



ENDING HOMELESSNESS TOGETHER

DEC 3-5, 2024

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

Acknowledging Truth and Working Towards Reconciliation

This project is funded in part by
the Government of Canada.



Presenting Sponsor





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4 GATHERING OVERVIEW

Welcome to the inaugural **Ending Homelessness Together** gathering. Over the next three days, we will bring together individuals with lived experience of homelessness, sector professionals, government representatives, landlords, and businesses to explore solutions and collaborate on ending homelessness in our community.



Our breakout sessions are designed around the Medicine Wheel teachings, exploring the **heart, mind, body, and spirit**, and reflecting the importance of harmony in addressing homelessness.

The Medicine Wheel is a powerful symbol in Indigenous culture, representing teachings, values, and beliefs through its four quadrants. Each quadrant signifies elements like the seasons, directions, and sacred medicines, emphasizing balance and interconnection in all aspects of life.



This gathering was made possible by the dedication and contributions of a vast and caring community. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Elders Council for guiding the programming and ceremonies, ensuring we move forward in a good way, as well as the Staff and Board of End Homelessness Winnipeg, the Reaching Home Community Advisory Board, the Gathering Committee, and the Event Producers for their tireless work behind the scenes. We also acknowledge and celebrate those leading the conversations throughout the event—our keynotes, music performers, panelists, moderators, and speakers—whose efforts and voices drive this important work forward.

For detailed bios of all those who contributed, please use the QR code on the back of this program.





**PREMIER
OF MANITOBA**

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8
CANADA

A MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of Manitoba, I want to welcome you all to the inaugural Ending Homelessness Together event.

When we see our relatives living in bus shelters and tents in Winnipeg, we know that we need to do better. Ending homelessness is one of the greatest challenges and most important tasks facing our province. To end homelessness, we need to address the problems that contribute to it, like addictions, mental health, intergenerational trauma, and the harms caused by residential schools. This is a big task, and the only way to accomplish it is by working in partnership. The work you have done over the past decade to connect Manitobans experiencing homelessness with the housing they need has helped so many. I am deeply grateful for your ongoing dedication and advocacy. And I recommit to you that our government will keep working in partnership with you to create a province where everyone has a safe place to call home.

Thank you to End Homelessness Winnipeg for organizing this event and thank you to everyone who is participating. By gathering here to listen, learn, and share, you are all part of the solution. Together, we can end chronic homelessness in Winnipeg.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wab Kinew".

**The Honourable Wab Kinew
Premier of Manitoba**

Housing, Addictions and Homelessness



It is my honour to serve as the Minister of Housing, Addictions and Homelessness for the province of Manitoba and my pleasure to bring a few words to End Homelessness Winnipeg's first conference *Ending Homelessness Together*.

To Manitobans experiencing homelessness and all those working to support them, I uplift you and thank you for sharing the wisdom you are bringing to this event.

The challenge before us is great and will take solutions from all of us, all sectors, all leaders, all towns and corners of the province. It will also take us addressing the long-standing and ongoing impacts of colonialism that has separated Indigenous people from land, culture, family and identity.

As we work together to end homelessness, it is critical that we pay attention to the voices of Indigenous peoples. I am honoured to be one of the first First Nations women to be appointed to cabinet and lead the province on this critical file. By bringing our diverse voices, expertise, and resources together, we will develop comprehensive strategies to tackle the root causes of homelessness.

I am confident that, together, we can end chronic homelessness in Manitoba.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "B. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bernadette Smith
Minister of Housing, Addictions and Homelessness



Mayor's Message

On behalf of the City of Winnipeg, I'd like to welcome everyone to the inaugural Ending Homelessness Together event. This gathering represents a collective commitment to addressing homelessness in our community and reflects a crucial step towards reconciliation.

As Mayor of Winnipeg, I appreciate the work End Homelessness Winnipeg does to create lasting solutions to prevent and end homelessness. The event theme, "Acknowledging Truth and Working Towards Reconciliation," draws attention to the painful realities faced by Indigenous peoples who are disproportionately impacted by homelessness.

