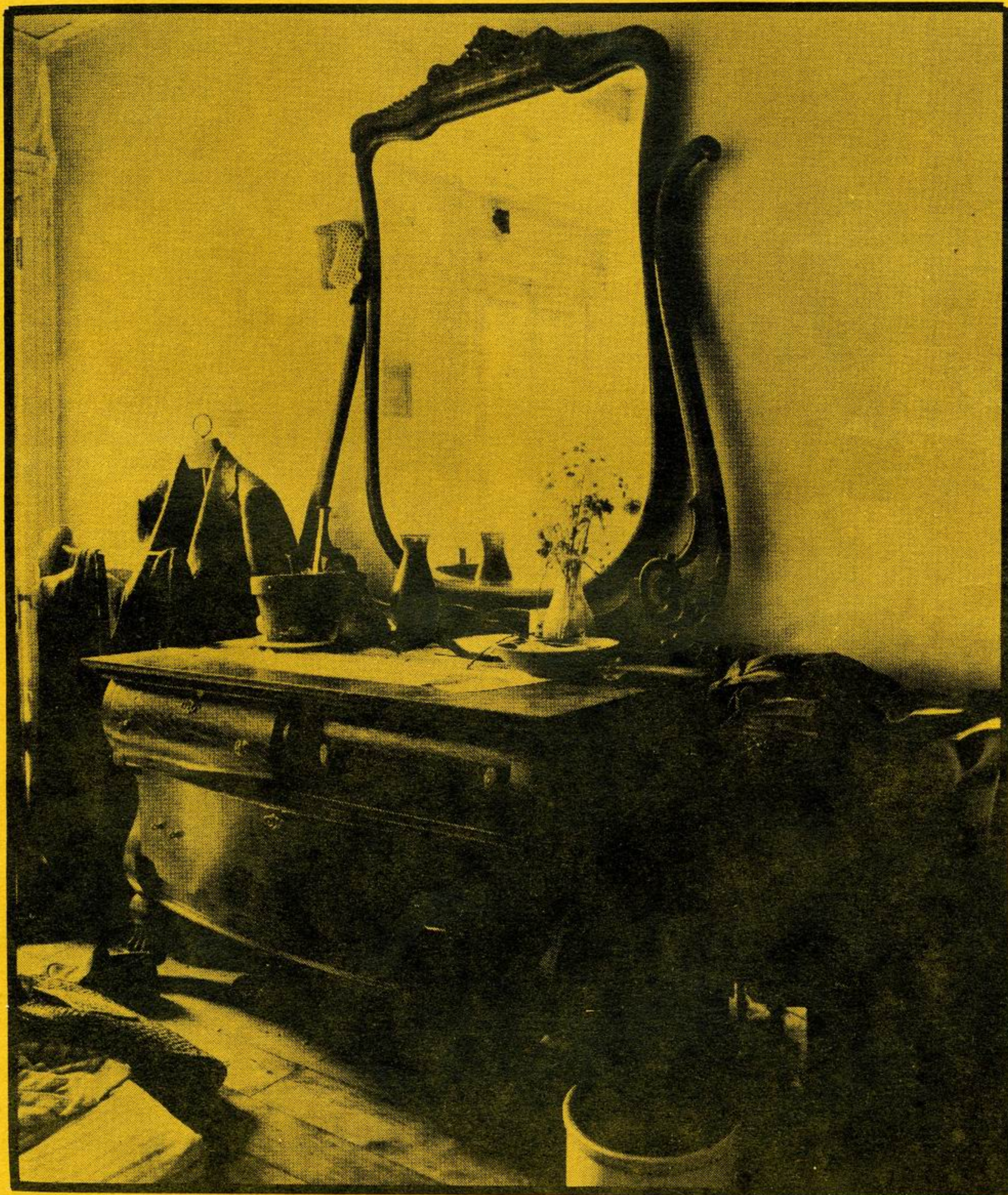


CONNEXIONS

A Digest of Resources and Groups
FOR SOCIAL CHANGE



Housing **Fall 1984 Vol. 9, No. 3**

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UCSN HOUSING COMPENDIUM: HOMELESSNESS and HOUSING

All across Canada, the number of homeless people in urban core areas has been increasing. The press have often featured the unemployed youth, women, and ex-psychiatric patients who are recent additions to the homeless. These groups have joined the men, women and families who have for some time been unable to find affordable and appropriate accommodation. All are being forced to rely on emergency shelters and hostels as the accommodation of last resort. For many, that which was meant to be "emergency" accommodation has become a permanent residence.

Faced with the increase in numbers and the lack of housing options, a growing number of those working on these issues have become aware that the "emergency" is going to continue in the foreseeable future. Workers in local parishes, church based organizations, community agencies, residents groups and even some in government have recognized that the disappearance of secure and affordable housing is a major contributor to the homelessness many are experiencing. It has also become clear that high unemployment and our current social policies are combining with the lack of housing to increase the number who are "structurally" homeless. In response to this situation, many community workers are initiating housing projects and challenging governments to do the same.

UCSN and HOUSING

The Urban Core Support Network (UCSN) is a church based, ecumenical association of individuals who are responding to the problems faced by people living at the margins of our urban society. Over the past 10 years, Urban Core Support Network workshops and newsletters have included an increased focus on housing issues. During that time, increasing numbers of network participants have become involved in putting housing in place. To enhance our networking of these people the network has asked CONNEXIONS to prepare this special edition on housing.

IN THIS SECTION

There are two kinds of material abstracted or presented here. One group of abstracts points to efforts to analyze the problems and propose responses. Through commissioned studies, task group analyses or conferences and workshops, people across the country have been attempting to clarify the issues, identify the problems and propose solutions to the disappearance of housing for people in the urban core. The second group of abstracts includes descriptions of projects that are now in place or at the proposal stage. It is reflection on these projects that will provide the basis for more effective action in the future.

ANALYSIS

The papers and presentations abstracted here all document the seriousness of the situation and the inadequacy of current responses.

THE PROJECTS

For the most part, previous efforts to put housing in place for homeless single people by churches and non-profit groups have been small in scale and oriented to people facing particular problems in addition to homelessness, such as alcohol addiction. The projects that are included here represent some of the more recent and larger scale projects oriented to low income singles, or some of the more innovative efforts. The list, however, is far from complete as a number of known projects did not submit material for this compendium.



THE FUTURE

In order for the present projects to continue and expand and for the new proposals to become reality, adequate funding must be found. Most groups have sought Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) backed mortgages in order to purchase and renovate or to newly construct housing. Even with this assistance, the high cost of land and low social assistance rates that plague the private sector also make it difficult if not impossible for non-profit organizations to develop housing that is affordable without other subsidies. In addition, the kind of management necessary for the operation of such housing is beyond traditional rent collection and requires additional, ongoing funding.

The following trends make the future of such projects even more uncertain:

- * Even before the election was called, it appeared that CMHC was getting out of social housing, or drastically changing its approach to favour private sector involvement.

- * Provincial governments, with few exceptions, have been reducing or eliminating their commitment to social housing.

