

Highlights of Sector Engagement on Rapid Response Temporary Modular Housing Response

List of Interviewees

- Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Peel Dufferin
- SHIP
- Peel Alliance to End Homelessness
- Royal Canadian Legion
- Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness
- Person with lived experience
- Regeneration Outreach
- The Compass Food Bank
- Open Window Hub

Interview Questions and Summary of Answers

1. What are your initial thoughts about using temporary modular units (e.g., tiny homes, cabins) for addressing homelessness?

- There is an unprecedented urgency to address the homelessness crisis in Peel.
- Temporary modular housing, supplemented with essential support services is a crucial interim solution that can effectively bridge the gap until permanent affordable housing become more accessible.
- Temporary arrangements often become permanent if no affordable supportive housing options are available.
- The success of temporary modular housing is dependent on investments into permanent housing. Permanent supportive housing is preferred.
- Any program should at least be 18-24 months to allow individuals to achieve stability and independence. However, program should recognize the limits of some individuals who may not achieve the same level of success as others.
- Residents can gain a sense of belonging from living in a community.
- Consideration should be made to including individual washrooms and kitchenettes in the unit to encourage independence.

2. How do you see temporary modular housing units helping with homelessness in Peel?

- Relatively quick and viable alternative to individuals who would otherwise find themselves unsheltered.
- A roof is better than no roof.
- Service providers play a vital role to ensure well-being, stability, and successful transition. A range of support services must be offered including mental health counselling, addiction treatment, job search, access to healthcare, peer support programming, and general life skills development.

3. Who might be best suited to live in a temporary modular community?

- Encampment residents (singles and couples)
- Unsheltered homeless

Appendix I – Rapid Response Temporary Modular Housing

- Asylum seekers
 - Veterans
- 4. Are there any specific concerns or drawbacks you have regarding the use of temporary modular units as a short-term support for homelessness? In your opinion, what would an exit strategy look like?**
- Temporary housing is not designed for long-term use. This raised concerns about where occupants will go once their temporary housing arrangement ends. There is a major shortage of affordable (and supportive) rental units, making it challenging for people to find suitable housing.
 - Temporary housing may make residents feel uncertain about their future living arrangements and relocation disrupts their community and social ties.
 - Location selection is time consuming, challenging with NIMBY reactions and highly political.
 - Concerns around the ghettoization of a community.
 - Careful consideration to site selection must be made to ensure proximity to amenities and services including social services, healthcare facilities, public transportation, community centres and grocery and foodbanks.
 - Exit strategies of other tiny home communities are not well documented. Exit strategies are crucial for ensuring the long-term success of such initiatives. Discharge planning should begin upon intake to provide sufficient time to rehabilitate residents and equip them with the skills to live independently or with supports in the community once they exit the tiny home community.
- 5. Are there any organizations, agencies, or partners you believe would be valuable collaborators in the implementation of this type of housing solution?**
- OHT (Ontario Health Teams)
 - SHIP (Supportive Housing in the Province)
 - CMHA (Canadian Mental Health Association)
 - Peel addiction assessment
 - Homeless Health Peel
 - Veterans Affairs Canada
 - CAMH
 - Built for Zero
 - Mainstay and Houselink
 - Housing support workers
 - Local Nurse Practitioners and General Physicians
 - Peel Regional Police
- 6. Other than temporary modular units, what other approaches or strategies are needed to effectively address the current homelessness crisis in the community?**
- Permanent Supportive housing
 - Increase in social assistance such as portable subsidies