BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

Date: October 2, 2018

Prepared For: Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Title: Development Approval Process Review (DAPR) – s.13

Issue: s.13

Briefing Date: October 4, 2018

SUMMARY

s.13

BACKGROUND:

Following the UBCM Convention, the Ministry met with UBCM staff to provide an overview s.13 s.13 UBCM indicated general support for a review of the local government development approvals (DA) process s.13 s.13

DISCUSSION:

Proposed Amendments to the DAPR Consultation Process

To date, DARWG has been conceived of as having an exploratory and validation role, with the technical analysis primarily reserved for the DARTC. s.13 s.13

s.13

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s.13

Proposed New Project Timeframe

s.13

UBCM Selection of Local Government Members (of DARWG and DARTC) and Committee Size

s.13

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

s.13,s.17

OPTIONS:

1. s.13

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Pros:

s.13

Cons:

s.13

s.13,s.17

2. s.13

Pros:

s.13

Cons:

s.13

Appendices: (2)

s.13

PREPARED BY:

Mary Storzer, Manager, Planning and Land Use
PLUM Branch
(250) 356-5515

APPROVED BY:

Tara Faganello, Assistant Deputy Minister
Local Government Division

Jacqueline Dawes, Deputy Minister

DATE APPROVED:

October 2, 2018

October 2, 2018

Page 004 to/à Page 013

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

BRIEFING NOTE FOR DECISION

Date: October 9, 2018

Prepared For: Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Title: Proposed Changes to Housing Societies' Bylaws

Issue: Delegating Ministerial Approval to the Deputy Minister for consideration of Housing Societies' Bylaws

Briefing Date: Minister's Council on October 11, 2018

RECOMMENDED OPTION:

- s.12,s.13

BACKGROUND:

The Legislature passed a new *Societies Act* (Act) in November 2016. All existing societies in British Columbia (BC) are required to transition to comply with the new Act before November 28, 2018. Under the new Act, certain societies designated by regulation can only alter previously unalterable provisions in their new bylaws with prior consent from a designated minister. This one-time requirement for ministerial consent is in place to increase societies' flexibility while still protecting the public interest.

Societies that have received funding from BC Housing have therefore been designated in section 18 of the Societies Regulation as societies that require approval from the Minister responsible for Housing to alter previously unalterable provisions moved from their constitution to their bylaws. This allows the Minister to ensure that government investments in social housing remain appropriately protected. Upon the minister approving an amendment to a bylaw that has been identified as previously unalterable, further amendments to that bylaw do not require ministerial consent. Under the new Act, unalterable provisions are not permitted.

BC Housing's oversight of its funded societies is primarily achieved through funding agreements and the societies' constitutions and bylaws. BC Housing reviews any bylaw change requests for compliance with its Constating Document Compliance Review Policy and forwards the request to the Ministry for review.

DISCUSSION:

In previous discussions on this topic a decision regarding delegation was deferred pending review of the initial requests from societies. Recently, the Minister approved one request received from the Bowser Seniors Housing Society.

Building on experience gained, Attachment 1 outlines a new proposed ministry process to approve changes to such provisions. BC Housing and the Housing Policy Branch will analyze requests for changes and make a recommendation to the Minister or, if approval is delegated, to the Deputy Minister. Under the *Interpretation Act* the Minister has the authority to delegate these approvals to the Deputy Minister. No further sub-delegation is possible at this time.

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OPTIONS:

1. s.12,s.13

2. s.12,s.13

RECOMMENDATION:

s.12,s.13

- **APPROVED (recommended option) / NOT APPROVED**

Honourable Selina Robinson — October 11, 2018 Date

Attachments: (1)

1. Housing Society Bylaws: Procedure for Ministerial consent for revision of previously unalterable clauses

PREPARED BY:	APPROVED BY:	DATE APPROVED:
Candice Gartner, Senior Policy Advisor Housing Policy Branch 778.587.3084	Greg Steves, Assistant Deputy Minister Office of Housing and Construction Standards Jacqueline Dawes, Deputy Minister	October 9, 2018 *Kevin Volk OBO* October 9, 2018

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

ATTACHMENT 1:

HOUSING SOCIETY BYLAWS:

PROCEDURE FOR MINISTERIAL CONSENT FOR REVISION OF PREVIOUSLY UNALTERABLE CLAUSES

Reference: Societies Act, s. 245; Societies Regulation, s. 18; Interpretation Act, s. 23(1)

1. Upon receipt of a society's request to alter a previously unalterable provision, BC Housing will work with the society on the proposed revision, as required.
2. BC Housing staff submit a BCH decision note for approval with draft approval letter to the BC Housing CEO for signature, indicating whether or not approval is recommended. The decision note specifies:
    a. the previously unalterable clause as it appears in the bylaws;
    b. the proposed new clause;
    c. background explaining the rationale for the revision and how the public interest is protected; and
    d. any other relevant material.
3. The CEO recommends approval or disapproval by signing the BCH decision note and forwarding it to the Housing Policy Branch.
4. The Housing Policy Branch reviews, revises (and seeks legal advice) if necessary, and then forwards the decision note to the Deputy Minister for approval. The separate draft approval letter accompanies the package to notify the society and BC Housing of the outcome.
5. The Deputy Minister reviews the request and approves or disapproves. (The Deputy Minister has delegated authority under section 23 (1) of the *Interpretation Act*).
6. The Deputy Minister's Office sends the letter to the society to inform of the decision, and emails copies to the Housing Policy Branch and BC Housing.
7. Housing Policy Branch and BC Housing keep file copies of the letter to the society for their records.

Appeal Process

8. If the resolution is not recommended for approval by the Deputy Minister, it can be appealed in writing to the Minister.

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BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

Date: October 10, 2018

Prepared For: Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Title: Seniors' Affordable Housing

Issue: The Royal Canadian Legion/BC Yukon Command has requested to meet with the Minister to discuss seniors' affordable housing.

Meeting With: David Whittier, Provincial Executive Director and Dave Sinclair, Trustee of the Royal Canadian Legion/BC Yukon Command on October 16, 2018

SUMMARY:

- **The Royal Canadian Legion/BC Yukon Command recently submitted a proposal for an affordable rental housing project for seniors and families in Langford under the Community Housing Fund Request for Proposals (RFP). The RFP closed on September 17, 2018.**
- **BC Housing is currently evaluating proposals that have come in from around province to identify partnerships for funding under the Community Housing Fund. Final scoring, reviewing and announcements will be made later this fall.**

BACKGROUND:

The Royal Canadian Legion/BC Yukon Command is a non-profit organization consisting of 147 branches, 67 ladies' auxiliaries and nearly 44,000 members, serving veterans, ex-service personnel, seniors, and youth. The Legion maintains a reporting structure from local branches back to BC/Yukon Command.

BC Housing has an existing relationship with the Legion, providing operating funding for 25 units of transitional supported/assisted living for seniors in Port Coquitlam through the Legion's Port Coquitlam Branch. The 2018/19 budgeted operating amount for this project is $189,000.

BC Housing has also provided the Legion's South Burnaby Branch with a one-time operating grant of $150,000 in 2015 to help the society meet its financial obligations and keep rents affordable in their 70-unit seniors' housing project.

DISCUSSION:

The Royal Canadian Legion Prince Edward Branch #91 in Langford recently submitted a proposal under the Community Housing Fund Request for Proposals.

s.13,s.17

BC Housing is currently evaluating proposals that were submitted under the Community Housing Fund Request for Proposals. There was significant interest in the Community Housing Fund program from all regions of the province. Final scoring, reviewing and announcements on the Community Housing Fund program will be made later this fall.

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PREPARED BY:	APPROVED BY:	DATE APPROVED:
Cathy Shen, Advisor, Strategic Planning Executive Office (604) 375-4501	Greg Steves, Assistant Deputy Minister Office of Housing and Construction Standards	October 9, 2018
	Jacqueline Dawes, Deputy Minister	*Kevin Volk OBO* October 10, 2018

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

Date: October 10, 2018

Prepared For: Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Title: Rental Increase Formula

Issue: Removal of 2 percent from the allowable rental increase formula

Meeting With: David Sander, Director, Hollyburn Properties, October 10, 2018
David Hutniak, Chief Executive Officer, Landlord BC, October 11, 2018

SUMMARY:

- **Following an early recommendation from the Rental Housing Task Force, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing announced the annual allowable rent increase formula would be changing to only inflation.**
- **Effective Jan. 1, 2019, the annual allowable rent increase will be 2.5%.**
- **The Residential Tenancy Branch will work with landlord and tenant groups to determine the criteria for applying for an additional rent increase to reflect the costs of maintaining their rental properties.**
- **LandlordBC has stated the operating costs of maintaining a rental unit exceeds the allowable rent increase.**
- **Hollyburn Properties has stated this change will create negative consequences for the existing rental housing stock as well as new supply in the Province.**

BACKGROUND:

Government is committed to amending the *Residential Tenancy Act* (RTA) and the *Manufactured Home Park Tenancy Act* (MHPTA) to provide stronger protections for renters. The RTA allows landlords to raise the rent once per year during a tenancy by an amount calculated in accordance with the Residential Tenancy Regulation ("the annual rent increase"). The previous formula was equal to the inflation rate plus 2 percent. Under the Manufactured Home Park Tenancy Regulation, the previous formula was the same but also includes a "proportional amount" which allows landlords to pass through certain costs to tenants. In 2017 and 2018, the annual allowable increase was 3.7 and 4.0 percent respectively. For 2019, the annual rent increase at the previous formula was announced at 4.5 percent, this was the largest increase since 2004.

The Rental Housing Task Force is undertaking a comprehensive review of British Columbia's (BC) tenancy laws including the system of rent control. During the consultation process, the task force heard concerns from landlords about changes to tenancy laws that could impact their ability to recover costs, and tenant concerns about ongoing affordability challenges, particularly in low vacancy rental markets like the Lower Mainland and Victoria.

The task force provided government with a preliminary recommendation. They recommended the Ministry amend BC's rent control provisions by removing the 2 percent component from the rent increase formula, and for government to consult with landlord groups on additional rent increases for eligible expenses not covered under the new formula.

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A meeting has been scheduled with RTB staff and Landlord BC on October 11th to receive their initial feedback on what should be included.

DISCUSSION:

While tenants are concerned that large standard rent increases are eroding rental housing affordability, landlords wanted to preserve the current formula and are concerned about increasing maintenance and ownership costs. LandlordBC has stated the problem with basing a rental rate increase on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), is that the rental market is not based on CPI. The items outlined by Landlord BC do result in a higher increase than CPI each year.

LandlordBC has developed a paper that explores the rental building expenses versus the RTA maximum allowable rent increase. In their analysis Landlord BC states that the operating costs of maintaining a rental unit exceeds the allowed rent increase. They state the compound annual maximum allowed rent increase has been only 3.2 percent from 2009 to 2018, while the total rental operating expenses for 2009-2018 have increased over 7.6 percent per year. What is not included is the turnover rate – where landlords could reset rents to address any cost pressures.

LandlordBC believes government has not taken the appropriate time to study the impact the change to the rent increase formula will have.

s.13

Manitoba and Prince Edward Island (PEI), Ontario and Quebec have some form of rent control/regulation. Manitoba and Ontario both based their rent increase formula on CPI. In PEI, the rate is established by order of the Regulatory and Appeals Commission in consultation with landlords and tenants. In Quebec, a landlord can ask for a rent increase that is just and reasonable once per year, however a tenant can dispute the amount if it does not reflect the increase in the landlord's costs.

The approach for the Rental Housing Task Force has been to find the balance between the needs of the tenants to find affordable housing and the ability for landlords to make the necessary repairs and maintenance. The Rental Housing Task Force has recommended giving landlords the ability to apply for additional increases if the maintenance and other costs they have incurred are higher than can be accommodated through existing rent. This is similar to the models Ontario and Manitoba follow. The Residential Tenancy Branch will work closely with landlord and tenant groups on expanded criteria under which a landlord could apply for an additional rent increase to reflect the costs of maintaining their rental properties.

PREPARED BY:	APPROVED BY:	DATE APPROVED:
Lisa Clout, Policy Analyst Residential Tenancy Branch (250) 882-4627	Greg Steves, Assistant Deputy Minister Office of Housing and Construction Standards	October 9, 2018
	Jacqueline Dawes, Deputy Minister	*Kevin Volk OBO* October 10, 2018

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

Date: October 10, 2018

Prepared For: Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Title: Provincial Homeless Count Report

Briefing Date: Minister's Council on October 11, 2018

SUMMARY:

- **An initial draft of the first Report on Homeless Counts in BC has been completed (Appendix 1). The final report is scheduled to be publicly released this fall.**
- **Over 7,600 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness in BC, but we know that homeless counts are an undercount. 63% of individuals were sheltered (approximately 4,800) and 37% were unsheltered (approximately 2,900).**
- **Advocates will likely use the results of the count as evidence of the need for more services and supports. Government is responding through the historic investment in affordable housing in *Budget 2018*, the successful Rapid Response to Homelessness program, as well as the Poverty Reduction Strategy, Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, and Homelessness Action Plan currently under development.**

BACKGROUND:

Homeless counts provide vital information, including the demographics and service needs of people experiencing homelessness, both in local communities and across the province. They also help establish a benchmark to measure the progress in reducing homelessness. The point-in-time (PiT) count methodology is known to be most effective at counting the "visible" homeless population, and less effective at count the "hidden homeless" population.

PiT counts are conducted in communities, by volunteers, using a survey methodology. Surveys are conducted in emergency shelters, including transition houses for women fleeing violence and youth safe houses, and people with no fixed address staying temporarily in hospitals, jails or detox facilities (defined as "sheltered"), as well as outdoors, with people staying in alleys, doorways, parkades, parks, vehicles or couch surfing temporarily.

The first Provincial homeless count report is based on:

- information gathered in provincially funded counts;
- data from federally funded homeless counts conducted in six other communities in 2018;
- counts completed in 2017; and
- information from other sources, such as shelters.

For the first time this Spring, the Province coordinated homeless counts in 12 communities in British Columbia. The Province contracted with the Homelessness Services Association, in partnership with Urban Matters and BC Non-Profit Housing Association, to work with communities to implement the 2018 Homeless Count using a consistent PiT count methodology.

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Provincially funded counts were conducted over a 24-hour period between March 1st and April 30th, in the following communities:

- Campbell River – April 13
- Comox Valley – March 7
- Cranbrook – April 18
- Fort St. John – April 18
- Merritt – April 4
- Parksville and Qualicum Beach – April 18
- Penticton – April 30
- Port Alberni – April 11
- Prince Rupert – March 21
- Sechelt – April 23
- Smithers – April 17
- Williams Lake – March 26

Profiles of each of the provincially-funded counts are in Appendix 2.

Six B.C. communities received funding through the federal government's Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) and conducted homeless counts in 2018:

- Victoria, Kelowna, Kamloops, Nanaimo, Nelson, and Prince George.

The Province compiled the data from the provincially and federally funded counts with counts from the following communities conducted in 2017: Metro Vancouver, Fraser Valley Regional District, Duncan, Vernon. Combined, this captures approximately 85% of the population.

Highlights from the Provincial Homeless Count Report (Appendix 1)

Total Number of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

A total of 7,655 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness in the 2018 Homeless Count in BC. This included 5,820 adults and 219 children under the age of 19 and accompanied by a parent or guardian. The majority of individuals were sheltered 63% (4,787) and 37% were unsheltered (2,868).

Fewer Women Counted

Among those who responded to the survey, 68% identified as male and 30% as female. Two percent of respondents self-identified a gender identity other than male or female.

Seniors and Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Twenty percent (20%) of all survey respondents were seniors (55+ years of age) and 15% were youth (under 25 years of age). Seniors and youth were both more likely to be sheltered than unsheltered. The proportion of seniors was greater among sheltered respondents than unsheltered respondents (23% vs. 16%), while youth represented similar proportions among both sheltered and unsheltered respondents (15% and 13%).

Indigenous People Over-Represented

A total of 1,904 survey respondents identified as Indigenous, representing 38% of all respondents. According to the 2016 Census, Indigenous people accounted for six per cent of BC's total population. The proportion of respondents identifying as indigenous was higher for unsheltered (42%) than sheltered respondents (32%).

Several communities in the provincially funded homeless counts had disproportionately high numbers of respondents who identified as Indigenous:

Prince Rupert	92%
Merritt	90%
Smithers	72%
Williams Lake	68%
Fort St. John	59%
Port Alberni	48%
Cranbrook	46%
Campbell River	46%

High Rents, Low Incomes and Lack of Suitable Housing Options Main Barriers to Accessing Housing

The three main barriers to housing identified by survey respondents were high rents (53%), low incomes (51%), and availability of suitable housing (30%).

Health and Well-Being of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

More than half of survey respondents (58%) reported two or more health conditions. The majority of respondents reported an addiction (56%), 44% reported a medical condition, 40% reported a mental illness and 33% reported a physical disability.

Sources of Income

Survey respondents identified a range of income sources. The most commonly reported sources of income identified by survey respondents were income assistance (40%), disability benefits (29%), informal/self-employment (28%), and employment (19%). Nine percent (9%) of respondents reported having no income.

Individuals' History of Homelessness

Almost half (49%) of survey respondents reported being homeless less than one year. Just over half (51%) were a youth (under 25 years of age) the first time they became homeless. Survey respondents were likely to be long term community residents – 31% of respondents had lived in the community for ten or more years and 19% had lived there all their lives.

DISCUSSION:

This report forms a baseline from which to measure progress of the Homelessness Action Plan. A provincial trend can't yet be drawn from these results, though the 2017 Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley 2017 counts both showed a significant upward trend from 2014, as did the 2018 Kelowna, Kamloops, and Nanaimo counts from 2016 count results.

PiT counts do not provide a full and accurate picture of the extent of homelessness and can be thought of as illustrating the tip of the iceberg of homelessness.

It is understood that PiT counts are an undercount and represent only those individuals identified during the 24-hour period, not the number of people who move in and out of homelessness over a period of time, such as a year. The total number of people who are experiencing homelessness across the province is greater than what is presented in the report. Individual circumstances can change and over the course of a year, some people will become homeless for the first time, some will find permanent housing, and others will find temporary housing and cycle in and out of homelessness.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The public may be anticipating a higher number than 7,600 people.

The most over-represented demographic group in the homeless count results is Indigenous Peoples. This could raise public expectations for specific actions to better serve the housing needs of Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous groups may also use these results to advocate for services, supports and housing. The Building BC: Indigenous Housing Fund and the Aboriginal Homelessness Outreach Program specifically target this population.

The gender breakdown of 68 percent men, 30 percent women and 2 percent other gender is consistent with previous homeless counts and research. This disproportionate gender breakdown can be due to a number of factors including fewer affordable housing options available for single men, fewer shelter spaces designated for and safe for women, and alternative housing options available to women through domestic partnerships, sex work and other means to avoid the risks of being homeless.

The high proportion of respondents reporting an addiction (56%) and mental illness (40%) points to the importance of the new Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, currently being developed by the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions.

The large proportion of respondents reporting income assistance (40%) and/or disability benefits (29%) as their primary source of income, and number of respondents reporting their incomes being too low as the reason for their homelessness (51%), points to the significance of the Poverty Reduction Strategy currently being developed by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. Advocates may use these results to advocate for increases to income assistance rates.

The most commonly cited barrier to accessing housing was that rents are too high (53%). This points to the demand for affordable housing, which government is developing through partnerships as outlined in the Homes for BC: 30-Point Plan for Housing Affordability.

The importance of a youth-specific homelessness strategy was emphasized by the finding that over half of respondents (51%) were a youth the first time they became homeless. Targeted services to prevent youth homelessness and further work to better support transitions for youth ageing out of foster care could be developed in future to address this.

In contrast to common narratives surrounding homelessness in BC, 42% of homeless count respondents had lived in their community for five to ten or more years, and another 19% had lived there all their lives, indicating that programs targeting people experiencing homelessness do not draw new people from out of province, but mostly serve long-time local residents.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- None

Appendices: (2)

1. Draft 2018 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C.
2. Draft Provincially-Funded Community Homeless Count Profiles

PREPARED BY:	APPROVED BY:	DATE APPROVED:
Hannah Rabinovitch, Senior Policy Analyst Housing Policy Branch (250) 480-8492	Greg Steves, Assistant Deputy Minister Office of Housing and Construction Standards	October 10, 2018
	Jacqueline Dawes, Deputy Minister	*Kevin Volk OBO* October 10, 2018

2018 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C.

October 5, 2018

Prepared by Homelessness Services Association of BC, Urban Matters and the BC Non-Profit Housing Association

Acknowledgements

How to cite this report

This report was funded by the Province of B.C. and can be found on BC Housing's website.

For further information and data, contact: Deborah Kraus: dkraus@bchousing.org.

To cite this Provincially funded report:

> The Homelessness Services Association of BC, Urban Matters, and B.C. Non-Profit Housing Association (2018). 2018 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C. Prepared for BC Housing. Burnaby, BC: Metro Vancouver.

Or:

> Author: Homelessness Services Association of BC, Urban Matters and BC Non-Profit Housing Association
>
> Year published: 2018
>
> Title: "2018 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C."
> City: Burnaby
>
> Publisher: BC Housing
>
> Website: www.bchousing.org

With Gratitude

This research project would not have been possible with out the participation and support of many individuals and organizations. The Homelessness Services Association of BC (HSABC), Urban Matters and BC Non-Profit Housing Association (BCNPHA) would like to thank all the agencies, service providers, government staff and others who helped organize and implement the count.

More specifically, we would like to thank:

- All the individuals currently experiencing homelessness who gave their time to respond to our survey and share their personal information and stories which forms the foundation of this report. Without their time and contribution, this project would not have been possible.
- The almost 300 volunteers in the 12 count communities who gave so generously of their time to attend a training session and participate in one or more homeless count shifts to collect data.
- The members of the 2018 homeless count project team – in particular James Caspersen who worked closely with each of the 12 communities to ensure the counts were successfully implemented.
- The local community coordinators who carried out the counts:
    - Campbell River – Sue Moen
    - Comox Valley – Andrea Cupelli and the Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness
    - Cranbrook - Carey Fraser, CMHA
    - Merritt - Vicki Patton, ASK Wellness
    - Parksville/Qualicum – Renate Sutherland, Karen Reierson and the Oceanside Task Force on Homelessness
    - Penticton - Daryl Meyers, Pathways Addictions and 100 Homes Penticton
    - Port Alberni – Marcie DeWitt and Maggie Hodge Kwan
    - Smithers – Dawn Hanson and the Bulkley Valley Social Planning Society
    - Williams Lake - Wayne Lucier, CMHA
    - Prince Rupert - April Link - North Coast Transition Society
    - Fort St. John – Phallon Stoutenburg, Fort St. John Women's Resource Society
    - Sechelt/Gibsons – Jacob Taves and the Sunshine Coast Homelessness Advisory Committee
- The staff of emergency shelters, detox facilities, and transition houses and the many agencies across the province that participated in the count.
- Health care personnel from Vancouver Coastal Health, Island Health, Interior Health and Northern Health for providing data on people with no fixed address who were in their facilities during the count.

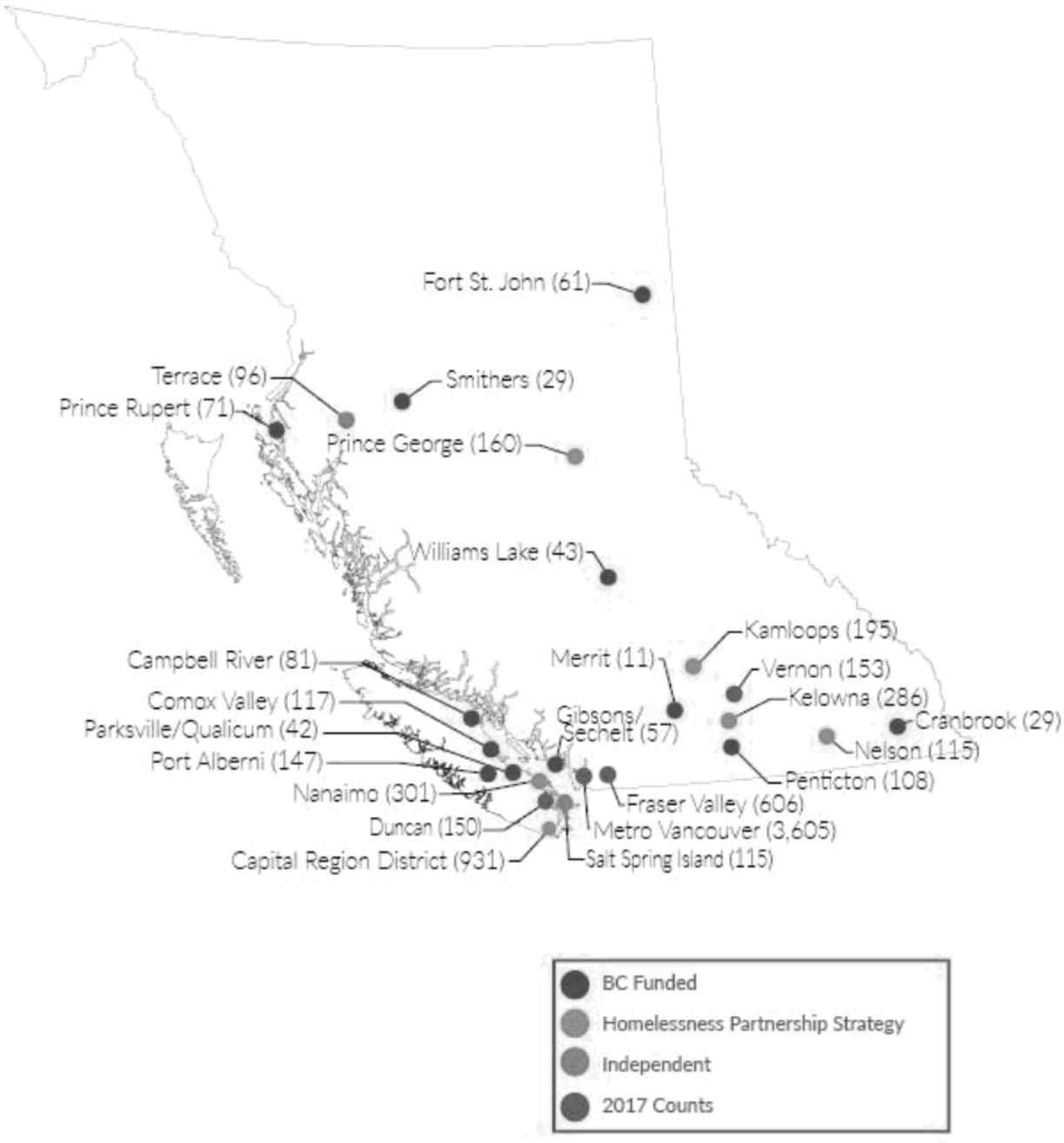
APPENDIX 1

- Federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy Community Entities who shared their homeless count data for inclusion in this report.
- The coordinators of homeless counts in Salt Spring Island, Terrace, Vernon, Duncan and the Fraser Valley Regional District for sharing their data for inclusion in this report.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to Deborah Kraus, BC Housing for her guidance and support throughout the entire process of developing and implementing the count and finalizing this report.

APPENDIX 1

Map of Participating Communities



Executive Summary: 2018 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C

For the first time this spring, the Province funded the coordination of homeless counts in 12 communities in B.C. The Homelessness Services Association, Urban Matters and BC Non-profit Housing Association coordinated the counts and compiled this report which includes:

- Full survey information gathered in the twelve B.C. count communities
- Summary data from six federally funded homeless counts and two other homeless counts conducted in the spring of 2018
- Summary data from four additional counts conducted in 2017
- Shelter data from other BC communities (collected by BC Housing)

The report provides an overall snapshot of homelessness in B.C., informs B.C.'s Homelessness Action Plan, and will provide a baseline to measure progress.

Highlights from the report include:

Total Number of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

A total of 7,655 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness in the 2018 Report in Homeless Count in B.C. This included 5,820 adults and 219 children who were under the age of 19 and accompanied by a parent or guardian.[1] The majority were sheltered (63%) and 37% were unsheltered.

Fewer Women Counted

Among those who responded to the survey, 68% identified as male and 30% as female. Two percent (2%) of respondents self-identified a gender identity other than male or female.

Seniors and Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Twenty percent (20%) of all survey respondents were seniors (55+ years of age) and 15% were youth (under 25 years of age). Seniors and youth were both more likely to be sheltered than unsheltered.

Twenty-nine percent (29%) of respondents reported they had been in foster care, youth group home, or under a youth agreement. In communities such as the Fraser Valley, Prince George, Williams Lake, and Campbell River, more than 40% of respondents reported that they had been in care. Fifty-one percent (51%) of all respondents reported experiencing homelessness for the first-time when they were a youth.

Indigenous People Over Represented

A total of 1,904 survey respondents identified as Indigenous, representing 38% of all respondents. According to the 2016 Census, Indigenous people accounted for six per cent of B.C.'s total population.[2] The proportion of respondents identifying as Indigenous was higher for unsheltered (42%) than sheltered respondents (32%).

High Rents, Low Incomes and Lack of Suitable Housing Options Main Barriers to Accessing Housing

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[1] 1,616 respondents did not report their age.

[2] https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/rt-td/ap-pa-eng.cfm

The three main barriers to housing identified by survey respondents were high rents (53%), low incomes (51%), and a lack of available, suitable housing (30%).

Individuals Experiencing Homelessness in Poor Health

More than half of survey respondents (58%) reported two or more health conditions. The majority of respondents (56%) reported an addiction, 44% reported a medical condition, 40% reported a mental illness, and 33% reported a physical disability.

Sources of Income

Survey respondents identified a range of income sources. The most commonly reported sources of income identified by survey respondents were income assistance (40%), disability benefits (29%), informal/self employment (28%), and employment (19%). Nine percent (9%) of respondents reported having no income.

History of Homelessness

Survey respondents were likely to be long term community residents – 31% of respondents had lived in the community for ten or more years and 19% had lived there all their lives.

Nearly one-third of survey respondents (32%) reported being homeless for less than six months, while more than half (51%) reported being homeless for one year or more. Sheltered respondents were more likely to have been homeless for less than six months compared to unsheltered respondents (38% vs. 25%). Fifty-seven percent (57%) of unsheltered respondents reported being homeless for a year or more, compared to 45% of sheltered respondents.

APPENDIX 1

Infographic

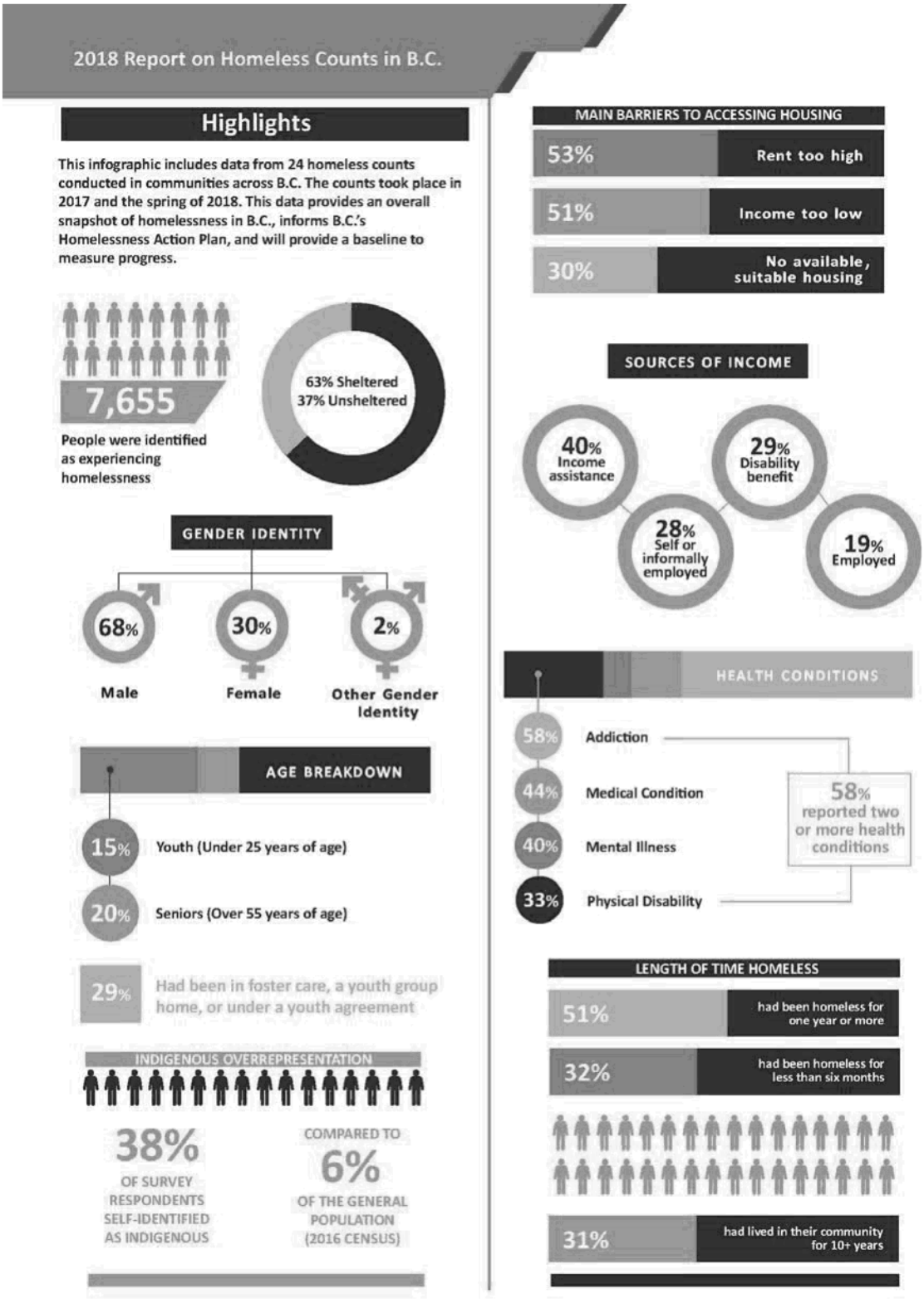


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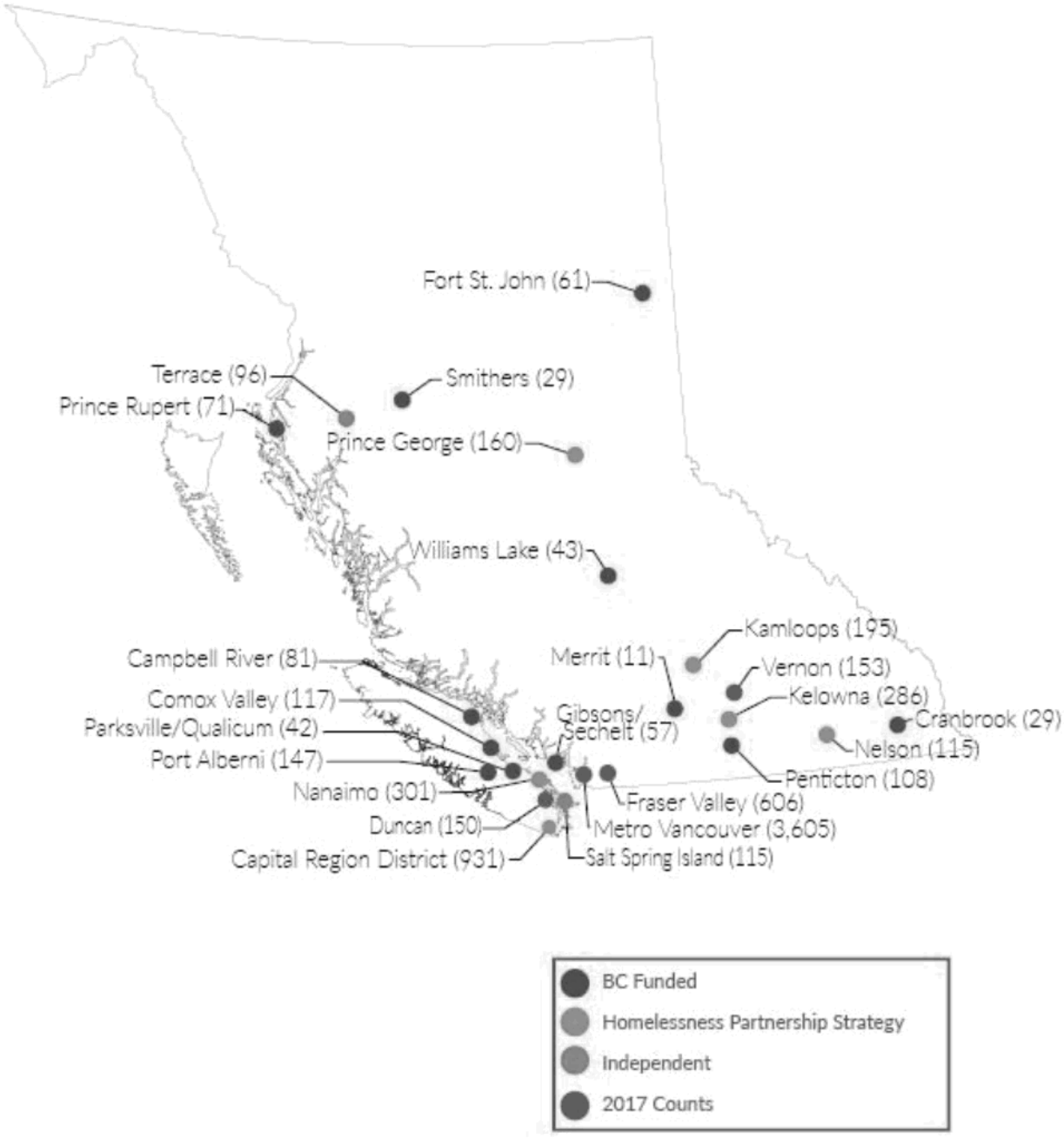
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2.1.1 Sheltered and Unsheltered 66

Sheltered and Unsheltered by Age 67

Adults and Unaccompanied Youth 67

Accompanied Children 67

Unknown Age 67

Total Homeless 67

67

% 67

67

% 67

67

% 67

67

% 67

Sheltered Total 67

3,724 67

64% 67

184 67

84% 67

879 67

54% 67

4,787 67

63% 67

Shelters 67
2,647 67
45%..... 67
42 67
19%..... 67
609 67
38%..... 67
3,298 67
43% 67
Transition Houses 67
218 67
4%..... 67
132 67
60%..... 67
49 67
3%..... 67
399 67
5%..... 67
Detox Centres 67
138 67
2%..... 67
0 67
0%..... 67
0 67
0%..... 67
138 67
2%..... 67
No Fixed Address (NFA) 67
460 67
8%..... 67
3 67
1%..... 67
65 67

4%..... 67
528 67
7%..... 67
Other 67
261 67
4%..... 67
7 67
3%..... 67
156 67
10%..... 67
424 67
6%..... 67
Unsheltered Total 67
2,096 67
36%..... 67
35 67
16%..... 67
737 67
46%..... 67
2,868 67
37% 67
Total Individuals Experiencing Homelessness..... 67
5,820 67
100% 67
219 67
100% 67
1,616 67
100% 67
7,655 67
100% 67
67
%..... 67
Sheltered..... 67

4,787 67
63%..... 67
Unsheltered 67
2,868 67
37%..... 67
Total 67
7,655 67
100% 67
2.1.2 Gender 67
Gender Identity 68
Sheltered 68
Unsheltered 68
Unspecified 68
Total 68
68
%..... 68
68
% 68
68
%..... 68
68
%..... 68
Man/Male 68
1,629 68
67%..... 68
1,485 68
70%..... 68
569 68
67%..... 68
3,683 68
68% 68
Woman/Female 68
761 68

31%..... 68
616 68
29%..... 68
276 68
33%..... 68
1,653 68
30% 68
Another Gender Identity..... 68
48 68
2%..... 68
35 68
2%..... 68
4 68
0%..... 68
87 68
2%..... 68
Respondents..... 68
2,438 68
100% 68
2,136 68
100% 68
849 68
100% 68
5,423 68
100% 68
Don't Know / No Answer 68
1,841 68
235 68
156 68
2,232 68
Total..... 68
4,279 68
2,371 68

1,005 68

7,655 68

2.1.3 Age 68

Age Groups 68

Sheltered 68

Unsheltered 68

Unspecified 68

Total 68

68

% 68

68

% 68

68

% 68

68

% 68

Youth (Under 25 Years) 68

339 68

15% 68

279 68

13% 68

140 68

17% 68

758 68

15% 68

Adult (25-54 Years) 68

1,341 68

61% 68

1,492 68

71% 68

517 68

63% 68

3,350 68

65% 68
Senior (55+) 68
510 68
23% 68
345 68
16% 68
168 68
20% 68
1,023 68
20% 68
Respondents 68
2,190 68
100% 68
2,116 68
100% 68
825 68
100% 68
5,131 68
100% 68
Don't Know / No Answer 68
2,089 68
255 68
180 68
2,524 68
Total 68
4,279 68
2,371 68
1,005 68
7,655 68
2.1.4 Indigenous Identity 68
Indigenous Identity 69
Sheltered 69
Unsheltered 69

Unspecified 69
Total 69
69
% 69
69
% 69
69
% 69
69
% 69
Indigenous Identity 69
708 69
32% 69
874 69
42% 69
322 69
41% 69
1,904 69
38% 69
Not Indigenous Identity 69
1,486 69
68% 69
1,196 69
58% 69
459 69
59% 69
3,141 69
62% 69
Respondents 69
2,194 69
100% 69
2,070 69
100% 69

781 69
100% 69
5,045 69
100% 69
Don't Know / No Answer 69
2,085 69
301 69
224 69
2,610 69
Total 69
4,279 69
2,371 69
1,005 69
7,655 69
2.1.5 Newcomers to Canada 69
Newcomers to Canada 69
Sheltered 69
Unsheltered 69
Unspecified 69
Total 69
69
% 69
69
% 69
69
% 69
69
% 69
Immigrant or Refugee 69
36 69
4% 69
37 69
3% 69

7 69
4% 69
80 69
4% 69
Non-Immigrant/-Refugee 69
784 69
96% 69
1,058 69
97% 69
192 69
96% 69
2,034 69
96% 69
Respondents 69
820 69
100% 69
1,095 69
100% 69
199 69
100% 69
2,114 69
100% 69
Don't Know / No Answer 69
3,459 69
1,276 69
806 69
5,541 69
Total 69
4,279 69
2,371 69
1,005 69
7,655 69
2.1.6 Sexual Orientation 69

Sexual Orientation 70
Sheltered 70
Unsheltered 70
Unspecified 70
Total 70
70
% 70
70
% 70
70
% 70
70
% 70
Straight/Heterosexual 70
1,830 70
90% 70
1,801 70
90% 70
536 70
91% 70
4,167 70
90% 70
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Two-spirit, Questioning, Queer (LGTBQ2S) 70
167 70
8% 70
167 70
8% 70
49 70
8% 70
383 70
8% 70
Other (Not Listed / Multiple Responses) 70
34 70

2%..... 70
35 70
2%..... 70
5 70
1%..... 70
74 70
2%..... 70
Respondents..... 70
2,031 70
100% 70
2,003 70
100% 70
590 70
100% 70
4,624 70
100% 70
Don't Know / No Answer 70
2,248 70
368 70
415 70
3,031 70
Total..... 70
4,279 70
2,371 70
1,005 70
7,655 70
2.1.7 Who Was with Survey Respondents 70
Who Was with Survey Respondents (more than 1 response possible)..... 71
Sheltered 71
Unsheltered..... 71
Unspecified..... 71
Total..... 71
71

%..... 71
71
%..... 71
71
%..... 71
71
%..... 71
With Someone 71
334 71
22%..... 71
409 71
30%..... 71
26 71
19%..... 71
769 71
26% 71
Partner 71
107 71
7%..... 71
139 71
10%..... 71
16 71
12%..... 71
262 71
9%..... 71
Child/Children 71
86 71
6%..... 71
18 71
1%..... 71
4 71
3%..... 71
108 71

4%.....71
Friend(s).....71
65.....71
4%.....71
184.....71
14%.....71
3.....71
2%.....71
252.....71
8%.....71
Pet(s).....71
31.....71
2%.....71
31.....71
2%.....71
1.....71
1%.....71
63.....71
2%.....71
Relative(s).....71
27.....71
2%.....71
37.....71
3%.....71
2.....71
1%.....71
66.....71
2%.....71
Other(s).....71
23.....71
2%.....71
19.....71
1%.....71

0 71
0% 71
42 71
1% 71
Alone 71
1,181 71
78% 71
941 71
70% 71
111 71
81% 71
2,233 71
74% 71
Respondents 71
1,515 71
100% 71
1,350 71
100% 71
137 71
100% 71
3,002 71
100% 71
Don't Know / No Answer 71
2,764 71
1,021 71
868 71
4,653 71
Total 71
4,279 71
2,371 71
1,005 71
7,655 71
2.1.8 Barriers to Housing 71

Loss of Housing (more than 1 response possible) 73
Sheltered 73
Unsheltered 73
Unspecified 73
Total 73
73
% 73
73
% 73
73
% 73
73
% 73
Illness or Medical Condition 73
66 73
11% 73
71 73
11% 73
16 73
11% 73
153 73
11% 73
Addiction or Substance Use 73
115 73
19% 73
170 73
26% 73
44 73
30% 73
329 73
23% 73
Job Loss 73
67 73

11%..... 73
103 73
15%..... 73
22 73
15%..... 73
192 73
14% 73
Unable to Pay Rent or Mortgage 73
103 73
17%..... 73
145 73
22%..... 73
10 73
7%..... 73
258 73
18% 73
Unsafe Housing Conditions 73
45 73
8%..... 73
44 73
7%..... 73
9 73
6%..... 73
98 73
7%..... 73
Experienced Abuse by: Parent / Guardian 73
11 73
2%..... 73
19 73
3%..... 73
2 73
1%..... 73
32 73

2%.....73
Experienced Abuse by: Spouse / Partner.....73
37.....73
6%.....73
34.....73
5%.....73
4.....73
3%.....73
75.....73
5%.....73
Conflict with: Parent / Guardian.....73
40.....73
7%.....73
41.....73
6%.....73
6.....73
4%.....73
87.....73
6%.....73
Conflict with: Spouse / Partner.....73
58.....73
10%.....73
81.....73
12%.....73
18.....73
12%.....73
157.....73
11%.....73
Incarcerated (Jail or Prison).....73
20.....73
3%.....73
46.....73
7%.....73

5 73
3%..... 73
71 73
5%..... 73
Hospitalization or Treatment Program 73
30 73
5%..... 73
23 73
3%..... 73
3 73
2%..... 73
56 73
4%..... 73
Eviction..... 73
87 73
15%..... 73
140 73
21%..... 73
22 73
15%..... 73
249 73
18% 73
Other Reason 73
214 73
36%..... 73
236 73
35%..... 73
12 73
8%..... 73
462 73
33% 73
Respondents..... 73
596 73

665 73
145 73
1,406 73
Don't Know / No Answer 73
3,683 73
1,706 73
860 73
6,249 73
Total 73
4,279 73
2,371 73
1,005 73
7,655 73
Barriers to Accessing Housing (more than 1 response possible) 74
Sheltered 74
Unsheltered 74
Unspecified 74
Total 74
74
% 74
74
% 74
74
% 74
74
% 74
Income Too Low 74
766 74
53% 74
631 74
48% 74
346 74
55% 74

1,743 74

51% 74

History of Eviction/ Lack of References 74

153 74

11%..... 74

130 74

10%..... 74

2 74

0%..... 74

285 74

8%..... 74

Lack of Identification..... 74

19 74

1%..... 74

57 74

4%..... 74

0 74

0%..... 74

76 74

2%..... 74

No Income/No Income Assistance..... 74

205 74

14%..... 74

196 74

15%..... 74

95 74

15%..... 74

496 74

15% 74

Addiction..... 74

268 74

18%..... 74

270 74

20%..... 74
200 74
32%..... 74
738 74
22% 74
Rent Too High..... 74
809 74
56%..... 74
647 74
49%..... 74
357 74
57%..... 74
1,813 74
53% 74
Poor Housing Conditions..... 74
279 74
19%..... 74
208 74
16%..... 74
87 74
14%..... 74
574 74
17% 74
No Housing Available that Suits My Needs..... 74
473 74
32%..... 74
338 74
26%..... 74
206 74
33%..... 74
1,017 74
30% 74
Mental Health Issues..... 74

168 74
12%..... 74
119 74
9%..... 74
106 74
17%..... 74
393 74
12% 74
Family Breakdown/ Abuse/ Conflict 74
208 74
14%..... 74
151 74
11%..... 74
109 74
17%..... 74
468 74
14% 74
Conflict with Law..... 74
87 74
6%..... 74
70 74
5%..... 74
46 74
7%..... 74
203 74
6%..... 74
Pets 74
85 74
6%..... 74
79 74
6%..... 74
33 74
5%..... 74

197 74

6% 74

Discrimination 74

211 74

14% 74

178 74

13% 74

116 74

19% 74

505 74

15% 74

Lack of Transportation 74

22 74

2% 74

32 74

2% 74

0 74

0% 74

54 74

2% 74

Other Reason 74

342 74

23% 74

297 74

22% 74

269 74

43% 74

908 74

27% 74

Respondents 74

1,457 74

1,325 74

626 74

3,408 74
Don't Know / No Answer 74
2,822 74
1,046 74
379 74
4,247 74
Total 74
4,279 74
2,371 74
1,005 74
7,655 74
2.1.9 Health Conditions 74
Health Condition (more than 1 response possible) 75
Sheltered 75
Unsheltered 75
Unspecified 75
Total 75
75
% 75
75
% 75
75
% 75
75
% 75
Medical Condition / Illness 75
679 75
45% 75
550 75
41% 75
272 75
47% 75
1,501 75

