

310 Division Street Community Liaison Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 5, 2026

Time: 5pm - 7pm

Location: Committee Room A, 555 Courthouse Road, Cobourg

Attendees

Facilitators:

- Beth Bellaire, CLC Chair

Community Members:

- Daniel Gaito
- Liz Greaves
- Sheri Syer
- Catherine White
- Donna Pogue
- Rob James
- Chloe Craig
- Theresa Rickerby
- Rev. Ruth Wilkinson

County Representatives:

- Rebecca Snelgrove
- Bill Smith

Delegates:

- Christian Harvey, Interim Executive Director, 310 Division Street
- Shawn Senecal, NHH Community Mental Health (virtual)
- Janice Byer, Cobourg Police Services (virtual)
- Tracey Tink, DBIA

Guests:

- Dan Borowec, Northumberland County CAO

Regrets:

- Meaghan Macdonald, Board Chair, 310 Division Street
- Emma Taylor, Northumberland Hills Hospital Community Mental Health (maternity leave)
- Krystyne Gillispie
- Carolyn Rutherford, Community Health Centres of Northumberland, CLC Vice-Chair
- Erisa Katono
- Raeanne Deschamps

Meeting called to Order

- Meeting called to order by CLC Chair

Acknowledgement

- Selected CLC member provided the land acknowledgment

Meeting Objectives & Agenda Overview

- Updates from 310 Division and the County – Christian Harvey, Bill Smith; Rebecca Snelgrove
- Subcommittee updates with key action items
 - Education & Awareness – Catherine White
 - Communications – Beth Bellaire for Erisa Katono
- Minutes from April CLC meeting approved

Shelter Updates

- See attached 310 Division Progress Report for April 2026
- Shelter capacity is 46 beds effective March 2026 (initial capacity was 35 beds which was increased to 40 beds in January 2026)
- The shelter community comprises: 32 residents from Cobourg; 7 residents from Port Hope; and the balance of residents being from other locations within the county
- Number of shelter turn-away occurrences over last 6 months: Nov – 45, Dec – 52, Jan – 85, Feb – 93, Mar – 45, Apr – 106
- Residential property landlord in Northumberland County notified the shelter of available rental units; 2 clients housed in April as a result
- With the improved weather has come an increase in community member concerns reported to the shelter
- Shelter BBQ taking place on May 20 from Noon to 2:00 pm, open to the community

County Updates

- Dan Borowec, the new CAO of Northumberland County, attended this meeting as a guest to observe/gain insight into the CLC operation and activities
- George Street resident concerns – Bill responded; provided his contact information but has not received a reply from this community member
- Warming room data for 2026 – 172 unique people accessed this resource; status report will be provided to Social Services Committee in June together with recommendations for future such arrangements, and a housing and homelessness plan
- Victoria Hall in Cobourg – no recent loitering concerns reported
- Ongoing, Intentional outreach efforts with Community Paramedicine have been extended into the parks, the Grafton foodbank, and the breakfast program in Cobourg, to locate and connect with people in need of support; ODSP workers are going out with county outreach workers as well

Community Feedback & Group Education

- N/A

Subcommittee Updates

- **Subcommittee – Communications**
 - Update on April newsletter not available for this meeting
 - Reconsideration of newsletter frequency to be discussed – every 2nd month or quarterly may be more manageable than the current monthly schedule
 - CLC Facebook link now available on Northumberland County website

- **Subcommittee – Education and Awareness**
 - Subcommittee met on April 24, 2026, to further confirm details of upcoming events:
 - May 8 – Christian will speak (Catherine White will introduce him) at the Men’s Breakfast gathering in Grafton
 - May 8 – Come Together Northumberland event at the Cobourg Community Centre; open to public from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; 39 organizations will be in attendance; CLC will have a table attended by subcommittee members who will answer questions and at which editions of The Bulletin will be made available, the affordable housing banner and A Day in the Life posters will be displayed
 - May 25 – DBIA event at Trinity United Church in Cobourg from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.; flyer advertising event and questionnaire for discussion topics were distributed to association members; final details to be confirmed at May subcommittee meeting
 - May 29 – Community Health Centre (Port Hope) staff training day from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.; Carolyn Rutherford has arranged an opportunity for Christian to speak at this event and information on the CLC and the A Day in the Life exercise will be made available to attendees
 - Next subcommittee meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2026

Unfinished Business

- N/A

Final Discussion & Next Steps

- Next CLC meeting scheduled for June 2, 2026
- Review of CLC progress to date on 2026 goals: periodic newsletter called The Bulletin launched; Facebook page established and maintained (62 followers) and a link is available on the Northumberland County website; the scheduling of one speaking engagement per month has been exceeded; DBIA meeting is proceeding in May 2026; homelessness awareness banner/lawn signs in community – lawn signs paused but an affordable housing banner (see attached image) has been created (in collaboration with the Northumberland Community Legal Centre) for display at presentations, events and in public spaces within the county; will be on regular display at the Legal Centre when not in rotation; A Day in the Life exercise was developed; commenced discussions with the Trent University Community Research Centre regarding the potential arrangement for a student researcher to help inform ongoing CLC outreach and awareness efforts pertaining to the shelter, warming room and homelessness in the county



