

P055 – Housing Resource Centre fonds
1986-1999
2.4 lm of textual records

Administrative History: The Housing Resource Centre (Crisis Housing Liaison) (HRC-CHL) was an organization active in the Sudbury-Manitoulin District. Established in 1986 under the name Crisis Housing, it was renamed to Housing Resource Centre in 1996.

The organization's primary task was to maintain a computerized database of real estate vacancy listings for members of the Housing Resource Centre, information which was provided by both housing cooperatives and landlords in the local area. In addition to this service the HRC advocated for an increased supply of decent and affordable housing in the Sudbury Region. It also assisted tenants in defending their rights through a combination of advocacy, education, and support to tenants hoping to form tenants' associations.

The HRC joined the Sudbury United Way in 1991, but also worked with a variety of other groups including the United Tenants of Ontario (UTOO), Laurentian Off-Campus Student Housing, Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), and Neighbourhood Action Project of Sudbury (NAPOS). It was also connected to the Unicorn Non-Profit Homes, Inc., an affiliated but separate organization that sought the construction of 60 unites of affordable housing in Sudbury.

The HRC was active in pursuing a variety of provincial grants through the Ministry of Housing, such as the Trillium Grant and Partners in Housing program, to help fund its operations. In addition to grants the HRC ran numerous charity events such as bingo, 50-50 draws, Nevada Tickets, car washes, and other volunteer driven events within the local community.

Organizationally, the HRC consisted of a 7 member Board of Directors with the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, which took in reports from 5 sub-committees: finance, publicity, policy, emergency shelter, personnel, and fundraising. There were usually four job titles for employees: Housing Registry Coordinator (built registry), outreach worker (frontline community interaction); intake counsellor; administrative assistant. Some job titles were altered through the years and the employees were represented by Mine Mill Local 598 CAW until being decertified in 1997. The organization also had members-at-large and volunteers.

In 1996 provincial funding for many projects was withdrawn, beginning a chronic budget problem for the HRC. In 1999 the Board of Directors voted to dissolve the organization and merged with the Canadian Red Cross Society of Sudbury.

Scope and Content: the fonds consists of correspondence, memorandums, minutes, financial reports, press releases, news clippings, government documents, personnel files, and statistical reports.

The fonds attests to the different activities and realisations of the organisation. It also informs us of the housing and accommodations of the Sudbury regional municipalities during the period of the HRC's activity, as well as the needs of the community in these areas. Further importance is given to the financial and organizational struggles of non-profit and non-governmental

organizations throughout the 1990s, as well as changes in government programs. The HRC's initial mandate did not cover the advocacy and support activities that it would later undertake, but its frontline contact with homeless peoples allowed for observations on the cycle of homelessness in the context of North Ontario.

Note: Immediate source of acquisition: fonds was received in 2000

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Accruals: no more accrual expected

Finding Aid: Fonds is not processed, No finding aid available