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2011 Shelter Capacity Report

Homelessness Partnering Secretariat

Canada The wordmark for Canada, with a small red maple leaf logo integrated into the letter 'a'.

2011 Shelter Capacity Report

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Table of Contents

OVERVIEW AND DEFINITIONS	4
HIGHLIGHTS	5
NATIONAL SUMMARY.....	6
EMERGENCY SHELTERS	6
EMERGENCY SHELTERS BY TYPE	7
PROPORTION OF SHELTERS AND SHELTER BEDS BY TYPE OF EMERGENCY SHELTER	8
WOMEN AND FAMILY EMERGENCY SHELTERS	9
MEN’S EMERGENCY SHELTERS	10
YOUTH EMERGENCY SHELTERS	11
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING	12
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (VAW) SHELTERS	13
CONTACT INFORMATION.....	14
APPENDIX: PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL TABLES WITH DETAILED COUNTS OF EMERGENCY SHELTERS AND EMERGENCY SHELTER BEDS IN DESIGNATED COMMUNITIES	15
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR.....	16
NOVA SCOTIA	16
NEW BRUNSWICK.....	16
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.....	17
QUEBEC	17
ONTARIO.....	18
MANITOBA.....	19
SASKATCHEWAN.....	19
ALBERTA	20
BRITISH COLUMBIA	20
YUKON.....	21
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.....	21
NUNAVUT	21

Overview and Definitions

The annual Shelter Capacity Report provides capacity statistics for emergency homeless shelters, transitional housing and violence against women (VAW) shelters in Canada. Totals for the number of shelter facilities and the number of permanent beds are given for each province and territory. In addition, the total number of emergency shelters and permanent emergency beds are provided for each of the 61 Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) designated communities¹ in Canada.

The information contained in this report was obtained from the National Service Provider List as of November 30, 2011. The National Service Provider List is the only comprehensive list of homeless shelters in Canada. It is compiled by the Homelessness Partnering Secretariat as part of the National Homelessness Information System (NHIS), a data development initiative that focuses on the collection and analysis of data related to homeless shelters in Canada.

New to the 2011 Shelter Capacity Report are statistics for transitional housing and VAW shelters. Previous releases focused only on emergency shelters. 2011 will serve as the baseline data point for future analysis of VAW and transitional housing in Canada.

Emergency Shelters are defined as facilities providing temporary and short-term accommodation for homeless individuals and families, which may include essential services such as food, clothing and counselling.

Violence Against Women Shelters (VAW) are defined as facilities providing temporary shelter to women and women with children fleeing domestic abuse. These facilities may function in either a crisis capacity or as transitional or second-stage housing.

Transitional Housing provides temporary shelter, but can be differentiated from emergency shelters by the longer length of stay and greater intensity of support services offered to clients. Transitional housing is an intermediate step between emergency shelter and permanent housing. Support services help clients gain stability and self-sufficiency to maintain permanent housing. Stays may be between three months and three years.

Emergency Shelters are further categorized according to the clients they serve:

- **General Shelters** provide shelter services to any combination of men, women, youth or families.
- **Men's Shelters** provide shelter services to adult men.
- **Women's Shelters** provide shelter services to adult women.
- **Youth Shelters** provide shelter services to youth. The definition of youth varies among shelters and may range anywhere between 12 and 29 years of age.
- **Family Shelters** provide shelter services to families and adults with dependants. Some may also accept single adult women without dependants.

¹ HPS designated communities have been identified as having a significant challenge with homelessness and have access to funding under the HPS, with matching funds from other sources.

Highlights

Changes from 2010 to 2011

- The number of emergency shelters in Canada remained fairly stable from 2010 to 2011, with 11 additional shelters reported in 2011, bringing the total to 408.
- The reported number of permanent emergency shelter beds in Canada increased by 294 beds between 2010 and 2011, from 15,199 to 15,493.
- Changes in the reported number of shelters and beds between 2010 and 2011 are largely the result of updated information and better classification of shelter types, rather than actual changes in shelter capacity.
- Statistics for Transitional Housing and Violence Against Women (VAW) shelters are now being reported.

