

# #HHChat January 14th, 2015

This chat focused on the kinds of supports that are needed during extreme weather for those without permanent housing.



In Toronto, extreme cold weather was a cause of a number of homeless people's deaths in the beginning of January 2015 and prompted Toronto's Mayor John Tory to open warming centres early.



## No one should die on the street: How we can help Toronto's homeless

With the recent deaths of two people on the streets of Toronto, Metro reached out to concerned parties for their take on what can and should be done. Toronto needs to do better. It should go without saying that when the weather is cold the city should expand its offerings of shelter and drop-in ser...

CDMCNEIL

We wanted to know what other communities do during extreme weather and what kind of supports are necessary at such a time and when should they be made available. To help us answer these questions we invited Tanya Gulliver-Garcia, expert on extreme weather, to join us.



Homeless Hub  
@homelesshub

Our guest [@TanyaMGulliver](#) research coordinator at COH and PhD student/faculty member [@EnvironmentYork](#) of [#YorkU](#) is joining us today. [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Tanya GulliverGarcia**  
@TanyaMGulliver

Excited to be joining in the [#HHChat](#). Looking forward to everyone's input! [@homelesshub](#) [@EnvironmentYork](#)

A MONTH AGO

Some of our participants included:



**Marjolaine Boutin-S.**  
@MarjBoutinSweet

Pleased to join the conversation on extreme weather & homelessness at 1 pm with [@homelesshub](#). Follow [#HHChat](#).

A MONTH AGO



**Marjolaine Boutin-S.**  
@MarjBoutinSweet

[@homelesshub](#) Marjolaine Boutin-Sweet, MP for Hochelaga (Mtl), NDP Official Opposition Infrastructure, Communities & Housing Critic. [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Lauro Monteiro**  
@lauromonteiro

[#homelessness](#) and extreme weather for today's [#HHChat](#) encourage all politicians to join in - political will is vital to the solution [#topoli](#)

A MONTH AGO



**FredVictorTO**  
@FredVictorTO

Fred Victor signing in to chat about [#homelessness](#) [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Shelba Waldron**  
@ShelbaWaldron

#HHChat Shelba Waldron here from Tampa Bay area.

A MONTH AGO



**Emma Woolley**  
@emmamwoolley

@homelesshub Emma, research assistant here! #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Jody Steinhauer**  
@JodySteinhauer

Jody Steinhauer founder of charity @EngageAndChange which runs #ProjectWinterSurvival -provides Survival Kits to #homeless shelters #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Jody Steinhauer**  
@JodySteinhauer

Also founded @bargainsgroup 26 yrs ago. We supply #NonProfits & #homeless shelters, outreach, ETC, with supplies at a bargain #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**mavis Doucette**  
@mave\_\_58

Mavis Doucette Fredericton New Brunswick #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Ron Kneebone**  
@RonKneebone

Hi everyone I'm @RonKneebone at @policy\_school #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



Follow [@bizaaron](#)  
[@mobizaaron](#)

.[@homelesshub](#) my name is Aaron and I'm involved with [#ProjectWinterSurvival](#) here in Toronto. [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



[Good Neighbours Club](#)  
[@ElderHomeless](#)

Joining [#HHChat](#) - the Good Neighbours' Club, Canada's only provider of services dedicated to elderly men who are homeless.

A MONTH AGO



[School on Wheels](#)  
[@SchoolonWheels](#)

[@homelesshub](#) I'm here from School on Wheels, a nonprofit in SoCal that's also fighting homelessness. Thanks for hosting this chat!  
[#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



[CAMH NYAC](#)  
[@NYAC\\_](#)

Here and ready for the [#HHChat](#) ! [@NYAC\\_](#) here from CAMH - a group of youth that want to do good in the world

A MONTH AGO



[Scott Mills](#)  
[@GraffitiBMXCop](#)

[@TanyaMGulliver](#) [@homelesshub](#) [@EnvironmentYork](#) Hi all. I am Constable Scott Mills, Toronto Police Service Social Media Officer  
[#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Greensboro's IRC**  
@gsodaycenter

@homelesshub we are #IRC day resource center in GSO NC. #HHchat

A MONTH AGO

Question 1:



