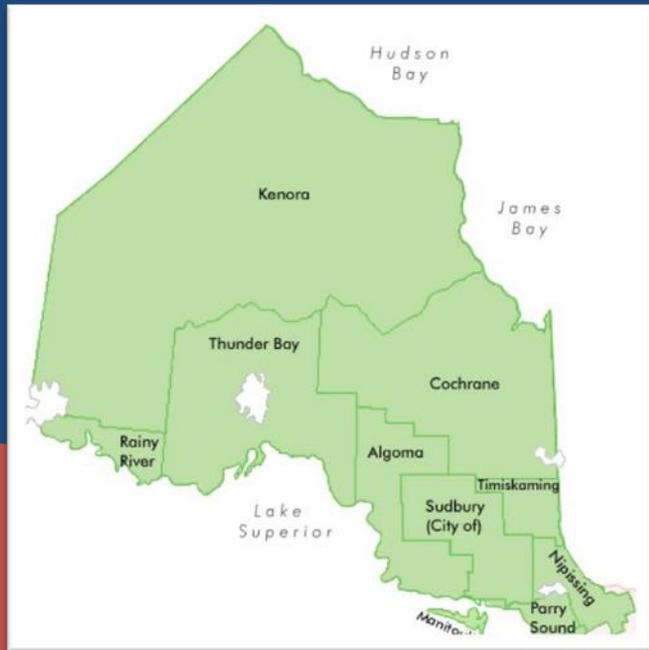


A Brief History



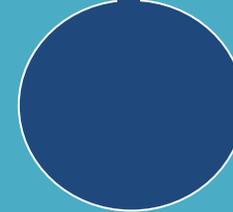
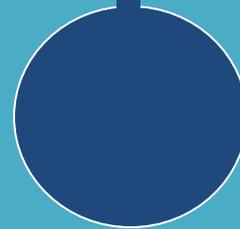
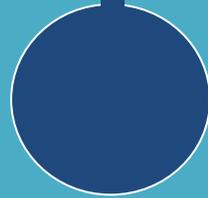
NOSDA's Role In Helping Prevent and Mitigate the Effects of Homelessness in Northern Ontario

Homelessness in Northern Ontario

The **Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA)** is an incorporated body that brings together Northern Ontario's 11 Municipal Service Managers. All eleven are responsible for the local planning, coordination and delivery of a range of community health and social services that the Province of Ontario divested to them to locally manage.

NOSDA Homelessness Research Across Northern Ontario

2009-2010



In 2009, NOSDA commissioned Russell Mawby, of Places group, to produce a discussion paper entitled *“Improving the Housing System in Northern Ontario”*. This paper was developed to inform opinion and to stimulate discussion around a Pan-north understanding of Housing and Homeless in Northern Ontario.



Click to Read : [Improving the Housing System in Northern Ontario](#)

In 2010, Samantha Ramage and Chris Stewart compiled reports and collected Homelessness information from NOSDA members. This resulted in the development of the NOSDA position paper entitled *“A Pan-Northern Inventory of Homelessness Problems and Practices”*.

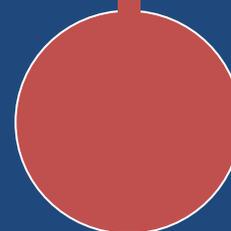
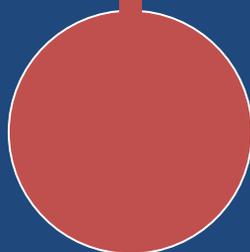
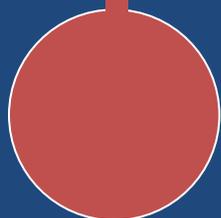
“NOSDA wishes to show leadership in the North to help identify the scope of the problem of homelessness in the Northern part of Ontario, and help develop or refine strategies or tools to mitigate and address this difficult and often overlooked issue. Homelessness in the North has fundamental differences than in Southern Ontario: a scattered population base, long distances between communities, lack of public transportation, lower incomes, fewer employment opportunities and a higher cost of living. This Position Paper contains a comprehensive inventory of Northern problems and programs that address homelessness, but there is a consensus that more can and should be done. Recommendations for further action are made.”



Click to Read : [Pan-Northern Homelessness Report](#)

Voices in the Wilderness: Homelessness Summit

2011-2012



The Position Paper: A Pan-Northern Homelessness Report gained a lot of positive attention. It led to the Pan-Northern Homelessness Summit in 2012.

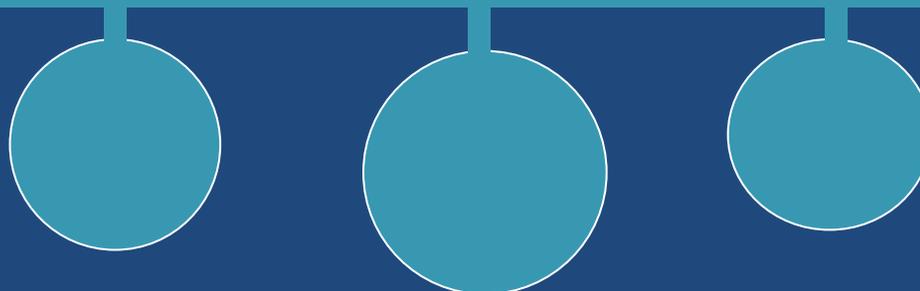


“The Voices in the Wilderness Pan Northern Ontario Homelessness Summit was held on June 12th and 13th at Nipissing University in North Bay. The purpose of the Summit was to provide a networking opportunity for persons who address homelessness as part of their job from every region in Northern Ontario. The Summit consisted of presentations, engaging discussion periods and plenty of opportunities for networking for people in like fields in different parts of Northern Ontario. Many important issues were brought up and discussed at the Summit and it was found that there are similar problems with housing and homelessness in all areas of Northern Ontario. There may be the potential to create more public awareness of housing and homelessness issues across the North. This could in turn motivate the public to fight as hard as those who attended the Summit to want to make a positive difference in their community.”

Click to Read : [Proceedings of the 2012 Voices in the Wilderness Pan-Northern Ontario Homelessness Summit](#)

Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS)

2013 -2014



In 2013, NOSDA succeeded in gaining a partnership with Human Resources and Skills Development Canada to undertake research that will help to determine the need for and feasibility of implementing the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) on a Pan Northern Ontario basis.

HIFIS is a major component of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS). The goal of HPS is to “prevent and reduce homelessness across Canada” and HIFIS provides the empirical evidence in support of that goal. At the local level, HIFIS supports communities with informed decision-making for their housing and homelessness planning, policy development, and service delivery. It will also assist the larger group of northern communities to address the issue of homeless migration, which has been identified as a challenge that requires a Pan Northern Ontario approach.

NOSDA is currently in the process of collecting information gathered by each of the DSSAB’s across Northern Ontario, by compiling their 10 year Housing and Homelessness plans. These 10 year plans will help guide the development of regional solutions to homelessness problems. NOSDA is also creating a Homelessness Working Group.

More details forthcoming on the HIFIS project and Homelessness Group.

Thanks for reading!



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