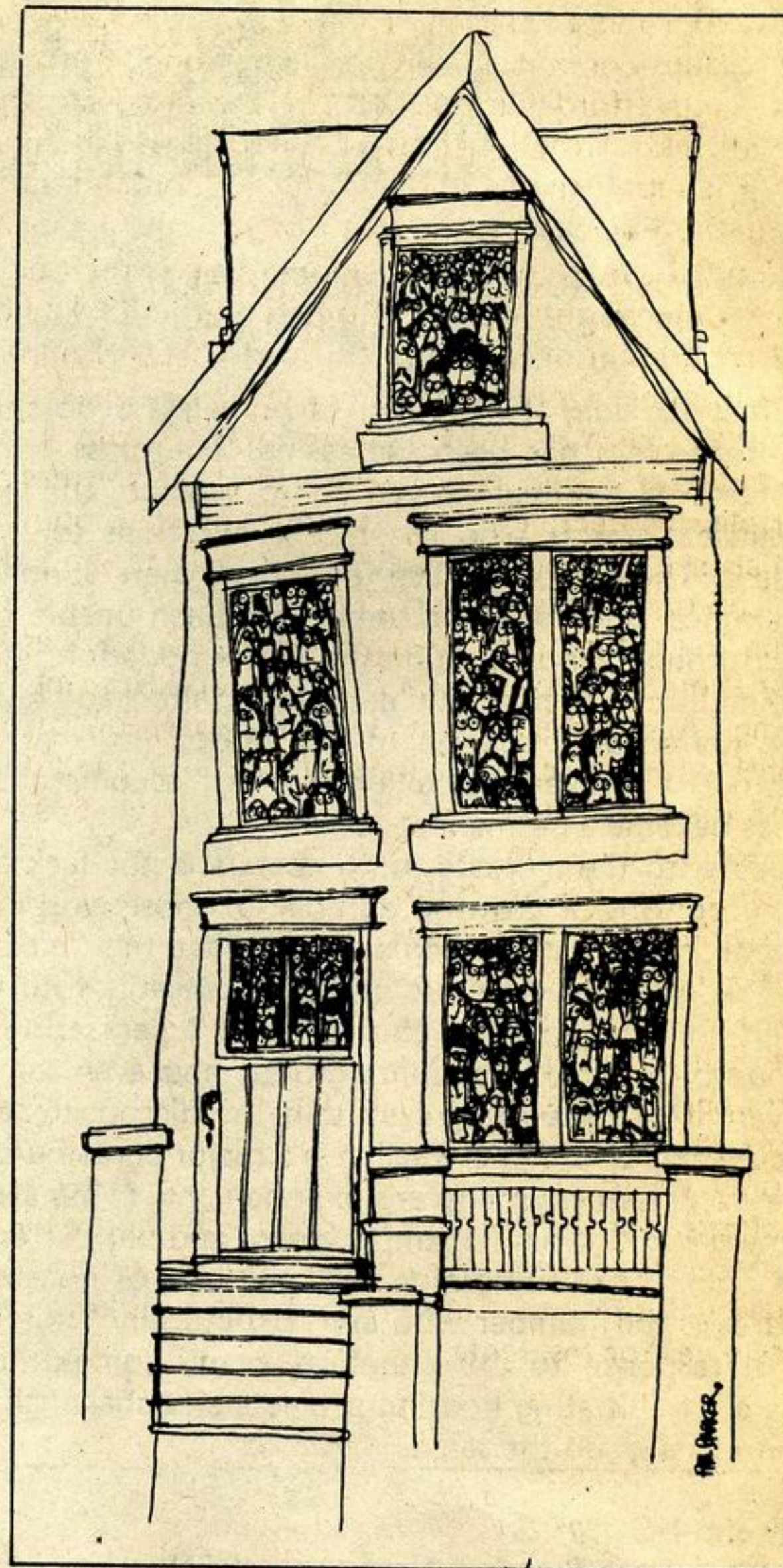
- * Social assistance rates, which people would use to pay for their housing, have been substantially cut back in some provinces and increased only minimally in others.

- * It continues to be easier to get funding for housing people with particular problems, such as ex-mental patients. Although, this funding is still far from adequate. It is much harder to find the funding necessary to manage housing for those who's problems are not recognized as being deserving of aid — those who are homeless and unemployed.

While the future funding possibilities for such housing is still unclear, the need for the housing is being demonstrated all across the country. Many communities in addition to those indicated here are also struggling with the same issues. For example, UCSN participants in cities such as St. John's, Fredericton, Oshawa, Hamilton, and Saskatoon are also involved in putting such housing in place.

UCSN hopes to continue to foster the networking of people and information that will enable more effective response to the need for housing. We hope this compendium is a first step in that direction.

Larry E. Peterson
UCSN Staff



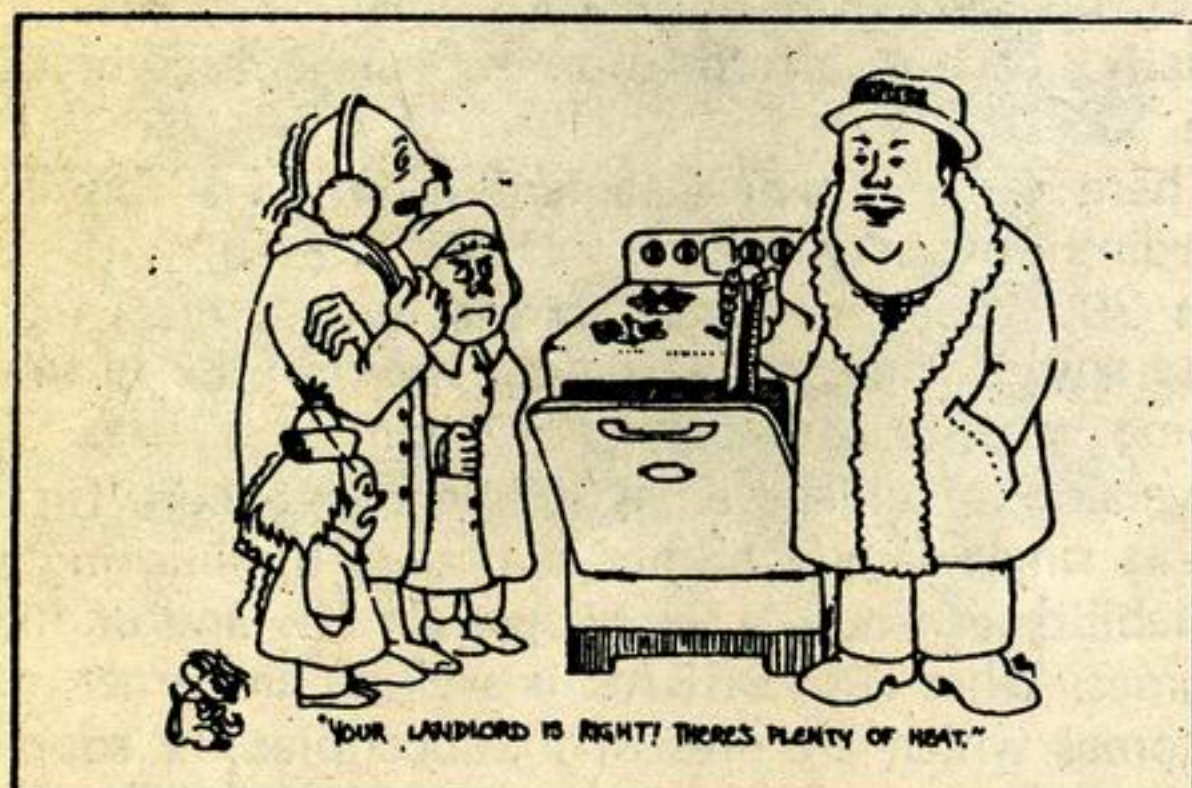
CX 3003

EDMONTON INNER CITY HOUSING SOCIETY
10765-98th Street, Edmonton, Alta. T5H 2P2
(403) 423-1339

The SOCIETY is a "community-based housing development group committed to providing long-term supportive and affordable housing for the disadvantaged and homeless of the inner city." Incorporated in June, 1983, it is supported by community and church groups such as the Food Bank and the Marian Centre. Operating funds have come from, among others, the Social Justice Commission of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton and the Clifford E. Lee Foundation. Volunteer work is done by a 10-person executive committee, with a range of community, professional and volunteer experience, four working committees responsible, respectively, for user-group development and liaison, housing acquisition, fundraising, and finance, and one paid staff person.

The first project, for ex-psychiatric patients, was recently submitted to Canada Mortgage and Housing for funding. A needs survey had isolated a group of ex-patients with capacity for independent living but with a need for some support as one group for which available accommodation for the disadvantaged, short-term and crisis-oriented, did not serve well. The aim is to provide support, stability, affordability and decent housing in small non-institutional, participatory settings. Two houses with a capacity of five beds each are sought for rehabilitation.

To operate without paid staff at the low end of market for the district the project requires voluntary work not only on the standing committees but in its daily operations, through visits, attendance at house-meetings, etc. In addition, groups and organizations have pledged voluntary assistance to provide necessary help and services for residents.



CX 3004

OPERATION FRIENDSHIP — EDMONTON
10631-96th Street, Edmonton, Alta. T5H 2J1
(403) 429-2626

OPERATION FRIENDSHIP is a social service agency that serves people 55 years of age and older in Edmonton's urban core. For many years there has been an identified need for safe housing for many of the alcoholic brain-damaged people we regularly see.

Available housing alternatives are frequently either inaccessible or inappropriate for them and most care-settings will not readily accept them. And many choose to remain within the urban core in an independent setting.

In response to these needs has come a new facility which will include housing, a senior centre drop-in and offices for the agency itself. The drop-in is to be central in the complex, designed to be a focal point for both the complex and the community. The housing component is designed as ten households (cluster arrangement of four people per unit) all living under one roof. The internal design of all the areas — housing and drop-in and offices — is a direct reflection of input from the clients themselves, volunteers, board of directors and staff. The facility will be a unique one in North America. We look forward to the opening of the facility in late summer of 1985.

CX 3005

BACKWARDS FROM BACK-WARDS: THE UNMET NEEDS OF RECOVERING PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS IN EDMONTON

Jon Murphy

Boyle Street Community Services Co-op
10299-96th Street, Edmonton, Alta. T5H 2G5
June 1983. Free.