44% 75
Physical Disability 75
516 75
35% 75
453 75
34% 75
163 75
28% 75
1,132 75
33% 75
Addiction 75
749 75
50% 75
779 75
59% 75
383 75
66% 75
1,911 75
56% 75
Mental Illness 75
589 75
39% 75
512 75
38% 75
257 75
45% 75
1,358 75
40% 75
Respondents 75
1,495 75
1,330 75
577 75
3,402 75

Don't Know / No Answer 75
2,784 75
1,041 75
428 75
4,253 75
Total 75
4,279 75
2,371 75
1,005 75
7,655 75
Number of Health Conditions 75
Sheltered 75
Unsheltered 75
Unspecified 75
Total 75
75
% 75
75
% 75
75
% 75
75
% 75
No Health Conditions 75
30 75
13% 75
62 75
17% 75
0 75
N/A 75
92 75
15% 75
1 Health Condition 75

56 75
24%..... 75
108 75
29%..... 75
0 75
N/A 75
164 75
27% 75
2 Health Conditions..... 75
78 75
33%..... 75
103 75
28%..... 75
0 75
N/A 75
181 75
30% 75
3 Health Conditions..... 75
41 75
17%..... 75
55 75
15%..... 75
0 75
N/A 75
96 75
16% 75
4 Health Conditions..... 75
30 75
13%..... 75
41 75
11%..... 75
0 75
N/A 75

71 75
12% 75
Respondents 75
235 75
100% 75
369 75
100% 75
0 75
N/A 75
604 75
100% 75
Don't Know / No Answer 75
4,044 75
2,002 75
1,005 75
7,051 75
Total 75
4,279 75
2,371 75
1,005 75
7,655 75
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Services Accessed (more than 1 response possible) 79
Sheltered 79
Unsheltered 79
Unspecified 79
Total 79
79
% 79
79
% 79

79
% 79
79
% 79
Health Services 79
Health Services (Not Specified) 79
0 79
0% 79
0 79
0% 79
0 79
0% 79
0 79
0% 79
Ambulance 79
580 79
40% 79
435 79
34% 79
202 79
37% 79
1,217 79
37% 79
Emergency Room 79
775 79
54% 79
555 79
44% 79
321 79
58% 79
1,651 79
51% 79
Hospital (Non-Emergency) 79

637 79
44% 79
417 79
33% 79
171 79
31% 79
1,225 79
38% 79
Dental Clinic or Dentist 79
296 79
21% 79
183 79
14% 79
86 79
16% 79
565 79
17% 79
Mental Health Services 79
373 79
26% 79
257 79
20% 79
137 79
25% 79
767 79
24% 79
Addiction Services 79
433 79
30% 79
320 79
25% 79
365 79
66% 79

1,118 79
34% 79
Health Clinic 79
615 79
43% 79
399 79
31% 79
31 79
6% 79
1,045 79
32% 79
Food services 79
Food Services (Not Specified) 79
0 79
0% 79
3 79
0% 79
0 79
0% 79
3 79
0% 79
Food Banks 79
440 79
31% 79
468 79
37% 79
294 79
53% 79
1,202 79
37% 79
Meal Programs/Soup Kitchens 79
691 79
48% 79

689 79
54%..... 79
356 79
64%..... 79
1,736 79
53% 79
Legal Services 79
Legal Services (Not Specified) 79
1 79
0%..... 79
1 79
0%..... 79
0 79
0%..... 79
2 79
0%..... 79
Legal 79
228 79
16%..... 79
194 79
15%..... 79
11 79
2%..... 79
433 79
13% 79
Parole or Services for Ex-Offenders 79
94 79
7%..... 79
106 79
8%..... 79
130 79
24%..... 79
330 79

10% 79
Employment and Financial Services 79
Employment and Financial Services (Not Specified) 79
0 79
0% 79
2 79
0% 79
0 79
0% 79
2 79
0% 79
Employment/Job Help 79
379 79
26% 79
244 79
19% 79
125 79
23% 79
748 79
23% 79
Budgeting/ Trusteeship 79
60 79
4% 79
19 79
1% 79
0 79
0% 79
79 79
2% 79
Housing Services 79
Housing Services (Not Specified) 79
3 79
0% 79

2 79
0%..... 79
283 79
51%..... 79
288 79
9%..... 79
Housing Help/Eviction Prevention 79
235 79
16%..... 79
171 79
13%..... 79
71 79
13%..... 79
477 79
15% 79
Homeless Outreach..... 79
485 79
34%..... 79
418 79
33%..... 79
250 79
45%..... 79
1,153 79
35% 79
Transitional Housing 79
269 79
19%..... 79
64 79
5%..... 79
88 79
16%..... 79
421 79
13% 79

Other Services 79
Other Services (Not Specified) 79
0 79
0% 79
1 79
0% 79
0 79
0% 79
1 79
0% 79
Drop-In 79
516 79
36% 79
501 79
40% 79
260 79
47% 79
1,277 79
39% 79
Newcomer Services 79
48 79
3% 79
18 79
1% 79
3 79
1% 79
69 79
2% 79
Faith-Based/Spiritual Services 79
258 79
18% 79
194 79
15% 79

8 79
1%..... 79
460 79
14% 79
Other 79
68 79
5%..... 79
87 79
7%..... 79
40 79
7%..... 79
195 79
6%..... 79
None..... 79
31 79
2%..... 79
34 79
3%..... 79
14 79
3%..... 79
79 79
2%..... 79
Respondents 79
1,436 79
1,267 79
552 79
3,255 79
Don't Know / No Answer 79
2,843 79
1,104 79
453 79
4,400 79
Total 79

4,279 79
2,371 79
1,005 79
7,655 79
2.1.13 History of Homelessness 80
Times Homeless 82
Sheltered 82
Unsheltered 82
Unspecified 82
Total 82
82
% 82
82
% 82
82
% 82
82
% 82
First Time 82
102 82
44% 82
144 82
41% 82
214 82
37% 82
460 82
40% 82
Not First Time 82
129 82
56% 82
203 82
59% 82
357 82

63%..... 82
689 82
60% 82
Respondents 82
231 82
100% 82
347 82
100% 82
571 82
100% 82
1,149 82
100% 82
Don't Know / No Answer 82
4,048 82
2,024 82
434 82
6,506 82
Total 82
4,279 82
2,371 82
1,005 82
7,655 82
Age When First Homeless 82
Sheltered 82
Unsheltered 82
Unspecified 82
Total 82
82
%..... 82
82
%..... 82
82
%..... 82

82
% 82
Youth (Under 25 Years) 82
338 82
51% 82
580 82
57% 82
91 82
31% 82
1,009 82
51% 82
Adult (25-54 Years) 82
260 82
39% 82
390 82
38% 82
159 82
54% 82
809 82
41% 82
Senior (55+) 82
63 82
10% 82
43 82
4% 82
44 82
15% 82
150 82
8% 82
Respondents 82
661 82
100% 82
1,013 82

100% 82
294 82
100% 82
1,968 82
100% 82
Don't Know / No Answer 82
3,618 82
1,358 82
711 82
5,687 82
Total 82
4,279 82
2,371 82
1,005 82
7,655 82
Length of Time in Community 84
Sheltered 84
Unsheltered 84
Unspecified 84
Total 84
84
% 84
84
% 84
84
% 84
84
% 84
Under 1 year 84
546 84
28% 84
332 84
16% 84

107 84
20% 84
985 84
21% 84
1 year to under 5 years 84
347 84
18% 84
381 84
18% 84
87 84
17% 84
815 84
18% 84
5 years to under 10 years 84
160 84
8% 84
258 84
12% 84
74 84
14% 84
492 84
11% 84
10 years or more 84
639 84
32% 84
654 84
31% 84
152 84
29% 84
1,445 84
31% 84
Always Been Here 84
290 84

15%..... 84
461 84
22%..... 84
104 84
20%..... 84
855 84
19% 84
Respondents 84
1,982 84
100% 84
2,086 84
100% 84
524 84
100% 84
4,592 84
100% 84
Don't Know / No Answer 84
2,297 84
285 84
481 84
3,063 84
Total 84
4,279 84
2,371 84
1,005 84
7,655 84
Where Lived Before 84
Sheltered 84
Unsheltered 84
Unspecified 84
Total 84
84
%..... 84

84
% 84
84
% 84
84
% 84
Always Been Here 84
113 84
17% 84
257 84
27% 84
109 84
33% 84
479 84
25% 84
Metro Vancouver 84
80 84
12% 84
93 84
10% 84
43 84
13% 84
216 84
11% 84
Elsewhere in BC 84
250 84
39% 84
369 84
39% 84
115 84
35% 84
734 84
38% 84

Elsewhere in Canada 84
190 84
29% 84
210 84
22% 84
46 84
14% 84
446 84
23% 84
Other Countries 84
15 84
2% 84
10 84
1% 84
17 84
5% 84
42 84
2% 84
Respondents 84
648 84
100% 84
939 84
100% 84
330 84
100% 84
1,917 84
100% 84
Don't Know / No Answer 84
3,631 84
1,432 84
675 84
5,738 84
Total 84

4,279 84
2,371 84
1,005 84
7,655 84
2.1.14 Service in the Military or RCMP 84
Service in the Military or RCMP 85
Sheltered 85
Unsheltered 85
Unspecified 85
Total 85
85
% 85
85
% 85
85
% 85
85
% 85
Served in Canadian Military (army, navy, air force) or RCMP 85
96 85
5% 85
92 85
4% 85
16 85
3% 85
204 85
4% 85
Served in Another Country's Military 85
45 85
2% 85
35 85
2% 85
4 85

1%..... 85
84 85
2%..... 85
Served in Armed Forces (or RCMP) (Unspecified) 85
5 85
0%..... 85
2 85
0%..... 85
7 85
1%..... 85
14 85
0%..... 85
Hasn't Served in Armed Forces (or RCMP)..... 85
1,945 85
93%..... 85
1,951 85
94%..... 85
557 85
95%..... 85
4,453 85
94% 85
Respondents..... 85
2,091 85
100% 85
2,080 85
100% 85
584 85
100% 85
4,755 85
100% 85
Don't Know / No Answer 85
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13% 86
Bedbugs/Pests 86
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Respondents 86
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1. Introduction

For the first time this spring, the provincial government funded the coordination of homeless counts in 12 B.C. communities during March and April 2018. This report provides an overall snapshot of homelessness in B.C., inform. B.C.'s Homelessness Action Plan and provide a baseline to measure progress.

1.1 About this Report

The provincial government funded the Homelessness Services Association of BC, Urban Matters and BC Non-Profit Housing Association to coordinate homeless counts in 12 B.C. communities during March and April 2018 and prepare this report. This report is based on the following data:

- Full survey information gathered in the 12 B.C. count communities
- Summary data from six federally funded homeless counts and two other homeless counts conducted in the spring of 2018
- Summary data from four additional counts conducted in 2017
- Shelter data from other BC communities (collected by BC Housing)

For a comprehensive list of communities included in this report, see Section 5.1.

This approach provides a fairly comprehensive picture of homelessness in British Columbia with coverage of more than 85 per cent of the province by population. The Province plans to coordinate homeless counts every two years, with the next one scheduled for 2020. This timing will coincide with homeless counts funded by the federal government through Reaching Home, Canada's Homelessness Strategy.

1.2 About Homeless Counts

The 2018 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C. provides important baseline information on the estimated number, key demographic and service provision needs of people experiencing homelessness in 24 communities across B.C.[3] Point-in-Time (PiT) counts have been conducted every three years in Metro Vancouver since 2002, several other communities have also carried out their own homeless counts over the years, and the Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy supported homeless counts in designated communities across Canada in 2016 and 2018.

A PiT count provides a snapshot of people who are experiencing homelessness in a 24-hour period. For the purpose of the 2018 homeless counts conducted in the 12 B.C. communities, an individual was defined as experiencing homelessness if *they do not have a place of their own where they pay rent and can expect to stay for at least 30 days*. This included people who:

- Stayed overnight on the night of the count in homeless shelters, including transition houses for women fleeing violence and youth safe houses, and people with no fixed address staying temporarily in hospitals, jails or detox facilities (defined as "sheltered");

[3] Note that counts in Metro Vancouver, the Fraser Valley, and Capital Region included multiple communities.

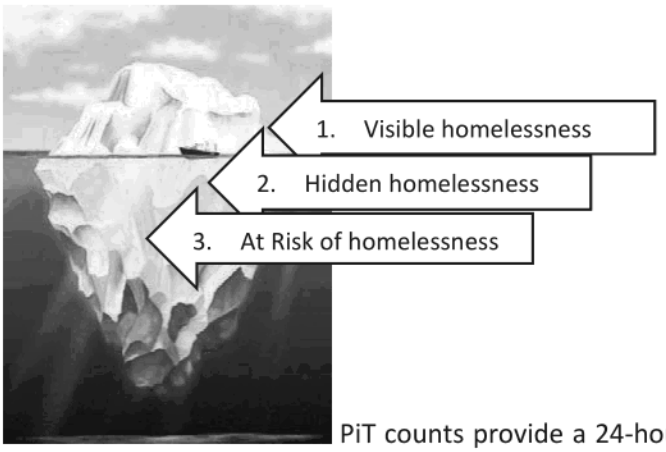
- Stayed outside in alleys, doorways, parkades, parks and vehicles or people who were staying temporarily at someone else's place (couch surfing) and/or those using homelessness service (defined as "unsheltered").

PiT counts are an undercount and represent only those individuals identified during the 24-hour period. The number of people who are actually experiencing homelessness is likely greater than what is presented in this report. Despite this, the PiT count is an accepted methodological tool for collecting data on homelessness at a single Point-in-Time. When communities conduct counts at the same time of year using a common approach, the results can be used to build a better understanding of homelessness in B.C.

1.3 Important Limitations and Methodological Considerations

The following section outlines some of the challenges of accurately estimating homelessness. Please also see Section 4 for a more detailed methodological overview.

Figure 1:



PiT counts provide a 24-hour snapshot which is not the same as estimating the number of people who move in and out of homelessness over time. Individual circumstances can change and over the course of a year, some people will become homeless for the first time, some will find permanent housing, and others will find temporary housing and cycle in and out of homelessness.[4]

1. The PiT count methodology is most effective at counting one segment of the homeless population that is sometimes referred to as the "visible" homeless. This population is shown above the waterline in Figure 1. Using the metaphor of an iceberg, the visible homeless represent just the tip of the iceberg — and the focus of this report.

2. The "hidden" homeless includes people who do not have a regular address of their own where they have security of tenure. The hidden homeless, for purpose of the count, includes people who are staying temporarily with friends— often called "couch surfing." They may also be living in forests or parks, or in abandoned buildings, which makes it difficult for survey volunteers to find them. In developing and implementing counts in each of the 12 communities, HSABC worked with local agencies and service

[4] Adapted from the 2017 Metro Vancouver Homeless Count http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/homelessness/HomelessnessPublications/2017MetroVancouverHomelessCount.pdf

providers to ensure at least one event was held in each community that provided food or other services to community members. The goal of these magnet events was to draw people to services where they could complete the survey and therefore be included in this report. While this approach likely resulted in some additional surveys being completed, it is likely still a small proportion of the total hidden homeless population. Furthermore, even if individuals who typically may not access services attended these events, they may have declined to be surveyed for various reasons and therefore are not included in the count.

3. Low vacancy rates, and incomes not keeping pace with rising housing costs have resulted in a significant increase in the number of people at risk of losing their housing. Based on 2016 census data, 260,220 BC households were experiencing some form of housing need.[5] These households are not included in this report.

[5] A household may be experiencing a 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 shelter costs (rent and associated utility costs). https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/chn-biml/index-eng.cfm

2. Summary of Provincial Findings

This section of the report provides aggregate data from 24 counts in communities across the province. It includes the provincially funded counts in the 12 B.C. count communities[6], the federally funded Homelessness Partnering Strategy counts, independent counts on Salt Spring Island and in Terrace, the 2017 counts in Metro Vancouver, the Fraser Valley, Vernon and Duncan, and shelter data from other B.C. communities collected by BC Housing.[7]

2.1 Provincial Profile of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

This section of the report provides a provincial profile using data from the 24 count communities.

2.1.1 Sheltered and Unsheltered

A total of 7,655 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness. This included 5,820 adults and 219 children who were under the age of 19 and accompanied by a parent or guardian[8]. The majority of individuals identified as experiencing homelessness were sheltered (63%) and 37% reported being unsheltered.[9]

Among the survey respondents who were unsheltered on the night of the count, 37% reported sleeping outside and 30% reported couch-surfing or staying with friends. Sixty percent of accompanied children who were sheltered were staying at a transition house and 19% were staying at a shelter. Thirty-five accompanied children were identified as unsheltered.[10]

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[6] Individual community profiles have been created and are in a separate document.
[7] This includes data from shelters and transition houses from communities not involved in a count. Data was obtained from a single night in March.
[8] The age of 1,616 respondents is not known.
[9] Unsheltered respondents include individuals sleeping outside, in a tent or makeshift structure, in a vehicle, or couch-surfing.
[10] Please see

Table 2.22

Table 2.1: Sheltered and Unsheltered by Age and Shelter Type - All Communities

Sheltered and Unsheltered by Age	Adults and Unaccompanied Youth		Accompanied Children		Unknown Age		Total Homeless	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Sheltered Total	3,724	64%	184	84%	879	54%	**4,787**	**63%**
Shelters	2,647	45%	42	19%	609	38%	**3,298**	**43%**
Transition Houses	218	4%	132	60%	49	3%	**399**	**5%**
Detox Centres	138	2%	0	0%	0	0%	**138**	**2%**
No Fixed Address (NFA) [11]	460	8%	3 [12]	1%	65	4%	**528**	**7%**
Other	261	4%	7	3%	156	10%	**424**	**6%**
Unsheltered Total	2,096	36%	35	16%	737	46%	**2,868**	**37%**
Total Individuals Experiencing Homelessness	**5,820**	**100%**	**219**	**100%**	**1,616**	**100%**	**7,655**	**100%**

Table 2.2: Sheltered and Unsheltered - All Communities

	#	%
Sheltered	4,787	63%
Unsheltered	2,868	37%
Total	**7,655**	**100%**

2.1.2 Gender

Among survey respondents, 68% identified as male and 30% as female.[13] Two percent (2%) of respondents identified another gender identity.

Almost one third of sheltered and unsheltered respondents identified as female (31% and 29%).

[11] Includes individuals who may be staying in jails, hospitals, and/or short-term medical facilities.
[12] This is typically a parent in hospital with a newborn or young infant.
[13] During the homeless count, survey respondents in the 12 BC count communities self-identified their gender identity. However, in some cases in HPS communities shelter data was used to identify gender.

Table 2.3: Gender - All Communities

Gender Identity	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified[14]		Total	
	#	%	#	%[15]	#	%	#	%
Man/Male	1,629	67%	1,485	70%	569	67%	**3,683**	**68%**
Woman/Female	761	31%	616	29%	276	33%	**1,653**	**30%**
Another Gender Identity	48	2%	35	2%	4	0%	**87**	**2%**
Respondents	**2,438**	**100%**	**2,136**	**100%**	**849**	**100%**	**5,423**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	1,841		235		156		**2,232**	
Total	**4,279**		**2,371**		**1,005**		**7,655**	

2.1.3 Age

The majority of survey respondents (65%) were adults (25-54 years of age), while 20% were seniors (55+ years of age), and 15% were youth (under 25 years of age).[16]

The proportion of seniors was greater among sheltered respondents than unsheltered respondents (23% vs. 16%), while the proportion of adults was greater among the unsheltered respondents than the sheltered respondents (71% vs. 61%). Youth represented similar proportions among both sheltered and unsheltered respondents (15% and 13%).

Table 2.4: Age - All Communities

Age Groups	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	339	15%	279	13%	140	17%	**758**	**15%**
Adult (25-54 Years)	1,341	61%	1,492	71%	517	63%	**3,350**	**65%**
Senior (55+)	510	23%	345	16%	168	20%	**1,023**	**20%**
Respondents	**2,190**	**100%**	**2,116**	**100%**	**825**	**100%**	**5,131**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	2,089		255		180		**2,524**	
Total	**4,279**		**2,371**		**1,005**		**7,655**	

2.1.4 Indigenous Identity

A total of 1,904 survey respondents identified as Indigenous, representing 38% of all respondents.[17]

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[14] "Unspecified" refers to survey respondents from communities where respondents were not broken out by sheltered or unsheltered.

[15] Percentage total does not equal 100% due to rounding.

[16] During the homeless count, survey respondents in the 12 B.C. Count Communities self-identified their age. Kelowna was the only HPS community where shelter data was used (as it was the only data available). For all other communities, only survey data was used.

The proportion of respondents identifying as Indigenous was higher for unsheltered (42%) than sheltered respondents (32%).

Table 2.5: Indigenous - All Communities

Indigenous Identity	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Indigenous Identity	708	32%	874	42%	322	41%	**1,904**	**38%**
Not Indigenous Identity	1,486	68%	1,196	58%	459	59%	**3,141**	**62%**
Respondents	**2,194**	**100%**	**2,070**	**100%**	**781**	**100%**	**5,045**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	2,085		301		224		**2,610**	
Total	**4,279**		**2,371**		**1,005**		**7,655**	

2.1.5 Newcomers to Canada

Survey participants were asked if they had come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee. Four percent (4%) of respondents reported coming to Canada as an immigrant or refugee.[18] Among survey respondents who identified as an immigrant or refugee and reported on their length of time in Canada, 83% reported being in Canada for ten years or more.[19]

Table 2.6: Newcomers to Canada - All Communities

Newcomers to Canada	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Immigrant or Refugee	36	4%	37	3%	7	4%	**80**	**4%**
Non-Immigrant/-Refugee	784	96%	1,058	97%	192	96%	**2,034**	**96%**
Respondents	**820**	**100%**	**1,095**	**100%**	**199**	**100%**	**2,114**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	3,459		1,276		806		**5,541**	
Total	**4,279**		**2,371**		**1,005**		**7,655**	

2.1.6 Sexual Orientation

Survey participants were asked to identify their sexual orientation.

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[17] During the count, survey respondents in the 12 B.C. count communities self-identified their Indigenous identity. However, in some cases in HPS communities shelter data was used to identify indigenous identity.

[18] Fifty-seven of the 80 respondents reported coming to Canada as an immigrant, 13 as a refugee or a refugee claimant, and 10 did not specify if they had come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee.

[19] Seventy survey respondents identified as an immigrant or refugee and reported on their length of time in Canada. 83% reported being in Canada 10 years or more, 4% reported being in Canada under 1 year, 7% indicated being in Canada 1 to under 5 years, and 6% reported being in Canada 5 to under 10 years.

Eight percent (8%) of respondents identified as LGBTQ2S. The proportion of respondents who identified as LGBTQ2S was the same for both sheltered and unsheltered respondents (8%). A large majority of respondents identified as straight or heterosexual (90%).

Table 2.7: Sexual Orientation - All Communities

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
Sexual Orientation	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Straight/Heterosexual	1,830	90%	1,801	90%	536	91%	**4,167**	**90%**
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Two-spirit, Questioning, Queer (LGTBQ2S)	167	8%	167	8%	49	8%	**383**	**8%**
Other (Not Listed / Multiple Responses)	34	2%	35	2%	5	1%	**74**	**2%**
Respondents	**2,031**	**100%**	**2,003**	**100%**	**590**	**100%**	**4,624**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	2,248		368		415		**3,031**	
Total	**4,279**		**2,371**		**1,005**		**7,655**	

2.1.7 Who Was with Survey Respondents

Survey participants were asked if they were with anyone on the day of the count and could include as many responses as applied.

Most respondents (74%) reported being alone, while 9% reported being with a partner and 8% with a friend. A higher proportion of sheltered respondents reported that they were alone compared to unsheltered respondents (78% vs. 70%). Unsheltered respondents who were with someone were likely to be with a friend (14%) or partner (10%), while sheltered respondents were more likely to be with a partner (7%) or children (6%). Respondents with children represented a higher proportion of sheltered respondents than unsheltered respondents (6% vs. 1%).

Table 2.8: Who Was with Survey Respondents - All Communities

Who Was with Survey Respondents (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
With Someone	334	22%	409	30%	26	19%	**769**	**26%**
Partner	107	7%	139	10%	16	12%	**262**	**9%**
Child/Children	86	6%	18	1%	4	3%	**108**	**4%**
Friend(s)	65	4%	184	14%	3	2%	**252**	**8%**
Pet(s)	31	2%	31	2%	1	1%	**63**	**2%**
Relative(s)	27	2%	37	3%	2	1%	**66**	**2%**
Other(s)	23	2%	19	1%	0	0%	**42**	**1%**
Alone	1,181	78%	941	70%	111	81%	**2,233**	**74%**
Respondents	**1,515**	**100%**	**1,350**	**100%**	**137**	**100%**	**3,002**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	2,764		1,021		868		**4,653**	
Total	**4,279**		**2,371**		**1,005**		**7,655**	

2.1.8 Barriers to Housing

Survey participants were asked what had caused them to lose their housing most recently and could include as many responses as applied.

APPENDIX 1

Table 2.9 shows the main reasons reported by survey respondents for losing their housing most recently was addiction or substance use (23%), high rents (18%), eviction (18%) and “other” reasons (33%).

Table 2.9: Reason for Loss of Housing - All Communities

Loss of Housing (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Unspecified**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Illness or Medical Condition	66	11%	71	11%	16	11%	**153**	**11%**
Addiction or Substance Use	115	19%	170	26%	44	30%	**329**	**23%**
Job Loss	67	11%	103	15%	22	15%	**192**	**14%**
Unable to Pay Rent or Mortgage	103	17%	145	22%	10	7%	**258**	**18%**
Unsafe Housing Conditions	45	8%	44	7%	9	6%	**98**	**7%**
Experienced Abuse by: Parent / Guardian	11	2%	19	3%	2	1%	**32**	**2%**
Experienced Abuse by: Spouse / Partner	37	6%	34	5%	4	3%	**75**	**5%**
Conflict with: Parent / Guardian	40	7%	41	6%	6	4%	**87**	**6%**
Conflict with: Spouse / Partner	58	10%	81	12%	18	12%	**157**	**11%**
Incarcerated (Jail or Prison)	20	3%	46	7%	5	3%	**71**	**5%**
Hospitalization or Treatment Program	30	5%	23	3%	3	2%	**56**	**4%**
Eviction	87	15%	140	21%	22	15%	**249**	**18%**
Other Reason[20]	214	36%	236	35%	12	8%	**462**	**33%**
Respondents	**596**		**665**		**145**		**1,406**	
Don't Know / No Answer	3,683		1,706		860		**6,249**	
Total	**4,279**		**2,371**		**1,005**		**7,655**	

Survey participants were also asked what barriers they faced in finding a place of their own.

The three main barriers to accessing housing identified by respondents were high rents (53%), low incomes (51%), and a lack of suitable, available housing (30%).

[20] "Other Reason" for loss of housing, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, included responses related to a) conflict with someone other than a parent/guardian or spouse/partner, b) death of a family member or other, and c) end of a relationship/divorce.

Table 2.10: Barriers to Accessing Housing - All Communities

Barriers to Accessing Housing (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Income Too Low	766	53%	631	48%	346	55%	**1,743**	**51%**
History of Eviction/ Lack of References	153	11%	130	10%	2	0%	**285**	**8%**
Lack of Identification	19	1%	57	4%	0	0%	**76**	**2%**
No Income/No Income Assistance	205	14%	196	15%	95	15%	**496**	**15%**
Addiction	268	18%	270	20%	200	32%	**738**	**22%**
Rent Too High	809	56%	647	49%	357	57%	**1,813**	**53%**
Poor Housing Conditions	279	19%	208	16%	87	14%	**574**	**17%**
No Housing Available that Suits My Needs	473	32%	338	26%	206	33%	**1,017**	**30%**
Mental Health Issues	168	12%	119	9%	106	17%	**393**	**12%**
Family Breakdown/ Abuse/ Conflict	208	14%	151	11%	109	17%	**468**	**14%**
Conflict with Law	87	6%	70	5%	46	7%	**203**	**6%**
Pets	85	6%	79	6%	33	5%	**197**	**6%**
Discrimination	211	14%	178	13%	116	19%	**505**	**15%**
Lack of Transportation	22	2%	32	2%	0	0%	**54**	**2%**
Other Reason[21]	342	23%	297	22%	269	43%	**908**	**27%**
Respondents	**1,457**		**1,325**		**626**		**3,408**	
Don't Know / No Answer	2,822		1,046		379		**4,247**	
Total	**4,279**		**2,371**		**1,005**		**7,655**	

2.1.9 Health Conditions

Survey participants were asked about their health, and whether they had a medical condition, physical disability, mental illness and/or addiction. Medical condition refers to chronic problems like asthma and diabetes, while physical disability refers to a condition affecting mobility or movement.

Table 2.11 shows that more than half of respondents (56%) reported an addiction, 44% reported a medical condition, 40% reported a mental illness and 33% reported a physical disability. Unsheltered

[21] "Other Reason" for barriers to accessing housing varied widely, with no specific response accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities.

respondents were more likely to report an addiction than sheltered respondents (59% vs. 50%), while other health conditions were relatively comparable between the two groups.

Table 2.12 shows the number of health conditions respondents identified. Fifty-eight percent (58%) reported two or more health conditions, while 15% reported no health conditions and 27% reported one health condition. Sheltered respondents were more likely to identify two or more health conditions than unsheltered respondents (63% vs. 54%).

Table 2.11: Health Conditions - All Communities

Health Condition (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Medical Condition / Illness	679	45%	550	41%	272	47%	**1,501**	**44%**
Physical Disability	516	35%	453	34%	163	28%	**1,132**	**33%**
Addiction	749	50%	779	59%	383	66%	**1,911**	**56%**
Mental Illness	589	39%	512	38%	257	45%	**1,358**	**40%**
Respondents	**1,495**		**1,330**		**577**		**3,402**	
Don't Know / No Answer	2,784		1,041		428		**4,253**	
Total	**4,279**		**2,371**		**1,005**		**7,655**	

Table 2.12: Health Conditions – Total Number of Health Conditions[22]

Number of Health Conditions	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
No Health Conditions	30	13%	62	17%	0	N/A	**92**	**15%**
1 Health Condition	56	24%	108	29%	0	N/A	**164**	**27%**
2 Health Conditions	78	33%	103	28%	0	N/A	**181**	**30%**
3 Health Conditions	41	17%	55	15%	0	N/A	**96**	**16%**
4 Health Conditions	30	13%	41	11%	0	N/A	**71**	**12%**
Respondents	**235**	**100%**	**369**	**100%**	**0**	**N/A**	**604**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	4,044		2,002		1,005		**7,051**	
Total	**4,279**		**2,371**		**1,005**		**7,655**	

2.1.10 Youth in Care

Survey participants were asked if they had ever lived in foster care, in a youth group home or under a youth/young adult agreement.[23]

[22] In any tables where there are large numbers of "Don't Know/No Answer", this is because larger communities either did not ask this question or did not provide the data in a way that could be integrated with the aggregated tables.

Twenty-nine percent (29%) of respondents reported they had been in care.[24] While the percentage of respondents reporting they had been in care was lower in the Metro Vancouver (21%), a larger percentage of respondents reported being in care in communities such as the Fraser Valley (49%), Prince George (48%), Williams Lake (47%), Campbell River (41%), and Merritt (40%) (See Section 4).

Table 2.13: Youth Who Have Been in Foster Care, Youth Group Home, or Under a Youth Agreement - All Communities (Totals Only)[25]

Youth in Care	Total	
	#	%
Yes	**1,236**	**29%**
Currently	**21**	**0%**
Previously	**507**	**12%**
Don't Know / No Answer	**708**	**17%**
No	**3,001**	**71%**
Respondents	**4,237**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	**3,418**	
Total	**7,655**	

2.1.11 Income

Survey participants were asked to identify their sources of income and could identify as many sources as applied.

Survey respondents identified a wide range of income sources. The most commonly reported sources of income identified by survey respondents were welfare/income assistance (40%), disability benefits (29%), and informal/self employment (28%).

Sheltered survey respondents were more likely to identify employment as a source of income than unsheltered respondents (23% vs. 15%). Unsheltered respondents were more likely to identify informal/self employment such as binning or panhandling as a source of income than sheltered respondents (37% vs. 19%).

Table 2.14: Sources of Income - All Communities[26]

Sources of Income (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Welfare / Income	746	40%	701	40%	36	40%	**1,483**	**40%**

[23] Some HPS communities asked whether participants had ever been in government or ministry care.
[24] Some HPS communities did not provide information on sheltered and unsheltered; therefore, only totals are provided to include as many communities as possible.
[25] See table and footnote above.
[26] Information that was provided for the Fraser Valley, Kamloops, Kelowna, Nelson, Prince George, Duncan and Vernon was not included, as a number of "respondents" was not provided, eliminating the ability to calculate percentages.

Assistance								
Employment	420	23%	263	15%	4	4%	**687**	**19%**
Job/Employment - Full-Time	113	6%	42	2%	4	4%	**159**	**4%**
Job/Employment - Part-Time	246	13%	187	11%	0	0%	**433**	**12%**
Other/Unspecified	63	3%	35	2%	0	0%	**98**	**3%**
Informal/Self Employment	349	19%	647	37%	18	20%	**1,014**	**28%**
Panhandling	92	5%	195	11%	11	12%	**298**	**8%**
Binning/Bottles	149	8%	270	16%	7	8%	**426**	**12%**
Vending	51	3%	106	6%	0	0%	**157**	**4%**
Other/Unspecified	62	3%	95	5%	0	0%	**157**	**4%**
Seniors Benefits	255	14%	98	6%	5	6%	**358**	**10%**
Old Age Security (OAS)/Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)	103	6%	42	2%	5	6%	**150**	**4%**
CPP or Other Pension	160	9%	64	4%	0	0%	**224**	**6%**
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Disability Benefit	579	31%	493	28%	12	13%	**1,084**	**29%**
Employment Insurance	43	2%	16	1%	7	8%	**66**	**2%**
Youth Agreement	3	0%	5	0%	0	0%	**8**	**0%**
Money from Family/Friends	135	7%	133	8%	0	0%	**268**	**7%**
Honoraria	22	1%	20	1%	0	0%	**42**	**1%**
No Income	166	9%	159	9%	11	12%	**336**	**9%**
Other[27]	147	8%	164	9%	3	3%	**314**	**9%**
Respondents	**1,866**		**1,732**		**89**		**3,687**	
Don't Know / No Answer	2,413		639		916		**3,968**	
Total	**4,279**		**2,371**		**1,005**		**7,655**	

2.1.12 Services Accessed

Survey participants were asked about the types of services they had used over the past 12 months and could include as many services as applied.

Respondents reported that they had accessed a variety of services including health, food, housing and other services such as drop ins. Generally, a greater proportion of respondents in shelters reported accessing health services compared to respondents who were unsheltered, while a greater proportion of unsheltered respondents reported accessing food services. It is important to note that while individuals experiencing homelessness may have a need for a variety of services, the availability of those services varies greatly by community.

[27] "Other" sources of income accounting for 2% or more respondents across all communities were related to other types of informal/part time employment or odd jobs.

Fifty-one percent (51%) of all respondents reported using the emergency room, 38% the hospital (non-emergency) and 37% reported using the ambulance. In all cases, a greater proportion of sheltered respondents reported accessing health services than unsheltered respondents. More than a third of respondents (34%) reported accessing addiction services over the previous year - with a greater proportion of sheltered respondents (30%) reporting they had accessed these services than unsheltered respondents (25%).

Fifty-three percent (53%) of all respondents reported using meal programs and foodbanks (37%). A greater proportion of unsheltered respondents reported using meal programs (54%) compared to sheltered respondents (48%).

Thirty-five percent (35%) of all respondents reported using homeless outreach in the previous year, with a similar proportion of sheltered and unsheltered respondents using these services. Nineteen percent (19%) of sheltered respondents reported they had accessed transitional housing services compared to 5% of unsheltered respondents.

Table 2.15: Services Accessed in 12 Months Prior to Count - All Communities[28]

Services Accessed (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Unspecified**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Health Services								
Health Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Ambulance	580	40%	435	34%	202	37%	**1,217**	**37%**
Emergency Room	775	54%	555	44%	321	58%	**1,651**	**51%**
Hospital (Non-Emergency)	637	44%	417	33%	171	31%	**1,225**	**38%**
Dental Clinic or Dentist	296	21%	183	14%	86	16%	**565**	**17%**
Mental Health Services	373	26%	257	20%	137	25%	**767**	**24%**
Addiction Services	433	30%	320	25%	365	66%	**1,118**	**34%**
Health Clinic	615	43%	399	31%	31	6%	**1,045**	**32%**
Food services								
Food Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	3	0%	0	0%	**3**	**0%**
Food Banks	440	31%	468	37%	294	53%	**1,202**	**37%**
Meal Programs/Soup Kitchens	691	48%	689	54%	356	64%	**1,736**	**53%**
Legal Services								
Legal Services (Not Specified)	1	0%	1	0%	0	0%	**2**	**0%**
Legal	228	16%	194	15%	11	2%	**433**	**13%**
Parole or Services for Ex-Offenders	94	7%	106	8%	130	24%	**330**	**10%**
Employment and Financial Services								
Employment and Financial Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	2	0%	0	0%	**2**	**0%**
Employment/Job Help	379	26%	244	19%	125	23%	**748**	**23%**
Budgeting/ Trusteeship	60	4%	19	1%	0	0%	**79**	**2%**
Housing Services								
Housing Services (Not Specified)	3	0%	2	0%	283	51%	**288**	**9%**
Housing Help/Eviction Prevention	235	16%	171	13%	71	13%	**477**	**15%**
Homeless Outreach	485	34%	418	33%	250	45%	**1,153**	**35%**
Transitional Housing	269	19%	64	5%	88	16%	**421**	**13%**
Other Services								
Other Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	1	0%	0	0%	**1**	**0%**
Drop-In	516	36%	501	40%	260	47%	**1,277**	**39%**
Newcomer Services	48	3%	18	1%	3	1%	**69**	**2%**
Faith-Based/Spiritual Services	258	18%	194	15%	8	1%	**460**	**14%**
Other	68	5%	87	7%	40	7%	**195**	**6%**
None	31	2%	34	3%	14	3%	**79**	**2%**
Respondents	**1,436**		**1,267**		**552**		**3,255**	
Don't Know / No Answer	2,843		1,104		453		**4,400**	
Total	**4,279**		**2,371**		**1,005**		**7,655**	

[28] In the 12 B.C. count communities, services were grouped by service category (e.g. health services, food services, etc.), which included a number of sub-categories. The large groupings were not done in other communities; therefore, aggregated data is available in this table only for specific services (e.g. ambulance, emergency room, etc.) and not service groupings.

2.1.13 History of Homelessness

Survey participants were asked about the length of time they had been without a place of their own.[29]

Nearly one-third of survey respondents (32%) reported being homeless for less than six months, while more than half (51%) reported being homeless for one year or more. Sheltered respondents were more likely to have been homeless for less than six months compared to unsheltered respondents (38% vs. 25%). Fifty-seven percent (57%) of unsheltered respondents reported being homeless for a year or more, compared to 45% of sheltered respondents.

Table 2.16: Length of Time Without Own Place - All Communities

Length of Time Without Own Place	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 6 months	750	38%	513	25%	0	N/A	**1,263**	**32%**
Up to and including 7 days	81	4%	40	2%	0	N/A	**121**	**3%**
8 days to <1 month	121	6%	81	4%	0	N/A	**202**	**5%**
1 month to <6 months	548	28%	392	19%	0	N/A	**940**	**24%**
6 months to <1 year	331	17%	351	17%	0	N/A	**682**	**17%**
1 year and over	880	45%	1,168	57%	0	N/A	**2,048**	**51%**
Respondents	**1,961**	**100%**	**2,032**	**100%**	**0**	**N/A**	**3,993**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	2,318		339		1,005		**3,662**	
Total	**4,279**		**2,371**		**1,005**		**7,655**	

Survey participants were asked if this was their first time being homeless (

[29] HPS communities asked participants "In total, how much time have you been homeless over the past year?"

Table 2.17) and if not, they were asked how old they were the first time they experienced homelessness (Table 2.18).

The majority (60%) of respondents reported that this was *not* the first time they had experienced homelessness. The proportions were similar among both sheltered and unsheltered respondents (56% and 59%).

Fifty-one percent (51%) of all respondents reported experiencing homelessness for the first time when they were a youth under 25 years of age. A higher proportion of unsheltered respondents had experienced homelessness for the first time as a youth compared to the sheltered respondents (57% vs. 51%).

Table 2.17: Times Homeless - All Communities

Times Homeless	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
First Time	102	44%	144	41%	214	37%	**460**	**40%**
Not First Time	129	56%	203	59%	357	63%	**689**	**60%**
Respondents	**231**	**100%**	**347**	**100%**	**571**	**100%**	**1,149**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	4,048		2,024		434		**6,506**	
Total	**4,279**		**2,371**		**1,005**		**7,655**	

Table 2.18: Age When First Homeless - All Communities

Age When First Homeless	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	338	51%	580	57%	91	31%	**1,009**	**51%**
Adult (25-54 Years)	260	39%	390	38%	159	54%	**809**	**41%**
Senior (55+)	63	10%	43	4%	44	15%	**150**	**8%**
Respondents	**661**	**100%**	**1,013**	**100%**	**294**	**100%**	**1,968**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	3,618		1,358		711		**5,687**	
Total	**4,279**		**2,371**		**1,005**		**7,655**	

Table 2.19 shows the length of time survey respondents had lived in the community in which they were surveyed. Individuals experiencing homelessness were likely to be long term residents of the community where they were surveyed. Thirty-one percent (31%) of survey respondents had lived in the community where they were surveyed for ten or more years and another 19% had lived there all their lives. Twenty-one percent (21%) of respondents indicated they had lived in the community for less than one year.

Respondents were also asked to identify where they lived before arriving in the community in which they were surveyed. As shown in Table 2.20, respondents reported having lived in Metro Vancouver (11%) other parts of B.C. (38%), and other parts of Canada (23%) prior to moving to the community.[30]

[30] There is a discrepancy in responses between individuals who indicated they have always been in a community when asked how long they have been there and where they were before arriving in the community. This is due to different response rates to the question and also because some individuals may have lived in a community for much of their lives, but have left for short periods, and may respond to the question of where they were before by citing another community, even if they answered the length of time in community question as 'Always been here.'

Table 2.19: Length of Time in Community - All Communities

Length of Time in Community	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 1 year	546	28%	332	16%	107	20%	**985**	**21%**
1 year to under 5 years	347	18%	381	18%	87	17%	**815**	**18%**
5 years to under 10 years	160	8%	258	12%	74	14%	**492**	**11%**
10 years or more	639	32%	654	31%	152	29%	**1,445**	**31%**
Always Been Here	290	15%	461	22%	104	20%	**855**	**19%**
Respondents	**1,982**	**100%**	**2,086**	**100%**	**524**	**100%**	**4,592**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	2,297		285		481		**3,063**	
Total	**4,279**		**2,371**		**1,005**		**7,655**	

Table 2.20: Where Lived Before Community – All Communities

Where Lived Before	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Always Been Here	113	17%	257	27%	109	33%	**479**	**25%**
Metro Vancouver	80	12%	93	10%	43	13%	**216**	**11%**
Elsewhere in BC	250	39%	369	39%	115	35%	**734**	**38%**
Elsewhere in Canada	190	29%	210	22%	46	14%	**446**	**23%**
Other Countries	15	2%	10	1%	17	5%	**42**	**2%**
Respondents	**648**	**100%**	**939**	**100%**	**330**	**100%**	**1,917**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	3,631		1,432		675		**5,738**	
Total	**4,279**		**2,371**		**1,005**		**7,655**	

2.1.14 Service in the Military or RCMP

Survey participants were asked if they had ever served in the Canadian Forces, including army, navy, air force or RCMP.

Two-hundred and nine individuals, representing 4% of respondents reported service in the Canadian armed forces or RCMP. This included 8 individuals who reported service in the RCMP. Another 84 individuals (2%) reported service in another country's military. Fourteen individuals reported serving in a military force or RCMP but did not specify if it was the Canadian forces, RCMP, or service in another country.

Table 2.21: Service in Military or RCMP - All Communities

Service in the Military or RCMP	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Unspecified		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Served in Canadian Military (army, navy, air force) or RCMP	96	5%	92	4%	16	3%	**204**	**4%**
Served in Another Country's Military	45	2%	35	2%	4	1%	**84**	**2%**
Served in Armed Forces (or RCMP) (Unspecified)	5	0%	2	0%	7	1%	**14**	**0%**
Hasn't Served in Armed Forces (or RCMP)	1,945	93%	1,951	94%	557	95%	**4,453**	**94%**
Respondents	**2,091**	**100%**	**2,080**	**100%**	**584**	**100%**	**4,755**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	2,188		291		421		**2,900**	
Total	**4,279**		**2,371**		**1,005**		**7,655**	

2.1.15 Unsheltered on the Night of the Count – Where and Why

Unsheltered survey participants in the 12 B.C. count communities, and most other communities were asked where they had stayed the previous night. In the Capital Regional District, Kelowna and Nanaimo, respondents were asked where they were going to stay that night. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of unsheltered survey respondents indicated that they stayed outside the night of the count.[31] The remaining respondents reported that they stayed[32] at someone else's place or couch-surfed (30%), slept in a makeshift shelter or tent (9%), in a vehicle (8%), or at an 'other' location (12%).

[31] In the case of HPS respondents, they reported they would be spending the night outside.
[32] In the case of HPS respondents, they reported on where they would be staying.

Table 2.22: Where Stayed Night of Count (Unsheltered Only) - All Communities[33]

Location	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Outside	936	37%
In a Vehicle (Car, Van, RV, Truck)	205	8%
Makeshift Shelter or Tent	221	9%
Abandoned/Vacant Building	39	2%
Someone Else's Place or Couch-Surfing	764	30%
On a Boat, Not Paying Moorage	28	1%
Parent(s)/Guardian(s) House, 25 and Older	24	1%
Other[34]	296	12%
Respondents	**2,513**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	355	
Total	**2,868**	

Survey participants who were unsheltered were asked for the main reason why they did not stay in a shelter the previous night. Almost a quarter of respondents (23%) said they were able to stay with a friend, while 26% reported feeling unsafe or disliking shelters. Thirty three percent (33%) cited an "other" reason as the main reason for not staying at a shelter the previous night.

Table 2.23: Main Reason for Not Staying at a Shelter on the Night of the Count (Unsheltered Only) - All Communities

Reasons for not Staying in a Shelter	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Able to Stay with a Friend	268	23%
Dislike	172	15%
Don't Feel Safe	133	11%
Turned Away	148	13%
Bedbugs/Pests	36	3%
Other[35]	386	33%
Multiple Responses	35	3%
Respondents	**1,178**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	1,690	
Total	**2,868**	

[33] "Don't know/No Answer" responses in this table refer specifically to HPS communities.
[34] "Other" location accounting for 2% or more respondents across all communities, were related to motels and hotels, with short-term or no security of tenure.

[35] "Other" reasons for not staying in a shelter accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities were related to a) availability (particularly shelters closed or full), b) other options (particularly RVs, trailers, and vehicles, and family), and c) a desire to avoid negative activities/experiences at the shelter.

Survey participants who were unsheltered were also asked if they had stayed in a shelter in the last year. The majority (55%) had stayed in a shelter during the last 12 months.

Table 2.24: Have you stayed in a shelter in the last 12 months? – All Communities[36]

Previous Stay in Shelter	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Yes	1,112	55%
No	925	45%
Respondents	**2,037**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	831	
Total	**2,868**	

[36] This question was not asked in all communities, which is why the Don't Know/No Answer number is high.

3. Key Summary Tables by Community

The following section provide data on sheltered/unsheltered, gender, age, indigenous identity, health conditions, length of time homeless and length of time in community for all 24 counts included in the 2018 Report on Homeless Count in B.C., where data was available.

3.1 Total Sheltered and Unsheltered

A total of 7,655 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness. The majority of individuals identified as experiencing homelessness were sheltered (63%) and 37% reported being unsheltered.[37]

Port Alberni had the highest number of individuals (147) who were identified as experiencing homelessness in the 12 B.C. count communities; while Metro Vancouver (3,605) and the Capital Regional District (931) identified the highest number of individuals experiencing homelessness in the HPS funded counts.

[37] Unsheltered respondents include individuals sleeping outside, in a tent or makeshift structure, in a vehicle, or couch-surfing.

