

Homeward Trust releases its Community Strategy to End Youth Homelessness in Edmonton

June 10, 2015 (Edmonton) – Today, Homeward Trust Edmonton released its Community Strategy to End Youth Homelessness in Edmonton, following an all-day youth services and access design forum.

Over the last year, Homeward Trust has been working closely with community and systems partners to help support the momentum and important work that is being done to address the needs of Edmonton's homeless youth. We have developed a Community Strategy to End Youth Homelessness in Edmonton to inspire innovation, shared principles, and ways forward for strategic cross-systems and integrated planning.

“While we have successfully housed youth through the Housing First program, we have more that we want to accomplish,” says Susan McGee, CEO of Homeward Trust Edmonton. “The Community Strategy outlines a local response to addressing Edmonton’s high risk and homeless youth, and will act as a guide as we plan the youth programming for the rest of the year and beyond.”

The plan provides a community-based solution that aligns with the Government of Alberta's plan. This alignment of provincial and local youth strategies is the first of its kind in Canada. The Community Strategy draws upon the vision and mission of the Government of Alberta's Youth Plan, and is supported by four core principles, which are:

- The Housing First Approach
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Positive Youth Development
- Individualized & Youth Centred Supports

These principles will help us achieve our five goal outcomes which are: safe, secure, stable housing, long term connections to supports, improved wellbeing, education, and employment.

The reception where the plan was released featured keynotes from two experts on youth homelessness, Dr. Stephen Gaetz, Director of the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness and the Homeless Hub, as well as Dr. Alex Abramovich.

The event takes place at the Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel, 10155 105 Street, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The program will begin at 5:30 p.m.

For more information, please contact:

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