Reacting to an enormous increase in ex-psychiatric patients among its clients, Boyle Street Co-op, an Edmonton street-front agency, conducted research into Alberta's mental health care services and the situation of the "deinstitutionalized." This report is a shortened, "popular" version of the original study written for social service professionals and the government. It presents findings and makes recommendations to the province. Housing emerges as an area of acute need.

After the Blair Report (1969) deinstitutionalization — transferring psychiatric patients from hospitals to the community — has been the official policy in Alberta, as it is in most of Canada. But the ex-hospitalized have minimal financial means and lack personal or material support. Extreme transience is the norm in housing. The average length of stay in any form of

accommodation is less than four months. Many ex-patients are evicted, more in search of better rooms, or re-enter hospital. Without social support they are easy targets for exploitation. Even supportive housing situations are sometimes not available, the report suggests, because of administrative unease about ex-psychiatric patients.

Government should initiate new housing programs open to less motivated chronic patients inappropriate for day-programs, the report urges. But most critical is attention to the overall problems of the deinstitutionalization: the lack of funding for the community support services prescribed by Blair and lack of co-ordination among mental health care agencies. Only through provision of integrated community social support, it argues, could the policy become the positive alternative it was once thought to be.

CX 3006

SEARCH FOR SHELTER

c/o Boyle Street Community Service Co-op
10229-96th Street, Edmonton, Alta. T5H 2G8

In May, 1982, six women, calling themselves the Housing Information Project, sponsored a workshop entitled SEARCH FOR SHELTER. Partial funding was provided by Secretary of State, Women's Program.

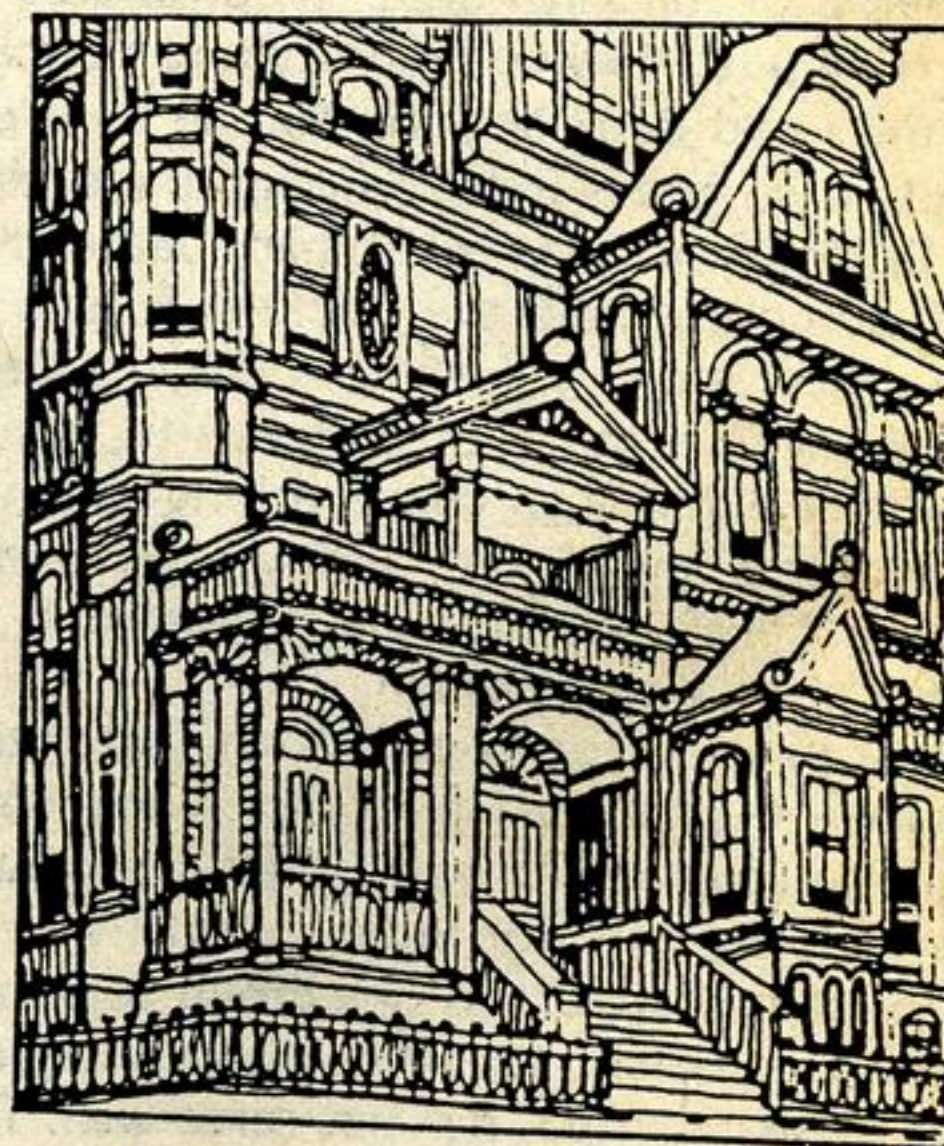
The workshop focused on the specific housing needs of four hard-to-house groups of people: discharged mental patients; multi-problemled senior citizens; women, particularly single mothers with three or more children; and, people with histories of "house wrecking" (often battered women).

Dr. Ann McAfee, a housing planner for the City of Vancouver, gave the opening address. Since 1974 Dr. McAfee has been responsible for housing policy planning and for the implementation of special housing programs in Vancouver. Her talk reflected her long experience in and extensive knowledge of the housing system, and challenged all participants to engage themselves in the process of articulating a city-wide housing policy. McAfee's approach encouraged workshop participants in that she helped to de-mystify the housing system, making the problems manageable and solvable.

A panel presentation focused on the four specific hard-to-house groups. The talks were prepared by people active in housing in such agencies as the Boyle St. Co-op (CX 3005), Operation Friendship (CX 3004), the Canadian Mental Health Association, WIN House, Canative Housing, Norwood School and the Alberta Status of Women Action Committee. ASWAC prepared

and presented a talk on the housing needs of single mothers, with special emphasis on the needs of children for secure, stable, and adequate shelter.

The participation of 75 people at the conference was by invitation. The intent was to bring together decision-makers in housing programs at the municipal, provincial and federal levels with housing placement workers in service agencies.



CX 3007

DAYBREAK

Non-profit Shelter (Ecumenical) Corp.,
384 Arlington Ave., Ottawa, Ont. K1R 6Z5
(613) 236-3400

DAYBREAK is a non-profit shelter corporation whose volunteer members belong to five different church denominations all located in the inner city of Ottawa. The objective of DAYBREAK is to acquire, through purchase, large-sized older homes, to provide residential facilities for single people who have, or have had, social, physical or emotional problems and who, financially, cannot afford rooming house accommodation.

There has been a noticeable diminution of rooming/boarding houses in the area. There are currently less than 200 rooming houses in the inner city. To purchase any of these would defeat the purpose of maintaining an adequate stock of rooming houses. The conversion of older homes in the metro core for resale as single family homes is already diminishing the availability of housing for people on low and/or fixed incomes. What DAYBREAK is seeking are larger, older homes which are presently unoccupied, or soon to

be. The Corporation has been seeking the assistance of citizens in the community to alert DAYBREAK to opportunities at an early date.

Early in 1980, a group of United churches in the inner city undertook a study of the problem of housing for both single persons and families in their area. The impetus for the study was the 1979 "Report on Major Social Needs of the Central Area of Ottawa."

DAYBREAK was incorporated in 1982. At present they operate two houses, one for men and one for women. As a general policy, DAYBREAK homes are based on a Christian approach to life and are founded to help people to live together in a community of mutual acceptance. The criteria for residence is designed to provide a caring, home environment where residents may find, for a reasonable period of time, a supportive atmosphere at an affordable cost.

DAYBREAK homes are not treatment centres. Applicants with social adjustment problems are required to have a six-month period of independent living prior to acceptance. For those with social adjustment problems, other support facilities already exist in the community. The ultimate objective of DAYBREAK is to own and operate several residences in the inner city of Ottawa with a resident co-ordinator in each house.



CX 3008

EMERGENCY SHELTER IN OTTAWA-CARLETON: AN EXPERIMENTAL VIEW

Mary King, Anglican Social Service Centre
454 King Edward Ave., Ottawa, Ont. K1N 7M8

This paper presents the observations and recommendations of one worker at an Ottawa day shelter. The paper can be read as a companion piece to CX 3009 and CX 3007. The author traces back to 1978 the first conscious awareness in Ottawa that the users of available hostels were no longer transient but were long-term users. For example, the client population of the Anglican Social Services Centre 454 (a day centre for multi-problem, socially disabled people) changed from an initial group of unemployed single men (many with alcohol-related problems) to a large number with psychiatric disabilities, and others who often remained on the streets at night. Currently, services in the Ottawa shelter-support system are serving growing numbers of single women, single displaced young people, couples, families and the chronically psychiatrically disabled, as well as the single male alcoholic and transients. The largest increases, the author observes, seem to be in women and people aged 15-30.

