

# Nipissing District Housing and Homelessness Partnership

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c/o 127 Main Street East North Bay, ON P1B 1A9  
705-472-1337

March 8, 2021

The Honourable Anthony Rota, M.P. Nipissing-Timiskaming  
375 Main Street West  
North Bay, Ontario  
P1B 2T9

The Honourable Marc G. Serré, M.P. Nickel Belt  
94 King Street, Suite 1  
Sturgeon Falls, Ontario  
P2B 2Z5

Dear Honourable Anthony Rota, M.P. and Honourable Marc G. Serré, M.P.:

## **RE: Recovery for All Campaign Endorsement**

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented unprecedented challenges for people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness in Nipissing District. In addition, the homeless-serving sector continues to endure extreme system pressure during the pandemic. Nipissing District Homelessness and Housing Partnership (NDHHP) sees an opportunity for the Government of Canada to shape pandemic recovery plans such that the federal government's commitment to housing as a human right is realized and homelessness in Canada is ended once and for all.

We commend the Canadian government on its efforts to help communities address the impacts of the pandemic. Initiatives such as increased flexibility and funding under Reaching Home, implementation of the Canada Recovery Benefit, and federal-provincial Safe Re-Start Funding have undoubtedly contributed to homelessness prevention at the local level. Beyond enhanced government support during the pandemic, NDHHP seeks meaningful multi-year housing investment from the Canadian government to address local needs.

We would like to bring to your attention a national movement to end homelessness in Canada that is relevant to needs in Nipissing District. NDHHP recently endorsed, in principle, the Recovery for All campaign led by Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH). CAEH proposes strategies to reduce the inflow to homelessness and accelerate the outflow from homelessness. The motion is enclosed for your review. Strategies relevant to Nipissing District include bold federal investments in affordable housing, income, and initiatives to address homelessness among children, youth, women, and urban Indigenous peoples living off-reserve.

Homelessness and housing challenges are complex and growing issues in Nipissing District. Most recent data, as illustrated in the enclosed Nipissing District Homelessness and Housing Data Snapshot, points to the following key pressures: inadequate household income placing people at risk of homelessness and acting as a barrier to finding housing; lack of affordable housing; core housing need particularly in rural areas; over-representation of Indigenous peoples experiencing homelessness due to colonization; and homelessness among children, youth, women, and people with mental health and substance use challenges. The health consequences of homelessness and poverty are well-documented. It is safe to say

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the pandemic has furthered social, economic, and health inequities for the most vulnerable in our communities. Reacting to the complexity of challenges of homelessness and poverty at the community level, while under-resourced, leaves health and social services exhausted and Canadians falling through the cracks unable to have their basic needs met and thrive. These problems have been exacerbated by the pandemic and it is unacceptable to return to the pre-pandemic status quo of poverty and homelessness.

NDHHP encourages you to bring forward the Recovery for All campaign and experiences from Nipissing District for discussion in caucus. Further, we encourage a coordinated response from all levels of government to develop pandemic recovery plans that strengthen social safety nets, eliminate homelessness, and allow our communities to reach their full potential where all people have access to a safe, adequate, affordable place to call home.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by Lana Mitchell and Doug Davidson*

Lana Mitchell, Co-Chair, NDHHP

Doug Davidson, Co-Chair, NDHHP

C. Nipissing District MPPs and municipal councils  
District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board  
Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness

Encl: NDHHP Motion to Endorse Recovery for All Campaign  
Nipissing District Housing and Homelessness Data Snapshot

**Nipissing District Homelessness and Housing Partnership  
Motion to Endorse Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness Recovery for All Campaign**

Whereas, Nipissing District Homelessness and Housing Partnership (NDHHP) aims to develop and advocate for comprehensive, sustainable, and evidence-based solutions to: address, prevent, and eliminate homelessness in the District of Nipissing;