This year, Winnipeg celebrates 150 years as a city. This anniversary is an opportunity for us to reflect on our past, and look ahead to our future. Together, we can work towards a Winnipeg where every person has access to safe, dignified housing and the support they need to thrive.

Thank you to End Homelessness Winnipeg, the speakers, and everyone who is attending this important event. My best wishes for a productive and meaningful meeting.

Sincerely,

Scott Gillingham
Mayor
City of Winnipeg



Dear Delegates,

It is with profound gratitude and respect that I welcome you to End Homelessness Winnipeg's inaugural *Ending Homelessness Together* Gathering. Your unwavering dedication and compassion in addressing the challenges of homelessness inspire hope and drive meaningful change every day. Together, we are working towards sustainable solutions for this critical issue, and your presence here reinforces the strength of our collective efforts as sector partners, colleagues, Elders, relatives with lived experience, and Knowledge Keepers.

We are honoured to host this gathering in Winnipeg and warmly welcome each of you—both local attendees and those who have traveled from afar. United by the shared commitment to addressing this pressing yet solvable crisis, we also extend heartfelt thanks to our generous sponsors, whose financial support has made this event possible.

This three-day gathering will be enriched by ceremonies and teachings from our distinct Indigenous Nations—First Nations, Métis, and Inuit. We are deeply grateful to our Elders' Council for their wisdom, guidance, and spiritual leadership, which ground this event in reconciliation and respect. The ceremonial and spiritual components of this gathering reflect our shared belief in the importance of cultural practices and traditions as we move toward meaningful and lasting change.

Through knowledge sharing, discussions, and mutual learning, we aim to honour local nations and foster pathways to reconciliation that shape our collective journey forward. Let us embrace this opportunity to deepen connections, amplify solutions, and chart a future where everyone has a place to call home.

Miigwetch,

Jason Whitford
Chief Executive Officer
End Homelessness Winnipeg

Message from Kyle Ross, President of MGEU:

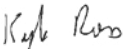
As President of the Manitoba Government and General Employees' Union, I am honoured to welcome everyone to the 2024 Ending Homelessness Together Conference, hosted by End Homelessness Winnipeg. This gathering unites advocates, service providers, community members, and leaders committed to addressing homelessness and advancing reconciliation.

The MGEU is proud to be the title sponsor of this event. Our members work tirelessly to provide essential services to those most vulnerable in our communities. Among them are those at End Homelessness Winnipeg and similar organizations who support individuals facing homelessness, food insecurity, mental health challenges, and addiction. Their work often goes unrecognized, yet they play a critical role in helping people regain stability and hope.

End Homelessness Winnipeg's mission—to promote Indigenous reconciliation and secure housing solutions for vulnerable citizens—aligns closely with our union's values. Dealing with the roots of homelessness, poverty, and addiction requires listening to the voices of Indigenous communities and acknowledging the effects of colonization and intergenerational trauma. This conference offers a vital platform for meaningful dialogue and collaborative strategies to support these efforts.

To all service providers, policymakers, advocates, and community members here today, I commend you for your dedication. Your work is essential in building a future where every person has a safe place to call home. Together, we can create a more equitable and compassionate Winnipeg, where everyone has the opportunity to thrive and belong.

Thank you for your commitment, and I look forward to the impact of your work in the days and years to come.



Kyle Ross,
MGEU President

10 // DAY 1 //

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024

WAG - Qaumajuq 🇮🇰 Opening Reception

3:00 - 3:30 P.M.
MAIN HALL

CHECK IN, MINGLING, HORS D'OEUVRES & REFRESHMENTS

3:30 - 4:45 P.M.
**MURIEL
RICHARDSON
AUDITORIUM**

OPENING CEREMONY

Fiddle Music: Tayler Fleming

MC: Lisa Meeches

Pipe Ceremony: Elder Wanbdi Wakita

Lighting of the Qulliq: Elder Martha Peet, with singing by Nikki Komaksiutksak

Greetings & Program Overview

Special Musical Performance: Leonard Sumner

5:00 - 5:30 P.M.
MAIN HALL

MINGLING & REFRESHMENTS

**Wed. Dec 4 & Thurs. Dec 5 // 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Artisan Market & Community Resources**

