

PRO-LIFE: POVERTY, HOMELESSNESS, MENTAL HEALTH, ADDICTIONS

POVERTY

What does the government say? <https://news.gov.bc.ca/factsheets/working-together-to-prevent-homelessness?fbclid=IwAR0iLU6Qg6X4p-0CC5ZKOyx4djNWYBKgk0UAdX-iRPD2F02El-qDCn6VW7s>

Prayer for Homeless, Poor, and Unemployed

<https://www.facebook.com/.../prayer.../10155279958833706/>

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future". Jeremiah 29:11

I pray and plead through the Blood of Jesus Christ for all the homeless people, for all broken families, for all unemployed, for all the women and children who are alone without any help, for all the animals who are homeless and sick, for all the sick people who are suffering, for all the old people, for all the people who are affected by wars, natural disasters, for all the broken marriages, the victims of various circumstances, for all the poor people, for all the Job operating Companies/Industries for which their business have hurt due to bad economy.

May the blood of Jesus Christ cleanse my sins as well as their sins so that they might be healed and their prayers will be answered without any hindrances. May the precious Blood of Jesus Christ protect them from all evils and guide them and give them strength, hope, comfort, healing, peace, prosperity, and Good health. I call forth, in the Name of Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes for their lives and their families. Lord Jesus Christ, I pray that you will have mercy on them and deliver each one of them in their times of trouble. I surrender all the above people to you, knowing that they will be very safe in your hands.

Lord Jesus, I ask you to bless me and every person I have prayed for today and every day and send Your mighty angels to protect all of us in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen!

(by Shaila D Touchton)

HOMELESSNESS

Food for the homelessness: <https://en.goodtimes.my/2017/09/28/little-girl-gives-food-homeless-man-days-later-get-phone-call/>

Poverty Reduction Recommendations to BC Government

This report reflects the voices of people from B.C. who participated in the poverty reduction consultation. They brought forward a wide range of experiences, ideas, opinions, comments, and suggestions about how we can reduce poverty, reduce barriers, and build a better B.C.
<https://www.homelesshub.ca/.../what-we-learned-about...>

Poverty Awareness - Adoration

<http://www.catholicdigest.com/.../natio.../pro-life-prayers/>

Prayer for Life From St. John Paul II

O Mary,
bright dawn of the new world,
Mother of the living,
to you do we entrust the cause of life
Look down, O Mother,
upon the vast numbers
of babies not allowed to be born,
of the poor whose lives are made difficult,
of men and women
who are victims of brutal violence,
of the elderly and the sick killed
by indifference or out of misguided mercy.
Grant that all who believe in your Son
may proclaim the Gospel of life
with honesty and love
to the people of our time.
Obtain for them the grace
to accept that Gospel
as a gift ever new,
the joy of celebrating it with gratitude
throughout their lives
and the courage to bear witness to it
resolutely, in order to build,
together with all people of goodwill,
the civilization of truth and love,
to the praise and glory of God,
the Creator and lover of life.
Evangelium Vitae, The Gospel of Life, 105; Source: Vatican.va

MENTAL HEALTH

What does the Canadian Mental Health Association of BC say?

<https://cmha.bc.ca/.../cmha-bc-outlines-24-poverty.../>

Poverty Awareness: Homelessness, Mental Health, Addiction

Kamloops Community Meals

https://www.kamloops.ca/.../scd_mealslist_14x8-5_may2018...

POVERTY AWARENESS: HOMELESSNESS, MENTAL HEALTH, ADDICTION

There is a complex two-way relationship between both mental health and substance use and poverty as the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) highlights in their submission¹ to the government's poverty reduction consultation:

- People living in poverty face an increased risk of experiencing stress and trauma, which has a strong correlation with mental illness and problematic substance use – economic security is a key determinant of mental health and wellbeing.²

The relationship between poverty, mental health, and substance use is even more complex for people who experience additional forms of social exclusion or marginalization:

- People experiencing mental illness and/or substance use are at an increased risk of living in poverty because of stigma, discrimination, social exclusion, additional healthcare costs, and barriers to employment.
- An adequate standard of living is a critical necessity to support the recovery of a person experiencing mental health or substance use-related illness.
- Indigenous people grappling with the impacts of intergenerational trauma and the ongoing consequences of colonization face disproportionate rates of poverty, mental illness and problematic substance use.³

The consequences of the relationship between poverty, mental health, and substance use are profound for people directly impacted:

- The impacts of stigma, discrimination, cultural interference, and poverty are deeply intertwined.
- Over 50% of people designated as a “persons with disabilities” under the Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act have a mental health or substance use-related diagnosis.⁴
- Many more are likely relying on regular income assistance.
- As many as 90% of people with serious mental illness are unemployed.⁵
- Despite having lower rates of heavy drinking, people experiencing poverty are

more likely to be hospitalized for reasons entirely connected to alcohol (possibly due to the increased stress, social isolation, and lack of resources).⁶

Sources:

1 https://cmha.bc.ca/.../CMHABC_PovertyReductionSubmission...,

2 Shane Darke, “Pathways to heroin dependence: Time to re-appraise self-medication” (2012)

Addiction 108 at 659–667; Michelle Funk et al, “Mental health, poverty and development” (2012) Journal of Public Mental Health 11:4 at 166–185.

3 First Nations Health Authority, A Path Forward: BC First Nations and Aboriginal People’s Mental Wellness and Substance Use – 10 year Plan (December 2012).

4 Data provided by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction to the Supporting Increased Participation table.

5 Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development, and the Status of Persons with Disabilities, Breaking the Cycle: A Study on Poverty Reduction (May 2017).

6 Canadian Institute for Health Information, Alcohol Harm in Canada: Examining Hospitalizations Entirely Caused by Alcohol and Strategies to Reduce Alcohol Harm (2017).