

Seminar 7: Youth Prevention II (Room: 01.15)

Chair and discussant: **Nóra Teller, HU**

Melanie Redman, CA: Using Social Innovation as a Means of Advancing Knowledge and Practice Regarding Youth Homelessness Prevention



Melanie Redman is the co-founder, President & CEO of A Way Home Canada, a national coalition reimagining solutions to youth homelessness through transformations in policy, planning, and practice. A Way Home Canada has inspired communities and countries around the world to adopt the A Way Home brand as a way to participate in a growing international movement for change. Melanie also leads the National Learning Community on Youth Homelessness in Canada, which is a pan-Canadian community of practice for youth homelessness service providers. Melanie is also the co-founder and Partnership and Implementation Director for the Making the Shift Youth Homelessness Social Innovation Lab, an international “Network of Centres of Excellence.”

Social innovation involves designing and testing new ways of addressing old problems. In this session we will explore the role of social innovation in inspiring change in how we respond to youth homelessness in Canada. The focus will be on the latest results from the work of Making the Shift-Youth Homelessness Social Innovation Lab (a partnership between the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness and A Way Home Canada) focusing in particular on five areas of intervention: a) Enhancing Family and Natural Supports, b) Youth Reconnect, c) Upstream, d) Housing First for Youth, and e) Duty to Assist. This session will provide attendees with an overview of our approach to social innovation, key projects, and preliminary outcomes of our research to date. We also highlight our knowledge mobilisation strategy to identify how we are working to support commitment, uptake, and scaling of preventive interventions.

Steve Gaetz, CA: The Emerging Impact of Housing First for Youth in Canada and Europe



Dr. Stephen Gaetz is a Professor in the Faculty of Education at York University, in Toronto Canada. He is the President of the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness and the Homeless Hub at York University as well as co-Director of Making the Shift – Youth Homelessness Social Innovation Lab and the Toronto Centre of Excellence on Youth Homelessness Prevention. Dr. Gaetz works in collaboration with partners to conduct research and mobilise this knowledge so as to have a greater impact on solutions to homelessness, and in particular the prevention of homelessness. In 2017 Dr. Gaetz was awarded the Member of the Order of Canada.

Housing First for Youth (HF4Y) is an adaptation of Housing First designed to meet the needs of developing adolescents and young adults. While developed in Canada, HF4Y expanded more rapidly in Europe. In this session we explore some of the challenges in creating uptake for innovative approaches to homelessness, through exploring Canadian and European examples. We will also explore emerging research on Housing First for Youth. This includes updates on the Making the Shift demonstration projects in three Canadian cities. We will review 24 month outcomes generated from our Randomised Controlled Trial, looking at changes in 1) Housing stabilisation, 2) Attachment to employment and education; 3) Quality of Life; 4) Lifeskills, and 5) Resilience. We will also explore what we have learned from our Indigenous-Led HF4Y project called Endaayaang.