

Cathy Crowe

Cathy Crowe, RN and Street Nurse, said to an 'Inquiry on Homelessness and Health' in Toronto in 1987: 'I wash their feet, and it's tragic and wrong that they have to have sore, injured, frostbitten and infected feet. No-one in our rich society should have to suffer such indignity and injustice'. In all her years of working among homeless people in Toronto, where the problem had steadily increased, Cathy called for homelessness to be declared a National Disaster on the same scale as floods and earthquakes. Her friends call Cathy a national treasure, a mixture of love and tenacity in the league of international humanitarian leaders.

Cathy is determined to end the plight of homelessness in Canada. She exhibits a profound respect for the homeless men and women who struggle daily to survive. She is a major player in the '1% Solution' campaign, which makes the point that in the mid-1990s, federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments spent about one percent of their budgets on housing. Since then, governments have made substantial cuts. The 1% Solution calls on governments to double their commitments to housing programmes by restoring and renewing housing spending.