

Hello all:

On behalf of the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness, I'm pleased to share news from the Government of Canada's Budget 2013 and its important implications for our efforts to end homelessness in Canada.

What does this mean?

I think it's safe to say we would all like to see increased investment in the Homelessness Partnering Strategy and Affordable Housing, but I also think it's safe to say many of us are relieved both critical programs have been renewed for a five year term.

The budget also contained news that could prove transformational to local and provincial efforts to end homelessness, specifically a shift to 'Housing First'. The CAEH sees this policy shift as excellent news and a huge step forward in Canada's national response to homelessness.

While this news is very exciting, there are some important questions that will need to be addressed, namely: What does the government mean by Housing First? What will this shift to Housing First mean to HPS funded communities, programs and existing investments? How will community planning processes & Community Plans change? How will the transition to Housing First be managed?

It's also important to remember that Housing First is a critical component of ending homelessness, but it is not a silver bullet. There are many other critical elements that need to support community plans and Housing First programs in order to reduce & end homelessness.

Working with national partners like the Mental Health Commission of Canada, the CAEH will be engaging the Government of Canada to help ensure a smooth and effective transition.

Learn more about Housing First

Over the next few months, the CAEH will be developing Housing First technical assistance resources for communities. To learn more about Housing First you can visit our website <http://www.caeh.ca/a-plan-not-a-dream/housing-first/>. On our website you can also find a recording of a webcast from January 2013 called "Housing First: What it is and why it works" featuring Dr. Sam Tsemberis, the 'father' of Housing First <http://www.caeh.ca/a-plan-not-a-dream/housing-first/>.

The CAEH will also be hosting Canada's first National Conference on Ending Homelessness October 28 to 30th, 2013 in Ottawa at the Delta Ottawa City Centre Hotel. This conference will feature several sessions on Housing First including a "Fundamentals of Housing First" pre-conference workshop. Information on the conference including registration, will be available at www.caeh.ca in the next two weeks.

Thank you for your interest in ending homelessness and your continued service to our most vulnerable neighbours.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns.

Kindest regards,

Tim

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