Whereas, Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness and the Recovery for All campaign seek to build a national movement to eliminate homelessness for all Canadians as part of Canada's pandemic recovery and proposes strategies, such as enhancing Reaching Home funding, that are relevant to needs in Nipissing District;

Whereas, housing is a human right as declared by Canada under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and movement toward its realization is in alignment with Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Call to Action #43<sup>\*1,2,3</sup>;

Whereas, homelessness is associated with poor health outcomes such as mental health issues, including substance use disorders, injuries, and chronic diseases, e.g., hypertension, diabetes<sup>4</sup>; housing is an absolute necessity for living a healthy life, and living in unsafe, unaffordable or insecure housing increases the risk of many health problems and furthers health inequities<sup>5</sup>;

Whereas, in January 2021, there were 1,441 applicants on the Centralized Waiting list for affordable housing in Nipissing District<sup>6</sup>; and most recent data (2016) shows that 15.5% of households in Nipissing District and up to 33.7% of households in Mattawa were in core housing need, that is living in dwellings that were unsuitable, inadequate, or unaffordable<sup>7,8</sup>; Nipissing District is in need of more and varied affordable housing options, including transitional and supportive housing, to meet the unique needs of urban and rural populations;

Whereas, as a result of colonization, Indigenous populations in Nipissing District are grossly over-represented among those experiencing homelessness<sup>9,10</sup>; during a 24 hour Point in Time Count in March 2020, 42% of respondents experiencing homelessness identified as Indigenous or of Indigenous ancestry and discrimination and stigma were listed as a top barrier to finding housing<sup>11</sup>; NDHHP supports a distinct Indigenous housing strategy to expand the supply of non-market housing owned and managed by Indigenous Peoples for urban Indigenous Peoples living off reserve in small northern cities like North Bay;

Whereas; nearly 3 in 5 respondents in the 2020 Point in Time Count reported first experiencing homelessness before the age of 25, over 1 in 4 identified having been in foster care or group home, and 35% in North Bay reported first experiencing homelessness before the age of 18<sup>12</sup>; NDHHP supports developing a new funding stream to prevent homelessness among women, children and youth;

Whereas, poverty is a driver of homelessness and inadequate income has been identified by Nipissing District residents experiencing homelessness as the top barrier for finding housing<sup>13,14</sup>; Poverty can mean a person is one illness, one accident, or one paycheque away from homelessness<sup>15</sup>; NDHHP supports the concept of a minimum income that allows everyone to live in housing that is safe, adequate, and affordable;

Therefore, be it resolved that Nipissing District Homelessness and Housing Partnership endorses, in principle, the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness Recovery for All Campaign and their national movement to end homelessness in Canada.

**Moved by:** Tawnia Healy

**Seconded by:** Kathleen Jodouin

**Approved by all**

**Date:** February 10, 2021

\*Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Call to Action # 43 calls upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



