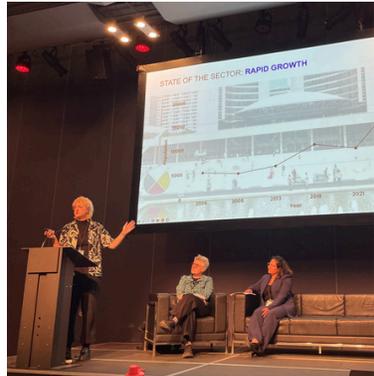




TORONTO
DROP-IN
NETWORK

Mid-Year Results Report 2025-26

TDIN - 00005574



*working towards
a socially-just Toronto
which is safe, healthy,
and inclusive for all*



Toronto Shelter & Support Services
City of Toronto



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Who We Are

The Toronto Drop-In Network is an active coalition of drop-in centres throughout the City of Toronto that work with people who are homeless, marginally housed, or socially isolated.

Our Network includes drop-ins of all sizes, and with a diversity of philosophies that serve men, women, transgender and non-binary adults, youth, and seniors.

TDIN associate membership includes organizations that provide outreach and other allied services to people who are homeless, marginally housed, or socially isolated.

Our Vision

To work toward a socially-just Toronto which is safe, healthy, and inclusive.

Our Mission

To enhance the capacity of Toronto's network of drop-in centres to improve the quality of life of people who participate in their services.

Quantitative Results

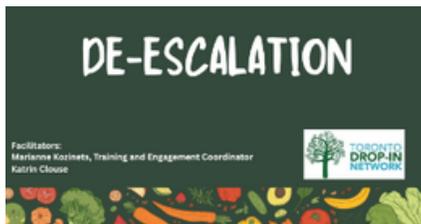
Reporting Data

SPECIFIC SYSTEM-WIDE SUPPORTS

	Mid-Year Targets	Mid-Year Actuals	Year -End Targets	Year-End Actuals
# of Members in Sector Network	50	53	50	
# of Workshops, Consultations, Resources, Research Reports Completed	23	235	46	
# of Staff who completed Sector Training	140	535	280	

CATAGORICAL ENGAGEMENT

	Mid-Year Actuals
# of Workshops	31
# of Consultations	74
# of Resources	129
# Research Reports	1



QUOTES

from training
workshop
participants

“The course was casual yet filled with real lived experience and very useful information. I thought it was well put together; a great partnership bridging the gap from user to support and road of recovery”

“I thought this training was very informative and for the first time in a long time I took something away from a training. I loved the component of hearing from those with lived experience. The facilitator was very knowledgeable and patient with the participants. It was interesting, and enlightening. Overall, it was a great training”

Qualitative Results

System-Wide Supports

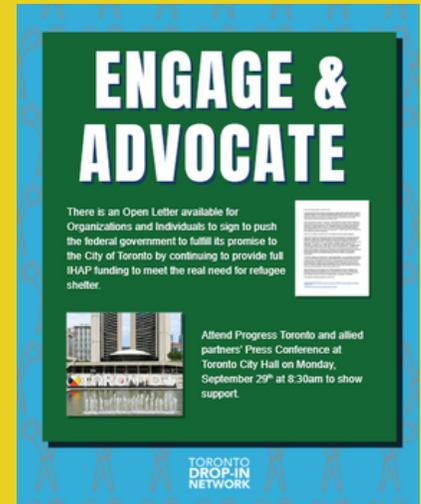
TDIN was instrumental in supporting a range of sector-wide initiatives that addressed the interconnected challenges of disability, climate justice, healthcare and poverty. Through its advocacy and coordination efforts, TDIN has improved access to services and resources while strengthening the capacity of drop-in centers across the city.

MPP COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

TDIN coordinated discussion forums at three drop-in sites with engaged Members of Provincial Parliament. Drop-in participants shared their concerns and ideas with their respective representatives, asking for action and accountability.

ADVOCACY

in the
community



collaborating with
allied agencies and
community members



MPP meetings with the
community at drop-ins
from our Network.

System-Wide Supports

ACCESSIBILITY INCLUSION

One of TDIN's key areas of focus in Q1 was improving access to disability supports. TDIN advocated with working groups and backed workshops that provided information to the network on Ontario Works (OW) and the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), demystified the Canada Disability Tax Credit (DTC) and the Canada Disability Benefit (CDB), helping individuals navigate complex application processes.

