

# Mid-size cities, NIMBYism, and the search for solutions to homelessness in Canada

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# From NiMBY to Neighbour team

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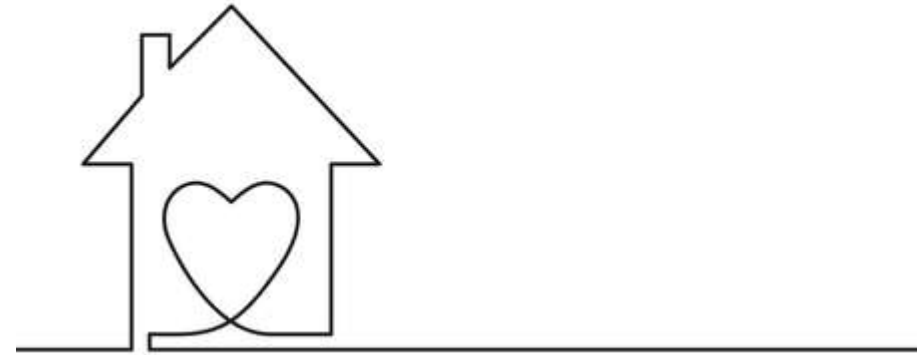
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# Project design



## Objectives

- Understand perceptions and misperceptions of homelessness in mid-size cities
- Support partner communities to address homelessness from a human rights perspective
- Build empathy and community resilience in partner communities

## Phases

1. Media analysis & environmental scan
2. Interviews with key stakeholders
3. Brokered dialogue



# Interviews

	People experiencing homelessness	Service providers	Community members	First responders
Total = 86	29	10	24	23

# Regulating public space, regulating people

*Unfortunately, it's just a cycle. It's just a 'I'll move you from here. I'll see you next week here. Move you from there. See you next week, the next spot.' ...there's really no long-term solution.*

- By-law officer

*"My stuff's getting stolen, all the time. Being able to keep the little bit of stuff I do have. I called the city just today. They took everything of mine [participant cries]. It's not the first time they did that. So, I learn I don't get attached to things, really. But right now, it's just hard because it's cold out. They just took all my blankets. What I used to keep warm at night."*

- Person experiencing homelessness for 2 years

# Criminalizing homelessness

*They get a call and they're just out there doing their job. But some of them [law enforcement] they come and harass you.*

*So let's say you're homeless and you're outside and someone gets a call "hey, I don't want this person here." They're like "what's your name?" "I don't have to give you that" "Yes you do or you're going to get arrested" "you don't have that authority, I'm not doing anything wrong."*

*Some of them [law enforcement] get so fed up with this happening every day they start changing as well. That's what I don't like. They're getting paid to help the people, not put them in worse situations. But other than that, they're not social workers, they're not psychologists, they're police officers. So they stick to their job, if someone's doing a crime and doing something bad okay but if they're not then leave them alone.*

- Person experiencing homelessness for 10 years



# Revising community

*Well, I think some people just want their small town back. They want their utopia, they want their picture of what a small town should be, and what a community should be, it should be very black and white and pristine. And maybe it wasn't that.*

- Service Provider

# Supporting mid-size cities



## Changing the narrative

Developing targeted communications strategies



## Mutual aid

Create and fund outreach and peer support



## Leverage legal tools

Drive response through a human rights approach



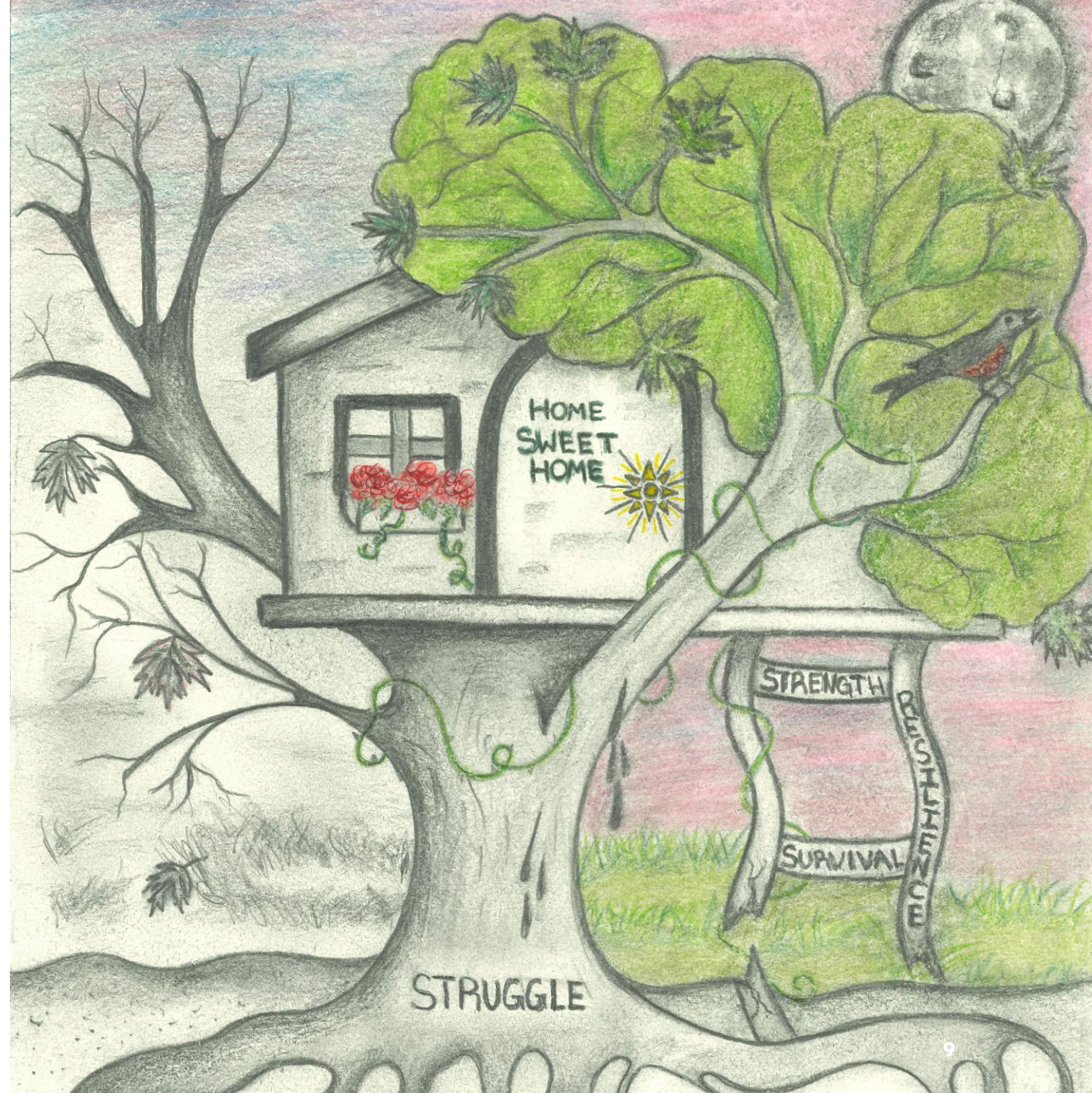
## Community building

Prioritize social inclusion and homelessness prevention



# From Roots to Home

- + Two paths
- + Roots - the foundation of the journey
- + Trunk - resiliency
- + Ladder - support
- + Treehouse - home



# Thank you!



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EOH 2023