

From the Halifax Report Card on Homelessness 2009

In June 2008, Community Action on Homelessness started the development of the Report Card on Homelessness to raise public awareness on the issues related to homelessness and to deliver a comprehensive set of statistics that reflect the current facts on homelessness in our community.

The Report Card documents the current state of homelessness using indicators that monitor homelessness, housing, and income. This enables us to identify pressure points in the system and develop proactive and responsive strategies. Statistics provided throughout the Report Card come from existing institutions - Statistics Canada, the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and Nova Scotia Department of Community Services, Service Canada, along with independent research projects that Community Action on Homelessness delivered over the past year.

The following graph illustrates that - according to CMHC's 30% rule - not only those working at minimum wage are struggling to afford accommodations in the Halifax Regional Municipality.

TYPE OF WORK	30% OF WAGE	BACHELOR \$599	1 BED \$683	2 BED \$833	3 BED + \$1,064
trades helper	\$797	✓	✓	X	X
food counter attendant	\$377	X	X	X	X
butcher/baker	\$550	X	X	X	X
esthetician	\$465	X	X	X	X
teacher assistant	\$678	✓	X	X	X
retail salesperson	\$641	✓	X	X	X
graphic designer	\$787	✓	✓	X	X
early childhood worker	\$443	X	X	X	X
community/social service worker	\$821	✓	✓	X	X
policy or research officer	\$1332	✓	✓	✓	✓
statistical clerk	\$510	X	X	X	X

Source: <http://www.labourmarketinformation.ca> and CMHC

If you have any questions about the Report Card, please contact John Hartling, Director of Community Initiatives, (902) 420-2186, jhartling@cahalifax.org.

Father George P. Leach, S.J. 1937 - 2009

Friday, April 17, 2009 Death of Fr. George Leach

Before Easter Sunday morning Fr. George passed away in his sleep. He was our founding director, and had been assigned to a new position in Toronto, as Rector of Regis College, in charge of the formation of young Jesuits in their last years of study for the priesthood. George and I are the same age. He was transferred to Toronto after 12 years in Halifax, and I to Halifax after 44 years in Toronto. The Lord took him and left me behind to care for the Jesuit Center of Spirituality which he nurtured in its early years. May I receive the grace to be faithful to the community of supporters of the JCS, many of whom are friends of his over many years.

A death like this one looms large. The funeral in Toronto went very well, I am told, and we are

planning two events in Halifax, a remembrance event in the parish with which George was associated off and on over recent years, St. Patrick's (Sunday Apr 19, 11.30 am), and a more formal memorial service and mass (Thursday Apr 23, 7.00 pm, also at St. Pat's). I am beginning to realize the wide roots which George had in this community, the depth of mourning of many people who shared his life here.

May the Risen Lord welcome him. He preached the word in season and out of season, helped many persons and communities be sensitive to the Spirit in their lives, and led the community in prayer. May he share fully the banquet of eternal life which is foreshadowed by the Eucharist which he celebrated so often.

Jean-Marc Laporte
S.J.

LEACH, Father George P., S.J.

Suddenly on Easter morning, April 12, 2009, at the age of 71, Father George Leach died at home in Regis College Jesuit Community house on Huron Street in Toronto. He was in his 51st year as a Jesuit and 40th year as a priest. Since January 1, 2009, he was the newly appointed Rector and Superior of the Jesuits at Regis College. Prior to this he was the Superior of the Jesuit Community in Halifax and Director of the Halifax Jesuit Centre of Spirituality. In his ministry as a Jesuit priest, he also served the church as Director of the Lay Formation Program in the Archdiocese of Halifax, as Director of the Anishinabe Spiritual Centre in Espanola, Ont., as Director of the Northern Ontario Jesuit Missions, as the Pastor of St. Andrew's Parish in Thunder Bay and as Director of the Canadian Jesuit Mission Office, now known as Canadian Jesuits International. On two separate occasions he served in the formation of young Jesuits as Master of Novices in Guelph, Ont.

Having been raised and educated in the Halifax area, George was well-known throughout the Maritimes for his pastoral

ministry, for preaching parish missions, for spiritual direction, and for directing and promoting the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius.

Father Leach and advisor He earned a Doctorate in Ministry from Regis College in Toronto for his work on the Spiritual Exercises and Native Spirituality.

In 2006 he was inducted into St. Mary's University Athletic Hall of Fame for his athletic prowess during his student days. He was deeply committed to Jesuit Community Life and to the vision and mission of the Society of Jesus.

Father Leach was

active in the HRM communities. He acted as Spritual Adisor to Hope Cottage and Sacramental Minister of Halifax's St. Patrick's Church, among other postings. These assignments earned him the respect and love of the North End communities, many of which are made up of people in poverty.

Father Leach sat as a member in the Communit Action on Homelessness Steering Committee and participated annually in their December 21st Remembrance Day of people who died in poverty.

Funeral services took place April 16, in Toronto, with burial in the Jesuit

Cemetery in Guelph.

On April 23rd, St. Patrick's Church hosted a well attended mass and memorial service for Father George.

At Street Feat we count ourselves privileged to have met, and occasionally serve together with, Father Leach in the anti-poverty trenches. George was a strong supporter of our newspaper.

We will miss him but his legacy will always be with us.

This obituary was published in several publications nation-wide and this version has additions by our staff.



Father George Leach, centre, conversing with Pat McManus (L) and former Halifax resident Allan Pyke ("the mayor of Gottingen St.") at Hope Cottage, Halifax's premiere soup kitchen. Michael Burke photo..

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