



Michael Shapcott

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Michael Shapcott coordinates the Community/University Research Partnerships (CURP) program at the Centre for Urban and Community Studies. The program promotes policy-relevant scholarship and applied research and the exchange of knowledge between community agencies or associations and university-based researchers. CURP represents the University of Toronto's contribution to improved knowledge and applied scholarship on the practical problems and policy issues associated with urban living, with a particular focus on poverty, housing, homelessness, community planning, social well-being, and social justice issues.

Mr. Shapcott is a long-time community-based advocate for housing and solutions to homelessness. He has worked at the local, provincial, national, and international levels on both governmental and non-governmental initiatives. Before starting work at the Centre for Urban and Community Studies, he was Manager of Government Relations and Communications – Ontario Region for the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada. From 1990 to 1993, Mr. Shapcott coordinated the Rupert Pilot Project, an innovative community development project to provide housing and services for 525 rooming house tenants. Previously, he was a community worker with homeless adults at the Toronto Christian Resource Centre.

Mr. Shapcott is co-chair and a founding member of the National Housing and Homelessness Network and a founding member of the Toronto Disaster Relief Committee, the Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness, and the Bread Not Circuses Coalition. In 2000, he was a non-governmental organization representative to the forum on Capacity Building for Disaster Mitigation and Reconstruction in Istanbul, Turkey. In 1991, the provincial government appointed him to serve on the corporate minimum tax working group of the Ontario Fair Tax Commission.

Mr. Shapcott spent ten years as a journalist, working as a reporter, columnist, and editor for several newspapers. He continues to carry out applied, policy-relevant research and produce plain-language reports and popular education materials on housing and homelessness. He contributes opinion pieces for national and local media. He is a keynote speaker for local, provincial, and national audiences on housing, homelessness, and social justice issues.

He attended the Faculty of General Studies at the University of Calgary and the Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto, and has completed the Intensive Programme in

Poverty Law at Parkdale Community Legal Services, specializing in landlord and tenant law.

Recent publications:

Profiting from a manufactured housing crisis, Technical paper #15, Ontario Alternative Budget Working Group, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, June 2002.

State of the crisis 2001, A report on housing and homelessness in Canada, National Housing and Homelessness Network, November 2001.

Canada's dirty little secret: Homelessness in the shadow of Parliament Hill, 2001, a report to the United Nations on behalf of the National Housing and Homelessness Network.

Made-in-Ontario housing crisis, Technical paper #12, Ontario Alternative Budget Working Group, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, 2001.

Tent City: Was this what the Habitat Agenda meant by "Housing for All"? *Canadian Housing/Habitation canadienne*, Winter 2001.

Homelessness and low-income housing in N. Byrtus, M. Fram, and M. McClelland, eds., *East/West: A Guide to Where People Live in Downtown Toronto*, Toronto: Coach House Books, 2000.

Where's home? A picture of housing needs in Ontario, Toronto: Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada – Ontario Region and Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association, 1999. (Document issued when Mr. Shapcott was co-chair of the research committee.)

Commentary on "Urban mega-events, evictions and housing rights: The Canadian case" by Kris Olds in *Current Issues in Tourism* 1(2) 1998, pp.195-96.

The Rupert Pilot Project in E. Ortiz and J. Audefroy, eds., *Building the City with the People: New Trends in Community Initiatives in Cooperation with Local Governments* Mexico City: Habitat International Coalition, 1997.