APPENDIX 1

Table 3.1: Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless - Across Communities

	Homeless Category	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
		#	%	#	%	#	%
Core Communities	Campbell River	40	49%	41	51%	**81**	**100%**
	Comox Valley	49	42%	68	58%	**117**	**100%**
	Cranbrook	6	21%	23	79%	**29**	**100%**
	Fort St. John	40	66%	21	34%	**61**	**100%**
	Merritt	0	0%	11	100%	**11**	**100%**
	Parksville/Qualicum	3	7%	39	93%	**42**	**100%**
	Penticton	68	63%	40	37%	**108**	**100%**
	Port Alberni	63	43%	84	57%	**147**	**100%**
	Prince Rupert	43	61%	28	39%	**71**	**100%**
	Sechelt and Gibsons	30	53%	27	47%	**57**	**100%**
	Smithers	11	38%	18	62%	**29**	**100%**
	Williams Lake	37	86%	6	14%	**43**	**100%**
HPS and Other	Capital Regional District	607	65%	324	35%	**931**	**100%**
	Duncan	85	57%	65	43%	**150**	**100%**
	Fraser Valley	244	40%	362	60%	**606**	**100%**
	Kamloops	104	53%	91	47%	**195**	**100%**
	Kelowna	234	82%	52	18%	**286**	**100%**
	Metro Vancouver	2,573	71%	1,032	29%	**3,605**	**100%**
	Nanaimo	50	17%	251	83%	**301**	**100%**
	Nelson	32	28%	83	72%	**115**	**100%**
	Prince George	110	69%	50	31%	**160**	**100%**
	Salt Spring	33	29%	82	71%	**115**	**100%**
	Terrace	70	73%	26	27%	**96**	**100%**
	Vernon	109	71%	44	29%	**153**	**100%**
	Other Communities	146	100%	0	0%	**146**	**100%**
	Total	**4,787**	**63%**	**2,868**	**37%**	**7,655**	**100%**

3.2 Gender

A higher proportion of survey respondents identified as male (68%) than female (30%).[38] Two percent of survey respondents reported a gender identity other than male or female.

Table 3.2: Gender Identity - Across Communities

	Gender Identity	Male		Female		Another Gender Identity		Respondents		Don't Know/ No Answer	Total
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	#
Core Communities	Campbell River	40	59%	27	40%	1	1%	**68**	**100%**	13	**81**
	Comox Valley	50	52%	43	44%	4	4%	**97**	**100%**	20	**117**
	Cranbrook	18	67%	7	26%	2	7%	**27**	**100%**	2	**29**
	Fort St. John	39	75%	13	25%	0	0%	**52**	**100%**	9	**61**
	Merritt	6	55%	5	45%	0	0%	**11**	**100%**	0	**11**
	Parksville/Qualicum	27	73%	8	22%	2	5%	**37**	**100%**	5	**42**
	Penticton	50	63%	28	35%	1	1%	**79**	**100%**	29	**108**
	Port Alberni	74	68%	33	30%	2	2%	**109**	**100%**	38	**147**
	Prince Rupert	32	60%	21	40%	0	0%	**53**	**100%**	18	**71**
	Sechelt and Gibsons	22	54%	19	46%	0	0%	**41**	**100%**	16	**57**
	Smithers	14	56%	10	40%	1	4%	**25**	**100%**	4	**29**
	Williams Lake	11	58%	8	42%	0	0%	**19**	**100%**	24	**43**
HPS and Other	Capital Regional District	417	68%	181	29%	16	3%	**614**	**100%**	317	**931**
	Duncan	101	68%	48	32%	0	0%	**149**	**100%**	1	**150**
	Fraser Valley	352	64%	193	35%	4	1%	**549**	**100%**	57	**606**
	Kamloops	102	66%	46	30%	7	5%	**155**	**100%**	40	**195**
	Kelowna	168	68%	77	31%	2	1%	**247**	**100%**	39	**286**
	Metro Vancouver	1,688	72%	628	27%	25	1%	**2,341**	**100%**	1,264	**3,605**
	Nanaimo	186	69%	80	30%	3	1%	**269**	**100%**	32	**301**
	Nelson	45	54%	32	39%	6	7%	**83**	**100%**	32	**115**
	Prince George	55	50%	52	47%	3	3%	**110**	**100%**	50	**160**
	Salt Spring	17	59%	5	17%	7	24%	**29**	**100%**	86	**115**
	Terrace	66	77%	20	23%	0	0%	**86**	**100%**	10	**96**
	Vernon	50	77%	15	23%	0	0%	**65**	**100%**	88	**153**
	Other Communities	53	49%	54	50%	1	1%	**108**	**100%**	38	**146**
	Total	**3,683**	**68%**	**1,653**	**30%**	**87**	**2%**	**5,423**	**100%**	**2,232**	**7,655**

[38]During the count, survey respondents self-identified their gender identity in most communities surveyed. In Kelowna, shelter data was used to identify gender.

3.3 Age

The majority of survey respondents (3,350) were adults (25-54 years of age), while 20% were seniors (55+ years of age) and 15% were youth (under 25 years of age).[39]

Table 3.3: Age Categories - Across Communities

	Age	Youth (Under 25 Years of Age)		Adult (25-54 Years of Age)		Senior (55+ Years)		Respondents		Don't Know/ No Answer	Total
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	#
Core Communities	Campbell River	3	4%	49	72%	16	24%	**68**	**100%**	13	**81**
	Comox Valley	6	6%	61	65%	27	29%	**94**	**100%**	23	**117**
	Cranbrook	1	4%	16	62%	9	35%	**26**	**100%**	3	**29**
	Fort St. John	4	8%	36	71%	11	22%	**51**	**100%**	10	**61**
	Merritt	0	0%	10	91%	1	9%	**11**	**100%**	0	**11**
	Parksville/Qualicum	3	8%	24	63%	11	29%	**38**	**100%**	4	**42**
	Penticton	12	15%	47	60%	19	24%	**78**	**100%**	30	**108**
	Port Alberni	16	15%	82	75%	11	10%	**109**	**100%**	38	**147**
	Prince Rupert	4	8%	37	70%	12	23%	**53**	**100%**	18	**71**
	Sechelt and Gibsons	2	5%	27	66%	12	29%	**41**	**100%**	16	**57**
	Smithers	2	8%	19	76%	4	16%	**25**	**100%**	4	**29**
	Williams Lake	0	0%	16	94%	1	6%	**17**	**100%**	26	**43**
HPS and Other	Capital Regional District	114	18%	393	63%	112	18%	**619**	**100%**	312	**931**
	Duncan	7	5%	87	58%	55	37%	**149**	**100%**	1	**150**
	Fraser Valley	121	22%	337	63%	81	15%	**539**	**100%**	67	**606**
	Kamloops	17	10%	134	80%	16	10%	**167**	**100%**	28	**195**
	Kelowna	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	286	**286**
	Metro Vancouver	386	16%	1,509	63%	518	21%	**2,413**	**100%**	1,192	**3,605**
	Nanaimo	17	6%	212	78%	42	15%	**271**	**100%**	30	**301**
	Nelson	15	18%	57	68%	12	14%	**84**	**100%**	31	**115**
	Prince George	9	8%	80	73%	21	19%	**110**	**100%**	50	**160**
	Salt Spring	7	23%	24	77%	0	0%	**31**	**100%**	84	**115**
	Terrace	6	8%	52	72%	14	19%	**72**	**100%**	24	**96**
	Vernon	6	9%	41	63%	18	28%	**65**	**100%**	88	**153**
	Other Communities	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	146	**146**
	Total	**758**	**15%**	**3,350**	**65%**	**1,023**	**20%**	**5,131**	**100%**	**2,524**	**7,655**

[39]During the count, survey respondents self-identified their age.

3.4 Indigenous Identity

A total of 1,904 survey respondents identified as Indigenous, representing 38% of all respondents.[40]

Table 3.4: Indigenous Identity - Across Communities

	Indigenous Identity	Indigenous Identity		Non-Indigenous Identity		Respondents		Don't Know/No Answer	Total
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	#
Core Communities	Campbell River	31	46%	36	54%	**67**	**100%**	14	**81**
	Comox Valley	31	32%	65	68%	**96**	**100%**	21	**117**
	Cranbrook	12	46%	14	54%	**26**	**100%**	3	**29**
	Fort St. John	30	59%	21	41%	**51**	**100%**	10	**61**
	Merritt	9	90%	1	10%	**10**	**100%**	1	**11**
	Parksville/Qualicum	3	8%	35	92%	**38**	**100%**	4	**42**
	Penticton	18	24%	58	76%	**76**	**100%**	32	**108**
	Port Alberni	52	48%	56	52%	**108**	**100%**	39	**147**
	Prince Rupert	47	92%	4	8%	**51**	**100%**	20	**71**
	Sechelt and Gibsons	11	27%	30	73%	**41**	**100%**	16	**57**
	Smithers	18	72%	7	28%	**25**	**100%**	4	**29**
	Williams Lake	13	68%	6	32%	**19**	**100%**	24	**43**
HPS and Other	Capital Regional District	209	36%	375	64%	**584**	**100%**	347	**931**
	Duncan	59	40%	90	60%	**149**	**100%**	1	**150**
	Fraser Valley	174	35%	323	65%	**497**	**100%**	109	**606**
	Kamloops	84	54%	73	46%	**157**	**100%**	38	**195**
	Kelowna	65	26%	182	74%	**247**	**100%**	39	**286**
	Metro Vancouver	746	34%	1,453	66%	**2,199**	**100%**	1,406	**3,605**
	Nanaimo	86	33%	176	67%	**262**	**100%**	39	**301**
	Nelson	27	35%	50	65%	**77**	**100%**	38	**115**
	Prince George	86	80%	21	20%	**107**	**100%**	53	**160**
	Salt Spring	4	17%	19	83%	**23**	**100%**	92	**115**
	Terrace	62	86%	10	14%	**72**	**100%**	24	**96**
	Vernon	27	43%	36	57%	**63**	**100%**	90	**153**
	Other Communities	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	146	**146**
	Total	**1,904**	**38%**	**3,141**	**62%**	**5,045**	**100%**	**2,610**	**7,655**

3.5 Health Conditions

Survey participants were asked about their health, and whether they had a medical condition, physical disability, mental illness and/or addiction. Medical condition refers to chronic problems like asthma and diabetes, while physical disability refers to a condition affecting mobility or movement.

[40]During the count, survey respondents self-identified their Indigenous identity and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

Table 3.5 shows the number of health conditions respondents identified[41]. Fifty eight percent (58%) reported two or more health conditions, while 15% reported no health conditions and 27% reported one health condition.

Table 3.6 shows more than half of respondents (56%) reported an addiction, 44% reported a medical condition or an illness, 40% reported a mental illness, and 33% reported a physical disability.

Table 3.5: Number of Health Conditions- Across Communities

		No Health Conditions		1 Health Condition		2 Health Conditions		3 Health Conditions		4 Health Conditions		Respondents		Don't Know/ No Answer	Total
Number of Health Conditions		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	#
Core Communities	Campbell River	6	9%	15	22%	22	32%	17	25%	8	12%	**68**	**100%**	13	**81**
	Comox Valley	11	11%	29	30%	29	30%	18	19%	10	10%	**97**	**100%**	20	**117**
	Cranbrook	4	15%	5	19%	11	41%	2	7%	5	19%	**27**	**100%**	2	**29**
	Fort St. John	8	16%	12	24%	18	37%	6	12%	5	10%	**49**	**100%**	12	**61**
	Merritt	1	13%	3	38%	3	38%	0	0%	1	13%	**8**	**100%**	3	**11**
	Parksville/Qualicum	4	11%	12	32%	6	16%	9	24%	7	18%	**38**	**100%**	4	**42**
	Penticton	10	13%	17	23%	23	31%	10	13%	15	20%	**75**	**100%**	33	**108**
	Port Alberni	15	14%	30	28%	40	37%	16	15%	7	6%	**108**	**100%**	39	**147**
	Prince Rupert	16	31%	15	29%	11	21%	7	13%	3	6%	**52**	**100%**	19	**71**
	Sechelt and Gibsons	7	17%	13	32%	8	20%	7	17%	6	15%	**41**	**100%**	16	**57**
	Smithers	9	39%	9	39%	3	13%	1	4%	1	4%	**23**	**100%**	6	**29**
	Williams Lake	1	6%	4	22%	7	39%	3	17%	3	17%	**18**	**100%**	25	**43**
HPS and Other	Capital Regional District	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	931	**931**
	Duncan	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	150	**150**
	Fraser Valley	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	606	**606**
	Kamloops	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	195	**195**
	Kelowna	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	286	**286**
	Metro Vancouver	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	3,605	**3,605**
	Nanaimo	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	301	**301**
	Nelson	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	115	**115**
	Prince George	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	160	**160**
	Salt Spring	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	115	**115**
	Terrace	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	96	**96**
	Vernon	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	153	**153**
	Other Communities	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	146	**146**
	Total	**92**	**15%**	**164**	**27%**	**181**	**30%**	**96**	**16%**	**71**	**12%**	**604**	**100%**	**7,051**	**7,655**

[41] Health condition data is only available for the 12 BC count communities

APPENDIX 1

Table 3.6: Health Conditions - Across Communities

	Health Condition (more than 1 response possible)	Medical Condition / Illness		Physical Disability		Addiction		Mental Illness		Respondents		Don't Know/No Answer	Total
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	#
Core Communities	Campbell River	38	56%	31	46%	45	66%	28	41%	**68**	**100%**	13	**81**
	Comox Valley	45	46%	39	40%	52	54%	45	46%	**97**	**100%**	20	**117**
	Cranbrook	17	63%	14	52%	12	44%	10	37%	**27**	**100%**	2	**29**
	Fort St. John	21	43%	17	35%	31	63%	17	35%	**49**	**100%**	12	**61**
	Merritt	1	13%	2	25%	7	88%	3	38%	**8**	**100%**	3	**11**
	Parksville/Qualicum	20	53%	19	50%	19	50%	21	55%	**38**	**100%**	4	**42**
	Penticton	32	43%	31	41%	48	64%	42	56%	**75**	**100%**	33	**108**
	Port Alberni	40	37%	35	32%	69	64%	42	39%	**108**	**100%**	39	**147**
	Prince Rupert	17	33%	10	19%	29	56%	14	27%	**52**	**100%**	19	**71**
	Sechelt and Gibsons	19	46%	18	44%	17	41%	20	49%	**41**	**100%**	16	**57**
	Smithers	3	13%	2	9%	12	52%	5	22%	**23**	**100%**	6	**29**
	Williams Lake	9	50%	9	50%	15	83%	6	33%	**18**	**100%**	25	**43**
HPS and Other	Capital Regional District	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	931	**931**
	Duncan	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	150	**150**
	Fraser Valley	239	49%	142	29%	333	68%	232	48%	**488**	**100%**	118	**606**
	Kamloops	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	195	**195**
	Kelowna	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	286	**286**
	Metro Vancouver	967	44%	742	33%	1,172	53%	848	38%	**2,221**	**100%**	1,384	**3,605**
	Nanaimo	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	301	**301**
	Nelson	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	115	**115**
	Prince George	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	160	**160**
	Salt Spring	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	115	**115**
	Terrace	33	37%	21	24%	50	56%	25	28%	**89**	**100%**	7	**96**
	Vernon	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	153	**153**
	Other Communities	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	146	**146**
	Total	**1,501**	**44%**	**1,132**	**33%**	**1,911**	**56%**	**1,358**	**40%**	**3,402**	**100%**	**4,253**	**7,655**

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3.6 Youth in Care

Survey participants where asked if they had ever lived in foster care, in a youth group home, or under a youth/young adult agreement.[42] Twenty-nine percent (29%) of respondents reported they had been in care. The proportion of survey respondents who reported being in care were highest in the Fraser Valley (49%), Prince George (48%) and Williams Lake 47%).

[42] Some HPS communities asked whether participants had ever been in government or ministry care.

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Table 3.7: Youth in Care - Across Communities

Youth in Care		Yes (Currently or in Past)		No		Respondents	Don't Know/No Answer	Total
		#	%	#	%	#	#	#
Core Communities	Campbell River	27	41%	39	59%	**66**	15	**81**
	Comox Valley	25	26%	70	74%	**95**	22	**117**
	Cranbrook	9	33%	18	67%	**27**	2	**29**
	Fort St. John	14	27%	37	73%	**51**	10	**61**
	Merritt	4	40%	6	60%	**10**	1	**11**
	Parksville/Qualicum	9	25%	27	75%	**36**	6	**42**
	Penticton	26	36%	47	64%	**73**	35	**108**
	Port Alberni	32	32%	67	68%	**99**	48	**147**
	Prince Rupert	17	33%	34	67%	**51**	20	**71**
	Sechelt and Gibsons	8	20%	32	80%	**40**	17	**57**
	Smithers	8	35%	15	65%	**23**	6	**29**
	Williams Lake	8	47%	9	53%	**17**	26	**43**
HPS and Other	Capital Regional District	185	31%	408	69%	**593**	338	**931**
	Duncan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**N/A**	150	**150**
	Fraser Valley	231	49%	238	51%	**469**	137	**606**
	Kamloops	59	38%	95	62%	**154**	41	**195**
	Kelowna	37	29%	92	71%	**129**	157	**286**
	Metro Vancouver	423	21%	1598	79%	**2,021**	1584	**3,605**
	Nanaimo	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**N/A**	301	**301**
	Nelson	30	37%	52	63%	**82**	33	**115**
	Prince George	52	48%	56	52%	**108**	52	**160**
	Salt Spring	8	33%	16	67%	**24**	91	**115**
	Terrace	24	35%	45	65%	**69**	27	**96**
	Vernon	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**N/A**	153	**153**
	Other Communities	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**N/A**	146	**146**
	Total	**1,236**	29%	**3,001**	71%	**4,237**	**3,418**	**7,655**

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3.7 History of Homeless

Almost half of survey respondents (49%) in the 12 B.C. count communities had been homeless for less than a year.[43] Forty percent (40%) of respondents reported being homeless between one and five years, and 12% had been homeless for 5 years or more.

[43] Data is not available for the other count communities.

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Table 3.8: Length of Time Homeless - Across Communities

	Length of time Homeless	Under 1 Year		1 Year to Under 5 Years		5 Years to Under 10 Years		10 Years or More		Respondents		Don't Know/No Answer	Total
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	#
Core Communities	Campbell River	33	49%	28	42%	4	6%	2	3%	**67**	**100%**	14	**81**
	Comox Valley	49	55%	32	36%	4	4%	4	4%	**89**	**100%**	28	**117**
	Cranbrook	9	33%	13	48%	5	19%	0	0%	**27**	**100%**	2	**29**
	Fort St. John	16	33%	28	57%	2	4%	3	6%	**49**	**100%**	12	**61**
	Merritt	8	73%	3	27%	0	0%	0	0%	**11**	**100%**	0	**11**
	Parksville/Qualicum	15	43%	16	46%	3	9%	1	3%	**35**	**100%**	7	**42**
	Penticton	41	53%	27	35%	6	8%	3	4%	**77**	**100%**	31	**108**
	Port Alberni	52	50%	39	38%	8	8%	5	5%	**104**	**100%**	43	**147**
	Prince Rupert	26	51%	19	37%	5	10%	1	2%	**51**	**100%**	20	**71**
	Sechelt and Gibsons	18	49%	14	38%	5	14%	0	0%	**37**	**100%**	20	**57**
	Smithers	11	46%	12	50%	0	0%	1	4%	**24**	**100%**	5	**29**
	Williams Lake	9	60%	3	20%	2	13%	1	7%	**15**	**100%**	28	**43**
HPS and Other	Capital Regional District	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	931	**931**
	Duncan	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	150	**150**
	Fraser Valley	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	606	**606**
	Kamloops	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	195	**195**
	Kelowna	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	286	**286**
	Metro Vancouver	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	3,605	**3,605**
	Nanaimo	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	301	**301**
	Nelson	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	115	**115**
	Prince George	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	160	**160**
	Salt Spring	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	115	**115**
	Terrace	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	96	**96**
	Vernon	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	153	**153**
	Other Communities	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	146	**146**
	Total	**287**	**49%**	**234**	**40%**	**44**	**8%**	**21**	**4%**	**586**	**100%**	**7,069**	**7,655**

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3.8 Time in Community

Almost one in five survey respondents (21%) in the B.C. communities had been there for less than a year, while more than 60% had been in that community for five years or more.

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APPENDIX 1

Table 3.8: Length of Time In Community - Across Communities

		Under 1 Year		1 Year to Under 5 Years		5 Years to Under 10 Years		10 Years or More		Always Been in Community		Respondents		Don't Know/No Answer	Total
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	#
Core Communities	Campbell River	27	42%	10	15%	6	9%	12	18%	10	15%	**65**	**100%**	16	**81**
	Comox Valley	16	17%	22	24%	9	10%	24	26%	21	23%	**92**	**100%**	25	**117**
	Cranbrook	10	38%	2	8%	3	12%	8	31%	3	12%	**26**	**100%**	3	**29**
	Fort St. John	14	28%	12	24%	9	18%	8	16%	7	14%	**50**	**100%**	11	**61**
	Merritt	3	27%	1	9%	0	0%	2	18%	5	45%	**11**	**100%**	0	**11**
	Parksville/Qualicum	9	24%	8	21%	4	11%	8	21%	9	24%	**38**	**100%**	4	**42**
	Penticton	17	23%	14	19%	7	9%	30	41%	6	8%	**74**	**100%**	34	**108**
	Port Alberni	21	20%	23	22%	7	7%	23	22%	29	28%	**103**	**100%**	44	**147**
	Prince Rupert	10	20%	8	16%	2	4%	14	27%	17	33%	**51**	**100%**	20	**71**
	Sechelt and Gibsons	10	26%	11	28%	4	10%	10	26%	4	10%	**39**	**100%**	18	**57**
	Smithers	8	32%	3	12%	3	12%	5	20%	6	24%	**25**	**100%**	4	**29**
	Williams Lake	6	35%	2	12%	0	0%	0	0%	9	53%	**17**	**100%**	26	**43**
HPS and Other	Capital Regional District	95	16%	104	18%	59	10%	204	35%	124	21%	**586**	**100%**	345	**931**
	Duncan	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	150	**150**
	Fraser Valley	95	21%	76	17%	66	15%	124	27%	94	21%	**455**	**100%**	151	**606**
	Kamloops	53	33%	22	14%	14	9%	45	28%	25	16%	**159**	**100%**	36	**195**
	Kelowna	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	286	**286**
	Metro Vancouver	496	22%	401	18%	227	10%	773	34%	365	16%	**2,262**	**100%**	1,343	**3,605**
	Nanaimo	35	14%	44	17%	28	11%	66	26%	84	33%	**257**	**100%**	44	**301**
	Nelson	22	27%	10	12%	13	16%	26	32%	10	12%	**81**	**100%**	34	**115**
	Prince George	14	13%	21	20%	20	19%	34	32%	17	16%	**106**	**100%**	54	**160**
	Salt Spring	12	46%	10	38%	3	12%	1	4%	0	0%	**26**	**100%**	89	**115**
	Terrace	12	17%	11	16%	8	12%	28	41%	10	14%	**69**	**100%**	27	**96**
	Vernon	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	153	**153**
	Other Communities	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	146	**146**
	Total	**985**	**21%**	**815**	**18%**	**492**	**11%**	**1,445**	**31%**	**855**	**19%**	**4,592**	**100%**	**3,063**	**7,655**

4. Methodology

This section describes the methodology of the 2018 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C. It also provides an overview of the project management and implementation approach, the response rate and limitations of the homeless count.

4.1 Application of the Point-in-Time Approach

This report includes data from homeless counts conducted in 24 communities in the spring of 2018 and 2017. Each count took place over a 24-hour period to provide a "snapshot" of homelessness in the community during that time and included both a shelter and street count as described below. To ensure consistency across the count communities and with previous research, the 2018 counts were conducted between March and April.

4.2 Selection of Communities

The Province selected the 12 B.C. count communities because they had previous experience conducting a homeless count or surveys with people experiencing homelessness and reflected the diversity of B.C.'s geography. These counts followed the same fundamental methodology used in previous counts in the Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley regions. The counts were completed within the municipal boundaries of each community,[44] except for:

- Parksville/Qualicum –included Qualicum Beach, Parksville and a magnet event[45] in Bowser
- Sechelt/Gibsons - included Sechelt, Gibsons, and a count event in Roberts Creek
- Comox Valley – included Comox, Courtney, Cumberland and Denman Island

The Federally funded Homelessness Partnering Strategy counts, and independent count communities were included because a Point-in-Time (PiT) count method was used, and with the exception of Vernon, all counts were conducted in the spring. While the City of Vancouver conducted a count in March 2018, the Metro Vancouver 2017 count data was used to include data from all 21 Metro Vancouver municipalities and an electoral area.[46]

4.3 Twelve B.C. Count Communities

HSABC engaged and supported local coordinators to implement the count in each of the 12 B.C. count communities. The primary goal was to ensure the PiT count methodology was applied consistently across each community with respect to the approach and methodology, definitions, and purpose and structure of the interview questions to ensure accurate data collection. In all communities, HSABC worked with local coordinators to:

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[44] Surveys were not conducted on First Nations Reserves.

[45] A magnet event is a strategy used during a PiT count to attract individuals experiencing homelessness to a planned event. The event, generally lasting a few hours, is advertised well in advance of the day of the count, and usually includes food, services and the option to complete a PiT count survey. The strategy increases the opportunity to survey individuals experiencing homelessness who might otherwise not be surveyed through a sheltered or unsheltered count.

[46] The geographic areas included in these counts were based on municipal or regional boundaries. To learn more, please the links to the reports as shown in Figure 2 in the Appendices.

- Engage volunteer interviewers from community agencies, individuals with lived experience of homelessness, and the general community
- Empower Local Coordinators to listen to what communities and individuals were telling them about what they thought was important in the count
- Engage community agencies to:
    - map street walking routes for the day of the count
    - be a "dropsite" where individuals could have the opportunity to complete a survey as part of their normal visit to the agency
    - Spread the word about the count date and its importance through posters and leaflets
- Ensure at least one "magnet" event was held in each community that provided food or other services to community members, where the surveys could be completed
- Provide consistent local training for volunteer interviewers
- Ensure local knowledge and experience with homeless counts was included in the planning and process of developing and implementing the count

Shelter Count

The shelter counts took place on the evening before the street count in each of the 12 provincially funded count communities. This part of the count involved obtaining information about individuals staying overnight in emergency shelters, Extreme Weather Response shelters (EWRs), transition houses for women and children fleeing abuse, safe houses, detox facilities, and for people with no fixed address (NFA) staying in hospitals and jails. Volunteer interviewers were assigned to shelters and/or shelters had their own staff to conduct the interviews. Transition houses, youth safe houses and detox facilities chose to have staff conduct the interviews.

Each survey respondent was asked a series of screening questions and screened out if they reported that they had already answered a survey or had a place of their own where they paid rent and could expect to live for at least 30 days. These individuals are not included in the count because they do not meet the definition of visible homeless for the purpose of the count.

To ensure that each count was as accurate as possible, each emergency shelter, transition house for women and children fleeing abuse, youth safe house and detox facility was asked to complete a Shelter Statistics form to record the total number of people who stayed overnight at the site and the number of people turned away. Not all clients in the shelters agreed or were available to be surveyed; however, because of the Shelter Statistics form, the total number of people staying in a shelter facility was available.[47] Jails provided a tally of individuals with No Fixed Address staying in jail cells on the night of

[47] Both shelters and jails in many cases provided some basic demographic information. However, in order to respect individuals' self-identification around gender and Indigenous identity, only data collected through the survey was used in the creation of tables.

the count in each community. In addition, data from shelters and transition houses in other communities was provided through BC Housing.

Health authorities (including Fraser Health, Vancouver Coastal Health, Interior Health, Northern Health and Island Health) participated by submitting tallies of individuals with no fixed address staying at each community's hospital on the night of the count and when possible, also provided information on age and gender. A complete list of shelters and No Fixed Address locations is included in the Appendices.

Street Count

The street count began early in the morning during the day of the count in each community and continued throughout the day and evening. The street count focused on finding people in public areas or locations where people experiencing homelessness were likely to be found, including certain streets, alleys, parks, bottle depots, and places where services and programs were available, such as meal programs and drop-in centres.

Local Coordinators identified these locations in each community through route mapping exercises in partnership with community agencies, outreach workers and service providers prior to the count. Volunteer interviewers, working in teams of two, were assigned to specific locations and given maps and/or instructions to approach individuals and conduct a survey. Most volunteer shifts ranged from about two to three hours.

Each survey respondent was asked a series of screening questions and screened out if they either reported they had already answered the survey; or, if they had a place of their own where they paid rent and could expect to live for at least 30 days. As part of the street survey, respondents were also asked where they had stayed the previous night. The survey was completed for individuals who reported staying in a shelter, safe house, or transition house the night before, and who said that they had not completed a survey they night before. The surveys for these individuals were grouped with sheltered respondents, but not added to the total number of sheltered individuals. Individuals who indicated they had completed a survey the night before were screened out. While these individuals were not added to the total number of sheltered respondents (which was derived from completed shelter statistics forms), the survey was completed to collect demographic and service use data to better understanding the profile of shelter users since the response rates in shelters has historically been low. People who reported staying at someone else's place on the night of the count were considered homeless, unsheltered and were screened in/included in this report.

Survey Design and Administration

Two survey instruments were used for the counts in the 12 B.C. count communities: a street survey and a shelter survey (both surveys are included in the Appendices). The surveys were similar and consistent with the Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley count surveys.

Surveys were completed by roughly 300 trained volunteers recruited for the count. Volunteers included some professional outreach and community service agency staff who participated in the count as part of their employment, as well as community members who registered to volunteer through SurveyMonkey. All volunteers, regardless of their experience, were required to attend a two-hour training session. This session ensured volunteers could consistently conduct the survey, approach individuals who were experiencing homeless, and stay safe during their count shift in the 12 B.C. count communities.

On the day of the count, volunteers picked up their count packages prior to their shift to give them an opportunity to review the material. Packages included one count sticker for each volunteer which served as their identification and helped with the screening out of respondents who had already completed the survey, as well as a clipboard, plastic cover, surveys, detailed instructions for completing the survey (which were reviewed during the training session), a blank copy of the waiver volunteers signed at the training session, general information about the count, a pen, instructions about their route and/or a map, as well as some candies and cigarettes (to be used as an icebreaker to establish a level of trust in order to initiate a conversation).

Individuals approached by volunteers were offered a cigarette, or snack[48] as an ice-breaker, prior to being asked to participate in a survey, rather than after completing a survey, to ensure ice-breakers would not be used as an incentive to complete an interview. Volunteers were instructed to wear their volunteer count stickers at all times during their shift, so they could be identified with the count. Consistent with previous counts in Metro Vancouver (except in 2011), volunteers were advised to try to wake up a person who was sleeping so the person would have the opportunity to be included in the count. Volunteers were also instructed to ensure informed consent was given by each survey respondent prior to beginning the survey and to provide respondents with contact information should they have additional questions on how their information is being used. Volunteers were also instructed to stop an interview immediately if they were approached by the media to protect the privacy of the person they were interviewing.

Survey Participation Rates

Data for the homeless counts in the 12 B.C. count communities was collected through two streams:

- Basic data on shelter capacity, occupancy, age, and gender was obtained from shelter providers. Health authorities, jails and detox facilities also provided data for those staying temporarily in their facilities (and having "No Fixed Address"). The data obtained from shelter providers, health authorities, detox and jails provided the total number of sheltered respondents.
- Volunteers conducted surveys on the night of the count in shelters and during the day on street in each of the 12 B.C. count communities. The surveys included screening and interview questions that were asked of every person who was identified as experiencing homelessness and who agreed to and was able to participate in the survey. The number of people screened in as experiencing street homelessness also provides the total number of unsheltered/street homeless. Detailed demographic information used to establish a profile of the homeless population is only available for people who answered the survey.
- As shown below, the overall survey participation rate for people in shelters was 51%.[49]

[48] Prince Rupert and Port Alberni were the only two communities that offered snack foods as an icebreaker in place of cigarettes.

[49] It is not possible to provide a participation rate for the unsheltered respondents because the total population of individuals who were not surveyed is not known.

	Sheltered survey respondents	Total Sheltered Individuals	Response Rate
12 B.C. Count Communities	239	390	61%
HPS Communities (aggregate)[50]	2,091	4,251	49%
Other Communities[51]	108	146	74%
Total Response Rate	**2,438**	**4,787**	**51%**

4.4 Federally Funded Homeless Partnering Strategy Community Entity and independent Count Communities

To provide a comprehensive snapshot of the scope and scale of homelessness in British Columbia, this report includes an analysis of the 2018 PiT counts funded through Service Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy, as well as four other communities that had recently completed counts. In 2016, the Government of Canada originated a nationally coordinated, bi-annual PiT count to identify overall trends, themes, challenges, and characteristics of homelessness in Canada. In March and April of 2018, over 60 HPS-funded Community Entities engaged in the second nationally coordinated count, including 6 across BC.[52] In addition to these communities, Metro Vancouver, Fraser Valley regional district, Duncan and Vernon had completed PiT counts in 2017, and the results from these counts are included in the report. [53]

In the lead up to the first nationally coordinated count, Service Canada prepared various implementation guidelines and tools, including the *Guide to Point-in-Time Counts in Canada of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy,* which provided guidance and advice for planning a count. The document provided best practices and suggestions for developing a local PiT count, including the core questions to appear on the survey instrument. This included screening questions and information related to capturing demographics such as age, gender, Indigeneity, immigration and refugee status, as well as duration of individuals experiencing homelessness and length of time in community. While these

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[50] Response rates for HPS are highly variable by community and question asked. Therefore, the total respondents for the key indicator of gender is used to determine overall response rate.

[51] Survey response rates for HPS and other communities was based on the gender identity question because it was the most commonly answered question.

[52] Metro Vancouver conducted a regional PiT count in March of 2017. In lieu of conducting an additional PiT count for 2018, Metro Vancouver piloted a more in-depth youth homeless count.

[53] It is important to note that numbers in this report may differ from the HPS community reports because of different methodologies used. For example, we do not include "provisionally accommodated" if it does not meet the definition of homelessness for the purpose of our count, but we do include people who were couch surfing if they were identified during the count.

core questions were standardized throughout communities conducting an HPS count, the approach allowed for flexibility so that communities could tailor their approach to local context. This approach created differences in the survey methodology between HPS funded communities and limited the extent to which they could be compared against one another. In addition, this approach ultimately posed a challenge for directly comparing these counts with the 12 B.C. count communities, given slight differences with survey questions. To the greatest extent possible, HPS and other communities were made to align with the methodological parameters of the 12 B.C. count communities to enable direct comparisons, but in certain cases this was limited or not possible.

The HPS communities were contacted individually to provide data on the respective count in their community. Many communities provided raw survey data on sheltered and unsheltered individuals so that the data could be tabulated according to the core community's methodology, while others provided aggregated data only. Similarly, some communities provided data collected through shelters, while others did not. There was also some variation regarding whether or not communities included different types of hidden homelessness, such as couch surfers or people staying in institutions. As result, the methodological approach adopted in each HPS community differed not only from the provincial method, but from another one another. Throughout this report, footnotes are provided where direct comparisons were problematic or not possible.

4.5 Limitations

Homeless Counts are inherently undercounts and this count was no different. While every effort was made to include as many individuals experiencing homelessness as possible, we were not able to find everyone and not every individual experiencing homelessness wanted to be surveyed. Some local service providers also expressed concern that the PiT methodology is limited in its ability to capture the true extent of homelessness in a rural setting due to the geography and climate in these settings resulting in more hidden homelessness. Several factors, discussed below, have been identified that may have affected the results of the 2018 Homeless Count in B.C.

Lack of Willingness to Participate

Many people who are homeless do not want to be counted and prefer to remain hidden. All the 12 B.C. count communities had previously conducted counts, housing needs assessments and other surveys; consequently, survey fatigue could be an issue. Stigma associated with homelessness also can impact a person's willingness to participate in the Count or to be identified as homeless.

Hidden Homelessness

The hidden homeless, for the purpose of the Count, includes people who may be staying with friends (couch surfing), living deep in the woods, or in parks, or abandoned buildings and other locations where volunteers are not able to find them. Research also shows that youth and women may couch surf or live in unsafe situations to avoid street homelessness. While efforts were made to host events that provided additional food and services to welcome and engage individuals experiencing homelessness, not everyone attended the events and those who did, may not have completed a survey.

Length of Survey

The nature of the survey itself also presents limitations regarding participation and response rates. The shelter survey included 21 questions and the street survey included 23 each taking roughly 7-10 minutes to complete. The length of the survey presented a barrier to some individuals.

Other Limitations and Considerations

In addition to the limitations discussed above, which could impact participation and response rates, several limitations regarding the survey questions themselves and data analysis should be noted.

- Questions with long lists of options are likely to receive less accurate responses. For example, an individual answering the question regarding service use may not accurately remember all the services used in the last year.
- In the income question, there are several categories (income assistance, disability benefit and other pension) that overlap. Some individuals may receive a disability pension, for example, that could be identified by individuals as either a disability benefit or a pension.
- Questions asked later in the survey were more likely to have a lower response rate, and certain personal questions (e.g. sexual orientation) may not have been answered by respondents.
- The data in this report constitutes a benchmark to measure the progress made to address homelessness over time but does not allow for any current longitudinal comparisons.

5. Appendices

5.1 Report Data Sources

As shown in Figure 2, this report includes:

- Summary data from the provincially (1-12), and federally (13-18) funded counts, and two other homeless counts conducted in the spring of 2018 (19-20), as well as four counts conducted in 2017 (21-24).[54]
- Full survey information on key variables across all the 24 communities.
- Shelter data from other B.C. communities (collected by BC Housing) not collected in the counts.

This approach provides a fairly comprehensive picture of homelessness in British Columbia with coverage of more than 85 per cent of the province by population.

Figure 2: 2018 Homeless Count in BC

	#	Community	Date	Source
BC FUNDED COUNTS	1	Campbell River	13-Apr-2018	
	2	Comox Valley	7-Mar-2018	
	3	Cranbrook	18-Apr-2018	
	4	Fort St. John	18-Apr-2018	
	5	Merritt	4-Apr-2018	
	6	Parksville/Qualicum	18-Apr-2018	
	7	Penticton	30-Apr-2018	
	8	Port Alberni	11-Apr-2018	
	9	Prince Rupert	21-Mar-2018	
	10	Sechelt/Gibsons	23-Apr-2018	
	11	Smithers	17-Apr-2018	
	12	Williams Lake	26-Mar-2018	
HOMELESSNESS PARTNERIN	13	Capital Region District	16-Mar-2018	https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/housing-pdf/housing-planning-and-programs/2018-pit-count---community-report---final---july-19.pdf?sfvrsn=a92ee2ca_2

[54] This report includes data from the 2017 homeless counts for Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley. Data from the 2018 City of Vancouver and Abbotsford counts will not replace the 2017 data for the regional counts.

	14	Kamloops	28-Mar-2018	https://www.kamloops.ca/sites/default/files/docs/our-community/297700pdf_pit_2018_rep.pdf
	15	Kelowna	6-Mar-2018	http://www.centralokanaganfoundation.org/application/files/9915/2884/5444/COF_PiT_Report_2018_FINAL.pdf
	16	Nanaimo	18-Apr-2018	https://www.nanaimo.ca/docs/social-culture-environment/community-social-service-programs/nanaimo-pit-count-report-2018_final_june-6.pdf
	17	Nelson	11-Apr-2018	https://nelsoncares.ca/10th-annual-report-card-on-homelessness-in-nelson/
	18	Prince George	18-Apr-2018	
INDEPENDENT	19	Salt Spring Island	13-Mar-2018	http://saltspringcommunityservices.ca/point-in-time-homeless-count-2018/
	20	Terrace	18-Apr-2018	https://terrace.civicweb.net/document/6725
2017 COUNTS	21	Vernon	19-Oct-2017	https://www.vernon.ca/sites/default/files/docs/building-planning/171023_final_report_-_our_homeless_count.pdf
	22	Duncan	21-Feb-2017	https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/cwav/pages/522/attachments/original/1515171590/Duncan_PiT_Homeless_Count_-_Community_Report-_March_2017%281%29.pdf?1515171590
	23	Metro Vancouver	8-Mar-2017	http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/homelessness/HomelessnessPublications/2017MetroVancouverHomelessCount.pdf
	24	Fraser Valley	8-Mar-2017	http://www.fvrd.ca/assets/Government/Documents/2017%20FVRD%20Homelessness%20Survey%20Report.pdf

5.2 Glossary of Terms and Definitions

The following terms are used throughout the report.

Aboriginal Identity	Refers to whether the person identified with the Aboriginal peoples of Canada. This includes those who are First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit) and/or those who are Registered or Treaty Indians (that is, registered under the Indian Act of Canada), and/or those who have membership in a First Nation or Indian band. Aboriginal peoples of Canada are defined in the Constitution Act, 1982, Section 35 (2) as including the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada.[55]
Accompanied Children	See Children
Children	Refers to children under 19 who were with their parent or guardian during the 2018 Homeless Count. Children are counted below the age of 19 based on reporting in the shelter statistics forms and responses to the question "Are you with anyone today?" No individual survey record of these individuals exists, as they were not interviewed. Unaccompanied youth refers to anyone under the age of 25 who was not physically accompanied by a parent during the Count (e.g. interviewed on the street).
Don't know/no answer	Respondents in this category include both, *respondents* who declined to answer a question but who may have completed the rest of the survey, and those *individuals* who did not answer the survey at all, but were counted through additional information from shelter operators, hospitals, jails and BC Housing. See "*individual*" and "*respondent*".
Indigenous Identity	See Aboriginal Identity
Individual	Refers to all people included in the count's total number, including those who were counted through additional information from shelter operators, hospitals, jails and BC Housing and through the survey. See "*respondent*".
Magnet Event	A magnet event is a strategy used during a PiT Count to attract individuals experiencing homelessness to a planned event. The event, generally lasting a few hours, is advertised well in advance of the day of the count, and usually includes food, services and the option to complete a PiT Count survey. The strategy increases the opportunity to survey individuals experiencing homelessness who might otherwise not be surveyed through a sheltered or unsheltered count.
NFA / No Fixed Address locations	Includes jails and hospitals, and short-term medical facilities; respondents/individuals are included in "Sheltered" unless broken out differently in specific tables.
Participant	Refers to those who were *asked* to participant in the survey.
PiT count	Point-in-Time homeless count
Respondent	Refers to those who *participated* in a survey. See "*individual".*
Sheltered	"Sheltered" individuals or respondents includes all those who stayed or answered a survey and slept at either a temporary nightly shelter, winter response shelter or other shelter programs, such as transition houses for women and children fleeing violence, or safe houses for youth. It also includes individuals with no fixed address (see *NFA*) unless this information is detailed differently in specific tables.

[55] Statistics Canada. No date. "Aboriginal identity of person." Definitions, data sources and methods, variables. Last updated April 04, 2017. http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3Var.pl?Function=DECI&Id=246617 (accessed June 10, 2018).

Unspecified	"Unspecified" refers to survey respondents from communities where respondents were not broken out by sheltered or unsheltered.
Unsheltered	"Unsheltered" individuals or respondents includes all those who completed a street survey and who had no physical shelter the previous night (i.e. were staying outside, in alleys, doorways, parkades, parks and vehicles). It also includes people who were staying temporarily at someone else's place (couch surfing) the previous night, and who were interviewed on the street or at a homeless service.

5.3 Community Contributors for B.C. Count Communities

Community	Community Organization
Campbell River	AIDS Vancouver Island
Campbell River	Alano Club
Campbell River	Campbell River and North Island Transition Society (CRNITS)
Campbell River	Campbell River Beacon Club
Campbell River	Campbell River Sobering Assessment Centre
Campbell River	City of CR
Campbell River	Laichwiltach Family Life Society
Campbell River	MHSA ACT Teams
Campbell River	North Island Employment Foundations Society
Campbell River	North Island Survivors' Healing Society
Campbell River	Options for Sexual Health
Campbell River	Salvation Army
Campbell River	The John Howard Society of North Island
Comox Valley	AIDS Vancouver Island
Comox Valley	Amethyst House
Comox Valley	City of Courtenay Bylaw
Comox Valley	Comox Bay Care Society Care-A-Van
Comox Valley	Comox Valley Family Services
Comox Valley	Comox Valley Food Bank
Comox Valley	Comox Valley Head Injury Society
Comox Valley	Comox Valley Recovery Centre
Comox Valley	Comox Valley Transition Society
Comox Valley	Connect Program at VIRL
Comox Valley	Cumberland Affordable Housing Committee
Comox Valley	Dawn to Dawn
Comox Valley	Eureka Support Society
Comox Valley	First Nation Health Authority

Comox Valley	Hornby and Denman Community Health Care Society
Comox Valley	Komoks First Nation
Comox Valley	LILLI House
Comox Valley	LINC Youth Centre
Comox Valley	Mental Health & Substance Use
Comox Valley	North Island Hospital
Comox Valley	Salvation Army Family Services
Comox Valley	Salvation Army Pidcock House
Comox Valley	SD71
Comox Valley	Wachiay Friendship Centre
Cranbrook	Ankors
Cranbrook	Community Social Planning Society of Cranbrook and Area
Cranbrook	Operation Street Angel: Ktunaxa Nation
Cranbrook	Salvation Army Coordinator- Community Ministries
Cranbrook	The Homeless Outreach Team
Cranbrook	United Way of Cranbrook and Kimberley
Fort Saint John	FSJ Women's Resource society
Fort Saint John	Salvation Army
Fort Saint John	Urban Matters
Merritt	ASK Wellness
Merritt	Library
Merritt	Conayt Friendship Society
Merritt	Nicola Valley Shelter & Support Society
Merritt	Nicola Valley Region and District Foodbank
Parksville	Discovery College
Parksville	Forward House Community Services Society
Parksville	Haven Society
Parksville	Island Crisis Care Society
Parksville	Lighthouse Community Hall – Soupy Café

Parksville	Manna Homeless Society
Parksville	Society of Organized Services
Parksville	The Salvation Army
Penticton	Compass House
Penticton	Pathways Addictions
Penticton	Soupateria
Port Alberni	Alberni Community and Women's Services
Port Alberni	Alberni Drug and Alcohol Prevention Society
Port Alberni	Better at Home/Alberni Valley Assisted Living Society
Port Alberni	Canadian Mental Health Association – PA
Port Alberni	City of Port Alberni
Port Alberni	INEO Employment Services
Port Alberni	Island Health - Mental Health & Substance Abuse
Port Alberni	Kuu-Us Crisis Line Society
Port Alberni	Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction/Service BC
Port Alberni	Port Alberni Friendship Centre
Port Alberni	Port Alberni Shelter Society
Port Alberni	Scott Fraser MLA - Constituency Office
Port Alberni	The New Leaf Supportive Recovery
Prince Rupert	North Coast Transition Society
Prince Rupert	Mental Health and Addictions CORE
Prince Rupert	Friendship House
Prince Rupert	Sally Ann
Prince Rupert	Blue Heron Program Offices
Prince Rupert	Library
Prince Rupert	Raven's Keep Transition House
Prince Rupert	Extreme Weather Shelter
Prince Rupert	Youth Program
Sechelt	Arrowhead Mental Health Clubhouse (SCCSS)

Sechelt	Intensive Case Management Team
Sechelt	Needle Exchange (VCH)
Sechelt	RainCity Housing
Sechelt	Salvation Army
Sechelt	Sechelt Foodbank (SCCSS)
Sechelt	Sunshine Coast Community Services Society
Sechelt	Sunshine Coast Mental Health and Addictions Services (VCH)
Sechelt	Sunshine Coast Youth Outreach (SCCSS)
Sechelt	Yew Transition House (SCCSS)
Smithers	Broadway Place
Smithers	Bulkley Valley District Hospital
Smithers	Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre
Smithers	Northern Health-Mental Health and Addictions
Smithers	Office of the Wetsuwet'en
Smithers	Passage House
Smithers	Positive Living North
Smithers	Salvation Army
Smithers	Smithers Community Services Association
Smithers	Smithers Interministerial Group
Smithers	Witset (Moricetown Band)
Williams Lake	Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) - Cariboo Chilcotin Branch
Williams Lake	Cariboo Friendship Society
Williams Lake	Cariboo Friendship Society – Shelter
Williams Lake	Cariboo Friendship Society - Transition House
Williams Lake	Mental Health Substance Use
Williams Lake	Salvation Army

5.4 Survey Instruments

Survey ID:

Homeless Count 2018
Sheltered Survey

Volunteer Name:_____ Shelter Name:_____

- **Participation is voluntary** and **your name will not be recorded**.
- You can choose to **skip any question** or to **stop the interview at any time.**
- The answers you provide are collected under BC's Privacy Act.
- Results will contribute to the understanding of homelessness across BC and Canada, and will help with research to improve services
- **Doing the interview will not affect your use of services in any way.**

Do you consent to be interviewed? ☐ Yes (**Go to Q.1**) ☐ No (**END**)

SCREENING QUESTIONS

1. Will you be sleeping in this shelter tonight?

☐ Yes **(Go to Q.2)**
☐ No **(Go to Q.2)**
☐ No answer **(END)**

2. Have you already answered a survey today **(with someone wearing a yellow sticker)**?

☐ Yes **(END)**
☐ No **(Go to Q.3)**
☐ No answer **(END)**

3. Have you already answered a survey in another community in the last 6 weeks?

☐ Yes **(Community name _____) (Go to Q.4)**
☐ No **(Go to Q.4)**
☐ Don't know/No answer **(Go to Q.4)**

4 . Do you currently have a place to stay where you pay monthly rent?

☐ Yes **(Go to Q.5)**
☐ No **(Go to Q.5)**
☐ No answer **(Go to Q.5)**

SURVEY QUESTIONS

5. How long have you been without a place of your own?

_____ _____ _____ _____
Days **# Weeks** **# Months** **# Years**

☐ Don't know / No answer

6. How old are you [OR] what year were you born?

Age _____ Year born _____

☐ Don't know / No answer

7. What gender you identify with? **[Show list]**

☐ Male / Man
☐ Female / Woman
☐ Two-Spirit
☐ Trans Female / Trans Woman
☐ Trans Male / Trans Man
☐ Genderqueer/Gender Non-Conforming
☐ Not Listed (specify): _____
☐ Don't Know / No answer

8. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee?

☐ Yes (choose one)
  ☐ Immigrant (Go to Q.8a)
  ☐ Refugee (Go to Q.8a)
  ☐ Refugee Claimant (Go to Q.8a)
☐ No (Go to Q.9)
☐ Don't know/No answer (Go to Q.9)

8a. How long have you been in Canada?

