



25 Central Ave. W., Suite 100
Brockville, ON K6V 4N6
T 613-342-3840
800-770-2170
F 613-342-2101
www.leedsgrenville.com

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 12, 2023

Collaborative Partnerships aim to Support Homelessness in the United Counties

Homelessness continues to be a challenging reality in our region. As the weather gets colder, the Counties remain committed to effectively responding to homelessness in our communities. All Members of Counties Council, along with the Mayors of the City of Brockville, Town of Gananoque, and the Town of Prescott, form the Leeds and Grenville Joint Services Committee (JSC). The Committee is responsible for decisions regarding Community and Social Services, which includes Ontario Works, Homelessness, Social Housing and Children's Services. JSC Chair, Mayor Corinna Smith-Gatcke of Leeds and the Thousand Islands, said, "The factors contributing to homelessness are diverse and complex; helping our most vulnerable requires community conversation and engagement amongst all sectors to ensure an end to homelessness in Leeds and Grenville."

Mayor Smith-Gatcke noted "the Committee's priority is to support initiatives which not only end homelessness but prevent it from occurring in the first place." The Joint Services Committee has supported several initiatives and programs to address homelessness. In 2023, these initiatives and programs assisted 158 individuals in obtaining housing, reduced chronic homelessness by 13%, and created 26 new supportive housing spaces. A total of \$578,000 in direct payments were provided to individuals and families to end or reduce homelessness this past year. The Counties also provided \$1,585,860 to partner agencies across Leeds and Grenville in 2023.

The United Counties is committed to working with and investing available resources through our Homelessness Prevention Program funding to support long-term solutions to homelessness in our communities, while also recognizing the elevated levels of homelessness in the City of Brockville. Brockville's Mayor, Matt Wren, said "the United Counties, and my colleague members of the JSC have identified there is a concentration of homelessness in the City of Brockville. The United Counties have provided extensive

December 12, 2023

supports directly and through a number of agencies including, but not limited to, access to food, temporary shelter, health support, supportive housing, outreach and rental subsidies and have assisted 158 individuals to obtain housing in 2023." Mayor Wren added "Brockville is a community that shares great concern about our homeless population and together as various levels of government, agencies and citizens we are working to make a difference."

The JSC and Counties' staff have developed a robust program to ensure our homeless population is offered opportunities for engagement and support. The Community and Social Services Division of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville is currently in the process of developing a three-year Homelessness Prevention Strategy. Once completed, this document will serve to inform the public of the Counties' long-term approach to addressing homelessness across Leeds and Grenville. Through continued cooperation with member and partner municipalities, the Counties continues to explore new opportunities for collaboration to offer a broad range of supports and assistance for individuals in need.

For more information, contact Director of Community and Social Services, Alison Tutak, at 613-342-3840 ext. 2305 or email at Alison.Tutak@uclg.on.ca.

-30-

Media inquiries:

John Kalivas, Communications Coordinator
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
25 Central Avenue W., Suite 100, Brockville, ON, K6V 4N6
613-802-1687 or John.Kalivas@uclg.on.ca

HOMELESSNESS INFORMATION



SHELTER

The United Counties of Leeds and Grenville has entered into an agreement with LLGAMH to expand the hours of its Mental Health Drop-In Centre through the winter months. Between the Drop-In Centre and the CCC, there will be 24/7 shelter beginning on December 15, 2023 through to March 15, 2024.



SUPPORT

The Leeds and Grenville Joint Services Committee (JSC) and Counties' staff have developed a robust program to offer opportunities for engagement and support for those experiencing homelessness and to prevent homelessness in the community. (See below)



STRATEGY

In winter 2024, the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville will produce a Homelessness Prevention Strategy for approval by the JSC. Once released, this document will serve to inform the public of the Counties' long-term approach to addressing homelessness across Leeds and Grenville.

\$1,585,860 PROVIDED TO PARTNER AGENCIES IN 2023



\$578,000 IN DIRECT PAYMENTS FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES TO END/REDUCE HOMELESSNESS IN 2023



ASSISTED 158 INDIVIDUALS IN OBTAINING HOUSING IN 2023



1 OF 37 COMMUNITIES IN CANADA TO ACHIEVE QUALITY BYNAME LIST DESIGNATION



961 SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS IN LEEDS & GRENVILLE



26 SUPPORTIVE HOUSING SPACES CREATED IN 2023



\$913,886 IN SUBSIDIES PROVIDED TO 229 CLIENTS TO ASSIST WITH HOUSING AFFORDABILITY



13% REDUCTION IN CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS IN 2023

PARTNER AGENCIES

John Howard Society - Connect Youth

Lanark, Leeds and Grenville Addictions and Mental Health (LLGAMH)

The Cooperative Care Centre (CCC)

Victim Services of Leeds and Grenville

Family and Children's Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville (FCSLG)

Support & Shelter Information

If you or someone you know are experiencing homelessness, please use the contact information below for assistance and support.

If you are in danger and require immediate assistance, CALL 9-1-1

CONTACTS

Cooperative Care Centre (CCC)

- 613-499-1988
- 1805 Oxford Ave., Brockville, ON
- Open daily 4:00pm - 8:00am
- www.facebook.com/BrockvilleCCCcentre/

Victim Services of Leeds and Grenville

- 1-800-939-7682
- www.vslg.ca

Victim Services of Leeds and Grenville

Emergency After-Hours Homelessness Line

- 613-499-9962
- Monday to Friday from 4:00pm to 8:00am
- Weekends and holidays, 24 hours per day

Family and Children's Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville (FCSLLG)

- 1-855-667-2726
- 438 Laurier Blvd., Brockville, ON
- www.fcsllg.ca

Leeds and Grenville Community and Social Services Division (Ontario Works Emergency Response)

- 613-342-3840 extension 2119
- 25 Central Ave. W., Suite 200, Brockville, ON

Lanark, Leeds and Grenville Addictions and Mental Health Services (LLGAMH)

- Brockville locations: 1-866-499-8445
- Other locations: 1-800-361-6948
- Crisis line: 1 (866) 281-2911
- Drop-In Centre: 25 Front Ave. W., Suite 1,
Brockville, ON
- www.llgamh.ca

United Counties of Leeds and Grenville Homelessness Prevention Benefit

- 613-342-3840 extension 2333
- [www.leedsgrenville.com/en/services/
homelessness-prevention-benefit.aspx](http://www.leedsgrenville.com/en/services/homelessness-prevention-benefit.aspx)

John Howard Society - Connect Youth

- 613-918-0173
- For those between the ages of 16-25
- www.connectyouth.ca

Learn more:

www.leedsgrenville.com/en/services/homelessness.aspx



Integrated Program Delivery Department

Intake and Assessment
25 Central Avenue West, Suite 200
Brockville, ON K6V 4N6
Telephone: 613-342-3840 extension 2119
Toll Free: 1-800-267-8146