**Homeless Hub**  
@homelesshub

Q1. First, let's talk about why people don't go inside during the winter. What are some of the barriers in your community? #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Tanya GulliverGarcia**  
@TanyaMGulliver

A1. 1/2 Lack of space, restrictive rules, curfews, fear of violence/bed bugs/illness. It's hard for working ppl to line up for beds. #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Tanya GulliverGarcia**  
@TanyaMGulliver

A1. 2/2 While harm red'n is the norm for most shelters in TO there are varying interpretations of that. Addictions cause challenges. #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Lauro Monteiro**  
@lauromonteiro

@homelesshub #HHChat - A1 elder men fear being in shelters - commonly victimized

A MONTH AGO



**CAMH NYAC**  
@NYAC\_

@homelesshub A1: Not knowing where to go, youth shelters filling too quickly #HHChat #brrr #toocold

A MONTH AGO



**FredVictorTO**  
@FredVictorTO

A1. To oversimplify, barrier to going inside is lack of appropriate services/facilities/options #HHChat @homelesshub

A MONTH AGO



**FredVictorTO**  
@FredVictorTO

A1. For eg, many ppl with addiction issues are "barred" from many facilities. Double-sided issue 1/2 #HHChat @homelesshub

A MONTH AGO



**FredVictorTO**  
@FredVictorTO

A1. 2/2 These facilities need specialized services viz addictions + embrace harm reduction principles if not already #HHChat @homelesshub

A MONTH AGO



**FredVictorTO**  
@FredVictorTO

A1. Of course, overcrowding, shared sleeping rooms, bunk beds, lack of safety all also barriers #HHChat @homelesshub

A MONTH AGO



**mavis Doucette**

@mave\_\_\_58

A1shelters close during daytime and malls put them out. Also no drop in centres [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Shelba Waldron**

@ShelbaWaldron

[#HHChat](#) A:1--In Fl. we don't get enough winter days, so when the temp drops into the 40's and 30's, many don't take it as a danger.

A MONTH AGO



**Shelba Waldron**

@ShelbaWaldron

[#hhchat](#) A:1 our cold weather shelters only open when the temp drops below 45 (I think) and many aren't aware of where those shelters are.

A MONTH AGO



**Jody Steinhauer**

@JodySteinhauer

A1. Many shelters don't allow dogs so people don't want to be separated from their pets. [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Tanya GulliverGarcia**

@TanyaMGulliver

A1. Good point [@JodySteinhauer](#). I think only one [#toronto](#) shelter allows pets? Both extreme cold weather drop-ins do. [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Jody Steinhauer**  
@JodySteinhauer

A1. Also, just learned if your a mother with a teenage son you are not allowed in to stay in the same room together [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Lauro Monteiro**  
@lauromonteiro

A1 [#HHCHAT](#) - Toronto context -no services unique to elders needs and circumstances - creates barriers to getting inside.

A MONTH AGO



**Lauro Monteiro**  
@lauromonteiro

A1 - [#HHChat](#) important for me, us 2 GNC, to note the 3 recent deaths on the streets in [#Toronto](#) were all men over the age of 50.

A MONTH AGO



**Scott Mills**  
@GraffitiBMXCop

A1. [@homelesshub](#) People often fear for their safety to go to a shelter. Some have mental health challenges elevating fear as well [#HHchat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Greensboro's IRC**  
@gsodaycenter

[@homelesshub](#) Q1: time limitations on shelter stays, other barriers to access including glbtq, sex offenders, etc. [#HHchat](#)

A MONTH AGO





**Jody Steinhauer**  
@JodySteinhauer

A1. Some [#homeless](#) who are employed aren't able to get to a shelter in time if they're working. [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Follow @bizaaron**  
@mobizaaron

A1. [@homelesshub](#) do some homeless with mental illness not want to be in proximity of other people? [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Tanya GulliverGarcia**  
@TanyaMGulliver

Mental illness can cause ppl to want to stay away from ppl & shelters. Or to have issues with the rules. [@mobizaaron](#) [#HHCHAT](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Marjolaine Boutin-S.**  
@MarjBoutinSweet

[@TanyaMGulliver](#) Good point. Addicted people are a challenge: often no refuge for them, they have to stay outside... [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Kathleen Passarello**  
@K\_Passarello

**#1** problem in Toronto shelter systems is the number of people in one building. Reduce shelter beds per building! [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Kathleen Passarello**

@K\_Passarello

Reduce shelter beds per building (max.50 people/building) & evenly distribute building per Toronto ward. Is the solution! #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**FredVictorTO**

@FredVictorTO

Density is an issue, but more significantly, ppl need private sleeping rooms #HHChat @K\_Passarello

A MONTH AGO



**buschic**

@buschic

@FredVictorTO @K\_Passarello disabled married couples should NEVER be expected to split up, especially if they are reliant on each other!

