. Systems-based approach to **EARLY INTERVENTION**



4. Enhancing **HOUSING STABILIZATION**



5. A **DUTY TO ASSIST**