INTRODUCTION

Since 2015, End Homelessness Winnipeg has served as the backbone organization supporting implementation of the *10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Winnipeg*. This report offers an update on activities, achievements and plans to the City of Winnipeg as a key funder and partner.

This report serves as a complement to *Housing Through Collaboration: End Homelessness Winnipeg's 2019-2020 Annual Report* and to End Homelessness Winnipeg's *5-Year Plan 2020-2025*, providing updates on activities during the period from April 1-September 15, 2020.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

In March 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic and Winnipeg witnessed its first positive cases. Many services were closed in compliance with provincial public health orders to "stay home:" an impossible ask for people experiencing homelessness in our city.

End Homelessness Winnipeg rapidly convened a COVID-19 Response for the city's homeless-serving sector, drawing on relationships established through collaborative tables and partnerships. This COVID-19 Response quickly connected more than 60 agencies in the homeless-serving, housing and health sectors to develop a COVID-19 Response plan for those experiencing homelessness. The plan included social distancing in shelters, isolation and quarantine spaces for those without a home, testing near emergency shelters and through safe, accessible transportation, health supplies, access to food and hygiene, and enhanced street outreach. End Homelessness Winnipeg also communicated regularly with funders from the philanthropic and government sectors to resource priorities identified under this local plan.

As Community Entity, End Homelessness Winnipeg administers local funding through Reaching Home: the federal government's homelessness strategy. In April 2020, Service Canada announced $2.9 million in Reaching Home funds specific to COVID-19 needs in Winnipeg. Thanks to work undertaken by the COVID-19 Response, funding decisions and allocations were able to be rapidly deployed in support of pressing needs, including physical distancing in shelters, isolation and quarantine spaces for people experiencing homelessness, drop-in and outreach services, and the establishment of a testing site at Thunderbird House, near adult emergency shelters.

As the pandemic evolves, so has the COVID-19 Response, helping to ensure a level of constant communications across the sector and the stabilization of support services delivered in ways that can protect the health and safety of those experiencing homelessness and the people who work with them.

EXTREME HEAT RESPONSE

End Homelessness Winnipeg facilitates the Extreme Weather Response Committee, coordinating strategies to keep those without a home safer during extreme weather. The committee's members include representatives from emergency shelters, outreach services, City departments, Health services and Environment and Climate Change Canada. This summer's Extreme Heat Response rose to challenges arising from COVID-19 by deploying City of Winnipeg water tanks in key areas, providing a list of cooling spaces available on a drop-in basis during months when many services and locations were restricted or closed due to the pandemic, and sharing communication with the community on the signs and risks of heat illness and how to respond. Agencies providing daytime drop-in space during the hottest months collectively reported upwards of 500 people per day accessing locations at Salvation Army Weetamah, 190 Disraeli, and St. Matthews Maryland Community Ministry. Through constant communication with the COVID-19 Response and the Community Entity, a portion of Reaching Home COVID-19 funds were able to be targeted in support of such critical services throughout the summer.

KÍKININAW ÓMA – A STRATEGY TO SUPPORT UNSHELTERED WINNIPEGGERS

In June, End Homelessness Winnipeg released Kíkininaw Óma – A Strategy to Support Unsheltered Winnipeggers. The Kíkininaw Óma Strategy was created in collaboration with a group facilitated by End Homelessness Winnipeg. The Strategy group includes representation from the City of Winnipeg, first responders, outreach workers, homeless-serving agencies and people with lived experience of homelessness.