A MONTH AGO



**Kathleen Passarello**

@K\_Passarello

@buschic @FredVictorTO @K\_Passarello Absolutely!

A MONTH AGO



**Lauro Monteiro**

@lauromonteiro

A1 - #HHChat - a review of barriers to accessing shelter beds and systemic changes to permit more reasonable flexibility needed!

A MONTH AGO



**Lauro Monteiro**

@lauromonteiro

A1 - #HHChat -Shelters and shelter staff are risk adverse because the system works against allowing flexibility.

A MONTH AGO



**Lauro Monteiro**  
@lauromonteiro

@lauromonteiro - #HHChat - barriers exist in decision making to accommodate the circumstances like people being intoxicated etc.

A MONTH AGO



**Lauro Monteiro**  
@lauromonteiro

A1 #HHChat - curious if anyone has examined new funding model introduced last year has had an impact on how shelters are operating?

A MONTH AGO



**Kevin Cooper**  
@KevCooper27

A1: Homeless ppl often prefer to stay on the street on extreme weather conditions due to the poor treatment in shelters. #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**MarchForTheHomeless**  
@homelessmarch15

@homelesshub #HHChat - A1 in Ireland most hostels are full of drug addicts ppl fear being robbed and unsafe #marchforthehomeless2015

A MONTH AGO



**Guinevere Skye**  
@4thWalls

@homelesshub Many claim that homelessness is a "big city" issue & there are other services that need fixing (#Mississauga) #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Homeless Hub**  
@homelesshub

@4thWalls Homelessness exists in a variety of communities, not just big cities. But it may be not as visible. #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Sharen Skelly**  
@rnsharen

@homelesshub #HHChat Homelessness in smaller cntrs still not seen as a major problem. Much victim blaming. Not much incentive to spend \$.

A MONTH AGO

Question 2:



**Homeless Hub**  
@homelesshub

Q2. In Toronto, Calgary, Saskatoon we have read reports about shelters being over capacity. What does that look like in your city? #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Homeless Hub**  
@homelesshub

More on Q2. Reports from: Calgary [bit.ly/1sxVn1v](http://bit.ly/1sxVn1v) Saskatoon [bit.ly/1AQ2CDB](http://bit.ly/1AQ2CDB) Toronto [on.thestar.com/1ygsjfW](http://on.thestar.com/1ygsjfW) #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Tanya GulliverGarcia**  
@TanyaMGulliver

A2: 1/3 #Toronto has 4,424 shelter beds. On Jan 12 & 13 the entire system was at 93% capacity; 95% if you remove the family motels. #HHchat

A MONTH AGO



**Tanya GulliverGarcia**  
@TanyaMGulliver

A2: 2/3 "AT capacity" is already beyond what most of us would want to live in. Before they are "full" they are over-capacity. #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Tanya GulliverGarcia**  
@TanyaMGulliver

A2: 3/3 Reported numbers don't show the whole picture. Beds are full when someone needs them, but empty overnight during the count. #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Alex**  
@Ginger\_Polo

@TanyaMGulliver Also aren't "free beds" not always beds that anyone can access? [nowtoronto.com/news/shelter-s...](http://nowtoronto.com/news/shelter-s...) #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Tanya GulliverGarcia**  
@TanyaMGulliver

Yes, @Ginger\_Polo - not all beds are available for all ppl when needed. #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**buschic**  
@buschic

@Ginger\_Polo @TanyaMGulliver some are in inaccessible buildings or inaccessible transit, or can't hands disabled people/married couples.