Emergency Shelters

- Nearly one-third of emergency shelter beds in Canada are at general shelters that serve a wide variety of clients, both male and female.
- Almost one-quarter of emergency shelters serve youth exclusively.
- About ten percent of emergency shelter beds are in family shelters.
- Shelters vary greatly in size. The smallest shelters have fewer than 10 beds while the largest have more than 200 beds.

Transitional Housing

- There are 273 transitional housing facilities in Canada.
- There are less than half as many permanent transitional housing beds (6,635) as there are emergency shelter beds (15,493) in Canada.
- Transitional housing facilities have 24 beds on average.

Violence Against Women (VAW) Shelters

- There are almost as many VAW shelters (405) in Canada as there are emergency homeless shelters (408).
- There are 6,367 VAW shelter beds in Canada.
- VAW shelters tend to be smaller than emergency shelters, with an average of 16 beds, compared to an average of 38 beds at emergency shelters.

2011 Shelter Capacity Report

National Summary **Emergency Shelters**

	Emergency Shelters (2011)	Permanent Beds (2011)	Emergency Shelters (2010)	Permanent Beds (2010)
Newfoundland and Labrador	5	64	5	64
Nova Scotia	7	183	6	190
New Brunswick	8	174	7	166
Prince Edward Island	2	12	2	12
Quebec	89	2,181	90	2,143
Ontario	133	6,586	132	6,468
Manitoba	16	710	12	624
Saskatchewan	19	356	18	379
Alberta	38	3,025	37	2,950
British Columbia	82	2,065	80	2,078
Yukon	3	16	3	16
Northwest Territories	4	89	4	89
Nunavut	2	32	1	20
CANADA	408	15,493	397	15,199

2011 Shelter Capacity Report

National Summary Emergency Shelters by Type

	General		Men's		Women's		Youth		Family		Total	
	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds
Newfoundland and Labrador	1	4	1	20	0	0	2	17	1	23	5	64
Nova Scotia	0	0	3	125	3	38	1	20	0	0	7	183
New Brunswick	3	68	2	82	2	22	1	2	0	0	8	174
Prince Edward Island	0	0	1	6	1	6	0	0	0	0	2	12
Quebec	27	601	12	946	10	168	33	392	7	74	89	2,181
Ontario	26	889	36	3,051	22	770	31	695	18	1,181	133	6,586
Manitoba	10	526	1	58	0	0	3	50	2	76	16	710
Saskatchewan	1	21	5	116	9	192	3	15	1	12	19	356
Alberta	14	1,868	6	691	5	227	12	209	1	30	38	3,025
British Columbia	37	1,004	15	561	13	271	11	125	6	104	82	2,065
Yukon	1	10	0	0	1	2	1	4	0	0	3	16
Northwest Territories	0	0	2	54	1	25	1	10	0	0	4	89
Nunavut	0	0	1	20	1	12	0	0	0	0	2	32
Total	120	4,991	85	5,730	68	1,733	99	1,539	36	1,500	408	15,493

Proportion of Shelters and Shelter Beds by Type of Emergency Shelter

In Canada, half of emergency shelters and nearly 70% of emergency shelter beds fall into either the general or men's category. Despite there being a larger proportion of youth shelters in Canada (24%) than women's (17%) or family shelters (9%), each accounts for approximately 10% of the shelter beds.

Men's and women's emergency shelters are not unlike general shelters, the difference being that they cater to a specific population based on gender. Many of the provinces and territories with a small number of general shelters have a large number of gender-specific emergency shelters, and vice versa. Nationally, there are more emergency shelters and beds available for single men than for single women.