Length:_____ _____ _____ _____
Days **# Weeks** **# Months** **# Years**

Or date of arrival:_____ _____ _____
Day **Month** **Year**

☐ Don't know / No answer

9. Do you identify as Indigenous/Aboriginal? This includes First Nations, Metis, Inuit, with or without status.

☐ Yes - specify (**check only one**)
  ☐ First Nations:_____ (specify if known)
  ☐ Inuit
  ☐ Métis
  ☐ Not listed (please describe:_____)
  ☐ Don't know / No answer
☐ No
☐ Don't know / No answer

10. Do you have the following health challenges? (Read list.)

	Yes	No	Don't know/ No answer
Medical condition/illness	○	○	○
Physical disability	○	○	○
Addiction	○	○	○
Mental illness	○	○	○

11. Is there anybody with you today?

☐ Yes Who? (Check all that apply)
  ☐ Partner/spouse
  ☐ Child(ren)
    Age(s) 1.____ 2.____ 3.____ 4.____
  ☐ Friend(s)
  ☐ Pet(s)
  ☐ Relative(s)
  ☐ Other (specify):_____
☐ No
☐ Don't know/No answer

Page 1 of 2 →

2018 Homeless Count

PART 2: SURVEY (CONTINUED)

12. How long have you been in (*community name*)?

Length: _____ _____ _____ _____
Days # Weeks # Months # Years

- ☐ Always been here **(Go to Q.13)**
- ☐ Don't know / No answer **(Go to Q.13)**

12a. Where did you live before you came here (i.e. what community)?

- ☐ Community name_____
  AND province _____
- ☐ OR country _____
- ☐ Don't know / No answer

13. What are your sources of income? **Check all that apply.**

- ☐ Welfare/income assistance
- ☐ Panhandling
- ☐ Disability benefit
- ☐ Binning/bottles
- ☐ Employment insurance
- ☐ Youth agreement
- ☐ Money from family/friends
- ☐ Job full-time
- ☐ Job part-time or casual
- ☐ Old age security (OAS)/guaranteed income supplement (GIS)
- ☐ CPP or other pension
- ☐ Honoraria
- ☐ Vending
- ☐ No income
- ☐ Other (specify):_____
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

14. What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently? **[Do not read the options.** Check all that apply. "Housing" means a place where you paid rent - does not include temporary arrangements (e.g., couch surfing) or shelter stays.]

- ☐ Illness or medical condition
- ☐ Addiction or substance use
- ☐ Job loss
- ☐ Unable to pay rent or mortgage
- ☐ Unsafe housing conditions
- ☐ Experienced abuse by: parent / guardian
- ☐ Experienced abuse by: spouse / partner
- ☐ Conflict with: parent / guardian
- ☐ Conflict with: spouse / partner
- ☐ Incarcerated (jail or prison)
- ☐ Hospitalization or treatment program
- ☐ Eviction
- ☐ Other reason _____
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

15. What do you think is keeping you from finding a place of your own? **(Check all that apply)**

- ☐ Income too low
- ☐ History of Eviction/Lack of references
- ☐ Lack of identification
- ☐ No income/no income assistance
- ☐ Addiction
- ☐ Rent too high
- ☐ Poor housing conditions
- ☐ No housing available that suits my needs
  (specify) _____
- ☐ Mental health issues
- ☐ Family breakdown/abuse/conflict
- ☐ Conflict with law
- ☐ Pets
- ☐ Discrimination (specify) _____
- ☐ Lack of transportation
- ☐ Other (specify):_____
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

16. What services have you used in the past 12 months? **(Check all that apply)**

- ☐ Health services
  - ☐ Ambulance
  - ☐ Emergency room
  - ☐ Hospital (non emergency)
  - ☐ Dental clinic or dentist
  - ☐ Mental health services
  - ☐ Addiction services
  - ☐ Health clinic
- ☐ Food Services
  - ☐ Food banks
  - ☐ Meal programs/soup kitchens
- ☐ Legal Services
  - ☐ Legal
  - ☐ Parole or services for ex-offenders
- ☐ Employment and Financial services
  - ☐ Employment/Job help
  - ☐ Budgeting/trusteeship
- ☐ Housing Services
  - ☐ Housing help/eviction prevention
  - ☐ Homeless outreach
  - ☐ Transitional housing
- ☐ Other Services
  - ☐ Drop-in
  - ☐ Newcomer services
  - ☐ Faith-based/spiritual services
  - ☐ Other (specify):_____
  - ☐ None
  - ☐ Don't know/No answer

17. How do you describe your sexual orientation, for example straight, gay, lesbian? **[Show list]**

- ☐ Straight/heterosexual
- ☐ Gay
- ☐ Lesbian
- ☐ Bisexual
- ☐ Two-spirit
- ☐ Questioning
- ☐ Queer
- ☐ Not listed: _____
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

18. Have you ever lived in foster care, in a youth group home or under a youth/young adult agreement?

- ☐ Yes
  - ☐ Currently (since when: _____)
  - ☐ Previously (for how long: _____)
  - ☐ Don't know / No answer
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know / No answer

19. Have you ever had any service in the Canadian Forces? ***(Includes army, navy, airforce, RCMP)***

- ☐ Yes **(Check all that apply)**
  - ☐ Canadian military (army, navy, airforce)
  - ☐ RCMP
  - ☐ Other country military (specify) _____
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know / No answer

For the next questions, homeless means "you don't have a place of your own where you pay rent".

20. Is this your first time being homeless?

- ☐ Yes **(END)**
- ☐ No **(Go to Q.21)**
- ☐ Don't know/No answer **(Go to Q.21)**

21. How old were you the first time you experienced homelessness?

Age _____ Year _____ ☐ Don't know/ No answer

End

Survey ID:

Homeless Count 2018
Street Survey

Volunteer Name: _____ Location: _____

- **Participation is voluntary** and **your name will not be recorded.**
- You can choose to **skip any question** or to **stop the interview at any time.**
- The answers you provide are collected under BC's Privacy Act.
- Results will contribute to the understanding of homelessness across BC and Canada, and will help with research to improve services
- **Doing the interview will not affect your use of services in any way.**

Do you consent to be interviewed? ☐ Yes (**Go to Q.1**) ☐ No (**END**)

SCREENING QUESTIONS

1. Have you already answered a survey today **(with someone wearing a yellow sticker)**?
- ☐ Yes **(END)**
- ☐ No **(Go to Q.2)**
- ☐ No answer **(END)**

2. Have you already answered a survey in another community in the last 6 weeks?
- ☐ Yes **(Community name _____) (Go to Q.3)**
- ☐ No **(Go to Q.3)**
- ☐ Don't know/No answer **(Go to Q.3)**

3. Do you currently have a place to stay where you pay monthly rent?
- ☐ Yes **(END)**
- ☐ No **(Go to Q.4)**
- ☐ No answer **(Go to Q.4)**

4. Where did you stay last night?
- ☐ Outside **(Go to Q.5)**
- ☐ In a vehicle (Car, van, RV, truck) **(Go to Q.5)**
- ☐ Makeshift shelter or tent **(Go to Q.5)**
- ☐ Abandoned/vacant building **(Go to Q.5)**
- ☐ Someone else's place or couch-surfing **(Go to Q.5)**
- ☐ On a boat
  - ☐ paying moorage **(END)**
  - ☐ not paying moorage **(GO TO Q.5)**
- ☐ Parent(s)/guardian's house – If **youth under 25 (END)** if 25 or older **(Go to Q.5)**
- ☐ Shelter, Safe House, Transition House (specify) _____ **(Go to Q.5)**
- ☐ Detox, recovery house, hospital, jail **(END)**
- ☐ Own place inside where you pay rent (specify): _____ **(END)**
- ☐ Other (specify): _____ **(Go to Q.5)**
- ☐ No answer **(END)**

SURVEY QUESTIONS

5. How long have you been without a place of your own?

_____ _____ _____ _____
Days **# Weeks** **# Months** **# Years**

- ☐ Don't know / No answer

6. How old are you [OR] what year were you born?

Age _____ Year born _____
- ☐ Don't know / No answer

7. What gender you identify with? **[Show list]**
- ☐ Male / Man
- ☐ Female / Woman
- ☐ Two-Spirit
- ☐ Trans Female / Trans Woman
- ☐ Trans Male / Trans Man
- ☐ Genderqueer/Gender Non-Conforming
- ☐ Not Listed (specify): _____
- ☐ Don't Know / No answer

SURVEY QUESTIONS (continued)

8. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee?
- ☐ Yes (choose one)
  - ☐ Immigrant (Go to Q.8a)
  - ☐ Refugee (Go to Q.8a)
  - ☐ Refugee Claimant (Go to Q.8a)
- ☐ No (Go to Q.9)
- ☐ Don't know/No answer (Go to Q.9)

8a. How long have you been in Canada?

Length: _____ _____ _____ _____
Days **# Weeks** **# Months** **# Years**

Or date of arrival: _____ _____ _____
Day **Month** **Year**

- ☐ Don't know / No answer

9. Do you identify as Indigenous/Aboriginal? This includes First Nations, Metis, Inuit, with or without status.
- ☐ Yes - specify (**check only one**)
  - ☐ First Nations: _____ (specify if known)
  - ☐ Inuit
  - ☐ Métis
  - ☐ Not listed (please describe: _____)
  - ☐ Don't know / No answer
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know / No answer

10. Do you have the following health challenges? (Read list.)

	Yes	No	Don't know/ No answer
Medical condition/illness	○	○	○
Physical disability	○	○	○
Addiction	○	○	○
Mental illness	○	○	○

11. Is there anybody with you today?
- ☐ Yes Who? (Check all that apply)
  - ☐ Partner/spouse
  - ☐ Child(ren) Age(s) 1.____ 2.____3. ____4.___
  - ☐ Friend(s)
  - ☐ Pet(s)
  - ☐ Relative(s)
  - ☐ Other (specify): _____
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

12. How long have you been in (*community name*)?

Length: _____ _____ _____ _____
Days **# Weeks** **# Months** **# Years**

- ☐ Always been here **(Go to Q.13)**
- ☐ Don't know / No answer **(Go to Q.13)**

12a. Where did you live before you came here (i.e. what community)?
- ☐ Community name _____ AND province _____
- ☐ OR country _____
- ☐ Don't know / No answer

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PART 2: SURVEY (continued)

13. What are your sources of income? **Check all that apply.**

- ☐ Welfare/income assistance
- ☐ Panhandling
- ☐ Disability benefit
- ☐ Binning/bottles
- ☐ Employment insurance
- ☐ Youth agreement
- ☐ Money from family/friends
- ☐ Job full-time
- ☐ Job part-time or casual
- ☐ Old age security (OAS)/guaranteed income supplement (GIS)
- ☐ CPP or other pension
- ☐ Honoraria
- ☐ Vending
- ☐ No income
- ☐ Other (specify):_____
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

14. What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently? [**Do not read the options**. Check all that apply. "Housing" means a place where you paid rent - does not include temporary arrangements (e.g., couch surfing) or shelter stays.]

- ☐ Illness or medical condition
- ☐ Addiction or substance use
- ☐ Job loss
- ☐ Unable to pay rent or mortgage
- ☐ Unsafe housing conditions
- ☐ Experienced abuse by: parent / guardian
- ☐ Experienced abuse by: spouse / partner
- ☐ Conflict with: parent / guardian
- ☐ Conflict with: spouse / partner
- ☐ Incarcerated (jail or prison)
- ☐ Hospitalization or treatment program
- ☐ Eviction
- ☐ Other reason _____
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

15. What do you think is keeping you from finding a place of your own? **(Check all that apply)**

- ☐ Income too low
- ☐ History of Eviction/Lack of references
- ☐ Lack of identification
- ☐ No income/no income assistance
- ☐ Addiction
- ☐ Rent too high
- ☐ Poor housing conditions
- ☐ No housing available that suits my needs (specify) _____
- ☐ Mental health issues
- ☐ Family breakdown/abuse/conflict
- ☐ Conflict with law
- ☐ Pets
- ☐ Discrimination (specify) _____
- ☐ Lack of transportation
- ☐ Other (specify):_____
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

16. If you did NOT stay in a shelter, safe house or transition house last night, what is the MAIN reason why? **(Check only one)**

- ☐ Able to stay with a friend (specify) _____
- ☐ Dislike (specify) _____
- ☐ Don't feel safe (specify) _____
- ☐ Turned away (specify) _____
- ☐ Bedbugs/pests (specify) _____
- ☐ Other (specify):_____
- ☐ Slept in a shelter/safe house/transition house
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

17. Have you stayed in a shelter in the last 12 months?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know/No answer

18. What services have you used in the past 12 months? **(Check all that apply)**

- ☐ Health services
  - ☐ Ambulance
  - ☐ Emergency room
  - ☐ Hospital (non emergency)
  - ☐ Dental clinic or dentist
  - ☐ Mental health services
  - ☐ Addiction services
  - ☐ Health clinic
- ☐ Food Services
  - ☐ Food banks
  - ☐ Meal programs/soup kitchens
- ☐ Legal Services
  - ☐ Legal
  - ☐ Parole or services for ex-offenders
- ☐ Employment and Financial services
  - ☐ Employment/Job help
  - ☐ Budgeting/trusteeship
- ☐ Housing Services
  - ☐ Housing help/eviction prevention
  - ☐ Homeless outreach
  - ☐ Transitional housing
- ☐ Other Services
  - ☐ Drop-in
  - ☐ Newcomer services
  - ☐ Faith-based/spiritual services
  - ☐ Other (specify):_____
  - ☐ None
  - ☐ Don't know/No answer

19. How do you describe your sexual orientation, for example straight, gay, lesbian? **[Show list]**

- ☐ Straight/heterosexual
- ☐ Gay
- ☐ Lesbian
- ☐ Bisexual
- ☐ Two-spirit
- ☐ Questioning
- ☐ Queer
- ☐ Not listed: _____
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

20. Have you ever lived in foster care, in a youth group home or under a youth/young adult agreement?

- ☐ Yes
  - ☐ Currently (since when: _____)
  - ☐ Previously (for how long: _____)
  - ☐ Don't know / No answer
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know / No answer

21. Have you ever had any service in the Canadian Forces? ***(Includes army, navy, airforce, RCMP)***

- ☐ Yes **(Check all that apply)**
  - ☐ Canadian military (army, navy, airforce)
  - ☐ RCMP
  - ☐ Other country military (specify) _____
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know / No answer

For the next questions, homeless means "you don't have a place of your own where you pay rent".

22. Is this your first time being homeless?

- ☐ Yes **(END)**
- ☐ No **(Go to 23)**
- ☐ Don't know/No answer **(Go to Q.23)**

23. How old were you the first time you experienced homelessness?

Age _____ Year _____ ☐ Don't know/ No answer

2018 Homeless Count **End**

6. About the Implementing Organizations

6.1 About Homelessness Services Association of BC

The Homelessness Services Association of British Columbia (HSABC) is a solution-focused, member-driven organization supporting shelters, drop-in centres, homeless outreach teams, transition houses and other service providers to strengthen and unify services across BC that are addressing the needs of persons experiencing homelessness. Our mandate is to raise awareness of the causes and solutions to homelessness by working with all levels of government, the private and non-profit sector, and communities across the province with the goal of ending homelessness by connecting people with appropriate housing and supports.

Our key areas of focus include:

Training – we provide skills training and professional development opportunities to build the confidence and capacity of the homelessness serving sector across BC

Program Implementation – we coordinate and implement programs such as the Extreme Weather Response Program to increase shelter beds available during critical weather conditions, as well as supporting the sector to deliver other essential services for those experiencing homelessness.

Conference and Networking – we provide networking opportunities to build resilience and connectivity across the sector

Research – we develop and implement research and evidence-based best practices to address the causes and solutions to homelessness

Sector Support – we unify and strengthen the voice of the sector to represent distinct and unique regional perspectives, and approaches addressing the needs of diverse communities experiencing homelessness

6.2 About Urban Matters CCC

Urban Matters is a community contribution company (CCC) that launches social ventures to help vulnerable people enjoy a higher quality of life. Our vision is to ensure that all vulnerable people have their most basic needs met: reliable access to food, water, shelter and livelihood.

Urban Matters is a subsidiary of Urban Systems Ltd. which has over 40 years of community development experience in British Columbia www.urbansystems.ca. As a self-financed social-purpose business, Urban Matters' main sources of revenue come from social innovation readiness consulting and the modest royalties we receive from the ventures we incubate.

These profits are reinvested in researching, designing, and scaling new social ventures. We think that the biggest impact we can have is to use our well-established business networks and professional expertise to create new social ventures that directly serve the needs of vulnerable people. This approach creates a ripple effect that grows the impact far beyond our own scale and reach.

Urban Matters' team of community catalysts provide social innovation readiness consulting to help governments, community organizations and private companies deliver greater social impact. Our team combines community development expertise with innovation skills such as change management, partnership brokering and human centered-design principles to help our partners achieve social outcomes.

6.3 About BC Non-Profit Housing Association

BC Non-Profit Housing Association (BCNPHA) is the provincial umbrella organization for the non-profit housing sector, providing programs, services, research and education to strengthen the capacity of non-profit housing providers. Together non-profit housing societies manage more than 60,000 units of long-term, affordable housing in over 2,000 buildings across the province.

BCNPHA's research and policy arm was established in 2008 to develop a strong evidence base for affordable housing and developing solutions to the homelessness and rental housing crisis. Our research department has expertise in a broad range of methodologies that include both quantitative and qualitative approaches.

Today we provide quality process design, research and analysis to assist clients and partners in making evidence-based decisions. In our work we ensure that homelessness issues are thought of in tandem with affordable housing provision with the goal of breaking down sector silos.

Our research has helped inform planning and policy decisions that provide a diverse housing supply and options for a broad range of BC residents.

2018 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C. (12 B.C. Count Community Profiles)

October 5, 2018

Prepared by Homelessness Services Association of BC, Urban Matters and the BC Non-Profit Housing Association

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1 Introduction

For the first time this spring, the provincial government funded the coordination of homeless counts in 12 B.C. communities during March and April 2018. The data will be used to paint an overall picture of homelessness in B.C., inform B.C.'s Homelessness Action Plan, and provide a baseline to measure progress.

The Province plans to coordinate homeless counts every two years, with the next one scheduled for 2020. This timing will coincide with homeless counts funded by the federal government through Reaching Home, Canada's Homelessness Strategy.

This report includes data from the homeless counts conducted in 12 communities that were funded by the provincial government – the B.C. count communities – in the spring of 2018. The Homelessness Services Association of BC, in partnership with Urban Matters and the BC Non-Profit Housing Association, coordinated these counts, supported communities to carry them out, and compiled the results. The counts would not have been possible without the support of local coordinators and community organizations and the almost 300 volunteers who conducted surveys (see Section 4 for a list of community service providers that contributed to the count).

A companion report ("2018 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C.") has also been developed that includes[1]:

- Full survey information gathered in the 12 B.C. count communities
- Summary data from the six federally funded homeless counts and two other homeless counts conducted in the spring of 2018
- Summary data from four counts conducted in 2017
- Shelter data from other BC communities (collected by BC Housing).

This approach provides a fairly comprehensive picture of homelessness in British Columbia with coverage of more than 85 per cent of the province by population.

2 Important Limitations and Methodological Considerations

Please note the following considerations in reviewing the data included in this report:

- Data from counts in the 12 B.C. count communities constitutes a benchmark to measure progress made to reduce homelessness over time but does not allow for any current longitudinal comparisons.

- Point-in-Time (PiT) homeless counts provide a 24-hour snapshot of the estimated number of people who are experiencing homelessness in a given community and their demographic characteristicsand service needs.

- During a homeless count, we survey and obtain data on people who do not have a place of

[1] See Section 4 for the more detailed information on the list of counts included in this report.

their own where they pay rent and can expect to stay for at least 30 days. This includes people who:

- stayed overnight in homeless shelters including transition houses for women fleeing violence and youth safe houses, people with no fixed address (NFA) staying temporarily in hospitals, jails or detox facilities; and,
- live outside or stayed temporarily with others (couch surfing) and/or those using homelessness services.

❖ Homeless counts underestimate the number of people who are homeless. The Point-in-Time (PiT) Count methodology is most effective at counting and surveying the visible homeless population.

- Not everyone experiencing homelessness can be found and not everyone who is found is willing to be surveyed. People who are couch surfing and staying with friends (the "hidden" homeless) are not excluded but are less likely to be counted using a PiT Count approach
  because they are by their very nature "hidden" and more difficult to find.
- While PiT Counts are an accepted methodological tool, the numbers are understood to be the minimum number of people who are homeless on a given day in that community.
- Numbers provided in this report therefore constitute the minimum number of people who are experiencing homelessness on that given day in any one of the communities.

3 Community Profiles

This section of the report provides community profiles for each of the 12 B.C. count communities. The profiles include information about people identified as experiencing homelessness during the count who were sheltered and unsheltered and provided responses to survey questions (See Section 4 for the sheltered/unsheltered survey instruments and a glossary of terms used throughout this report).

Local context and methodological variations must be considered when reviewing the community profiles. Some differences may be explained, in part because of available services, including shelter capacity. In addition, local Extreme Weather Response (EWR) shelters were open in some, but not all communities during the count.

Each community is unique and comparisons between communities should be avoided. It is also important to note that for each of the community profiles that follow, some data with only a few respondents has been suppressed to protect privacy. Percentages are based on the number of respondents and not the total number of people identified as experiencing homelessness in the community.

3.1 Community Profiles – Campbell River

The 2018 Homeless Count in Campbell River took place on evening of April 12 and during the day of April 13.

The Campbell River count was conducted in four shelter facilities, [2] along eight walking and driving street routes, at three magnet events that provided food or services to community members, and at two agencies where people accessing services could complete the survey.

A total of 81 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness during the Campbell River count. This included 80 adults and one child who was under the age of 19 and accompanied by a parent or guardian.[3]

Just over half of survey respondents were unsheltered (51%) and 49% were sheltered.[4] Among the survey respondents who reported being unsheltered on the night of the count, 35% (14 individuals) slept outside, 28% (11 individuals) slept in a vehicle, and 18% (7 individuals) couch-surfed or stayed with a friend. One accompanied child was identified as unsheltered.[5]

[2] Can include any of the following: temporary or permanent shelters, or transition houses for women and children fleeing violence, or safe houses for youth if available in the community.
[3] Children, for the 2018 Homeless Count, are defined as "accompanied children" who are under 19 years of age and who were with a parent or guardian during the count.
[4] Unsheltered respondents include individuals sleeping outside, in a tent or makeshift structure, in a vehicle, or couch-surfing.
[5] This child may have been couch-surfing or sleeping in a vehicle with a parent or guardian.

Table 3.1: Adults and Accompanied Children, Shelters, Transition Houses, Detox, NFA and Unsheltered – Campbell River

Homeless Category	Adults and Unaccompanied Youth		Accompanied Children		Total Homeless	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Sheltered Total	40	50%	0	0%	**40**	**49%**
Shelters	17	21%	0	0%	**17**	**21%**
Transition Houses	5	6%	0	0%	**5**	**6%**
Detox Centres	16	20%	0	0%	**16**	**20%**
No Fixed Address (NFA)[6]	2	3%	0	0%	**2**	**2%**
Other	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Unsheltered Total	40	50%	1	100%	**41**	**51%**
Total Individuals Experiencing Homelessness	**80**	**100%**	**1**	**100%**	**81**	**100%**

Table 3.2: Sheltered and Unsheltered - Campbell River

Homeless Category	#	%
Sheltered	40	49%
Unsheltered	41	51%
Total	**81**	**100%**

3.1.1 Gender

Among survey respondents, 59% identified as male and 40% identified as female. One respondent identified another gender identity.[7]

A greater proportion of sheltered respondents identified as male than unsheltered respondents (62% vs. 56%), while the proportion of respondents identifying as female was greater among unsheltered respondents than sheltered (41% vs. 38%).

Table 3.3: Gender – General – Campbell River

Gender Identity	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Man/Male	18	62%	22	56%	**40**	**59%**
Woman/Female	11	38%	16	41%	**27**	**40%**
Another Gender Identity	0	0%	1	3%	**1**	**1%**
Respondents	**29**	**100%**	**39**	**100%**	**68**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	11		2		**13**	
Total	**40**		**41**		**81**	

[6] Includes individuals staying in jails, hospitals and short-term medical facilities.

[7] During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their gender identity and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

3.1.2 Age

The majority of survey respondents (72%) were adults (25-54 years of age), while nearly a quarter (24%) were seniors (55+ years of age).[8]

Table 3.4 shows that all three youth survey respondents were unsheltered. The proportion of seniors was greater among sheltered respondents than unsheltered respondents (38% vs. 13%).

Table 3.4: Age – General - Campbell River

Age Groups	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	0	0%	3	8%	**3**	**4%**
Adult (25-54 Years)	18	62%	31	79%	**49**	**72%**
Senior (55+)	11	38%	5	13%	**16**	**24%**
Respondents	**29**	**100%**	**39**	**100%**	**68**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	11		2		**13**	
Total	**40**		**41**		**81**	

3.1.3 Indigenous Identity

A total of 31 respondents identified as Indigenous, representing 46% of all respondents. [9]

The proportion of respondents identifying as Indigenous was higher for unsheltered respondents than sheltered respondents (58% vs. 31%).

Table 3.5: Indigenous / Identity – General - Campbell River

Indigenous Identity	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Indigenous Identity	9	31%	22	58%	**31**	**46%**
Not Indigenous Identity	20	69%	16	42%	**36**	**54%**
Respondents	**29**	**100%**	**38**	**100%**	**67**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	11		3		**14**	
Total	**40**		**41**		**81**	

3.1.4 Newcomers to Canada

Survey participants[10] were asked if they had come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee. **Error! Reference source not found.**Three individuals, representing 4% of respondents reported coming to

[8] During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their age and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

[9] During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their Indigenous identity and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

[10] The term "participant" is used for people who were asked a question and "respondent" for those who answered the survey question.

Canada as an immigrant or refugee. These survey respondents all reported being in Canada for ten years or more.

3.1.5 Sexual Orientation

Survey participants were asked to identify their sexual orientation.

Seven percent (7%) of sheltered respondents and 3% of unsheltered respondents identified as LGBTQ2S. Table 3.6 shows that a large majority of respondents identified as straight or heterosexual (92%).

Table 3.6: Sexual Identity – General - Campbell River

Sexual Orientation	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Straight/Heterosexual	24	89%	34	94%	**58**	**92%**
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Two-spirit, Questioning, Queer (LGBTQ2S)	2	7%	1	3%	**3**	**5%**
Other (Not Listed / Multiple Responses)	1	4%	1	3%	**2**	**3%**
Respondents	**27**	**100%**	**36**	**100%**	**63**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	13		5		**18**	
Total	**40**		**41**		**81**	

3.1.6 Who Was with Survey Respondents

Survey participants were asked if they were with anyone on the day of the count. Most respondents (54%) reported being alone, while 21% reported being with a friend and 15% were with their partner.

A higher proportion of unsheltered respondents reported that they were with someone compared to sheltered respondents (64% vs. 21%).

Table 3.7: Who Was With Survey Respondents - Campbell River

Who Was with Survey Respondent (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
With Someone	6	21%	25	64%	**31**	**46%**
Partner	1	4%	9	23%	**10**	**15%**
Child/Children	1	4%	2	5%	**3**	**4%**
Friend(s)	2	7%	12	31%	**14**	**21%**
Pet(s)	2	7%	1	3%	**3**	**4%**
Relative(s)	1	4%	0	0%	**1**	**1%**
Other(s)[11]	0	0%	3	8%	**3**	**4%**
Alone	22	79%	14	36%	**36**	**54%**
Respondents	**28**	**100%**	**39**	**100%**	**67**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	12		2		**14**	
Total	**40**		**41**		**81**	

[11] "Other" responses varied, with no specific response accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities. See previous comments

3.1.7 Barriers to Housing

Survey participants were asked what had caused them to lose their housing most recently.

Table 3.8 shows that the three main reasons reported by survey respondents for losing their housing most recently were addiction or substance use (22%), high rents (21%), and "other" reason (46%).

Table 3.8: Reason for Loss of Housing - Campbell River

Loss of Housing (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Illness or Medical Condition	0	0%	2	5%	**2**	**3%**
Addiction or Substance Use	6	21%	9	23%	**15**	**22%**
Job Loss	2	7%	5	13%	**7**	**10%**
Unable to Pay Rent or Mortgage	7	25%	7	18%	**14**	**21%**
Unsafe Housing Conditions	5	18%	1	3%	**6**	**9%**
Experienced Abuse by: Parent / Guardian	0	0%	2	5%	**2**	**3%**
Experienced Abuse by: Spouse / Partner	3	11%	2	5%	**5**	**7%**
Conflict with: Parent / Guardian	1	4%	1	3%	**2**	**3%**
Conflict with: Spouse / Partner	3	11%	1	3%	**4**	**6%**
Incarcerated (Jail or Prison)	1	4%	2	5%	**3**	**4%**
Hospitalization or Treatment Program	1	4%	3	8%	**4**	**6%**
Eviction	1	4%	5	13%	**6**	**9%**
Other Reason[12]	14	50%	17	44%	**31**	**46%**
Respondents	**28**		**39**		**67**	
Don't Know / No Answer	12		2		**14**	
Total	**40**		**41**		**81**	

Survey participants were also asked what barriers they faced in finding a place of their own.

Table 3.9, shows that the three main barriers to accessing housing identified by respondents were high rents (60%), low incomes (57%), and poor housing conditions (26%).

Table 3.9: Barriers to Accessing Housing - Campbell River

Barriers to Accessing Housing (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**

[12] "Other Reason" for loss of housing, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities included responses related to a) conflict with someone other than a parent/guardian or spouse/partner, b) death of a family member or other, and c) end of a relationship/divorce.

Income Too Low	18	67%	19	50%	**37**	**57%**
History of Eviction/Lack of References	7	26%	7	18%	**14**	**22%**
Lack of Identification	3	11%	5	13%	**8**	**12%**
No Income/No Income Assistance	1	4%	3	8%	**4**	**6%**
Addiction	3	11%	9	24%	**12**	**18%**
Rent Too High	20	74%	19	50%	**39**	**60%**
Poor Housing Conditions	11	41%	6	16%	**17**	**26%**
No Housing Available that Suits My Needs	7	26%	9	24%	**16**	**25%**
Mental Health Issues	3	11%	4	11%	**7**	**11%**
Family Breakdown/Abuse/Conflict	1	4%	2	5%	**3**	**5%**
Conflict with Law	0	0%	2	5%	**2**	**3%**
Pets	3	11%	3	8%	**6**	**9%**
Discrimination	4	15%	8	21%	**12**	**18%**
Lack of Transportation	4	15%	5	13%	**9**	**14%**
Other Reason[13]	4	15%	8	21%	**12**	**18%**
Respondents	**27**		**38**		**65**	
Don't Know / No Answer	13		3		**16**	
Total	**40**		**41**		**81**	

3.1.8 Health Conditions

Survey participants were asked about their health, and whether they had a medical condition, physical disability, mental illness and/or addiction. Medical condition refers to chronic problems like asthma and diabetes, while physical disability refers to a condition affecting mobility or movement.

[13] "Other" responses varied widely, with no specific response accounting for 2% or more respondents across all communities.

Table 3.10, shows that 66% of respondents reported an addiction, 56% reported a medical condition, 46% reported a physical disability, and 41% reported a mental illness. Unsheltered respondents were more likely to report a medical condition, while sheltered respondents were more likely to report an addiction.

Table 3.10: Health Conditions - Campbell River

Health Condition (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Medical Condition / Illness	12	41%	26	67%	**38**	**56%**
Physical Disability	13	45%	18	46%	**31**	**46%**
Addiction	24	83%	21	54%	**45**	**66%**
Mental Illness	13	45%	15	38%	**28**	**41%**
Respondents	**29**		**39**		**68**	
Don't Know / No Answer	11		2		**13**	
Total	**40**		**41**		**81**	

Table 3.11 shows the number of health conditions respondents identified. Sixty-nine percent (69%) reported two or more health conditions, while 9% reported no health conditions and 22% reported one health condition. Unsheltered respondents were more likely to identify no health conditions than sheltered respondents (10% vs. 7%).

Table 3.11: Health Conditions (Number) - Campbell River

Number of Health Conditions	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
No Health Conditions	2	7%	4	10%	**6**	**9%**
1 Health Condition	6	21%	9	23%	**15**	**22%**
2 Health Conditions	10	34%	12	31%	**22**	**32%**
3 Health Conditions	8	28%	9	23%	**17**	**25%**
4 Health Conditions	3	10%	5	13%	**8**	**12%**
Respondents	**29**	**100%**	**39**	**100%**	**68**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	11		2		**13**	
Total	**40**		**41**		**81**	

3.1.9 Youth in Care

All survey participants were asked if they had ever lived in foster care, in a youth group home or under a youth/young adult agreement. In Campbell River, 41% of respondents reported they had been in care.

Table 3.12 shows that the proportion of respondents reporting they had been in care was greater among unsheltered respondents than sheltered respondents (53% vs. 25%).

Table 3.12: Youth Who Were in Foster Care, Youth Group Homes, or Under a Youth Agreement - Campbell River

Youth in Care	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	7	25%	20	53%	**27**	**41%**
Currently	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Previously	7	25%	17	45%	**24**	**36%**
Don't Know / No Answer	0	0%	3	8%	**3**	**5%**
No	21	75%	18	47%	**39**	**59%**
Respondents	**28**	**100%**	**38**	**100%**	**66**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	12		3		**15**	
Total	**40**		**41**		**81**	

3.1.10 Income

Survey participants were asked to identify their sources of income and could identify as many sources as applied.

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Table 3.13 shows that survey respondents in Campbell River identified a wide range of income sources. Forty-eight percent (48%) identified disability benefits as a source of income, followed by welfare/income assistance (35%) and informal/self-employment (27%).

Unsheltered survey respondents were more likely to identify disability benefits as a source of income than sheltered respondents (51% vs. 44%). Unsheltered respondents were also more likely to identify informal/self-employment such binning or panhandling as a source of income than unsheltered respondents (38% vs. 11%). Sheltered respondents were more likely to report income assistance as a source of income than unsheltered respondents (37% vs. 33%).

Table 3.13: Sources of Income - Campbell River

Sources of Income (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Welfare / Income Assistance	10	37%	13	33%	**23**	**35%**
Employment	5	19%	3	8%	**8**	**12%**
Job/Employment - Full-Time	1	4%	2	5%	**3**	**5%**
Job/Employment - Part-Time	4	15%	1	3%	**5**	**8%**
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Informal/Self Employment	3	11%	15	38%	**18**	**27%**
Panhandling	1	4%	6	15%	**7**	**11%**
Binning/Bottles	2	7%	10	26%	**12**	**18%**
Vending	0	0%	1	3%	**1**	**2%**
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Seniors Benefits	4	15%	6	15%	**10**	**15%**
Old Age Security (OAS)/Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)	1	4%	2	5%	**3**	**5%**
CPP or Other Pension	4	15%	5	13%	**9**	**14%**
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Disability Benefit	12	44%	20	51%	**32**	**48%**
Employment Insurance	2	7%	1	3%	**3**	**5%**
Youth Agreement	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Money from Family/Friends	0	0%	4	10%	**4**	**6%**
Honoraria	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
No Income	1	4%	2	5%	**3**	**5%**
Other[14]	1	4%	6	15%	**7**	**11%**
Respondents	**27**		**39**		**66**	
Don't Know / No Answer	13		2		**15**	
Total	**40**		**41**		**81**	

[14]"Other" sources of income accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities were related to other types of informal/part time employment or odd jobs.

3.1.11 Services Accessed

Survey participants were asked about the types of services they had used over the past 12 months.

APPENDIX 2

Table 3.14 shows that respondents accessed a variety of services including health, food, housing and other services such as drop ins. It is important to note that while individuals experiencing homelessness may have a need for a variety of services, the availability of those services varies greatly by community.

Health services were the most cited services that respondents had accessed over the previous 12 months (90%), with the majority (64%) using the emergency room, 52% using the ambulance, and 52% using health clinics. Sheltered respondents used these health services more than unsheltered respondents.

Eighty-eight percent (88%) of survey respondents had accessed food services over the previous 12 months. Meal programs (78%) and food banks (64%) were the most frequently accessed food services. Unsheltered respondents were more likely to use meal programs than sheltered respondents.

Sixty-five percent (65%) of sheltered respondents reported accessing housing services over the last year compared to 44% of unsheltered respondents.

Finally, 65% of sheltered respondents reported accessing employment or financial services, compared to 28% of unsheltered respondents.

APPENDIX 2

Table 3.14: Services Accessed in 12 Months Prior to Count - Campbell River

Services Accessed (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Health Services	25	96%	27	84%	**52**	**90%**
Health Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Ambulance	15	58%	15	47%	**30**	**52%**
Emergency Room	19	73%	18	56%	**37**	**64%**
Hospital (Non-Emergency)	13	50%	9	28%	**22**	**38%**
Dental Clinic or Dentist	5	19%	4	13%	**9**	**16%**
Mental Health Services	12	46%	14	44%	**26**	**45%**
Addiction Services	11	42%	6	19%	**17**	**29%**
Health Clinic	15	58%	15	47%	**30**	**52%**
Food services	21	81%	30	94%	**51**	**88%**
Food Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	2	6%	**2**	**3%**
Food Banks	18	69%	19	59%	**37**	**64%**
Meal Programs/Soup Kitchens	19	73%	26	81%	**45**	**78%**
Legal Services	8	31%	10	31%	**18**	**31%**
Legal Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	1	3%	**1**	**2%**
Legal	8	31%	8	25%	**16**	**28%**
Parole or Services for Ex-Offenders	3	12%	4	13%	**7**	**12%**
Employment and Financial Services	17	65%	9	28%	**26**	**45%**
Employment and Financial Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	1	3%	**1**	**2%**
Employment/Job Help	16	62%	6	19%	**22**	**38%**
Budgeting/Trusteeship	2	8%	2	6%	**4**	**7%**
Housing Services	17	65%	14	44%	**31**	**53%**
Housing Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	1	3%	**1**	**2%**
Housing Help/Eviction Prevention	9	35%	5	16%	**14**	**24%**
Homeless Outreach	7	27%	9	28%	**16**	**28%**
Transitional Housing	6	23%	3	9%	**9**	**16%**
Other Services	14	54%	16	50%	**30**	**52%**
Other Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	1	3%	**1**	**2%**
Drop-In	6	23%	8	25%	**14**	**24%**
Newcomer Services	1	4%	0	0%	**1**	**2%**
Faith-Based/Spiritual Services	12	46%	7	22%	**19**	**33%**
Other	0	0%	5	16%	**5**	**9%**
None	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Respondents	**26**		**32**		**58**	
Don't Know / No Answer	14		9		**23**	
Total	**40**		**41**		**81**	

3.1.12 History of Homelessness

Almost half of survey respondents (49%) had been homeless for less than a year (Table 3.15). Unsheltered respondents were more likely to have been homeless for less than a year compared to sheltered respondents (58% vs. 38%). Forty-two percent (42%) of unsheltered respondents reported being homeless for a year or more, compared to 62% of sheltered respondents.

Table 3.15: Length of Time Homeless - Campbell River

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
Length of Time Homeless	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Under 1 year	11	38%	22	58%	**33**	**49%**
Up to and including 7 days	1	3%	0	0%	**1**	**1%**
8 days to <1 month	5	17%	3	8%	**8**	**12%**
1 month to <1 year	5	17%	19	50%	**24**	**36%**
1 year to under 5 years	17	59%	11	29%	**28**	**42%**
5 years to under 10 years	0	0%	4	11%	**4**	**6%**
10 years or more	1	3%	1	3%	**2**	**3%**
Respondents	**29**	**100%**	**38**	**100%**	**67**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	11		3		**14**	
Total	**40**		**41**		**81**	

Survey participants were asked if this was their first time being homeless and if not, they were asked how old they were the first time they experienced homelessness.

Table 3.16 shows that the majority (65%) of respondents reported this was *not* the first time they had experienced homelessness. Fifty percent (50%) of respondents reported experiencing homelessness for the first time when they were under 25 years of age (Table 3.17).

Table 3.16: Times Homeless - Campbell River

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
Times Homeless	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
First Time	8	30%	14	39%	**22**	**35%**
Not First Time	19	70%	22	61%	**41**	**65%**
Respondents	**27**	**100%**	**36**	**100%**	**63**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	13		5		**18**	
Total	**40**		**41**		**81**	

Table 3.17: Age When First Homeless – General - Campbell River

Age When First Homeless	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	12	48%	16	52%	**28**	**50%**
Adult (25-54 Years)	10	40%	12	39%	**22**	**39%**
Senior (55+)	3	12%	3	10%	**6**	**11%**
Respondents	**25**	**100%**	**31**	**100%**	**56**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	15		10		**25**	
Total	**40**		**41**		**81**	

Table 3.18 shows the length of time survey respondents had lived in Campbell River. Forty-two percent (42%) of respondents indicted they had lived in Campbell River for less than one year. Eighteen percent (18%) indicated they had lived in Campbell River for 10 or more years and 15% reported having lived in the community all their lives.

Respondents were also asked to identify where they had lived before arriving in Campbell River. As shown in Table 3.19, the majority of respondents had lived in Metro Vancouver (14%) or other parts of B.C. (51%).

Table 3.18: Length of Time in Community - Campbell River

Length of Time in Community	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 1 year	14	54%	13	33%	**27**	**42%**
Under 1 month	6	23%	1	3%	**7**	**11%**
1 month to <6 months	4	15%	10	26%	**14**	**22%**
6 months to <1 year	4	15%	2	5%	**6**	**9%**
1 year to under 5 years	5	19%	5	13%	**10**	**15%**
5 years to under 10 years	0	0%	6	15%	**6**	**9%**
10 years or more	4	15%	8	21%	**12**	**18%**
Always Been Here	3	12%	7	18%	**10**	**15%**
Respondents	**26**	**100%**	**39**	**100%**	**65**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	14		2		**16**	
Total	**40**		**41**		**81**	

Table 3.19: Where Lived Before Community – Campbell River

Where Lived Before	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Always Been Here	3	11%	7	20%	**10**	**16%**
Metro Vancouver	5	18%	4	11%	**9**	**14%**
Elsewhere in BC	14	50%	18	51%	**32**	**51%**
Elsewhere in Canada	5	18%	6	17%	**11**	**17%**
Other Countries	1	4%	0	0%	**1**	**2%**
Respondents	**28**	**100%**	**35**	**100%**	**63**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	12		6		**18**	
Total	**40**		**41**		**81**	

3.1.13 Service in the Military or RCMP

Survey participants were asked if they ever had any service in the Canadian Forces, including army, navy, airforce or RCMP. Six individuals, representing 9% of respondents reported service in the Canadian armed force or RCMP.

3.1.14 Unsheltered on the Night of the Count – Where and Why

Unsheltered survey participants were asked where they stayed the previous night. Thirty-five percent (35%) of unsheltered survey respondents indicated that they stayed outside on the night of the count. The remaining respondents slept in a vehicle (28%), at someone else's place (18%), or in a makeshift shelter or tent (15%).

Table 3.20: Where Stayed Night of Count (Unsheltered Only) - Campbell River

Location	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Outside	14	35%
In a Vehicle (Car, Van, RV, Truck)	11	28%
Makeshift Shelter or Tent	6	15%
Abandoned/Vacant Building	0	0%
Someone Else's Place or Couch-Surfing	7	18%
On a Boat, Not Paying Moorage	0	0%
Parent(s)/Guardian(s) House, 25 and Older	1	3%
Other[15]	1	3%
Respondents	**40**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	1	
Total	**41**	

[15] "Other" location, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, were related to motels and hotels, with short-term or no security of tenure.

Survey participants who were unsheltered were asked for the main reason why they did not stay in a shelter the previous night. The main reason given by survey respondents was that they were able to stay with a friend (15%), disliked it (15%), or had an 'other' reason (62%).

Table 3.21: Main Reason for Not Staying at a Shelter on the Night of the Count (Unsheltered Only) - Campbell River

Reasons for not Staying in a Shelter	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Able to Stay with a Friend	5	15%
Dislike	5	15%
Don't Feel Safe	0	0%
Turned Away	2	6%
Bedbugs/Pests	0	0%
Other[16]	21	62%
Multiple Responses	1	3%
Respondents	**34**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	7	
Total	**41**	

Survey participants who were unsheltered were also asked if they had stayed in a shelter in the last year. As shown Table 3.22, the majority (63%) had stayed in a shelter during the last 12 months.

Table 3.22: Have you stayed in a shelter in the last 12 months? – Campbell River

Previous Stay in Shelter	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Yes	20	63%
No	12	38%
Respondents	**32**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	9	
Total	**41**	

[16] "Other" reasons for not staying in a shelter, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities were related to a) availability (particularly shelters closed or full), b) other options (particularly RVs, trailers, and vehicles, and family), and c) a desire to avoid negative activities/experiences at the shelter.

3.2 Community Profiles – Comox Valley

The 2018 Homeless Count in the Comox Valley took place on the evening of March 6 and during the day of March 7.

The Comox Valley count was conducted in two shelter facilities,[17] along six street walking routes, at four magnet events that provided food or services to community members, and at nine agencies where people accessing services could complete the survey.

A total of 117 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness during the Comox Valley count. This included 108 adults and nine children who were under the age of 19 and accompanied by a parent or guardian.[18]

The majority of individuals identified as experiencing homelessness reported being unsheltered (58%) and 42% were sheltered.[19] Among the survey respondents who were unsheltered on the night of the count, 28% (16 individuals) couch-surfed or stayed with friends, 26% (15 individuals) slept outside, 23% (13 individuals) slept in their vehicles and 18% (10 individuals) slept in a makeshift shelter or abandoned building (see Table 3.42). All the accompanied children who were sheltered were staying at a transition house. Five accompanied children were identified as unsheltered.[20]

Table 3.23: Adults and Accompanied Children, Shelters, Transition Houses, Detox, NFA and Unsheltered – Comox Valley

Homeless Category	Adults and Unaccompanied Youth		Accompanied Children		Total Homeless	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Sheltered Total	45	42%	4	44%	**49**	**42%**
Shelters	29	27%	0	0%	**29**	**25%**
Transition Houses	8	7%	4	44%	**12**	**10%**
Detox Centres	8	7%	0	0%	**8**	**7%**
No Fixed Address (NFA)[21]	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Other	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Unsheltered Total	63	58%	5	56%	**68**	**58%**
Total Individuals Experiencing Homelessness	**108**	**100%**	**9**	**100%**	**117**	**100%**

[17] Confirm for final report

[18] Children, for the 2018 Homeless Count, are defined as "accompanied children" who are under 19 years of age and who were with a parent or guardian during the count.

[19] Unsheltered respondents include individuals sleeping outside, in a tent or makeshift structure, in a vehicle, or couch-surfing.

[20] These children may have been couch-surfing or sleeping in a vehicle with a parent or guardian.

[21] Includes individuals staying in jails, hospitals and short-term medical facilities.

Table 3.24: Sheltered and Unsheltered - Comox Valley

Homeless Category	#	%
Sheltered	49	42%
Unsheltered	68	58%
Total	**117**	**100%**

3.2.1 Gender

Among survey respondents, 52% identified as male and 44% identified as female (44%). Four percent (4%) of respondents identified with a gender other than male or female.[22]

Gender breakdowns was similar between sheltered and unsheltered respondents.

Table 3.25: Gender – General – Comox Valley

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
Gender Identity	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Man/Male	18	51%	32	52%	**50**	**52%**
Woman/Female	16	46%	27	44%	**43**	**44%**
Another Gender Identity	1	3%	3	5%	**4**	**4%**
Respondents	**35**	**100%**	**62**	**100%**	**97**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	14		6		**20**	
Total	**49**		**68**		**117**	

3.2.2 Age

The majority of survey respondents (65%) were adults (25-54 years of age), while more than a quarter (29%) were seniors (55+ years of age).[23]

The proportion of youth was similar among sheltered and unsheltered respondents (9% vs. 5%), while the proportion of seniors was greater among sheltered respondents than unsheltered (35% vs. 25%).

[22]During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their gender identity and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

[23]During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their age and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

Table 3.26: Age –General – Comox Valley

Age Groups	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	3	9%	3	5%	**6**	**6%**
Adult (25-54 Years)	19	56%	42	70%	**61**	**65%**
Senior (55+)	12	35%	15	25%	**27**	**29%**
Respondents	**34**	**100%**	**60**	**100%**	**94**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	15		8		**23**	
Total	**49**		**68**		**117**	

3.2.3 Indigenous Identity

A total of 31 respondents identified as Indigenous, representing 32% of all respondents. [24]

The proportion of respondents identifying as Indigenous was higher for unsheltered respondents than sheltered respondents (36% vs. 26%).

Table 3.27: Indigenous / Identity – General - Comox Valley

Indigenous Identity	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Indigenous Identity	9	26%	22	36%	**31**	**32%**
Not Indigenous Identity	26	74%	39	64%	**65**	**68%**
Respondents	**35**	**100%**	**61**	**100%**	**96**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	14		7		**21**	
Total	**49**		**68**		**117**	

3.2.4 Newcomers to Canada

Survey participants[25] were asked if they had come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee. Five individuals, representing 5% of respondents reported coming to Canada as an immigrant or refugee. They reported being in Canada for more than 10 years.

3.2.5 Sexual Orientation

Survey participants were asked to identify their sexual orientation.