A MONTH AGO



**FredVictorTO**  
@FredVictorTO

Anyone could feel uncomfortable with the kind of proximity in a shelter. Lack of privacy. #HHChat @mobizaaron @homelesshub

A MONTH AGO



**Shelba Waldron**  
@ShelbaWaldron

#HHChat A2: Our shelters usually stay around capacity yr. round. Our extreme weather is in the heat of summer. Capacity is an issue then.

A MONTH AGO



**Shelba Waldron**  
@ShelbaWaldron

#HHChat A2-Most of our shelter planning is geared around hurricanes & our issue now is that we haven't had one in a while. The apathy is scary

A MONTH AGO



**Jody Steinhauer**  
@JodySteinhauer

Q2. Need more entrepreneurial ideas on flex space available immediately when shelters are full. #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Scott Mills**  
@GraffitiBMXCop

.@homelesshub Not in position to answer question re #Toronto shelter capacity~Believe #outreach saves lives [bit.ly/DrHwangCBC](http://bit.ly/DrHwangCBC) #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**mavis Doucette**

@mave\_\_58

A2our shelter is at full capacity and only has one emergency cot  
[#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Tanya GulliverGarcia**

@TanyaMGulliver

@mave\_\_58 where is that [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**mavis Doucette**

@mave\_\_58

A2Fredericton NB [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Jody Steinhauer**

@JodySteinhauer

Q2. Extreme weather alerts should be based on temp with wind chill so warming centers open more often when needed. Same for humidity  
[#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Kevin Cooper**

@KevCooper27

[#A2](#) report by [@TorontoStar](#) gives an overview of how crowded shelters can get during extreme cold weather [m.thestar.com/#/article/opin...](https://www.thestar.com/#/article/opin...)  
[#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Kathleen Passarello**  
@K\_Passarello

#2 Problem: Overcrowding in shelter rooms creates unsafe, unhealthy, potentially dangerous situations. [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Kathleen Passarello**  
@K\_Passarello

#2 Problem: Overcrowding: Shelter Standards needs to be further defined. There should be NO MORE THEN 2 PEOPLE per 10X10 room!  
[#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**FredVictorTO**  
@FredVictorTO

Let's aim for better! No unrelated ppl in small rooms! [#HHChat](#)  
[@K\\_Passarello](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Kathleen Passarello**  
@K\_Passarello

[@FredVictorTO](#) WOW...it would be a tough one but yes!

A MONTH AGO



**FredVictorTO**  
@FredVictorTO

Dorm-style shelters are on their way out in many other jurisdictions, inc. UK [#HHChat](#) [@K\\_Passarello](#)

A MONTH AGO





**Kevin Cooper**  
@KevCooper27

#A2 In Toronto @johntoryTO has proposed the opening of new shelters. We don't need more temporary solution that covers the problem  
#HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Jody Steinhauer**  
@JodySteinhauer

Long term housing is solution, but until then more shelter beds are a must (but a bandaid) @KevCooper27 #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Kathleen Passarello**  
@K\_Passarello

@JodySteinhauer @KevCooper27 I agree Jody!

A MONTH AGO



**Kevin Cooper**  
@KevCooper27

Shelters are essential to protect homeless ppl from street danger. However, the real solution is the creation of affordable housing  
#HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Marjolaine Boutin-S.**  
@MarjBoutinSweet

@KevCooper27 + new HPS approach (Housing First) means shelters will not have access to HPS funds. Means +ppl out during coldest time  
#HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**MarchFortheHomeless**

@homelessmarch15

@homelesshub #HHChat A.2 in Dublin n other parts of Ireland ders a shortage in emergency accommodation ,90k ppl on the housing waiting list

A MONTH AGO

Question 3:



**Homeless Hub**

@homelesshub

Q3. What are the criteria for calling a cold alert in your community? Who makes the call? #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Tanya GulliverGarcia**

@TanyaMGulliver

A3. 1/2 In #Toronto the MOH makes the call when “the temp reaches -15C, taking into account windchill and other factors.” #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Tanya GulliverGarcia**

@TanyaMGulliver

A3. 2/2 That means that unless it's really close to -15C the cold alert is not going to get activated. #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Emma Woolley**

@emmamwoolley

A3. Discussed this a bit in my post about Toronto's alert system, -15 (without chill or sustained cold): [homelesshub.ca/blog/do-cold-w...](http://homelesshub.ca/blog/do-cold-w...) #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**mavis Doucette**  
@mave\_\_58

A3good question I sit on a HARS committee for heat alert but as far as I know we have no cold alert other than news [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Shelba Waldron**  
@ShelbaWaldron

[#HHChat](#) A3-Good question. Not sure, but 211 automatically calls all shelters when the temp drops to updates and alerts.