Family shelters account for 9% of all emergency shelters. Shelters that accept single women as well as women with children are not included in the family shelter category but have been defined as women's shelters in this report. While youth shelters account for 24% of all emergency shelters, they have, on average, the smallest number of beds per shelter (approximately 16). The other types of shelters have average bed capacities ranging from 25 to 68.

	Shelters		Beds	
	#	%	#	%
General	120	29%	4,991	32%
Men's	85	21%	5,730	37%
Women's	68	17%	1,733	11%
Youth	99	24%	1,539	10%
Family	36	9%	1,500	10%
Total	408	100%	15,493	100%

Women and Family Emergency Shelters

Overview

Of the 408 emergency shelters in Canada, 104 exclusively serve women, women with children, or families. Women's and family shelters account for 3,233 (21%) beds of the 15,493 emergency shelter beds in the country.

- 43 emergency shelters with 1,238 beds serve single women exclusively
- 25 emergency shelters with 495 beds serve women with children
- 36 emergency shelters with 1,500 beds serve families, including adult men with dependents

Regional Breakdown

Atlantic Region

- 4 emergency shelters with 30 beds serve single women
- 2 emergency shelters with 36 beds serve women with children
- 1 emergency shelter with 23 beds serves families

Quebec

- 10 emergency shelters with 168 beds serve single women
- 7 emergency shelters with 74 beds serve families

Ontario

- 13 emergency shelters with 554 beds serve single women
- 9 emergency shelters with 216 beds serve women with children
- 18 emergency shelters with 1,181 beds serve families

Western/Territories Region

- 16 emergency shelters with 486 beds serve single women
- 14 emergency shelters with 243 beds serve women with children
- 10 emergency shelters with 222 beds serve families

Men's Emergency Shelters

Overview

Of the 408 emergency shelters in Canada, 85 (21%) serve single men exclusively. Men's shelters account for 5,730 (37%) beds of the 15,493 emergency shelter beds in the country. Men's shelters tend to be the largest of all shelter types, which have an average of 67 beds.

Regional Breakdown

Atlantic Region

- 7 emergency shelters with 233 beds serve single men exclusively

Quebec

- 12 emergency shelters with 946 beds serve single men exclusively

Ontario

- 36 emergency shelters with 3,051 beds serve single men exclusively

Western/Territories Region

- 30 emergency shelters with 1,500 beds serve single men exclusively

Youth Emergency Shelters

Overview

Of the 408 emergency shelters in Canada, 99 (24%) serve youth. Youth shelters account for 1,539 (10%) beds of the 15,493 emergency shelter beds in the country. A small number of youth shelters serve males or females exclusively, but most are co-ed, serving both male and female youth. Youth shelters usually have fewer beds than other types of shelters, with an average of 16 beds.

- 79 emergency shelters with 1,224 beds are for both male and female youth
- 12 emergency shelters with 220 beds serve male youth
- 8 emergency shelters with 95 beds serve female youth

Regional Breakdown

Atlantic Region

- 2 emergency shelters with 22 beds serve both male and female youth
- 1 emergency shelter with 9 beds serves male youth
- 1 emergency shelter with 8 beds serves female youth

Quebec

- 24 emergency shelters with 252 beds serve both male and female youth
- 4 emergency shelters with 76 beds serve male youth
- 5 emergency shelters with 64 beds serve female youth

Ontario

- 24 emergency shelters with 547 beds serve both male and female youth
- 5 emergency shelters with 125 beds serve male youth
- 2 emergency shelters with 23 beds serve female youth

Western/Territories Region

- 29 emergency shelters with 403 beds serve both male and female youth
- 2 emergency shelters with 10 beds serve male youth

2011 Shelter Capacity Report

National Summary **Transitional Housing** **(2011)**

	Transitional Housing	Permanent Beds
Newfoundland and Labrador	2	16
Nova Scotia	6	56
New Brunswick	3	52
Prince Edward Island	0	0
Quebec	86	1,825
Ontario	63	1,831
Manitoba	22	491
Saskatchewan	32	472
Alberta	29	1,054
British Columbia	28	801
Yukon	0	0
Northwest Territories	2	37
Nunavut	0	0
CANADA	273	6,635

