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Placement Site: Habitat for Humanity ReStore (Sudbury District)

Shelter: A Right or a Privilege?

Abstract

This essay explores the role Habitat for Humanity has assumed in our community. It uses a methodology based on issues raised at the micro level at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore (Sudbury District) and extrapolates these to the macro level of Canada. The issue that this essay focuses on is to question why the universal human right of shelter is not yet a civil right within our country. Informed by historical literature, Senate reports, and current legislation, it questions the need for Habitat for Humanity in a country that purports to support human rights. It seeks to shed light on the reality of the current housing crisis and to open up a dialogue regarding the practices that shape housing policies in Canada. It concludes with the hope that Canada and the Canadian people will recognize shelter as a civic right. By doing so, new legislation with policies to meet the current lack of affordable housing, shelter, would address the current and future needs of the Canadian people.