

### RE: TASK FORCE ON EMERGENCY SHELTERS

**November 27, 2019 | St. John's, NL** — On November 26, 2019, NDP Leader Alison Coffin called on the provincial government to create a task force to address the current state of emergency shelters in the province. End Homelessness St. John's (EHSJ) is uniquely positioned to continue to support the government's efforts and help lead this process as the system planning organization for St. John's.

St. John's is one of over 60 Designated Communities under Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy, a part of the federal government's National Housing Strategy. In this capacity EHSJ has already begun work to address and reduce the needs of our neighbours who rely on the services of emergency shelters.

The upcoming 2019-2024 Community Plan to End Homelessness is being developed in consultation with the Community Advisory Board and other stakeholders. This Board consists of leaders in the community sector, as well as members of the provincial and municipal governments, who each bring their expertise to inform and shape the direction of the plan.

EHSJ recognizes the dynamic forces that drive homelessness amongst our most vulnerable neighbours, whether they be related to housing, health, exploitation, gender-based violence, etc. "We recognize that homelessness itself is not the issue; it is a culmination of social system breakdowns," says Doug Pawson, Executive Director of EHSJ. "We also recognize that the opposite of homelessness isn't just a roof over one's head, it is housing stability – having the supports, skills and confidence to maintain one's housing."

**EHSJ welcomes the opportunity to help lead and support conversations with community and provincial partners in finding solutions that will end homelessness.**

*End Homelessness St. John's exists to prevent and end homelessness in St. John's. Working collaboratively with community stakeholders, EHSJ is leading the implementation of the St. John's Community Plan to End Homelessness. Through the continuation of coordinated system-wide planning and EHSJ's leadership, St. John's will become the next community in Canada to end homelessness.*

[wecanendit.com](http://wecanendit.com)

**Doug Pawson**  
Executive Director, EHSJ  
[dpawson@wecanendit.com](mailto:dpawson@wecanendit.com)

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