

2025 Housing Symposium

From Crisis, to Commitment



Request for Submissions for Speakers

Issued By: The Housing and Homelessness Partnership, United Way Maritimes & Nova Scotia Non-Profit Housing Association (NSNPHA)

Event Theme/Title: “From Crisis to Commitment”

Event Date: October 20, 2025

Location: Atlantica Hotel at 1980 Robie St, Halifax, NS B3H 3G5

Submission Deadline: July 10, 2025



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Introduction

The Housing Symposium is an annual event supported by the Halifax Housing and Homelessness Partnership and organized by the United Way Maritimes and the Nova Scotia Non-Profit Housing Association. In previous years, the Housing Symposium focused on housing and homelessness in Halifax Regional Municipality but has since expanded to cover all of Nova Scotia and related issues across the Maritimes. The event provides industry leaders, policymakers, community advocates, and housing professionals the opportunity to network with over 300 delegates and gain insights into current best practices, emerging trends, challenges, and solutions related to affordable housing and homelessness in the region.

This year, we are pleased to seek proposals from prospective speakers and presenters who can share their skills, experiences and insights to ensure the event is inclusive, representative of regional perspectives, and provides valuable learning opportunities for attendees.

Symposium Theme & Topics

The theme for the Housing Symposium 2025 is “From Crisis to Commitment”. With your esteemed background and significant achievements, we are confident that your insights would greatly enrich our event and provide meaningful value to our audience. We would be honoured if you could share your extensive knowledge and unique perspectives that resonate with this year’s theme. Your participation would enhance the discussions and inspire and engage attendees eager to learn from leaders in the field. We look forward to the possibility of having you join us in this important dialogue.

We are seeking dynamic speakers just like you to address any of the following key topics that align with the symposium’s theme and objectives

- Innovative housing development and financing models
- Policy and regulatory frameworks impacting the housing sector, specifically affordable housing
- Community-led housing initiatives
- Sustainable design, energy efficiency in housing, and eco-friendly housing solutions.
- Addressing homelessness and supportive housing solutions
- Equity, diversity, and inclusion in housing
- Public-private partnerships and funding opportunities
- Affordable housing strategies and innovations.
- Technological advancements in housing design and construction.
- Addressing homelessness, housing inequality, and social equity.
- Global trends and best practices in housing development.



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Speaker Eligibility & Qualifications

We welcome proposals from:

- Housing and urban development experts
- Policy analysts and government representatives
- Community leaders and non-profit organizations
- Academics and researchers in housing and social policy
- Developers and architects specializing in affordable housing
- Professionals with lived experience in housing advocacy

Presentation Formats

We are accepting proposals for:

- Keynote presentations (45-60 minutes)
- Panel discussions (45-60 minutes)
- Breakout sessions or workshops (45-60 minutes)
- Fireside chats or case study presentations (30-45 minutes)

Scope of Work

A. Proposal Submission Requirements

Interested speakers should submit a proposal including:

1. A Presentation title and topic that aligns with the symposium's theme and addresses the interests of the target audience (e.g., housing professionals, policymakers, academics, and industry stakeholders).
2. Provide a title and abstract of the presentation for inclusion in the symposium program and promotional materials. (250-500 words summarizing the presentation)
3. A brief speaker bio & qualifications (250 words max) for promotional purposes
4. Speaker headshot (high resolution)
5. Previous speaking engagements that are familiar to this event (if applicable)
6. Preferred presentation format (PDF, PowerPoint, etc.)
7. Audio/visual or technical requirements
8. Availability on October 20th (if not planning to attend the whole event)

B. Deliverables

1. A well-prepared and engaging keynote speech or panel discussion.
2. Presentation materials (e.g., slides, handouts, or visual aids) submitted at least **one (1) month before** the event for review and preparation.
3. Active participation in Q&A and networking sessions.
4. Provide a post-event summary or key takeaways.



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C. Technical Execution

1. Arrive at the venue at least 30 minutes before the presentation.
2. Adhere to the event schedule and time limits to maintain the symposium's flow.

D. Post-Event Responsibilities

- Follow-Up Materials
 - Provide a brief written summary (i.e., abstract) and key takeaways from the presentation for distribution to attendees or publication on the symposium's website.
 - Willingness to share any additional resources (e.g., reports, articles, or links) referenced during the presentation.
- Media and Publicity
 - Indicate your willingness to conduct pre- and/or post-event interviews with the media or symposium organizers, if requested.
 - Indicate your willingness to allow the use of your presentation recording, photos, and materials for post-event publicity and archival purposes.
- Feedback and Evaluation
 - Provide feedback on the event experience to help improve future symposiums.

Submission Process

Please email proposals to sarah.flemming@unitedwaymaritimes.ca and bryanna@nsnpha.com with the subject line "RFP Submission—Housing Symposium 2025." The deadline for submissions is **July 10, 2025**. Selected speakers will be notified by **August 29, 2025**.

Compensation & Benefits

Selected speakers may receive an honorarium, travel reimbursement, and complimentary event registration. Details will be discussed upon selection.



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Contact Information

For questions or additional information about the theme and topics, please contact **Sarah Flemming** (Rural Affordable Housing Advisor, UWM) and **Bryanna Zwicker** (Program Membership Coordinator, NSNPHA) at the email addresses above.

We eagerly anticipate the opportunity to review your proposals as we collaborate to develop a dynamic and impactful Housing Symposium 2025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Hooper".

Kevin Hooper

Director, Affordable Housing, United Way Maritimes
kevin.hooper@unitedwaymaritime.ca