// DAY 2 //

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024

Delta Hotels Winnipeg 🇮🇰 Morning Program

7:30 - 8:30 A.M.
MAIN HALL

PIPE & WATER CEREMONIES

Conducted by: Elders Florence & Phillip Paynter

8:30 - 9:30 A.M.
MAIN HALL

CHECK IN & LIGHT BREAKFAST

9:30 - 10:30 A.M.
MAIN HALL

WELCOME

MC: Lisa Meeches

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Niigaanwewidam Sinclair

Sponsored by: Bockstael Construction Limited

10:45 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

**BREAKOUT
ROOMS****MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS***(see QR code for more information)*

HEART

Charleswood B

**HOMELESSNESS AND MISSING PERSONS:
Addressing The Intersection of Vulnerability and
Displacement within Winnipeg's Indigenous Communities**

Sponsored by: Me-Dian Credit Union

Led by: Nicole Martel (Community Engagement/ Support Team, Aboriginal Alert)

MIND

Assiniboia A

**THE INTERSECTION OF BRAIN INJURY AND
COLONIAL SYSTEMS: An Interactive Mini-World
Café to Explore Housing Insecurity and Homelessness
With a Vision to Improve Positive Outcomes
Through Reconciliation**

Led by: Lisa Engel (University of Manitoba, Institute for Work & Health), Janine Bramadat (End Homelessness Winnipeg), Meredith Daun (Social Worker & Counsellor), and Kevin Plett-Hoffman (Community Member & Person with Lived Experience)

BODY

Assiniboia B

**DESIGNING HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS
SOLUTIONS FOR SPECIFIC POPULATIONS**

Sponsored by: Home Depot

Panel: Cheryl Starr (Cultural Support & Program Coordinator, Spence Neighbourhood Association), Levi A. Foy (Executive Director, Sunshine House), Dodie Jordaan (Executive Director, Ka Ni Kanichihk), and Shanlee Scott (Executive Director, Ndinawe) **Moderator:** Brandy Kowal (Registered Social Worker, Red Willow Connections Consulting and Wellness)

SPIRIT

Charleswood A

**THE IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING THE ROOT
OF INDIGENOUS HOMELESSNESS**

Sponsored by: Bruce Oake Recovery Centre

Led by: Kim Kakakaway (Indigenous Training and Relations Consultant, A Way Home Canada)

12:00 P.M.

MAIN HALL**LUNCH**

1:15 - 2:30 P.M.

BREAKOUT ROOMS**AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS***(see QR code for more information)***HEART**

Charleswood A

LEARNING AS WE GROW: Strategies to Manage Burnout During Crisis**Sponsored by: Réseau Compassion Network****Led by:** Levi A. Foy (Executive Director, Sunshine House) and Aaron Mann (Data Management and Program Analyst, Sunshine House)**MIND**

Charleswood B

DATA SOVEREIGNTY**Led by:** Dr. Stephanie Sinclair (Data Sovereignty Lead, First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba) and Carla Cochrane (Data Sovereignty Implementation Lead, First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba)**BODY**

Assiniboia B

TRANSFORMING SHELTER SPACES**Sponsored by: F-Blok Architecture****Panel:** Christine Vanagas (Director of Community Wellness, Siloam Mission), Jamil Mahmood (Executive Director, Main Street Project), Frank Parkes (Executive Director, N'Dinawemak-Our Relatives' Place). **Moderator:** Mark Fleming (Chair, Community Advisory Board, End Homelessness Winnipeg)**SPIRIT**

Assiniboia A

BANNOCK & TEA GRANDPARENTS CIRCLE**Elders Circle:** Ending Homelessness Together Elders Council Members – Ivy Chaske, Mary Wilson, Helen Robinson-Settee, Wambdi Wakita, Linda Schatkowsky. **Moderator:** Kathy Malle

2:45 - 4:00 P.M.