Table 3.28 shows that 7% of respondents identified as LGBTQ2S and 6% identified as 'other, not listed or multiple responses. A large majority of respondents identified as straight or heterosexual (88%). Unsheltered respondents were more likely to identify as LGBTQ2S than sheltered respondents (11% vs. 0%).

[24] During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their Indigenous identity and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

[25] The term "participant" is used for people who were asked a question and "respondent" for those who answered the survey question.

Table 3.28: Sexual Identity – General - Comox Valley

Sexual Orientation	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Straight/Heterosexual	31	94%	48	84%	**79**	**88%**
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Two-spirit, Questioning, Queer (LGBTQ2S)	0	0%	6	11%	**6**	**7%**
Other (Not Listed / Multiple Responses)	2	6%	3	5%	**5**	**6%**
Respondents	**33**	**100%**	**57**	**100%**	**90**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	16		11		**27**	
Total	**49**		**68**		**117**	

3.2.6 Who Was with Respondents

Survey participants were asked if they were with anyone on the day of the count.

Most respondents (69%) reported being alone, while 18% were with friends and 6% were with their partner.

A higher proportion of unsheltered respondents reported that they were with someone compared to sheltered respondents (37% vs. 20%). Sheltered respondents were more likely to be alone than unsheltered respondents (80% vs. 63%).

Table 3.29: Who Was With Survey Respondents - Comox Valley

Who Was With Survey Respondent (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
With Someone	7	20%	23	37%	**30**	**31%**
Partner	1	3%	5	8%	**6**	**6%**
Child/Children	1	3%	2	3%	**3**	**3%**
Friend(s)	5	14%	13	21%	**18**	**18%**
Pet(s)	0	0%	5	8%	**5**	**5%**
Relative(s)	0	0%	2	3%	**2**	**2%**
Other(s)[26]	0	0%	2	3%	**2**	**2%**
Alone	28	80%	40	63%	**68**	**69%**
Respondents	**35**	**100%**	**63**	**100%**	**98**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	14		5		**19**	
Total	**49**		**68**		**117**	

[26] "Other" responses varied, with no specific response accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities.

3.2.7 Barriers to Housing

Survey participants were asked what had caused them to lose their housing most recently.

Table 3.30 shows that the main reasons reported by survey respondents for losing their housing most recently were eviction (31%), high rents (13%) and a lack of available, suitable housing (13%). Forty-two percent (42%) of respondents cited "other" reasons.

Table 3.30: Reason for Loss of Housing - Comox Valley

Loss of Housing (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Illness or Medical Condition	3	9%	5	8%	**8**	**8%**
Addiction or Substance Use	4	11%	18	30%	**22**	**23%**
Job Loss	0	0%	9	15%	**9**	**9%**
Unable to Pay Rent or Mortgage	2	6%	10	17%	**12**	**13%**
Unsafe Housing Conditions	3	9%	9	15%	**12**	**13%**
Experienced Abuse by: Parent / Guardian	0	0%	2	3%	**2**	**2%**
Experienced Abuse by: Spouse / Partner	4	11%	6	10%	**10**	**11%**
Conflict with: Parent / Guardian	1	3%	1	2%	**2**	**2%**
Conflict with: Spouse / Partner	4	11%	4	7%	**8**	**8%**
Incarcerated (Jail or Prison)	0	0%	3	5%	**3**	**3%**
Hospitalization or Treatment Program	0	0%	2	3%	**2**	**2%**
Eviction	11	31%	18	30%	**29**	**31%**
Other Reason[27]	15	43%	25	42%	**40**	**42%**
Respondents	**35**		**60**		**95**	
Don't Know / No Answer	14		8		**22**	
Total	**49**		**68**		**117**	

Survey participants were also asked what barriers they faced in finding a place of their own.

As shown in

[27] "Other Reason" for loss of housing, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, included responses related to a) conflict with someone other than a parent/guardian or spouse/partner, b) death of a family member or other, and c) end of a relationship/divorce.

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Table 3.31, the three main barriers to accessing housing identified by respondents were high rents (65%), low incomes (61%), and a lack of available, suitable housing (30%).

Table 3.31: Barriers to Accessing Housing - Comox Valley

Barriers to Accessing Housing (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Income Too Low	21	60%	38	62%	**59**	**61%**
History of Eviction/Lack of References	6	17%	15	25%	**21**	**22%**
Lack of Identification	5	14%	7	11%	**12**	**13%**
No Income/No Income Assistance	2	6%	4	7%	**6**	**6%**
Addiction	5	14%	15	25%	**20**	**21%**
Rent Too High	27	77%	35	57%	**62**	**65%**
Poor Housing Conditions	5	14%	14	23%	**19**	**20%**
No Housing Available that Suits My Needs	15	43%	14	23%	**29**	**30%**
Mental Health Issues	3	9%	7	11%	**10**	**10%**
Family Breakdown/Abuse/Conflict	7	20%	9	15%	**16**	**17%**
Conflict with Law	3	9%	5	8%	**8**	**8%**
Pets	3	9%	6	10%	**9**	**9%**
Discrimination	4	11%	10	16%	**14**	**15%**
Lack of Transportation	5	14%	7	11%	**12**	**13%**
Other Reason[28]	8	23%	10	16%	**18**	**19%**
Respondents	**35**		**61**		**96**	
Don't Know / No Answer	14		7		**21**	
Total	**49**		**68**		**117**	

3.2.8 Health Conditions

Survey respondents were asked about their health, and whether they had a medical condition, physical disability, mental illness and/or substance use issues. Medical condition refers to chronic problems like asthma and diabetes, while physical disability refers to a condition affecting mobility or movement.

As shown in

[28] "Other Reason" for barriers to accessing housing varied widely, with no specific response accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities.

Table 3.32, 54% of respondents reported an addiction, 46% reported a medical condition, 46% reported a mental illness, and 40% reported a physical disability. Sheltered respondents were more likely to report all health conditions than unsheltered respondents.

Table 3.32: Health Conditions - Comox Valley

Health Condition (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Medical Condition / Illness	19	54%	26	42%	**45**	**46%**
Physical Disability	18	51%	21	34%	**39**	**40%**
Addiction	21	60%	31	50%	**52**	**54%**
Mental Illness	18	51%	27	44%	**45**	**46%**
Respondents	**35**		**62**		**97**	
Don't Know / No Answer	14		6		**20**	
Total	**49**		**68**		**117**	

Table 3.33 shows the number of health conditions respondents identified. Fifty-nine percent (59%) reported two or more health conditions, while 11% reported no health conditions and 30% reported one health condition. Unsheltered respondents were more likely to report no health conditions than sheltered respondents (16% vs. 3%).

Table 3.33: Health Conditions (Number) - Comox Valley

Health Condition (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
No Health Conditions	1	3%	10	16%	**11**	**11%**
1 Health Condition	9	26%	20	32%	**29**	**30%**
2 Health Conditions	13	37%	16	26%	**29**	**30%**
3 Health Conditions	7	20%	11	18%	**18**	**19%**
4 Health Conditions	5	14%	5	8%	**10**	**10%**
Respondents	**35**	**100%**	**62**	**100%**	**97**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	14		6		**20**	
Total	**49**		**68**		**117**	

3.2.9 Youth in Care

All survey participants were asked if they had ever lived in foster care, in a youth group home or under a youth/young adult agreement. In the Comox Valley, 26% of respondents reported they had been in care.

The proportion of respondents reporting they had been in care was greater among unsheltered respondents compared to sheltered respondents (28% vs. 23%).

Table 3.34: Youth Who Were in Foster Care, Youth Group Homes, or Under a Youth Agreement - Comox Valley

Youth in Care	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	8	23%	17	28%	**25**	**26%**
Currently	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Previously	5	14%	14	23%	**19**	**20%**
Don't Know / No Answer	3	9%	3	5%	**6**	**6%**
No	27	77%	43	72%	**70**	**74%**
Respondents	**35**	**100%**	**60**	**100%**	**95**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	14		8		**22**	
Total	**49**		**68**		**117**	

3.2.10 Income

Survey participants were asked to identify their sources of income and could identify as many sources as applied.

As shown in

Table 3.35, individuals experiencing homelessness in Comox Valley identified a wide range of income sources. Thirty-eight percent (38%) identified welfare/income assistance as a source of income and 38% identified disability benefits, followed by informal/self-employment (23%) and full or part-time employment (21%).

Sheltered survey respondents were more likely to identify disability benefits as a source of income than unsheltered respondents (43% vs. 34%), while unsheltered respondents were more likely to report welfare/income assistance as a source of income than sheltered respondents (39% vs. 34%). Unsheltered respondents were also more likely to identify informal/self-employment than sheltered respondents (30% vs. 11%) and full or part-time employment as source of income (23% vs. 17%) than sheltered respondents.

Table 3.35: Sources of Income - Comox Valley

Sources of Income (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Welfare / Income Assistance	12	34%	24	39%	**36**	**38%**
Employment	6	17%	14	23%	**20**	**21%**
Job/Employment - Full-Time	3	9%	0	0%	**3**	**3%**
Job/Employment - Part-Time	3	9%	14	23%	**17**	**18%**
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Informal/Self Employment	4	11%	18	30%	**22**	**23%**
Panhandling	0	0%	14	23%	**14**	**15%**
Binning/Bottles	4	11%	9	15%	**13**	**14%**
Vending	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Seniors Benefits	5	14%	6	10%	**11**	**11%**
Old Age Security (OAS)/Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)	1	3%	3	5%	**4**	**4%**
CPP or Other Pension	5	14%	5	8%	**10**	**10%**
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Disability Benefit	15	43%	21	34%	**36**	**38%**
Employment Insurance	0	0%	3	5%	**3**	**3%**
Youth Agreement	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Money from Family/Friends	3	9%	4	7%	**7**	**7%**
Honoraria	0	0%	1	2%	**1**	**1%**
No Income	2	6%	0	0%	**2**	**2%**
Other	7	20%	7	11%	**14**	**15%**
Respondents	**35**		**61**		**96**	
Don't Know / No Answer	14		7		**21**	
Total	**49**		**68**		**117**	

3.2.11 Services Accessed

Survey participants were asked about the types of services they had used over the past 12 months.

As shown in

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Table 3.36, individuals experiencing homelessness accessed a variety of services including health, food, housing and other services such as drop ins. It is important to note that while individuals experiencing homelessness may have a need for a variety of services, the availability of those services varies greatly by community.

Food services were the most cited services that respondents had accessed over the previous 12 months (90%), with a large proportion of respondents indicating that they accessed food banks or meal programs (74% for both).

Health services were the next most cited services (80%), with the largest proportion (42%) using addiction services, 38% using the hospital (non-emergency), and 37% using the emergency room.

Of the 55% of respondents who accessed housing services over the last year, the majority had accessed homeless outreach services.

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Table 3.36: Services Accessed in 12 Months Prior to Count - Comox Valley

Services Accessed (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Health Services	24	75%	45	83%	**69**	**80%**
Health Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Ambulance	10	31%	17	31%	**27**	**31%**
Emergency Room	13	41%	19	35%	**32**	**37%**
Hospital (Non-Emergency)	15	47%	18	33%	**33**	**38%**
Dental Clinic or Dentist	9	28%	7	13%	**16**	**19%**
Mental Health Services	11	34%	17	31%	**28**	**33%**
Addiction Services	15	47%	21	39%	**36**	**42%**
Health Clinic	9	28%	4	7%	**13**	**15%**
Food services	27	84%	50	93%	**77**	**90%**
Food Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Food Banks	20	63%	44	81%	**64**	**74%**
Meal Programs/Soup Kitchens	23	72%	41	76%	**64**	**74%**
Legal Services	15	47%	14	26%	**29**	**34%**
Legal Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Legal	11	34%	14	26%	**25**	**29%**
Parole or Services for Ex-Offenders	5	16%	2	4%	**7**	**8%**
Employment and Financial Services	10	31%	13	24%	**23**	**27%**
Employment and Financial Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Employment/Job Help	9	28%	13	24%	**22**	**26%**
Budgeting/Trusteeship	2	6%	0	0%	**2**	**2%**
Housing Services	18	56%	29	54%	**47**	**55%**
Housing Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	1	2%	**1**	**1%**
Housing Help/Eviction Prevention	10	31%	6	11%	**16**	**19%**
Homeless Outreach	9	28%	27	50%	**36**	**42%**
Transitional Housing	11	34%	2	4%	**13**	**15%**
Other Services	21	66%	42	78%	**63**	**73%**
Other Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Drop-In	10	31%	28	52%	**38**	**44%**
Newcomer Services	0	0%	2	4%	**2**	**2%**
Faith-Based/Spiritual Services	8	25%	10	19%	**18**	**21%**
Other	8	25%	16	30%	**24**	**28%**
None	0	0%	1	2%	**1**	**1%**
Respondents	**32**		**54**		**86**	
Don't Know / No Answer	17		14		**31**	
Total	**49**		**68**		**117**	

3.2.12 History of Homelessness

Just over half of respondents (55%) had been homeless for less than a year. Sheltered respondents were more likely to have been homeless for less than a year compared to unsheltered respondents (76% vs. 42%).

Table 3.37: Length of Time Homeless- Comox Valley

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
Length of Time Homeless	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Under 1 year	26	76%	23	42%	**49**	**55%**
Up to and including 7 days	2	6%	2	4%	**4**	**4%**
8 days to <1 month	1	3%	1	2%	**2**	**2%**
1 month to <1 year	23	68%	20	36%	**43**	**48%**
1 year to under 5 years	6	18%	26	47%	**32**	**36%**
5 years to under 10 years	0	0%	4	7%	**4**	**4%**
10 years or more	2	6%	2	4%	**4**	**4%**
Respondents	**34**	**100%**	**55**	**100%**	**89**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	15		13		**28**	
Total	**49**		**68**		**117**	

Survey participants were asked if this was their first time being homeless and if not, they were asked how old they were the first time they experienced homelessness.

Table 3.38 shows that the majority (52%) of respondents reported that this was *not* the first time they had experienced homelessness. Thirty-six percent (36%) of respondents reported experiencing homelessness for the first time when they were under 25 years of age (

Table 3.39).

Table 3.38: Times Homeless - Comox Valley

Times Homeless	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
First Time	19	54%	26	44%	**45**	**48%**
Not First Time	16	46%	33	56%	**49**	**52%**
Respondents	**35**	**100%**	**59**	**100%**	**94**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	14		9		**23**	
Total	**49**		**68**		**117**	

Table 3.39: Age When First Homeless – General - Comox Valley

Age When First Homeless	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	5	17%	24	47%	**29**	**36%**
Adult (25-54 Years)	18	60%	22	43%	**40**	**49%**
Senior (55+)	7	23%	5	10%	**12**	**15%**
Respondents	**30**	**100%**	**51**	**100%**	**81**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	19		17		**36**	
Total	**49**		**68**		**117**	

Table 3.40 shows the length of time survey respondents had lived in the Comox Valley. Individuals experiencing homelessness in the Comox Valley were likely to be long term residents of the community. Twenty-three percent (23%) of survey respondents had lived in the Comox Valley all their lives and another 26% had lived there for ten or more years. Seventeen percent (17%) of respondents indicted they had lived in the Comox Valley for less than one year.

Respondents were also asked to identify where they lived before arriving in the Comox Valley. As shown in

Table 3.41, the majority of respondents had lived in Metro Vancouver (13%) or other parts of B.C. (46%).

Table 3.40: Length of Time in Community - Comox Valley

Length of Time in Community	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 1 year	10	30%	6	10%	**16**	**17%**
Under 1 month	3	9%	0	0%	**3**	**3%**
1 month to <6 months	5	15%	3	5%	**8**	**9%**
6 months to <1 year	2	6%	3	5%	**5**	**5%**
1 year to under 5 years	9	27%	13	22%	**22**	**24%**
5 years to under 10 years	2	6%	7	12%	**9**	**10%**
10 years or more	8	24%	16	27%	**24**	**26%**
Always Been Here	4	12%	17	29%	**21**	**23%**
Respondents	**33**	**100%**	**59**	**100%**	**92**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	16		9		**25**	
Total	**49**		**68**		**117**	

Table 3.41: Where Lived Before Community – Comox Valley

Where Lived Before	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Always Been Here	4	13%	15	27%	**19**	**22%**
Metro Vancouver	5	16%	6	11%	**11**	**13%**
Elsewhere in BC	15	47%	25	45%	**40**	**46%**
Elsewhere in Canada	7	22%	8	15%	**15**	**17%**
Other Countries	1	3%	1	2%	**2**	**2%**
Respondents	**32**	**100%**	**55**	**100%**	**87**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	17		13		**30**	
Total	**49**		**68**		**117**	

3.2.13 Service in the Military or RCMP

Survey participants were asked if they ever had any service in the Canadian Forces, including army, navy, airforce or RCMP. Four individuals, representing 5% of survey respondents reported service in the Canadian armed forces or RCMP and two individuals, representing 2% of respondents reported service in another country's military.[29]

3.2.14 Unsheltered on the Night of the Count – Where and Why

Unsheltered survey participants were asked where they stayed the previous night. Twenty-eight percent (28%) of unsheltered respondents indicated that they stayed at someone else's place or couch-surfed the night of the count. The remaining respondents slept outside (26%), in a vehicle (23%), in a make-shift shelter or tent (18%), or at an 'other' location.

Table 3.42: Where Stayed Night of Count (Unsheltered Only) - Comox Valley

Location	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Outside	15	26%
In a Vehicle (Car, Van, RV, Truck)	13	23%
Makeshift Shelter or Tent	10	18%
Abandoned/Vacant Building	0	0%
Someone Else's Place or Couch-Surfing	16	28%
On a Boat, Not Paying Moorage	0	0%
Parent(s)/Guardian(s) House, 25 and Older	0	0%
Other[30]	3	5%
Respondents	**57**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	11	
Total	**68**	

[29] Another individual reported service in a military force or RCMP but did not specify if it was the Canadian forces, RCMP, or service in another country.

[30] "Other" location, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, were related to motels and hotels, with short-term or no security of tenure.

Survey participants who were unsheltered were asked for the main reason why they did not stay in a shelter the previous night. The main reason given by respondents was that they were able to stay with a friend (24%).

Table 3.43: Main Reason for Not Staying at a Shelter on the Night of the Count (Unsheltered Only) - Comox Valley

Reasons for Not Staying in a Shelter	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Able to Stay with a Friend	12	24%
Dislike	7	14%
Don't Feel Safe	0	0%
Turned Away	4	8%
Bedbugs/Pests	0	0%
Other[31]	20	39%
Multiple Responses	8	16%
Respondents	**51**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	17	
Total	**68**	

Survey participants who were unsheltered were also asked if they had stayed in a shelter in the last year. As shown in Table 3.44, 65% reported that they had stayed in a shelter in the previous 12 months.

Table 3.44: Have you stayed in a shelter in the last 12 months? – Comox Valley

Previous Stay in Shelter	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Yes	35	65%
No	19	35%
Respondents	**54**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	14	
Total	**68**	

[31]"Other" reasons for not staying in a shelter, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, were related to a) availability (particularly shelters closed or full), b) other options (particularly RVs, trailers, and vehicles, and family), and c) a desire to avoid negative activities/experiences at the shelter.

3.3 Community Profiles – Cranbrook

The 2018 Homeless Count in Cranbrook took place on the evening of April 17 and during the day of April 18.

The Cranbrook count was conducted at two shelter facilities,[32] at three magnet events that provided food or services to community members, and at two agencies where people accessing services could complete the survey. Local staff helped find and interview respondents.[33]

A total of 29 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness during the 2018 Cranbrook count. This included 27 adults and 2 children who were under the age of 19 and accompanied by a parent or guardian.[34]

The majority of individuals identified as experiencing homelessness reported being unsheltered (79%) and 21% were sheltered.[35] Among the survey respondents who were unsheltered on the night of the count, 33% (7 individuals) reported couch-surfing or staying with friends, and 29% (6 individuals) reported sleeping outside (Table 3.64). Two children were identified as unsheltered.[36]

Table 3.45: Adults and Accompanied Children, Shelters, Transition Houses, Detox, NFA and Unsheltered – Cranbrook

Homeless Category	Adults and Unaccompanied Youth		Accompanied Children		Total Homeless	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Sheltered Total	6	22%	0	0%	**6**	**21%**
Shelters	3	11%	0	0%	**3**	**10%**
Transition Houses	2	7%	0	0%	**2**	**7%**
Detox Centres	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
No Fixed Address (NFA)[37]	1	4%	0	0%	**1**	**3%**
Other	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Unsheltered Total	21	78%	2	100%	**23**	**79%**
Total Individuals Experiencing Homelessness	**27**	**100%**	**2**	**100%**	**29**	**100%**

[32] Can include any of the following: temporary or permanent shelters, or transition houses for women and children fleeing violence, or safe houses for youth if available in the community

[33] In 2017, Keys to Home Cranbrook undertook an extensive housing needs assessment, supported by a dedicated peer group. They identified 35 individuals, 17, who were provisionally housed in their count, and 214 individuals who had experienced homelessness in Cranbrook in the previous year through an extended survey.

[34] Children, for the 2018 Homeless Count, are defined as "accompanied children" who are under 19 years of age and who were with a parent or guardian during the count.

[35] Unsheltered respondents include individuals sleeping outside, in a tent or makeshift structure, in a vehicle, or couch-surfing.

[36] These children may have been couch-surfing or sleeping in a vehicle with a parent or guardian.

[37] Includes individuals staying in jails, hospitals and short-term medical facilities.

Table 3.46: Sheltered and Unsheltered - Cranbrook

Homeless Category	#	%
Sheltered	6	21%
Unsheltered	23	79%
Total	**29**	**100%**

3.3.1 Gender

Sixty-seven percent (67%) of survey respondents identified as male, 26% identified as female, and 7% identified as another gender identity.[38]

A greater proportion of unsheltered respondents identified as male than sheltered respondents (76% vs. 33%), while the proportion of respondents identifying as female was greater among sheltered respondents than unsheltered respondents (50% vs. 19%).

Table 3.47: Gender – General – Cranbrook

Gender Identity	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Man/Male	2	33%	16	76%	**18**	**67%**
Woman/Female	3	50%	4	19%	**7**	**26%**
Another Gender Identity	1	17%	1	5%	**2**	**7%**
Respondents	**6**	**100%**	**21**	**100%**	**27**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	0		2		**2**	
Total	**6**		**23**		**29**	

3.3.2 Age

The majority of survey respondents (62%) were adults (25-54 years of age), while more than a third (35%) were seniors (55^{+} years of age).[39] One individual (4% of total respondents) was a youth under 25 years of age, who was unsheltered. Sheltered respondents were more likely to be seniors than unsheltered respondents (67% vs. 25%), while unsheltered respondents were more likely to be adults.

[38]During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their gender identity and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

[39]During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their age and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

Table 3.48: Age – General - Cranbrook

Age Groups	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	0	0%	1	5%	**1**	**4%**
Adult (25-54 Years)	2	33%	14	70%	**16**	**62%**
Senior (55+)	4	67%	5	25%	**9**	**35%**
Respondents	**6**	**100%**	**20**	**100%**	**26**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	0		3		**3**	
Total	**6**		**23**		**29**	

3.3.3 Indigenous Identity

A total of 12 survey respondents identified as Indigenous, representing 46% of all respondents.[40]

A much higher proportion of sheltered respondents identified as Indigenous than unsheltered respondents (83% vs. 35%).

Table 3.49: Indigenous / Identity – General - Cranbrook

Indigenous Identity	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Indigenous Identity	5	83%	7	35%	**12**	**46%**
Not Indigenous Identity	1	17%	13	65%	**14**	**54%**
Respondents	**6**	**100%**	**20**	**100%**	**26**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	0		3		**3**	
Total	**6**		**23**		**29**	

3.3.4 Newcomers to Canada

Survey participants[41] were asked if they had come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee. None of the respondents reported coming to Canada as an immigrant or refugee.

3.3.5 Sexual Orientation

Survey participants were asked to identify their sexual orientation.

One respondent (4%) identified as LGBTQ2S and one respondent (4%) identified an 'other' sexual orientation or gave multiple responses. A large majority of respondents identified as straight or heterosexual (92%).

[40] During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their Indigenous identity and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

[41] The term "participant" is used for people who were asked a question and "respondent" for those who answered the survey question.

Table 3.50: Sexual Identity – General - Cranbrook

Sexual Orientation	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Straight/Heterosexual	3	75%	20	95%	**23**	**92%**
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Two-spirit, Questioning, Queer (LGBTQ2S)	1	25%	0	0%	**1**	**4%**
Other (Not Listed / Multiple Responses)	0	0%	1	5%	**1**	**4%**
Respondents	**4**	**100%**	**21**	**100%**	**25**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	2		2		**4**	
Total	**6**		**23**		**29**	

3.3.6 Who Was with Survey Respondents

Survey participants were asked if they were with anyone on the day of the count. Most respondents (78%) reported being alone, while 7% were with relatives, 7% with friends, 4% with a partner, 4% with a child, and 4% with a pet.

A higher proportion of sheltered respondents reported that they were alone compared to unsheltered respondents (83% vs. 76%).

Table 3.51: With Someone - Cranbrook

Who Was With Survey Respondents (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
With Someone	1	17%	5	24%	**6**	**22%**
Partner	0	0%	1	5%	**1**	**4%**
Child/Children	0	0%	1	5%	**1**	**4%**
Friend(s)	0	0%	2	10%	**2**	**7%**
Pet(s)	1	17%	0	0%	**1**	**4%**
Relative(s)	0	0%	2	10%	**2**	**7%**
Other(s)[42]	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Alone	5	83%	16	76%	**21**	**78%**
Respondents	**6**	**100%**	**21**	**100%**	**27**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	0		2		**2**	
Total	**6**		**23**		**29**	

[42] "Other" responses varied, with no specific response accounting for 2% or more respondents across all communities.

3.3.7 Barriers to Housing

Survey participants were asked what had caused them to lose their housing most recently.

Table 3.52 shows that the main reasons reported by survey respondents for losing their housing most recently were high rents (33%), addiction or substance use (21%), illness or a medical condition (21%) and "other" reasons (29%).

Table 3.52: Reason for Loss of Housing - Cranbrook

Loss of Housing (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Illness or Medical Condition	2	40%	3	16%	**5**	**21%**
Addiction or Substance Use	1	20%	4	21%	**5**	**21%**
Job Loss	1	20%	1	5%	**2**	**8%**
Unable to Pay Rent or Mortgage	1	20%	7	37%	**8**	**33%**
Unsafe Housing Conditions	1	20%	0	0%	**1**	**4%**
Experienced Abuse by: Parent / Guardian	0	0%	1	5%	**1**	**4%**
Experienced Abuse by: Spouse / Partner	0	0%	1	5%	**1**	**4%**
Conflict with: Parent / Guardian	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Conflict with: Spouse / Partner	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Incarcerated (Jail or Prison)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Hospitalization or Treatment Program	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Eviction	0	0%	2	11%	**2**	**8%**
Other Reason[43]	1	20%	6	32%	**7**	**29%**
Respondents	**5**		**19**		**24**	
Don't Know / No Answer	1		4		**5**	
Total	**6**		**23**		**29**	

Survey participants were also asked what barriers they faced in finding a place of their own. Table 3.51 shows that the three main barriers to accessing housing identified by respondents were low incomes (54%), high rents (35%), and "other" reasons (19%).

[43] "Other Reason" for loss of housing, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities included responses related to a) conflict with someone other than a parent/guardian or spouse/partner, b) death of a family member or other, and c) end of a relationship/divorce.

Table 3.53: Barriers to Accessing Housing - Cranbrook

Barriers to Accessing Housing (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Income Too Low	1	20%	13	62%	**14**	**54%**
History of Eviction/Lack of References	0	0%	1	5%	**1**	**4%**
Lack of Identification	0	0%	1	5%	**1**	**4%**
No Income/No Income Assistance	0	0%	1	5%	**1**	**4%**
Addiction	0	0%	3	14%	**3**	**12%**
Rent Too High	1	20%	8	38%	**9**	**35%**
Poor Housing Conditions	0	0%	3	14%	**3**	**12%**
No Housing Available that Suits My Needs	1	20%	2	10%	**3**	**12%**
Mental Health Issues	0	0%	1	5%	**1**	**4%**
Family Breakdown/Abuse/Conflict	0	0%	1	5%	**1**	**4%**
Conflict with Law	0	0%	1	5%	**1**	**4%**
Pets	1	20%	1	5%	**2**	**8%**
Discrimination	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Lack of Transportation	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Other Reason[44]	4	80%	1	5%	**5**	**19%**
Respondents	**5**		**21**		**26**	
Don't Know / No Answer	1		2		**3**	
Total	**6**		**23**		**29**	

3.3.8 Health Conditions

Survey participants were asked about their health, and whether they had a medical condition, physical disability, mental illness and/or addiction. Medical condition refers to chronic problems like asthma and diabetes, while physical disability refers to a condition affecting mobility or movement.

Nearly two-thirds of respondents (63%) reported a medical condition, 52% reported a physical disability, 44% reported an addiction, and 37% reported a mental illness. Sheltered respondents were more likely to report any of the four health conditions than unsheltered respondents.

[44] "Other Reason" for barriers to accessing housing varied widely, with no specific response accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities.

Table 3.54: Health Conditions - Cranbrook

Health Condition (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Medical Condition / Illness	5	83%	12	57%	**17**	**63%**
Physical Disability	5	83%	9	43%	**14**	**52%**
Addiction	3	50%	9	43%	**12**	**44%**
Mental Illness	3	50%	7	33%	**10**	**37%**
Respondents	**6**		**21**		**27**	
Don't Know / No Answer	0		2		**2**	
Total	**6**		**23**		**29**	

Table 3.55 shows the number of health conditions respondents identified. Over two-thirds (67%) reported two or more health conditions, while 15% reported no health conditions and 19% reported one health condition. Sheltered respondents were more likely to identify multiple health conditions than unsheltered respondents (83% vs. 62%).

Table 3.55: Health Conditions (Number) - Cranbrook

Number of Health Conditions	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
No Health Conditions	1	17%	3	14%	**4**	**15%**
1 Health Condition	0	0%	5	24%	**5**	**19%**
2 Health Conditions	2	33%	9	43%	**11**	**41%**
3 Health Conditions	0	0%	2	10%	**2**	**7%**
4 Health Conditions	3	50%	2	10%	**5**	**19%**
Respondents	**6**	**100%**	**21**	**100%**	**27**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	0		2		**2**	
Total	**6**		**23**		**29**	

3.3.9 Youth in Care

All survey participants were asked if they had ever lived in foster care, in a youth group home or under a youth/young adult agreement. In Cranbrook, 33% of respondents reported that they had been in care. A higher proportion of sheltered respondents than unsheltered respondents indicated that they had been in care (50% vs. 29%).

Table 3.56: Youth Who Were in Foster Care, Youth Group Homes, or Under a Youth Agreement - Cranbrook

Youth in Care	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	3	50%	6	29%	**9**	**33%**
Currently	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Previously	3	50%	5	24%	**8**	**30%**
Don't Know / No Answer	0	0%	1	5%	**1**	**4%**
No	3	50%	15	71%	**18**	**67%**
Respondents	**6**	**100%**	**21**	**100%**	**27**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	0		2		**2**	
Total	**6**		**23**		**29**	

3.3.10 Income

Survey participants were asked to identify their sources of income and could identify as many sources as applied.

Table 3.57 shows that survey respondents in Cranbrook identified a wide range of income sources. Fifty-two percent (52%) identified welfare/income assistance as a source of income, followed by disability benefits (37%) and seniors' benefits (22%).

Unsheltered survey respondents were more likely to identify welfare/income assistance as a source of income than sheltered respondents (57% vs. 33%). However, sheltered respondents were more likely to identify seniors' benefits than unsheltered respondents (67% vs. 10%). Unsheltered respondents were more likely to identify informal/self employment such as binning or panhandling as a source of income than sheltered respondents (10% vs. 0%).

Table 3.57: Sources of Income - Cranbrook

Sources of Income (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Welfare / Income Assistance	2	33%	12	57%	**14**	**52%**
Employment	0	0%	3	14%	**3**	**11%**
Job/Employment - Full-Time	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Job/Employment - Part-Time	0	0%	3	14%	**3**	**11%**
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Informal/Self Employment	0	0%	2	10%	**2**	**7%**
Panhandling	0	0%	2	10%	**2**	**7%**
Binning/Bottles	0	0%	1	5%	**1**	**4%**
Vending	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Seniors Benefits	4	67%	2	10%	**6**	**22%**
Old Age Security (OAS)/Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)	3	50%	1	5%	**4**	**15%**
CPP or Other Pension	4	67%	2	10%	**6**	**22%**
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Disability Benefit	2	33%	8	38%	**10**	**37%**
Employment Insurance	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Youth Agreement	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Money from Family/Friends	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Honoraria	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
No Income	0	0%	4	19%	**4**	**15%**
Other[45]	0	0%	1	5%	**1**	**4%**
Respondents	**6**		**21**		**27**	
Don't Know / No Answer	0		2		**2**	
Total	**6**		**23**		**29**	

[45] "Other" sources of income accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities were related to other types of informal/part time employment or odd jobs.

3.3.11 Services Accessed

Survey participants were asked about the types of services they had used over the past 12 months.

As shown in

Table 3.58, respondents reported that they had accessed a variety of services including health, food, housing and other services such as drop ins. Generally, respondents in shelters reported accessing a greater number of services compared to respondents who were unsheltered. It is important to note that while individuals experiencing homelessness may have a need for a variety of services, the availability of those services varies greatly by community.

Food services were most frequently used by respondents (96%), including meal programs (75%) and foodbanks (58%).

Health services were also cited as services that respondents had accessed over the previous 12 months (75%), with the majority (63%) using the emergency room, 46% the ambulance, 46% the health clinic, 42% the hospital (non-emergency), and 42% accessing mental health services. Except for mental health services, the proportion of sheltered respondents accessing these health services was greater than the proportion of unsheltered respondents.

Eighty percent (80%) of sheltered respondents had accessed housing services over the past year, compared to 58% of unsheltered respondents. Thirty-two percent (32%) of unsheltered respondents reported accessing housing help and homeless outreach services, while none of the sheltered respondents reported accessing these services.

Table 3.58: Services Accessed in 12 Months Prior to Count - Cranbrook

Services Accessed (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Health Services	4	80%	14	74%	**18**	**75%**
Health Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Ambulance	4	80%	7	37%	**11**	**46%**
Emergency Room	4	80%	11	58%	**15**	**63%**
Hospital (Non-Emergency)	3	60%	7	37%	**10**	**42%**
Dental Clinic or Dentist	3	60%	1	5%	**4**	**17%**
Mental Health Services	2	40%	8	42%	**10**	**42%**
Addiction Services	3	60%	6	32%	**9**	**38%**
Health Clinic	3	60%	8	42%	**11**	**46%**
Food services	5	100%	18	95%	**23**	**96%**
Food Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Food Banks	4	80%	10	53%	**14**	**58%**
Meal Programs/Soup Kitchens	2	40%	16	84%	**18**	**75%**
Legal Services	0	0%	3	16%	**3**	**13%**
Legal Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Legal	0	0%	3	16%	**3**	**13%**
Parole or Services for Ex-Offenders	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Employment and Financial Services	2	40%	6	32%	**8**	**33%**
Employment and Financial Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Employment/Job Help	1	20%	6	32%	**7**	**29%**
Budgeting/Trusteeship	1	20%	0	0%	**1**	**4%**
Housing Services	4	80%	11	58%	**15**	**63%**
Housing Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Housing Help/Eviction Prevention	0	0%	6	32%	**6**	**25%**
Homeless Outreach	0	0%	6	32%	**6**	**25%**
Transitional Housing	4	80%	2	11%	**6**	**25%**
Other Services	3	60%	18	95%	**21**	**88%**
Other Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Drop-In	2	40%	17	89%	**19**	**79%**
Newcomer Services	0	0%	1	5%	**1**	**4%**
Faith-Based/Spiritual Services	2	40%	12	63%	**14**	**58%**
Other	0	0%	1	5%	**1**	**4%**
None	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Respondents	**5**		**19**		**24**	
Don't Know / No Answer	1		4		**5**	
Total	**6**		**23**		**29**	

3.3.12 History of Homelessness

One-third of respondents (33%) had been homeless for less than a year. Unsheltered respondents were more likely to have been homeless for less than a year compared to sheltered respondents (38% vs. 17%). Eighty-three percent (83%) of sheltered respondents reported being homeless for a year or more, compared to 62% of unsheltered respondents.

Table 3.59: Length of Time Homeless- Cranbrook

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
Length of Time Homeless	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Under 1 year	1	17%	8	38%	**9**	**33%**
Up to and including 7 days	0	0%	1	5%	**1**	**4%**
8 days to <1 month	0	0%	1	5%	**1**	**4%**
1 month to <1 year	1	17%	6	29%	**7**	**26%**
1 year to under 5 years	3	50%	10	48%	**13**	**48%**
5 years to under 10 years	2	33%	3	14%	**5**	**19%**
10 years or more	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Respondents	**6**	**100%**	**21**	**100%**	**27**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	0		2		**2**	
Total	**6**		**23**		**29**	

Survey participants were asked if this was their first time being homeless and if not, they were asked how old they were the first time they experienced homelessness.

Table 3.60 shows that the majority (62%) of respondents reported that this was *not* the first time they had experienced homelessness. Fifty-five percent (55%) of all respondents reported experiencing homelessness for the first time when they were under 25 years of age (

Table 3.61).

Table 3.60: Times Homeless - Cranbrook

Times Homeless	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
First Time	1	20%	9	43%	**10**	**38%**
Not First Time	4	80%	12	57%	**16**	**62%**
Respondents	**5**	**100%**	**21**	**100%**	**26**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	1		2		**3**	
Total	**6**		**23**		**29**	

Table 3.61: Age When First Homeless – General - Cranbrook

Age When First Homeless	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	2	67%	9	53%	**11**	**55%**
Adult (25-54 Years)	1	33%	5	29%	**6**	**30%**
Senior (55+)	0	0%	3	18%	**3**	**15%**
Respondents	**3**	**100%**	**17**	**100%**	**20**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	3		6		**9**	
Total	**6**		**23**		**29**	

Table 3.62 shows the length of time survey respondents had lived in Cranbrook. A large proportion of individuals experiencing homelessness in Cranbrook were long term residents of the community. Twelve percent (12%) of survey respondents had lived in Cranbrook all their lives and another 31% had lived there for ten or more years. Thirty-eight percent (38%) of respondents indicated they had lived in Cranbrook for less than one year.

Respondents were also asked to identify where they lived before arriving in Cranbrook. As shown in

Table 3.63, the largest proportion of respondents had lived elsewhere in Canada (outside of B.C.) before arriving in Cranbrook (46%). Another 4% had lived in Metro Vancouver and 35% in other parts of B.C.

Table 3.62: Length of Time in Community - Cranbrook

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
Length of Time in Community	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Under 1 year	3	50%	7	35%	**10**	**38%**
Under 1 month	1	17%	0	0%	**1**	**4%**
1 month to <6 months	0	0%	6	30%	**6**	**23%**
6 months to <1 year	2	33%	1	5%	**3**	**12%**
1 year to under 5 years	0	0%	2	10%	**2**	**8%**
5 years to under 10 years	1	17%	2	10%	**3**	**12%**
10 years or more	2	33%	6	30%	**8**	**31%**
Always Been Here	0	0%	3	15%	**3**	**12%**
Respondents	**6**	**100%**	**20**	**100%**	**26**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	0		3		**3**	
Total	**6**		**23**		**29**	

Table 3.63: Where Lived Before Community – Cranbrook

Where Lived Before	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Always Been Here	0	0%	3	15%	**3**	**12%**
Metro Vancouver	1	17%	0	0%	**1**	**4%**
Elsewhere in BC	4	67%	5	25%	**9**	**35%**
Elsewhere in Canada	1	17%	11	55%	**12**	**46%**
Other Countries	0	0%	1	5%	**1**	**4%**
Respondents	**6**	**100%**	**20**	**100%**	**26**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	0		3		**3**	
Total	**6**		**23**		**29**	

3.3.13 Service in the Canadian Forces

Survey participants were asked if they ever had any service in the Canadian Forces, including army, navy, airforce or RCMP. No survey respondents in Cranbrook reported service in the Canadian armed forces or RCMP.

3.3.14 Unsheltered on the Night of the Count – Where and Why

Unsheltered survey participants were asked where they stayed the previous night. Thirty-three percent (33%) of unsheltered survey respondents indicated that they stayed at someone else's place or couch-surfed the night of the count. The remaining respondents reported that they stayed outside (29%), in a vehicle (19%), in a makeshift shelter or tent (10%), or at an 'other' location (10%).

Table 3.64: Where Stayed Night of Count (Unsheltered Only) - Cranbrook

Location	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Outside	6	29%
In a Vehicle (Car, Van, RV, Truck)	4	19%
Makeshift Shelter or Tent	2	10%
Abandoned/Vacant Building	0	0%
Someone Else's Place or Couch-Surfing	7	33%
On a Boat, Not Paying Moorage	0	0%
Parent(s)/Guardian(s) House, 25 and Older	0	0%
Other[46]	2	10%
Respondents	**21**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	2	
Total	**23**	

[46] "Other" location accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities were related to motels and hotels, with short-term or no security of tenure.

Survey participants who were unsheltered were asked for the main reason why they did not stay in a shelter the previous night. The main reason given by respondents was that they were able to stay with a friend (21%) or an 'other' reason (79%).

Table 3.65: Main Reason for Not Staying at a Shelter on the Night of the Count (Unsheltered Only) - Cranbrook

Reasons for not Staying in a Shelter	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Able to Stay with a Friend	4	21%
Dislike	0	0%
Don't Feel Safe	0	0%
Turned Away	0	0%
Bedbugs/Pests	0	0%
Other[47]	15	79%
Multiple Responses	0	0%
Respondents	**19**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	4	
Total	**23**	

Survey participants who were unsheltered were also asked if they had stayed in a shelter in the last year. As shown in Table 3.66, more than half, (59%) had stayed in a shelter during the last 12 months.

Table 3.66: Have you stayed in a shelter in the last 12 months? – Cranbrook

Previous Stay in Shelter	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Yes	10	59%
No	7	41%
Respondents	**17**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	6	
Total	**23**	

[47] "Other" reasons for not staying in a shelter accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities were related to a) availability (particularly shelters closed or full), b) other options (particularly RVs, trailers, and vehicles, and family), and c) a desire to avoid negative activities/experiences at the shelter.

3.4 Community Profiles – Merritt

The 2018 Homeless Count in Merritt took place on the evening of April 3 and during the day of April 4.

The Merritt count was conducted along 15 walking, driving, or cycling routes, at one magnet event that provided food or services to community members, and at five agencies where people accessing services could complete the survey.

A total of 11 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness during the 2018 Merritt count. There were no children.[48]

There are no year-round shelters in Merritt, therefore all individuals who identified as experiencing homelessness were unsheltered.[49] Among the survey respondents who were unsheltered on the night of the count, 64% (7 individuals) reported couch-surfing or staying with friends.

Table 3.67: Adults and Accompanied Children, Shelters, Transition Houses, Detox, NFA and Unsheltered – Merritt

Homeless Category	Adults and Unaccompanied Youth		Total Homeless	
	#	%	#	%
Sheltered Total	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Shelters	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Transition Houses	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Detox Centres	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
No Fixed Address (NFA)[1]	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Other	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Unsheltered Total	11	100%	**11**	**100%**
Total Individuals Experiencing Homelessness	**11**	**100%**	**11**	**100%**

Table 3.68: Sheltered and Unsheltered - Merritt

Homeless Category	#	%
Sheltered	0	0%
Unsheltered	11	100%
Total	**11**	**100%**

[48] Children, for the 2018 Homeless Count, are defined as "accompanied children" who are under 19 years of age and who were with a parent or guardian during the count.

[49] Unsheltered respondents include individuals sleeping outside, in a tent or makeshift structure, in a vehicle, or couch-surfing.

3.4.1 Gender

Fifty-five percent (55%) of survey respondents identified as male and 45% identified as female.[50]

Table 3.69: Gender – General – Merritt

Gender Identity	Total	
	#	%
Man/Male	6	55%
Woman/Female	5	45%
Another Gender Identity	0	0%
Respondents	11	100%
Don't Know / No Answer	0	
Total	11	

3.4.2 Age

The majority of survey respondents (91%) were adults (25-54 years of age), while one person was a senior (55+ years of age).[51]

Table 3.70: Age – General - Merritt

Age Groups	Total	
	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	0	0%
Adult (25-54 Years)	10	91%
Senior (55+)	1	9%
Respondents	11	100%
Don't Know / No Answer	0	
Total	11	

[50]During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their gender identity and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

[51]During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their age and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

3.4.3 Indigenous Identity

A total of 9 survey respondents identified as Indigenous, representing 90% of all respondents.[52]

Table 3.71: Indigenous / Identity – General - Merritt

Indigenous Identity	Total	
	#	%
Indigenous Identity	9	90%
Not Indigenous Identity	1	10%
Respondents	**10**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	1	
Total	**11**	

3.4.4 Newcomers to Canada

Survey participants[53] were asked if they had come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee. None of the respondents reported coming to Canada as an immigrant or refugee.

3.4.5 Sexual Orientation

Survey participants were asked to identify their sexual orientation.

Ten percent (10%) of respondents identified as LGBTQ2S (1 individual). A large majority of respondents identified as straight or heterosexual (90%).

Table 3.72: Sexual Identity – General - Merritt

Sexual Orientation	Total	
	#	%
Straight/Heterosexual	9	90%
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Two-spirit, Questioning, Queer (LGBTQ2S)	1	10%
Other (Not Listed / Multiple Responses)	0	0%
Respondents	**10**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	1	
Total	**11**	

[52] During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their Indigenous identity and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

[53] The term "participant" is used for people who were asked a question and "respondent" for those who answered the survey question.

3.4.6 Who Was With Survey Respondents

Survey participants were asked if they were with anyone on the day of the count. Most respondents (55%) reported being with someone. Thirty-six percent (36%) of respondents were with a partner and 18% were with friends.

Table 3.73: Who Was With Survey Respondents - Merritt

Who Was With Survey Respondents (more than 1 response possible)	**Total**	
	#	**%**
With Someone	**6**	**55%**
Partner	**4**	**36%**
Child/Children	**0**	**0%**
Friend(s)	**2**	**18%**
Pet(s)	**0**	**0%**
Relative(s)	**0**	**0%**
Other(s)	**0**	**0%**
Alone	**5**	**45%**
Respondents	**11**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	**0**	
Total	**11**	

3.4.7 Barriers to Housing

Survey participants were asked what had caused them to lose their housing most recently.

Table 3.74 shows that the main reasons reported by survey respondents for losing their housing most recently were an eviction (30%), conflict with spouse/partner, addiction or substance use, illness or medical condition, job loss, or high rents (10% each), and “other” reasons (30%).

Table 3.74: Reason for Loss of Housing - Merritt

Loss of Housing (more than 1 response possible)	**Total**	
	#	**%**
Illness or Medical Condition	**1**	**10%**
Addiction or Substance Use	**1**	**10%**
Job Loss	**1**	**10%**
Unable to Pay Rent or Mortgage	**1**	**10%**
Unsafe Housing Conditions	**0**	**0%**
Experienced Abuse by: Parent / Guardian	**0**	**0%**
Experienced Abuse by: Spouse / Partner	**0**	**0%**
Conflict with: Parent / Guardian	**0**	**0%**
Conflict with: Spouse / Partner	**1**	**10%**
Incarcerated (Jail or Prison)	**0**	**0%**
Hospitalization or Treatment Program	**0**	**0%**
Eviction	**3**	**30%**
Other Reason[54]	**3**	**30%**
Respondents	**10**	
Don't Know / No Answer	**1**	
Total	**11**	

Survey participants were also asked what barriers they faced in finding a place of their own.

[54]"Other Reason" for loss of housing, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, included responses related to a) conflict with someone other than a parent/guardian or spouse/partner, b) death of a family member or other, and c) end of a relationship/divorce.

APPENDIX 2

Table 3.75, shows the three main barriers to accessing housing identified by respondents were low incomes (44%), no income/no income assistance (22%), and high rents (22%).

Table 3.75: Barriers to Accessing Housing - Merritt

Barriers to Accessing Housing (more than 1 response possible)	Total	
	#	%
Income Too Low	4	44%
History of Eviction/Lack of References	1	11%
Lack of Identification	0	0%
No Income/No Income Assistance	2	22%
Addiction	1	11%
Rent Too High	2	22%
Poor Housing Conditions	0	0%
No Housing Available that Suits My Needs	1	11%
Mental Health Issues	0	0%
Family Breakdown/Abuse/Conflict	1	11%
Conflict with Law	0	0%
Pets	0	0%
Discrimination	0	0%
Lack of Transportation	0	0%
Other Reason	0	0%
Respondents	9	
Don't Know / No Answer	2	
Total	11	

3.4.8 Health Conditions

Survey participants were asked about their health, and whether they had a medical condition, physical disability, mental illness and/or addiction. Medical condition refers to chronic problems like asthma and diabetes, while physical disability refers to a condition affecting mobility or movement.

A large proportion of respondents (88%) reported an addiction, 38% reported a mental illness, 25% reported a physical disability, and 13% reported a medical condition.

Table 3.76: Health Conditions - Merritt

Health Condition (more than 1 response possible)	**Total**	
	#	**%**
Medical Condition / Illness	**1**	**13%**
Physical Disability	**2**	**25%**
Addiction	**7**	**88%**
Mental Illness	**3**	**38%**
Respondents	**8**	
Don't Know / No Answer	**3**	
Total	**11**	

Table 3.77 shows the number of health conditions respondents identified. Half the respondents reported two or more health conditions, while 13% reported no health conditions and 38% reported one health condition.