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- <sup>1</sup> Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. (2021). *Human Rights Approach*. Retrieved from: <https://www.homelesshub.ca/solutions/prevention/human-rights-approach>
- <sup>2</sup> Ontario Human Rights Commission. (2007). *Human Rights and Rental Housing in Ontario: Background Paper*. Retrieved from: <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/human-rights-and-rental-housing-ontario-background-paper>
- <sup>3</sup> Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. (2015). *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action*. Retrieved from: [http://nctr.ca/assets/reports/Calls\\_to\\_Action\\_English2.pdf](http://nctr.ca/assets/reports/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf)
- <sup>4</sup> Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). (2019). *Evidence Brief: Homelessness and Health Outcomes: What are the Associations?* Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2019.
- <sup>5</sup> Mikkonen, J., & Raphael, D. (2010). *Social Determinants of Health: The Canadian Facts*. Toronto: York University School of Health Policy and Management.
- <sup>6</sup> District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board. (2019). *A Place to Call Home: 2014-2024. 5-year Review of Nipissing District's 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan*. Retrieved from: <https://dnssab.ca/housing-services/5-year-review-of-housing-and-homelessness-plan/>
- <sup>7</sup> North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit. (2019). Instant Atlas Report. Retrieved from: <http://npsatlas.healthunit.ca/Sociodemographics/Atlas.html>
- <sup>8</sup> District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board. (2019). *A Place to Call Home: 2014-2024. 5-year Review of Nipissing District's 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan*. Retrieved from: <https://dnssab.ca/housing-services/5-year-review-of-housing-and-homelessness-plan/>
- <sup>9</sup> Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. (2021). *Indigenous Homelessness*. Retrieved from: <https://www.homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/population-specific/indigenous-peoples>
- <sup>10</sup> District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board. (2020). *Everyone Counts Nipissing District*. Retrieved from: <https://dnssab.ca/housing-services/everyone-counts-pit-count-2020/>
- <sup>11</sup> District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board. (2020). *Everyone Counts Nipissing District*. Retrieved from: <https://dnssab.ca/housing-services/everyone-counts-pit-count-2020/>
- <sup>12</sup> District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board. (2020). *Everyone Counts Nipissing District*. Retrieved from: <https://dnssab.ca/housing-services/everyone-counts-pit-count-2020/>
- <sup>13</sup> Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. (2021). *Poverty*. Retrieved from: <https://homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/education-training-employment/poverty>
- <sup>14</sup> District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board. (2020). *Everyone Counts Nipissing District*. Retrieved from: <https://dnssab.ca/housing-services/everyone-counts-pit-count-2020/>
- <sup>15</sup> Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. (2021). *Causes of Homelessness*. Retrieved from: <https://www.homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/homelessness-101/causes-homelessness>

## **Nipissing District Housing and Homelessness Data Snapshot**

### **Core Housing Need**

- In 2016, 15.5% of households in Nipissing District were in core housing need, a similar rate as in Ontario (15.3%)\*. Some areas in Nipissing District have a higher percentage of core housing need when compared to Ontario, for example: 16.6% of households in North Bay, 23.3% of households in Township of Papineau-Cameron, and 20.5% of households in the Township of Calvin.<sup>1</sup>
- Within Nipissing District, the highest rate of core housing need is in Mattawa. In 2016, 33.7% of households in Mattawa reported living in dwellings that were unsuitable, inadequate, or unaffordable. The majority of households in Mattawa experiencing core housing need are due to housing being unaffordable (86%).<sup>2</sup>

### **Affordable Housing Need**

- There currently 1,441 applicants on the Centralized Waiting list for affordable housing in Nipissing District. Half of the applicants are seniors 65 years or older, accounting for 691 applicants. After senior couples (45%), singles (34%) and sole support parents (12%) are the largest household type (See Figure 1).<sup>3</sup>
- North Bay is a resource center for Northern Ontario as applicants from outside of Nipissing District make up 18% of the total applicants (See Figure 2).<sup>4</sup>

### **Homelessness – Point in Time Count 2020 Highlights**

- In 2020, during a Point in Time (PiT) Count in March over a period of 24 hours, 293 people were found to be homeless;
- Based on 254 people experiencing homelessness surveyed, 57% self-identified as having mental health challenges, 74% having substance use challenges, and 42% reported having a physical health related illness;
- 42% of respondents identified as Indigenous or of Indigenous ancestry;
- 59% of respondents first experienced homelessness before the age of 25;
- 27% of respondents identified having been in foster care or group home;
- 5% of respondents identified as a veteran or RCMP;
- 70% of respondents' income source was social assistance (OW or ODSP);
- 83% of respondents were single adults;
- Chronic homelessness was prevalent as 50% of respondents experienced homeless for six months or more during 2020;
- Episodic homelessness was also a concern as 18% of respondents experienced homeless for three or more times during 2020;

\*A household is said to be in 'core housing need' if its housing falls below at least one of the adequacy, affordability or suitability standards and it would have to spend 30% or more of its total before-tax income to pay the median rent of alternative local housing that is acceptable (meets all three housing standards). Housing standards are defined as follows: adequate housing is reported by their residents as not requiring any major repairs; affordable housing has shelter costs equal to less than 30% of total before-tax household income; and,

suitable housing has enough bedrooms for the size and composition of resident households according to National Occupancy Standard (NOS) requirements ([Statistics Canada, 2019](#)).

