



# Making Kenora HOME

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS  
FOR HOMELESSNESS

## ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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### Message From The Co-Chairs

#### HUB Executive

Diane Pelletier, Co-Chair  
Jennifer McKibbon, Co-Chair  
Nan Normand, Secretary  
Keith Myshkowsky, Treasurer  
Jen Carlson  
Gordon Day-Janzen  
Betty Getson  
Deborah Jonassen  
Judy Underwood  
Adam Ward

#### Guiding Principles

##### ❖ EQUALITY

We are all created equal within this world that we share

##### ❖ INCLUSION

Every person living in Kenora is a part of our community

##### ❖ SHARING

As a community we must care for each other

##### ❖ SELF DETERMINATION

Every person has the right to choose his or her own path providing that path does not hurt another

##### ❖ EMPOWERMENT

We are accountable for our own actions and need to look inward first before looking outward for change

It has been a decade since Making Kenora Home released “Community Solutions for Affordable Housing Projects”. As is our tradition, we are presenting progress made on the original recommendations. We can be pleased that so much has been accomplished but targets move with the rotation of the world. As enumerated by the Kenora District Services Board, the local homeless population has tripled in that same amount of time so our objectives no longer meet the needs of our citizens. When we began planning for the most vulnerable within our city, we planned with a population for whom alcohol was the predominate disabling health condition and mental health issues were secondary. The population has changed. Those on the streets are younger and often struggling with crystal meth addictions. Our aging population is exploding with their own needs for affordable and appropriate housing. This demographic shift has forced us to address new concerns and seek new solutions.

Housing was chosen as our focus in 2016 because Housing First is the most effective strategy for poverty reduction however it is a part of a larger social constellation. We have also become involved in the development of social enterprise to benefit our citizens while decreasing tax based costs. It is with the support of our caring and creative community that our work is refreshed and responsive to real needs. Many individuals have contributed to our movement and many groups have partnered to share the principled vision of a hometown. Every year more citizens step up be part of the solution that is guided by equality, inclusion, sharing, self-determination and empowerment of all citizens.

#### Kenora Cares

Jennifer McKibbon  
CoChair

Diane Pelletier  
CoChair

## OBJECTIVE # 1

### Promote Implementation of Recommended Housing Projects

The recommendations that were made in 2007 were based on the need at that time. We are reporting on the progress made on those specific recommendations however, it is important to recognize that the enumerated homeless population has tripled within the decade that has elapsed with rippling effects all through the housing continuum.

**1. Full-time Emergency Shelter:** The long anticipated opening of the new 24/7 Community Services Hub was celebrated on May 11. There are 44 beds, 4 transitional units, accessible washrooms and program delivery area was created through a \$1.1 million CHPI grant and with the generosity of the



Knox United Church who stepped up to share their space through a 20 year lease. Although there have been operational challenges since the opening, Kenora has begun meeting the needs of the homeless within the community.

**2. Eight Transitional Single Room Occupancy Units:**

Moving forward from the pre-independent living centre in the basement of the Fellowship Centre, the establishment of a managed alcohol program and the Problematic Substance Use Initiative, a 20 unit supportive housing and treatment facility has been granted \$4.5 million by the Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services. Land has been purchased and initial planning undertaken. KDSB is modelling the project after the success of a similar project in Sioux Lookout. A bail bed facility to replace the aging Northland was also funded but location remains an issue.



**3. Twenty Single Room Occupancy Units:** Given the loss of several more low end rental units due to fire and demolition, accommodations for single adults remain a priority for Kenora. A proposal was being developed for a large development but has been halted by a proposed water and sewer

increase which would preclude affordability for the social housing provider.

**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 was part of \$2.89 million local project awarded through the Ontario Aboriginal Housing Support Services Corporation. All are now occupied.

**5. Tax Discount/Credit and Utility Credit for Low-Income Seniors:**

Our municipality does have a tax deferral option for low income seniors. The LEAP (Low Energy Assistance Program) has been replaced with the OESP (Ontario Electricity Support Program) which offers credits applied directly to billings once a customer has been found eligible.



The credits are limited and many will still not be able to pay utility bills. The City has developed building incentives to increase affordable housing in Kenora through their Community Improvement Plans.

**6. Two Supportive Housing Units:** In a creative partnership, Pinecrest is now providing fee for service assistance onsite for seniors within three social housing complexes. Seven transitional housing units for women fleeing abusive relationships were also funded through the \$2.89 FIMUR project. There is a new 5 bed stabilization facility for those experiencing mental health and addictions crisis.

**7. Rent Subsidization:** The Ministry of Health has increased rent subsidization for individuals experiencing mental health dysfunction and whose mental illnesses have brought them into conflict with the justice system however the lack of available units are a major impediment to housing through this program.

**8. Revolving House Trust:** Three homes have been built locally by Habitat for Humanity (Kenora Chapter). Six other home ownerships were funded in 2010 through FIMUR.