Table 3.77: Health Conditions (Number) - Merritt

Number of Health Conditions	**Total**	
	#	**%**
No Health Conditions	**1**	**13%**
1 Health Condition	**3**	**38%**
2 Health Conditions	**3**	**38%**
3 Health Conditions	**0**	**0%**
4 Health Conditions	**1**	**13%**
Respondents	**8**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	**3**	
Total	**11**	

3.4.9 Youth in Care

All survey participants were asked if they had ever lived in foster care, in a youth group home or under a youth/young adult agreement. In Merritt, 40% of respondents reported they had been in care.

Table 3.78: Youth Who Were in Foster Care, Youth Group Homes, or Under a Youth Agreement - Merritt

Youth in Care	**Total**	
	#	**%**
Yes	**4**	**40%**
Currently	**0**	**0%**
Previously	**2**	**20%**
Don't Know / No Answer	**2**	**20%**
No	**6**	**60%**
Respondents	**10**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	**1**	
Total	**11**	

3.4.10 Income

Survey participants were asked to identify their sources of income and could identify as many sources as applied.

Table 3.79 shows that 40% of respondents identified welfare/income assistance as a source of income, followed by employment (part-time) (20%) and disability benefits (20%)). Thirty percent (30%) of survey respondents reported having no income.

Table 3.79: Sources of Income - Merritt

Sources of Income (more than 1 response possible)	**Total**	
	#	**%**
Welfare / Income Assistance	**4**	**40%**
Employment	**2**	**20%**
Job/Employment - Full-Time	**0**	**0%**
Job/Employment - Part-Time	**2**	**20%**
Other/Unspecified	**0**	**0%**
Informal/Self Employment	**0**	**0%**
Panhandling	**0**	**0%**
Binning/Bottles	**0**	**0%**
Vending	**0**	**0%**
Other/Unspecified	**0**	**0%**
Seniors Benefits	**0**	**0%**
Old Age Security (OAS)/Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)	**0**	**0%**
CPP or Other Pension	**0**	**0%**
Other/Unspecified	**0**	**0%**
Disability Benefit	**2**	**20%**
Employment Insurance	**0**	**0%**
Youth Agreement	**0**	**0%**
Money from Family/Friends	**0**	**0%**
Honoraria	**0**	**0%**
No Income	**3**	**30%**
Other	**0**	**0%**
Respondents	**10**	
Don't Know / No Answer	**1**	
Total	**11**	

3.4.11 Services Accessed

Survey participants were asked about the types of services they had used over the past 12 months.

As shown in

Table 3.80, respondents reported that they had accessed a variety of services including health, food, legal and employment services. It is important to note that while individuals experiencing homelessness may have a need for a variety of services, the availability of those services varies greatly by community.

Food services were the most cited service that respondents had accessed (88%), with meal programs (88%) and foodbanks (75%) both accessed by a high proportion of respondents.

Health services were also accessed by respondents over the previous 12 months (63%), with a large proportion (38%) using the emergency room and 25% the hospital (non-emergency).

Employment services were also accessed by a high proportion of respondents (63%). Fifty percent (50%) of respondents had accessed housing help/eviction prevention services, and one individual (13%) had accessed homeless outreach services.

Table 3.80: Services Accessed in 12 Months Prior to Count - Merritt

Services Accessed (more than 1 response possible)	Total	
	#	%
Health Services	5	63%
Health Services (Not Specified)	0	0%
Ambulance	1	13%
Emergency Room	3	38%
Hospital (Non-Emergency)	2	25%
Dental Clinic or Dentist	0	0%
Mental Health Services	0	0%
Addiction Services	1	13%
Health Clinic	4	50%
Food services	7	88%
Food Services (Not Specified)	0	0%
Food Banks	6	75%
Meal Programs/Soup Kitchens	7	88%
Legal Services	5	63%
Legal Services (Not Specified)	0	0%
Legal	4	50%
Parole or Services for Ex-Offenders	3	38%
Employment and Financial Services	5	63%
Employment and Financial Services (Not Specified)	0	0%
Employment/Job Help	5	63%
Budgeting/Trusteeship	0	0%
Housing Services	4	50%
Housing Services (Not Specified)	0	0%
Housing Help/Eviction Prevention	4	50%
Homeless Outreach	1	13%
Transitional Housing	0	0%
Other Services	1	13%
Other Services (Not Specified)	0	0%
Drop-In	0	0%
Newcomer Services	0	0%
Faith-Based/Spiritual Services	1	13%
Other	0	0%
None	0	0%
Respondents	8	
Don't Know / No Answer	3	
Total	11	

3.4.12 History of Homelessness

Nearly three-quarters of survey respondents (73%) had been homeless for less than a year, while no respondents had been homeless for 5 years or more.

Table 3.81: Length of Time Homeless - Merritt

Length of Time Homeless	Total	
	#	%
Under 1 year	8	73%
Up to and including 7 days	0	0%
8 days to <1 month	3	27%
1 month to <1 year	5	45%
1 year to under 5 years	3	27%
5 years to under 10 years	0	0%
10 years or more	0	0%
Respondents	11	100%
Don't Know / No Answer	0	
Total	11	

Survey participants were asked if this was their first time being homeless and if not, they were asked how old they were the first time they experienced homelessness.

Table 3.82 shows that the majority (80%) of respondents reported that this was *not* the first time they had experienced homelessness. Forty-three percent (43%) of all respondents reported experiencing homelessness for the first time when they were under 25 years of age (Table 3.83).

Table 3.82: Times Homeless - Merritt

Times Homeless	Total	
	#	%
First Time	2	20%
Not First Time	8	80%
Respondents	10	100%
Don't Know / No Answer	1	
Total	11	

Table 3.83: Age When First Homeless – General - Merritt

Age When First Homeless	Total	
	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	3	43%
Adult (25-54 Years)	4	57%
Senior (55+)	0	0%
Respondents	7	100%
Don't Know / No Answer	4	
Total	11	

Table 3.84 shows the length of time survey respondents had lived in Merritt. Individuals experiencing homelessness in Merritt were likely to be long term residents of the community. Forty-five percent (45%) of survey respondents had lived in Merritt all their lives and another 18% had lived there for ten or more years. Twenty-seven percent (27%) of respondents indicated they had lived in Merritt for less than one year.

Respondents were also asked to identify where they lived before arriving in Merritt. As shown in Table 3.85, the majority of respondents (64%) had lived in other parts of B.C. (outside of Metro Vancouver) prior to moving to the community.

Table 3.84: Length of Time in Community - Merritt

Length of Time in Community	Total	
	#	%
Under 1 year	3	27%
Under 1 month	2	18%
1 month to <6 months	1	9%
6 months to <1 year	0	0%
1 year to under 5 years	1	9%
5 years to under 10 years	0	0%
10 years or more	2	18%
Always Been Here	5	45%
Respondents	11	100%
Don't Know / No Answer	0	
Total	11	

Table 3.85: Where Lived Before Community – Merritt

Where Lived Before	Total	
	#	%
Always Been Here	4	36%
Metro Vancouver	0	0%
Elsewhere in BC	7	64%
Elsewhere in Canada	0	0%
Other Countries	0	0%
Respondents	11	100%
Don't Know / No Answer	0	
Total	11	

3.4.13 Service in the Military or RCMP

Survey participants were asked if they ever had any service in the Canadian Forces, including army, navy, airforce or RCMP. No individuals reported service in the Canadian Forces or RCMP.

3.4.14 Unsheltered on the Night of the Count – Where and Why

Unsheltered survey participants, which was all respondents, were asked where they stayed the previous night. Sixty-four percent of respondents indicated that they stayed at someone else's place or couch-surfed the night of the count. The remaining respondents reported that they slept in a vehicle (9%), outside (9%), or at an 'other' location (18%).

Table 3.86: Where Stayed Night of Count (Unsheltered Only) - Merritt

Location	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Outside	1	9%
In a Vehicle (Car, Van, RV, Truck)	1	9%
Makeshift Shelter or Tent	0	0%
Abandoned/Vacant Building	0	0%
Someone Else's Place or Couch-Surfing	7	64%
On a Boat, Not Paying Moorage	0	0%
Parent(s)/Guardian(s) House, 25 and Older	0	0%
Other[55]	2	18%
Respondents	**11**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	0	
Total	**11**	

Survey participants who were unsheltered were asked for the main reason why they did not stay in a shelter the previous night. The main reason given by respondents was that they were able to stay with a friend (40%). Thirty percent (30%) of respondents indicated an 'other' reason, and 20% gave multiple responses.

[55]"Other" location, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, were related to motels and hotels, with short-term or no security of tenure.

Table 3.87: Main Reason for Not Staying at a Shelter on the Night of the Count (Unsheltered Only) - Merritt

Reasons for not Staying in a Shelter	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Able to Stay with a Friend	4	40%
Dislike	0	0%
Don't Feel Safe	0	0%
Turned Away	1	10%
Bedbugs/Pests	0	0%
Other[56]	3	30%
Multiple Responses	2	20%
Respondents	**10**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	1	
Total	**11**	

Survey participants were asked if they had stayed in a shelter in the last year. As shown in Table 3.88, 67% had stayed in a shelter during the previous 12 months.

Table 3.88: Have you stayed in a shelter in the last 12 months? – Merritt

Previous Stay in a Shelter	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Yes	6	67%
No	3	33%
Respondents	**9**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	2	
Total	**11**	

[56]"Other" reasons for not staying in a shelter, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, were related to a) availability (particularly shelters closed or full), b) other options (particularly RVs, trailers, and vehicles, and family), and c) a desire to avoid negative activities/experiences at the shelter.

3.5 Community Profiles – Fort St. John

The 2018 Homeless Count in Fort St. John took place on the evening of April 17 and during the day of April 18.

The Fort St. John count was conducted in two shelter facilities, [57] along 20 walking and driving routes, at two magnet events that provided food or services to community members, and at two agencies where people accessing services could complete the survey.

A total of 61 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness during the Fort St. John count. This included 61 adults and no children.[58]

The majority of individuals identified as experiencing homelessness were sheltered (66%) and 34% reported being unsheltered.[59] Among the survey respondents who were unsheltered on the night of the count, 33% (7 individuals) reported couch-surfing or staying with friends, while 24% (5 individuals) were staying in a vehicle and 14% (3 individuals) were outside (Table 3.108).

Table 3.89: Adults and Accompanied Children, Shelters, Transition Houses, Detox, NFA and Unsheltered – Fort St. John

	Adults and Unaccompanied Youth		Accompanied Children		Total Homeless	
Homeless Category	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Sheltered Total	40	66%	0	N/A	**40**	**66%**
Shelters	35	57%	0	N/A	**35**	**57%**
Transition Houses	0	0%	0	N/A	**0**	**0%**
Detox Centres	0	0%	0	N/A	**0**	**0%**
No Fixed Address (NFA)[60]	5	8%	0	N/A	**5**	**8%**
Other	0	0%	0	N/A	**0**	**0%**
Unsheltered Total	21	34%	0	N/A	**21**	**34%**
Total Individuals Experiencing Homelessness	**61**	**100%**	**0**	**N/A**	**61**	**100%**

Table 3.90: Sheltered and Unsheltered - Fort St. John

Homeless Category	#	%
Sheltered	40	66%
Unsheltered	21	34%
Total	**61**	**100%**

[57] Can include any of the following: temporary or permanent shelters, or transition houses for women and children fleeing violence, or safe houses for youth if available in the community.
[58] Children, for the 2018 Homeless Count, are defined as "accompanied children" who are under 19 years of age and who were with a parent or guardian during the count.
[59] Unsheltered respondents include individuals sleeping outside, in a tent or makeshift structure, in a vehicle, or couch-surfing.
[60] Includes individuals staying in jails, hospitals, and short-term medical facilities.

3.5.1 Gender

Seventy-five percent (75%) of survey respondents identified as male, while 25% identified as female.[61]

A greater proportion of unsheltered respondents identified as male than sheltered respondents (80% vs. 72%), while the proportion of respondents identifying as female was greater among the sheltered respondents than the unsheltered respondents (28% vs. 20%).

Table 3.91: Gender – General – Fort St. John

Gender Identity	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Man/Male	23	72%	16	80%	**39**	**75%**
Woman/Female	9	28%	4	20%	**13**	**25%**
Another Gender Identity	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Respondents	**32**	**100%**	**20**	**100%**	**52**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	8		1		**9**	
Total	**40**		**21**		**61**	

3.5.2 Age

The majority of survey respondents (71%) were adults (25-54 years of age), while nearly a quarter (22%) were seniors (55+ years of age), and 8% were youth (under 25 years of age).[62] The proportion of seniors was greater among unsheltered respondents than sheltered respondents (26% vs. 19%).

Table 3.92: Age – General - Fort St. John

Age Groups	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	2	6%	2	11%	**4**	**8%**
Adult (25-54 Years)	24	75%	12	63%	**36**	**71%**
Senior (55+)	6	19%	5	26%	**11**	**22%**
Respondents	**32**	**100%**	**19**	**100%**	**51**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	8		2		**10**	
Total	**40**		**21**		**61**	

[61]During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their gender identity and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

[62]During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their age and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

3.5.3 Indigenous Identity

A total of 30 survey respondents identified as Indigenous, representing 59% of all respondents.[63]

Unsheltered respondents were more likely to report an Indigenous identity than sheltered respondents (63% vs. 56%).

Table 3.93: Indigenous / Identity – General - Fort St. John

Indigenous Identity	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Indigenous Identity	18	56%	12	63%	**30**	**59%**
Not Indigenous Identity	14	44%	7	37%	**21**	**41%**
Respondents	**32**	**100%**	**19**	**100%**	**51**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	8		2		**10**	
Total	**40**		**21**		**61**	

3.5.4 Newcomers to Canada

Survey participants[64] were asked if they had come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee. None of the respondents reported coming to Canada as an immigrant or refugee.

3.5.5 Sexual Orientation

Survey participants were asked to identify their sexual orientation.

Four percent (4%) of respondents identified as LGBTQ2S, and one respondent provided an "other" response to the question. A large majority of respondents identified as straight or heterosexual (94%).

Table 3.94: Sexual Identity – General - Fort St. John

Sexual Orientation	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Straight/Heterosexual	28	93%	16	94%	**44**	**94%**
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Two-spirit, Questioning, Queer (LGBTQ2S)	2	7%	0	0%	**2**	**4%**
Other (Not Listed / Multiple Responses)	0	0%	1	6%	**1**	**2%**
Respondents	**30**	**100%**	**17**	**100%**	**47**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	10		4		**14**	
Total	**40**		**21**		**61**	

[63] During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their Indigenous identity and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

[64] The term "participant" is used for people who were asked a question and "respondent" for those who answered the survey question.

3.5.6 Who Was with Survey Respondents

Survey participants were asked if they were with anyone on the day of the count. Three quarters of respondents (78%) reported being alone, while 16% reported being with a friend and 4% were with a relative. A higher proportion of unsheltered respondents reported that they were with someone compared to sheltered respondents (32% vs. 16%).

Table 3.95: Who was with Survey Respondents - Fort St. John

Who Was with Survey Respondents (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
With Someone	5	16%	6	32%	**11**	**22%**
Partner	1	3%	0	0%	**1**	**2%**
Child/Children	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Friend(s)	4	13%	4	21%	**8**	**16%**
Pet(s)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Relative(s)	0	0%	2	11%	**2**	**4%**
Other(s)[65]	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Alone	27	84%	13	68%	**40**	**78%**
Respondents	**32**	**100%**	**19**	**100%**	**51**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	8		2		**10**	
Total	**40**		**21**		**61**	

3.5.7 Barriers to Housing

Survey participants were asked what had caused them to lose their housing most recently.

[65] "Other" responses varied, with no specific response accounting for 2% or more respondents across all communities.

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Table 3.96 shows that the main reasons reported by survey respondents for losing their housing most recently were addiction or substance use (18%), conflict with partner/spouse (18%), job loss (16%) and "other" reasons (37%).

Table 3.96: Reason for Loss of Housing - Fort St. John

Loss of Housing (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Illness or Medical Condition	3	10%	2	11%	**5**	**10%**
Addiction or Substance Use	4	13%	5	26%	**9**	**18%**
Job Loss	5	17%	3	16%	**8**	**16%**
Unable to Pay Rent or Mortgage	1	3%	3	16%	**4**	**8%**
Unsafe Housing Conditions	2	7%	1	5%	**3**	**6%**
Experienced Abuse by: Parent / Guardian	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Experienced Abuse by: Spouse / Partner	2	7%	2	11%	**4**	**8%**
Conflict with: Parent / Guardian	1	3%	0	0%	**1**	**2%**
Conflict with: Spouse / Partner	6	20%	3	16%	**9**	**18%**
Incarcerated (Jail or Prison)	0	0%	1	5%	**1**	**2%**
Hospitalization or Treatment Program	0	0%	1	5%	**1**	**2%**
Eviction	2	7%	1	5%	**3**	**6%**
Other Reason[66]	10	33%	8	42%	**18**	**37%**
Respondents	**30**		**19**		**49**	
Don't Know / No Answer	10		2		**12**	
Total	**40**		**21**		**61**	

Survey participants were also asked what barriers they faced in finding a place of their own.

[66]"Other Reason" for loss of housing, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, included responses related to a) conflict with someone other than a parent/guardian or spouse/partner, b) death of a family member or other, and c) end of a relationship/divorce.

Table 3.97 shows that the three main barriers to accessing housing identified by respondents were low incomes (57%), high rents (51%) and addiction (24%), while 27% cited "other" reasons.

Table 3.97: Barriers to Accessing Housing - Fort St. John

Barriers to Accessing Housing (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Income Too Low	18	60%	10	53%	**28**	**57%**
History of Eviction/Lack of References	4	13%	3	16%	**7**	**14%**
Lack of Identification	3	10%	1	5%	**4**	**8%**
No Income/No Income Assistance	5	17%	2	11%	**7**	**14%**
Addiction	9	30%	3	16%	**12**	**24%**
Rent Too High	16	53%	9	47%	**25**	**51%**
Poor Housing Conditions	3	10%	1	5%	**4**	**8%**
No Housing Available that Suits My Needs	4	13%	2	11%	**6**	**12%**
Mental Health Issues	3	10%	1	5%	**4**	**8%**
Family Breakdown/Abuse/Conflict	2	7%	3	16%	**5**	**10%**
Conflict with Law	0	0%	2	11%	**2**	**4%**
Pets	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Discrimination	0	0%	2	11%	**2**	**4%**
Lack of Transportation	5	17%	3	16%	**8**	**16%**
Other Reason[67]	6	20%	7	37%	**13**	**27%**
Respondents	**30**		**19**		**49**	
Don't Know / No Answer	10		2		**12**	
Total	**40**		**21**		**61**	

3.5.8 Health Conditions

Survey participants were asked about their health, and whether they had a medical condition, physical disability, mental illness and/or addiction. Medical condition refers to chronic problems like asthma and diabetes, while physical disability refers to a condition affecting mobility or movement.

Nearly two-thirds of respondents (63%) reported an addiction, 43% reported a medical condition, 35% reported a mental illness, and 35% reported a physical disability. Sheltered respondents were more likely to report all health conditions than the unsheltered respondents.

[67] "Other Reason" for barriers to accessing housing varied widely, with no specific response accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities.

Table 3.98: Health Conditions - Fort St. John

Health Condition (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Medical Condition / Illness	16	52%	5	28%	**21**	**43%**
Physical Disability	11	35%	6	33%	**17**	**35%**
Addiction	20	65%	11	61%	**31**	**63%**
Mental Illness	13	42%	4	22%	**17**	**35%**
Respondents	**31**		**18**		**49**	
Don't Know / No Answer	9		3		**12**	
Total	**40**		**21**		**61**	

Table 3.99 shows the number of health conditions respondents identified. Fifty-nine percent (59%) reported two or more health conditions, while 16% reported no health conditions and 24% reported one health condition. Unsheltered respondents were more likely to identify no health conditions than sheltered respondents (22% vs. 13%).

Table 3.99: Health Conditions (Number) - Fort St. John

Number of Health Conditions	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
No Health Conditions	4	13%	4	22%	**8**	**16%**
1 Health Condition	5	16%	7	39%	**12**	**24%**
2 Health Conditions	14	45%	4	22%	**18**	**37%**
3 Health Conditions	5	16%	1	6%	**6**	**12%**
4 Health Conditions	3	10%	2	11%	**5**	**10%**
Respondents	**31**	**100%**	**18**	**100%**	**49**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	9		3		**12**	
Total	**40**		**21**		**61**	

3.5.9 Youth in Care

All survey participants were asked if they had ever lived in foster care, in a youth group home or under a youth/young adult agreement. In Fort St. John, 27% of respondents reported that they had been in care. A higher proportion of unsheltered respondents than sheltered respondents indicated that they had been in care (37% vs. 22%).

Table 3.100: Youth Who Were in Foster Care, Youth Group Homes, or Under a Youth Agreement - Fort St. John

Youth in Care	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	7	22%	7	37%	**14**	**27%**
Currently	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Previously	7	22%	7	37%	**14**	**27%**
Don't Know / No Answer	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
No	25	78%	12	63%	**37**	**73%**
Respondents	**32**	**100%**	**19**	**100%**	**51**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	8		2		**10**	
Total	**40**		**21**		**61**	

3.5.10 Income

Survey participants were asked to identify their sources of income and could identify as many sources as applied.

Table 3.101 shows that survey respondents in Fort St. John identified a wide range of income sources. Forty-four percent (44%) identified welfare/income assistance as a source of income, followed by employment (23%) and disability benefits (19%).

Unsheltered survey respondents were more likely to identify welfare/income assistance as a source of income than sheltered respondents (60% vs. 34%). Unsheltered respondents were also more likely to identify informal/self employment such as binning or panhandling as a source of income than sheltered respondents (20% vs. 9%). However, sheltered respondents were more likely to identify disability benefits as a source of income than unsheltered respondents (25% vs. 10%).

Table 3.101: Sources of Income - Fort St. John

Sources of Income (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Welfare / Income Assistance	11	34%	12	60%	**23**	**44%**
Employment	7	22%	5	25%	**12**	**23%**
Job/Employment - Full-Time	2	6%	1	5%	**3**	**6%**
Job/Employment - Part-Time	5	16%	4	20%	**9**	**17%**
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Informal/Self Employment	3	9%	4	20%	**7**	**13%**
Panhandling	0	0%	2	10%	**2**	**4%**
Binning/Bottles	3	9%	4	20%	**7**	**13%**
Vending	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Seniors Benefits	3	9%	0	0%	**3**	**6%**
Old Age Security (OAS)/Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
CPP or Other Pension	3	9%	0	0%	**3**	**6%**
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Disability Benefit	8	25%	2	10%	**10**	**19%**
Employment Insurance	1	3%	0	0%	**1**	**2%**
Youth Agreement	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Money from Family/Friends	3	9%	2	10%	**5**	**10%**
Honoraria	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
No Income	5	16%	1	5%	**6**	**12%**
Other[68]	1	3%	2	10%	**3**	**6%**
Respondents	**32**		**20**		**52**	
Don't Know / No Answer	8		1		**9**	
Total	**40**		**21**		**61**	

[68] The specific "Other" accounting for 2% or more respondents across all communities were related to other types of informal/part time employment or odd jobs.

3.5.11 Services Accessed

Survey participants were asked about the types of services they had used over the past 12 months.

Survey respondents reported that they had accessed a variety of services including health, food, housing and other services such as drop ins. It is important to note that while individuals experiencing homelessness may have a need for a variety of services, the availability of those services varies greatly by community.

Food services were most frequently used by respondents (83%), including meal programs (74%) and foodbanks (70%).

Health services were also cited as services that respondents had accessed over the previous 12 months (68%), with a large proportion (45%) using the emergency room, 38% the ambulance, 32% the health clinic, 30% the hospital (non-emergency), and 30% accessing mental health services. Except for mental health services, sheltered respondents were more likely to access health services than unsheltered respondents.

Seventy-nine percent (79%) of respondents used other services, primarily drop-in services (77%). Fifty-five percent (55%) of respondents had accessed housing services over the last year, including 61% of unsheltered and 52% of sheltered respondents.

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Table 3.102: Services Accessed in 12 Months Prior to Count - Fort St. John

Services Accessed (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Health Services	21	72%	11	61%	**32**	**68%**
Health Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Ambulance	15	52%	3	17%	**18**	**38%**
Emergency Room	15	52%	6	33%	**21**	**45%**
Hospital (Non-Emergency)	11	38%	3	17%	**14**	**30%**
Dental Clinic or Dentist	5	17%	2	11%	**7**	**15%**
Mental Health Services	7	24%	7	39%	**14**	**30%**
Addiction Services	9	31%	4	22%	**13**	**28%**
Health Clinic	12	41%	3	17%	**15**	**32%**
Food services	24	83%	15	83%	**39**	**83%**
Food Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Food Banks	19	66%	14	78%	**33**	**70%**
Meal Programs/Soup Kitchens	22	76%	13	72%	**35**	**74%**
Legal Services	4	14%	7	39%	**11**	**23%**
Legal Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Legal	4	14%	5	28%	**9**	**19%**
Parole or Services for Ex-Offenders	0	0%	2	11%	**2**	**4%**
Employment and Financial Services	11	38%	11	61%	**22**	**47%**
Employment and Financial Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	1	6%	**1**	**2%**
Employment/Job Help	11	38%	10	56%	**21**	**45%**
Budgeting/Trusteeship	0	0%	1	6%	**1**	**2%**
Housing Services	15	52%	11	61%	**26**	**55%**
Housing Services (Not Specified)	3	10%	0	0%	**3**	**6%**
Housing Help/Eviction Prevention	4	14%	5	28%	**9**	**19%**
Homeless Outreach	6	21%	7	39%	**13**	**28%**
Transitional Housing	6	21%	1	6%	**7**	**15%**
Other Services	23	79%	14	78%	**37**	**79%**
Other Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Drop-In	23	79%	13	72%	**36**	**77%**
Newcomer Services	0	0%	1	6%	**1**	**2%**
Faith-Based/Spiritual Services	4	14%	3	17%	**7**	**15%**
Other	1	3%	2	11%	**3**	**6%**
None	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Respondents	**29**		**18**		**47**	
Don't Know / No Answer	11		3		**14**	
Total	**40**		**21**		**61**	

3.5.12 History of Homelessness

One-third of survey respondents (33%) had been homeless for less than a year. Sheltered respondents were much more likely to have been homeless for less than a year compared to unsheltered respondents (45% vs. 11%). Eighty-nine percent (89%) of unsheltered respondents reported being homeless for a year or more, compared to 55% of sheltered respondents.

Table 3.103: Length of Time Homeless- Fort St. John

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
Length of Time Homeless	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Under 1 year	14	45%	2	11%	**16**	**33%**
Up to and including 7 days	3	10%	0	0%	**3**	**6%**
8 days to <1 month	5	16%	1	6%	**6**	**12%**
1 month to <1 year	6	19%	1	6%	**7**	**14%**
1 year to under 5 years	16	52%	12	67%	**28**	**57%**
5 years to under 10 years	1	3%	1	6%	**2**	**4%**
10 years or more	0	0%	3	17%	**3**	**6%**
Respondents	**31**	**100%**	**18**	**100%**	**49**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	9		3		**12**	
Total	**40**		**21**		**61**	

Survey participants were asked if this was their first time being homeless and if not, they were asked how old they were the first time they experienced homelessness.

Table 3.104 shows that the majority (52%) of respondents reported that this was *not* the first time they had experienced homelessness. Forty-six percent (46%) of all respondents reported experiencing homelessness for the first time when they were under 25 years of age (

Table 3.105).

Table 3.104: Times Homeless - Fort St. John

Times Homeless	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
First Time	16	52%	8	42%	**24**	**48%**
Not First Time	15	48%	11	58%	**26**	**52%**
Respondents	**31**	**100%**	**19**	**100%**	**50**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	9		2		**11**	
Total	**40**		**21**		**61**	

Table 3.105: Age When First Homeless – General - Fort St. John

Age When First Homeless	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	8	50%	5	42%	**13**	**46%**
Adult (25-54 Years)	7	44%	6	50%	**13**	**46%**
Senior (55 or Older)	1	6%	1	8%	**2**	**7%**
Respondents	**16**	**100%**	**12**	**100%**	**28**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	24		9		**33**	
Total	**40**		**21**		**61**	

Table 3.106 shows the length of time survey respondents had lived in Fort St. John. A large proportion of individuals experiencing homelessness in Fort St. John were long term residents of the community. While 28% of respondents reported that they had lived in the community for less than a year, 14% had lived in Fort St. John all their lives and another 16% had lived there for ten or more years.

Respondents were also asked to identify where they lived before arriving in Fort St. John. As shown in

Table 3.107, the majority of respondent had lived in Metro Vancouver (11%) or other parts of B.C. (40%) prior to arriving in the community. [69]

Table 3.106: Length of Time in Community - Fort St. John

Length of Time in Community	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 1 year	11	35%	3	16%	**14**	**28%**
Under 1 month	6	19%	1	5%	**7**	**14%**
1 month to <6 months	4	13%	2	11%	**6**	**12%**
6 months to <1 year	1	3%	0	0%	**1**	**2%**
1 year to under 5 years	6	19%	6	32%	**12**	**24%**
5 years to under 10 years	7	23%	2	11%	**9**	**18%**
10 years or more	4	13%	4	21%	**8**	**16%**
Always Been Here	3	10%	4	21%	**7**	**14%**
Respondents	**31**	**100%**	**19**	**100%**	**50**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	9		2		**11**	
Total	**40**		**21**		**61**	

[69] There is a discrepancy in responses between individuals who indicate they have always been in a community when asked how long they have been there and where they were before arriving in the community. This is due different response rates to the question, but also that some individuals may have lived in a community for much of their lives, but have left for short periods, and may respond to the question of where they were before by citing another community, even if they answered the length of time in community question as having 'Always been here.'

Table 3.107: Where Lived Before Community – Fort St. John

Where Lived Before	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Always Been Here	3	10%	3	20%	**6**	**13%**
Metro Vancouver	3	10%	2	13%	**5**	**11%**
Elsewhere in BC	10	33%	8	53%	**18**	**40%**
Elsewhere in Canada	14	47%	2	13%	**16**	**36%**
Other Countries	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Respondents	**30**	**100%**	**15**	**100%**	**45**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	10		6		**16**	
Total	**40**		**21**		**61**	

3.5.13 Service in the Canadian Forces

Survey participants were asked if they ever had any service in the Canadian Forces, including army, navy, airforce or RCMP. One respondent reported service in the Canadian armed forces. Another respondent indicated service in another country's armed forces.

3.5.14 Unsheltered on the Night of the Count – Where and Why

Unsheltered survey participants were asked where they stayed the previous night. Thirty-three percent (33%) of unsheltered survey respondents indicated that they stayed at someone else's place or couch-surfed the night of the count. The remaining respondents reported that they slept in a vehicle (24%), outside (14%), at a parent or guardian's (10%), in a makeshift shelter or tent (5%) or at an 'other' location (8%).

Table 3.108: Where Stayed Night of Count (Unsheltered Only) - Fort St. John

Location	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Outside	3	14%
In a Vehicle (Car, Van, RV, Truck)	5	24%
Makeshift Shelter or Tent	1	5%
Abandoned/Vacant Building	0	0%
Someone Else's Place or Couch-Surfing	7	33%
On a Boat, Not Paying Moorage	0	0%
Parent(s)/Guardian(s) House, 25 and Older	2	10%
Other[70]	3	14%
Respondents	**21**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	0	
Total	**21**	

[70] "Other" location, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, were related to motels and hotels, with short-term or no security of tenure.

Survey participants who were unsheltered were asked for the main reason why they did not stay in a shelter the previous night. The main reason given by respondents was that they disliked the shelter (22%), were able to stay with a friend (17%) or gave an 'other' reason (17%). One-third provided multiple responses.[71]

Table 3.109: Main Reason for Not Staying at a Shelter on the Night of the Count (Unsheltered Only) - Fort St. John

Reasons for not Staying in a Shelter	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Able to Stay with a Friend	3	17%
Dislike	4	22%
Don't Feel Safe	1	6%
Turned Away	1	6%
Bedbugs/Pests	0	0%
Other[72]	3	17%
Multiple Responses	6	33%
Respondents	**18**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	3	
Total	**21**	

Survey participants who were unsheltered were also asked if they had stayed in a shelter in the last year. As shown in Table 3.110, over three quarters (78%) had stayed in a shelter during the last 12 months.

Table 3.110: Have you stayed in a shelter in the last 12 months? – Fort St. John

Previous Stay in Shelter	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Yes	14	78%
No	4	22%
Respondents	**18**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	3	
Total	**21**	

[71] Multiple responses were provided even though the question asked for one response.

[72] "Other" reasons for not staying in a shelter, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, were related to a) availability (particularly shelters closed or full), b) other options (particularly RVs, trailers, and vehicles, and family), and c) a desire to avoid negative activities/experiences at the shelter.

3.6 Community Profiles – Parksville/Qualicum

The 2018 Homeless Count in Parksville/Qualicum took place on the evening of April 17 and during the day of April 18.

The Parksville/Qualicum count was conducted at two shelter facilities,[73] along 13 street walking routes, at three magnet events (including one in Bowser) that provided food or services to community members, and at one agency where people accessing services could complete the survey.

A total of 42 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness during the Parksville/Qualicum 2018 count. This included 42 adults and unaccompanied youth and no children.[74]

The majority of individuals identified as experiencing homelessness reported being unsheltered (93%) and 7% were sheltered. The sheltered individuals did not respond to the survey, therefore, the data in this profile is based solely on responses from unsheltered survey respondents.[75] Among the survey respondents who were unsheltered on the night of the count, 23% (9 individuals) reported couch-surfing or staying with friends, 21% (8 individuals) slept outside, 6 individuals (15%) slept in a vehicle, 5 individuals slept in a makeshift shelter or tent (13%), and 5 individuals slept in an abandoned/vacant building (13%).

Table 3.111: Adults and Accompanied Children, Shelters, Transition Houses, Detox, NFA and Unsheltered – Parksville/Qualicum

Homeless Category	Adults and Unaccompanied Youth		Accompanied Children		Total Homeless	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Sheltered Total	3	7%	0	N/A	**3**	**7%**
Shelters	0	0%	0	N/A	**0**	**0%**
Transition Houses	0	0%	0	N/A	**0**	**0%**
Detox Centres	0	0%	0	N/A	**0**	**0%**
No Fixed Address (NFA)[76]	3	7%	0	N/A	**3**	**7%**
Other	0	0%	0	N/A	**0**	**0%**
Unsheltered Total	39	93%	0	N/A	**39**	**93%**
Total Individuals Experiencing Homelessness	**42**	**100%**	**0**	**N/A**	**42**	**100%**

[73] Can include any of the following: temporary or permanent shelters, or transition houses for women and children fleeing violence, or safe houses for youth if available in the community.

[74] Children, for the 2018 Homeless Count, are defined as "accompanied children" who are under 19 years of age and who were with a parent or guardian during the count.

[75] Unsheltered respondents include individuals sleeping outside, in a tent or makeshift structure, in a vehicle, or couch-surfing.

[76] Includes individuals staying in jails, hospitals, and short-term medical facilities. No additional information was available therefore the remaining tables in this community profile include unsheltered responses only.

Table 3.112: Sheltered and Unsheltered - Parksville/Qualicum

Homeless Category	#	%
Sheltered	3	7%
Unsheltered	39	93%
Total	**42**	**100%**

3.6.1 Gender

Seventy-three percent (73%) of survey respondents identified as male and 22% of survey respondents identified as female.[77] Two survey respondents (5%) identified as another gender identity.

Table 3.113: Gender – General – Parksville/Qualicum

Gender Identity	Total	
	#	%
Man/Male	**27**	**73%**
Woman/Female	**8**	**22%**
Other Gender Identity	**2**	**5%**
Respondents	**37**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	**5**	
Total	**42**	

3.6.2 Age

The majority of survey respondents (63%) were adults (25-54 years of age), while more than a quarter (29%) were seniors (55+ years of age), and 8% were youth under 25 years of age. [78]

Table 3.114: Age – General - Parksville/Qualicum

Age Groups	Total	
	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	**3**	**8%**
Adult (25-54 Years)	**24**	**63%**
Senior (55+)	**11**	**29%**
Respondents	**38**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	**4**	
Total	**42**	

[77] During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their gender identity and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

[78] During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their age and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

3.6.3 Indigenous Identity

A total of 3 survey respondents identified as Indigenous, representing 8% of all respondents, while 92% reported a non-Indigenous identity.[79]

Table 3.115: Indigenous / Identity – General - Parksville/Qualicum

Indigenous Identity	Total	
	#	%
Indigenous Identity	3	8%
Not Indigenous Identity	35	92%
Respondents	**38**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	4	
Total	**42**	

3.6.4 Newcomers to Canada

Survey participants[80] were asked if they had come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee. Three individuals, representing 8% of survey respondents identified as an immigrant. All three individuals had been in Canada 10 years or more.

3.6.5 Sexual Orientation

Survey participants were asked to identify their sexual orientation.

Six percent (6%) of respondents identified as LGBTQ2S. A large majority of respondents identified as straight or heterosexual (94%).

Table 3.116: Sexual Identity – General - Parksville/Qualicum

Sexual Orientation	Total	
	#	%
Straight/Heterosexual	34	94%
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Two-spirit, Questioning, Queer (LGBTQ2S)	2	6%
Other (Not Listed / Multiple Responses)	0	0%
Respondents	**36**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	6	
Total	**42**	

[79] During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their Indigenous identity and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

[80] The term "participant" is used for people who were asked a question and "respondent" for those who answered the survey question.

3.6.6 Who Was with Survey Respondents

Survey participants were asked if they were with anyone on the day of the count. Most respondents (63%) reported being alone, while 29% reported being with a friend and 16% were with their pets.

Table 3.117: Who Was with Survey Respondents- Parksville/Qualicum

Who Was With Survey Respondents (more than 1 response possible)	**Total**	
	#	**%**
With Someone	**14**	**37%**
Partner	**3**	**8%**
Child/Children	**1**	**3%**
Friend(s)	**11**	**29%**
Pet(s)	**6**	**16%**
Relative(s)	**2**	**5%**
Other(s)[81]	**0**	**0%**
Alone	**24**	**63%**
Respondents	**38**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	**4**	
Total	**42**	

3.6.7 Barriers to Housing

Survey participants were asked what had caused them to lose their housing most recently.

[81] "Other" responses varied, with no specific response accounting for 2% or more respondents across all communities.

Table 3.118 shows that the main reasons reported by survey respondents for losing their housing most recently were illness or medical condition (22%), high rents (19%), eviction (19%) and “other” reasons (31%).

Table 3.118: Reason for Loss of Housing - Parksville/Qualicum

Loss of Housing (more than 1 response possible)	**Total**	
	#	**%**
Illness or Medical Condition	**8**	**22%**
Addiction or Substance Use	**4**	**11%**
Job Loss	**6**	**17%**
Unable to Pay Rent or Mortgage	**7**	**19%**
Unsafe Housing Conditions	**4**	**11%**
Experienced Abuse by: Parent / Guardian	**0**	**0%**
Experienced Abuse by: Spouse / Partner	**0**	**0%**
Conflict with: Parent / Guardian	**2**	**6%**
Conflict with: Spouse / Partner	**4**	**11%**
Incarcerated (Jail or Prison)	**1**	**3%**
Hospitalization or Treatment Program	**1**	**3%**
Eviction	**7**	**19%**
Other Reason[82]	**11**	**31%**
Respondents	**36**	
Don't Know / No Answer	**6**	
Total	**42**	

Survey participants were also asked what barriers they faced in finding a place of their own.

[82]"Other Reason" for loss of housing, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, included responses related to a) conflict with someone other than a parent/guardian or spouse/partner, b) death of a family member or other, and c) end of a relationship/divorce.

Table 3.119 shows the three main barriers to accessing housing identified by respondents were high rents (59%), low incomes (54%), and a lack of available, suitable housing (51%).

Table 3.119: Barriers to Accessing Housing - Parksville/Qualicum

Barriers to Accessing Housing (more than 1 response possible)	Total	
	#	%
Income Too Low	20	54%
History of Eviction/Lack of References	4	11%
Lack of Identification	2	5%
No Income/No Income Assistance	6	16%
Addiction	2	5%
Rent Too High	22	59%
Poor Housing Conditions	4	11%
No Housing Available that Suits My Needs	19	51%
Mental Health Issues	4	11%
Family Breakdown/Abuse/Conflict	4	11%
Conflict with Law	2	5%
Pets	7	19%
Discrimination	2	5%
Lack of Transportation	8	22%
Other Reason[83]	6	16%
Respondents	37	
Don't Know / No Answer	5	
Total	42	

3.6.8 Health Conditions

Survey participants were asked about their health, and whether they had a medical condition, physical disability, mental illness and/or addiction. Medical condition refers to chronic problems like asthma and diabetes, while physical disability refers to a condition affecting mobility or movement.

More than half of respondents (55%) reported a mental illness, 53% reported a medical condition, 50% reported an addiction, and 50% reported a physical disability.

[83] "Other Reason" for barriers to accessing housing varied widely, with no specific response accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities.

Table 3.120: Health Conditions - Parksville/Qualicum

Health Condition (more than 1 response possible)	**Total**	
	#	**%**
Medical Condition / Illness	**20**	**53%**
Physical Disability	**19**	**50%**
Addiction	**19**	**50%**
Mental Illness	**21**	**55%**
Respondents	**38**	
Don't Know / No Answer	**4**	
Total	**42**	

Table 3.121 shows the number of health conditions respondents identified. Fifty-eight percent (58%) reported two or more health conditions, while 11% reported no health conditions and 32% reported one health condition.

Table 3.121: Health Conditions (Number) - Parksville/Qualicum

Number of Health Conditions	**Total**	
	#	**%**
No Health Conditions	**4**	**11%**
1 Health Condition	**12**	**32%**
2 Health Conditions	**6**	**16%**
3 Health Conditions	**9**	**24%**
4 Health Conditions	**7**	**18%**
Respondents	**38**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	**4**	
Total	**42**	

3.6.9 Youth in Care

All survey participants were asked if they had ever lived in foster care, in a youth group home or under a youth/young adult agreement. In Parksville/Qualicum, 25% of respondents reported they had been in care.

Table 3.122: Youth Who Were in Foster Care, Youth Group Homes, or Under a Youth Agreement - Parksville/Qualicum

Youth in Care	**Total**	
	#	**%**
Yes	**9**	**25%**
Currently	**0**	**0%**
Previously	**9**	**25%**
Don't Know / No Answer	**0**	**0%**
No	**27**	**75%**
Respondents	**36**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	**6**	
Total	**42**	

3.6.10 Income

Survey participants were asked to identify their sources of income and could identify as many sources as applied.

Table 3.123 shows survey respondents in Parksville/Qualicum identified a wide range of income sources. Thirty-three percent (33%) identified welfare/income assistance as a source of income, followed by informal/self-employment (31%) and disability benefits (28%).

Table 3.123: Sources of Income - Parksville/Qualicum

Sources of Income (more than 1 response possible)	**Total**	
	#	**%**
Welfare / Income Assistance	**12**	**33%**
Employment	**7**	**19%**
Job/Employment - Full-Time	**2**	**6%**
Job/Employment - Part-Time	**6**	**17%**
Other/Unspecified	**0**	**0%**
Informal/Self Employment	**11**	**31%**
Panhandling	**5**	**14%**
Binning/Bottles	**11**	**31%**
Vending	**0**	**0%**
Other/Unspecified	**0**	**0%**
Seniors Benefits	**5**	**14%**
Old Age Security (OAS)/Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)	**2**	**6%**
CPP or Other Pension	**5**	**14%**
Other/Unspecified	**0**	**0%**
Disability Benefit	**10**	**28%**
Employment Insurance	**0**	**0%**
Youth Agreement	**0**	**0%**
Money from Family/Friends	**1**	**3%**
Honoraria	**0**	**0%**
No Income	**4**	**11%**
Other[84]	**2**	**6%**
Respondents	**36**	
Don't Know / No Answer	**6**	
Total	**42**	

[84] "Other" sources of income accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities were related to other types of informal/part time employment or odd jobs.

3.6.11 Services Accessed

Survey participants were asked about the types of services they had used over the past 12 months.

As shown in

Table 3.124, respondents reported that they had accessed a variety of services including health, food, housing and other services such as drop ins. It is important to note that while individuals experiencing homelessness may have a need for a variety of services, the availability of those services varies greatly by community.

Food services were most frequently cited by respondents (84%), including meal programs (76%) and foodbanks (70%).

Health services were also cited as services that respondents had accessed over the previous 12 months (78%), with the greatest proportion of respondents accessing the health clinic (43%), followed by the hospital (non-emergency) (32%), the ambulance (27%), and the dental clinic (27%).

Nineteen percent (19%) of respondents had accessed homeless outreach services.

Of the other services accessed (32%), the highest proportion of respondents cited drop-in and faith-based services (14% each).

Table 3.124: Services Accessed in 12 Months Prior to Count - Parksville/Qualicum

Services Accessed (more than 1 response possible)	Total	
	#	%
Health Services	29	78%
Health Services (Not Specified)	0	0%
Ambulance	9	24%
Emergency Room	10	27%
Hospital (Non-Emergency)	12	32%
Dental Clinic or Dentist	10	27%
Mental Health Services	7	19%
Addiction Services	9	24%
Health Clinic	16	43%
Food services	31	84%
Food Services (Not Specified)	0	0%
Food Banks	26	70%
Meal Programs/Soup Kitchens	28	76%
Legal Services	4	11%
Legal Services (Not Specified)	0	0%
Legal	3	8%
Parole or Services for Ex-Offenders	3	8%
Employment and Financial Services	6	16%
Employment and Financial Services (Not Specified)	0	0%
Employment/Job Help	6	16%
Budgeting/Trusteeship	0	0%
Housing Services	9	24%
Housing Services (Not Specified)	0	0%
Housing Help/Eviction Prevention	2	5%
Homeless Outreach	7	19%
Transitional Housing	0	0%
Other Services	12	32%
Other Services (Not Specified)	0	0%
Drop-In	5	14%
Newcomer Services	0	0%
Faith-Based/Spiritual Services	5	14%
Other	3	8%
None	1	3%
Respondents	37	
Don't Know / No Answer	5	
Total	42	

3.6.12 History of Homelessness

Less than half of survey respondents (43%) had been homeless for less than a year, while 11% of respondents had been homeless for 5 years or more.

Table 3.125: Length of Time Homeless- Parksville/Qualicum

Length of Time Homeless	Total	
	#	%
Under 1 year	15	43%
Up to and including 7 days	1	3%
8 days to <1 month	2	6%
1 month to <1 year	12	34%
1 year to under 5 years	16	46%
5 years to under 10 years	3	9%
10 years or more	1	3%
Respondents	35	100%
Don't Know / No Answer	7	
Total	42	

Survey participants were asked if this was their first time being homeless and if not, they were asked how old they were the first time they experienced homelessness.

Table 3.126 shows that the majority (62%) of respondents reported that this was *not* the first time they had experienced homelessness. Fifty-five percent (55%) of all respondents reported experiencing homelessness for the first time when they were under 25 years of age (Table 3.127).

Table 3.126: Times Homeless - Parksville/Qualicum

Times Homeless	Total	
	#	%
First Time	13	38%
Not First Time	21	62%
Respondents	34	100%
Don't Know / No Answer	8	
Total	42	

Table 3.127: Age When First Homeless – General - Parksville/Qualicum

Age First Time Experiencing Homelessness	Total	
	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	17	55%
Adult (25-54 Years)	11	35%
Senior (55+)	3	10%
Respondents	31	100%
Don't Know / No Answer	11	
Total	42	

Table 3.127 shows the length of time survey respondents had lived in Parksville/Qualicum. Individuals experiencing homelessness in Parksville/Qualicum were likely to be long term residents of the community. Twenty-four percent (24%) of survey respondents had lived in Parksville/Qualicum all their lives and another 21% had lived there for ten or more years. Twenty-four percent (24%) of respondents indicated that they had lived in Parksville/Qualicum for less than one year.

Respondents were also asked to identify where they lived before arriving in Parksville/Qualicum. As shown in Table 3.129, the majority of respondent had lived in Metro Vancouver (5%) or another part of B.C. (57%) before arriving in the community. [85]

Table 3.128: Length of Time in Community - Parksville/Qualicum

Length of Time in Community	Total	
	#	%
Under 1 year	9	24%
Under 1 month	2	5%
1 month to <6 months	4	11%
6 months to <1 year	3	8%
1 year to under 5 years	8	21%
5 years to under 10 years	4	11%
10 years or more	8	21%
Always Been Here	9	24%
Respondents	**38**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	4	
Total	**42**	

Table 3.129: Where Lived Before Community – Parksville/Qualicum

Where Lived Before	Total	
	#	%
Always Been Here	8	22%
Metro Vancouver	2	5%
Elsewhere in BC	21	57%
Elsewhere in Canada	6	16%
Other Countries	0	0%
Respondents	**37**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	5	
Total	**42**	

[85] There is a discrepancy in responses between individuals who indicate they have always been in a community when asked how long they have been there and where they were before arriving in the community. This is due different response rates to the question, but also that some individuals may have lived in a community for much of their lives, but have left for short periods, and may respond to the question of where they were before by citing another community, even if they answered the length of time in community question as having 'Always been here.'

3.6.13 Service in the Military or RCMP

Survey participants were asked if they ever had any service in the Canadian Forces, including army, navy, airforce or RCMP. One individual in Parksville/Qualicum reported service in the Canadian military, and one individual reported service in another country's military.