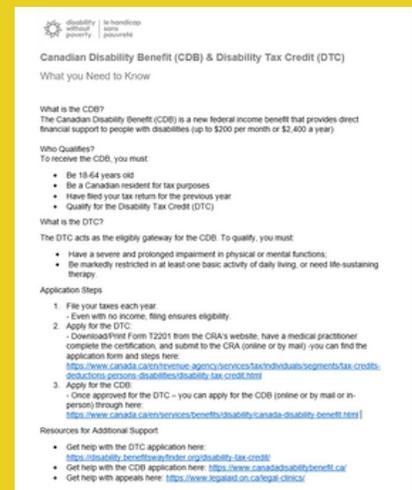
These sessions were designed to be accessible, inclusive and resource-driven. They were hosted in drop-in spaces and attended by drop-in staff and participants from across the city.

By equipping frontline staff and community members with the tools to understand and advocate for these benefits, TDIN helped ensure that more people with disabilities could access the financial support they are entitled to.

WORKSHOP partnerships



RESOURCE distribution



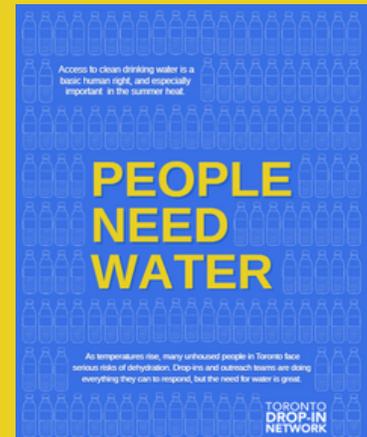
System-Wide Supports

CLIMATE JUSTICE

Increasing access to water was another example of TDIN’s sector-wide work. By coordinating with donors and enhancing the City’s partnership with Project Food Chain, TDIN helped facilitate the distribution of water to drop-in centers across the city. This initiative strongly aligned with TDIN’s broader commitment to harm reduction and increasing access to resources for unhoused populations.



COMMUNITY coordination



Quantitative Results

Systems: Policy Change

The Toronto Drop-In Network (TDIN) has been actively responding to policy changes affecting homelessness, drug toxicity, and health system discharges through a mix of advocacy, coordination, and public education. Here's how TDIN has engaged across these key areas:

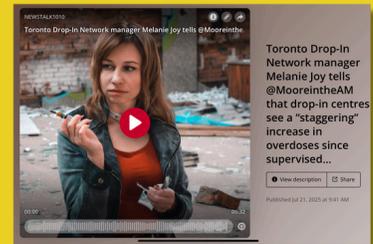
CRIMINALIZATION OF HOMELESSNESS

Advocacy & Mobilization: TDIN has publicly opposed Bill 6, which expands police powers and criminalizes public substance use. They've joined coalitions calling for its repeal and have helped organize community forums to educate drop-in staff and participants on its implications.

POLICY BRIEFS & STATEMENTS

TDIN contributed to joint statements with other housing and legal advocacy groups, emphasizing the harm to unhoused and racialized communities.

NEWS MEDIA



Quantitative Results

Systems: Policy Change

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

In partnership with organizations like John Howard Society and Elizabeth Fry Society, TDIN has hosted workshops on the intersections of homelessness and incarceration and provided valuable training and resources for drop-in staff.

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK QUOTES

-from various TDIN workshops

“I always appreciate how much TDIN supports organizations throughout the city.”

“The co-facilitator with a lived experience was the best part of the training. Helped in understanding the training/topic better.”

“Great knowledge from both facilitators, also having someone with lived experienced share their knowledge is invaluable. This is the kind of training that resonates with me.”



Quantitative Results

Systems: Policy Change

OVERDOSE DRUG TOXICITY & SCS CLOSURES

HARM REDUCTION ADVOCACY

TDIN has supported member agencies in maintaining harm reduction services despite funding cuts and SCS closures. They actively participate in harm reduction working groups and support the TSSS Harm Reduction Unit implementation of enhanced harm reduction funding to drop-ins most affected by SCS closures.

DATA COLLECTION & REPORTING

TDIN has helped gather frontline data on overdoses and service gaps, which has been used to inform municipal and provincial advocacy. TDIN's media engagement has ensured that the public eye remains focused on the catastrophic outcomes of short-sighted provincial policy change.



HARM REDUCTION

The HART HUB MODEL is not based in a harm reduction framework. We need resources to support people and meet them where they're at.

WHAT WE NEED IS HARM REDUCTION

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Needle Exchange Programs
- Safe Needle Distribution Programs
- Safe Consumption Spaces
- Safe Inhalation Spaces

Without harm reduction practices in place, we will continue to see a rise in overdoses and overdose related deaths.

People deserve dignity and community care.

WE ADVOCATED as a COMMUNITY to keep our SCSs OPEN

SCS SAVED MY LIFE. SUBSTITUTES CONSUMPTION SITES SAVE LIVES. "It's life or death": Signs produced by users in King Ford's area.

Knowing that these forced closures would lead to increased overdoses and overdose related deaths.

