

Housing and homelessness: Adding up the costs; counting the benefits



What starts in the housing sector doesn't stay in the housing sector! The U.S. subprime mortgage crisis has dragged down that country, and shaken the global economy. It's time to take stock here in Toronto, Ontario and Canada. With a recession looming, what are the costs for people and for our economy of the ongoing housing crisis? What are the solutions? Can housing solutions benefit not just the poor and homeless, but also deliver jobs and other boosts to the economy?

Gordon Laird, former Media Fellow at the Sheldon Chumir Foundation for Ethics in Leadership, completed ground-breaking research in 2007 on the costs of homelessness in Canada – putting the annual price tag at as much as \$6 billion. The Wellesley Institute is pleased to join with the Chumir Foundation in sponsoring his presentation at this community forum. Gordon Laird will set out his economic and policy analysis. **Michael Shapcott** of the Wellesley Institute will set out the latest issues on the political horizon. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion. Everyone is welcome – no admission fee. Download "Homelessness in a growth economy" at www.chumirethicsfoundation.ca.

*Friday, February 8, 2008 * 9 to 11.30 a.m.*
The 519 Church Street Community Centre
519 Church Street (north of Wellesley, take the TTC to Wellesley Station)