- The top 3 reasons for housing loss reported in the 2020 PiT Count were:
  - Addiction/substance abuse: 21%;
  - Incarceration: 19%;
  - Conflict with spouse or partner: 16%.<sup>5</sup>
- Similarly, the top 3 reasons for housing loss reported in the 2018 PiT Count were:
  - Addiction/substance abuse: 21%;
  - Conflict with spouse or partner: 17%;
  - Unsafe housing conditions: 17%.<sup>6</sup>

Please note: the 2020 PiT Count included people in North Bay Jail, unlike the 2018 PiT Count.

- The top 3 barriers to finding housing reported in the 2020 PiT Count were:
  - Low income: 57%;
  - Discrimination and stigma: 56%;
  - Addiction/substance use: 52%.<sup>7</sup>
- Similarly, the top 3 barriers to finding housing reported in the 2018 PiT Count were:
  - Low income: 57%;
  - Rent too high: 39%;
  - Mental health: 20%.<sup>8</sup>

### **Vacancy Rates**

- North Bay's average apartment vacancy rate in 2019 dropped to 3.2%, from 6.3% in 2015. This vacancy rate is higher than the provincial rate of 2.0%.<sup>9</sup>

### **Rental Prices**

- In 2019, the average rent for a two bedroom unit was \$993, for an average increase of \$88 (9.7%) from the average rent of \$905 in 2015.<sup>10</sup> In West Nipissing, the average rent for a two bedroom unit was \$804 in 2019, \$27 (3.5%) higher than the 2015 average rent of \$777.<sup>11</sup> In Ontario during the same time frame the average rent for a two bedroom unit increased by 19.4%.<sup>12</sup>

### **Income**

- In 2015, 16.5% of individuals in the Health Unit region were living in low income households compared to 14.4% of households in Ontario.<sup>\*13</sup> 17.2% of individuals in Nipissing District were living in low income households. Some areas in Nipissing District have a higher percentage of low income households: Mattawa (23%), Calvin (22.3%), Chisholm (20.6%), West Nipissing (19.6%), and Papineau-Cameron (19.4%).<sup>14</sup>

\*Low income households are defined as: populations living in a low income private household and populations include the total population (children aged 0 –5 years, children aged 0 –17 years, adults aged 18 –64 years, and

seniors aged 65 years or older). Low income is calculated using the Low-Income Measure, After Tax (LIM-AT) definition.

- In 2015, the median after-tax income in the Health Unit region is \$28,734 compared to \$30,641 in Ontario; Calvin (\$21,696), Mattawa (\$23,117) and Papineau-Cameron (\$25,344) were areas with the lowest median after-tax-income in Nipissing District\*\*. <sup>15</sup>

#### Ontario Marginalization Index (ON\_Marg):

- Material deprivation: In 2016, almost one quarter of residents in Nipissing District were living in the most material deprived areas (quintile 5, which means that these areas were in the top 20% of materially deprived areas in Ontario). Among these areas, Mattawa has a highest score of 1.71, following by Calvin (1.46), West Nipissing (0.69), Papineau-Cameron (0.58), and Nipissing, Unorganized, North Part (0.49);
- Residential instability: In Nipissing District, North Bay and Mattawa were the most residentially unstable areas (quintile 5);
- Dependency: Mattawa (1.07) and Calvin (1.04) have higher dependency score compared to other areas in Nipissing District (quintile 5);
- Ethnic concentration: North Bay is the area with the highest level of ethnic concentration in Nipissing District (quintile 5). <sup>16</sup>

Please note: there is no data available for areas such as: Mattawan, Nipissing 10, Nipissing, Unorganized, South Part.

