



End Homelessness St. John's Staff Biographies (2019)



JUDY TOBIN, Manager, Non Profit Housing, Community Services Department, City of St. John's / jtobin@stjohns.ca (709) 576-8317

Judy has worked in community service fields serving youth and adults since the early 1990s. When she completed her post-secondary education in 1993 she began working at Emmanuel House, a program of Stella's Circle. She held several front line positions within Stella's Circle over 18 years. One of these positions was Tenant Relations Officer, in which she worked closely with a team of people who helped find and secure housing for mental health consumers. Prior to the creation of the Housing Resource Team at Stella's Circle, Judy was a hands-on housing resource for Stella's Circle clients.

Working there enriched her knowledge and experience of working with a diverse, marginalized and vulnerable population. Working in the community, she became familiar with navigating systems, while collaborating with many community partners and groups in St. John's.

In 2012 Judy accepted a position with the City of St Johns as Senior Housing Officer in the City's Non Profit Housing Division. During this time, the City of St John's became the Homelessness Partnering Strategy Community Entity (CE) for St. John's, providing community development, coordination and administrative services for End Homelessness St. John's. Judy oversees the City's CE agreement with Service Canada, in collaboration with End Homelessness St. John's. In 2013 when the City's internal departments realigned, Non Profit Housing joined the Community Services Department. Judy's position then became Manager of Housing and this division then assumed the additional responsibility of the City's Affordable Housing Strategy.



BRUCE PEARCE, Community Development Worker, End Homelessness St. John's / bpearce@nl.rogers.com (709) 689-9615

Bruce works to develop solutions for healthy, sustainable communities. Since 2002 he has been the community development worker for End Homelessness St. John's, guiding local planning and investments under Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy – and in 2009 his committee helped found the Newfoundland & Labrador Housing & Homelessness Network. During 2017-2018 he was appointed to the Advisory Committee on Homelessness by the federal minister responsible for Canada's National Housing Strategy.

Bruce is former President of the Canadian Housing & Renewal Association, Canada's national voice for affordable housing, where he helped lead efforts to create a pan-Canadian network of communities

working to end homelessness, and serves on the Government Relations Committee of A Way Home, a national coalition dedicated to ending youth homelessness. He's also served on the Board of Green Communities Canada, and was the Climate Change Action Coordinator for the Conservation Corps NL. Between 1988-1998, he was executive assistant and policy advisor to municipal and provincial elected officials in Toronto. He holds a Bachelor of Journalism (Honours) from Carleton University, and a Masters of Environmental Studies from York University.



**JULIA VON RHEDEY, System Planner,
End Homelessness St. John's / jvonrhehey@stjohns.ca (709) 725-6089**

Julia holds a Bachelor of Social Work from Memorial University and Registration with the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Social Workers. As a social worker, Julia is dedicated and passionate about her profession and views it as a privilege to serve others. Julia has over nine years of professional experience supporting children, youth, adults and families from diverse, marginalized and vulnerable populations within the non-profit and government sectors. Julia has previously worked with such organizations as Choices for Youth, the Canadian Mental Health Association NL and NL's Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development.

During this time, Julia became familiar with the intersectionality of interlocking systems of power that impact those who are most marginalized in society.

Julia is excited to be in End Homelessness St. John's System Planner role, and looks forward to addressing homelessness from a structural perspective, alongside the many community agencies whose work she so deeply respects. When she's not working, Julia can be found rowing on Quidi Vidi or reading a book in the elusive Newfoundland sun.



**JENNIFER TIPPLE, Performance Management Planner,
End Homelessness St. John's / jtipple@stjohns.ca (709) 685-4068**

Jennifer is the Performance Management Planner with End Homelessness St. John's, combining her business background with her passion for community. A native of St. John's and a Memorial University of NL Commerce graduate, Jennifer's early career expanded into international development – from teaching people how to protect themselves against climate change in the Caribbean to promoting education and career paths available for youth in Qatar.

In 2013, she was accepted to INSEAD's prestigious MBA program, ranked #1 in the world by the Financial Times, and studied in Singapore and France. She returned to her hometown in 2014, working in the startup technology sector and volunteering with newly arrived Syrian refugees and people in need at The Gathering Place. Jennifer is thrilled to have the opportunity to work with EHSJ in her beloved hometown. While once an avid traveler, having visited 70+ countries, she now prefers to stay put with her two dogs and let the world visit her through her roles as a landlady to two international Memorial University students, and an Airbnb Superhost.



TODD LEHR, Housing Program Officer, Department of Community Services, City of St. John's / tlehr@stjohns.ca (709) 576-8548

Todd joined the City of St. John's Non Profit Housing Division as the Housing Program Officer in January 2016 where he provides financial administration assistance to End Homelessness St. John's. He has worked for the City since 1989, serving previously as an analyst and supervisor in the Economic Development, Tourism & Culture department where he led primary research and evaluation studies, and later supervised operations of the City's Visitor Information Centres.

During his early career, Todd worked with the Government of Newfoundland & Labrador conducting needs assessments regarding substance use in the Western, Central and Eastern Regions, and he developed a Community Health Profile for the Department of Health's Eastern Health unit in Holyrood, NL.

Originally from Corner Brook, Todd lives in St. John's with his wife, and is the proud father of two sons.



JUSTIN MAHON, Coordinated Access Support Worker, End Homelessness St. John's / jmahon@stjohns.ca (709) 699-1316

Justin started his career in social services in 2013 as an Applied Behavioural Therapist, began working in community non-profits in 2015, and joined the EHSJ team in 2018. He has worked with individuals across the spectrum of development, focusing his work on meeting the immediate needs of those who are most vulnerable.

In addition to his EHSJ Coordinated Access Support Worker role, Justin also works with the John Howard Society NL as a Residential Staff at Howard House, and has worked at Choices for Youth as an Outreach and Youth Engagement Worker. He has a passionate interest in community development, and volunteers time to arts-based community engagement initiatives like the Stella's Circle Inclusion Choir.

Justin holds a Bachelor of Science (Psychology), a Bachelor of Social Work, and a Criminology Certificate. Bringing an interdisciplinary perspective and frontline experience to the EHSJ team, he eagerly embarks on a mission to bolster the Coordinated Access initiative.



MATTHEW GEORGE, Communications & Fund Development Officer, End Homelessness St. John's / mgeorge@stjohns.ca (709) 743-7368

Matthew began his career after graduating from the Film & Video Production program at College of the North Atlantic in 2010. He immediately began working in the Film & Television Industry, as a Camera Operator & Assistant Editor for television shows on various networks such as Animal Planet & Discovery Channel. In this role he was fortunate to experience many different cultures, and meet incredible people from all over the world, while developing his skills as a visual storyteller.

Looking to open additional career opportunities, Matthew pursued a Communications Degree at Memorial University in 2012. After receiving his degree, he began working as a Communications & Fundraising Development Officer for the Newfoundland & Labrador Association for Community Living, a non-profit organization in St. John's which focused on people with intellectual disabilities. In 2016 he accepted a position as the Marketing & Communications Manager at Aramark, a Fortune 500 food service company. In this role, Matthew was responsible for the Food Service Marketing & Communications oversight for Memorial University, Atlantic Canada's largest University.

Matthew is pleased to be the Communications & Fund Development Officer for End Homelessness St. John's, and looks forward to developing & expanding upon EHSJ's resources & communications.