

## About ECOHH

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Since 1986, the Edmonton Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (ECOHH) has been our city's voice for action on affordable housing and homelessness.

### Our Mission:

ECOHH promotes awareness, advocates, and takes action on housing issues to enhance community life.

### Our Vision:

- Edmonton is a city with safe, appropriate, affordable housing for all.
- Edmonton is a city that cares and makes housing a priority, where housing is provided according to needs and choices.
- Voices are heard and answered.

### Our Goals:

- Inform the public on matters of housing and homelessness
- Advocacy, research, and awareness
- Recruit, develop, engage, and retain membership
- Increase member understanding of and participation in housing security issues and action

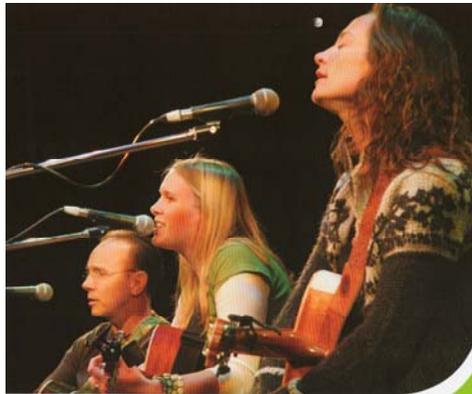
## ECOHH's Activities

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### Monthly Membership Meetings

provide opportunities for our member agencies to share updates and participate in education sessions and discussions on housing policy.

**HomeFest** is an annual folk music concert to draw attention to the desperate need for more affordable housing and the eradication of homelessness.



HomeFest 2007. Photo by Frank Gasparik.

The **Homeless Memorial** is a gathering to commemorate the strength, courage, and humanity of community members we have lost as a result of homelessness.

In addition, ECOHH organizes initiatives to educate the public about housing issues in Edmonton and area and regularly engages community groups and policy makers.

## Our Members

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- Bissell Centre
- Boyle McCauley Health Centre
- Boyle Street Community Services
- Canadian Mental Health Association - Edmonton Region
- Capital Region Housing Corporation
- Catholic Social Services
- E4C
- Edmonton Inner City Housing Society
- Edmonton John Howard Society
- Edmonton People In Need Society
- Edmonton Social Planning Council
- Edmonton Street News
- Homeward Trust Edmonton
- Jewish Family Services Edmonton
- Mustard Seed
- Northern Alberta Brain Injury Society
- Northern Alberta Cooperative Housing Association
- Schizophrenia Society of Alberta, Edmonton & Area
- Skills Society
- The Support Network
- Terra Association

Membership in ECOHH is open to individuals and organizations. Regular annual membership in ECOHH is \$100 for organizations and \$10 for individuals.

## **The Housing Issue**

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Thousands of people in Edmonton have no place to call home.

They are struggling on the streets, setting up camps in the river valley, have no warm place to sleep other than emergency shelters, or are crashing wherever and for as long as they can, sometimes in dangerous or unhealthy environments.

Tens of thousands of others have housing that is too expensive, insecure, or inadequate for their needs: they live on the brink of becoming homeless themselves.

Research clearly shows that there are substantial economic and social benefits when people have decent housing. While there are many facets to housing insecurity in Edmonton, there is only one basic reality:

**The solution to homelessness is to provide appropriate housing for every person who needs it.**

ECOHH believes that Edmontonians should be able to live in safe, affordable housing throughout our city and, when needed, access support that will help keep them housed.

## **ECOHH's History**

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The Edmonton Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (ECOHH) was created in 1986. Many non-profit agencies that offer housing or support services continue to be active participants. These frontline providers are not only critical players in solving the housing problem, but also caring advocates for those people who are most vulnerable.

In 1987, ECOHH produced a report called "No Place Like Home" that recommended immediate action to prevent what many saw as an impending housing crisis.

In the 1990s, ECOHH established both the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund and the Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Housing. Both entities merged to form Homeward Trust as part of a long-term initiative to provide quality affordable housing in Edmonton by investment in housing units and support services.

Each year, ECOHH sponsors and organizes the HomeFest folk festival (since 2003) and the Homeless Memorial gathering (since 2005) to raise awareness of the impact of homelessness in Edmonton.



*Creating a broad based, unified voice to promote change to public policy, increase community knowledge, and share information on housing and homelessness*

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