The traditional family-home model for meeting individuals' practical survival needs (food, shelter, hygiene) and their emotional needs for warmth, support and caring, no longer exist for these people, the author notes. The result of this "health and soul destroying" lifestyle is that tensions build up, with violent outbursts and problematic behaviours that shelter workers must cope with.

King notes that viewing the situation as merely a temporary problem of "shelter" is misguided in light of the economic, unemployment, social and housing crisis indicators which point to long-term structural problems. Since "the current situation of service delivery seems to perpetuate the homeless situation for many people" (many of them with multiple problems), it needs to be re-evaluated. Also needed are ways to assess how many and who needs help. Expecting direct care workers to take on this task may not be reasonable in light of their workloads, yet these workers should be included in the planning process to address the problems. The author suggests that, in Ottawa's case, the local Social Planning Council take on co-ordination and planning. Some steps have already been taken in this direction. King also suggests an approach for allocating current and future funding.

CX 3009

**HOUSING IN OTTAWA-CARLETON:
A WOMAN'S ISSUE**

Debbie Barton, Canada Community Services Project
Elizabeth Fry Society

In February 1983, the Elizabeth Fry Society of Ottawa acquired funding to research the housing needs of women in the Ottawa-Carleton area. The mandate of the study was to:

1. Identify present housing resources available to women and to document program and housing needs of women in the Ottawa-Carleton area, and;
2. Identify and approach existing social agencies whose mandate it is to meet women's housing needs and to determine their concerns and recommendations.

HOUSING IN OTTAWA-CARLETON: A WOMEN'S ISSUE is the report that resulted from this research project. It includes a literature review and an examination of existing housing resources for female offenders, the psychiatrically disabled, unwed mothers, women in crisis, and female alcohol and drug abusers. Also included in a list of recommendations for action at the federal, provincial, regional and local levels.

Many factors contribute to the housing crisis facing women: high interest rates, low rental vacancies, insufficient public housing construction, deconversion, and inadequate shelter subsidy rates. In addition, women, whether they be unattached individuals, single parents, or wives in two parent families, have the greatest likelihood of poverty. Limited access to jobs, especially high-paying jobs, the wage disparity between men and women, and inadequate social assistance rates limit women's ability to obtain housing.

The specialized housing programs for women in the Ottawa-Carleton area are filled to capacity and have waiting lists. As a result, "battered women are forced to remain in abusive situations, women often find it necessary to prostitute themselves in order to have a roof over their heads, female offenders with no fixed address remain incarcerated, and a number of women are homeless."

This report would be useful for groups involved in the development or expansion of special housing projects for women.

CX 3010

**MILTON PARC:
A CO-OPERATIVE NEIGHBOURHOOD**

Joan Bradley

Groupe de ressources techniques de Milton Parc
3501 Park Ave., Montreal, Que.

19 pages, 1983

Published in honour of the Milton Parc Festivities in September, 1983, this booklet celebrates urban renewal by renovation rather than demolition. It describes the history of the neighbourhood, and the process of its redevelopment. Included are photographs and architectural plans of the variety of buildings which constitute Milton Parc. There are also descriptions of the co-operative nature of the project and its demographic make-up.

Milton Parc is just outside the downtown core of Montreal, close to Mount Royal Park. Targetted as the site of a large urban renewal project in the late 1960s, Milton Park would have lost 250 homes by demolition. The residents, and 20 non-profit groups successfully organized against the project. In 1979 the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation purchased the properties and sold them to the Societe d'amelioration Milton Parc (SAMP) in 1980. Heritage Montreal set up the Societe patrimoine urbain de Montreal (SPUM) to run the project. Both SAMP and SPUM are active as advisors in urban studies, architecture, finance, real estate and co-operation. The Groupe de ressource techniques de Milton Parc employs 20 people as social animators, architects, administrators and educators.

From the start, the new project's goal was to renovate the turn-of-the-century houses and return them to the original tenants without large rent increases. By 1983 the renovations were nearly complete. The majority of residents are low-income. Involving more than 20 autonomous but interacting groups, the neighbourhood is run as a co-operative. Milton Parc is an attempt to build a richer more people-oriented social life within an urban setting.



CX 3011

**TABLE DE CONCERTATION
SUR LES MAISONS DE CHAMBRES**
c/o Bill Jay, Montreal City Mission
3700 rue St-Dominique, Montreal, Que. H2X 2X7
(514) 844-9128

The TABLE DE CONCERTATION SUR LES MAISONS DE CHAMBRES has been working for the past few years to preserve and ameliorate housing conditions for single low-income people in Montreal's downtown areas.

These people are senior citizens, welfare recipients, ex-psychiatric patients and minimum wage earners who want and need to stay in familiar neighbourhoods where they have lived for years. The proximity to social services, out-patient clinics and community centres is also of vital importance.

Speculation and lack of municipal policies to protect rooming houses, which is the main housing form for these people, has created a crisis. Over 40 per cent of the rooming house stock in Montreal has disappeared over the past five years. The city centre is being emptied of its long-time residents to make way for luxury condominiums, boutiques and restaurants.

As a result, some of these residents are paying more for shoddier accommodation far from familiar neighbourhoods. Worse yet, some of those on the bottom rung of the housing ladder have been knocked off altogether, to join the ever increasing ranks of Montreal's homeless, a fact to which the city's hostels can testify.

Hostels, however, are only a short-term solution. By their very nature they can only provide food and shelter and can't possibly hope to replace the community infrastructure of friendships, services and conveniences. The 40-year-old man who shows up on the steps of one of these hostels in need of overnight shelter has a housing problem not only for that evening but for the next 20 to 30 years of his life.

In keeping with this philosophy the TABLE is presently collaborating with the city's hostels and missions to prepare for a fall meeting with the civic administration to discuss the rooming house problem.

Negotiations are also going on at the provincial level to improve existing subsidy programs, and the TABLE is also investigating the possibility of setting up "bridge-funding" to help projects that need immediate cash to purchase rooming houses.

Three member organizations and their staff have individual projects on the go as well. Benefitting from the support of strong community oriented boards these non-profit housing organizations all have recent developments to share.

Most of its efforts are learning by trial and error — and the TABLE's along with other cities' experiences need to be shared and reflected upon in order to strengthen our ability to get affordable, decent housing.



CX 3012

DOWNTOWN CRISIS HOUSING FOUNDATION
c/o Bob Gay, Downtown Chaplain
108 Connaught Crescent, Regina, Sask.

The goal of the DOWNTOWN CRISIS HOUSING FOUNDATION of Regina is to locate suitable housing in downtown Regina for socially and economically handicapped men. A group of older men who live on low income or welfare have inhabited downtown Regina for many years. They have lived simply, usually in older hotels, practicing an independent lifestyle which most people don't know about or understand. With the advent of the city core "revitalization," however, most of those old hotels have been destroyed to make way for new buildings.



CX 3013

**DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
638 Alexander St., Vancouver, B.C.**

In January 1984 DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (DERA) received approval from Vancouver City Council for a \$2.3m 56-unit housing co-operative for older men and women on low incomes. Land will be leased from the city for a period between 40 and 60 years which has yet to be decided. Some politicians had worried that DERA would not serve the low-income people who most need housing. The co-op met this concern by committing itself to setting no criteria for membership and to consulting with Downtown Eastside Tenants' Selection Committee, a group of churches and associations who have prepared a list of people needing low-income housing in downtown Vancouver. Said Alderman Libby Davis (quoted in the Vancouver *East Ender*) "For once . . . the right people are getting the breaks."

**THE NORM DRAKE HOUSE,
Hostel Services (Durham Region), Inc.
381 Simcoe St. S., Oshawa, Ont. L1H 4J2
(416) 723-8431**

The NORM DRAKE HOUSE is an unstaffed house and home for five men who live co-operatively while learning or relearning the skills necessary for independent living. The residents are offered a supportive, rehabilitative environment, supervised by staff working at Hostel Services (Durham Region), Inc., and other resource people in the community.

The NORM DRAKE HOUSE is available to male applicants ranging in age from 18 to 64 years. Applicants who need support and/or can offer others support while pursuing goals are welcome. Applicants must be motivated to live co-operatively with others.

CX 3015

**HOUSELINK COMMUNITY HOMES
509 Bloor St. W., Toronto, Ont. M5S 1Y2
(416) 968-0242**

HOUSELINK COMMUNITY HOMES provides housing for people who have received psychiatric treatment in Metropolitan Toronto. The organization establishes and supports co-operative residences that house three to five people each.

A present, 79 people live in 18 residences. Although the majority of houses are located in the City of Toronto proper, there are also houses in other boroughs and suburbs.