A MONTH AGO



**Shelba Waldron**  
@ShelbaWaldron

[#HHChat](#) Homeless focus groups tell us they don't want police approaching thm about weather. They want fire. Send red not blue is the mantra.

A MONTH AGO



**Shelba Waldron**  
@ShelbaWaldron

[#hhchat](#) A3 [newstalkflorida.com/pinellas-count...](http://newstalkflorida.com/pinellas-count...)

A MONTH AGO



**Scott Mills**  
@GraffitiBMXCop

.@homelesshub On twitter in [#Toronto](#) official word for a cold alert comes from the Toronto Public Health [@TOPublicHealth](#) account [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Scott Mills**  
@GraffitiBMXCop

. A3. @homelesshub June/2014 Comprehensive Review of Cold Weather Protocols + Cold Weather Health Impacts [bit.ly/ColdTO](http://bit.ly/ColdTO) #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Kevin Cooper**  
@KevCooper27

#A3 city officials should call for extreme weather alert when temperatures are bad enough to endangered ppl's lives. #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Tanya GulliverGarcia**  
@TanyaMGulliver

A3 - cold is tricky because it can endanger lives for days/weeks after actual cold day @KevCooper27 #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Homeless Hub**  
@homelesshub

@TanyaMGulliver @KevCooper27 Possibly the case with one of the recent tragic deaths in Toronto? #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Kevin Cooper**  
@KevCooper27

@homelesshub @TanyaMGulliver Officials must keep in mind that homeless people do not account with enough layers to be warm enough

A MONTH AGO



**Tanya GulliverGarcia**  
@TanyaMGulliver

It could be. The death at the Peter St site wasn't freezing but we don't if its cold-related [@homelesshub](#) [@KevCooper27](#) [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Greensboro's IRC**  
@gsodaycenter

[@homelesshub](#) Q3 we get our information include lng wind chill from city/emergency management [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Tyler Ennis**  
@myblocktyler

Last week I saw what appeared to be a homeless man walking down the street in shorts and flip flops [#HHChat](#) I didn't know how to help.

A MONTH AGO



**Homeless Hub**  
@homelesshub

[@myblocktyler](#) What would you suggest [@TanyaMGulliver](#)? [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Bonnie**  
@greenurlifenow

[@homelesshub](#) It can be hard to know what to do when you see someone who is homeless. [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Tanya GulliverGarcia**  
@TanyaMGulliver

Call 311 and let them know (or even 911 if it's urgent). Ppl often remove clothes when they become hypothermic. [@myblocktyler](#) [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Lauro Monteiro**  
@lauromonteiro

#HHChat - Toronto context has great people, agencies & community but fragmentation in systems hinders effective and appropriate service

A MONTH AGO



**Lauro Monteiro**  
@lauromonteiro

#HHChat - Toronto - 2 much focus on funding streams & artificial silos, rather than system management approach backed by strong leadership.

A MONTH AGO

Question 4:



**Homeless Hub**  
@homelesshub

Q4. What happens when a cold alert is called in your region? More beds, relaxed restrictions, warming centres? #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Tanya GulliverGarcia**  
@TanyaMGulliver

A4. All of those happen in TO. There are also more street outreach teams to help get ppl off the streets for the night. #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Kathleen Passarello**  
@K\_Passarello

@TanyaMGulliver For the night?? Is not good enough! Toronto needs to adopt "Housing First Program" Solutions. #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Tanya GulliverGarcia**  
@TanyaMGulliver

I agree, we're big advocates of housing first here. See [homelesshub.ca/housingfirstca...](http://homelesshub.ca/housingfirstca...) or [/housingfirstyouth](http://homelesshub.ca/housingfirstyouth) for more info @K\_Passarello #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Jay**  
@Jason\_Webb

There will always be tension between providing for homeless folks in crisis now and solving homelessness in the future. #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**HomeAid Northern VA**  
@HomeAidNoVA

Solution? RT @Jason\_Webb: ...always a tension between providing for homeless folks now and solving homelessness in the future. #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Jay**  
@Jason\_Webb

@HomeAidNoVA The first step is to understand that both problems are interrelated. A crisis reveals deep structural problems. #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Kathleen Passarello**  
@K\_Passarello

#4 Problem: We need to stop focusing on "cold weather solutions" and focus on a daily plan for homeless people! #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



FredVictorTO  
@FredVictorTO

Right on! @K\_Passarello

A MONTH AGO



Kathleen Passarello  
@K\_Passarello

@FredVictorTO For me this is a hot topic...been working on solutions for 2 years now-preparing for presentation.

