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# S.O.S

## Solutions On Shelters Committee

A joint presentation by the United Way / Centraide  
Sudbury and/et District and the Social Planning  
Council of Sudbury on behalf of affected agencies

Presented by: Robert Keetch (United Way Board Member)  
Grace Kurke (President, SPC Board of Directors)

September 2005



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# THE BIGGER PICTURE

- Over the past 10 years the need for emergency shelters has increased
- A direct correlation can be made between cuts to Provincial social assistance & social supports and homelessness
- The current system of shelter and support is in jeopardy as two funding streams come to an end December 31st, 2005



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# THE BIGGER PICTURE

- 608 individuals identified as being homeless
- 39% were absolute homeless (living on the streets or in shelters)
- aboriginals make up 5% of population, but comprise of 25% of those being identified as homeless
- 12% were children under the age of twelve
- 33% were women
- between April 13th 2004 and April 12th 2005 115 homeless families were housed on a temporary basis in motels



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# FUNDING

- Shelters are provided with a per diem funded 80/20 by the Province/City of \$42.95 per day
- The per diem is not adequate to cover the costs of running shelters
- Small secondary fund from the province/city of \$142,211
- Community Placement Target Fund (from one time provincial funding) has been depleted over the years in support of homelessness supports
- Federal government has been providing support from the National Homelessness Initiative
- Due to loss of Federal funding Sudbury will suffer a shortfall of \$861,000



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# THIS PATCHWORK OF FUNDING SUPPORTS:

- An intricate network of support services developed by the organizations that are losing their funding.
- Support services to ensure that basic needs are met for some of Sudbury's most vulnerable



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## A FEW OF THE MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THIS FUNDING:

- over 3000 homeless and low income individuals to access basic health services
- between 1600 – 2000 contacts per month with homeless individuals by street outreach workers (many of whom are placement students and volunteers comprising over 60,000 volunteer hours per year) providing clothing, transportation to emergency shelter, crisis prevention and intervention and needle pick up (over 2000 per annum)
- 1542 individuals accessed housing list, rent and utility assistance
- Statistics all refer to 2004 and were obtained from City of Greater Sudbury Evaluation of Homelessness Initiatives Report, August 2005





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# THE CURRENT CRISIS

- **With the end of this funding we are at risk of losing outreach workers, cold weather alert accommodations, street level health care, day time drop in services, shelters, emergency rent & utility supplements**
- **other more costly services will have to pick up the slack. (Police and ER services to name a few)**
- **the trust established with the “street” community over the last nine years will be lost as will trained staff, and a wealth of volunteers**
- **most importantly, individuals will be at extreme risk of freezing to death on our streets this winter**



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# **WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?**

- **SOS has been working with the service delivery agencies**
- **Attempts to raise operational dollars have not been successful**
- **In May over 100 people attended a community forum**
- **Copies of the Creating Community Solutions Report have been made available**
- **Representatives of the community were supportive of a long-term, strategic plan**



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# THE PROVINCE AND THE FED'S

The S.O.S committee fully understands and recognizes that this issue belongs in the hands of the Provincial and Federal governments. We fully expect that there will be Provincial and Federal dollars available to meet this issue, but until that time we must step up to the plate to ensure the safety, security and well being of our citizens.



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# Recommendations for Action

1. **Advocate to the Provincial and Federal Governments**  
Communities right across the country need to engage our MPs and MPPs on this issue
2. **A Community Based Solutions Team**  
A team comprised of knowledgeable community members who will make priority based recommendations to City Council to deal with the issue in the short-term
3. **Affordable Housing Strategy**  
The SOS committee and community agencies are prepared to work with Council to develop the Affordable Housing Strategy mentioned in a motion at your last meeting. The strategy must address the continuum of needs from Absolute homelessness to Affordable Housing – developing and implementing this strategy must be a top priority
4. **Bridge Funding**  
Council must be prepared to provide bridge funding in order to ensure essential homelessness services in the community between Jan. 1st, 2006 and the onset of new federal/provincial funding.



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