

Capital Region Interfaith Statement on Homelessness & Affordable Housing

March 17, 2011 | Capital Region Interfaith Housing Initiative

We, leaders of different religious and spiritual communities in Edmonton and area, come together to express our shared commitment to eliminate homelessness in our community. We support the challenging goals of *A Place to Call Home: Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness*.

Over the years, religious and spiritual communities have done much to meet the needs of men, women and children living in poverty in our community, and have often been leaders in helping to create affordable housing opportunities for those in need. This historical engagement provides a solid foundation for us to do even more both now and in the future.

The successful launch of *Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness* provides an historic opportunity for us to

move beyond previous short-term strategies of managing homelessness, and to commit to a long term goal of actually eliminating homelessness in our community. Leaders from government, business, community, faith, and social service sectors have come together in common cause to develop and launch *Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness*. This shared commitment has been a major factor in the successes achieved so far in the first year of the Plan's implementation.

Call to Action

We call for our religious and spiritual communities to work together more closely and make a major contribution to the success of this Plan. Our religious and spiritual communities share important values: respect for human dignity, solidarity with those who are poor and vulnerable, and an affirmation of the importance of inclusive and welcoming communities where individuals and families can thrive.

We recognize that safe, stable, and affordable housing is a key part of this human thriving. Everyone needs a place that can truly be called home. Religious and spiritual communities and individual community members are present in every part of the city, and we commit to continue and expand our presence in neighbourhood and city wide homelessness and affordable housing initiatives.

We commit our own religious and spiritual communities to continue to support present initiatives, to find new and creative ways to take action in support of *Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness* and address the issues of homelessness and affordable housing in our communities. We have prepared a Congregational Housing Action Guide to support and encourage our congregations in addressing these issues in an effective manner.

We invite everyone from all sectors of society in Edmonton to become part of this important initiative to eliminate homelessness by committing to learn more about the causes of homelessness in our city, and to participate in specific actions in support of our homeless brothers and sisters in a spirit of solidarity and mutual respect.

We call upon leaders of all orders of government to continue their public leadership for *Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness*, and to provide the necessary program funding in the years ahead so that the ambitious goal of eliminating homelessness can be truly realized.

Endorser

Signature

Date

Print Name

Print Affiliation