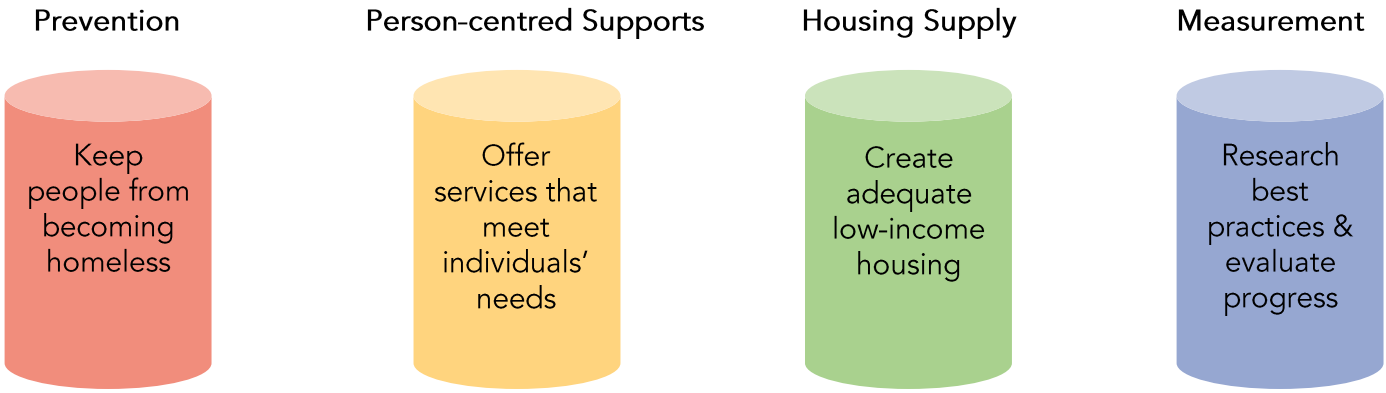
The name Kíkininaw Óma can be translated as "This is our Home Here" from Cree. Elder Belinda Vandenbroeck gifted this name to the Strategy. The Strategy offers context on unsheltered homelessness and encampments in Winnipeg. It also provides an overview of the work of the Kíkininaw Óma Strategy group over the past year. Most importantly, it makes key recommendations for supporting individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness or living in encampments. To date, the City of Winnipeg and Province of Manitoba have taken rapid action on one of the strategy recommendations by dedicating funding for additional 24/7 Safe Spaces in Winnipeg. End Homelessness Winnipeg is similarly taking action on recommendations from the Kíkininaw Óma Strategy:

- Engaging with people experiencing unsheltered homelessness to identify housing models that will meet their needs
- Engaging funders and developers to invest in the types of housing needed
- Facilitating the creation and implementation of a Coordinated Access system that will help to prioritize and match people with appropriate housing and services; and
- Facilitating coordination, communication and information sharing among outreach teams and the Kíkininaw Óma Strategy group
- Reaching out to and leveraging partnerships with stakeholders identified in the Strategy's recommendations to highlight the opportunities and needs outlined in the Strategy

This summer, the Kíkininaw Óma Strategy group consulted its membership and dozens of other people with lived and living experience of homelessness on the most urgent priorities moving forward, based on the six recommendations of the Strategy. The response was loud and clear: Creating Housing, Increasing Income Supports and Opening 24/7 Safe Spaces were identified as the most urgent actions needed to address the crisis of unsheltered homelessness in our city.

PROGRESS ON THE 4 PILLARS OF THE 10-YEAR PLAN

the 10-Year Plan sets out goals for making a shift from managing homelessness with emergency responses to ending it with long-term solutions. These solutions are identified as the 4 Pillars of the 10-Year Plan:



A summary of current initiatives under these 4 Pillars is as follows:

- **Prevention:** Community Loan Program, Re-Integration Homelessness Prevention (Corrections), Youth Homelessness Prevention Strategy
- **Person-Centred Supports:** Extreme Weather Response, Kíkininaw Óma Strategy, COVID-19 Response, Gizhe Waa Ti-Sii-Win Service Delivery Expo, Coordinated Access: Outcomes, Access Points and Assessment tools
- **Housing Supply:** Housing Through Collaboration Reframe Competition Award-Winning Project, Watt Street Transitional Housing, The Village, Housing Supply Action Committee, Housing Needs and Development Framework, Housing Master Plan, Coordinated Access: Housing Resource Inventory
- **Measurement:** HIFIS onboarding and implementation, Street Health Survey Sub Reports, Street Census, Coordinated Access: Information Management

PROGRESS ON THE TARGETS OF THE 5-YEAR PLAN, 2020-2025

The *5-Year Plan* aligns the goals of the *10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Winnipeg* with the *directives of Reaching Home*, the Reaching Home *Winnipeg Community Plan*, and the latest available data on homelessness. The Plan sets out 7 measurable targets for reducing homelessness in Winnipeg over the next five years. Updated progress on specific actions related to each target are highlighted in the table below.

