

13 year anniversary for TDRC this month! 13 reasons we should keep TDRC going!

Can you give 1 loonie for each of our 13 years? That's only \$13 dollars.

Toronto Disaster Relief Committee was founded exactly 13 years ago this month by 13 colleagues - front-line workers, a lawyer, an academic, a Bay Street financial expert, a street nurse, a retired Member of Parliament, an Anglican priest, a progressive developer and people who had experienced homelessness. We met in Toronto in a small, bare meeting room at Sherbourne and Dundas to launch a bold plan. Our purpose - to declare homelessness a national disaster!

Over the ensuing 4 months we researched and wrote the '**State of Emergency Declaration**' which led to the declaration that homelessness was a national disaster. We organized locally and nationally. Across the country city councils, community organizations, prominent and regular Canadians including homeless people themselves agreed with us and endorsed the declaration. In October 1998 we released the '**State of Emergency Declaration**' to proclaim **Homelessness a National Disaster**:

<http://tdrc.net/uploads/file/1998background.pdf>

For the first time in Canadian history homelessness was catapulted to the forefront of Canadians' collective consciousness. It remained a front page story in Canada's largest newspaper The Toronto Star for 13 straight days.

Although Toronto based, our work has **always affected** the entire country and has made public policy history. Consider this small sample:

- *the announcement of a new federal program for homelessness relief (SCPI now called HPI) that provided over \$1billion dollars to communities across the country
- *the opening of hundreds of shelter beds including new family shelters;
- *the creation of emergency shelter and outreach programs during cold weather and extreme heat alerts
- *attention and funding for better health and outreach programs including improved and expanded tuberculosis programs
- *the pilot rent supplement program for Toronto's Tent City residents
- *monitoring, exposing and responding to the endemic nature of homeless deaths

I could go on an on. In fact, we have just placed '9 metres of textual material' in the City of Toronto Archives that tells our 13 year story.

13 Reasons to give 13 loonies

1. \$13 will allow us to survive in this hostile political climate
2. \$13 will allow us to form strong alliances and work in coalition

3. \$13 will allow us to focus on advocacy
4. \$13 will allow us to continue to play a lead role in the Charter Challenge
5. \$13 will allow us to continue to respond to local emergencies
6. \$13 will allow us to sponsor public forums on current issues
7. \$13 will allow us to provide honorariums to involve homeless people
8. \$13 will allow us to continue to stay involved in the Homeless Memorial
9. \$13 will allow us to keep our communication system alert and responsive
10. \$13 will allow us to maintain our website
11. \$13 will allow us to pay our phone bill and our back taxes
12. \$13 will allow us to purchase necessary admin and outreach supplies
13. \$13 will allow us to keep fighting for a national housing program

Donations

Please make a cheque for \$13 payable to:

Toronto Disaster Relief Committee
TDRC, PO Box 662
31 Adelaide St. East,
Toronto, ON,
M5C 2J8

Advocacy means no tax receipt.

Thanks!!

Cathy Crowe, Street Nurse

torontodisasterrelief@gmail.com

www.tdrc.net