3.6.14 Unsheltered on the Night of the Count – Where and Why

Unsheltered survey participants were asked where they stayed the previous night. Twenty-three percent (23%) of unsheltered survey respondents indicated that they stayed at someone else's place or couch-surfed the night of the count. The remaining respondents reported that they had slept outside (21%), in a vehicle (15%), in a makeshift shelter or tent (13%), in an abandoned/vacant building (13%), or at a parent or guardian's (3%).

Table 3.130: Where Stayed Night of Count (Unsheltered Only) - Parksville/Qualicum

Location	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Outside	8	21%
In a Vehicle (Car, Van, RV, Truck)	6	15%
Makeshift Shelter or Tent	5	13%
Abandoned/Vacant Building	5	13%
Someone Else's Place or Couch-Surfing	9	23%
On a Boat, Not Paying Moorage	0	0%
Parent(s)/Guardian(s) House, 25 and Older	1	3%
Other[86]	5	13%
Respondents	**39**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	0	
Total	**39**	

Survey participants who were unsheltered were asked for the main reason why they did not stay in a shelter the previous night. The main reason given by respondents was that they were able to stay with a friend (21%) or an 'other' reason (68%).

[86]"Other" location, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, were related to motels and hotels, with short-term or no security of tenure.

Table 3.131: Main Reason for Not Staying at a Shelter on the Night of the Count (Unsheltered Only) - Parksville/Qualicum

Reasons for not Staying in a Shelter	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Able to Stay with a Friend	6	21%
Dislike	1	4%
Don't Feel Safe	0	0%
Turned Away	0	0%
Bedbugs/Pests	0	0%
Other[87]	19	68%
Multiple Responses	2	7%
Respondents	**28**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	11	
Total	**39**	

Survey participants who were unsheltered were also asked if they had stayed in a shelter in the last year. As shown below, almost three quarters (71%) had not stayed in a shelter during the last 12 months.

Table 3.132: Have you stayed in a shelter in the last 12 months? – Parksville/Qualicum

Previous Stay in Shelter	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Yes	10	29%
No	25	71%
Respondents	**35**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	4	
Total	**39**	

[87] "Other" reasons for not staying in a shelter, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, were related to a) availability (particularly shelters closed or full), b) other options (particularly RVs, trailers, and vehicles, and family), and c) a desire to avoid negative activities/experiences at the shelter.

3.7 Community Profiles – Penticton

The 2018 Homeless Count in Penticton took place on the evening of April 29 and during the day of April 30.

The Penticton count was conducted in three shelter facilities, [88] along seven walking and driving routes, at three magnet event that provided food or services to community members, and at two agencies where people accessing services could complete the survey.

A total of 108 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness during the Penticton count.[89] This included 100 adults and 8 children who were under the age of 19 and accompanied by a parent or guardian.[90]

The majority of individuals identified as experiencing homelessness were sheltered (63%) and 37% reported being unsheltered.[91] Among the survey respondents who were unsheltered on the night of the count, 45% (18 individuals) reported sleeping outside, while 28% (11 individuals) reported couch-surfing or staying with friends. All the accompanied children were sheltered and were staying at a transition house.

Table 3.133: Adults and Accompanied Children, Shelters, Transition Houses, Detox, NFA and Unsheltered – Penticton

	Adults and Unaccompanied Youth		Accompanied Children		Total Homeless	
Homeless Category	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Sheltered Total	60	60%	8	100%	**68**	**63%**
Shelters	39	39%	0	0%	**39**	**36%**
Transition Houses	18	18%	8	100%	**26**	**24%**
Detox Centres	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
No Fixed Address (NFA)[1]	3	3%	0	0%	**3**	**3%**
Other	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Unsheltered Total	40	40%	0	0%	**40**	**37%**
Total Individuals Experiencing Homelessness	**100**	**100%**	**8**	**100%**	**108**	**100%**

[88] Can include any of the following: temporary or permanent shelters, or transition houses for women and children fleeing violence, or safe houses for youth if available in the community

[89] Children, for the 2018 Homeless Count, are defined as "accompanied children" who are under 19 years of age and who were with a parent or guardian during the count.

[90] Children, for the 2018 Homeless Count, are defined as "accompanied children" who are under 19 years of age and who were with a parent or guardian during the count.

[91] Unsheltered respondents include individuals sleeping outside, in a tent or makeshift structure, in a vehicle, or couch-surfing.

Table 3.134: Sheltered and Unsheltered - Penticton

Homeless Category	#	%
Sheltered	68	63%
Unsheltered	40	37%
Total	**108**	**100%**

3.7.1 Gender

Among survey respondents, 63% identified as male and 35% identified as female.[92] One respondent identified as another gender identity.

A greater proportion of unsheltered respondents identified as male than sheltered respondents (71% vs. 56%), while the proportion of respondents identifying as female was greater among the sheltered respondents than the unsheltered respondents (44% vs. 26%).

Table 3.135: Gender – General – Penticton

Gender Identity	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Man/Male	23	56%	27	71%	**50**	**63%**
Woman/Female	18	44%	10	26%	**28**	**35%**
Another Gender Identity	0	0%	1	3%	**1**	**1%**
Respondents	**41**	**100%**	**38**	**100%**	**79**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	27		2		**29**	
Total	**68**		**40**		**108**	

3.7.2 Age

The majority of survey respondents (60%) were adults (25-54 years of age), while nearly a quarter (24%) were seniors (55+ years of age), and 15% were youth under 25 years of age. [93]
A greater proportion of sheltered respondents were seniors than unsheltered respondents (32% vs. 16%), while adults made up a greater proportion of the unsheltered respondents than sheltered respondents (70% vs. 51%).

[92] During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their gender identity and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

[93] During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their age and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

Table 3.136: Age – General - Penticton

Age Groups	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	7	17%	5	14%	**12**	**15%**
Adult (25-54 Years)	21	51%	26	70%	**47**	**60%**
Senior (55+)	13	32%	6	16%	**19**	**24%**
Respondents	**41**	**100%**	**37**	**100%**	**78**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	27		3		**30**	
Total	**68**		**40**		**108**	

3.7.3 Indigenous Identity

A total of 18 survey respondents identified as Indigenous, representing 24% of all respondents, while 76% of respondents reported a non-Indigenous identity.[94]

A greater proportion of unsheltered respondents reported an Indigenous identity than sheltered respondents (28% vs. 20%).

Table 3.137: Indigenous / Identity – General - Penticton

Indigenous Identity	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Indigenous Identity	8	20%	10	28%	**18**	**24%**
Not Indigenous Identity	32	80%	26	72%	**58**	**76%**
Respondents	**40**	**100%**	**36**	**100%**	**76**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	28		4		**32**	
Total	**68**		**40**		**108**	

3.7.4 Newcomers to Canada

Survey participants[95] were asked if they had come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee.

Seven individuals, representing (9%) of respondents indicated that they had come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee. Five of these respondents had been in Canada for ten years or more, while one individual had been in Canada less than a year and one respondent had been here for between one and 5 years.

[94] During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their Indigenous identity and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

[95] The term "participant" is used for people who were asked a question and "respondent" for those who answered the survey question.

Table 3.138: Newcomers to Canada - Time in Canada – Penticton[96]

Newcomers to Canada-Time in Canada	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 1 year	1	25%	0	0%	**1**	**14%**
1 year to <5 years	1	25%	0	0%	**1**	**14%**
5 years to <10 years	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
10 years or more	2	50%	3	100%	**5**	**71%**
Respondents	**4**	**100%**	**3**	**100%**	**7**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	64		37		**101**	
Total	**68**		**40**		**108**	

3.7.5 Sexual Identity

Survey participants were asked to identify their sexual orientation.

Five percent (5%) of respondents identified as LGBTQ2S and 3% identified as another sexual orientation or provided multiple responses. A large majority of respondents identified as straight or heterosexual (92%).

Table 3.139: Sexual Identity – General - Penticton

Sexual Orientation	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Straight/Heterosexual	37	93%	30	91%	**67**	**92%**
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Two-spirit, Questioning, Queer (LGBTQ2S)	1	3%	3	9%	**4**	**5%**
Other (Not Listed / Multiple Responses)	2	5%	0	0%	**2**	**3%**
Respondents	**40**	**100%**	**33**	**100%**	**73**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	28		7		**35**	
Total	**68**		**40**		**108**	

3.7.6 Who Was with Survey Respondents

Survey participants were asked if they were with anyone on the day of the count. Most respondents (53%) reported being alone, while 23% reported being with friends and 16% were with their partner.

[97] "Other" responses varied, with no specific response accounting for 2% or more respondents across all communities.

Table 3.140: Who Was with Survey Respondents- Penticton

Who Was with Survey Respondents (more than 1 response allowed)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
With Someone	19	48%	16	46%	**35**	**47%**
Partner	7	18%	5	14%	**12**	**16%**
Child/Children	5	13%	1	3%	**6**	**8%**
Friend(s)	6	15%	11	31%	**17**	**23%**
Pet(s)	1	3%	0	0%	**1**	**1%**
Relative(s)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Other(s)[97]	2	5%	0	0%	**2**	**3%**
Alone	21	53%	19	54%	**40**	**53%**
Respondents	**40**	**100%**	**35**	**100%**	**75**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	28		5		**33**	
Total	**68**		**40**		**108**	

3.7.7 Barriers to Housing

Survey participants were asked what had caused them to lose their housing most recently.

[97] "Other" responses varied, with no specific response accounting for 2% or more respondents across all communities.

Table 3.141 shows that the main reasons reported by survey respondents for losing their housing most recently were high rents (21%), lack of available, suitable housing (16%), eviction (15%), and “other” reasons (29%).

Table 3.141: Reason for Loss of Housing - Penticton

Loss of Housing (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Illness or Medical Condition	3	8%	4	13%	**7**	**10%**
Addiction or Substance Use	0	0%	6	20%	**6**	**9%**
Job Loss	1	3%	1	3%	**2**	**3%**
Unable to Pay Rent or Mortgage	9	24%	5	17%	**14**	**21%**
Unsafe Housing Conditions	8	21%	3	10%	**11**	**16%**
Experienced Abuse by: Parent / Guardian	3	8%	0	0%	**3**	**4%**
Experienced Abuse by: Spouse / Partner	7	18%	1	3%	**8**	**12%**
Conflict with: Parent / Guardian	1	3%	0	0%	**1**	**1%**
Conflict with: Spouse / Partner	1	3%	3	10%	**4**	**6%**
Incarcerated (Jail or Prison)	0	0%	2	7%	**2**	**3%**
Hospitalization or Treatment Program	2	5%	0	0%	**2**	**3%**
Eviction	3	8%	7	23%	**10**	**15%**
Other Reason[98]	10	26%	10	33%	**20**	**29%**
Respondents	**38**		**30**		**68**	
Don't Know / No Answer	30		10		**40**	
Total	**68**		**40**		**108**	

Survey participants were also asked what barriers they faced in finding a place of their own.

[98]"Other Reason" for loss of housing, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, included responses related to a) conflict with someone other than a parent/guardian or spouse/partner, b) death of a family member or other, and c) end of a relationship/divorce.

APPENDIX 2

Table 3.142 shows the main barriers to accessing housing identified by respondents were high rents (53%) low incomes (39%), and a lack of available, suitable housing (29%), while 20% cited “other” reasons.

Table 3.142: Barriers to Accessing Housing - Penticton

Barriers to Accessing Housing (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Income Too Low	14	41%	12	38%	**26**	**39%**
History of Eviction/Lack of References	1	3%	2	6%	**3**	**5%**
Lack of Identification	0	0%	6	19%	**6**	**9%**
No Income/No Income Assistance	5	15%	8	25%	**13**	**20%**
Addiction	0	0%	5	16%	**5**	**8%**
Rent Too High	17	50%	18	56%	**35**	**53%**
Poor Housing Conditions	1	3%	3	9%	**4**	**6%**
No Housing Available that Suits My Needs	11	32%	8	25%	**19**	**29%**
Mental Health Issues	2	6%	0	0%	**2**	**3%**
Family Breakdown/Abuse/Conflict	3	9%	0	0%	**3**	**5%**
Conflict with Law	0	0%	1	3%	**1**	**2%**
Pets	2	6%	1	3%	**3**	**5%**
Discrimination	1	3%	1	3%	**2**	**3%**
Lack of Transportation	1	3%	0	0%	**1**	**2%**
Other Reason[99]	7	21%	6	19%	**13**	**20%**
Respondents	**34**		**32**		**66**	
Don't Know / No Answer	34		8		**42**	
Total	**68**		**40**		**108**	

3.7.8 Health Conditions

Survey participants were asked about their health, and whether they had a medical condition, physical disability, mental illness and/or addiction. Medical condition refers to chronic problems like asthma and diabetes, while physical disability refers to a condition affecting mobility or movement.

Nearly two-thirds of respondents (64%) reported an addiction, 56% reported a mental illness, 43% reported a medical condition, and 41% reported a physical disability. Unsheltered respondents were more likely to report an addiction or mental illness than sheltered respondents (78% vs. 51% and 61% vs. 51% respectively), while sheltered respondents were more likely to report a physical disability (46% vs. 36%).

[99] "Other" responses varied widely, with no specific response accounting for 2% or more respondents across all communities.

Table 3.143: Health Conditions - Penticton

Health Condition (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Medical Condition / Illness	17	44%	15	42%	**32**	**43%**
Physical Disability	18	46%	13	36%	**31**	**41%**
Addiction	20	51%	28	78%	**48**	**64%**
Mental Illness	20	51%	22	61%	**42**	**56%**
Respondents	**39**		**36**		**75**	
Don't Know / No Answer	29		4		**33**	
Total	**68**		**40**		**108**	

Table 3.144 shows the number of health conditions that respondents identified. Sixty-four percent (64%) reported two or more health conditions, while 13% reported no health conditions and 23% reported one health condition. Sheltered respondents were more likely to identify no health conditions than unsheltered respondents (18% vs. 8%).

Table 3.144: Health Conditions (Number) - Penticton

Number of Health Conditions	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
No Health Conditions	7	18%	3	8%	**10**	**13%**
1 Health Condition	9	23%	8	22%	**17**	**23%**
2 Health Conditions	10	26%	13	36%	**23**	**31%**
3 Health Conditions	6	15%	4	11%	**10**	**13%**
4 Health Conditions	7	18%	8	22%	**15**	**20%**
Respondents	**39**	**100%**	**36**	**100%**	**75**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	29		4		**33**	
Total	**68**		**40**		**108**	

3.7.9 Youth in Care

All survey participants were asked if they had ever lived in foster care, in a youth group home or under a youth/young adult agreement. In Penticton, 36% of respondents reported they had been in care. A higher proportion of unsheltered respondents than sheltered respondents indicated they had been in care (47% vs. 26%).

Table 3.145: Youth Who Were in Foster Care, Youth Group Homes, or Under a Youth Agreement - Penticton

Youth in Care	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	10	26%	16	47%	**26**	**36%**
Currently	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Previously	8	21%	12	35%	**20**	**27%**
Don't Know / No Answer	2	5%	4	12%	**6**	**8%**
No	29	74%	18	53%	**47**	**64%**
Respondents	**39**	**100%**	**34**	**100%**	**73**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	29		6		**35**	
Total	**68**		**40**		**108**	

3.7.10 Income

Survey participants were asked to identify their sources of income and could identify as many sources as applied.

Table 3.146 shows survey respondents in Penticton identified a wide range of income sources. Forty-six percent (46%) identified disability benefits as a source of income, followed by welfare/income assistance (37%) and informal/self-employment (21%).

Unsheltered survey respondents were more likely to identify welfare/income assistance as a source of income than sheltered respondents (52% vs. 26%). Unsheltered respondents were also more likely than sheltered respondents to identify disability benefits (52% vs. 41%) and informal/self employment such as binning or panhandling, as a source of income (29% vs. 15%).

Table 3.146: Sources of Income - Penticton

Sources of Income (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Welfare / Income Assistance	10	26%	16	52%	**26**	**37%**
Employment	8	21%	1	3%	**9**	**13%**
Job/Employment - Full-Time	4	10%	0	0%	**4**	**6%**
Job/Employment - Part-Time	4	10%	1	3%	**5**	**7%**
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Informal/Self Employment	6	15%	9	29%	**15**	**21%**
Panhandling	3	8%	1	3%	**4**	**6%**
Binning/Bottles	3	8%	8	26%	**11**	**16%**
Vending	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Seniors Benefits	9	23%	1	3%	**10**	**14%**
Old Age Security (OAS)/Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)	3	8%	0	0%	**3**	**4%**
CPP or Another Pension	7	18%	1	3%	**8**	**11%**
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Disability Benefit	16	41%	16	52%	**32**	**46%**
Employment Insurance	0	0%	1	3%	**1**	**1%**
Youth Agreement	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Money from Family/Friends	2	5%	2	6%	**4**	**6%**
Honoraria	1	3%	0	0%	**1**	**1%**
No Income	3	8%	0	0%	**3**	**4%**
Other[100]	2	5%	3	10%	**5**	**7%**
Respondents	**39**		**31**		**70**	
Don't Know / No Answer	29		9		**38**	
Total	**68**		**40**		**108**	

[100] "Other" sources of income accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities were related to other types of informal/part time employment or odd jobs.

3.7.11 Services Accessed

Survey participants were asked about the types of services they had used over the past 12 months.

As shown in

Table 3.147, respondents reported that they had accessed a variety of services including health, food, housing and other services such as drop ins. It is important to note that while individuals experiencing homelessness may have a need for a variety of services, the availability of those services varies greatly by community.

Food services were most frequently cited by respondents (79%), including meal programs (66%) and foodbanks (46%).

Health services were also cited as services that respondents had accessed over the previous 12 months (75%), with the most often cited being the emergency room (39%), ambulance (37%), and mental health services and addiction services (28% each).

Housing services were also reported as being used often by respondents (52%), particularly transitional housing (34%) and homeless outreach (28%).

APPENDIX 2

Table 3.147: Services Accessed in 12 Months Prior to Count - Penticton

Services Accessed (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Health Services	26	70%	24	80%	**50**	**75%**
Health Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Ambulance	10	27%	15	50%	**25**	**37%**
Emergency Room	11	30%	15	50%	**26**	**39%**
Hospital (Non-Emergency)	8	22%	6	20%	**14**	**21%**
Dental Clinic or Dentist	4	11%	4	13%	**8**	**12%**
Mental Health Services	11	30%	8	27%	**19**	**28%**
Addiction Services	6	16%	13	43%	**19**	**28%**
Health Clinic	11	30%	7	23%	**18**	**27%**
Food services	27	73%	26	87%	**53**	**79%**
Food Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	1	3%	**1**	**1%**
Food Banks	18	49%	13	43%	**31**	**46%**
Meal Programs/Soup Kitchens	23	62%	21	70%	**44**	**66%**
Legal Services	14	38%	9	30%	**23**	**34%**
Legal Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Legal	14	38%	6	20%	**20**	**30%**
Parole or Services for Ex-Offenders	1	3%	5	17%	**6**	**9%**
Employment and Financial Services	12	32%	8	27%	**20**	**30%**
Employment and Financial Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Employment/Job Help	12	32%	8	27%	**20**	**30%**
Budgeting/Trusteeship	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Housing Services	26	70%	9	30%	**35**	**52%**
Housing Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Housing Help/Eviction Prevention	3	8%	1	3%	**4**	**6%**
Homeless Outreach	12	32%	7	23%	**19**	**28%**
Transitional Housing	19	51%	4	13%	**23**	**34%**
Other Services	17	46%	12	40%	**29**	**43%**
Other Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Drop-In	9	24%	8	27%	**17**	**25%**
Newcomer Services	3	8%	0	0%	**3**	**4%**
Faith-Based/Spiritual Services	6	16%	2	7%	**8**	**12%**
Other	5	14%	5	17%	**10**	**15%**
None	2	5%	1	3%	**3**	**4%**
Respondents	**37**		**30**		**67**	
Don't Know / No Answer	31		10		**41**	
Total	**68**		**40**		**108**	

3.7.12 History of Homelessness

Just over half of survey respondents (53%) had been homeless for less than a year. Sheltered respondents were more likely to have been homeless for less than a year compared to unsheltered respondents (70% vs. 35%). Sixty-five percent (65%) of unsheltered respondents reported being homeless for a year or more, compared to 30% of sheltered respondents.

Table 3.148: Length of Time Homeless- Penticton

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
Length of Time Homeless	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Under 1 year	28	70%	13	35%	**41**	**53%**
Up to and including 7 days	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
8 days to <1 month	9	23%	1	3%	**10**	**13%**
1 month to <1 year	19	48%	12	32%	**31**	**40%**
1 year to under 5 years	11	28%	16	43%	**27**	**35%**
5 years to under 10 years	1	3%	5	14%	**6**	**8%**
10 years or more	0	0%	3	8%	**3**	**4%**
Respondents	**40**	**100%**	**37**	**100%**	**77**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	28		3		**31**	
Total	**68**		**40**		**108**	

Survey participants were asked if this was their first time being homeless and if not, they were asked how old they were the first time they experienced homelessness.

Table 3.149 shows that the majority (54%) of respondents reported that this was *not* the first time they had experienced homelessness. Fifty-six percent (56%) of all respondents reported experiencing homelessness for the first time when they were under 25 years of age.

Table 3.149: Times Homeless - Penticton

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
Times Homeless	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
First Time	19	49%	14	42%	**33**	**46%**
Not First Time	20	51%	19	58%	**39**	**54%**
Respondents	**39**	**100%**	**33**	**100%**	**72**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	29		7		**36**	
Total	**68**		**40**		**108**	

Table 3.150: Age When First Homeless – General - Penticton

Age When First Homeless	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	11	48%	11	69%	**22**	**56%**
Adult (25-54 Years)	7	30%	5	31%	**12**	**31%**
Senior (55 or Older)	5	22%	0	0%	**5**	**13%**
Respondents	**23**	**100%**	**16**	**100%**	**39**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	45		24		**69**	
Total	**68**		**40**		**108**	

Table 3.151 shows the length of time survey respondents had lived in Penticton. Individuals experiencing homelessness in Penticton were likely to be long term residents of the community. Eight percent (8%) of survey respondents had lived in Penticton all their lives and another 41% had lived there for ten or more years. Twenty-three percent (23%) of respondents indicated they had lived in Penticton for less than one year.

Respondents were also asked to identify where they lived before arriving in Penticton. As shown in

Table 3.152, the majority of respondent had lived in Metro Vancouver (11%) or another part of B.C. (41%) or elsewhere in Canada (38%).

Table 3.151: Length of Time in Community - Penticton

Length of Time in Community	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 1 year	14	35%	3	9%	**17**	**23%**
Under 1 month	5	13%	2	6%	**7**	**9%**
1 month to <6 months	5	13%	1	3%	**6**	**8%**
6 months to <1 year	4	10%	0	0%	**4**	**5%**
1 year to under 5 years	8	20%	6	18%	**14**	**19%**
5 years to under 10 years	0	0%	7	21%	**7**	**9%**
10 years or more	15	38%	15	44%	**30**	**41%**
Always Been Here	3	8%	3	9%	**6**	**8%**
Respondents	**40**	**100%**	**34**	**100%**	**74**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	28		6		**34**	
Total	**68**		**40**		**108**	

Table 3.152: Where Lived Before Community – Penticton

Where Lived Before	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Always Been Here	3	8%	3	10%	**6**	**9%**
Metro Vancouver	3	8%	4	13%	**7**	**11%**
Elsewhere in BC	20	56%	7	23%	**27**	**41%**
Elsewhere in Canada	10	28%	15	50%	**25**	**38%**
Other Countries	0	0%	1	3%	**1**	**2%**
Respondents	**36**	**100%**	**30**	**100%**	**66**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	32		10		**42**	
Total	**68**		**40**		**108**	

3.7.13 Service in the Military or RCMP

Survey participants were asked if they ever had any service in the Canadian Forces, including army, navy, airforce or RCMP.

Two individuals, representing 3% of survey respondents reported service in the Canadian armed forces or RCMP. Three survey respondents reported service in another country's military.

3.7.14 Unsheltered on the Night of the Count – Where and Why

Unsheltered survey participants were asked where they stayed the previous night. Forty-five percent (45%) of unsheltered survey respondents indicated that they slept outside, while 28% stayed at someone else's place or couch-surfed the night of the count. The remaining respondents reported that they slept in a vehicle (8%), in a makeshift shelter or tent (3%), in an abandoned building (3%), or at an 'other' location (15%).

Table 3.153: Where Stayed Night of Count (Unsheltered Only) - Penticton

Location	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Outside	18	45%
In a Vehicle (Car, Van, RV, Truck)	3	8%
Makeshift Shelter or Tent	1	3%
Abandoned/Vacant Building	1	3%
Someone Else's Place or Couch-Surfing	11	28%
On a Boat, Not Paying Moorage	0	0%
Parent(s)/Guardian(s) House, 25 and Older	0	0%
Other[101]	6	15%
Respondents	**40**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	0	
Total	**40**	

[101] "Other" location, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, were related to motels and hotels, with short-term or no security of tenure.

Survey participants who were unsheltered were asked for the main reason why they did not stay in a shelter the previous night. The main reason given by respondents was that they were turned away (19%), dislike it (16%), were able to stay with a friend (13%), don't feel safe (10%), or for an 'other reason' (35%).

Table 3.154: Main Reason for Not Staying at a Shelter on the Night of the Count (Unsheltered Only) - Penticton

Reasons for not Staying in a Shelter	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Able to Stay with a Friend	4	13%
Dislike	5	16%
Don't Feel Safe	3	10%
Turned Away	6	19%
Bedbugs/Pests	0	0%
Other[102]	11	35%
Multiple Responses	2	6%
Respondents	**31**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	9	
Total	**40**	

Survey participants who were unsheltered were also asked if they had stayed in a shelter in the last year. As shown in Table 3.155, sixty-three percent (63%) had stayed in a shelter during the last 12 months.

Table 3.155: Have you stayed in a shelter in the last 12 months? – Penticton

Previous Stay in Shelter	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Yes	15	63%
No	9	38%
Respondents	**24**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	16	
Total	**40**	

[102] "Other" reasons for not staying in a shelter, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, were related to a) availability (particularly shelters closed or full), b) other options (particularly RVs, trailers, and vehicles, and family), and c) a desire to avoid negative activities/experiences at the shelter.

3.8 Community Profiles – Port Alberni

The 2018 Homeless Count in Port Alberni took place on evening of April 10 and during the day of April 11.

The Port Alberni count was conducted in three shelter facilities,[103] along six walking or driving routes, at six magnet events that provided food or services to community members, and at 14 agencies where people accessing services could complete the survey.

A total of 147 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness during the Port Alberni count. This included 145 adults and 2 children who were under the age of 19 and accompanied by a parent or guardian.[104]

The majority of people identified as experiencing homelessness were unsheltered (57%) and 43% were sheltered.[105] Among the survey respondents who reported being unsheltered on the night of the count, 56% (46 individuals) reported couch-surfing or staying with friends. One accompanied child who was sheltered stayed at a transition house, and one child was identified as unsheltered. [106]

Table 3.156: Adults and Accompanied Children, Shelters, Transition Houses, Detox, NFA and Unsheltered – Port Alberni

Homeless Category	Adults and Unaccompanied Youth		Accompanied Children		Total Homeless	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Sheltered Total	62	43%	1	50%	**63**	**43%**
Shelters	38	26%	0	0%	**38**	**26%**
Transition Houses	5	3%	1	50%	**6**	**4%**
Detox Centres	6	4%	0	0%	**6**	**4%**
No Fixed Address (NFA)[107]	13	9%	0	0%	**13**	**9%**
Other	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Unsheltered Total	83	57%	1	50%	**84**	**57%**
Total Individuals Experiencing Homelessness	**145**	**100%**	**2**	**100%**	**147**	**100%**

[103] Can include any of the following: temporary or permanent shelters, or transition houses for women and children fleeing violence, or safe houses for youth if available in the community.
[104] Children, for the 2018 Homeless Count, are defined as "accompanied children" who are under 19 years of age and who were with a parent or guardian during the count.
[105] Unsheltered respondents include individuals sleeping outside, in a tent or makeshift structure, in a vehicle, or couch-surfing.
[106] Unsheltered children may have been couch-surfing or sleeping in a vehicle with a parent or guardian.
[107] Includes individuals staying in jails, hospitals, and short-term medical facilities.

Table 3.157: Sheltered and Unsheltered – Port Alberni[108]

Homeless Category	#	%
Sheltered	63	43%
Unsheltered	84	57%
Total	**147**	**100%**

3.8.1 Gender

Among survey respondents, 68% identified as male and 30% identified as female. An additional 2% of respondents identified as another gender identity.[109]

A greater proportion of sheltered respondents identified as male than unsheltered respondents (73% vs. 66%), while the proportion of respondents identifying as female was greater among unsheltered respondents than the sheltered respondents (32% vs. 27%).

Table 3.158: Gender – General – Port Alberni

Gender Identity	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Man/Male	24	73%	50	66%	**74**	**68%**
Woman/Female	9	27%	24	32%	**33**	**30%**
Another Gender Identity	0	0%	2	3%	**2**	**2%**
Respondents	**33**	**100%**	**76**	**100%**	**109**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	30		8		**38**	
Total	**63**		**84**		**147**	

3.8.2 Age

The majority of survey respondents (75%) were adults (25-54 years of age), while 10% were seniors (55+ years of age), and 15% were youth under 25 years of age.[110]

The proportion of seniors was greater among the sheltered respondents than unsheltered respondents (24% vs. 4%), while the proportion of youth was greater among unsheltered respondents than sheltered respondents (19% vs. 6%)

[108] Formatting of table will be revised to be consistent with other profiles for final report

[109] During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their gender identity and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

[110] During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their age and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

Table 3.159: Age – General - Port Alberni

Age Groups	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	2	6%	14	19%	**16**	**15%**
Adult (25-54 Years)	24	71%	58	77%	**82**	**75%**
Senior (55+)	8	24%	3	4%	**11**	**10%**
Respondents	**34**	**100%**	**75**	**100%**	**109**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	29		9		**38**	
Total	**63**		**84**		**147**	

3.8.3 Indigenous Identity

A total of 52 survey respondents identified as Indigenous, representing 48% of all respondents.[111]

A greater proportion of unsheltered respondents identified as Indigenous than sheltered respondents (53% vs. 38%).

Table 3.160: Indigenous / Identity – General - Port Alberni

Indigenous Identity	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Indigenous Identity	13	38%	39	53%	**52**	**48%**
Not Indigenous Identity	21	62%	35	47%	**56**	**52%**
Respondents	**34**	**100%**	**74**	**100%**	**108**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	29		10		**39**	
Total	**63**		**84**		**147**	

3.8.4 Newcomers to Canada

Survey participants[112] were asked if they had come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee. Three individuals, representing 3% of survey respondents reported coming to Canada as an immigrant or refugee. Two of these respondents reported being in Canada for more than 10 years.

3.8.5 Sexual Orientation

Survey participants were asked to identify their sexual orientation.

Nine percent (9%) of sheltered respondents and 3% of unsheltered respondents identified as LGBTQ2S. A large majority of respondents identified as straight or heterosexual (92%).

[111] During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their Indigenous identity and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

[112] The term "participant" is used for people who were asked a question and "respondent" for those who answered the survey question.

Table 3.161: Sexual Identity – General - Port Alberni

Sexual Orientation	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Straight/Heterosexual	29	88%	66	94%	**95**	**92%**
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Two-spirit, Questioning, Queer (LGBTQ2S)	3	9%	2	3%	**5**	**5%**
Other (Not Listed / Multiple Responses)	1	3%	2	3%	**3**	**3%**
Respondents	**33**	**100%**	**70**	**100%**	**103**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	30		14		**44**	
Total	**63**		**84**		**147**	

3.8.6 Who Was with Survey Respondents

Survey respondents were asked if they were with anyone on the day of the count. The majority of respondents (81%) reported being alone, while 12% reported being with a partner and 3% were with pets.

Sheltered respondents were more likely to be alone than unsheltered respondents (91% vs. 76%).

Table 3.162: With Someone – Port Alberni

Who Was with Survey Respondent (more than 1 possible response)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
With Someone	3	9%	18	24%	**21**	**19%**
Partner	0	0%	13	17%	**13**	**12%**
Child/Children	0	0%	1	1%	**1**	**1%**
Friend(s)	0	0%	1	1%	**1**	**1%**
Pet(s)	2	6%	1	1%	**3**	**3%**
Relative(s)	0	0%	1	1%	**1**	**1%**
Other(s)[113]	1	3%	0	0%	**1**	**1%**
Alone	31	91%	57	76%	**88**	**81%**
Respondents	**34**	**100%**	**75**	**100%**	**109**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	29		9		**38**	
Total	**63**		**84**		**147**	

[113] "Other" responses varied, with no specific response accounting for 2% or more respondents across all communities.

3.8.7 Barriers to Housing

Survey participants were asked what had caused them to lose their housing most recently.

Table 3.163 shows that the three main reasons reported by survey respondents for losing their housing most recently were addiction or substance use (37%), high rents (30%), and eviction (20%).

Table 3.163: Reason for Loss of Housing – Port Alberni

Loss of Housing (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Illness or Medical Condition	4	12%	10	14%	**14**	**14%**
Addiction or Substance Use	14	42%	24	34%	**38**	**37%**
Job Loss	5	15%	13	19%	**18**	**17%**
Unable to Pay Rent or Mortgage	10	30%	21	30%	**31**	**30%**
Unsafe Housing Conditions	3	9%	3	4%	**6**	**6%**
Experienced Abuse by: Parent / Guardian	1	3%	2	3%	**3**	**3%**
Experienced Abuse by: Spouse / Partner	5	15%	4	6%	**9**	**9%**
Conflict with: Parent / Guardian	3	9%	2	3%	**5**	**5%**
Conflict with: Spouse / Partner	5	15%	4	6%	**9**	**9%**
Incarcerated (Jail or Prison)	1	3%	12	17%	**13**	**13%**
Hospitalization or Treatment Program	2	6%	2	3%	**4**	**4%**
Eviction	5	15%	16	23%	**21**	**20%**
Other Reason[114]	6	18%	10	14%	**16**	**16%**
Respondents	**33**		**70**		**103**	
Don't Know / No Answer	30		14		**44**	
Total	**63**		**84**		**147**	

Survey participants were also asked what barriers they faced in finding a place of their own.

[114]"Other Reason" for loss of housing, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, included responses related to a) conflict with someone other than a parent/guardian or spouse/partner, b) death of a family member or other, and c) end of a relationship/divorce.

Table 3.164, shows that the three main barriers to accessing housing identified by respondents were high rents (82%), low incomes (64%), and a lack of available, suitable housing (46%).

Table 3.164: Barriers to Accessing Housing – Port Alberni

Barriers to Accessing Housing (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Income Too Low	17	52%	51	69%	**68**	**64%**
History of Eviction/Lack of References	7	21%	19	26%	**26**	**24%**
Lack of Identification	5	15%	33	45%	**38**	**36%**
No Income/No Income Assistance	4	12%	16	22%	**20**	**19%**
Addiction	10	30%	37	50%	**47**	**44%**
Rent Too High	29	88%	59	80%	**88**	**82%**
Poor Housing Conditions	5	15%	14	19%	**19**	**18%**
No Housing Available that Suits My Needs	17	52%	32	43%	**49**	**46%**
Mental Health Issues	9	27%	15	20%	**24**	**22%**
Family Breakdown/Abuse/Conflict	6	18%	5	7%	**11**	**10%**
Conflict with Law	2	6%	8	11%	**10**	**9%**
Pets	3	9%	9	12%	**12**	**11%**
Discrimination	4	12%	11	15%	**15**	**14%**
Lack of Transportation	5	15%	6	8%	**11**	**10%**
Other Reason[115]	4	12%	3	4%	**7**	**7%**
Respondents	**33**		**74**		**107**	
Don't Know / No Answer	30		10		**40**	
Total	**63**		**84**		**147**	

3.8.8 Health Conditions

Survey participants were asked about their health, and whether they had a medical condition, physical disability, mental illness and/or substance use issues. Medical condition refers to chronic problems like asthma and diabetes, while physical disability refers to a condition affecting mobility or movement.

The majority (64%) of respondents reported an addiction, 39% reported a mental illness, 37% reported a medical condition, and 32% reported a physical disability. Sheltered respondents were more likely to report a mental illness or addiction than unsheltered respondents, while unsheltered respondents were more likely to report a medical condition.

[115] "Other Reason" for barriers to accessing housing varied widely, with no specific response accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities

Table 3.165: Health Conditions – Port Alberni

Health Concern (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Medical Condition / Illness	11	32%	29	39%	**40**	**37%**
Physical Disability	11	32%	24	32%	**35**	**32%**
Addiction	23	68%	46	62%	**69**	**64%**
Mental Illness	16	47%	26	35%	**42**	**39%**
Respondents	**34**		**74**		**108**	
Don't Know / No Answer	29		10		**39**	
Total	**63**		**84**		**147**	

Table 3.166 shows the number of health conditions respondents identified. Fifty eight percent (58%) of survey respondents reported having two or more health conditions, while 14% reported no health conditions and 28% reported one health condition. Sheltered respondents were more likely to identify two or more health conditions than unsheltered respondents (65% vs. 55%).

Table 3.166: Health Conditions (Number) – Port Alberni

Number of Health Conditions	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
No Health Conditions	5	15%	10	14%	**15**	**14%**
1 Health Condition	7	21%	23	31%	**30**	**28%**
2 Health Conditions	14	41%	26	35%	**40**	**37%**
3 Health Conditions	6	18%	10	14%	**16**	**15%**
4 Health Conditions	2	6%	5	7%	**7**	**6%**
Respondents	**34**	**100%**	**74**	**100%**	**108**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	29		10		**39**	
Total	**63**		**84**		**147**	

3.8.9 Youth in Care

All survey participants were asked if they had ever lived in foster care, in a youth group home or under a youth/young adult agreement. In Port Alberni, 32% of respondents reported they had been in care.

The proportion of respondents reporting they had been in care was the same among sheltered and unsheltered respondents.

Table 3.167: Youth Who Were in Foster Care, Youth Group Homes, or Under a Youth Agreement – Port Alberni

Youth in Care	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	11	32%	21	32%	**32**	**32%**
Currently	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Previously	10	29%	12	18%	**22**	**22%**
Don't Know / No Answer	1	3%	9	14%	**10**	**10%**
No	23	68%	44	68%	**67**	**68%**
Respondents	**34**	**100%**	**65**	**100%**	**99**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	29		19		**48**	
Total	**63**		**84**		**147**	

3.8.10 Income

Survey participants were asked to identify their sources of income and could identify as many sources as applied.

As shown in

Table 3.168 survey respondents in Port Alberni identified a wide range of income sources. Forty percent (40%) identified disability benefits as an income source, followed by welfare/income assistance (36%), informal/self-employment (21%), and full or part-time employment (14%).

Unsheltered survey respondents were more likely to identify welfare/income assistance as a source of income than sheltered respondents (43% vs. 21%). Sheltered respondents were more likely to identify disability benefits as an income source than unsheltered respondents (61% vs. 31%).

Table 3.168: Sources of Income – Port Alberni

Source of Income (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Welfare / Income Assistance	7	21%	31	43%	**38**	**36%**
Employment	4	12%	11	15%	**15**	**14%**
Job/Employment – Full-Time	2	6%	5	7%	**7**	**7%**
Job/Employment – Part-Time	3	9%	6	8%	**9**	**9%**
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Informal/Self Employment	5	15%	17	24%	**22**	**21%**
Panhandling	3	9%	6	8%	**9**	**9%**
Binning/Bottles	4	12%	14	19%	**18**	**17%**
Vending	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Seniors Benefits	5	15%	0	0%	**5**	**5%**
Old Age Security (OAS)/Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)	1	3%	0	0%	**1**	**1%**
CPP or Other Pension	5	15%	0	0%	**5**	**5%**
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Disability Benefit	20	61%	22	31%	**42**	**40%**
Employment Insurance	1	3%	2	3%	**3**	**3%**
Youth Agreement	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Money from Family/Friends	2	6%	6	8%	**8**	**8%**
Honoraria	0	0%	1	1%	**1**	**1%**
No Income	0	0%	7	10%	**7**	**7%**
Other[116]	3	9%	2	3%	**5**	**5%**
Respondents	**33**		**72**		**105**	
Don't Know / No Answer	30		12		**42**	
Total	**63**		**84**		**147**	

[116] The specific "Other" accounting for 2% or more respondents across all communities were related to other types of informal/part time employment or odd jobs.

3.8.11 Services Accessed

Survey participants were asked about the types of services they had used over the past 12 months.

As shown in

Table 3.169: , respondents reported that they had accessed a variety of services including health, food, housing and other services such as drop ins. It is important to note that while individuals experiencing homelessness may have a need for a variety of services, the availability of those services varies greatly by community.

Food services were the most cited services that respondents had accessed over the previous 12 months (78%), with the majority (70%) accessing food banks and meal programs (62%). A greater proportion of unsheltered respondents reported using food services compared to sheltered respondents (81% vs 70%).

Almost three quarters (74%) of respondents reported that they had accessed health services over the previous 12 months, with 44% using non-emergency services and 43% using the emergency room. In all cases, a higher proportion of sheltered respondents reported accessing health services than unsheltered respondents.

Fifty-three percent (53%) of respondents reported accessing housing services over the last year, with 38% of respondents having accessed homeless outreach services. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of sheltered respondents and 39% of unsheltered respondents had accessed homeless outreach services.

APPENDIX 2

Table 3.169: Services Accessed in 12 Months Prior to Count – Port Alberni

Services Accessed (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Health Services	24	89%	42	68%	**66**	**74%**
Health Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Ambulance	7	26%	12	19%	**19**	**21%**
Emergency Room	16	59%	22	35%	**38**	**43%**
Hospital (Non-Emergency)	14	52%	25	40%	**39**	**44%**
Dental Clinic or Dentist	10	37%	9	15%	**19**	**21%**
Mental Health Services	13	48%	13	21%	**26**	**29%**
Addiction Services	13	48%	13	21%	**26**	**29%**
Health Clinic	12	44%	14	23%	**26**	**29%**
Food services	19	70%	50	81%	**69**	**78%**
Food Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Food Banks	16	59%	46	74%	**62**	**70%**
Meal Programs/Soup Kitchens	15	56%	40	65%	**55**	**62%**
Legal Services	8	30%	16	26%	**24**	**27%**
Legal Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Legal	8	30%	11	18%	**19**	**21%**
Parole or Services for Ex-Offenders	1	4%	9	15%	**10**	**11%**
Employment and Financial Services	10	37%	20	32%	**30**	**34%**
Employment and Financial Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Employment/Job Help	9	33%	20	32%	**29**	**33%**
Budgeting/Trusteeship	1	4%	1	2%	**2**	**2%**
Housing Services	18	67%	29	47%	**47**	**53%**
Housing Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Housing Help/Eviction Prevention	2	7%	6	10%	**8**	**9%**
Homeless Outreach	10	37%	24	39%	**34**	**38%**
Transitional Housing	12	44%	3	5%	**15**	**17%**
Other Services	12	44%	47	76%	**59**	**66%**
Other Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Drop-In	3	11%	43	69%	**46**	**52%**
Newcomer Services	1	4%	2	3%	**3**	**3%**
Faith-Based/Spiritual Services	7	26%	2	3%	**9**	**10%**
Other	2	7%	4	6%	**6**	**7%**
None	1	4%	0	0%	**1**	**1%**
Respondents	**27**		**62**		**89**	
Don't Know / No Answer	36		22		**58**	
Total	**63**		**84**		**147**	

3.8.12 History of Homelessness

Half of survey respondents (50%) had been homeless for less than a year. Unsheltered respondents were more likely to have been homeless for less than a year compared to sheltered respondents (54% vs. 42%).

Table 3.170: Length of Time Homeless – Port Alberni

Length of Time Homeless	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 1 year	14	42%	38	54%	**52**	**50%**
Up to and including 7 days	2	6%	4	6%	**6**	**6%**
8 days to <1 month	2	6%	12	17%	**14**	**13%**
1 month to <1 year	10	30%	22	31%	**32**	**31%**
1 year to under 5 years	13	39%	26	37%	**39**	**38%**
5 years to under 10 years	3	9%	5	7%	**8**	**8%**
10 years or more	3	9%	2	3%	**5**	**5%**
Respondents	**33**	**100%**	**71**	**100%**	**104**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	30		13		**43**	
Total	**63**		**84**		**147**	

Survey participants were asked if this was their first time being homeless and if not, they were asked how old they were the first time they experienced homelessness.

Table 3.171 shows that the majority (57%) of respondents reported that this was *not* the first time they had experienced homelessness. Sixty-one percent (61%) of respondents reported experiencing homelessness for the first time when they were under 25 years of age (

Table 3.172).

Table 3.171: Times Homeless – Port Alberni

Time Homeless	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
First Time	13	39%	29	45%	**42**	**43%**
Not First Time	20	61%	36	55%	**56**	**57%**
Respondents	**33**	**100%**	**65**	**100%**	**98**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	30		19		**49**	
Total	**63**		**84**		**147**	

Table 3.172: Age When First Homeless – General - Port Alberni

Age When First Homeless	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	14	56%	22	65%	**36**	**61%**
Adult (25-54 Years)	10	40%	12	35%	**22**	**37%**
Senior (55+)	1	4%	0	0%	**1**	**2%**
Respondents	**25**	**100%**	**34**	**100%**	**59**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	38		50		**88**	
Total	**63**		**84**		**147**	

Table 3.173 shows the length of time survey respondents had lived in Port Alberni. Individuals experiencing homelessness were likely to be long-term residents of the community. Twenty-eight percent (28%) of survey respondents had lived in Port Alberni all of their lives and 22% had lived in Port Alberni for ten or more years. Twenty percent (20%) of respondents indicated they had lived in Port Alberni for less than one year.

Respondents were also asked to identify where the lived before arriving in Port Alberni.

Table 3.174 shows that the majority of respondents had lived in Metro Vancouver (3%) or elsewhere in B.C. (52%) prior to moving to the community.

Table 3.173: Length of Time in Community – Port Alberni

Length of Time in Community	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 1 year	8	24%	13	19%	**21**	**20%**
Under 1 month	5	15%	4	6%	**9**	**9%**
1 month to <6 months	1	3%	3	4%	**4**	**4%**
6 months to <1 year	2	6%	6	9%	**8**	**8%**
1 year to under 5 years	7	21%	16	23%	**23**	**22%**
5 years to under 10 years	2	6%	5	7%	**7**	**7%**
10 years or more	7	21%	16	23%	**23**	**22%**
Always Been Here	10	29%	19	28%	**29**	**28%**
Respondents	**34**	**100%**	**69**	**100%**	**103**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	29		15		**44**	
Total	**63**		**84**		**147**	

Table 3.174: Where Lived Before Community – Port Alberni

Where Lived Before	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Always Been Here	7	22%	19	32%	**26**	**29%**
Metro Vancouver	0	0%	3	5%	**3**	**3%**
Elsewhere in BC	18	56%	29	49%	**47**	**52%**
Elsewhere in Canada	7	22%	7	12%	**14**	**15%**
Other Countries	0	0%	1	2%	**1**	**1%**
Respondents	**32**	**100%**	**59**	**100%**	**91**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	31		25		**56**	
Total	**63**		**84**		**147**	

3.8.13 Service in the Military or RCMP

Survey participants were asked if they ever had any service in the Canadian Forces, including army, navy, airforce or RCMP. Five percent (5%) of respondents reported service in the Canadian armed forces. One survey respondent had served in another country's military.

3.8.14 Unsheltered on the Night of the Count – Where and Why

Unsheltered survey participants were asked where they stayed the previous night. Fifty-six percent (56%) of unsheltered survey respondents indicated that they stayed at someone else's place or couch-surfed on the night of the count. The remaining survey respondents said they slept outside (10%), in a vehicle (9%), or in a makeshift shelter or tent (9%).

Table 3.175: Where Stayed Night of Count (Unsheltered Only) – Port Alberni

Location	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Outside	8	10%
In a Vehicle (Car, Van, RV, Truck)	7	9%
Makeshift Shelter or Tent	7	9%
Abandoned/Vacant Building	3	4%
Someone Else's Place or Couch-Surfing	46	56%
On a Boat, Not Paying Moorage	1	1%
Parent(s)/Guardian(s) House, 25 and Older	5	6%
Other[117]	5	6%
Respondents	**82**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	2	
Total	**84**	

[117] "Other" location, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, were related to motels and hotels, with short-term or no security of tenure.

Survey participants who were unsheltered were asked for the main reason why they did not stay in a shelter the previous night. The main reason given by respondents was that they were able to stay with a friend (52%).

Table 3.176: Main Reason for Not Staying at a Shelter on the Night of the Count (Unsheltered Only) – Port Alberni

Reason for Not Staying in a Shelter	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Able to Stay with a Friend	31	52%
Dislike	4	7%
Don't Feel Safe	3	5%
Turned Away	7	12%
Bedbugs/Pests	0	0%
Other[118]	8	13%
Multiple Responses	7	12%
Respondents	**60**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	24	
Total	**84**	

Survey participants who were unsheltered were also asked if they had stayed in a shelter in the last year. As shown in Table 3.177, the majority (61%) had not stayed in a shelter during the last 12 months.

Table 3.177: Have you stayed in a shelter in the last 12 months? – Port Alberni

Previous Stay in Shelter	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Yes	25	39%
No	39	61%
Respondents	**64**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	20	
Total	**84**	

[118]"Other" reasons for not staying in a shelter, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, were related to a) availability (particularly shelters closed or full), b) other options (particularly RVs, trailers, and vehicles, and family), and c) a desire to avoid negative activities/experiences at the shelter.

