



## Being a Good Neighbour

**A neighbour relationship is reciprocal.** We are so thankful for the work you do in our community, and are proud to work in the same neighbourhood. Siloam aims to be a good neighbour to local organizations, businesses, and our community members. To this end, we have created the email [neighbour@siloam.ca](mailto:neighbour@siloam.ca) –please email us with neighbourhood-related concerns.



## What is homelessness and can it be ended?

**Siloam Mission was founded in 1987** to help those experiencing poverty and homelessness.

**Homelessness is a complex issue**, and individual experiences are often tied to complex individual situations (relationship breakdown, job loss, mental health, trauma, addictions) in the context of failing systems (housing, child welfare, justice, etc.).

**The modern phenomenon of homelessness began in the 1980s**, when government cuts to social housing forced many out onto the street – and it has grown more difficult as defunding of social housing and programs has left few alternatives. Into that gap come non-profits like Siloam Mission, working to meet immediate needs while also advocating for and building towards systemic change.

**Solutions to homelessness exist**, and they typically include a renewed investment in social housing with supports, mental health supports, coordinated efforts, healing from trauma, and common goals.

**It is not just up to the individual to solve homelessness** – this is a society-wide problem and will require broader system change to create opportunities for healing and stability.



## You Might See Our Crew

**They're the ones out in the orange vests.** The MOST crew cleans garbage and sharps (needles, knives, pipes) from the neighbourhood. They operate within the area from Main to Isabelle and Higgins to Alexander. By request and time permitting, they can come on your property for cleanup help if there are specific areas or concerns. They do, however, have contracts with paying customers that will take priority. We are also in the process of applying for grants to expand this service. You can email [neighbour@siloam.ca](mailto:neighbour@siloam.ca) if there's an area that needs to be addressed. If you see the crew, say hi and chat! They absolutely love it when folks talk to them.



# WHAT TO DO WHEN



## Two Key Things To Remember:

**Empathy is key.** It's always helpful to start an interaction with an awareness that someone experiencing homelessness is in a tough situation and at the whim of many things beyond their control.

**Not all uncomfortable behaviour is dangerous.** Someone who has experienced significant trauma may act unpredictably from time to time.

When...	Do...
Someone needs services like food, shelter, etc.	<p>Download and print out copies of <a href="#">Siloam's Guide to Services</a>.</p> <p>Call 211 to find out what other services are available in the community.</p>
You find sharps on your property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Get a sharps container from Street Connections (496 Hargrave Street, 204-981-0742) or from a pharmacy in the area.</li> <li>Use tongs or litter-pickers to pick up the sharp and place sharp side down into the bin.</li> <li>Store in a place where it won't get knocked over.</li> <li>Return the sharps container to Street Connections and pick up another container.</li> </ul>
Someone is sleeping on your property	<p>Approach with care and caution, reminding someone that it's private property. Ask if they'd be able to move to Siloam. If they resist in any way, step back and call DCSP (204-946-3277) or MSP Outreach (204-232-5217). If unsuccessful, ask them for next steps.</p>
Someone is entering your business	<p>Engage in conversation with care and caution, asking if they need anything and if you can help them get to Siloam (or another shelter). Call DCSP (204-946-3277) or MSP Outreach (204-232-5217).</p>
Someone is being violent or dangerous	<p>Call 911.</p>



Sign up to receive neighbourhood emails from Siloam with updates or announcements: