

2020-10 Ending Gender-Based Homelessness

Mover: West Central Women's Resource Centre

Whereas: Women, trans, Two-Spirit, and gender non-conforming people face unique pathways to homelessness, including gender-based violence, over-representation in low income, Child and Family Services involvement, and a lack of trauma-informed services. According to Connecting the Circle: A Gender-Based Strategy to End Homelessness in Winnipeg, women, trans, Two-Spirit, and gender non-conforming people experiencing homelessness in Winnipeg are:

- Less likely to be staying in a homeless shelter because they feel unsafe there, and more likely to experience "hidden homelessness";
- More likely to be Indigenous and/or identify as 2SLGBTQ+;
- More likely to experience physical and/or sexual violence.

Whereas: Mainstream services and programs that address homelessness are largely based around the experiences of men. Without an intersectional gender-based analysis of homelessness, the unique pathways into homelessness and needs of women, trans, Two-Spirit, and gender non-conforming people will not be fully addressed, and homelessness will never be eliminated. It is essential to ensuring no one is left out of our collective work to end homelessness. We have no time to lose.

Whereas: Gender-based homelessness needs to be a priority for all levels of government and community-based organizations, because together we can prevent women, trans, Two-Spirit and gender non-conforming individuals from falling through the cracks.

Whereas: Ending homelessness must be a priority for all levels of government. While the Federal Government developed a National Housing Strategy using a GBA+, it fails to address root causes of gender-based homelessness. The Province of Manitoba's Poverty Reduction Strategy also falls short on the immediate and comprehensive action that is needed to end homelessness. Winnipeg has End Homelessness Winnipeg to guide them, but need to also adopt Connecting the Circle if they really want to see an end to homelessness.

Whereas: The recommendations in Connecting the Circle were developed in partnership with women, trans, Two-Spirit, and gender non-conforming people experiencing homelessness. They are holistic and address the multitude of barriers this population faces with regards to program/policy design and delivery, gender-based violence, housing and the shelter system, income security, substance use, the justice system, CFS, health, and preventing system exits to homelessness. These recommendations fit neatly into several CED Guiding Principles:

- Long term employment of local residents
- Local skill development
- Local decision making
- Public health
- Neighborhood stability
- Human dignity

Whereas: Working towards an understanding of gender-based homelessness relates clearly to three CCEDNet Manitoba Public Policy Road Map themes:

- **Ending Poverty:** Women, trans, Two-Spirit, and gender non-conforming people are over-represented in low-income statistics not only in Winnipeg but across Canada. To end poverty, we must end gender-based homelessness, and vice-versa.
- **Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access:** An intersectional gender-based analysis of homelessness highlights the traditionally marginalized voices of women, trans, Two-Spirit, and gender non-conforming people. Including these voices helps to increase the diversity, equity, and accessibility of programs and policies designed to end homelessness.
- **Directing Our Own Future:** Connecting the Circle was developed in partnership with women, trans, Two-Spirit, and gender non-conforming people experiencing homelessness. They are directing their own future through this strategy and its implementation.

Be It Resolved That: the Province of Manitoba and all Manitoba municipalities adopt and implement the recommendations from *Connecting the Circle: A Gender-Based Strategy to End Homelessness in Winnipeg*

Be It Resolved That: CCEDNet Manitoba and its members adopt and implement the recommendations from *Connecting the Circle: A Gender-Based Strategy to End Homelessness in Winnipeg*.

How the Resolutions will be Advanced: CCEDNet Manitoba will support the efforts of Connecting the Circle - who will take the lead in the implementation of the recommendations as long as funding allows - by informing and advocating to their members and governments.
