

# Combating Indigenous Homelessness

A Push for Cultural Healing  
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## Analyzing Local Homelessness

Indigenous peoples make up 11.2% of London's population (around 12,000 individuals), of the population, 41% of Indigenous peoples are low-income and 30% are homeless.

## Issue and Local Context:

- In London, 63% of Indigenous women face continuous abuse which can lead to homelessness
- The average income for Indigenous individuals is approx. 12,000 less than Non-Indigenous peoples
- 1 in 4 Indigenous people experience homelessness in London
- A large percent of Indigenous individuals who are homeless are between 16-24 years of age

## Barriers:

Systemic barriers such as low income, lack of education and the various attempts to cover up the history of colonization are disproportionately experienced by indigenous persons. Increasing rates of homelessness amongst indigenous populations can be attributed to the continued presence of these barriers within society

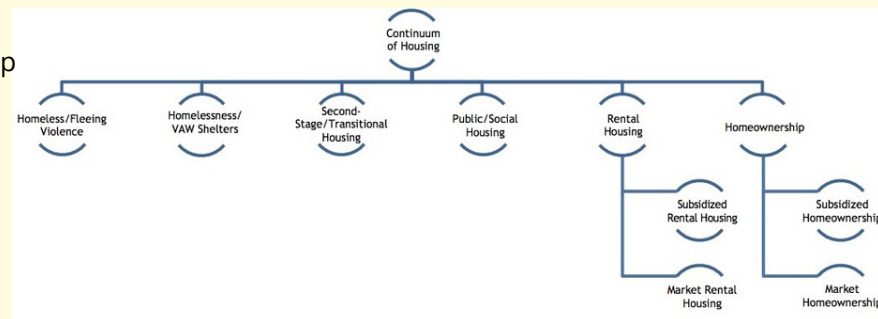
## Policy Options:

### Existing Local Housing Policies/Practices:

Atlohsa Native Healing Services and Giwetaskad Housing Strategy

- Atlohsa Family Healing Services is a non-profit organization that provides community members with Indigenous-led programming and services that offer holistic healing, education, shelter and support
- Giwetaskad is a research project by Atlohsa that is currently aiming at developing a strategic Indigenous homelessness protection plan which is based off Indigenous culture- Set to launch in April

## Indigenous Homeless Continuum



## My Policy Recommendation:

Through integrating culturally safe practices in various housing and social service organizations, with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous backgrounds, we acknowledge the systemic barriers that Indigenous persons face and can work towards developing a more culturally-neutral society

## Benefits:

- Increase employment opportunities, and equal education
- Incorporate into services already available, limit financial burdens Indigenous organizations
- Allowing for better services and more equal housing agreements
- Limiting barriers that lead to Indigenous homelessness can limit the numbers of homelessness faced by indigenous peoples
- Increased amount of services available for Indigenous peoples can limit homelessness

**If more shelters, and affordable housing allow cultural healing, the government can put more collaborative financial assistance to housing as a whole rather than individual organizations**

Aboriginal Communities in Profile: Ontario. (n.d.). Ontario Urban and Rural: First Nation, Metis, and Inuit Framework. (2013). Indigenous Peoples. (n.d.). Retrieved March 9, 2020, from <https://www.homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/population-specific/indigenous-peoples>  
Atlohsa (n.d.). Retrieved March 15, 2020, from <https://atlohsa.com/resources/>