



**Canadian Mental
Health Association
Durham**

Durham Regional Police, Mental Health Support Team (MHST) bring Chronically Homeless 56 Year Old Man to CMHA Durham's Walk-In Services

On January 24, 2018, the MHST brought Mr. Gauci to CMHA Durham's Community Connection Services program due to his chronic homelessness. He had been living on the streets between Ajax and Oshawa since August 2017 and did not know how to access his Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) income entitlements or establish a residence for himself. His only possessions were the clothes he wore and the plastic bag he carried with some food. Mr. Gauci established a connection with CMHA staff returning daily to check in with staff, access our teaching kitchen for lunch, emergency food pantry and shower and laundry facilities.

While working with CMHA Brief Case Management services, Mr. Gauci successfully developed connections with other community partners such as Cornerstone Durham, ODSP (income), Home Away from Home (housing), and reconnected with his Family Doctor, after an 11 year break.

Cornerstone provided a shelter for Mr. Gauci from the night he came to CMHA until he was able to secure housing within Home Away from Home on February 9, 2018. ODSP reconnected Mr. Gauci with income and benefit supports.

Today, Mr. Gauci remains connected with CMHA Durham, has joined the local recreation centre swimming program, a community older adult day program, and reconnected with his Family Physician.

