

A Place to Call Home

Alberta Campaign for Veteran's House Canada

Helping homeless Veterans build a better future by providing permanent, affordable and supportive housing.

A Case for supporting
homeless Veterans



A Veteran's 14 Month Search For a Home



“The concept is just priceless. I’ve seen an improvement, seen that change in veterans around me and how these resources work for them. They’re headed in the right direction.”

— Johan, Veterans’ House Canada Resident

Johan spent 14 months living in his car.

Not by choice. Not for lack of trying.

He reached out to Veterans Affairs Canada, worked with his case manager, and searched for housing wherever he could. But he found himself trapped in a cycle that many veterans experiencing homelessness know all too well: landlords wanted proof of employment, and employers wanted a local address.

“I couldn’t secure an apartment because I didn’t have full-time work, no job, because I didn’t have a residence locally. So it was a real bind all the time”

— Johan, Veterans’ House Canada Resident

Travelling across the Prairies in search of a fresh start, Johan found few housing supports available. Had there been a Veterans’ House in Edmonton, he says, he would have stopped there instead.

When he finally arrived at Veterans’ House Canada’s Andy Carswell Building in Ottawa, everything changed.

For the first time in more than a year, he was able to unpack what remained of his belongings and call a place home. Today, Johan has stability, community, and purpose.

“There was a bunch of fellas that welcomed me, made me feel welcome here. I found purpose again. 14 months living in a car, there’s no purpose.”

— Johan.

Johan’s journey highlights a challenge faced by thousands of veterans across Canada.

More than 3,000 veterans face homelessness. After all they have given in service to our country, it is unacceptable that any veteran should be left without a safe place to call home.

Veteran Homelessness in Canada and Alberta

In Alberta, approximately 6.5% of the homeless population are veterans. Tonight, more than 150 veterans in Edmonton are experiencing homelessness. Many are disproportionately affected by the lasting effects of PTSD, addictions, physical disabilities, impacted mental health, and the difficult transition from military to civilian life. They served Canada with honour. Yet too many now face instability, isolation, and homelessness.

The first national study of veteran homelessness found that approximately 2,250 veterans use emergency shelters each year representing 2.7% of all shelter users in Canada.

These are individuals who once protected our country, now unable to protect themselves in a home, their home.

These people have given their time, blood, sweat... mountains of effort to the Canadian Armed Forces. And for them to fall into homelessness... is an honest tragedy.

– Frank, Veteran Support Manager (Ottawa)

Our Mission:

Helping homeless veterans build a better future by providing permanent, affordable and supportive housing.

Our housing projects have already demonstrated what is possible.



The Veterans' House Canada Model: A Proven Solution

Since its 2021 opening in Ottawa, the Andy Carswell Building has housed more than 80 homeless veterans, transforming lives through holistic wrap-around services, and support from dedicated staff.

“I really can’t remember the last time I felt safe,”

says AJ, 74 year old Navy veteran who spent months living precariously and on the street before finding Veterans’ House Canada.



Veterans' House Ottawa, Andy Carswell Building

Our **“Housing First”** model gives the veterans a safe place to live, as well as the opportunity to recover from physical and mental health and addiction-related issues, where needed. Not only does the permanent and supportive housing model improve overall quality of life, but it does so in a manner that recognizes the crucial and unbreakable experience of military bonds that exists for all in the military community. Our wrap-around support brings together housing, health, and community services through a coordinated, person-centred approach. Support is tailored to each resident’s goals and strengths, with the VHC team adapting as needs change to help veterans achieve long-term stability and well-being.

The Veterans’ House Canada Model combines:

- Permanent, affordable housing
- Mental health and wellness supports
- Addiction and recovery services
- Employment and life-skills programming
- Peer support and veteran community
- Connections to healthcare and community partners

Veteran homelessness is not inevitable. It is solvable. The success of Ottawa’s Andy Carswell Building, following the Veterans’ House Canada model, demonstrates that with stable housing, wrap-around supports, and a strong community, veterans can rebuild their lives.

More Than Housing: A Place to Belong



Veterans' House resident serving food at community lunch.

A safe place to live is only the beginning.

