



# Making Kenora HOME

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS  
FOR HOMELESSNESS

## ANNUAL REPORT 2013

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### HUB Executive

Diane Pelletier, Co-Chair  
Ralph Page, Co-Chair  
Nan Normand, Secretary  
Fay Clark, Treasurer  
Don Denver  
Fred Holmes  
Dan Jorgensen  
Melanie Kozak  
Joel McGrath  
Judy Underwood

### Message From The Co-Chairs

The mountain is moving! Our Housing First perspective has been adopted by the municipality in its Homelessness & Behavioural Task Force Work Plan and by the Kenora District Services Board in its Ten Year Housing and Homelessness Plan. Recently, the Kenora Substance Abuse and Mental Health Task Force announced the formation of a Housing Pillar as part of their advocacy framework.

All of these proclamations light the way towards our goal however, there must be funding found along the way. Words must be followed with actions.

The National Investment in Affordable Housing Initiative (2011-2014) has provided \$240,390 million to Ontario. As of June 30, 2013 a total of \$183.989 million was allocated. The numbers are high but so is the need. The federal government is investing 40% less today than was provided 20 years ago when funding is calculated as a percentage of the GDP. As an electorate, we need to be aware of what is hidden behind the numbers because

### Guiding Principles

- ❖ **EQUALITY**
- ❖ **INCLUSION**
- ❖ **SHARING**
- ❖ **SELF DETERMINATION**
- ❖ **EMPOWERMENT**

*"Kenora Cares"*

Diane Pelletier  
CoChair

Ralph Page  
CoChair

## OBJECTIVE # 1

### Promote Implementation of Recommended Housing Projects

**1. Full-time Emergency Shelter:** Despite the lack of core funding, the Fellowship Centre has managed to remain open for yet another year. Because of a substantial income reduction due to a new funding formula, hours had to be cut to balance



the budget and allow continued daily access. The KDSB has indicated that a pending reformulation should address the issues.

**2. Eight Transitional Single Room Occupancy Units:** The proposed construction of 8 transitional units for the chronically homeless remains unfunded. The Fellowship Center has unsuccessfully sought funding to construct SRO units within their facility. The Ten Year Housing and Homelessness Plan specifically recommends transitional housing units with supports for communities with a visible homeless population. The Problematic Substance Use Initiative has secured 8 housing subsidies and a supportive housing worker under a program partnered by Community Mental Health Support Services/Kenora Association for Community Living and Lake of the Woods District Hospital Community programs/Morningstar Centre.



**3. Twenty Single Room Occupancy Units:** No progress has been made towards the development of 20 SRO units. The municipal Homelessness & Behavioural Task Force Work Plan emphasized the need for active participation with senior levels of government on affordable and supportive housing. The recommendation that municipal incentives be offered to develop low income housing dovetails with the KDSB's need to partner for development of new affordable housing within their budgetary constrictions.



**4. Ten Single Dwelling Aboriginal Family Units:** Aamikkowiish partnered with the Kenora Affordable Housing Group to build 10 family homes

under the FIMUR (First Nations Inuit Metis Urban Rural housing) program. The project is part of \$2.89 million local project awarded through the Ontario Aboriginal Housing Support Services Corporation.



**5. Tax Discount/Credit and Utility Credit for Low-Income Seniors:** There is limited local eligibility for LEAP (Low Energy Assistance Program) as well as a property tax increase deferral. We are currently confirming need for further assistance programs.



**6. Two Supportive Housing Units:** In a creative partnership, Pinecrest is now provides access to onsite health and living services for seniors within three housing complexes. Seven transitional housing units for women fleeing abusive relationships have been funded through the \$2.89 FIMUR project.



**7. Rent Subsidization:** The Ministry of Health has provided rent subsidization for 4 individuals experiencing mental health dysfunction and 4 whose mental illnesses have brought them into conflict with the justice system. There have been an additional 2 subsidies to private landlords through KDSB out of the 13 that they manage regionally.



**8. Revolving House Trust:** Fundraising for the second Habitat for Humanity (Kenora Chapter) build has begun and construction is expected to begin in summer 2014. Six other home ownerships were funded in 2010 through FIMUR.



Making Kenora Home has continued to participate in housing consultations at all levels of government. Both the KDSB and the municipal's Homelessness and Behavioural Task Force have now committed to the Housing First model as advocated within the 2007 report, Community Solutions for Affordable Housing Projects. This report was updated as a result of the housing need survey undertaken by volunteers in August. HOME has continuing membership in the Homeless and Housing Network of Ontario (HHNO) and the Rural Housing Issues of Ontario (RHINO).

## OBJECTIVE # 2

### Community Caring Projects

**Christmas Sharing Circle.** Nancy Morrison continues to facilitate the traditional aboriginal sharing circle and Christmas celebration at the Kenora Fellowship Centre supported by Making Kenora Home. The event featured ceremonial drums, a delicious meal and gift bags for all patrons that included a



wrapped clothing item, party munchies, toiletries, stocking stuffers and a cheeseburger coupon. Donations significantly reduced the cost of event staging.