2011 Shelter Capacity Report

National Summary **Violence Against Women (VAW) Shelters** **(2011)**

	VAW Shelters	Permanent Beds
Newfoundland and Labrador	6	85
Nova Scotia	11	188
New Brunswick	15	224
Prince Edward Island	2	32
Quebec	89	1,150
Ontario	118	2,345
Manitoba	20	382
Saskatchewan	17	286
Alberta	39	814
British Columbia	73	747
Yukon	5	42
Northwest Territories	5	44
Nunavut	5	28
CANADA	405	6,367

2011 Shelter Capacity Report

Contact Information

Homelessness Partnering Secretariat
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Note: Although the Homelessness Partnering Secretariat has made every effort to provide accurate and complete information in this document, some of the information may have changed or be incomplete. Any inaccuracies or omissions should be reported so that the information can be updated in future releases.

Appendix:

Provincial/territorial tables with detailed counts
of emergency shelters and emergency shelter beds
by HPS Designated Communities

2011 Shelter Capacity Report

Newfoundland and Labrador

Emergency shelters in HPS designated communities (DC)

	Total		General		Men's		Women's		Youth		Family	
	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds
St. John's	5	64	1	4	1	20	0	0	2	17	1	23
DC Total	5	64										

Nova Scotia

Emergency shelters in HPS designated communities (DC)

	Total		General		Men's		Women's		Youth		Family	
	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds
Halifax	5	171	0	0	2	115	2	36	1	20	0	0
Sydney/Cape Breton	2	12	0	0	1	10	1	2	0	0	0	0
DC Total	7	183										

New Brunswick

Emergency shelters in HPS designated communities (DC)

	Total		General		Men's		Women's		Youth		Family	
	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds
Bathurst	1	8	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fredericton	2	49	0	0	1	40	1	9	0	0	0	0
Moncton	2	60	2	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saint John	2	55	0	0	1	42	1	13	0	0	0	0
DC Total	7	172										

2011 Shelter Capacity Report

Prince Edward Island

Emergency shelters in HPS designated communities (DC)

	Total		General		Men's		Women's		Youth		Family	
	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds
Charlottetown	2	12	0	0	1	6	1	6	0	0	0	0
DC Total	2	12										

Quebec

Emergency shelters in HPS designated communities (DC)

	Total		General		Men's		Women's		Youth		Family	
	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds
Drummondville	2	25	1	16	0	0	0	0	1	9	0	0
Gatineau/Outaouais	2	71	1	65	0	0	0	0	1	6	0	0
Montréal	40	1,313	6	103	6	782	6	119	19	258	3	51
Québec City	11	226	2	34	2	117	3	41	4	34	0	0
Saguenay/Lac-Saint-Jean	4	60	2	45	1	6	0	0	1	9	0	0
Sherbrooke	4	93	2	77	0	0	1	8	1	8	0	0
Trois-Rivières	3	151	2	140	0	0	0	0	1	11	0	0
DC Total	66	1,939										

2011 Shelter Capacity Report

Ontario

Emergency shelters in HPS designated communities (DC)

