



Mental Health  
Commission  
of Canada

Commission de  
la santé mentale  
du Canada

## **NEWS ADVISORY/RELEASE**

***For immediate distribution***

### **PROJECT PROVIDES HOMES TO OVER 1030 HOMELESS PEOPLE LIVING WITH A MENTAL ILLNESS IN CANADA**

***Media invited to pursue stories about the five-city research project: two years later***

**Calgary, Alberta, November 14, 2011** – Hundreds of homeless people living with a mental illness in Canada now have a place to live as part of the Mental Health Commission of Canada's (MHCC) national At Home/Chez Soi Project. Two years after its official launch, there are currently over 1030 people receiving housing and support services. 980 others have access to the regular supports and services available in their communities.

"We've been hearing stories of transformation and it's very gratifying," says Cameron Keller, MHCC VP Mental Health and Homelessness. "We're over half way through this project and we are starting to see initial results – what's working and where the challenges are. It's satisfying to know we will have a tremendous amount of useful information to share with Canadians by the end of this project," he says.

There is an estimated range of 150,000-300,000 homeless people across Canada, and many of these people live with a mental illness. The At Home/Chez Soi Project is taking place in Moncton, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver to find out more about this social crisis and demonstrate ways to help solve it. What we learn in these five cities will help inform related planning and policy development across the country.

The demonstration project is using a Housing First approach, which means providing people with housing, then providing them with support services tailored to meet their needs. Each city is also exploring specific issues related to sub-populations such as people with substance use issues, the Aboriginal population, or people in rural areas.

Media are invited to explore stories in any of the five study sites including:

- Some of the early findings such as population demographics nationally or by site
- Personal stories from participants - e.g. Isaac's story: [http://youtu.be/NzyFR\\_iO438](http://youtu.be/NzyFR_iO438)
- The unique partnerships established across the country with private landlords
- Early outcomes for people receiving Housing First services and supports

For more on the At Home/Chez Soi Project please visit: [www.mentalhealthcommission.ca](http://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca)

*The Mental Health Commission of Canada is a catalyst for transformative change. Our mission is to work with stakeholders to change the attitudes of Canadians toward mental health problems and to improve services and support. Our goal is to help people who live with mental health problems lead meaningful and productive lives. The Mental Health Commission of Canada is funded by Health Canada. For more information about the MHCC please visit [www.mentalhealthcommission.ca](http://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca)*



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**Contact:**

Nujma Bond, Communications Manager  
403-385-4033/403-826-3942  
[nbond@mentalhealthcommission.ca](mailto:nbond@mentalhealthcommission.ca)

Cameron Keller, VP Mental Health and Homelessness  
778-789-7580

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