Closing Remarks & Adjournment

- Acknowledgement and thanks to all in attendance

TRANSITION HOUSE CLC REPORT

April, 2026

Unique Individuals Served:	Average Occupancy:	Number of Turn Aways:	Service Restrictions:	Residents Over 50 years old:
54	45.6	106	2	27

Good News:

- 2 residents were housed
- 3 residents supported in receiving ID
- 1 resident completed treatment
- 2 supported in gaining employment
- 3 supported in completing their taxes
- Service restrictions are continually low
- Engagement in the Resident Advisory Committee has continued to increase.
- We have hired a cook to prepare meals and to train residents in basic meals as well as employment readiness

Organizations Present in the Shelter

- Hope and Light- Food and Programming
- OATC- Addiction Treatment
- County Outreach- System Navigation
- ODSP-Income Support
- Salvation Army- Food
- Divine Catering- Food
- ACTT- Medication and Health Supports
- Paramedicine- Health Care
- M-HEART- Mental Health
- Northumberland Hills Hospital- Health

Neighbourhood Connections

- Concerns in the neighbourhood are increasing with the warm weather.
- We have made some adjustments to try and mitigate concerns of 18 Chapel St.
 - Adjusted lights

- Different smoking areas
- Concern about residents sitting on front porch of 10 Chapel St. and playing guitar during the day.
- Concern of residents being on the sidewalk in front of 310 blocking line of sight of driveway. Residents have been asked to not be on sidewalk as much.
- Concern from George St. resident regarding lack of security patrolling and people doing drugs and defecating in the area. An email was sent explaining that the shelter does not oversee neighbourhood security patrols and offering to meet in person.
- Neighbour inquiry regarding the daily routine of residents. Emphasized they have no complaints about the shelter

Trends and Concerns:

- 47 unique individuals turned away
 - Of those, only 16 actually were able to get a bed eventually
 - 32 were unable to get a bed
 - At least 8 had staid at the Warming Room
 - At least 16 are sleeping outside
 - At least 15 are couch surfing
 - 15 were homeless as a result of family breakdown
 - 4 were sleeping in their car
 - 6 were homeless out of jail
 - 5 from out of the area

HOUSING SHOULDN'T COST EVERYTHING.

What is the cost of living in our community?

Average monthly cost and the income needed for it to be considered affordable

 <p>one bedroom/studio rental \$1,700 income required \$68,000/year</p>	 <p>minimum wage income \$32,032/year untaxed</p>
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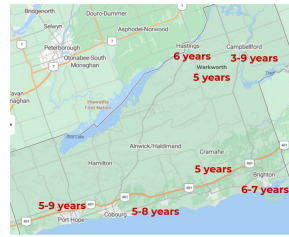
If you earn minimum wage, how far does your take-home pay go?

Can you afford to wait to be able to move into a rent-geared-to-income unit?

monthly take-home \$2,249

- rent including utilities **-\$1,700**
- transportation cost of a bus pass **-\$65**
- food cost of a nutritious food basket as calculated by Lakehead's Public Health **-\$428**

leaving \$56 to pay for: cell phone, clothing, medication, internet, insurance, savings, repairs, birthdays, haircuts, household items, RRSP/RESP, child care and pets



*Based on the wait times reported on the County's website <https://northumberland.ca/en/section/housing-and-affordable-housing/>

Could you still afford your housing if your life circumstances changed or you had a significant expense?

 <p>REEMPLANT</p> <p>Loss of employment or taking a new job that pays less</p>	 <p>Injury or illness that impacts your ability to earn income full time</p>	 <p>Necessary home repairs such as furnace, roofing, plumbing</p>	 <p>End of a relationship, death of a partner or roommate moves out</p>
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What can you do?

- ✓ **Learn** about the affordable housing in your community and how you can support more being built.
- ✓ **Remember** that the shortage of affordable housing is being felt Canada-wide. It is not unique to Northumberland County.
- ✓ **Support** organizations that improve access to affordable housing. Donate your time, resources, voice.
- ✓ **Understand** that experiencing homelessness is a failure of policy, not persons.

**For more information, please contact:
the Legal Centre (905) 373-4464
the Affordable Housing Committee at anhousingcommittee@gmail.com**

Produced in partnership



Northumberland Community Liaison Committee

To learn more about how we arrived at these figures, please use the QR link visit the legal centre website

