

We are TUHU

The Toronto Underhoused
and Homeless Union



May 29, 2026

Who Are We?

As people who experience homelessness and insecure housing, we know what we need to improve our lives and end homelessness, but we are rarely listened to and our opinions are not valued.

We are a union! Building collective power through the participation of all our members. Building alternative power within private and government institutions and systems.

We have lived experience in homelessness and underhousing! Our membership is made up of people who have experienced homelessness. Many of us have been on the streets or are residents in encampments, respites, or shelters. Others are underhoused, living in transitional housing, RGI housing, or are tenants facing hostile building conditions and/or hostile landlords or building staff.

How We Work

- Over TUHU 300 members and counting (pledges, no fees, participation)
- 15 people on Executive Board (6 month commitment, can run again)
- 3 new staff this year for TUHU!
- General Meeting attendance is 20-50 people (once a month)
- Shelter/ drop-in chapters meet weekly/ as needed
- Setting up TUHU stations in drop-in programs for people to engage, learn, and organize
- Doing consistent outreach (shelters, encampments, and specific places where people are.

What Does TUHU Do?

TUHU members work together to amplify our stories, as our **stories are the catalyst for change**.

We organize around issues that matter to us. The big stuff (changing systems) and the day to day (improvements to daily life) **all matters to us.**

We Organize **where** unhoused people are, and around **what** they actually care about

We share resources and advocate **for and with** each other

We provide opportunities to **capacity build and educate** with people often overlooked and underestimated

The collective work of TUHU helps us go from feeling powerless in the system, to **finding our power, and collective voice.**

We are nimble and can have a **rapid response** approach to community concerns

We never organize against each other!
Building unity is key to the revolution we need



Brief History:

Founding:

We had our first meeting on May 23, 2023.

Our General Meetings take place at 40 Oak Street.

First chapter was in Allan Gardens:

- Connected water / meals during extreme heat
- Constructed community bulletin board
- Held self-defence classes at St Lukes
- Collected issues in relation to changing residency composition at Allan Gardens
- Our first 60+ members were almost entirely from Allen Gardens encampment

Events, Consultations and Projects

EVENTS:

People's Assembly
for Housing Justice

Housing For
Whom? Campaign
and Press
Conference

Participating in
Community
Events

Rally and City Hall
Deputations
around new
shelters

CONSULTATIONS:

Consultants with
City of Toronto/
TSSS

Meeting with
Mayor's office

Consultants to
Federal Housing
Advocate

Consultations
with City
Councillors and
MPPs

PROJECTS:

Union Station
brutality and
displacement

Alternative
Shelter
Complaints
Process

Shelter For Every
Body Campaign

Mobilizing other
homeless unions

Current Chapters

Maxwell Meighen Chapter

- Started in 2024
- Regular meetings/outreach presence
- Surveys, data collection,
- 1:1 advocacy
- First win: Shower Curtains!
- Building our power from there

Finding: the mere presence of holds the shelter accountable

- 40+ members and counting

Dundas/Sherbourne Chapter

All Saints Church - Community Centre

- Started January 2026
- Weekly table presence
- Started workshops - high engagement (30+ participants)
 - New exciting ideas being generated!
- 25+ members and counting.

Parkdale Chapter

Parkdale Activity and Recreation Centre (PARC)

- Ongoing since Fall of 2025
- Regular presence and tabling
- Shared information and built rapport with regulars.
- 15+ members and counting.

Urgent Focus: Displacement And Brutality during FIFA

FIFA and Union Station displacement - Spring 2026

- Our immediate focus right now - urgent!
- Investigated and confirmed reports on increased harmful and violent displacement of people experiencing homelessness
- Provided outreach supplies, including food, beverages, clothing, and harm reduction supplies
- TUHU Report and raising awareness persists

FIFA and displacement – Unhoused people at Union Station need support and protection from violence and displacement at the hands of security and police

Accountability of Shelter System:

The current complaints process in the shelter system is not accessible, and is only accountable to itself.

We must see this changed!

We seek to build a TUHU shelter complaints process different from the current shelter- and city-run complaints process.

TUHU has begun some basic research, surveying shelter residents around their experience of the shelter system, as compared to TSSS regulations and standards. Our findings so far are staggering.

Rapid Housing Options are an Urgent Need

We are failing at prioritizing immediate, dignified, rapid housing options.

Unhoused people are getting stuck in the shelter system and there is no way out. TUHU is exploring the advancement of these options.

Partners and Allies so far...

Tenant Unions (PA connections)

Comprised of allies York South - Weston Tenant Union and Climate Justice Toronto.

Grassroots Community Groups

SHJN , 230 Fightback, etc
Neighbourhood community organization near All Saints.

The SHIFT

Digital partners operating globally to fight poverty and homelessness.

Maytree Foundation

Core networking group connecting us with many allied groups
Funder for our staff

Front Line Service Providers

TNG,
Neighborhood community organization near Queen and Dundas.

What we need from you!

Suggestion for opportunities to help **build the power of TUHU**

City Hall is not accessible for people who experience homelessness. **We need help navigating to matters that concern us at City Hall**

Capacity Building opportunities for TUHU members

We ask for help with connections to **Funding Sources**

Include Homeless people in decision making. We want decisions to be made by people experiencing homelessness from both inside and outside city-run committees

Thank you!

Any questions or comments?