A 179% INCREASE IN OVERDOSES IN DROP-INS OVER 3 MONTHS

Qualitative Results

Enhancements, Successes & Outcome Benefits

CROSS SECTORAL LEADERSHIP

TDIN plays a vital leadership role in Toronto's homelessness and housing sector through its cross-sectoral engagement, advocacy, and capacity-building efforts.

TDIN is actively involved in key leadership bodies:

- Shelter and Housing Advisory Committee
- Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness (TAEH) Steering Committee
- Homelessness Health Services Framework Steering Committee

Impact: These roles allow TDIN to shape city-wide strategies, advocate for inclusive policies, and ensure drop-in perspectives are represented in broader systems planning.



COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY RESOURCE

Created by TDIN's Advocacy Committee; made by drop-in programs for drop-in programs. 29-page resource that features low-barrier, adaptable activities with ready-to-use templates & worksheets.



CROSS SECTORAL TRAINING

TDIN collaborated with TNG: Crystal Meth Project to create a training series for City of Toronto shelter workers that was co-facilitated by former shelter users who have used crystal meth.

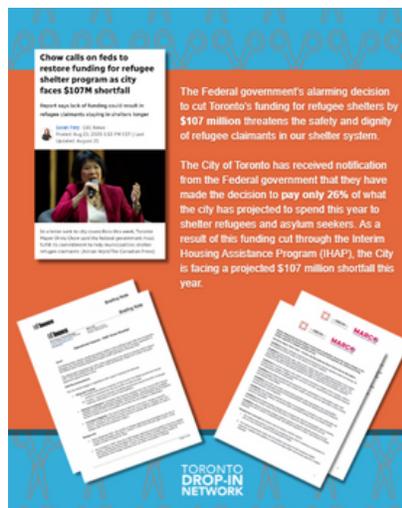
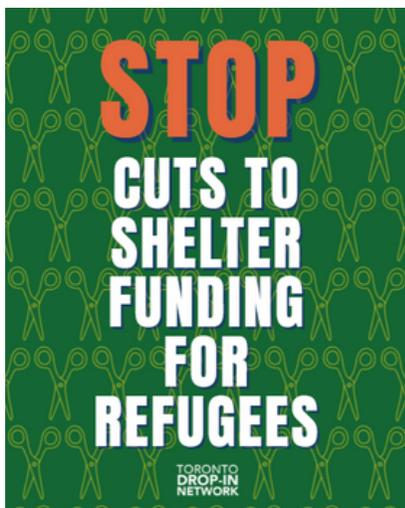
Qualitative Results

Challenges, Gaps & Barriers

TDIN is experiencing critical service pressures due to funding shortfalls, policy barriers, and rising community needs.

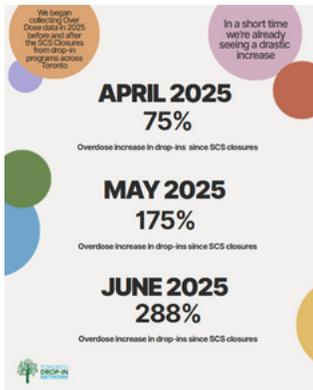
REFUGEE SHELTER FUNDING CRISIS

- **Funding Gap:** \$107 million shortfall due to federal government covering only 26% of projected costs.
- **Impact:** Threatens shelter capacity for 3,420 refugees (40% of shelter population) and overflow to drop-ins.
- **Investment Need:** Emergency funding to sustain refugee shelter beds and prevent service cuts.



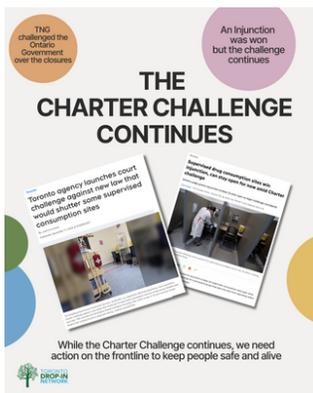
Qualitative Results

Challenges, Gaps & Barriers



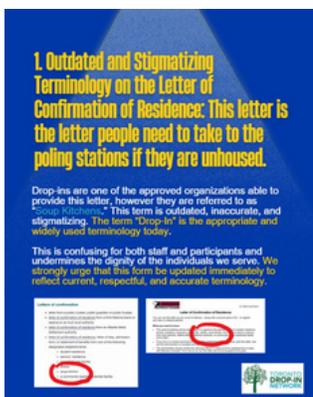
OVERDOSE RESPONSE POST-SCS CLOSURES

- **Funding Gap:** Loss of provincial funding led to closure of Supervised Consumption Sites (SCSs) and changes to service provision.
- **Impact:** Overdose incidents in drop-ins rose by 75% in April, 157% in May, and 228% in June 2025.
- **Investment Need:** Reinstatement of SCS funding and support for overdose monitoring and harm reduction staffing in drop-in programs.



