

**Developing a Cambridge Model of  
Supportive Housing for Youth**

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Cambridge Kiwanis Village Non-profit Housing Corporation, in partnership with Argus Residence for Young People, in October 2002 are opening a Supportive Housing option for homeless youth in Cambridge. This, together with the work that Argus is already providing with their emergency shelter for youth, will allow homeless youth in Cambridge to move through a continuum of housing and support options. This demonstration project will serve as a model for other social housing providers, as we monitor and document the youth's experience living in this model of housing. The goal of the project is "to develop a supportive housing option in Cambridge where homeless youth can find stability and take a large step towards independence."

As a demonstration project, the intent is to monitor and document successful practices in housing the homeless youth population in a mixed and integrated setting. In this report we have compiled information from current literature on homelessness and conducted a best practice study from other programs addressing youth homelessness. From this research we aim to have a better understanding of how to best bridge the gaps in the housing continuum and the process of re-integrating youth back into the community.

As a pilot project, we have integrated an evaluation process from the onset of the project to gauge the effectiveness of the model. This will be achieved through a youth survey (appendix 2) which will be implemented by the Support Worker three times a year – upon arrival, at the six month point, and at the end of their stay. At the end of the one year pilot project, the Social Planning Council of Cambridge and North Dumfries (SPC-CND) will compile the findings from the surveys to evaluate the Supportive Housing Model.