Each co-op is self-financed and managed. Residents pay rent directly to the landlord and, if required, utilities are assumed by the residents in their names. Usually a lease is not required but should a landlord request one, it is signed by one or more of the residents.

HOUSELINK provides basic furnishings and will pay "last month's rent" to obtain a new unit.

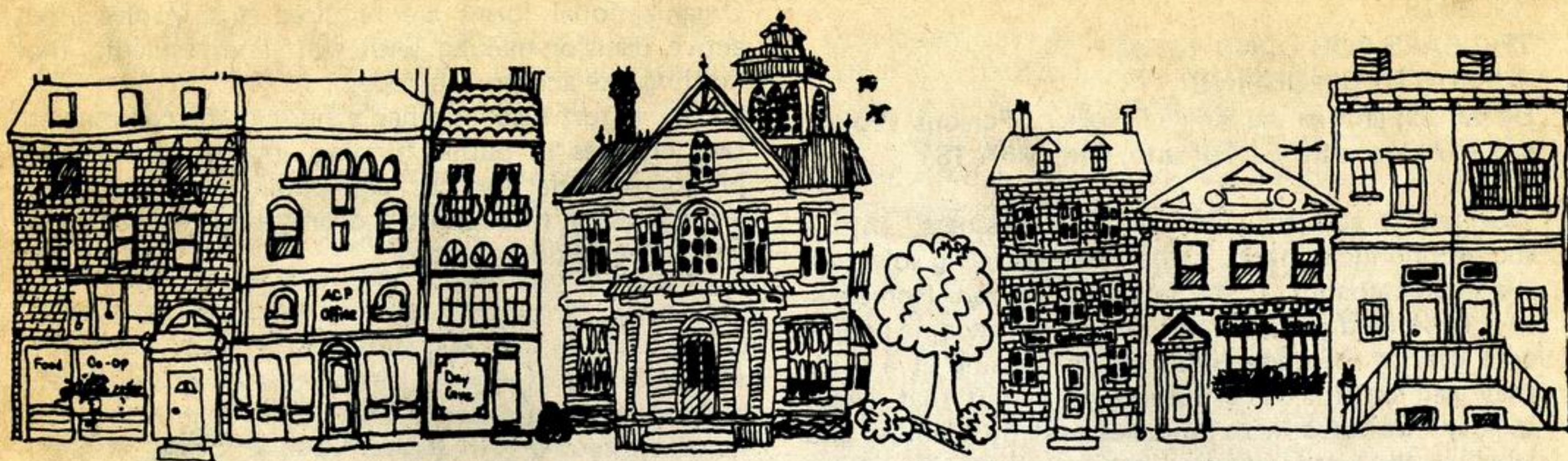
The model is based on a self-help principle. All decisions regarding the operation of the house are made by the group. A volunteer house co-ordinator is provided to those co-ops that request one. The house co-ordinator acts as a facilitator, provides an "outside" perspective on house issues and is available to the group in a crisis situation. Also, staff are available as back up to the volunteers.

Each co-op sets its own house rules and reserves the right to evict people who are disruptive or unco-operative. HOUSELINK has only four non-negotiable rules: no late payment of rent or rent default, no drug or alcohol abuse, no physical violence and no illegal activity.

A resident advocacy program has been established to provide individual residents with volunteers who act as advocates on their behalf. These volunteers may also serve to play a social role.

Most of the housing stock is rented from private landlords but HOUSELINK has recently made forays into the non-profit housing sector. Currently two units are located within housing co-operatives; two units are owned by a municipal non-profit housing corporation; one is located within a private non-profit housing corporation and three are owned by HOUSELINK (with financing through CMHC). Two five-bedroom allocations have recently been given to HOUSELINK for 1984.

The organization is member controlled with a 14-member board of directors elected annually. One-third of the board must be residents/ex-psychiatric patients and plans are underway to increase this number to one-half.



HOUSELINK attempts to provide both resident and non-resident members with an opportunity to interact within social/recreational context. Regular activities are planned and administered by a social-recreation council comprised of residents.

CX 3016

HOMES FIRST SOCIETY

c/o All Saints Anglican Church
315 Dundas St. E., Toronto, Ont. M5A 2A2

HOMES FIRST SOCIETY, a non-profit housing corporation, was established in 1983. Its purpose is not only the provision of housing for low income single adults, but the "establishment of homes . . . A home is more than shelter. It is part of one's security, identity, privacy, hospitality. Being homeless is not only a physical deprivation. In ways that we who have homes can scarcely conceive, homelessness subjects a person to experiences and problems that undermine his or her sense of worth as a human being."

The SOCIETY is committed to certain goals:

1. To make sure that those who will use the housing are represented in planning for and managing it;
2. To provide a quality of management that will not just oversee a physical plant but will work with residents to build communities of people and supportive social networks to help individuals deal with day-to-day life problems;
3. To provide a variety in types of housing to meet the needs of a variety of persons;
4. To make sure that the housing is affordable to people living on social assistance, and affordable also to the organization that will be providing the management and other social service supports. Security of tenure is a necessary requisite for long term housing; and
5. To provide maximum privacy for individuals, and also maximum choice and opportunity for groups and individuals to relate to each other.

HOMES FIRST SOCIETY has developed a model for a planning process, for a building form, and for developing supportive social networks. The first project using this model is scheduled to open in the fall of 1984 in downtown Toronto. It has been designed to improve on the building form, management and social features of the best of the rooming houses, which, prior to the redevelopment of the downtown core, had housed low income single adults.

CX 3017

URBAN CORE SUPPORT NETWORK

147 Queen St. E., Toronto, Ont. M5A 1S1

The URBAN CORE SUPPORT NETWORK is made up of individuals and groups in cities across Canada who share a commitment to support each other in the empowerment of people on the margins of society. UCSN is linked through its newsletter (published four times a year) and annual conferences.

For the past two years it has been clear at UCSN workshops and steering committee meetings that increasing numbers of network participants are engaged in developing housing for low income single people. UCSN has identified a need to increase and improve its effort to network people and information with respect to such housing efforts. In its efforts to support clergy, administrators, workers and residents from various churches, church agencies, community organizations and government agencies who share a common commitment and set of values, UCSN is working to develop a Housing Networking Project. The main objective is to develop the capability to facilitate, store, retrieve and share information and documentation on housing efforts across the country. The 1984 workshop in October will include a workgroup to which those directly involved in housing development will be invited.

CX 3018

THE CASE FOR LONG-TERM SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

By participants in the Single Displaced Persons' Project
c/o 147 Queen St. E., Toronto, Ont. M5A 1S1

This report sets the issue of "homelessness" into a socioeconomic context, rather than focusing solely on the characteristics of the homeless person. Homelessness is defined as "the condition of low-income people who cannot find adequate, secure housing at a price they can afford." The authors point out that "As a society, we cope with homelessness by blaming and labelling the victims of our inability to provide adequate incomes for all." One consequence is that those trapped in this reality experience a growing loss of self-esteem and a sense of defeat that can lead to passivity or self-destructive behaviours.

To move toward the provision of adequate, secure, affordable housing demands "a shift in values and priorities. Rather than seeing housing as 'shelter' and a commodity, it must come to be understood as a base for living (a home) and a basic right. Hostels and transitional residences cannot fulfill this function."

