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**Executive Director A Way Home** 

#### **Stephen Gaetz**

Professor, York University Canadian Observatory on Homelessness



#### **QUESTION:**





#### **QUESTION:**

Can we end youth homelessness in Canada?







# A Way Home is a national coalition dedicated to preventing, reducing and ending youth homelessness in

- Canada.
   Helping communities (local authorities) to plan and implement youth homelessness strategies
- Supporting adaptation of effective models of youth homelessness prevention
- Putting Youth Homelessness on agenda of decision makers
- Public spotlight on Youth Homelessness

#### **Key National Partners**



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#### Funders as Partners









### Part 2

# Why we ned to do

this...

### Key point: Youth homelessness is distinct from adult homelessness









Health worsens



- Health worsens
  - Mental health declines



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  - Mental health declines
    - Exploitation



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  - Mental health declines
    - Exploitation
      - Trauma and criminal victimization



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        - Dropping out of school
          - Involvement with the law
            - Entrenchment on the streets

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#### If the CAUSES & CONDITIONS of youth homelessness are unique, so must be the SOLUTIONS!!!



# Responding to homelessness

Emergency Prevention Response



#### Emergency Prevention Response



# Can we move from this?

Emergency Prevention Response



#### Emergency Prevention Response





#### To this?



#### To this?

Prevention Emergency Response Supports

Housing and Supports



### Part 3

# Collective IMPACT!

#### Collective Impact

involves a group of relevant actors from different sectors working together to address a major challenge by developing and working toward a common goal that fundamentally changes outcomes for a population. change



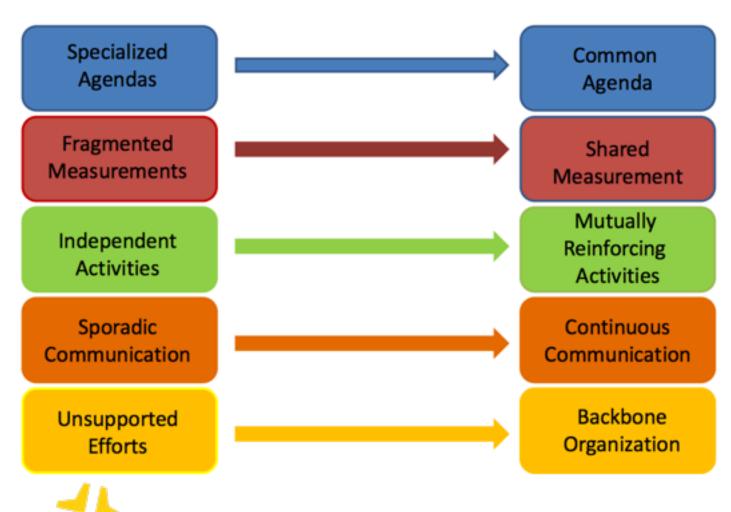
#### Collaboration is **NOT** the same as







#### Five Conditions for Collective Impact



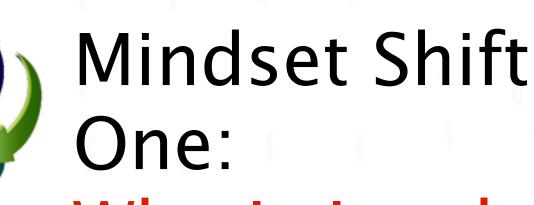
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### Essential Mindset Shifts for Collective Impact



Kania, J. Hanley Brown, F., Splansky Juster, J. (2014) Essential Mindset Shifts for Collective Impact" Stanford Social Innovation Review Fall 2014

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Who Is Involved

Get all the right eyes on the problem Agree to work towards a common 9 WAY HOME /





#### Collective Impact through

#### **Systems Integration**

**Government and Funders** 





#### Mindset Shift Two: How people work

• The relational as the rational

 Structure is as important as strategy

 Sharing credit is MORE IMPORTANT than taking credit





# Mindset Shift Three: How Progress

Pay attention to adaptive work, not just technical solutions
Look for silver buckshot instead of the silver bullet

Identify the innovative solutions that are out there





### Take innovation to sc

#### Scale Up:

"Impacting laws and policy"

Changing institutions at the level of policy, rules and laws

#### Scale Out:

"Impacting greater numbers"

Replication and dissemination, increasing number of people or communities impacted

