



COH

*Canadian Observatory on Homelessness*

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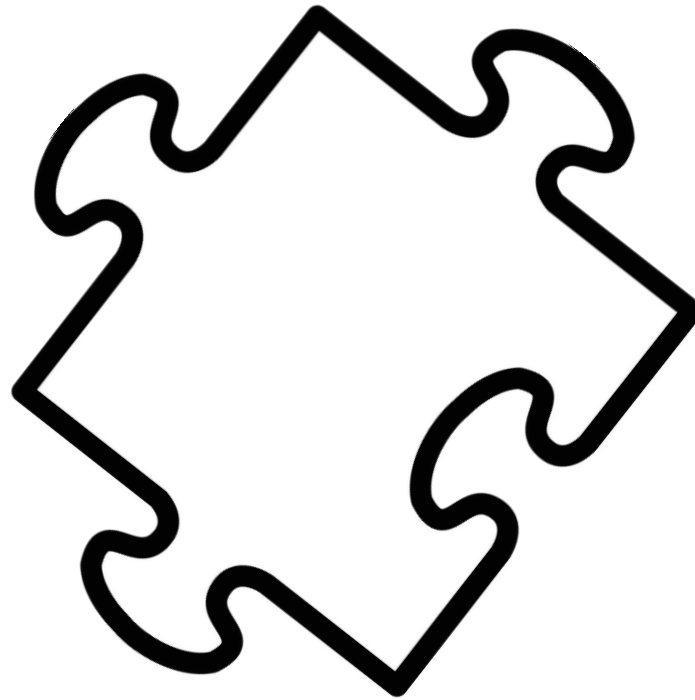
# Jesse Thistle

[jthistle@edu.yorku.ca](mailto:jthistle@edu.yorku.ca)



# The Need for a Definition of Indigenous Homelessness

What is Indigenous homelessness?



# Proposing the Definition of Indigenous Homelessness in Canada



Montreal – November 5, 2015  
Annual COH Executive Committee Meeting

# Cultural Competency: Finding Someone Who Knows Indigenous Homelessness



E-book

HOMELESSNESS

IS ONLY

ONE PIECE  
OF MY PUZZLE

—  
Implications for Policy and Practice

Editors

The Inclusion Working Group,  
Canadian Observatory on Homelessness

# Beginning Work in a “Good Way”: Indigenous Methodology

## Pipe Ceremony



# Looking to Australia: No Need to Reinvent the Wheel

## The Keys Young Report

### 5 types of Aboriginal Homelessness

- 1) Spiritual homelessness (separation from land/family)
- 2) Overcrowding (a hidden form of homelessness)
- 3) Relocation and transient homelessness.
- 4) Escaping an unsafe or unstable home
- 5) Lack of access to any stable shelter

# Community Consultation

## 4 Levels of Consultation

- 1) The National Steering Committee
- 2) Regional Advisors Committee, began Sept 12.
- 3) Consultation with Elders
- 4) Town Hall



# The Elders Council of 10

“The COH understands that proper consultation on the Definition must involve the traditional knowledge keepers of Indigenous communities—those being Elders.”

# Realigning Our Understanding: It's About Relationships

Home is the circle of interconnectedness in Indigenous worldviews.

For example, they are described in Cree and Michif as *miyo wahkootawin* (kinship networks), in Lakota as *mitakuye oyasin* (All My Relations), and in Inuktitut as *ilagiit* (kindred).

# The Ten Typologies of Indigenous Homelessness:

- 1) *Historic Displacement Homelessness*
- 2) *Contemporary Geographic Separation Homelessness*
- 3) *Mental Disruption and Imbalance Homelessness*
- 4) *Cultural Disintegration and Loss Homelessness*
- 5) *Spiritual Disconnection Homelessness*
- 6) *Overcrowding Homelessness*
- 7) *Relocation and Mobility Homelessness*
- 8) *Escaping or Evading Harm Homelessness*
- 9) *Nowhere to Go Homelessness*
- 10) *Emergency Crisis Homelessness*