At Veterans' House Canada, residents find more than housing—they find a community that understands their experiences, values their service, and supports their next chapter.

"I think that it's such an unknown need, there are so many other housing projects and supportive housing groups, but nothing this specific. And nobody would have thought that there would be unhoused veterans in Canada."

– Mark Eldridge

As veterans regain stability, many begin reconnecting with the activities, relationships and sense of purpose that homelessness often takes away. Residents participate in wellness programs, recreational activities, and community events. They support one another through shared experiences and build meaningful connections with fellow veterans.

Many also choose to give back.

Residents volunteer their time, welcome guests to special events, participate in commemorative ceremonies, help maintain shared spaces, and contribute to the vibrant community that makes Veterans' House feel like home.

What begins as a place of relief becomes a place of belonging. For veterans who have experienced isolation, housing insecurity, mental health issues, or homelessness, that sense of community can be life-changing.

Your gift will be invaluable and leave an indelible memory in the lives of families who face the reality of a loved one's passing. For too many, the hardship and long-term effects from experiencing homelessness result in health complications and irreversible conditions.

In spite of this, the last days of a veteran's life being spent among friends—a circle of care—and living in dignity is a relief for their family when they visit their home upon passing; a stark contrast to being notified to have passed on the street or encampment.

“To Ottawa Veterans’ House,

He was a special and unique fellow. He loved people and to chat. To be in an environment like Veterans’ House in his last days brings us comfort. Thank you for all the care and support. He had dignity, kinship and community. We are so grateful to all of you.

**Love,
The family of a Veterans’ House resident”**

At Veterans’ House Canada, veterans are not defined by the challenges they have faced. They are recognized for their strengths, their service, and their potential.

This is the impact your support makes possible.



Veterans' House Edmonton



Rendering - Veterans' House Edmonton, Located in the Athlone neighbourhood of Edmonton

Project Highlight:

The Edmonton project is a direct response to this urgent need.

Exclusively for Veterans
The building features:

 **1.5** Acres of land in the Athlone Neighbourhood of Edmonton

 **40** Permanent, affordable studio

 **9** Fully accessible units

Indoor Amenities	Outdoor Amenities	Building and Grounds Features
- Community kitchen - Fitness room - Social room - Offices - Therapy spaces	- Meditation garden - BBQ area - Dog park - Community garden	- Passive House Standard - Universal, accessible design - No triggering colours - Calming exposed wood accents

 **Planned to open: November 2026**

The Goal

Help Bring Veterans' House Edmonton Across the Finish Line - The Final \$2 Million

Veterans' House Edmonton is nearing reality.

With support from all three levels of government and generous community donors, \$14 million of the project's \$16 million cost has already been secured. \$2 million remains to reach our \$6 million community fundraising goal and fully prepare the residence to welcome veterans home.

This is an opportunity to be part of the final phase of a transformative project that will serve veterans in Western Canada for generations to come.

The Funding Picture

Total Project Cost:

\$16 Million

Funding Secured:

\$14 Million

Community Fundraising Goal:

\$6 Million

Raised to Date:

\$4 Million

Remaining:

\$2 Million

Major funding commitments have already been secured through:

- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)
 - CMHC Contribution — **\$3M**
 - CMHC Seed Funding — **\$150K**
 - CMHC Repayable Loan — **\$1.5M**
- Province of Alberta Affordable Housing Partnership Program — **\$3.4M**
- City of Edmonton Affordable Housing Investment Program — **\$2.51M**
- Community donors and philanthropic partners — **\$4M**

Major donor Lockheed Martin visits Andy Carswell Building.



What Your Support Will Make Possible

The final phase of fundraising will help transform Veterans' House Edmonton from a building shell into a fully completed and equipped home and community for veterans.

Your support will help:

- Prepare all 40 studio apartments for move-in, providing essential household items such as kitchen utensils, bedding, and cleaning supplies for veterans arriving from shelters, vehicles, or other temporary accommodations.
- Develop and equip community spaces, including a shared kitchen and industrial cooking area that will foster connection, skill-building, and community engagement.
- Provide technology and specialized equipment needed to deliver programs, resident services, and day-to-day supports.
- Equip therapeutic and rehabilitation spaces for both group and individual wellness, recovery, and fitness activities.
- Launch and sustain the wrap-around programs that help veterans successfully transition to stable housing and independent living.

