

Calgary Drop-In & Rehab Centre



HOMELESS NOT JOBLESS

- **6 out of 10 Drop-In Clients are employed**
- **3 out of 4 are working in Manual Labour Jobs**
- **1 out of 2 can afford to pay between \$400 & \$800 per month in rent**



The last of the “rooms for rent”

These buildings were built in the early 1900’s
in Inglewood

The Calgary Drop-In & Rehab Centre (Calgary Drop-In) provides services of food, shelter, and clothing, counseling and basic medical attention to all those in need. In operation since 1961, the Calgary Drop-In & Rehab Centre now sleeps 1100 nightly, and serves up to 3500 meals daily.

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Adopted and proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948

Article 25.

(1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

STUDY PARAMETERS

Objective: To gather information about Calgary Drop-In & Rehab Centre clients with respect to:

1. Employment status: Type of work and geographical locations of work
2. The amount of money they are prepared to pay in rent
3. What geographic preferences do they have with respect to accommodations

METHODOLOGY

Procedure Method:

- Self Reporting Questionnaire of 214 Drop-In clients (27% of the population)

Questionnaire topics included:

- Employment status
- Industry of employment
- How much they felt they could afford to pay

Present housing of participants:

The clients surveyed are presently housed in two different housing types.

Emergency beds: are for sober individuals on a first come, first serve basis

Transitional beds: semi-permanent housing to facilitate the move from shelter to independent living

Demographics of population surveyed:

Gender: 90% male / 10% female

42% of individuals live in Transitional Housing

58% of individuals live in Emergency Housing

CONDEMNED TO HOMELESSNESS



LOSS OF HOUSING

- Since 1970, 56 Hotels & Motels have been demolished reducing housing options
- Rooming houses have almost disappeared from East Village, Victoria Park, the West End, Inglewood, Bridgeland and other parts of the Inner City
- Large numbers of apartments have gone “Condo”

LOST RENTALS = HOMELESSNESS

Total Market Rental Units Lost In Calgary

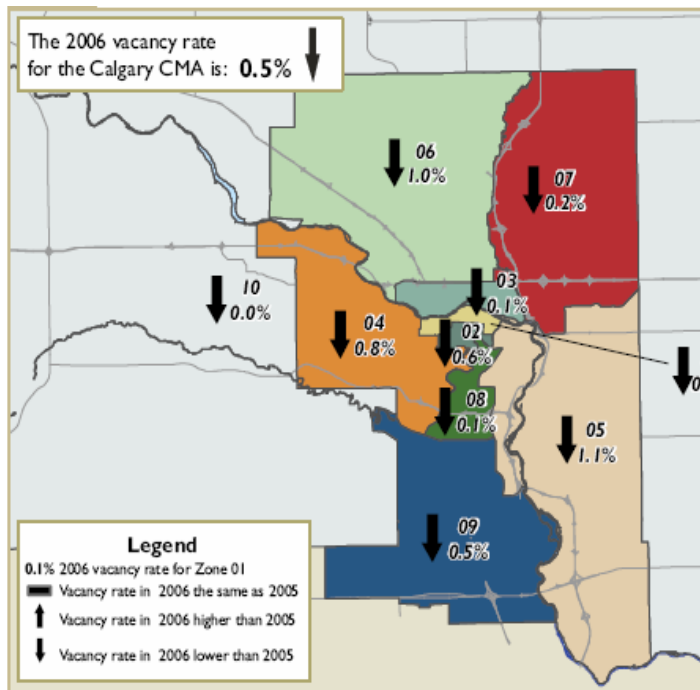
2001 to 2006 - 4,794

Increase in Homeless in Calgary

2000 to 2006 - 2,140

The City of Calgary – Affordable Housing Calgary – Fast Facts #07
pg. 1, 10

In Calgary, vacancy rates are approaching ZERO



LACK OF AFFORDABILITY

In 2006, the average rent for a bachelor apartment was \$617 / month. On March 27th, 2007 there were 6 Bachelor apartments advertised in Calgary for an average rent of \$660.

Working full time at \$7 / hour nets \$1104 per month.

Rent = 56% of Net INCOME

PUBLIC POLICY DOES HAVE IMPACT

- Stampede Expansion Plans in Victoria Park resulted in 40 years of uncertainty
- City Policies with respect to East Village (Churchill Park) created a negative image for residents and businesses, depressing property values and clearing the area for urban renewal.



In the last 18 months, all the remaining rooms in Victoria Park have been removed to make room for Stampede Expansion



Calgary Drop-In & Rehab Centre—2007

Beverly Sandalack and Andre Nicoli in the book “The Calgary Project – urban form / urban life” stated the following with respect to Victoria Park:

In the 1960’s, the Stampede considered relocating to sites such as Lincoln Park (Mount Royal College site), and Happy Valley (Valley Ridge), which would permit its expansion and allow construction of new facilities. But in 1968 the City approved expansion of the Stampede on its present site so that its northerly boundary would move from 17th Avenue to 14th Avenue. This decision led to great uncertainty in Victoria Park, and was a catalyst for disinvestment from the neighborhood. (p. 114)

City of Calgary Planning Advisory Committee — 1966

The Plan also identified the need to restore the residential component of the downtown, and redevelopment was proposed for the West End, Eau Claire, and Churchill Park (**East Village**), The plan hastened the demise of these neighborhoods, and lost many of the amenities required to support residential development, including grocery stores, corner stores, and small retail businesses, ... (p.107)

Churchill Park (*East Village*), described as “**skid row**” was a particular target. The plan paved the way for its clearance, and it was to sit vacant and become even more derelict after the interventions began. (p.108)

The Calgary Project urban form / urban life, Sandalack, B. A. & Nicolai A.(2006), Calgary, AB: U of C press

OLD + HOMELESS = HOPELESS



Aging workers (46 to 55 years of age)

- 1 out of 2 work full or part time
- Experiencing declining health
- 85% work as manual labourers

Sources: Survey of Employment & Homelessness
Calgary Drop-In & Rehab Centre, 2007
A Picture of Health of a Homeless Individual
Calgary Drop-In & Rehab Centre, 2005

With Stability of Housing a Homeless Person:

- has an improved perception of health;
- is more likely to be employed full time, and
- as they age, are willing to pay more for housing.

When Desperate; Individuals Will Do “WHAT EVER IT TAKES”

With Less Stable Housing a Homeless Person is willing to pay more for housing , even though they have Less Stable Employment. Aging workers are prepared to do what it takes to get stability in their life – particularly housing at the cost of health.