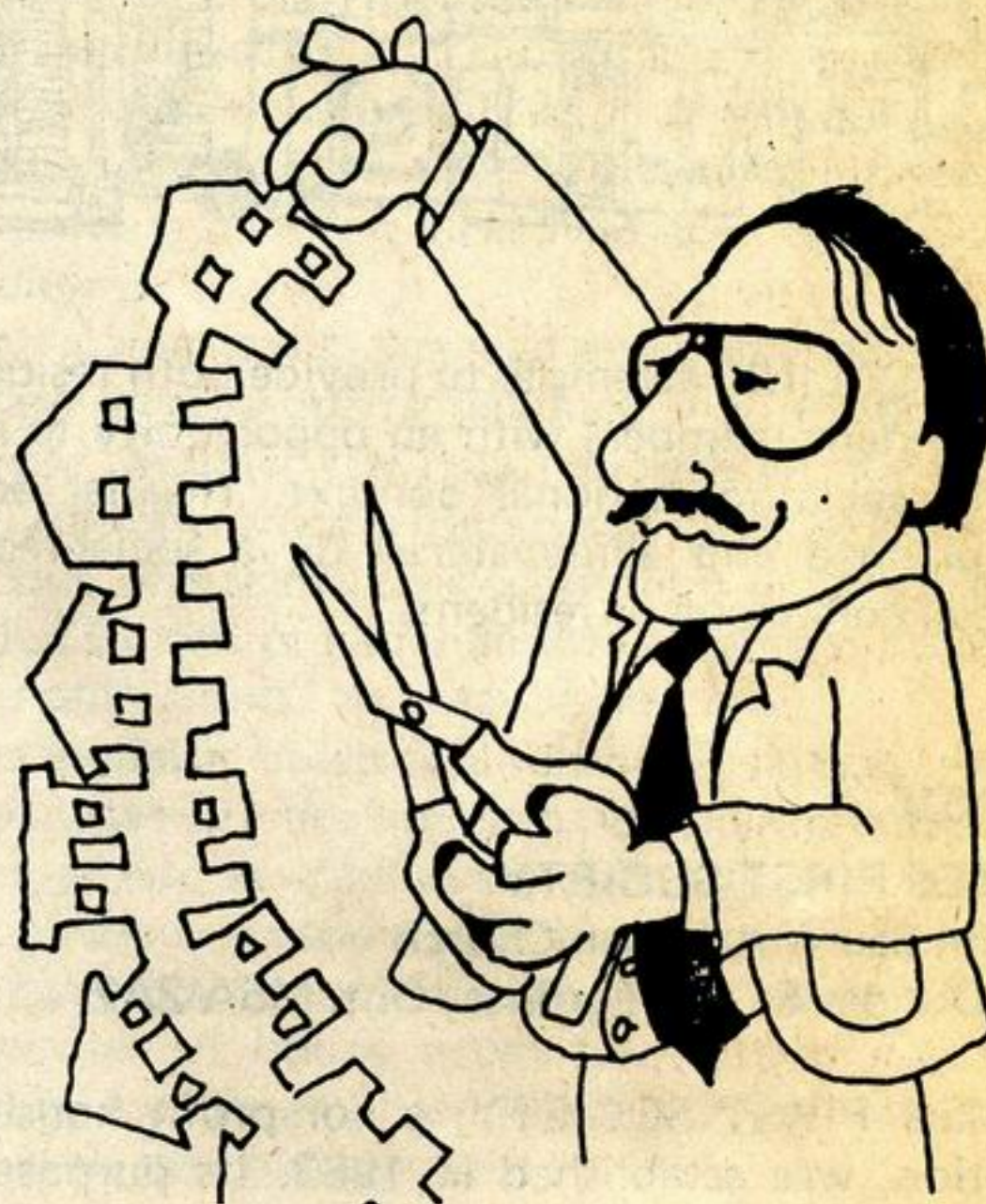
The paper documents the disappearance of rooming houses and increases in room rents in Toronto, and sets that against the levels of welfare and medical benefits provided. The authors critique the current organization of hostels, especially those for men, identifying the ways they contribute to homelessness.

Since the private sector no longer finds it sufficiently profitable to develop additional housing for low-income people, and the public sector currently doesn't produce enough such housing, alternatives must be found. The authors suggest that "Social and charitable institutions must become purchasers, managers and developers of housing for single displaced persons because of the unprofitability . . . because they are seen as capable of managing 'hard to house' residents, and because they have access to public and charitable funds to subsidize rents and management."

Drawing upon their own experiences and that of others in establishing and managing long-term housing for single displaced men and women in Toronto, the authors suggest several operating principles for the kind of housing needed. The supportiveness of this housing is maximized in small groupings of residents who control their own living situations with the aid of "facilitative staff. The housing should be located in neighbourhoods familiar to the residents with easy access to the generic and social services they use. Management requires more than property management.

Organizational forms are required that involve interactive decision-making with staff and residents, thus limiting size and bureaucracy.

The report also outlines a number of complementary changes in public funding, income maintenance programs, social services, and public education which are necessary to support the provision of such housing by the voluntary sector.



CX 3019

HOSTELS AND HOMELESSNESS

Single Displaced Persons Project
147 Queen St. E., Toronto, Ont. M5A 1S1

The Single Displaced Persons Project (SDP) is a network of individuals "who are fostering change in the way churches and social agencies respond to people living at the margins of our society in what has been called 'skid row.'"

The introduction to this paper states the authors' purpose succinctly . . . "It is increasingly well understood that hostels are not an adequate response to the present lack of housing for low-income singles. However, it is less well understood that the present functioning of hostels reinforces the homelessness. It also proposes the form hostels must take if they are to more effectively enable the homeless to make a transition to a more stable living situation. . ."

The paper is an off-shoot of an earlier paper, The Case for Long-Term Supportive Housing (CX 3018). The current paper goes into further detail about the current use of hostels, and examines the similarities and differences between hostels established for single

men and those for women. It draws upon SDP Project participants' lengthy experiences in hostel operations, and on involvements in co-ordination and research projects.

One difference between men's and women's hostels is that the latter more often have functioned more as a point of intentional transition to a more stable living situation, rather than simply as emergency shelter offering nightly dormitory accommodation. Yet some of the more recent ones, especially the municipally run ones, are operating more like the men's hostels, the authors note. Many of the more 'successful' women's hostels in this regard "began with a commitment to develop the service as a right: a clear perception that women using the services are victims of larger social forces and an understanding of the kind of nurturing and support needed in such a crisis." By contrast, men's hostels have traditionally functioned on the assumptions that the service is a charity to losers and failures who deserve only minimal support and amenities.

In the past few years both have increasingly become long-term housing for many residents. Two-thirds of male residents have lived in hostels for a year or more, and almost 20 per cent have done so for 15 years or more.

Because there can only be "transition" if there is somewhere to go, affordable and appropriately managed long-term housing must be developed and funded, they point out.

CX 3020

**METROPOLITAN TORONTO TASK FORCE ON
HOUSING FOR LOW-INCOME SINGLE PEOPLE:
FINAL REPORT, November 1983**

Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto
Planning and Development Dept.
c/o Lyne Morrow, 5th Floor East Block,
City Hall, Toronto
(416) 947-8617

26 pages with 73 pages of appendices
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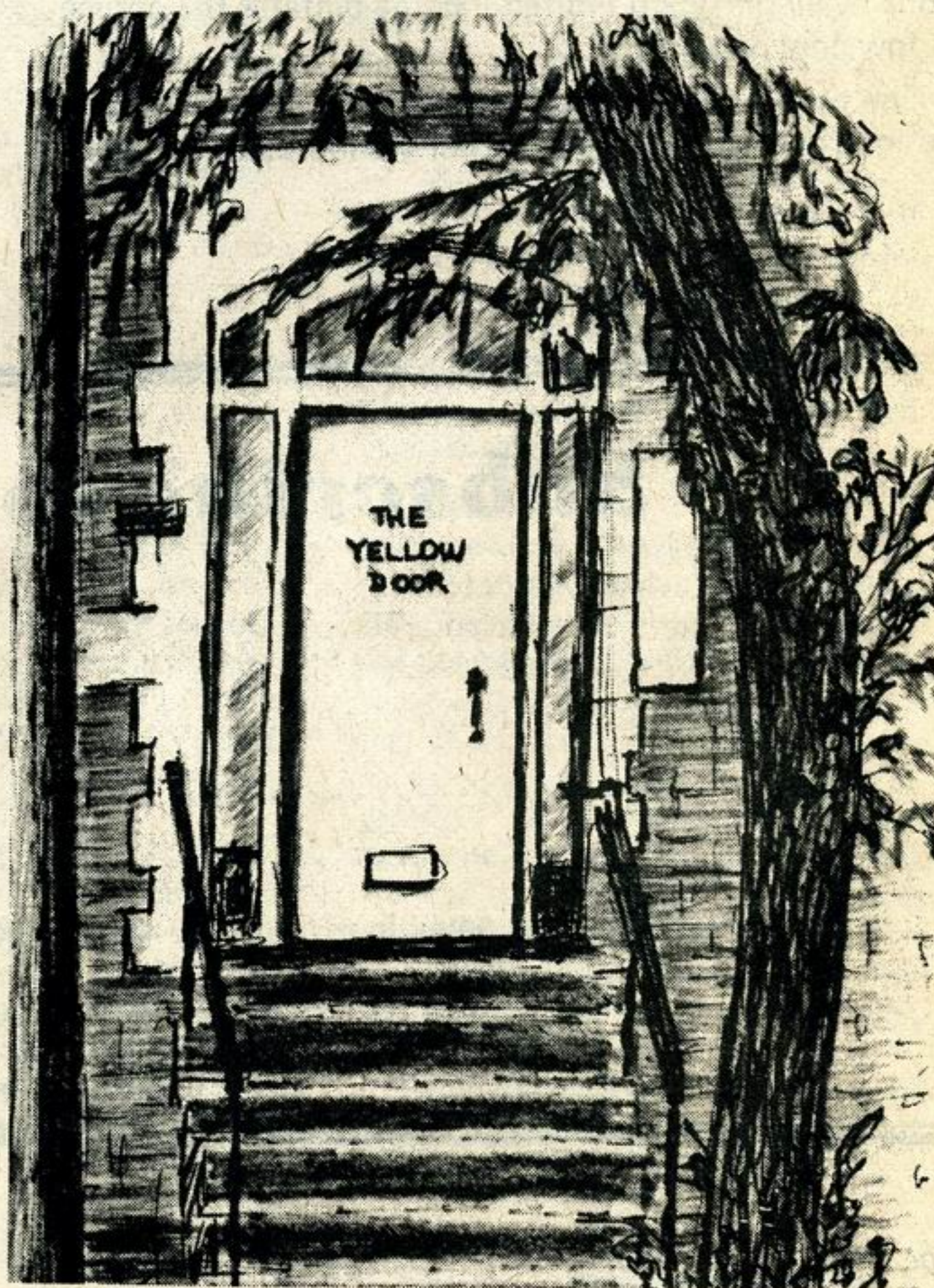
An acute shortage of housing for low-income single people led the Council of Metropolitan Toronto to set up a task force in 1983. Its report, aimed at planning bodies at the three levels of government and addressed to all concerned individuals and groups, draws on public meetings, discussions with needy singles, professionals and involved groups, and case-studies (all-detailed in the appendices) to present findings and make recommendations.

