



Social Development Centre
— WATERLOO REGION —

**SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
WATERLOO REGION**

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Media Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
WATERLOO REGION THRILLED TO RECEIVE FUNDING AS PART OF
REGION OF WATERLOO'S PLAN TO END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS**

Social Development Centre Waterloo Region (SDC) is thrilled to receive funding from Region of Waterloo to continue delivering two critical programs as part of the Region's Plan to End Chronic Homelessness: (1) the Eviction Prevention Peer Support Program and (2) the Lived Expertise Prototyping Project.

The Eviction Prevention Peer Support Program plays an essential role in addressing homelessness in the long-term here in Waterloo Region. Delivered by peers with lived experience of eviction or housing precarity, the program provides a range of supports for individuals who are facing eviction or experiencing ongoing issues with their landlords. "An eviction often leads to chronic homelessness because very few individuals can afford to find another place to live in today's rental market," says Leah Connor, an Eviction Prevention Peer Support Worker at SDC. "If we want to stop the homelessness crisis from growing even further, we need to keep people housed." Supports provided by peer workers include advocacy, mediation, information on tenant rights and resources, warm referrals to other services, and access to space and technology for tenants to attend their scheduled Landlord and Tenant Board hearings.

The Lived Expertise Prototyping Project is a unique initiative that invites community members with lived expertise in homelessness to directly influence the Region's Plan to End Chronic Homelessness. "By informing and prototyping unique and inventive solutions with Region of Waterloo staff and community partners, Lived Experts are transforming existing approaches to addressing homelessness in ways we haven't seen before," says David Alton, Facilitator of the Lived Expertise Consultancy at SDC and a member of the organization's Distributed Leadership Team. Lived experts are currently drafting recommendations for the final Plan to End Chronic Homelessness that will be presented to Regional Council in April of this year.

SDC extends our thanks to Waterloo Regional Council for approving investments in the Eviction Prevention Peer Support Program and the Lived Expertise Prototyping Project. We are eager to continue amplifying the voices of lived experts in our community, and look forward to working alongside Region of Waterloo staff and community partners in implementing the Region's Plan to End Chronic Homelessness.

About Social Development Centre Waterloo Region

Social Development Centre Waterloo Region (SDC) was incorporated in 1967 as part of the Social Planning movement. Over the years we have incubated countless community projects, grassroots groups, and sibling non-profits. Today our primary pillars are Housing & Homelessness, Grassroots Infrastructure, and Lived Expertise. Our programs, research, and advocacy include the Eviction Prevention Peer Support Program, Lived Expertise Consultancy, Civic Hub Waterloo Region, and Festival of Neighbourhoods. Learn about our work at www.waterlooregion.org.

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