Every dollar invested helps ensure that veterans moving into Veterans' House Edmonton have not only a roof over their heads, but also the tools, supports, and community they need to rebuild their lives.

Give now and help complete the final phase of this project.

A longtime community member in public service, Ralph Young first learned about the Veterans' House Edmonton project through his involvement with the South Alberta Light Horse Regiment and its Foundation, a supporter of the Edmonton project.

As he learned about the important goals of the Edmonton build, Ralph recognized the project's critical need in the community and decided to make a personal donation.

"I really believe that Veterans' House provides the support that allows veterans to move beyond their very real life challenges. A safe and managed home gives homeless veterans the opportunity to return to stable living conditions. I was privileged to see up close how our active-duty military personnel served our country during my tenure as Honorary Colonel of the South Alberta Light Horse Regiment. The opportunity to provide support to Veterans' House's Edmonton project was a commitment that I believed would make a positive difference in veterans' lives."

Gifts from donors like Ralph Young are the reason why we are so close to achieving our fundraising goal. We welcome the opportunity to speak to you about your gift!



Edmonton House donor Ralph Young reviews progress to date

Why This Matters Now

Veterans' House Edmonton represents a rare opportunity to make a meaningful and lasting impact by offering permanent, affordable housing and wrap-around support to veterans experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity.

Building on the proven success of Veterans' House Canada's The Andy Carswell Building in Ottawa, the Edmonton residence will offer not only housing but also the services, community, and opportunities veterans need to rebuild their lives.

Residents will have access to supportive programming, wellness and rehabilitation opportunities, peer connection, and a stable place to call home.

For veterans who have served our country, housing should never be uncertain.

Your Impact

Your donation will help ensure that veterans in Western Canada have access to the same proven model of supportive housing that has already transformed lives in Ottawa.

Your support will:

- Create safe, affordable housing for veterans in need
- Equip spaces that promote recovery, connection, and wellbeing
- Sustain life-changing holistic supports and programming
- Help veterans overcome homelessness, trauma, and isolation
- Restore dignity, independence, and purpose

Together, we can ensure that no veteran is left without a safe place to call home.

Help Bring Veterans' House Edmonton Home

Veterans' House Edmonton is more than a building. It provides safety. It re-establishes dignity. It creates community. It is the opportunity for veterans to heal, rebuild, and rediscover purpose. Most importantly, it ensures a future where no veteran is left without a safe place to call home. The model is proven. The need is urgent.

With \$2 million remaining to reach our community fundraising goal, we are within reach of bringing this transformative project to life for veterans across Edmonton and Western Canada. Your support will help ensure that veterans experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity have access to permanent, affordable housing and the wrap-around services they need to thrive. Together, we can ensure that no veteran is left behind.



ED Alan M; The Honourable Lois E. Mitchell, former Alberta Lieutenant Governor; VHC Board Member J'Lyn Nye

Get in Touch

To learn more about supporting Veterans' House Edmonton, including leadership gifts, naming opportunities, and legacy giving, please contact:

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Looking Ahead

Veterans' House Edmonton is part of a broader vision to end veteran homelessness across Canada. The success of the Andy Carswell Building in Ottawa and the development of Veterans' House Edmonton demonstrate that permanent, affordable housing paired with wraparound supports can transform lives. Together, these projects represent important steps toward a future where every veteran has access to the stability, community, and support they deserve.

As Veterans' House Canada continues to grow, future opportunities are being explored in communities across the country, including Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver, and Victoria.



Partner with Us From Coast to Coast

Future Veterans' House projects will offer meaningful opportunities for donors to create a lasting legacy. We welcome the opportunity to explore joining us as founding partners in future Veterans' House projects, helping bring these communities to life and ensuring that veterans across Canada have access to safe housing, meaningful support, and a place to belong.

One veteran experiencing homelessness is one too many. Together, we can ensure that every veteran has a safe place to call home.

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