Over the last two decades the number of single-person households in Toronto has increased and the amount of suitable accommodation has decreased.

Developers have bought and demolished smaller units, rather than convert them, and upwardly mobile households have displaced roomers in the downtown core. The available options for single people suffer financial, administrative, legal or political constraints on their effectiveness in meeting the need.

To its four guiding questions the Task Force responds that 1) the public and non-profit housing sectors, rather than private developers, were the logical and practical sources of more housing for singles; 2) social support for the "hard to house" and programs to encourage preservation and conversion of units were required to improve existing housing; 3) to make housing more accessible for singles eligibility for financial assistance must be widened; and, 4) specialized supportive housing was needed for young people.

Many specific recommendations are made for Metro municipalities, provincial ministries and CMHC. These include reviews of municipal regulations, land and housing stock, more financial assistance and unit allocations for singles, funding for pilot projects, and a commitment to hostels or independent living houses for young people.



CX 3021

**MAYOR'S ACTION TASK FORCE ON
DISCHARGED PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS**
City Hall, Toronto, Ont.
1983

On February 9, 1983, the Mayor of Toronto, Arthur Eggleton, appointed Dr. Reva Gerstein to chair an inquiry into the situation surrounding discharged psychiatric patients living in the city. The mayor asked Dr. Gerstein to prepare a final report from this Task Force which developed a "co-ordinated problem-solving approach" to the concerns raised during the course of the inquiry. It was anticipated that Dr. Gerstein and her advisors would actively respond to events and problems throughout the course of the inquiry, as they arose, rather than restricting themselves to making recommendations in a final report.

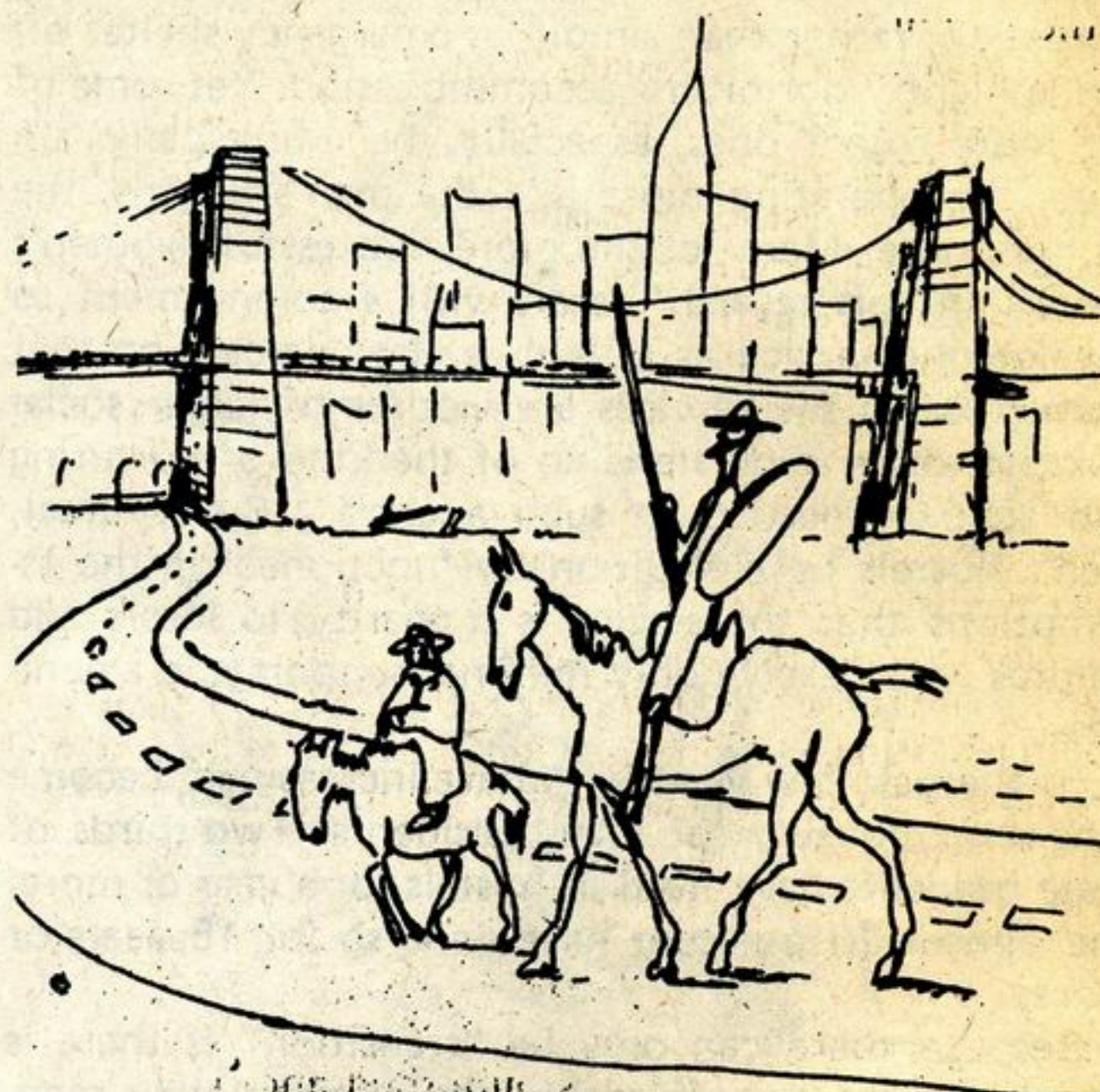
Proposals are included that address five problem areas: housing, crisis intervention, co-ordination of aftercare services, meaningful work and public education.

Housing, with a full range of appropriate services is given the highest priority by the report. It was recognized that the first step to resolving concerns expressed about aftercare services is to improve the housing options available when limited income dictates the choice of low cost housing.

The report emphasizes "supportive housing." A simple improvement in the physical standards of available

housing will not solve the problems faced by ex-psychiatric patients. A range of services from "group homes" to "boarding homes" to "hostels" were identified with appropriate support for people with different needs.

The TASK FORCE REPORT makes specific recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on all the problem areas identified by the Task Force itself.



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Periodical Summaries

Action Day Care Newsletter
345 Adelaide St. W., Suite 600
Toronto, Ont. M5V 1R5

"What's Wrong with Profit-making Child Care." Local day care programs operated by large profit-making chains are under the control of distant financial managers. If the local centre is a franchise, there must be double profits, for the local franchisee and for the national corporation. The majority of large profit-making chains have underpaid and inadequately trained staffs, little parent involvement, and too many children in proportion to staff.

"Grindstone: A Place for Children." Describes alternative children's camps at Grindstone Island. "During Sex Roles Day at the Old Kids Camp last year, the campers divided into male and female groups. They then took 20 minutes to come up with five important questions to ask the other group. Some of the girls for instance, asked the boys why they were not physically affectionate with each other."

Atlantic Postal Worker
Canadian Union of Postal Workers
Vol. 6, No. 4: Spring

"Which Side Are You On?: Questions the statements of Post Office management that increased productivity is the key to job security. Asks "how can working faster save jobs? If our work is done faster in a shorter period of time, obviously there is less job security because management are not prepared to reward the existing productive employees with more time off in the form of a shorter workweek, improved vacations, or pre-retirement leave. No, they intend to transfer or layoff the surplus staff that would result from increased productivity. These surplus employees could be absorbed into other duties if Canada Post accepted the Union's proposal for a job creation program or if Canada Post expanded some of its existing services, but all we have seen lately are service cutbacks.