MAIN HALL**PLENARY SESSION****MOVING FORWARD: Accessible and Improved Financial Support****Panel:** Bram Strain (President and CEO, Business Council of Manitoba), Janet Clark (Senior Director End Homelessness Winnipeg), Megan Tate (Vice President Community Impact, Winnipeg Foundation) Carolyn Ryan (CEO & Assistant Deputy Minister, Manitoba Housing) **Moderator:** Jason Whitford (Chief Executive Officer, End Homelessness Winnipeg)

8:30 - 9:15 A.M.
MAIN HALL

CHECK IN & LIGHT BREAKFAST

9:15 - 10:30 A.M.
MAIN HALL

BLESSING:


Elder Mark Hall

MC: Lisa Meeches

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Clayton Thomas-Müller

Sponsored by: Mayor's Office,
City of Winnipeg

10:45 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
BREAKOUT ROOMS 

MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

(see QR code for more information)

HEART

Charleswood B

ART AS KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION RESEARCH

TEAM: ART IN ACTION: Youth Experiences of Homelessness Through a Harm Reduction Lens

Sponsored by: Canadian Mental Health Association

Led by: Brianna Hunt (Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba), Sunday Queskekapow, Cheyenne Traverse, Jaydin Peters, Jody Martens. **Hosted by:** Betty Edel (Senior Director of Housing Supports, End Homelessness Winnipeg)

MIND

Assiniboia A

FOCUSING ON STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION THROUGH A PEER LENS [PART ONE]

Led by: David Stewart (Manager of Education and Training, Sara Riel)

BODY

Assiniboia B

INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS STORIES FROM SEATTLE AND HOUSTON

Panel: Melody Barr (Assistant Director, Public Services & Economic Development, City of Houston), Nawiishtunmi Nightgun (Chief Traditional Officer, Chief Seattle Club) and Derrick Belgarde (Executive Director, Chief Seattle Club). **Moderator:** Helen Robinson-Settee

SPIRIT

Charleswood A

ADDRESSING THE NEED BENEATH THE CHALLENGE: Creating Spaces of Safety & Love for Youth

Sponsored by: Home Depot

Led by: Brandy Kowal (Registered Social Worker, Red Willow Connections Consulting and Wellness)

12:00 P.M.

MAIN HALL

LUNCH

1:15 - 2:30 P.M.

BREAKOUT
ROOMS 

AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

*(see QR code for more information)***HEART**

Charleswood A

WHAT IS PEER ENGAGEMENT? WHY DO WE NEED IT?**Sponsored by:** Johnston Group Inc.**Led by:** Al Wiebe (Peer and Community Engagement Trainer, Of No Fixed Address)**MIND**

Assiniboia A

FOCUSSING ON STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION THROUGH A PEER LENS [PART TWO]**Led by:** David Stewart (Manager of Education and Training, Sara Riel). **Hosted by:** Chelsea Opperman**BODY**

Charleswood B

DATA WALK**Led by** End Homelessness Winnipeg**SPIRIT**

Assiniboia B

PANEL: SUPPORTING NEWCOMERS TRANSITION FROM SHELTER TO PERMANENT HOUSING**Panel:** Mark Stewart (Executive Director, Salvation Army) and Eve Sotiriadou (Executive Director, Canadian Muslim Women's Institute), Omar Fahmawi (Access to Justice Project Coordinator, Healthy Muslim Families) **Moderator:** Cody Gunthur (Executive Director, New Journey Housing)

2:45 - 4:00 P.M.

MAIN HALL

FINAL REFLECTIONS & CEREMONY

Niigaanwewidam Sinclair, Ending Homelessness Together Elders Council, CEO Jason Whitford and the Buffalo Red Thunder Drum Group

SPONSORS

This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada.



Presenting Sponsor



Miigwetch, Ekosi, Wopida, Masi Cho, Mi gewech, Maarsii,
Matna, Merci, and Thank You for joining this important
conversation and collective effort.

Together, we can make a difference!

**For full program details including biographies,
program descriptions and more:**



End Homelessness Winnipeg is located on Treaty 1 Territory, the
home and traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg, Nehethowuk,
Dakota Oyate, Denesuline, and Anishinewuk Nations, and on
the National homeland of the Red River Métis.