

I Was Not Expecting That.

Interviewer: [REDACTED]

Interviewee: [REDACTED]

May 17, 2022

Run Time: 31:17

I'm just going to get you to verbally consent to doing this interview and having it recorded.

I consent to the fun stuff.

You can't tell on the thing but I did air quotes.

[laughter]

Could you just share with me your first memories of seeking assistance for housing?

My dad just put me on a plane and was like "there you go."

I was sleeping in the basement with a bunch of mice — which I would not do again.

Not really a stable living situation.

I had no idea what I was doing.

I reached out to [REDACTED] Rainbow Youth who got me in contact with someone at PYS

who got me in contact with someone at the [REDACTED] shelter.

I had to meet with the [REDACTED] worker a few times [REDACTED] do intakes to see if I qualified.

The one I do remember; it was filling out a survey.

Reasons you are homeless:

if I struggled with any mental illnesses, if I struggled with any substance abuse — stuff like that.

You have to wait and see if they pick you

and I practically got picked almost immediately which I was not expecting.

Sometimes you don't get picked at all.

It can vary between people.

[REDACTED] (5 minutes) [REDACTED]

Walk me step by step through what you did to access those services.

I don't really remember

Since we were in contact, I was like, "hey, do you know anyone who could help me?"

I got their contact information.

I started meeting with them just like check-up and stuff.

It was easier because I had the assistance.

I had someone to explain it to me, in a way I could actually understand.

After a few months of that I had a shelter worker who brought me through the process of transitional housing.

Last year, I got my own apartment.

[REDACTED] (10 minutes)

Anyone can get into transitional housing if they're from the shelter or not.

it depends on the person.

I remember one roommate, I had was telling me that they were in the shelter before [REDACTED] got evicted and then they were back in the shelter, and then they got back in a unit.

It really depends on the severity of what you did to get evicted.

I wouldn't know how that works.

[REDACTED] (15 minutes) [REDACTED]

Was there an official discharge process?

I don't think there was a process. We just ended it off with me and my therapist doing something to celebrate... I did air quotes.

[laughter]

We just talked about stuff, and she just brought me Tim Hortons.

You know typical Canadian shit.

They also just told me "Hey, [REDACTED] I'm not your worker [REDACTED] anymore. But you can still message me if you need anything. I can help you get in contact with people to help you."

Earlier in the month — we were talking about how I would be close to graduating from the program.

That's a really scary thing that just bring up out of nowhere, because you're going to overthink that.

I don't think they just toss you out. I think they help you get a place of your own.

I don't have anywhere else to go at the moment.

I don't know

[REDACTED] *(25 minutes)*

Interview anxiety is real.

That was an hour?

No.

[laughter]

Oh, I have no sense of time.

[laughter]

Yeah, I'm going to stop. Thank you so much

[REDACTED] *(30 minutes)*

TL: Yeah, I'm going to stop. Thank you so much [REDACTED]

DEMOGRAPHICS

- [REDACTED] nonbinary
- White
- Gay
- Autistic

[end].