	Total		General		Men's		Women's		Youth		Family	
	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds
Barrie-Simcoe	4	67	1	20	1	20	1	12	1	15	0	0
Brantford	2	58	0	0	1	38	0	0	1	20	0	0
Dufferin Region	1	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	20	0	0
Durham Region	2	53	1	40	0	0	0	0	1	13	0	0
Guelph	5	69	0	0	1	18	1	8	1	8	2	35
Halton Region	2	37	1	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	12
Hamilton	6	338	0	0	3	195	1	20	1	20	1	103
Kingston	4	44	1	11	1	8	1	10	1	15	0	0
London	5	385	1	23	2	290	1	31	0	0	1	41
Niagara Region	7	155	3	83	0	0	2	40	2	32	0	0
Nipissing/North Bay	2	29	1	19	0	0	1	10	0	0	0	0
Ottawa	10	1,028	1	70	3	520	1	52	2	24	3	362
Peel Region	5	283	1	85	2	120	0	0	1	14	1	64
Peterborough	4	85	0	0	1	40	1	15	1	15	1	15
Sault Ste.Marie	3	58	1	24	1	24	0	0	1	10	0	0
Sudbury	4	88	0	0	1	36	0	0	2	27	1	25
Thunder Bay	3	76	2	59	1	17	0	0	0	0	0	0
Toronto	43	3,253	5	295	14	1,561	10	551	10	406	4	440
Waterloo Region	5	159	1	40	1	39	0	0	2	20	1	60
Windsor	4	92	2	25	1	56	1	11	0	0	0	0
York Region	4	76	0	0	1	29	0	0	2	27	1	20
DC Total	125	6,453										

2011 Shelter Capacity Report

Manitoba

Emergency shelters in HPS designated communities (DC)

	Total		General		Men's		Women's		Youth		Family	
	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds
Brandon	3	9	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Thompson	1	14	1	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Winnipeg	8	618	4	463	1	58	0	0	2	24	1	73
DC Total	12	641										

Saskatchewan

Emergency shelters in HPS designated communities (DC)

	Total		General		Men's		Women's		Youth		Family	
	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds
Prince Albert	4	81	1	21	0	0	2	52	1	8	0	0
Regina	6	148	0	0	3	62	2	74	0	0	1	12
Saskatoon	9	127	0	0	2	54	5	66	2	7	0	0
DC Total	19	356										

2011 Shelter Capacity Report

Alberta

Emergency shelters in HPS designated communities (DC)

	Total		General		Men's		Women's		Youth		Family	
	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds
Calgary	10	1,606	4	1,251	2	304	1	6	3	45	0	0
Edmonton	12	957	3	287	3	335	3	220	3	115	0	0
Grande Prairie	2	72	1	62	0	0	0	0	1	10	0	0
Lethbridge	2	93	1	85	0	0	0	0	1	8	0	0
Medicine Hat	2	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	1	30
Red Deer	3	51	2	43	0	0	0	0	1	8	0	0
Wood Buffalo	6	190	2	120	1	52	1	1	2	17	0	0
DC Total	37	3,005										

British Columbia

Emergency shelters in HPS designated communities (DC)

	Total		General		Men's		Women's		Youth		Family	
	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds
Greater Vancouver	42	1,390	14	640	11	431	8	176	6	85	3	58
Kamloops	3	52	0	0	1	38	1	8	1	6	0	0
Kelowna	3	80	1	0	1	60	1	20	0	0	0	0
Nanaimo	2	43	1	23	0	0	1	20	0	0	0	0
Nelson	1	17	1	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prince George	2	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	1	30
Victoria	5	145	1	84	1	21	1	25	1	10	1	5
DC Total	58	1,767										

2011 Shelter Capacity Report

Yukon

Emergency shelters in HPS designated communities (DC)

	Total		General		Men's		Women's		Youth		Family	
	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds
Whitehorse	2	14	1	10	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0
DC Total	2	14										

Northwest Territories

Emergency shelters in HPS designated communities (DC)

	Total		General		Men's		Women's		Youth		Family	
	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds
Yellowknife	4	89	0	0	2	54	1	25	1	10	0	0
DC Total	4	89										

Nunavut

Emergency shelters in HPS designated communities (DC)

	Total		General		Men's		Women's		Youth		Family	
	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds	Shelters	Beds
Iqaluit	2	32	0	0	1	20	1	12	0	0	0	0
DC Total	2	32										