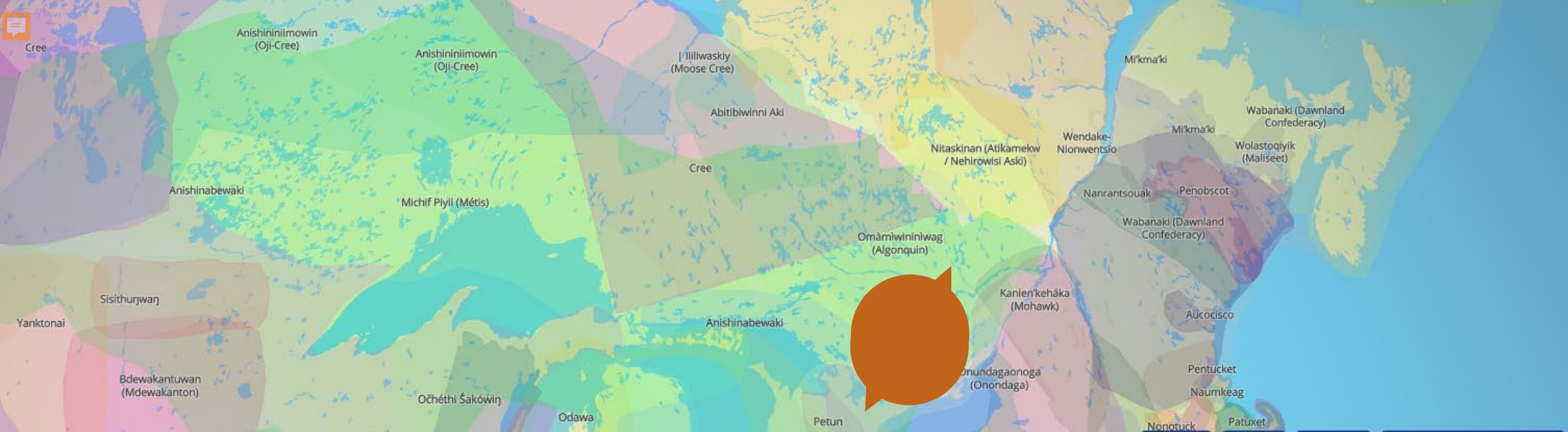


Pursuing Housing: Scaling Options for Justice-Involved Youth

This project entitled “Pursuing Housing: Scaling Options for Justice-Involved Youth” received funding from the National Housing Strategy under the NHS Solutions Labs, however, the views expressed are the personal views of the author and CMHC accepts no responsibility for them.





*"We live, work, and collaborate across unceded and Treaty Indigenous territories—each with sacred responsibilities to land and water.

In **Ottawa**, we are guests on the lands of the Algonquin and Anishinaabeg, near the Ottawa River (Kichi Sibi), a vital artery that has carried stories and sustenance for millennia.

In Quinte West we stand on the traditional territories of the Mississaugas of the Credit, Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, and Wendat peoples, where the Humber River, Don River, and Lake Ontario hold spiritual and ecological significance.

As settlers and Indigenous relatives, we commit to housing justice that uplifts Indigenous sovereignty—through partnerships that return decision-making, resources, and care to the original stewards of these lands and waters. This work is a small step toward repair."*

Outline

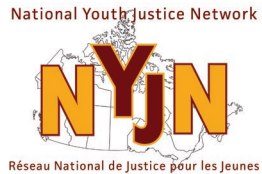
- Introductions
- Lab overview
 - Phases
 - Outputs
- Opportunities
- Next steps
- QA/ Discussion welcome at all moments!



