



“ From stability comes growth.  
We all need roots.”

“Rent is too high for people to live. Pay the rent and don't eat or eat and don't pay the rent.”

“Affordable housing is: Having a safe, secure, stable environment that allows a person to live within their income level and maintain a healthy quality of life.”

“People need to know where to turn if they suddenly find themselves homeless.”

*Quotes are from “The Boxed In” report from respondents who are homeless or precariously housed.*



**AHAN**

**Goal:** To create more affordable housing options for people who are precariously housed or homeless using a variety of approaches including collaborative networking, housing development, capacity building and advocacy.

**Who we are?** A group of more than 30 local agencies, organizations and individuals who have a common interest in creating more affordable housing in Hastings County.

**Want to get involved?  
For further information  
contact the AHAN  
at:**

**Phone:** 613-966-8686 ext 60 or  
**Toll Free:** 1-877-966-8686 ext 60  
**E-mail:** [ahan@communitylegalcentre.ca](mailto:ahan@communitylegalcentre.ca)



*The Affordable Housing  
Action Network*



“Everyone has a right to safe, secure, affordable housing.”

**Canada** 



## The Affordable Housing

### Crisis:

In Hastings County

- Over 1,000 households are waiting for subsidized housing
- A single person will wait four years to get subsidized housing
- No new affordable housing has been built for 10 years

Boxed in Report: Highlights

- 781 people or households were interviewed
- Individuals who are homeless, at risk of being homeless, precariously housed and low-income households
- 107 households self-identified as homeless (293 people)
- 70% of respondents reported that their current housing had one or more disrepair issues

Main Reasons For Homelessness:

- Lack of affordable housing
- Loss of job or unemployment
- Marital/relationship breakdown
- Conflict or differences within households



## What does it mean to be homeless?

### Homelessness is:

**Being without a safe, secure, stable, accessible, living environment.**

### Having to live:

- on the street
- in a vehicle
- in a shelter
- in a barn
- in an abandoned building
- not in your own home

Having to sleep on someone's couch ("couch surfing")

### Precariously housed is:

**Being in a state of uncertainty around your living environment due to:**

- low wages
- high rents
- high utility costs
- substandard living conditions



## How do we work together?

### A Bricks and Mortar Task

**Force:** Development and maintenance of affordable housing units and devising alternative solutions to homelessness and the affordable housing crisis.

### A Community Capacity Building, Advocacy and Awareness Task Force: Including networking, information sharing and advocacy

**subcommittee's:** Develop systems for community navigation, create community awareness around homelessness and create AHAN awareness by advocating before government officials, media sources and the community.

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