## OBJECTIVE # 2

### Community Caring Projects

#### Week of Action Against Poverty



Following municipal proclamation, 2019's WAAP featured a broad variety of events that were undertaken by many groups within the community. The Red Ribbon campaign, Celebration fundraiser, Office Challenge, Wear Red Day and Prayers from the Pulpit continued participatory actions. A new event this



year was the Rotary sponsored Free Public Swim which was well attended. Schools, offices and individuals brought donations to local anti-poverty programs. Public presentations on the impact of local poverty were hosted at ONWA Sunset Grill and schools.



#### Hunger Doesn't Take A Vacation



The **Stuff-A-Boat** competition raised \$2328.54 and 2,572 pounds of food for local soup kitchens and food banks. Treaty 3 Police again took home the championship. Safeway hosted the

month long event while K-Sports provided the eye catching boat that filled with donations. Other teams included the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Fire Management Team, Ontario Provincial Police and Northwest EMS.

#### Summerfest

The annual Minto Summerfest was held on Wednesday August 23rd, from 2:30 – 5:00. Thirteen community service agencies gathered under the donated tent from Best Way Rentals to share information on their resources with participants as they explored the displays, played games and snacked. The presence of both school boards along



with a chicken mascot was welcomed as families turned their attention from summer

vacation to fall planning. Over 100 neighbourhood adults and children came out to enjoy the family focused free event. Jesse McIsaac presented live music to the festival while the children lined up to tour the firetruck and get their cotton candy. Adults looked over the program opportunities and obtained useful literature from the service providers.



#### Street Picnics

Four picnics were hosted at the Kenora Fellowship Centre. Volunteerism was good each picnic featured entertainment. The



Lakeside Baptist offered up their popular Italian Feast while the Ladies in Black ensured that there was fresh baked pie for everyone. The much anticipated Fish Fry, Southern BBQ and Thanksgiving in August rounded out the meals. Two

hundred and thirty (230) were served and take out plates were allowed for others who could not join in. A commitment to using biodegradable paper rather than foam was made for the sake of the environment that sustains us all.



### OBJECTIVE # 3

#### Community Awareness and Education

Making Kenora Home has continued to participate in housing consultations at all levels of government. In 2018, MKH made 3 presentations at City Hall and was invited to speak at 10 community events.

#### Newsletters & Pamphlets

Two newsletter editions were published and distributed by email and print editions throughout the community.

#### Homeless In Kenora Booklet

This year featured the experiences of those who unexpectedly slipped into homelessness. Individuals who were leading productive and successful lives met with twists of fate that plunged them into poverty. Their stories burst the myths that we develop to distance ourselves from those who have fallen into despair.



#### The Poverty Challenge.

Local educators undertook the poverty challenge this year. The 11 bloggers garnered 3000 hits within 5 days and their experiences became lessons shared with the community.



“I don’t pretend for one second, I am truly feeling the discomfort of poverty because

this challenge is short lived and we are going to be able to return to the life we have on Friday BUT! we were told that wasn’t the point of this. The point is to create and discuss the awareness and get dialogues started.” (Miriam McDonald, Walk in Our Shoes 2019)

#### Facebook Page

Social networking has become a key tool in Making Kenora Home’s communications strategy. Membership in this online community has increased again within the previous year. Currently membership stands at 373.



#### Web Site

[www.makingkenorahome.com](http://www.makingkenorahome.com) features events, research, publications and a direct newsfeed on federal and provincial housing matters. All booklets and reports are downloadable for public use.

### Financial Report

#### Making Kenora Home Charitable Services Inc. Statement of Financial Position

December 31	2018	2017
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Cash	\$ 427	\$13,265
G.I.C	11,789	1,686
	<u>\$12,216</u>	<u>\$14,951</u>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Accts Payable	\$ 500	\$ 500
Net Assets	<u>\$11,716</u>	<u>\$14,451</u>
	<u>\$12,216</u>	<u>\$14,951</u>

#### Making Kenora Home Charitable Services Inc. Statement of Revenues & Expenditures

December 31	2018	2017
<b>Receipts</b>		
Received Donations	\$ 675	\$11,461
Nonrec. Donations	2,815	97
Donations Other Charities	-----	1,350
Interest	103	1
	<u>3,593</u>	<u>12,909</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Interest & Bank Charges	31	9
Office	-----	22
Program Expenses	5,687	1,482
Professional fees	610	593
	<u>6,328</u>	<u>2,106</u>
<b>Excess of Receipts over Expenditures</b>		
	<u>\$(2,735)</u>	<u>\$10,803</u>

#### Making Kenora Home Charitable Services Inc. Statement of Changes in Net Assets

December 31	2018	2017
<b>Net Assets-Beginning of Year</b>		
	\$ 14,451	\$ 3,648
Excess Receipts/Expenditures	(2,735)	10,803
<b>Net Assets-End of Year</b>	<u>\$ 11,716</u>	<u>\$14,451</u>

Membership & Volunteerism

Contact

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Northwest Community Legal Clinic