Introductions



The Children's Aid Society of Ottawa | La Société de l'aide à l'enfance d'Ottawa



- Leads
- SLSC – Project lead
- CTLabs – Solution Lab Methodology and Facilitation
- St. Leonard's Hastings-Prince Edward (10-bed Congregate Prototype)
- Operation Come Home (Scattered Prototype – 100 units)
- Children's Aid Society of Ottawa (Prototyping and scaling support)
- National Youth Justice Network (Knowledge Dissemination Lead)





Introductions cont'd

Steering Committee

- Jessica Braimoh, YorkU
- Lucretia Brown, John Howard Society of Newfoundland & Labrador
- Kristen Cairney, Wyndham House
- Erin Dej, Wilfrid Laurier University
- Chris Hill, CEO CORCAN (Correctional Service Canada)
- Department of Justice
- Leesa Myers, Foster Families Coalition of NWT
- Michael Peters, YMCA Northern Alberta
- Office of the Federal Housing Advocate
- Jackie Sohn, Canadian Observatory of Homelessness (COH)

All other interested folks – please introduce yourself in the chat!



About This Lab

Pursuing Housing: Scaling Options for Justice-Involved Youth is a collaborative *Solutions Lab* that brings together service providers, government agencies, housing organizations, and justice system partners.

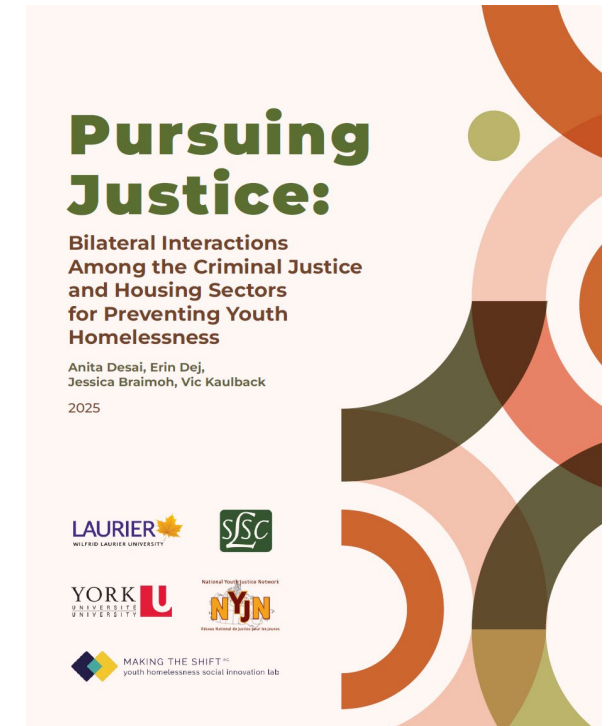
Over 18 months, we'll co-develop and pilot scalable housing frameworks that ensure youth exiting the justice system access safe, stable, and supported living options.





The problem we are aiming to solve

- **Abrupt Transitions:** Youth often leave custody with no guaranteed housing pathway, leading to homelessness or unstable “couch-surfing.”
- **Fragmented Supports:** Housing, social services, and justice agencies operate in silos—youth fall through the cracks when no one holds the full picture.
- **Scalability Gaps:** Innovative pilot projects exist, but few models have been tested and refined for replication across regions.



What we are aiming to produce

- 1. Co-Designed Housing Framework.** Tested, flexible and implementable model(s) detailing roles, financing mechanisms, and service integrations.
- 2. Pilot Implementation Guides for Scattered and Congregate Models.** Step-by-step playbook based on community pilots.
- 3. Policy & Funding Recommendations for municipal and provincial policymakers.** Targeted advice to unlock sustainable financing streams.
- 4. Digital Toolkit.** Resources such as templates, checklists, and dashboards for ongoing monitoring and continuous improvement.

Phase	Dates	Key Activities
1. Define	Aug-Sep 2025	Problem definition and validation
2. Discovery	Oct 2025 - Jan 2026	Research, UX profile development, cross-system insight generation
3. Ideation	Feb-Mar 2026	Solution ideation: draft Minimum Viable Requirement sets
4. Prototyping & Pilot Testing	Apr-Sep 2026	Design and test in communities; collect implementation data, analyze results
5. Roadmapping	Oct-Nov 2026	Finalize guides; policy roundtable



What perspective(s) do you bring to this topic?

Open text

What perspective(s) do you bring to this topic?

Youth do not grow in a healthy way without a roof over their heads.