August 1984

"Major Contract Improvements Required," Wayne Mundle: Calling for hard bargaining and no concessions in contract bargaining, the author writes that "There will always be a few employer agents who will try to weaken our solidarity by saying that 'postal workers should be thankful just to have a job.' To those people I say, 'No! We should be proud to have a job.' The job we have today is the result of our past struggles and our solidarity. The job we have in the future will depend on the same thing."

Body Politic
Box 7289, Station A
Toronto, Ont. M5W 1X9
September 1984

"If It Feels Good — Suspect It." By Lee Waldorf. Criticizes the idea, expressed at a recent conference on lesbian sexuality that a social transformation has to take place before lesbians can see a sexuality that would be acceptable from a political point of view. "I can't see any threat to the patriarchy in lesbians steadfastly refusing to have sex."

Canadian Dimension
Suite 801, 44 Princess St.
Winnipeg, Man. R3B 1K2
\$14/year
June 1984

"Sharing the Shop Floor." By Stan Gray. A powerful article describing the battle of women to share jobs at Westinghouse that previously had been all male. Describes the divide and conquer attitude of management, the resistance of union officials, the hostility of some male workers, the gradually won respect and support of many of them, the tensions caused by layoffs.

"The Need for a New Socialist Movement." By Leo Panitch. Criticizes the NDP for its acceptance of the existing structure of the state, to which it simply seeks to add on new (and not so new) policy directions; its singular concern with packaging policy programs and mobilizing activists around the next

election; its excessive focus on the parliamentary timetable and debates; its acceptance of a division of labour between industrial and political organization with the union link cemented at the top of each structure: all this attests to its inadequacy. Argues that it is necessary to define a vision of socialist institutions, culture and practice.

Volume 18, No. 4

"Inside Canada's Gulags." Four articles on prisons in Canada.

Briarpatch
2138 McIntyre St.
Regina, Sask. S4P 2R7
\$17/year

Volume 13, No. 3: April 1984

A "Backward and Stupid Approach." By Mark Stobbe. The Atomic Energy Control Board intends to change radiation protection standards for workers in the nuclear industry. The changes, according to the Ontario Hydro Employees Union, will allow workers to receive three to four times as much exposure to radiation. The AECB intends to raise allowable levels for women in the name of sexual equality, despite evidence that radiation is especially dangerous to women of child-bearing age.

"The Rabbit Lake Fiasco." By Dave Perry. Reports on occupational health violations and union-busting at the Rabbit Lake uranium mine.

May 1984

"Co-operators Become Exploiters." "Co-ops in the province were formed to fight exploitation — the exploitation of the monopolies. For that reason and because of the Co-op's principles of sharing, of sacrifice, of democracy . . . we thought we had a different kind of organization. But it seems . . . that Co-ops have now become the exploiters. They seem to have discarded their own heritage and principles in favour of the tactics of the established monopolies. The treatment of their own workers is only one example."

"Radiation Sickness: Threshold and Effects." "Upton conceded that al-

though studies show uranium miners do have a higher rate of lung cancer, this cannot necessarily be attributed to the random gas levels because 'most miners are also smokers.' "

July-August 1984

"The News the Media Ignores." By Scott Preston. The media give little or no systematic coverage to the role of the United States in setting up death squads, providing death squads with intelligence information, teaching torture, et cetera.

Canadian Labour

2841 Riverside Dr.

Ottawa, Ont. K1V 8X7

Subscription free on request. Monthly publication of the Canadian Labour Congress.

May 1984

"Seven Public Sector Myths." By Ed Finn. Rebuts the myths that: 1. Governments in Canada have become too large. 2. Economic slumps are caused by government mismanagement. 3. Canada's social programs are too generous, and cost too much. 4. Government deficits must be reduced and the best way to do it is to cut public services. 5. Public sector growth and spending are harmful to the private sector. 6. Most government services could be provided more efficiently if transferred to the private sector. 7. Government regulations are bad for industries and consumers.

June-July 1984

"Deregulation Raises Prices, Costs Jobs." Argues against deregulation in the airline and telephone sectors.

Catalyst

Citizens for Public Justice

229 College St.

Toronto, Ont. M5T 1R4

\$10/year

July-August 1984

"Grassy Narrows Settlement: Agreement After 14 Years of Horror." "While I'm glad that the settlement . . . has finally come, and that the people will now have a chance to start rebuilding their community . . . I also feel sad that we operate in such a complex society and

political forum that it takes people without power 14 years to achieve a settlement." "We need new mechanisms so that the victims of industrialization can be compensated immediately — so they can get their lives back to normal; to the extent that is possible, as soon as possible."

CCU Bulletin

Confederation of Canadian Unions

1331½ St. Clair Ave. W.

Toronto, Ont. M6E 1C3

September 14, 1984

"Transit Workers Shafted in B.C." Legislation is forcing striking transit workers in Vancouver and Victoria back to work forces the workers to accept terms which they rejected by a 90 per cent vote.

The Central Courier

Persons Who Are Disabled

Representing Themselves

Box 246, 55 McCaul St.

Toronto, Ont. M5T 2W7

Summer 1984

"High Illiteracy and Low Education Cited as a Major Concern of the Disabled." Reports the proceedings of a public forum on access to education by the disabled. "About 95 per cent of the people I see have had education in a segregated environment. In a segregated environment, the expectations are really low."

The Christian Farmer

115 Woolwich St.

Guelph, Ont. N1H 3V1

June 1984

"The Politics of Food." Report on a conference, stressing themes such as land as a finite resource, caring for the land, uses and abuses of power, the hungry and the poor, and political advocacy.

Conscience Canada Newsletter

505-620 View St.

Victoria, B.C. V8W 1J6

\$4/year

Most of this issue is devoted to excerpts from letters which Peace Trusters (people withholding that portion of their taxes destined for the military) have sent to Revenue Canada. The letters explain the moral and political basis for their actions.

CUSO Journal

151 Slater St.

Ottawa, Ont. K1P 5H5

1984

"Women in Development." Articles in this theme issue include "The Quest for Sexual Equality in Canada," "Cheaper Than Machines," "A Crucial New Direction for International Family Planning," "My Husband, My Master," "Women and Food: Today's Crisis of Subsistence."

The Farmworkers

Canadian Farmworkers Union

4730 Imperial

Burnaby, B.C. V5J 1C2

"I Made Up My Mind that I Must Do Something." The story of Jasweer Kaur Brar, who came to Canada three and a half years ago expecting a better life, and who now finds herself on a picket line fighting for rights she expected Canadians would have.

Goodwin's

P.O. Box 1043, Station B

Ottawa, Ont. K1P 5R1

Spring 1984

"Canada's New Cold Warriors." By Mitchell Beer. Exposé of the arms industry in Canada. "NDP: The Curse of the Radical Middle." "Some measure of success in the next election might mask the problems in a temporary wave of euphoria but the strains between left and right, between movement and party, between labour and the academic left will remain. And more importantly, so too will the strains between Ontario and the West."

Summer 1984

"Dragons Once Slain." The decline of the civic reform movement in Toronto, as "developers look on with glee."

Harmony News

207 Rideau St.

Ottawa, Ont. K1N 5X8

\$12/year

Volume 1, No. 1: Summer 1984

Harmony News features "news that calls for a celebration," contributed largely by groups in Ottawa "working for peace and development."

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Volume 9, Number 3

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- * Regional Contact Persons

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Contributors Index

-B-

Backwards from Back-wards: The Unmet Needs of Recovering Psychiatric Patients in Edmonton CX 3005
Bradley, Joan, CX 3010
Barton, Debbie, CX 3009
Boyle Street Community Services Co-op, CX 3005, CX 3006

-C-

The Case for Long-Term Supportive Housing, CX 3018

-D-

Daybreak, CX 3007
Downtown Crisis Housing Foundation, CX 3012
Downtown Eastside Residents Association, CX 3013

-E-

Edmonton Inner City Housing Society, CX 3003
Emergency Shelter in Ottawa-Carleton: An Experimental View, CX 3008

-H-

Homes First Society, CX 3016
Hostels and Homelessness, CX 3019
Houselink in Ottawa-Carleton: A Women's Issue, CX 3009
Houselink Community Homes CX 3015

-K-

King, Mary, CX 3008

-M-

Mayor's Action Task Force on Discharged Psychiatric Patients, CX 3021
Metropolitan Toronto Task Force on Housing for Low-Income Single People: The Final Report, CX 3020

Milton Parc: A Co-operative Neighbourhood, CX 3010
Murphy, Jon, CX 3005

-N-

Non-Profit Shelter (Ecumenical) Corp., CX 3007
The Norm Drake House, CX 3014

-O-

Operation Friendship — Edmonton, CX 3004

-S-

Search for Shelter, CX 3006
Single Displaced Persons Project, CX 3018, CX 3019

-T-

Table de Concentration sur les Maisons de Chambres CX 3001

-U-

Urban Core Support Network CX 3017

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Please send materials by November 10, 1984.

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