**Hunger Doesn't Take A Vacation.** The August campaign provided Saturday meals to almost 400 individuals at the street picnics. Entertainment was featured weekly and ranged from funny photo booths to plays to musical interludes. The Kenora Metis Council partnered to present healthy living information during the festivities. Their crafts, photos and good spirits lifted the events to higher levels of participation and enjoyment. Donations kept down costs and volunteerism was great.



BDO's market gleaning project again brought in heaps of fresh vegetables and baking thanks to the generosity of the Farmer's Market vendors. Volunteers picked up unpurchased stock and distributed to local food banks following each market day.



**Summerfest.** The fourth annual Minto Summerfest was held on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013. A live band blasted out rocking oldies while 18 agencies presented service information to over 175 neighbourhood residents. The OPP and volunteers flipped burgers while others provided drinks and snacks. Stilt walkers and jugglers abounded as Circus Kids performed and taught children about their program. Tours of the fire truck provided an opportunity for fire safety tips. The increased social interactions between service providers and the neighbourhood reduces



apprehensions and increases accessibility within a community context.



## OBJECTIVE # 3

### Community Awareness and Education

**Week of Action Against Poverty.** Kenora City council declared February 10-16, 2013 as our sixth action week. The Flash Song caught the



community's imagination. All radio stations and many local businesses played the theme song simultaneously and voices were lifted from council chambers to

nursing homes to schools and out onto the streets. A reader's poll by the Enterprise reported that 36% took part in an action during WAAP.



Other educational outreach initiatives included two arts projects, presentations to students, seniors and congregations.



Fundraisers came from cupcake sales, charity luncheons, food drives, clothing drives, office challenges, a Sweetheart Dance and musical offerings such as the Act Local Charity Concert. Awareness of poverty issues were made visible by the red ribbons worn by 300 local residents and public following of the Walk in Our Shoes poverty challenge. Making Kenora Home donated wrapped valentine's gifts for patrons of the emergency shelter.



**Gingerbread Lane.** The 2012 event featured a tea, the gingerbread village display of over 50 houses, children's activity table, bake table and souvenir sales. Entertainment was provided by the MacIntoshes and the Tuesday String Orchestra.



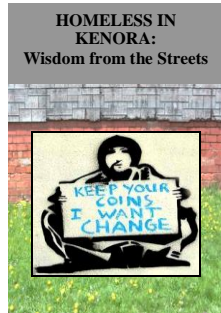


Beaver Brae students brought their creativity into their recycled housing development while St. Louis's Catholic School brought a beautiful display entitled *Every Bird Deserves A Home (and so do people)*. Mrs. Robinson's class at Keewatin Public School also donated an array of minihouses. There was excellent volunteerism and \$218.73 was raised for the Christmas Sharing Circle.

**Newsletters.** The communications team is networking to develop a more effective publishing and distribution team. Two newsletter editions were published and distributed by email and print editions throughout the community.



**Wisdom From The Streets.** The sixth book launch in the Homeless in Kenora series featured advice from those citizens who have struggled to find affordable housing. Wisdom comes out of experience rather than wallets but we seldom seek the advice of the economically marginalized. Advice ranged from partridge plucking to dealing with deer trying to get up on decks to exercising to jealousy to communicating and onto relationships.



**The Poverty Challenge** The blogged experience of 9 local residents who undertook a week long commitment to attempt to live on the personal needs budget allowed by Ontario Works was again a keynote activity during WAAP. Over 4000 hits were recorded on the blog and progress was followed by both local and regional media. This was the first year that an entire family took the challenge and the children's commentaries were particularly illuminating with regards to the silence of poverty.



**Facebook Page.** Social networking has become a key tool in Making Kenora Home's communications strategy. The page was particularly active during the Habitat build and it continues to evolve into an committed online community. There are currently 116 members pm the facebook site.

**Web Site.** Our web master, Karen Sinclair, continues to effectively manage our web site. [www.makingkenorahome.com](http://www.makingkenorahome.com) includes events,

research, publications and a direct newsfeed on federal and provincial housing matters, All booklets and reports are downloadable.



### Media Interviews

- o Radio 7
- o Television 8
- o Newsprint 42

## Financial Report

<b>Making Kenora Home Charitable Services Inc. Statement of Revenues and Expenditures Year Ended December 31, 2012</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
Received Donations	\$ 420.00
Non Received Donations	-
Donations from other charities	-
Other Revenue	349.00
Interest	11.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 780.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Advertising & Promotion\$	-
Interest & Bank Charges	40.00
Office	215.00
Donations	975.00
Program Expenses	1,439.00
Professional Fees	565.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,234.00</b>
<b>Deficiency of Receipts Over Expenses</b>	<b>(\$2,454.00)</b>

<b>Making Kenora Home Statement of Changes in Net Assets Year Ended December 31, 2012</b>	
<b>Net Assets-Beginning of Year</b>	<b>\$ 6,658.00</b>
<b>Deficiency of Receipts over Expenses</b>	<b>(\$2,454.00)</b>
<b>Net Assets-End of Year</b>	<b>\$4,204.00</b>

*Membership & Volunteerism*  
Contact

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