



BC ASSOCIATION *of*  
SOCIAL WORKERS

BC Association of Social Workers  
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#### RAISING YOUNG PEOPLES' VOICES ON THE ISSUE OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

(Kamloops) The BC Association of Social Workers supports the recommendation of a report released by the BC Representative for Children and Youth that calls for the British Columbia government to develop a distinct plan to end youth homelessness and to involve youth with lived expertise in the development of that plan.

“The strength of this report is that it was created by youth with lived expertise about youth homelessness” said BCASW President Michael Crawford. “The Ministry of Children and Family Development and the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction would be well-advised to accept the eleven recommendations of this report.”

The report, *From Marginalized to Magnified*, was written by Katherine McParland, a former permanent ward in the foster care system, who experienced homelessness and is now the Executive Director of A Way Home Kamloops Society. Ms. McParland brought together a dozen young people who collected data from more than 200 young people with lived experience of homelessness across the province.

“The causes of youth homelessness are complex and require that the voices of youth with lived experience of homelessness be heard, understood, and incorporated in the solutions” said Crawford. “The young people who informed this report not only describe in great detail the many paths that lead to homelessness, they also provide examples of programs and services that can help.”

The report provides 11 solutions to end homelessness that include listening and honouring youth voices, improving supports, and the provision of education and employment opportunities.

“It isn’t often that government gets an opportunity to hear from youth directly on a serious matter such as this” says Carol Ross, BCASW’s Advocacy Chair. “This report and it’s recommendations need the full and immediate attention of this government.”

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