2025 TARGET	ACTIONS	2020 PROGRESS	NEXT STEPS
CREATE **1,340** additional housing units based on identified local housing needs	Build fund development capacity	Housing Supply Action Committee developed innovative **financing model** for funding housing initiatives	Leverage model and partnerships toward increased capacity
	Establish a financing model for new housing	Financing model won *2019 Reframe Housing Competition* award; Awarded Investment Readiness Program funding to develop model; Study to inform model completed by MNP in August 2020	Engage investors and government on model; secure funding for transitional housing
	Revise *Housing Models & Development Framework* to reflect current data on housing need	Framework data included in *Housing Needs Assessment Report*, which adds baseline data	Develop system to track new supply; Update Framework document
	Develop a master plan to create 1,340 units	Assessing opportunities, needs and best practices	Draft Master Plan, including costing
	Leverage partnerships with developers/ funders/service providers to build housing units	Partners engaged through Housing Supply Action Committee, COVID-19 Response	Leverage partnerships to implement Master Plan

2025 TARGET	ACTIONS	2020 PROGRESS	NEXT STEPS
CREATE **1,340** additional housing units based on identified local housing needs	Engage governments to ensure funding criteria & policies for new housing meet needs of those experiencing homelessness	*Kíkininaw Óma Strategy* sets out recommendations for governments to address housing needs based on engagement with lived experience	Continue to engage governments on new low-income housing
	Collaborate with the City of Winnipeg to inform its new Poverty Reduction Strategy	*Poverty Reduction Strategy* additional measures as of September 2020 include Housing	Collaborate on Housing measures
HOUSE **1,519** people experiencing absolute homelessness or provisionally housed	Leverage partnerships with major providers of rent-geared-to-income housing	Partnering with Manitoba Housing and MNPHA	Leverage partnerships toward Master Plan/ Coordinated Access
	Develop a comprehensive, reliable inventory of available housing units	*Coordinated Access (CA)* system will include a centralized inventory of housing resources	Establish CA Governance Structure by January 2021; inventory by June 2021
	Develop and implement a CA system that streamlines the process for people experiencing homelessness to access housing and supports	Advisory Committee struck to guide development of Governance Structure, October-December 2020	Establish CA Governance Structure by January 2021; implement CA system by March 2022
REDUCE Indigenous overrepresentation in emergency shelters by **50%**	Support/facilitate creation of 24/7 Safe Spaces	Produced *24/7 Safe Spaces* report and ***Kíkininaw Óma Strategy***; City, Provincial and Federal funding commitments made for 24/7 Safe Spaces	Work with providers to provide backbone support for 24/7 Safe Space services; engage providers in CA system development
	Facilitate development of transitional housing for women and children fleeing violence in partnership with Wahbung Abinoonjiag and 8 other Indigenous and women's organizations	Subdivision and Land Transfer underway with Manitoba Housing; financing model completed; partnerships established; schematic design complete	Work with partners and province to secure capital and operating funds; demolish existing structure
	Partner with AMC and others to implement the Strategy for Ending First Nations Homelessness	Initiating the Village Project to develop Indigenous-led housing, a Strategy recommendation	Engage partners, Elders and lived experience to co-create housing

2025 TARGET	ACTIONS	2020 PROGRESS	NEXT STEPS
REDUCE Indigenous overrepresentation in emergency shelters by **50%**	Collaborate with federal and provincial partners to identify and address jurisdictional gaps impacting Indigenous homelessness	Engaging Justice, CFS, education and health to address homelessness for Indigenous people exiting systems; Exploring Guaranteed Income from Indigenous perspective	Connect Indigenous youth and adults exiting institutions with income supports and housing to divert from shelters
	Partner with Indigenous organizations to create a collaborative network that provides wraparound supports to address housing affordability, access, innovative housing and funding models	Initiating the Village Project to partner with Indigenous organizations on development of Indigenous-led housing with supports	Engage partners, Elders and lived experience to co-create and align supports that meet community needs
	Partner with Indigenous organizations to build culturally appropriate approaches, systems, and supports for people experiencing homelessness	Manager, Housing Supports completed *Circles for Reconciliation* training to achieve Facilitator designation	Engage partners to co-create culturally appropriate systems and supports
	Partner with Indigenous organizations to build housing and increase access to housing	Supported Wahbung Abinoonjiiag to lead Sponsor Management of 56 units in partnership with 8 other Indigenous and women's organizations	Sustain and build partnerships to develop transitional housing for women and children fleeing violence and future initiatives
SHORTEN lengths of stays in emergency shelters so that 92% are less than 10 days	Understand demographics of those staying in shelters for >10 days to inform pop.-specific responses	Initiating Street Health Survey Indigenous sub-report	Launch sub-report by May 2021
	Support a continuum of housing types and services: supportive, cultural, transitional, community etc.	Engaging Housing Supply Action Committee to explore diverse models and supports	Diversify Reaching Home investments in housing services and capital projects
	Work with emergency shelters to become more housing focussed	Supporting engagement with the *Shelter Transformation Network*	Increase housing supply and housing services at shelters