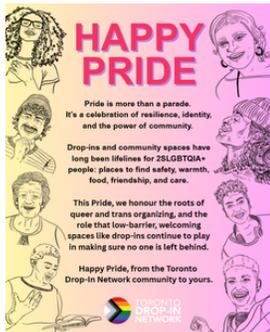
VOTING ACCESS FOR UNHOUSED INDIVIDUALS

- **Funding Gap:** No dedicated funding for voter education for unhoused populations.
- **Impact:** Barriers to voting due to outdated terminology, lack of ID, and restrictive vouching rules.
- **Investment Need:** Resources for voter outreach, ID clinics, and expanded vouching capacity for drop-in staff.



Qualitative Results

Challenges, Gaps & Barriers



2SLGBTQIA+ HOMELESSNESS

- **Funding Gap:** Minimal targeted funding for 2SLGBTQIA+ adult housing and support services.
- **Impact:** Disproportionate rates of homelessness with limited access to safe, affirming spaces.
- **Investment Need:** Dedicated housing programs, mental health supports, and inclusive service design for 2SLGBTQIA+ adults.



DATA & ADVOCACY INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Funding Gap:** Lack of centralized systems for real-time data collection and public reporting.
- **Impact:** Limits TDIN's ability to quantify service needs and advocate effectively.
- **Investment Need:** Technology infrastructure, training, and staffing to support data collection, analysis, and policy engagement.

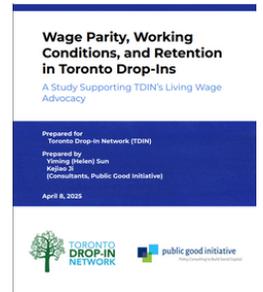


Qualitative Results

Project Activities

PUBLICATION

TDIN worked with University of Toronto's Public Good Initiative on a series of focus groups on shelter & drop-in workers' equity, focused around wages & workforce sustainability.



TIME TO VOTE! FEDERAL ELECTION

A workshop collaboration with TNG on ways to engage with community about the federal election



INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY STREET FAIR

A day of activities of remembrance, solidarity, community celebration and raising awareness in collaboration with TSSS: Harm Reduction Unit and community partners.



SUMMER IN THE PARK

Crossroads Theater

TDIN delivered training to equip artists, educators, and community leaders with tools to foster inclusive spaces and compassionate engagement. Rooted in the arts and collective storytelling, this program fostered community learning and connection.



Qualitative Results

Staffing Changes

TDIN underwent a series of staffing transitions that significantly influenced its operations, governance, and impact on the organization's capacity, communication, and strategic direction.

LEADERSHIP, STRATEGIC DIRECTION & GOVERNANCE

- A new Manager hired in May brought fresh energy, new priorities and governance frameworks, influencing internal workflows while growing external partnerships.
- A change in Trustee Representative introduced a period of adjustment and relationship building, and reestablished clarity around governance expectations.

TDIN Steering Committee also experienced notable changes:

- The new Manager reengaged committee members, updated the Terms of Reference which reinforced governance roles amid the evolving leadership structure.
- The departure of two committee members created opportunity for an EDI-focused approach to recruitment and resulted in the addition of new voices to the committee. These changes will require time to rebuild cohesion and clarify expectations, but will ultimately benefit TDIN governance with the inclusion of drop-in participant perspectives.

Qualitative Results

Staffing Changes

COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH

- Hiring a Website & Social Media Admin improved TDIN's digital visibility.
- Enabled more consistent updates, better event promotion, and stronger engagement with member organizations and the public.

STUDENT PLACEMENT

- New placement student from George Brown, Community Worker Program
- This individual brings a powerful combination of lived and professional experience in drop-in use, harm reduction and sex work advocacy.
- Their presence strengthens TDIN's capacity to create new resources, enhance service delivery and reinforces TDIN's commitment to amplifying voices with lived expertise.

Transition requires adjustment time and also opens opportunities for innovation and growth.

The TDIN Team is ready to springboard into the second half of the fiscal year, with a renewed and grounded focus that will enhance the capacity of Toronto's network of drop-in centres to improve the quality of life of people who participate in their services.



TORONTO
DROP-IN
NETWORK

Grant Staff: Trecia Downes

Organization: The Neighbourhood Group Community Services

Project: Toronto Drop-In Network

Report Type: Mid-Year

Reporting Period: April 01, 2025 to September 30, 2025

Fiscal Year: 2025-26

I have signing authority and I attest that all the information submitted in this report is correct, as of the date of submission.

Attested by: Amber Kellen

Attested Date: October 30, 2025