#### Scale Deep:

"Impacting cultural roots"





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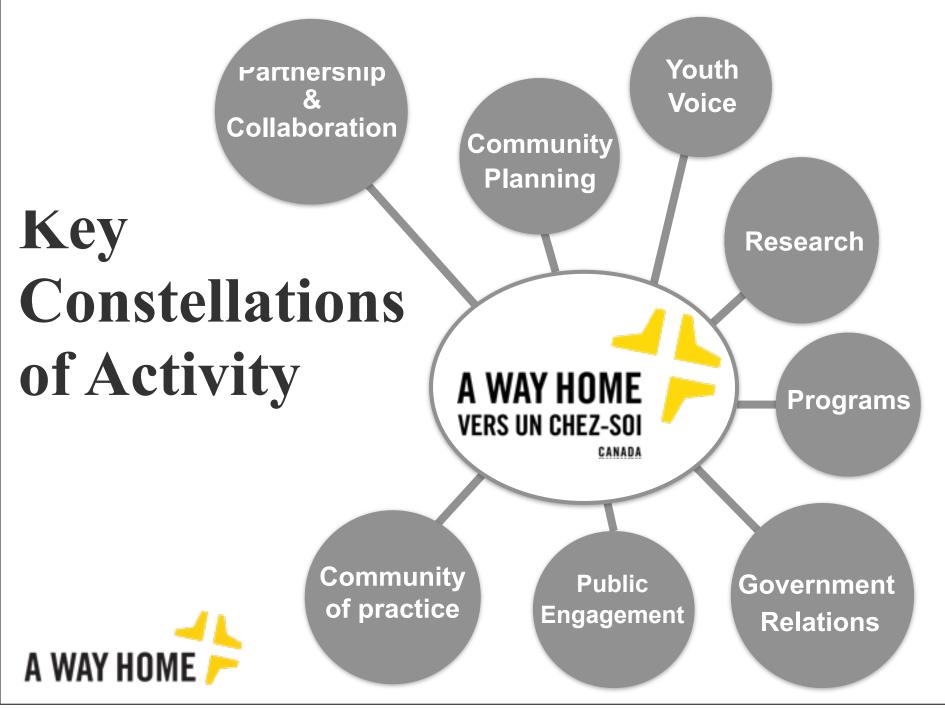
### Part 4