2025 TARGET	ACTIONS	2020 PROGRESS	NEXT STEPS
SHORTEN lengths of stays in emergency shelters so that 92% are less than 10 days	Transfer provincial homeless programs and subsidies serving Winnipeg to End Homelessness Winnipeg	Province of Manitoba is engaged in discussion on transfer of programs	Further discussion and negotiations
	Create a by-name-list to facilitate CA	Implementing a CA system for Winnipeg by March 2022	Establish CA Governance Structure
	Educate the public on issues related to homelessness, to reduce stigma and mobilize community support for inclusion and integration	Launched *Residents' Guide and Media Toolkit*, new Communications Strategy in June 2020; conducted media interviews, class presentations and community engagements	Implement Communications Strategy and workplans related to Kíkininaw Óma, Street Census and other initiatives
ELIMINATE Entries to homelessness among released inmates and youth who are in CFS care or disengaging from school	Finalize long-term plan to prevent discharge from provincial corrections into homelessness	Conducted a survey in Headingly Women's Correctional facility regarding barriers to successful transition to community.	Demonstration project with EIA and Headingly Women's to facilitate EIA intake so women have income supports within 1 day of release
	Work with Winnipeg School Division and youth on strategies to prevent homelessness among students disengaging from school	Discussions initiated with WSD, CFS, EIA and youth on prevention strategies	Initiative will resume in 2021 under new Manager, Prevention
	Determine numbers and demographics of those being discharged from institutional settings into absolute homelessness	Survey at Headingly Women's revealed more than 80% of respondents had no housing when released	Complete Street Census to create new snapshot of numbers and demographics, March 2021
	Identify gaps and develop a plan with partners and stakeholders to stop inflow into homelessness	Community Loan Program launched to prevent eviction due to temporary income shortfall	Further initiatives in 2021 under new Manager, Prevention

2025 TARGET	ACTIONS	2020 PROGRESS	NEXT STEPS
EXPAND Use of HIFIS to **45** homeless-serving organizations and programs as part of a coordinated access system	Identify gaps through System Mapping	Systems Mapping initiated through *HelpSeeker*	Analyse comparative data to identify gaps
	Integrate shelter, Housing First HIFIS systems	Systems integrated in 2019-2020	Onboard new agencies
	Add 45 organizations and programs to HIFIS, based on priorities identified through System Mapping/research	33 organizations and programs at various stages of HIFIS4 implementation as of June 2020; 7 new organizations onboarding since June 2020	Support onboarded users' progress to full implementation; onboard 12 more programs/agencies
	Develop a plan/budget for CA system	Budget and plan developed in 2019-2020	Review/adapt plan/ budget in response to COVID-19
	Implement CA using standardized intake, assessment tools	Advisory Committee struck to establish Governance Structure, October-December 2020	Governance Structure to oversee decisions on tools
PREVENT **90%** of those served by coordinated access from re-entering homelessness	Participate in *BFZ-C*	Participated to June 2020; now with *CAEH*	Meeting biweekly with CAEH to support CA implementation
	Create by-name list in HIFIS	Integrated HIFIS and onboarded new users; Advisory Committee struck to establish CA Governance Structure	Governance Structure to determine list criteria, procedures and protocols
	Evaluate practices, policies contributing to people returning to homelessness	Working with Justice, CFS, Education and Health to identify policies and practices	Initiatives will resume in 2021 under new Manager, Prevention
	Enhance community of practice, learning and care for direct service workers	Supporting providers with *COVID-19 best practices and resources*	Leverage COVID-19 Response partnerships to enhance community of practice, learning and care
	Establish community loan program to prevent people from being evicted due to one-time financial shortfall	Community Loan program established	Measure impact and conduct continuous quality improvement