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**1997-2015**

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Re: THE EDITORIAL – *So what if millennials won't leave the nest? There's ample reason to understand, and little reason to panic.*

The reasons are far more than the editor depicts.

Unlike our feathered friends, parents are not programmed to push their adult offspring out of the nest to encourage them to blindly fly into the future on their own.

Certainly there are several other compelling reasons for parents to shelter their young well into their late twenties and beyond.

The main reason I suggest is that today there are fewer and fewer other shelter alternatives for the working poor singles.

Fifty years ago there were hundreds of thousands of very affordable rooming house rooms for singles.

In the nineteen sixties I lived in a wonderful rooming house in Oshawa after just turning 17, and could pay from my minimum wages for excellent room and all meals for less than 2/3 of my take-home pay.

Since then almost all rooming houses, hotels, long-term singles affordable housing has been shut down, torn down and replaced with far fewer very costly social industry homeless shelter units. Private sector multi-unit economy of scale single room occupancy (SRO's) housing providers are virtually shut out of the market by social industry intimidation and by social control of even modest assistance funding for repairs and for new proposals.

Not surprisingly, as rental units nationally declined, construction of new units nearly flat lined, rents dramatically increased, “homeless” numbers ballooned and social welfare shelter construction surged but not able to keep up with the demand.

Secondly, I would commend those youth that have the moral and ethical fortitude, with their parents’ help, to resist the urge to ride with the social welfare homeless industry even though they do qualify.

You must know that the entry level point for being considered to be a homeless person for shelter subsidy, etc. across Canada is if one pays more than 25 to 30% of their take-home income for rent.

Once in the social system, some remain.

I believe it is not simply an evolution of social attitudes but a reality of social welfare industry constricting competing private sector affordable singles housing providers.

Most of today’s youth would gladly leave the nest to fly into their independent future if they could afford to do so on their own.

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