# HOW WE WORK!

### HOW we got here

- Mobilizing Local Capacity project
  - Vision Paper

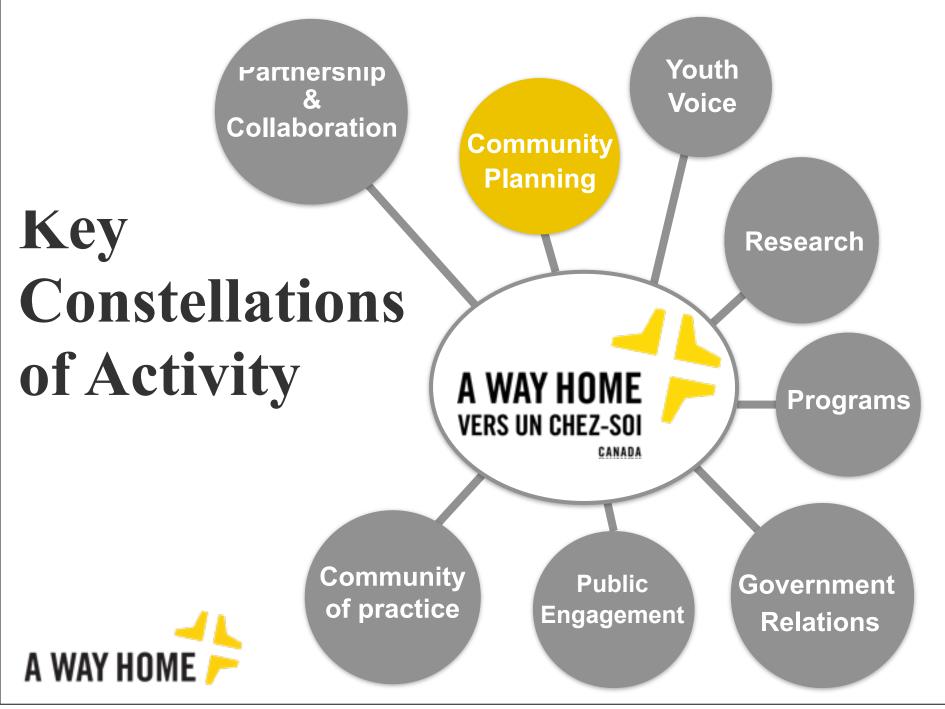
- Mapping
  - Building the coalition





### Partnerships and Collaboration





### What is a community plan?

Local Authority plans to prevent, reduce and end

youth homelessness must have

Leadership

Cross-sectoral collaboration

Focus on change managem

Measurable targets

Implementation strategy

 Evaluation and performance monitoring

Resources



### Community planning



#### Resources

#### Planning resources

Youth Homelessness Community Planning Toolkit Complete community plans
Youth Homelessness Prevention Framework
National Youth Homelessness Research Survey
Youth Homelessness Human Rights Guide

#### **Toolkits**

Youth Point in Time Count Toolkit
Youth Engagement Toolkit
LGBTQ Toolkit
Housing First for Youth Framework
Common Assessment Tool
Program Model Toolkits (Train for Trades,

Upstream Project, Rites of Passage)



### Youth Engagement





### A National Youth Homelessness Research Agenda

Co-created between researchers, practitioners, policy makers and people with lived experience





- Point in Time Count Toolkit
- Definition of youth homelessness
- Program Model Case Studies
- National Youth Homelessness Survey
- Data Management Support
- Prevention Framework
- Cost Effectiveness Study
- Policy Briefs



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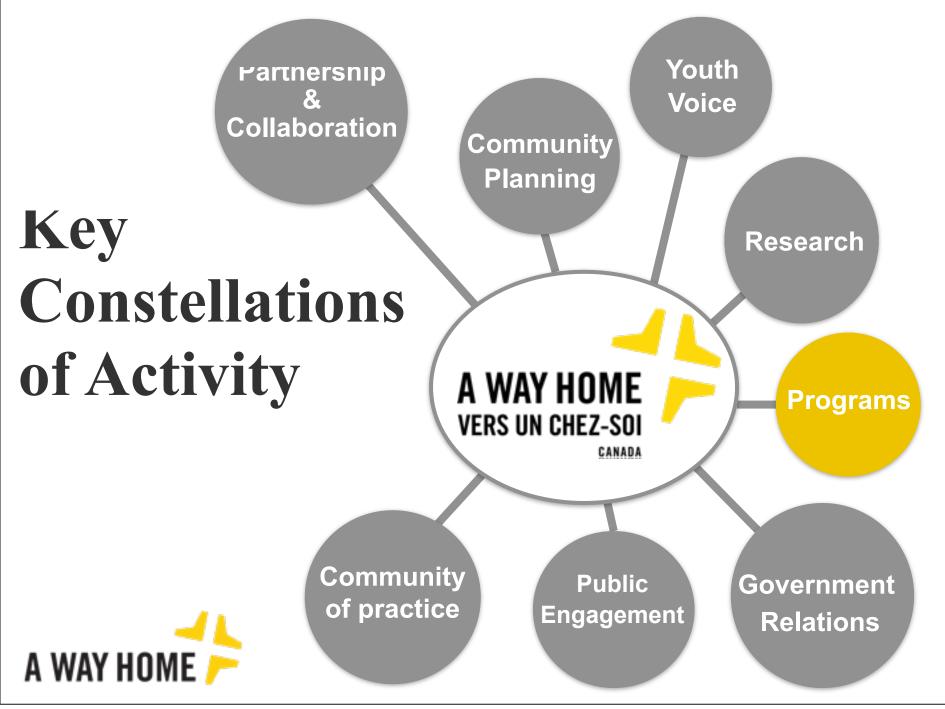


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### Effective Program Models