Support of youth in the justice system

Housing policy

Current position working with individuals looking for housing

Youth in justice system, housing first program

rights-based approaches, policy development

Youth with dual diagnosis

Youth housing

Programmatic and system design experience at the intersection of health, homelessness and criminal justice

housing policy, mental health and addictions frontline experience, previous experience working with youth

Being the first emergency housing program in a large community

Youth leaving custody and detention facilities

Housing first

Criminal justice & improving intersectoral collaboration

Construction expertise and capacity

Youth justice and advocacy focus

Criminal justice - policing

Human right to housing

Im a former CO now social work student interested in reforming the correctional system

All youth deserve affordable housing and support.

Previous work in group care as well as a current position working with Indigenous Youth involved in the justice system

Social justice, harm reduction

Housing as a human right Research Advocacy

Spiritual care

Need for cross ministerial support

Criminal justice

Research

Human right to housing



Terminology: Ways that youth who interact with both justice and housing systems are referred to...

Dual-system youth	Are involved with both the child welfare and youth justice system.
Crossover youth	At some point have experienced maltreatment and engaged in offending behaviour. Formal involvement with either system is not required.
Dual-contact youth	Have been sequentially (not concurrently) involved with both the child welfare and youth justice system.
Dually-involved youth	Are concurrently involved with both systems.

Modrowski, C. A., Chaplo, S. D., & Kerig, P. K. (2023). Youth Dually-Involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems: Varying definitions and their associations with trauma exposure, posttraumatic stress, & offending. *Children and Youth Services Review*.





There are many ways that youth are defined in the literature when they interact with both the justice system and the housing/shelter system.

Based on your experience, which term best describes the youth we are aiming to support through this project?



Multiple choice

...

There are many ways that youth are defined in the literature when they interact with both the justice system and the housing/shelter system. Based on your experience, which term best describes the youth we are aiming to support through this project?

Dual-system youth



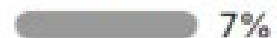
Crossover youth



Dual-contact youth



Dually-involved youth



Other



I forgot the definitions already





Poll: What terminology should we think about using for youth that interact with both systems?

There are many ways that youth are defined in the literature when they interact with both the justice system and the housing/shelter system. Based on your experience, which term best describes the youth we are aiming to support through this project?

- a) Dual-system youth
- b) Crossover youth
- c) Dual-contact youth
- d) Dually-involved youth
- e) Other





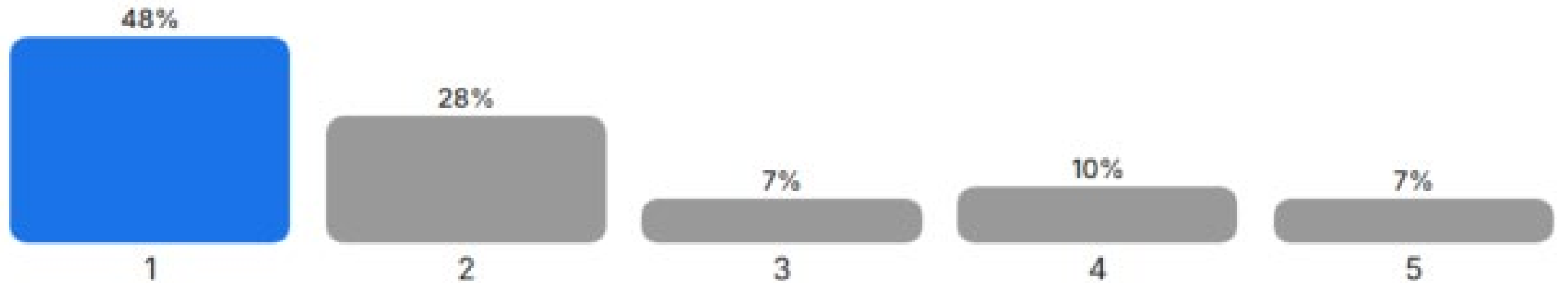
How familiar are you with a Solutions Lab process?

 Rating ...

How familiar are you with a Solutions Lab process?