A MONTH AGO



FredVictorTO  
@FredVictorTO

Absurdity of alert system shown last week when alert canceled and services kept open. 1/2 #HHChat @K\_Passarello

A MONTH AGO



FredVictorTO  
@FredVictorTO

2/2 The alert services are needed year-round. #HHChat @K\_Passarello

A MONTH AGO



Tanya GulliverGarcia  
@TanyaMGulliver

That is allowed tho. SSHA at City can extended warming services w/o an alert @FredVictorTO @K\_Passarello #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



FredVictorTO  
@FredVictorTO

@TanyaMGulliver @K\_Passarello Yes. They need to keep those services open all the time, not contingent on alert.

A MONTH AGO





**Emma Woolley**  
@emmamwoolley

@FredVictorTO I was taken aback by Shapiro's response that PH tries to limit alerts. I understand it costs \$ but why have one if not to use?

A MONTH AGO



**FredVictorTO**  
@FredVictorTO

@emmamwoolley I was too. Maybe if we look at his comments another way, cld be saying delink weather from what shld be core services  
#HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Emma Woolley**  
@emmamwoolley

@FredVictorTO Ahhh, I hadn't considered that. That would be great, actually.

A MONTH AGO



**FredVictorTO**  
@FredVictorTO

@emmamwoolley Yeah, listen again but try to take off homeless service hat - he's only talking about \*extreme\* weather.

A MONTH AGO



**FredVictorTO**  
@FredVictorTO

@emmamwoolley He even said ppl at risk year round. Said hypothermia a risk even at +5, if I recall correctly.

A MONTH AGO



**Emma Woolley**  
@emmamwoolley

@FredVictorTO I don't think I saw that part reported. Interesting, I'll investigate further!

A MONTH AGO



**Bonnie**  
@greenurlifenow

@homelesshub A4. Emergency shelters are open when it reaches a certain low temperature. #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Jody Steinhauer**  
@JodySteinhauer

A4. @EngageAndChange #ProjectWinterSurvival supplies outreach with Survival Kits to help those who want/have to stay on street. #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Greensboro's IRC**  
@gsodaycenter

@homelesshub Q4 we open as emergency shelter and warming center. Fly white flag/no restrictions #HHChat hard because we have small staff

A MONTH AGO



**Shelba Waldron**  
@ShelbaWaldron

#hhchat A4-more shelters are opened and families moved to motels. Many of our issues stem from children not having proper clothes for cold.

A MONTH AGO



**Scott Mills**  
@GraffitiBMXCop

A4. [@homelesshub](#) Link to official city of Toronto website about what happens when a cold alert is called [bit.ly/TOColdAlerts](https://bit.ly/TOColdAlerts) #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Jody Steinhauer**  
@JodySteinhauer

A4. Been told that trend is less street outreach people available & they aren't allowed to hand out sleeping bags. Is this true? #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Tanya GulliverGarcia**  
@TanyaMGulliver

Official city outreach staff aren't allowed to do anything that is seen as supporting someone to stay on the streets [@JodySteinhauer](#) #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Tanya GulliverGarcia**  
@TanyaMGulliver

Non-profits and others can distribute supplies to help ppl living on the streets but not with city dollars [@JodySteinhauer](#) #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Jody Steinhauer**  
@JodySteinhauer

Unfortunate! If someone needs help in extreme cold a sleeping bag is crucial!! [@TanyaMGulliver](#) #HHChat [@johntoryTO](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Shelba Waldron**  
@ShelbaWaldron

[#HHChat](#) A4-I was in a meeting recently where a suggestion was made to train crossing guards to help assess for children w/out coats and hats