\*\*Please note: The median after-tax household income is for Nipissing District, not for Adjusted Nipissing District in HU region. While other data of Nipissing district in this summary is adjusted Nipissing district in health region. Only for reference: median after-tax household income for Nipissing District: \$29,168.

Figure 1:

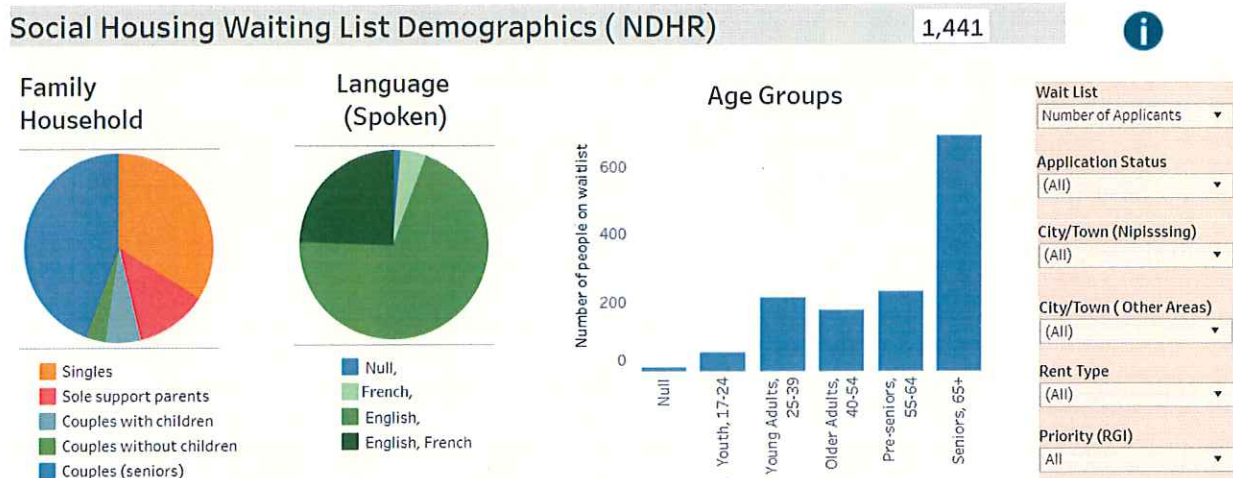
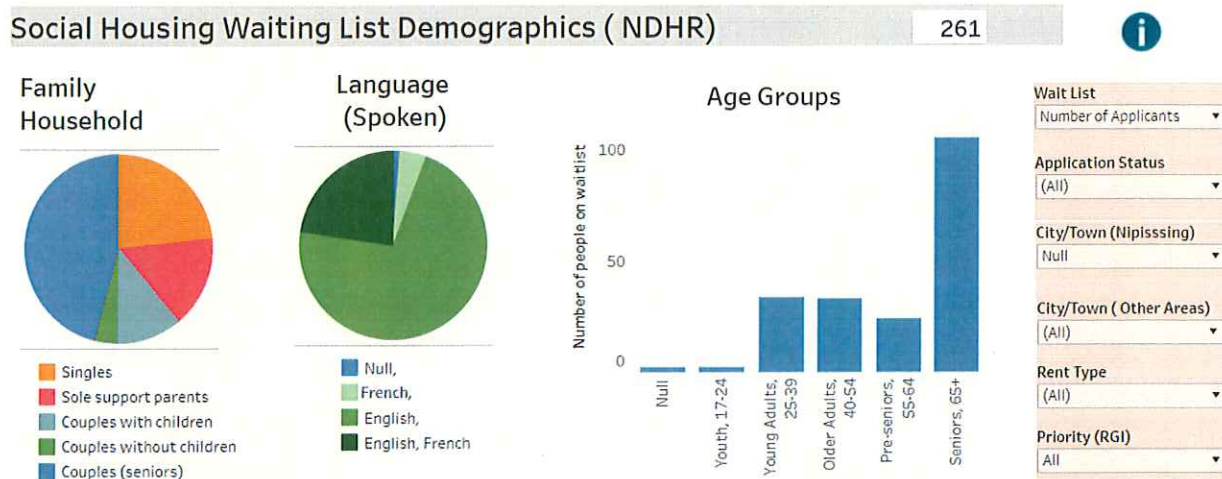