1 - No idea 5 - Claro - I've done this before

Score: ★ 2.0



Phase 1: July-October 2025

Definition - Establish Scope and Reframe the Issue

Key Activities	Deliverables/Outputs (Inc. KP-KD)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend Touchpoint meeting with Labs undertaking similar solutions and attend one on one meetings with CMHC• Confirm and establish scope, set up governance structure, sub-contract agreements• Prepare detailed workplan and timelines ACA• Deliver Problem definition work and workshops with partners• Create + validate list of lab participants, engagement strategy, Invite lab participants• Develop Knowledge Transfer Plan• Develop Communications Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Detailed Lab workplan, including critical path, and governance structure (D)2. Problem Brief (1 page) (KP)3. Lab Announcement, including Problem Brief and call for participants of interest for partner networks (KP) ←4. Network dissemination of Lab Launch via NYJN, Partners/Collaborators and direct contacts (KD)5. Virtual Lab Launch event (once approved) (KD)6. Develop Knowledge Transfer Plan and Communications Plan (D)



Phase 2: November-Jan/Feb 2026

Discovery: Co-discovery sessions to share information and develop key insights

Key Activities	Deliverables/Outputs (Inc. KP-KD)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend Touchpoint meeting with Labs undertaking similar solutions and attend one on one meetings with CMHC• Finalize the detailed research strategy and plan• Conduct research including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diversity of youth population needs / characteristics for social inclusion (e.g. gang affiliation, mental health, etc.)• Host panels on National and International models of what's worked for: 1) youth with complex MH needs (e.g. gang affiliation); 2) Typologies: Family and natural supports, congregate models, and scattered site models• Policy, zoning, insurance and other regulatory requirements• Design and development of KPs - Challenge Brief, Research findings• Deliver Insight Generation workshops	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Research Plan (D)2. Personas of stakeholders (KP)3. Challenge Brief (KP)4. Podcast interview OR Op-Ed (KD)5. Insight workshop(s) (D)



Phase 2: November-Jan/Feb 2026

Discovery: Co-discovery sessions to share information and develop key insights

The Challenge Brief	Information Levelling Session
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will conduct the research, and generate a key Lab document: The CHALLENGE BRIEF• This document will include all the information we know and have discovered that we believe is pertinent to generating insights into why the problems exist, and what might need to happen to shift it.• This is scheduled to be released for comment on:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Late Jan/Early Feb TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information Levelling Session: TBC Jan 2026, 12-2pm• We will walk everyone through the draft Challenge Brief, share what we've found, correct anything that is not accurate or could be framed better, and harvest any additions or upgrades.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Insight Generation Session 1: TBC Feb 2026• Insight Generation Session 2: TBC Feb 2026

Phase 3: February-March 2026

Ideation: Ideation workshops to ideate and co-design practical solutions

Key Activities	Deliverables/Outputs (Inc. KP-KD)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend Touchpoint meeting with Labs undertaking similar solutions and attend one on one meetings with CMHC• Ideation workshops (1-2 as required) one for each model and housing type? (Max-Min)• Identification and prioritization of ideas for potential prototype areas	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ideation workshop outputs summary (D)2. Draft Minimal Viable Solution Prototype (KP)3. List of possible ideas for prototyping with supporting info4. Updated personas and partnership canvases, as appropriate5. NYJN Network Updates (KD)6. Phase 3 report (roll up of Challenge Brief and Ideation work, including selected priority prototype areas) (KP)

Phase 4: April-July 2026

Prototyping

Key Activities	Deliverables/Outputs (Inc. KP-KD)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend Touchpoint meeting with Labs undertaking similar solutions and attend one on one meetings with CMHC• Prototype development/design work:• St Leonard's Hastings-Prince Edward(Congregate)• Ottawa (OCH model) - likely focus on scaling partnerships to increase supply• Other emergent options• Undertake Prototype testing/piloting and evaluation• Design and Development of KPs	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Prototype Briefs (KP)2. Final design report for Prototypes that meet MVRs (KP)3. Op-ed OR podcast interview (KP)4. Presentations (D) for networks and conferences, such as ECOH, NYJN, National Conference on Ending Homelessness, etc (KD)