A MONTH AGO



**mavis Doucette**  
@mave\_\_58

A4relaxed restrictions for shelter residents , but what about those who cannot or will not go to shelter [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Sharen Skelly**  
@rnsharen

[@homelesshub](#) Warming centres in [#OwenSound](#). Latest closing 10 pm. I suppose you get warm on your own after that! [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**#frozentweets**  
@fakebrenthill

[@gsodaycenter](#): homelesshub Q3 we get our information include lng wind chill from city/emergency management [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Shelba Waldron**  
@ShelbaWaldron

[#hhchat](#) Ppl always think of FI. dealing only w/heat, but when it gets into freezing temps, those who are homeless & poor just aren't prepare

A MONTH AGO

Question 5:



**Homeless Hub**  
@homelesshub

Q5. Are shelters and warming centres the response we need? If not, what is? #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Kevin Cooper**  
@KevCooper27

#A5 Warming centers & shelters are only temporary solutions that allow homeless ppl get by the day. Next day is another issue. #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Jody Steinhauer**  
@JodySteinhauer

@K\_Passarello Yes... But with many #Toronto shelters at capacity these supplies can help for those who cant/wont take shelter. #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Kathleen Passarello**  
@K\_Passarello

@JodySteinhauer The city keeps handing out "supplies" without digging into the problem!

A MONTH AGO



**Tanya GulliverGarcia**  
@TanyaMGulliver

A5. 1/3 Yes & no. We definitely need more spaces in the winter because it's harder to live outside. More ppl want to be inside. #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Tanya GulliverGarcia**  
@TanyaMGulliver

A5. 2/3 But more shelter beds aren't the answer. We NEED to build affordable/supportive housing and provide income supports. #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Tanya GulliverGarcia**  
@TanyaMGulliver

A5. 3/3 See the State of Homelessness in Canada: 2014 for more information and costs re: solutions [bit.ly/SOHC2014](http://bit.ly/SOHC2014) #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Kathleen Passarello**  
@K\_Passarello

@TanyaMGulliver We need the shelter system to expand temporarily until they build-could take years.

A MONTH AGO



**Tanya GulliverGarcia**  
@TanyaMGulliver

For sure. But rent supplements and increased income can prevent #homelessness without bldg hsg. @K\_Passarello #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Kathleen Passarello**  
@K\_Passarello

@TanyaMGulliver OW recpt's can not access ANY housing with \$370 per month & no money for food or clothing.

A MONTH AGO



**Tanya GulliverGarcia**  
@TanyaMGulliver

Right but what if they got a housing credit like the child tax benefit based on income see SOHC2014 @homelesshub @K\_Passarello #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Kathleen Passarello**  
@K\_Passarello

@TanyaMGulliver @homelesshub It would have to cover full rent. 2nd:IT doesn't solve the problem of accessing healthy food.

A MONTH AGO



**FredVictorTO**  
@FredVictorTO

FV big supporter of a Housing Benefit #HHChat @TanyaMGulliver @homelesshub @K\_Passarello @ONPHA

A MONTH AGO



**Marjolaine Boutin-S.**  
@MarjBoutinSweet

Agree! MT @TanyaMGulliver: We NEED to build affordable/supportive housing and provide income supports. #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Shelba Waldron**  
@ShelbaWaldron

#hhchat Our shelter system is often taxed in the winter due to many of the northerner migrating into Florida for the warmth. It's a concern.

A MONTH AGO



Christian Serv Ctr  
@CSCOrlando

#HHChat Getting the city/county governments on board with finding solutions.

A MONTH AGO



FredVictorTO  
@FredVictorTO

A5. Certainly a need for weather-related services, but current crisis shows core services inadequate. #HHChat @homelesshub

A MONTH AGO



FredVictorTO  
@FredVictorTO

A5. (2) Need the weather-related services open yr-rnd, bc ppl not going to shelters yr-rnd. #HHChat @homelesshub

A MONTH AGO



FredVictorTO  
@FredVictorTO

A5. (3) Inadequacy of income, lack of hsg, shelter rules/conditions/supports also year-round problems... #HHChat @homelesshub

A MONTH AGO



FredVictorTO  
@FredVictorTO

A5. (4) These factors driving demand and year-round crowding in shelters. #HHChat @homelesshub