# Preventing, Reducing and Ending Youth Homelessness

**PREVENTION** 

**EXITING HOMELESSNESS** 



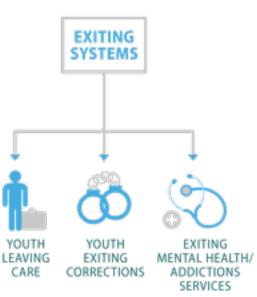


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HOMES

















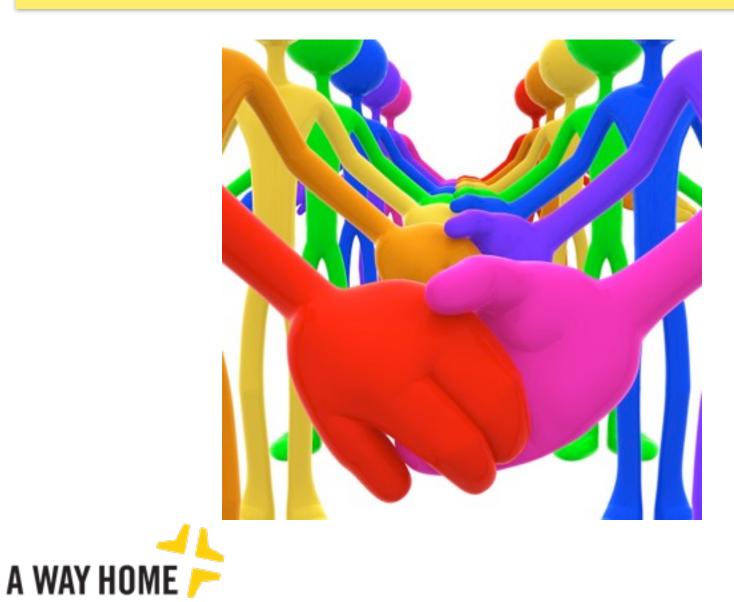


### Traditional Advocacy





#### Solutions-Focused Advocacy



## Aligning government & local efforts

Ensuring that government policy, programming and funding supports community efforts



Local Authority planning and programs





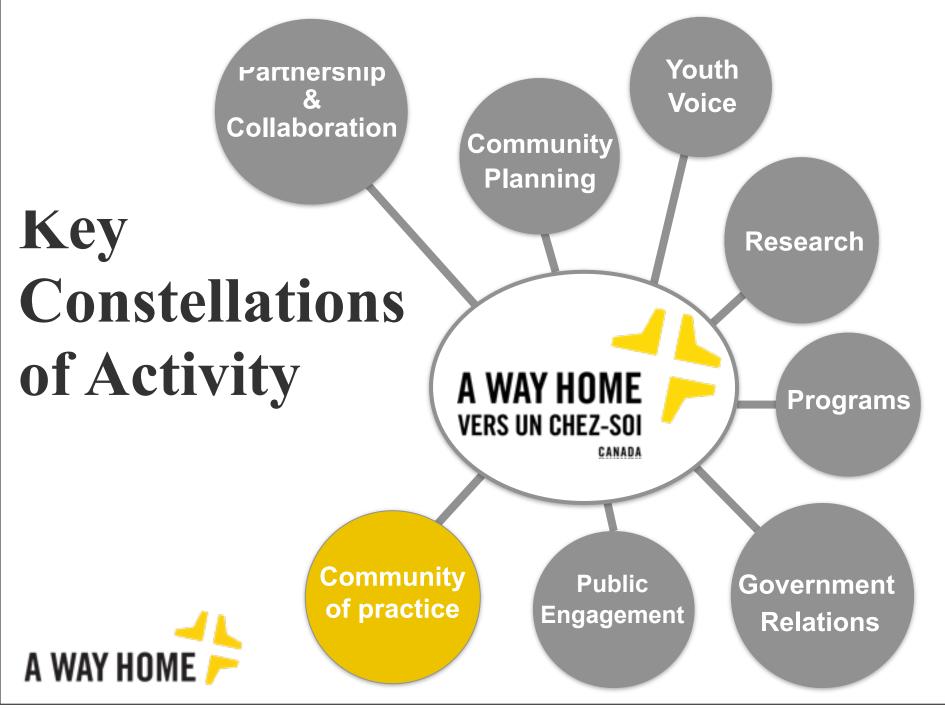


Walking across Canada to support the end of youth homelessness

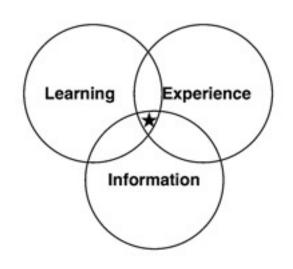
- 517 days
- 9000 km
- 10 provinces and 3 territories
- · 400 community events







### Community of Practice is an evolution of the National Learning Community on Youth Homelessness





Questions or Comments?

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