Figure2:



<sup>1</sup> North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit. (2019). Instant Atlas Report. Retrieved from: <http://npsatlas.healthunit.ca/Sociodemographics/Atlas.html>

<sup>2</sup> District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board. (2019). *A Place to Call Home: 2014-2024. 5-year Review of Nipissing District's 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan*. Retrieved from: <https://dnssab.ca/housing-services/5-year-review-of-housing-and-homelessness-plan/>

<sup>3</sup> District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board. (2021). Centralized Waiting List. Retrieved from: [Social Housing Waiting List Demand: Views - Tableau Server](#)

<sup>4</sup> District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board. (2021). Centralized Waiting List. Retrieved from: [Social Housing Waiting List Demand: Views - Tableau Server](#)

<sup>5</sup> District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board. (2020). Everyone Counts – PIT Count 2020. Retrieved from: <https://dnssab.ca/housing-services/everyone-counts-pit-count-2020/>

<sup>6</sup> District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board. (2018). *Everyone Counts Nipissing District*. Retrieved from: <https://www.homelesshub.ca/resource/everyone-counts-nipissing-district>

<sup>7</sup> District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board. (2020). Everyone Counts – PIT Count 2020. Retrieved from: <https://dnssab.ca/housing-services/everyone-counts-pit-count-2020/>

<sup>8</sup> District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board. (2018). *Everyone Counts Nipissing District*. Retrieved from: <https://www.homelesshub.ca/resource/everyone-counts-nipissing-district>



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<sup>9</sup> Statistics Canada. Table 34-10-0131-01 Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, vacancy rates, row and apartment structures of three units and over, privately initiated in census agglomerations of 50,000 and over, weighted average

<sup>10</sup> Statistics Canada. Table 34-10-0133-01 Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, average rents for areas with a population of 10,000 and over

<sup>11</sup> Statistics Canada. Table 34-10-0133-01 Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, average rents for areas with a population of 10,000 and over

<sup>12</sup> Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation. (2018). *Rental Market Report*. Ontario Highlights. Retrieved from:  
<https://eppdscrmssa01.blob.core.windows.net/cmhcprodcontainer/sf/project/cmhc/pubsandreports/rental-market-reports-canada-provincial-highlights/2018/rental-market-reports-ontario-64507-2018-a01-en.pdf?sv=2017-07-29&ss=b&srt=sco&sp=r&se=2019-05-09T06:10:51Z&st=2018-03-11T22:10:51Z&spr=https,http&sig=0Ketq0sPGtnokWOe66BpgguDliVgBRH9wLOCg8HfE3w%3D>

<sup>13</sup> North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit. (2019). Instant Atlas Report. Retrieved from:  
<http://npsatlas.healthunit.ca/Sociodemographics/Atlas.html>

<sup>14</sup> North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit. (2019). Instant Atlas Report. Retrieved from:  
<http://npsatlas.healthunit.ca/Sociodemographics/Atlas.html>

<sup>15</sup> North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit. (2019). Instant Atlas Report. Retrieved from:  
<http://npsatlas.healthunit.ca/Sociodemographics/Atlas.html>

<sup>16</sup> North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit. (2019). Instant Atlas Report. Retrieved from:  
[http://npsatlas.healthunit.ca/ON\\_Marg\\_CSD/Atlas.html](http://npsatlas.healthunit.ca/ON_Marg_CSD/Atlas.html)