A MONTH AGO





Question 6:



**Homeless Hub**  
@homelesshub

Q6. How do we change the conversation from emergency response to prevention and solutions such as housing? [#HHchat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Tanya GulliverGarcia**  
@TanyaMGulliver

A6. 1/2 We have to keep talking about it. Even if we're calling for more shelter beds we need to insist on housing too. [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Tanya GulliverGarcia**  
@TanyaMGulliver

A6. 2/2 Talk to everyone who will listen (& even those who don't). Every politician needs to be reminded constantly. [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**mavis Doucette**  
@mave\_\_\_58

A6 our community action group has held a series of town hall style info and really seems to be turning the tide here in Fredericton [#HHChat](#)

A MONTH AGO



**Shelba Waldron**  
@ShelbaWaldron

**#hhchat #6** You must bring the stakeholders together. Emergency Management must be included, along w/schools, shelters, NGO's, and local govt

A MONTH AGO



**Shelba Waldron**  
@ShelbaWaldron

**#hhchat A6**-In many communities the services are there, but poorly coordinated and working in silo's.

A MONTH AGO



**Shelba Waldron**  
@ShelbaWaldron

**#hhchat A6**--Every Friday @JWBPinellas brings major stakeholders to the table to practically work through the issue of family homelessness.

A MONTH AGO



**Emma Woolley**  
@emmamwoolley

A6. IMO, what we need is strategic, collective political activism around affordable housing and minimum annual incomes. **#HHChat**

A MONTH AGO



**Marjolaine Boutin-S.**  
@MarjBoutinSweet

A6. Funding for social housing is disappearing in Can. Conservative gov is refusing to renew its investments. [petition.ndp.ca/social-housing](https://petition.ndp.ca/social-housing)  
**#HHChat**

A MONTH AGO



**Marjolaine Boutin-S.**  
@MarjBoutinSweet

A6. We also need a national housing strategy to guarantee the right to housing. Unfortunately, Conservatives voted against our bill. #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Lauro Monteiro**  
@lauromonteiro

A6 - not sure we need 2 change converstaion - but need an honest exmaination of how 2 do better with what we have #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Jody Steinhauer**  
@JodySteinhauer

A6. Offer more incentive to developers & builders to encourage them to want to be involved in building affordable housing. #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**MoiraD**  
@MoiraLovesCoops

@homelesshub #HHchat Proponents of housing should actively support crisis responders, and vice-versa. Let's unite the voice for change.

A MONTH AGO



**Kathleen Passarello**  
@K\_Passarello

Problem #3 Awareness is key! It is a complete myth that people "want to be homeless". #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Dai**  
@daibyday

Q6. A sustained effort for a culture shift. I fear if no \*immediate\*, positive change is seen, great ideas get swept aside. #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**MoiraD**  
@MoiraLovesCoops

1/2 Thanks to @homelesshub #HHchat. Interesting online talk about homelessness & the push-pull btwn crisis response and permanent solutions.

A MONTH AGO



**MoiraD**  
@MoiraLovesCoops

2/2 The permanency of #OutOfTheCold & #FoodBank, originally crisis responses, makes it clear society needs to work on solutions. #HHchat

A MONTH AGO



**All Saints Kingsway**  
@SaintsKingsway

@MoiraLovesCoops @homelesshub Our OOTC shelter gets 12 more per evening than last year. We're hardly able to respond to the crisis. #HHChat

A MONTH AGO



**Kathleen Passarello**  
@K\_Passarello

@SaintsKingsway @MoiraLovesCoops @homelesshub That's because no one is recognizing that OOTC users are there ALL YEAR LONG! #HHChat

A MONTH AGO

It was great to see all the participation for this important discussion. If you would like to contribute further comments please feel free to tweet us.

For a list of past and upcoming tweet chats, please visit: [homelesshub.ca/HHChat](https://homelesshub.ca/HHChat)

## Homeless Hub's Monthly Tweet Chat #HHChat

What is a tweet chat? A tweet chat is a scheduled conversation on Twitter that is linked by a specific hashtag. A hashtag is a combination of words/numbers that follow the '#' symbol and are used to link information together. It allows for conversations to be easily tracked.

◦ [HOMELESSHUB](#)