
TORONTO DISASTER RELIEF COMMITTEE

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Achievements for 2006

- ≡ Throughout 2006 - Ongoing involvement with both the National Housing and Homelessness Network (NHHN) and the National Coalition on Housing and Homelessness. This includes the expansion of both organizations and ongoing messaging and analysis of housing developments.
- ≡ Monthly throughout 2006 - TDRC raises the issue of homeless deaths through monthly vigils at the Church of the Holy Trinity. In 2006 the memorial count reaches 500. TDRC is asked by the Toronto Public Health to join a committee to review the escalating death rate and lack of accountable structures to track homeless deaths.
- ≡ January 2006 – TDRC co-sponsors and takes part in two federal election forums to raise housing and homelessness as key national issues.
- ≡ January 2006 – TDRC takes part in events, including a rally at the City's Homelessness Advisory Committee, and a media campaign to demand the City of Toronto provide \$500,000 for healthy meals at 43 city drop-in programs.
- ≡ February 2006 – Cathy Crowe of TDRC speaks about street nursing and homelessness as part of International Women's Week in Ottawa at the Canadian Museum of Civilization. This is part of the Museum's special exhibit on the history of nursing which includes Cathy's outreach knapsack and materials about housing and homelessness. Over 130,000 people visit the display.
- ≡ March 2006 – TDRC members are in the budget lock-up and criticize the Ontario Government's decision to give only a two percent raise to the Ontario Disability Support Program and Ontario Works (welfare) rates.
- ≡ TDRC speaks out against Homelessness Advisory Committee former chair Jane Pitfield in her efforts to criminalize panhandling. TDRC organizes against her efforts to introduce a motion at Council and provides human rights arguments against the proposed bylaw.
- ≡ July – TDRC members Michael Shapcott and Cathy Crowe meet with UN Special Rapporteur on Housing Miloon Kothari and discuss the particular local needs of homeless women and children
- ≡ Summer and fall 2006 – TDRC spearheads a campaign called *Cool Toronto* to urge the City of Toronto to open more cooling centres and develop a three-point plan to avert deaths of homeless and under-housed people during heat alerts. In November, TDRC sponsors a community meeting on heat, in conjunction with Ryerson university students, to explore plans for the upcoming 2007 summer.

- ≡ September 2006 – TDRC wins the Douglas Coldwell award for the One Percent Solution campaign, which effectively demonstrates Tommy Douglas’ vision for Canada.
- ≡ Fall to winter 2006 – TDRC plays a key role, with the Canadian Auto Workers, in the successful national campaign to renew the federal housing program (Supporting Community Partnerships Initiatives).
- ≡ October 2006 – TDRC organizes a successful tour of New York City to demonstrate that the “tough love” approach to homelessness increasingly being adopted by Toronto is not reducing homelessness in NYC
- ≡ November 2006 – TDRC holds a car rally with help from Ryerson University students, CAW members and other activists in western and downtown Toronto to draw attention to homelessness and the need for the One Percent Solution