Phase 5: August-October 2026

Roadmapping: Develop roadmap for scaling the best solutions nationally

Key Activities	Deliverables/Outputs (Inc. KP-KD)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend Touchpoint meeting with Labs undertaking similar solutions and attend one on one meetings with CMHC• Facilitated road map sessions to describe the pathways to implement and scale Minimum Viable Solution Prototype (MVP) housing models• Identify next-stages and roadmap• Creation of impact documents for knowledge mobilization (e.g.,infographic)• Creating tools (e.g., educational videos, best-practice guides) to assist other communities in adopting similar financing models	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Roadmap Report and Infographic (KP)2. Regional development sessions to support prototype rollout in new areas (likely BC, Prairies and Atlantic) (KD/KP)3. Op-ed (proposed topic: socially inclusive housing solutions for justice-involved youth in a context of rife eligibility and access barriers) (KP)4. Presentations (D) for networks and conferences (ECOH, NYJN) (KD)



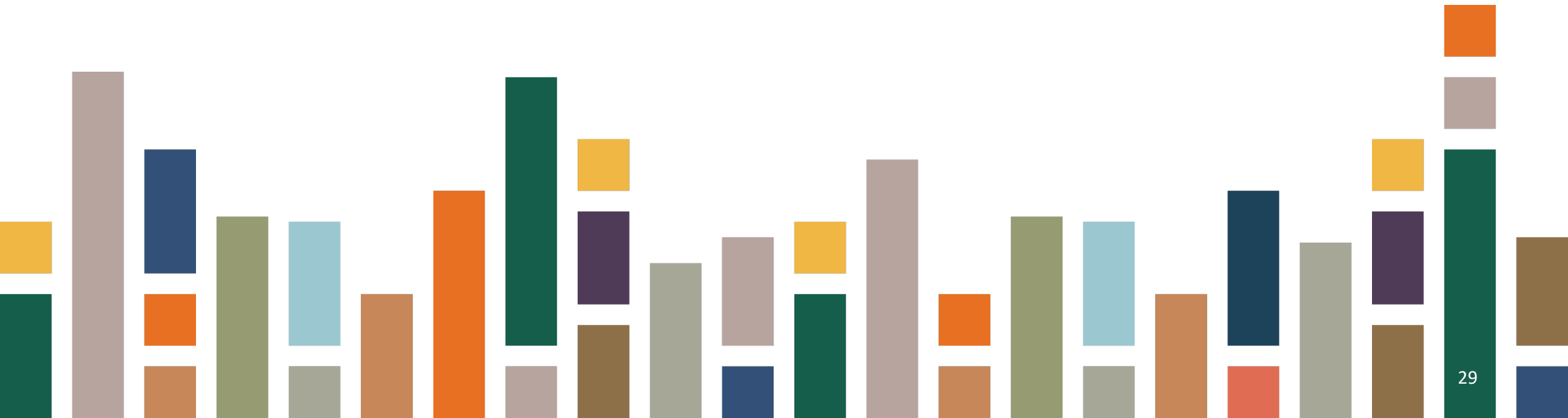
Who is missing that needs to be here?

 Open text

Who is missing that needs to be here?

- Do Anonymous
The education sector
- Do Anonymous
Other agencies with experience with youth housing to share learnings such as Youth Opportunities Unlimited in London
- Do Anonymous
Current youth justice reintegration housing providers
- Do Anonymous
The Salvation Army
- Do Anonymous
Gun & gang worker from gpip programs
- Do Anonymous
MCCSS
- Do Anonymous
child welfare and justice services representation from indigenous communities
- Do Anonymous
Mccss
- Do Anonymous
Police
- Do Anonymous
John Howard Society
- Do Anonymous
Government officials and funders
- Do Anonymous
Healthcare
- Do Anonymous
Territorial Government
- Do Anonymous
Youth with lived experience

Questions? Comments?



Next Steps

For You:

- Participate in Problem Definition Workshop: Thursday October 2, 1-3pm ET (ALL)
- Use your networks to disseminate information about our work
- Sign up for our communications list (and encourage others to sign up as well!)

For Us:

- Create and validate a list of lab participants, followed by an engagement strategy
- Develop Communications Plan
- Deliver Problem definition work and workshops with partners
- Develop Knowledge Transfer Plan
- Finalize research plan



Scan the QR Code
to stay in touch!

phjiy.stleonards.ca