3.9 Community Profiles – Prince Rupert

The 2018 Homeless Count in Prince Rupert took place on the evening of March 20 and during the day of March 21.

The Prince Rupert count was conducted in two shelter facilities,[119] along five walking and driving routes, and at three agencies where people accessing services could complete the survey.[120]

A total of 71 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness during the Prince Rupert count. This included 58 adults and 13 children who were under the age of 19 and accompanied by a parent or guardian.[121]

The majority of individuals identified as experiencing homelessness were sheltered (61%) and 39% reported being unsheltered.[122] Among the survey respondents who were unsheltered on the night of the count, 68% (17 individuals) reported couch-surfing or staying with friends. All the accompanied children who were sheltered were staying at a transition house. Three accompanied children were identified as unsheltered.[123]

Table 3.178: Adults and Accompanied Children, Shelters, Transition Houses, Detox, NFA and Unsheltered – Prince Rupert

Homeless Category	Adults and Unaccompanied Youth		Accompanied Children		Total Homeless	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Sheltered Total	33	57%	10	77%	**43**	**61%**
Shelters	22	38%	0	0%	**22**	**31%**
Transition Houses	10	17%	10	77%	**20**	**28%**
Detox Centres	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
No Fixed Address (NFA)[124]	1	2%	0	0%	**1**	**1%**
Other	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Unsheltered Total	25	43%	3	23%	**28**	**39%**
Total Individuals Experiencing Homelessness	**58**	**100%**	**13**	**100%**	**71**	**100%**

[119] Can include any of the following: temporary or permanent shelters, or transition houses for women and children fleeing violence, or safe houses for youth if available in the community.
[120] The Local Coordinator engaged agencies to ensure walking routes were as thorough and accurate as passible, and that people could be invited to complete a survey at different times during the day. The Local Coordinator and volunteers offered a meal to individuals outside the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction office as one of their magnet events and meals were available throughout the day at various locations.
[121] Children, for the 2018 Homeless Count, are defined as "accompanied children" who are under 19 years of age and who were with a parent or guardian during the count.
[122] Unsheltered respondents include individuals sleeping outside, in a tent or makeshift structure, in a vehicle, or couch-surfing.
[123] These children may have been couch-surfing or sleeping in a vehicle with a parent or guardian.
[124] Includes individuals staying in jails, hospitals and short-term medical facilities.

Table 3.179: Sheltered and Unsheltered - Prince Rupert

Homeless Category	#	%
Sheltered	43	61%
Unsheltered	28	39%
Total	**71**	**100%**

3.9.1 Gender

Among survey respondents, 60% identified as male and 40% identified as female.[125]

A greater proportion of unsheltered respondents identified as male than sheltered respondents (64% vs. 57%), while the proportion of respondents identifying as female was greater among the sheltered respondents than the unsheltered respondents (43% vs. 36%).

Table 3.180: Gender – General – Prince Rupert

Gender Identity	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Man/Male	16	57%	16	64%	**32**	**60%**
Woman/Female	12	43%	9	36%	**21**	**40%**
Another Gender Identity	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Respondents	**28**	**100%**	**25**	**100%**	**53**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	15		3		**18**	
Total	**43**		**28**		**71**	

3.9.2 Age

The majority of survey respondents (70%) were adults (25-54 years of age), while nearly a quarter (23%) were seniors (55+ years of age).[126]

All four youth survey respondents (under 25 and unaccompanied by a parent) were unsheltered. The proportion of seniors who were sheltered was greater than the proportion who were unsheltered (25% vs. 20%).

[125]During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their gender identity and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

[126]During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their age and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

Table 3.181: Age – General - Prince Rupert

Age Groups	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	0	0%	4	16%	**4**	**8%**
Adult (25-54 Years)	21	75%	16	64%	**37**	**70%**
Senior (55+)	7	25%	5	20%	**12**	**23%**
Respondents	**28**	**100%**	**25**	**100%**	**53**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	15		3		**18**	
Total	**43**		**28**		**71**	

3.9.3 Indigenous Identity

A total of 47 survey respondents identified as Indigenous, representing 92% of all respondents.[127]

The proportion of respondents identifying as Indigenous was similar for both unsheltered and sheltered respondents (91% vs. 93%).

Table 3.182: Indigenous / Identity – General - Prince Rupert

Indigenous Identity	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Indigenous Identity	26	93%	21	91%	**47**	**92%**
Not Indigenous Identity	2	7%	2	9%	**4**	**8%**
Respondents	**28**	**100%**	**23**	**100%**	**51**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	15		5		**20**	
Total	**43**		**28**		**71**	

3.9.4 Newcomers to Canada

Survey participants[128] were asked if they had come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee. None of the respondents reported coming to Canada as an immigrant or refugee.

3.9.5 Sexual Orientation

Survey participants were asked to identify their sexual orientation.

Eight percent (8%) of sheltered respondents and 8% of unsheltered respondents identified as LGBTQ2S. A large majority of respondents identified as straight or heterosexual (90%).

[127] During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their Indigenous identity and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

[128] The term "participant" is used for people who were asked a question and "respondent" for those who answered the survey question.

Table 3.183: Sexual Orientation – General - Prince Rupert

Sexual Orientation	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Straight/Heterosexual	23	88%	22	92%	**45**	**90%**
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Two-spirit, Questioning, Queer (LGBTQ2S)	2	8%	2	8%	**4**	**8%**
Other (Not Listed / Multiple Responses)	1	4%	0	0%	**1**	**2%**
Respondents	**26**	**100%**	**24**	**100%**	**50**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	17		4		**21**	
Total	**43**		**28**		**71**	

3.9.6 Who Was With Survey Respondents

Survey participants were asked if they were with anyone on the day of the count. Most respondents (58%) reported being alone, while 19% reported being with a partner and 15% were with their children.

A higher proportion of sheltered respondents reported that they were with someone compared to unsheltered respondents (54% vs. 28%).

Table 3.184: Who Was With Survey Respondents - Prince Rupert

Who Was With Survey Respondents (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
With Someone	15	54%	7	28%	**22**	**42%**
Partner	6	21%	4	16%	**10**	**19%**
Child/Children	6	21%	2	8%	**8**	**15%**
Friend(s)	3	11%	2	8%	**5**	**9%**
Pet(s)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Relative(s)	0	0%	1	4%	**1**	**2%**
Other(s)[129]	1	4%	0	0%	**1**	**2%**
Alone	13	46%	18	72%	**31**	**58%**
Respondents	**28**	**100%**	**25**	**100%**	**53**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	15		3		**18**	
Total	**43**		**28**		**71**	

[129] "Other" responses varied, with no specific response accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities.

3.9.7 Barriers to Housing

Survey participants were asked what had caused them to lose their housing most recently.

Table 3.185 shows the three main reasons reported by survey respondents for losing their housing most recently were high rents (27%), eviction (24%) and "other" reasons (41%).

Table 3.185: Reason for Loss of Housing - Prince Rupert

Loss of Housing (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Illness or Medical Condition	1	4%	0	0%	**1**	**2%**
Addiction or Substance Use	5	19%	3	13%	**8**	**16%**
Job Loss	2	7%	1	4%	**3**	**6%**
Unable to Pay Rent or Mortgage	6	22%	8	33%	**14**	**27%**
Unsafe Housing Conditions	1	4%	2	8%	**3**	**6%**
Experienced Abuse by: Parent / Guardian	1	4%	0	0%	**1**	**2%**
Experienced Abuse by: Spouse / Partner	2	7%	0	0%	**2**	**4%**
Conflict with: Parent / Guardian	1	4%	0	0%	**1**	**2%**
Conflict with: Spouse / Partner	2	7%	0	0%	**2**	**4%**
Incarcerated (Jail or Prison)	0	0%	1	4%	**1**	**2%**
Hospitalization or Treatment Program	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Eviction	6	22%	6	25%	**12**	**24%**
Other Reason[130]	13	48%	8	33%	**21**	**41%**
Respondents	**27**		**24**		**51**	
Don't Know / No Answer	16		4		**20**	
Total	**43**		**28**		**71**	

Survey participants were also asked what barriers they faced in finding a place of their own.

[130] "Other Reason" for loss of housing, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, included responses related to a) conflict with someone other than a parent/guardian or spouse/partner, b) death of a family member or other, and c) end of a relationship/divorce.

Table 3.186, shows the three main barriers to accessing housing identified by respondents were high rents (69%) and low incomes (55%), while 22% cited “other” reasons.

Table 3.186: Barriers to Accessing Housing – Prince Rupert

Barriers to Accessing Housing (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Income Too Low	18	67%	10	42%	**28**	**55%**
History of Eviction/Lack of References	2	7%	0	0%	**2**	**4%**
Lack of Identification	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
No Income/No Income Assistance	4	15%	1	4%	**5**	**10%**
Addiction	4	15%	2	8%	**6**	**12%**
Rent Too High	20	74%	15	63%	**35**	**69%**
Poor Housing Conditions	2	7%	0	0%	**2**	**4%**
No Housing Available that Suits My Needs	4	15%	1	4%	**5**	**10%**
Mental Health Issues	0	0%	1	4%	**1**	**2%**
Family Breakdown/Abuse/Conflict	5	19%	0	0%	**5**	**10%**
Conflict with Law	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Pets	0	0%	1	4%	**1**	**2%**
Discrimination	1	4%	1	4%	**2**	**4%**
Lack of Transportation	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Other Reason[131]	6	22%	5	21%	**11**	**22%**
Respondents	**27**		**24**		**51**	
Don't Know / No Answer	16		4		**20**	
Total	**43**		**28**		**71**	

3.9.8 Health Conditions

Survey participants were asked about their health, and whether they had a medical condition, physical disability, mental illness and/or addiction. Medical condition refers to chronic problems like asthma and diabetes, while physical disability refers to a condition affecting mobility or movement.

More than half of respondents (56%) reported an addiction, 33% reported that they had a medical condition, 27% reported a mental illness, and 19% reported a physical disability. Sheltered respondents were more likely to report an addiction than unsheltered respondents (74% vs. 36%), while other health conditions were fairly similar between the two groups.

[131] "Other Reason" for barriers to accessing housing varied widely, with no specific response accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities.

Table 3.187: Health Conditions - Prince Rupert

Health Condition (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Medical Condition / Illness	8	30%	9	36%	**17**	**33%**
Physical Disability	5	19%	5	20%	**10**	**19%**
Addiction	20	74%	9	36%	**29**	**56%**
Mental Illness	7	26%	7	28%	**14**	**27%**
Respondents	**27**		**25**		**52**	
Don't Know / No Answer	16		3		**19**	
Total	**43**		**28**		**71**	

Table 3.188 shows the number of health conditions respondents identified. Forty percent (40%) reported two or more health conditions, while 31% reported no health conditions and 29% reported one health condition. Unsheltered respondents were more likely to identify no health conditions than sheltered respondents (52% vs. 11%).

Table 3.188: Health Conditions (Number) - Prince Rupert

Number of Health Conditions	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
No Health Conditions	3	11%	13	52%	**16**	**31%**
1 Health Condition	13	48%	2	8%	**15**	**29%**
2 Health Conditions	7	26%	4	16%	**11**	**21%**
3 Health Conditions	3	11%	4	16%	**7**	**13%**
4 Health Conditions	1	4%	2	8%	**3**	**6%**
Respondents	**27**	**100%**	**25**	**100%**	**52**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	16		3		**19**	
Total	**43**		**28**		**71**	

3.9.9 Youth in Care

All survey participants were asked if they had ever lived in foster care, in a youth group home or under a youth/young adult agreement. In Prince Rupert, 33% of respondents reported they had been in care. A higher proportion of sheltered respondents than unsheltered respondents indicated they had been in care (41% vs. 25%).

Table 3.189: Youth Who Were in Foster Care, Youth Group Homes, or Under a Youth Agreement - Prince Rupert

Youth in Care	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	11	41%	6	25%	**17**	**33%**
Currently	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Previously	9	33%	6	25%	**15**	**29%**
Don't Know / No Answer	2	7%	0	0%	**2**	**4%**
No	16	59%	18	75%	**34**	**67%**
Respondents	**27**	**100%**	**24**	**100%**	**51**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	16		4		**20**	
Total	**43**		**28**		**71**	

3.9.10 Income

Survey participants were asked to identify their sources of income and could identify as many sources as applied.

Table 3.190 shows survey respondents in Prince Rupert identified a wide range of income sources. Fifty-one percent (51%) identified welfare/income assistance as a source of income, followed by employment (27%) and seniors' benefits (14%).

Sheltered survey respondents were more likely to identify welfare/income assistance as a source of income than unsheltered respondents (63% vs. 38%). Sheltered respondents were also more likely to identify informal/self employment such as binning or panhandling as a source of income than unsheltered respondents (22% vs. 0%).

Table 3.190: Sources of Income - Prince Rupert

Sources of Income (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Welfare / Income Assistance	17	63%	9	38%	**26**	**51%**
Employment	6	22%	8	33%	**14**	**27%**
Job/Employment - Full-Time	1	4%	5	21%	**6**	**12%**
Job/Employment - Part-Time	5	19%	3	13%	**8**	**16%**
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Informal/Self Employment	6	22%	0	0%	**6**	**12%**
Panhandling	4	15%	0	0%	**4**	**8%**
Binning/Bottles	2	7%	0	0%	**2**	**4%**
Vending	1	4%	0	0%	**1**	**2%**
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Seniors Benefits	4	15%	3	13%	**7**	**14%**
Old Age Security (OAS)/Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)	2	7%	3	13%	**5**	**10%**
CPP or Other Pension	3	11%	2	8%	**5**	**10%**
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Disability Benefit	2	7%	2	8%	**4**	**8%**
Employment Insurance	2	7%	3	13%	**5**	**10%**
Youth Agreement	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Money from Family/Friends	0	0%	1	4%	**1**	**2%**
Honoraria	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
No Income	1	4%	1	4%	**2**	**4%**
Other[132]	2	7%	1	4%	**3**	**6%**
Respondents	**27**		**24**		**51**	
Don't Know / No Answer	16		4		**20**	
Total	**43**		**28**		**71**	

[132] "Other" sources of income accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities were related to other types of informal/part time employment or odd jobs.

3.9.11 Services Accessed

Survey participants were asked about the types of services they had used over the past 12 months.

As shown in

Table 3.191, respondents reported that they had accessed a variety of services including health, food, housing and other services such as drop ins. Generally, respondents in shelters reported accessing a greater number of services compared to respondents who were unsheltered. It is important to note that while individuals experiencing homelessness may have a need for a variety of services, the availability of those services varies greatly by community.

Health services were the most cited services that respondents had accessed over the previous 12 months (84%), with the majority (59%) using the emergency room and 37% using the hospital (non-emergency) and a health clinic (37%). Sheltered respondents were more likely to report accessing health services than unsheltered respondents. More than a quarter of respondents (27%) had accessed addiction services over the previous year - with a greater proportion of sheltered respondents (42%) having accessed these services compared to unsheltered respondents (9%).

Food services were also frequently cited by respondents (73%), including meal programs (59%) and foodbanks (49%). A greater proportion of sheltered respondents reported using meal programs than unsheltered respondents (73% vs. 43%), while a greater proportion of unsheltered respondents reported using foodbanks (than sheltered respondents (52% vs. 46%).

Fifty percent (50%) of sheltered respondents had accessed homeless outreach services over the past year compared to 13% of unsheltered respondents.

APPENDIX 2

Table 3.191: Services Accessed in 12 Months Prior to Count - Prince Rupert

Services Accessed (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Health Services	23	88%	18	78%	**41**	**84%**
Health Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Ambulance	11	42%	3	13%	**14**	**29%**
Emergency Room	19	73%	10	43%	**29**	**59%**
Hospital (Non-Emergency)	10	38%	8	35%	**18**	**37%**
Dental Clinic or Dentist	9	35%	6	26%	**15**	**31%**
Mental Health Services	7	27%	5	22%	**12**	**24%**
Addiction Services	11	42%	2	9%	**13**	**27%**
Health Clinic	10	38%	8	35%	**18**	**37%**
Food services	22	85%	14	61%	**36**	**73%**
Food Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Food Banks	12	46%	12	52%	**24**	**49%**
Meal Programs/Soup Kitchens	19	73%	10	43%	**29**	**59%**
Legal Services	6	23%	7	30%	**13**	**27%**
Legal Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Legal	5	19%	6	26%	**11**	**22%**
Parole or Services for Ex-Offenders	1	4%	3	13%	**4**	**8%**
Employment and Financial Services	8	31%	3	13%	**11**	**22%**
Employment and Financial Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Employment/Job Help	8	31%	3	13%	**11**	**22%**
Budgeting/Trusteeship	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Housing Services	17	65%	5	22%	**22**	**45%**
Housing Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Housing Help/Eviction Prevention	3	12%	0	0%	**3**	**6%**
Homeless Outreach	13	50%	3	13%	**16**	**33%**
Transitional Housing	7	27%	2	9%	**9**	**18%**
Other Services	12	46%	7	30%	**19**	**39%**
Other Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Drop-In	3	12%	1	4%	**4**	**8%**
Newcomer Services	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Faith-Based/Spiritual Services	3	12%	3	13%	**6**	**12%**
Other	6	23%	3	13%	**9**	**18%**
None	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Respondents	**26**		**23**		**49**	
Don't Know / No Answer	17		5		**22**	
Total	**43**		**28**		**71**	

3.9.12 History of Homelessness

Just over half of survey respondents (51%) had been homeless for less than a year. Sheltered respondents were more likely to have been homeless for less than a year compared to unsheltered respondents (65% vs. 36%). Sixty-four percent (64%) of unsheltered respondents reported being homeless for a year or more, compared to 35% of sheltered respondents.

Table 3.192: Length of Time Homeless - Prince Rupert

Length of Time Homeless	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 1 year	17	65%	9	36%	**26**	**51%**
Up to and including 7 days	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
8 days to <1 month	2	8%	0	0%	**2**	**4%**
1 month to <1 year	15	58%	9	36%	**24**	**47%**
1 year to under 5 years	7	27%	12	48%	**19**	**37%**
5 years to under 10 years	2	8%	3	12%	**5**	**10%**
10 years or more	0	0%	1	4%	**1**	**2%**
Respondents	**26**	**100%**	**25**	**100%**	**51**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	17		3		**20**	
Total	**43**		**28**		**71**	

Survey participants were asked if this was their first time being homeless and if not, they were asked how old they were the first time they experienced homelessness.

Table 3.193 shows that the majority (52%) of respondents reported that this was *not* the first time they had experienced homelessness. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of all respondents reported experiencing homelessness for the first time when they were under 25 years of age.

Table 3.193: Times Homeless - Prince Rupert

Times Homeless	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
First Time	13	48%	11	48%	**24**	**48%**
Not First Time	14	52%	12	52%	**26**	**52%**
Respondents	**27**	**100%**	**23**	**100%**	**50**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	16		5		**21**	
Total	**43**		**28**		**71**	

Table 3.194: Age When First Homeless – General - Prince Rupert

Age When First Homeless	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	3	20%	8	53%	**11**	**37%**
Adult (25-54 Years)	12	80%	6	40%	**18**	**60%**
Senior (55+)	0	0%	1	7%	**1**	**3%**
Respondents	**15**	**100%**	**15**	**100%**	**30**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	28		13		**41**	
Total	**43**		**28**		**71**	

Table 3.195 shows the length of time survey respondents had lived in Prince Rupert. Individuals experiencing homelessness in Prince Rupert were likely to be long term residents of the community. Thirty-three percent (33%) of survey respondents had lived in Prince Rupert all their lives and another 27% had lived there for ten or more years. Twenty percent (20%) of respondents indicated they had lived in Prince Rupert for less than one year.

Respondents were also asked to identify where they lived before arriving in Prince Rupert. As shown in Table 3.196, 10% of respondents had lived in Metro Vancouver and 48% had lived in another part of B.C.[133]

Table 3.195: Length of Time in Community - Prince Rupert

Length of Time in Community	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 1 year	5	19%	5	21%	**10**	**20%**
Under 1 month	1	4%	1	4%	**2**	**4%**
1 month to <6 months	3	11%	4	17%	**7**	**14%**
6 months to <1 year	1	4%	0	0%	**1**	**2%**
1 year to under 5 years	2	7%	6	25%	**8**	**16%**
5 years to under 10 years	1	4%	1	4%	**2**	**4%**
10 years or more	7	26%	7	29%	**14**	**27%**
Always Been Here	12	44%	5	21%	**17**	**33%**
Respondents	**27**	**100%**	**24**	**100%**	**51**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	16		4		**20**	
Total	**43**		**28**		**71**	

[133] There is a discrepancy in responses between individuals who indicate they have always been in a community when asked how long they have been there and where they were before arriving in the community. This is due to different response rates to the question and also because some individuals may have lived in a community for much of their lives, but have left for short periods, and may respond to the question of where they were before by citing another community, even if they answered the length of time in community question as 'Always been here.'

Table 3.196: Where Lived Before Community – Prince Rupert

Where Lived Before	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Always Been Here	11	44%	4	17%	**15**	**31%**
Metro Vancouver	1	4%	4	17%	**5**	**10%**
Elsewhere in BC	10	40%	13	57%	**23**	**48%**
Elsewhere in Canada	3	12%	2	9%	**5**	**10%**
Other Countries	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Respondents	**25**	**100%**	**23**	**100%**	**48**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	18		5		**23**	
Total	**43**		**28**		**71**	

3.9.13 Service in the Military or RCMP

Survey participants were asked if they ever had any service in the Canadian Forces, including army, navy, airforce or RCMP.

One individual, representing (2%) of respondents reported service in the Canadian armed forces or RCMP, while another individual reported service in another country's military.

3.9.14 Unsheltered on the Night of the Count – Where and Why

Unsheltered survey participants were asked where they stayed the previous night. Sixty-eight percent (68%) of unsheltered survey respondents indicated that they stayed at someone else's place or couch-surfed the night of the count. The remaining respondents reported that they slept at a parent or guardian's (8%), in a vehicle (8%), at an 'other' location (8%) or outside (4%).

Table 3.197: Where Stayed Night of Count (Unsheltered Only) - Prince Rupert

Location	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Outside	1	4%
In a Vehicle (Car, Van, RV, Truck)	2	8%
Makeshift Shelter or Tent	0	0%
Abandoned/Vacant Building	1	4%
Someone Else's Place or Couch-Surfing	17	68%
On a Boat, Not Paying Moorage	0	0%
Parent(s)/Guardian(s) House, 25 Years and Older	2	8%
Other[134]	2	8%
Respondents	**25**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	3	
Total	**28**	

[134] "Other" location, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, were related to motels and hotels, with short-term or no security of tenure.

Survey participants who were unsheltered were asked for the main reason why they did not stay in a shelter the previous night. The main reason given by respondents was that they were able to stay with a friend (63%).

Table 3.198: Main Reason for Not Staying at a Shelter on the Night of the Count (Unsheltered Only) - Prince Rupert

Reasons for not Staying in a Shelter	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Able to Stay with a Friend	12	63%
Dislike	1	5%
Don't Feel Safe	0	0%
Turned Away	0	0%
Bedbugs/Pests	0	0%
Other[135]	3	16%
Multiple Responses	3	16%
Respondents	**19**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	9	
Total	**28**	

Survey participants who were unsheltered were also asked whether they had stayed in a shelter in the last year. As shown in Table 3.199, almost three quarters (74%) had not stayed in a shelter during the last 12 months.

Table 3.199: Have you stayed in a shelter in the last 12 months? – Prince Rupert

Previous Stay in Shelter	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Yes	5	26%
No	14	74%
Respondents	**19**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	9	
Total	**28**	

[135] "Other" reasons for not staying in a shelter, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, were related to a) availability (particularly shelters closed or full), b) other options (particularly RVs, trailers, and vehicles, and family), and c) a desire to avoid negative activities/experiences at the shelter.

3.10 Community Profiles – Sechelt/Gibsons

The 2018 Homeless Count in Sechelt/Gibsons took place on the evening of April 22 and during the day of April 23.

The Sechelt/Gibsons count was conducted in one shelter facility[136], along six walking and driving routes, at three magnet events (including one in Roberts Creek) that provided food or services to community members, and at four agencies where people accessing services could complete the survey.

A total of 57 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness during the Sechelt/Gibsons count. This included 53 adults and 4 children who were under the age of 19 and accompanied by a parent or guardian.[137]

Slightly more than half of individuals identified as experiencing homelessness were sheltered (53%) and 47% reported being unsheltered.[138]Among the survey respondents who were unsheltered on the night of the count, 37% (10 individuals) reported sleeping outside and 26% (7 individuals) reported couch-surfing or staying with friends (Table 3.219). All the accompanied children who were sheltered were staying at a transition house.

Table 3.200: Adults and Accompanied Children, Shelters, Transition Houses, Detox, NFA and Unsheltered – Sechelt/Gibsons

Homeless Category	Adults and Unaccompanied Youth		Accompanied Children		Total Homeless	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Sheltered Total	26	49%	4	100%	**30**	**53%**
Shelters	20	38%	0	0%	**6**	**11%**
Transition Houses	2	4%	4	100%	**20**	**35%**
Detox Centres	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
No Fixed Address (NFA)[139]	4	8%	0	0%	**4**	**7%**
Other	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Unsheltered Total	27	51%	0	0%	**27**	**47%**
Total Individuals Experiencing Homelessness	**53**	**100%**	**4**	**100%**	**57**	**100%**

[136] Can include any of the following: temporary or permanent shelters, or transition houses for women and children fleeing violence, or safe houses for youth if available in the community.
[137]Children, for the 2018 Homeless Count, are defined as "accompanied children" who are under 19 years of age and who were with a parent or guardian during the count.
[138] Unsheltered respondents include individuals sleeping outside, in a tent or makeshift structure, in a vehicle, or couch-surfing.
[139] Includes individuals staying in jails, hospitals, and short-term medical facilities.

Table 3.201: Sheltered and Unsheltered - Sechelt/Gibsons

Homeless Category	#	%
Sheltered	30	53%
Unsheltered	27	47%
Total	**57**	**100%**

3.10.1 Gender

Among survey respondents, 54% identified as male and 46% identified as female.[140]

Although a slightly higher proportion of sheltered respondents identified as male compared to unsheltered respondents, the proportions of sheltered and unsheltered respondents were fairly similar in terms of gender identity.

Table 3.202: Gender – General – Sechelt/Gibsons

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
Gender Identity	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Man/Male	8	57%	14	52%	**22**	**54%**
Woman/Female	6	43%	13	48%	**19**	**46%**
Another Gender Identity	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Respondents	**14**	**100%**	**27**	**100%**	**41**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	16		0		**16**	
Total	**30**		**27**		**57**	

3.10.2 Age

About two thirds of survey respondents (66%) were adults (25-54 years of age), while 29% were seniors (55+ years of age), and 5% were youth under 25 years of age.[141]

Both youth survey respondents were unsheltered.

Table 3.203: Age – General - Sechelt/Gibsons

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
Age Groups	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Youth (Under 25 Years)	0	0%	2	7%	**2**	**5%**
Adult (25-54 Years)	10	71%	17	63%	**27**	**66%**
Senior (55+)	4	29%	8	30%	**12**	**29%**
Respondents	**14**	**100%**	**27**	**100%**	**41**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	16		0		**16**	
Total	**30**		**27**		**57**	

[140]During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their gender identity and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

[141]During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their age and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

3.10.3 Indigenous Identity

A total of 11 survey respondents identified as Indigenous, representing 27% of all respondents.[142]

The proportion of sheltered respondents identifying as Indigenous was higher than unsheltered respondents (50% vs. 15%).

Table 3.204: Indigenous / Identity – General - Sechelt/Gibsons

Indigenous Identity	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Indigenous Identity	7	50%	4	15%	**11**	**27%**
Not Indigenous Identity	7	50%	23	85%	**30**	**73%**
Respondents	**14**	**100%**	**27**	**100%**	**41**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	16		0		**16**	
Total	**30**		**27**		**57**	

3.10.4 Newcomers to Canada

Survey participants[143] were asked if they had come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee. Two individuals, representing 5% of survey respondents indicated that they had come to Canada as an immigrant.

3.10.5 Sexual Orientation

Survey participants were asked to identify their sexual orientation.

Five percent (5%) of respondents identified as LGBTQ2S. A large majority of respondents identified as straight or heterosexual (93%) while one individual (2%) provided an 'other' response.

Table 3.205: Sexual Identity – General - Sechelt/Gibsons

Sexual Orientation	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Straight/Heterosexual	13	93%	25	93%	**38**	**93%**
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Two-spirit, Questioning, Queer (LGBTQ2S)	1	7%	1	4%	**2**	**5%**
Other (Not Listed / Multiple Responses)	0	0%	1	4%	**1**	**2%**
Respondents	**14**	**100%**	**27**	**100%**	**41**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	16		0		**16**	
Total	**30**		**27**		**57**	

[142] During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their Indigenous identity and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

[143] The term "participant" is used for people who were asked a question and "respondent" for those who answered the survey question.

3.10.6 Who Was with Survey Respondents

Survey participants were asked if they were with anyone on the day of the count. Most respondents (63%) reported being alone, while 18% reported being with a partner and 8% were with friends. A higher proportion of sheltered respondents reported that they were with someone compared to unsheltered respondents (43% vs. 33%).

Table 3.206: Who Was With Survey Respondents - Sechelt/Gibsons

Who Was With Survey Respondents (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
With Someone	6	43%	8	33%	**14**	**37%**
Partner	5	36%	2	8%	**7**	**18%**
Child/Children	1	7%	0	0%	**1**	**3%**
Friend(s)	0	0%	3	13%	**3**	**8%**
Pet(s)	0	0%	2	8%	**2**	**5%**
Relative(s)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Other(s)[144]	0	0%	1	4%	**1**	**3%**
Alone	8	57%	16	67%	**24**	**63%**
Respondents	**14**	**100%**	**24**	**100%**	**38**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	16		3		**19**	
Total	**30**		**27**		**57**	

3.10.7 Barriers to Housing

Survey participants were asked what had caused them to lose their housing most recently.

Table 3.205 shows that the main reasons reported by survey respondents for losing their housing most recently were eviction (28%), high rents (26%), and "other" reasons (38%).

[144] "Other" responses varied, with no specific response accounting for 2% or more respondents across all communities.

Table 3.207: Reason for Loss of Housing - Sechelt/Gibsons

Loss of Housing (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Illness or Medical Condition	3	23%	2	8%	**5**	**13%**
Addiction of Substance Use	2	15%	2	8%	**4**	**10%**
Job Loss	1	8%	1	4%	**2**	**5%**
Unable to Pay Rent or Mortgage	3	23%	7	27%	**10**	**26%**
Unsafe Housing Conditions	0	0%	2	8%	**2**	**5%**
Experienced Abuse by: Parent / Guardian	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Experienced Abuse by: Spouse / Partner	0	0%	1	4%	**1**	**3%**
Conflict with: Parent / Guardian	0	0%	1	4%	**1**	**3%**
Conflict with: Spouse / Partner	1	8%	3	12%	**4**	**10%**
Incarcerated (Jail or Prison)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Hospitalization or Treatment Program	1	8%	1	4%	**2**	**5%**
Eviction	3	23%	8	31%	**11**	**28%**
Other Reason[145]	5	38%	10	38%	**15**	**38%**
Respondents	**13**		**26**		**39**	
Don't Know / No Answer	17		1		**18**	
Total	**30**		**27**		**57**	

Survey participants were also asked what barriers they faced in finding a place of their own.

[145]"Other Reason" for loss of housing, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, included responses related to a) conflict with someone other than a parent/guardian or spouse/partner, b) death of a family member or other, and c) end of a relationship/divorce.

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Table 3.208 shows that the main barriers to accessing housing identified by respondents were high rents (56%), low incomes (41%), and a lack of available, suitable housing (20%), while 22% cited “other” reasons.

Table 3.208: Barriers to Accessing Housing - Sechelt/Gibsons

Barriers to Accessing Housing (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Income Too Low	6	43%	11	41%	**17**	**41%**
History of Eviction/Lack of References	1	7%	3	11%	**4**	**10%**
Lack of Identification	2	14%	0	0%	**2**	**5%**
No Income/No Income Assistance	1	7%	3	11%	**4**	**10%**
Addiction	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Rent Too High	8	57%	15	56%	**23**	**56%**
Poor Housing Conditions	1	7%	4	15%	**5**	**12%**
No Housing Available that Suits My Needs	2	14%	6	22%	**8**	**20%**
Mental Health Issues	2	14%	1	4%	**3**	**7%**
Family Breakdown/Abuse/Conflict	1	7%	4	15%	**5**	**12%**
Conflict with Law	0	0%	1	4%	**1**	**2%**
Pets	2	14%	4	15%	**6**	**15%**
Discrimination	1	7%	2	7%	**3**	**7%**
Lack of Transportation	0	0%	2	7%	**2**	**5%**
Other Reason[146]	4	29%	5	19%	**9**	**22%**
Respondents	**14**		**27**		**41**	
Don't Know / No Answer	16		0		**16**	
Total	**30**		**27**		**57**	

3.10.8 Health Conditions

Survey participants were asked about their health, and whether they had a medical condition, physical disability, mental illness and/or addiction. Medical condition refers to chronic problems like asthma and diabetes, while physical disability refers to a condition affecting mobility or movement.

Nearly half of respondents (49%) reported a mental illness, 46% reported a medical condition, 44% reported a physical disability and 41% reported an addiction. Sheltered respondents were more likely to report health conditions than unsheltered respondents.

[146] "Other Reason" for barriers to accessing housing varied widely, with no specific response accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities.

Table 3.209: Health Conditions - Sechelt/Gibsons

Health Condition (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Medical Condition / Illness	10	71%	9	33%	**19**	**46%**
Physical Disability	7	50%	11	41%	**18**	**44%**
Addiction	8	57%	9	33%	**17**	**41%**
Mental Illness	9	64%	11	41%	**20**	**49%**
Respondents	**14**		**27**		**41**	
Don't Know / No Answer	16		0		**16**	
Total	**30**		**27**		**57**	

Table 3.210 shows the number of health conditions respondents identified. Fifty-one percent (51%) reported two or more health conditions, while 17% reported no health conditions and 32% reported one health condition. Unsheltered respondents were more likely to report no health conditions than sheltered respondents (22% vs. 7%).

Table 3.210: Health Conditions (Number) - Sechelt/Gibsons

Number of Health Conditions	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
No Health Conditions	1	7%	6	22%	**7**	**17%**
1 Health Condition	3	21%	10	37%	**13**	**32%**
2 Health Conditions	3	21%	5	19%	**8**	**20%**
3 Health Conditions	3	21%	4	15%	**7**	**17%**
4 Health Conditions	4	29%	2	7%	**6**	**15%**
Respondents	**14**	**100%**	**27**	**100%**	**41**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	16		0		**16**	
Total	**30**		**27**		**57**	

3.10.9 Youth in Care

All survey participants were asked if they had ever lived in foster care, in a youth group home or under a youth/young adult agreement. In Sechelt/Gibsons, 20% of respondents reported they had been in care. A higher proportion of sheltered respondents indicated that they had been in care than unsheltered respondents (36% vs. 12%).

Table 3.211: Youth Who Were in Foster Care, Youth Group Homes, or Under a Youth Agreement - Sechelt/Gibsons

Youth in Care	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	5	36%	3	12%	**8**	**20%**
Currently	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Previously	5	36%	2	8%	**7**	**18%**
Don't Know / No Answer	0	0%	1	4%	**1**	**3%**
No	9	64%	23	88%	**32**	**80%**
Respondents	**14**	**100%**	**26**	**100%**	**40**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	16		1		**17**	
Total	**30**		**27**		**57**	

3.10.10 Income

Survey participants were asked to identify their sources of income and could identify as many sources as applied.

Table 3.212 shows survey respondents in Sechelt/Gibsons identified a wide range of income sources. Forty-four percent (44%) identified disability benefits, 39% identified income from employment and 25% identified welfare/income assistance as sources of income.

Unsheltered survey respondents were more likely to identify informal/self-employment as a source of income than sheltered respondents (16% vs. 9%).

Table 3.212: Sources of Income - Sechelt/Gibsons

Sources of Income (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Welfare / Income Assistance	3	27%	6	24%	**9**	**25%**
Employment	4	36%	10	40%	**14**	**39%**
Job/Employment - Full-Time	0	0%	3	12%	**3**	**8%**
Job/Employment - Part-Time	4	36%	7	28%	**11**	**31%**
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Informal/Self Employment	1	9%	4	16%	**5**	**14%**
Panhandling	1	9%	3	12%	**4**	**11%**
Binning/Bottles	1	9%	2	8%	**3**	**8%**
Vending	1	9%	0	0%	**1**	**3%**
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Seniors Benefits	1	9%	3	12%	**4**	**11%**
Old Age Security (OAS)/Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)	0	0%	1	4%	**1**	**3%**
CPP or Another Pension	1	9%	2	8%	**3**	**8%**
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Disability Benefit	5	45%	11	44%	**16**	**44%**
Employment Insurance	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Youth Agreement	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Money from Family/Friends	0	0%	2	8%	**2**	**6%**
Honoraria	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
No Income	1	9%	0	0%	**1**	**3%**
Other[147]	0	0%	2	8%	**2**	**6%**
Respondents	**11**		**25**		**36**	
Don't Know / No Answer	19		2		**21**	
Total	**30**		**27**		**57**	

[147] "Other" sources of income accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities were related to other types of informal/part time employment or odd jobs.

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3.10.11 Services Accessed

Survey participants were asked about the types of services they had used over the past 12 months.

As shown in

Table 3.213, respondents reported that they had accessed a variety of services including health, food, housing and other services such as drop ins. Food, employment and housing services were accessed more by shelter respondents, while health services were accessed more by unsheltered respondents. It is important to note that while individuals experiencing homelessness may have a need for a variety of services, the availability of those services varies greatly by community.

Food services were most frequently cited by respondents (75%), including food banks (69%) and meal programs (53%). Sheltered respondents were more likely to report accessing food services than unsheltered respondents (89% vs. 70%).

Health services were the next most cited services that respondents had accessed over the previous 12 months (72%), with a large proportion using the emergency room (31%), the hospital (non-emergency) (22%), and the ambulance (22%). Nearly a third (31%) accessed mental health services, while nearly a quarter of respondents (22%) had accessed addiction services over the previous year.

Forty-one percent (41%) of respondents accessed housing services over the last year, and 38% of respondents accessed homeless outreach programs.

APPENDIX 2

Table 3.213: Services Accessed in 12 Months Prior to Count - Sechelt/Gibsons

Services Accessed (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Health Services	5	56%	18	78%	**23**	**72%**
Health Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Ambulance	2	22%	5	22%	**7**	**22%**
Emergency Room	3	33%	7	30%	**10**	**31%**
Hospital (Non-Emergency)	3	33%	4	17%	**7**	**22%**
Dental Clinic or Dentist	1	11%	5	22%	**6**	**19%**
Mental Health Services	2	22%	8	35%	**10**	**31%**
Addiction Services	2	22%	5	22%	**7**	**22%**
Health Clinic	3	33%	9	39%	**12**	**38%**
Food services	8	89%	16	70%	**24**	**75%**
Food Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Food Banks	8	89%	14	61%	**22**	**69%**
Meal Programs/Soup Kitchens	7	78%	10	43%	**17**	**53%**
Legal Services	1	11%	3	13%	**4**	**13%**
Legal Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Legal	1	11%	3	13%	**4**	**13%**
Parole or Services for Ex-Offenders	0	0%	1	4%	**1**	**3%**
Employment and Financial Services	5	56%	5	22%	**10**	**31%**
Employment and Financial Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Employment/Job Help	5	56%	5	22%	**10**	**31%**
Budgeting/Trusteeship	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Housing Services	5	56%	8	35%	**13**	**41%**
Housing Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Housing Help/Eviction Prevention	0	0%	1	4%	**1**	**3%**
Homeless Outreach	5	56%	7	30%	**12**	**38%**
Transitional Housing	0	0%	1	4%	**1**	**3%**
Other Services	5	56%	12	52%	**17**	**53%**
Other Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Drop-In	4	44%	5	22%	**9**	**28%**
Newcomer Services	1	11%	1	4%	**2**	**6%**
Faith-Based/Spiritual Services	1	11%	2	9%	**3**	**9%**
Other	1	11%	6	26%	**7**	**22%**
None	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Respondents	**9**		**23**		**32**	
Don't Know / No Answer	21		4		**25**	
Total	**30**		**27**		**57**	

3.10.12 History of Homelessness

Just under half of survey respondents (49%) had been homeless for less than a year. Sheltered respondents were more likely to have been homeless for less than a year compared to unsheltered respondents (62% vs. 42%). A higher percentage of unsheltered respondents reported being homeless for a year or more, compared to sheltered respondents (59% vs. 38%).

Table 3.214: Length of Time Homeless- Sechelt/Gibsons

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
Length of Time Homeless	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Under 1 year	8	62%	10	42%	**18**	**49%**
Up to and including 7 days	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
8 days to <1 month	0	0%	2	8%	**2**	**5%**
1 month to <1 year	8	62%	8	33%	**16**	**43%**
1 year to under 5 years	3	23%	11	46%	**14**	**38%**
5 years to under 10 years	2	15%	3	13%	**5**	**14%**
10 years or more	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Respondents	**13**	**100%**	**24**	**100%**	**37**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	17		3		**20**	
Total	**30**		**27**		**57**	

Survey participants were asked if this was their first time being homeless and if not, they were asked how old they were the first time they experienced homelessness.

Table 3.215 shows that the majority (59%) of respondents reported that this was *not* the first time they had experienced homelessness. Forty-two percent (42%) of all respondents reported experiencing homelessness for the first time when they were under 25 years of age.

Table 3.215: Times Homeless - Sechelt/Gibsons

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
Times Homeless	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
First Time	6	43%	11	41%	**17**	**41%**
Not First Time	8	57%	16	59%	**24**	**59%**
Respondents	**14**	**100%**	**27**	**100%**	**41**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	16		0		**16**	
Total	**30**		**27**		**57**	

Table 3.216: Age When First Homeless – General - Sechelt/Gibsons

Age When First Homeless	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	4	33%	6	50%	**10**	**42%**
Adult (25-54 Years)	4	33%	6	50%	**10**	**42%**
Senior (55+)	4	33%	0	0%	**4**	**17%**
Respondents	**12**	**100%**	**12**	**100%**	**24**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	18		15		**33**	
Total	**30**		**27**		**57**	

Table 3.215 shows the length of time survey respondents had lived in Sechelt/Gibsons. Individuals experiencing homelessness in Sechelt/Gibsons were likely to be long term residents of the community. Ten percent (10%) of survey respondents had lived in Sechelt/Gibsons all their lives and another 26% had lived there for ten or more years. About one quarter (26%) of respondents indicated they had lived in Sechelt/Gibsons for less than one year.

Respondents were also asked to identify where they lived before arriving in Sechelt/Gibsons. As shown in

Table 3.216, 31% had lived in Metro Vancouver or elsewhere in B.C. (25%) prior to arriving in the community.[148]

Table 3.217: Length of Time in Community - Sechelt/Gibsons

Length of Time in Community	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 1 year	3	23%	7	27%	**10**	**26%**
Under 1 month	0	0%	2	8%	**2**	**5%**
1 month to <6 months	3	23%	2	8%	**5**	**13%**
6 months to <1 year	0	0%	3	12%	**3**	**8%**
1 year to under 5 years	4	31%	7	27%	**11**	**28%**
5 years to under 10 years	1	8%	3	12%	**4**	**10%**
10 years or more	3	23%	7	27%	**10**	**26%**
Always Been Here	2	15%	2	8%	**4**	**10%**
Respondents	**13**	**100%**	**26**	**100%**	**39**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	17		1		**18**	
Total	**30**		**27**		**57**	

Table 3.218: Where Lived Before Community – Sechelt/Gibsons

Where Lived Before	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Always Been Here	2	15%	2	9%	**4**	**11%**
Metro Vancouver	2	15%	9	39%	**11**	**31%**
Elsewhere in BC	5	38%	4	17%	**9**	**25%**
Elsewhere in Canada	4	31%	8	35%	**12**	**33%**
Other Countries	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Respondents	**13**	**100%**	**23**	**100%**	**36**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	17		4		**21**	
Total	**30**		**27**		**57**	

3.10.13 Service in the Military or RCMP

Survey participants were asked if they ever had any service in the Canadian Forces, including army, navy, airforce or RCMP. One individual, representing 2% of respondents reported service in the Canadian military.

[148] There is a discrepancy in responses between individuals who indicate they have always been in a community when asked how long they have been there and where they were before arriving in the community. This is due to different response rates to the question and also because some individuals may have lived in a community for much of their lives, but have left for short periods, and may respond to the question of where they were before by citing another community, even if they answered the length of time in community question as 'Always been here.'

3.10.14 Unsheltered on the Night of the Count – Where and Why

Unsheltered survey participants were asked where they stayed the previous night. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of unsheltered survey respondents indicated that they stayed outside, while 26% said they stayed at someone else's place or couch-surfed the night of the count. The remaining respondents reported that they slept in a vehicle (19%), at a parent or guardian's (4%), on a boat (4%), or in a makeshift shelter or tent (4%), while 7% slept at an 'other' location.

Table 3.219: Where Stayed Night of Count (Unsheltered Only) - Sechelt/Gibsons

Location	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Outside	10	37%
In a Vehicle (Car, Van, RV, Truck)	5	19%
Makeshift Shelter or Tent	1	4%
Abandoned/Vacant Building	0	0%
Someone Else's Place or Couch-Surfing	7	26%
On a Boat, Not Paying Moorage	1	4%
Parent(s)/Guardian(s) House, 25 and Older	1	4%
Other[149]	2	7%
Respondents	**27**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	0	
Total	**27**	

Survey participants who were unsheltered were asked for the main reason why they did not stay in a shelter the previous night. The main reason given by respondents was that they were able to stay with a friend (26%) or that they disliked staying at shelters (22%).

Table 3.220: Main Reason for Not Staying at a Shelter on the Night of the Count (Unsheltered Only) - Sechelt/Gibsons

Reasons for not Staying in a Shelter	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Able to Stay with a Friend	6	26%
Dislike	5	22%
Don't Feel Safe	1	4%
Turned Away	3	13%
Bedbugs/Pests	1	4%
Other[150]	4	17%

[149] "Other" location, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, were related to motels and hotels, with short-term or no security of tenure.

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[150] "Other" reasons for not staying in a shelter, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, were related to a) availability (particularly shelters closed or full), b) other options (particularly RVs, trailers, and vehicles, and family), and c) a desire to avoid negative activities/experiences at the shelter.

Multiple Responses	3	13%
Respondents	**23**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	4	
Total	**27**	

Survey participants who were unsheltered were also asked whether they had stayed in a shelter in the last year. As shown in Table 3.221, 60% had not stayed in a shelter during the last 12 months.

Table 3.221: Have you stayed in a shelter in the last 12 months? – Sechelt/Gibsons

	Unsheltered	
Previous Stay in Shelter	**#**	**%**
Yes	10	40%
No	15	60%
Respondents	**25**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	2	
Total	**27**	

3.11 Community Profiles – Smithers

The 2018 Homeless Count in Smithers took place on the evening of April 16 and during the day of April 17th.

The Smithers count was conducted in two shelter facilities,[151] along five walking and driving routes, at two magnet events that provided food or services to community members, and at three agencies where people accessing services could complete the survey.[152]

A total of 29 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness during the 2018 Smithers count. This included 28 adults and 1 child who was under the age of 19 and accompanied by a parent or guardian.[153]

The majority of individuals identified as experiencing homelessness were unsheltered (62%) and 38% were sheltered.[154] Among the survey respondents who reported being unsheltered on the night of the count, 82% (14 individuals) reported couch-surfing or staying with friends (Table 3.241). One accompanied child was identified as unsheltered.[155]

Table 3.222: Adults and Accompanied Children, Shelters, Transition Houses, Detox, NFA and Unsheltered – Smithers

Homeless Category	Adults and Unaccompanied Youth		Accompanied Children		Total Homeless	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Sheltered Total	11	39%	0	0%	**11**	**38%**
Shelters	8	29%	0	0%	**8**	**28%**
Transition Houses	2	7%	0	0%	**2**	**7%**
Detox Centres	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
No Fixed Address (NFA)[156]	1	4%	0	0%	**1**	**3%**
Other	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Unsheltered Total	17	61%	1	100%	**18**	**62%**
Total Individuals Experiencing Homelessness	**28**	**100%**	**1**	**100%**	**29**	**100%**

[151] Can include any of the following: temporary or permanent shelters, or transition houses for women and children fleeing violence, or safe houses for youth if available in the community.
[152] The Smithers Action Group Association had also conducted a Point in Time count in 2015, that identified 22 individuals experiencing homelessness using a similar methodology to the 2018 Homeless Count in B.C.
[153] Children, for the 2018 Homeless Count, are defined as "accompanied children" who are under 19 years of age and who were with a parent or guardian during the count.
[154] Unsheltered respondents include individuals sleeping outside, in a tent or makeshift structure, in a vehicle, or couch-surfing.
[155] Unsheltered children may have been couch-surfing or sleeping in a vehicle with a parent or guardian.
[156] Includes individuals staying in jails, hospitals and short-term medical facilities.

Table 3.223: Sheltered and Unsheltered - Smithers

Homeless Category	#	%
Sheltered	11	38%
Unsheltered	18	62%
Total	**29**	**100%**

3.11.1 Gender

Among survey respondents, 56% identified as male and 40% identified as female. One respondent identified another gender identity. [157]

A greater proportion of sheltered respondents identified as male than unsheltered respondents (63% vs. 53%), while a higher proportion of unsheltered respondents identified as female than sheltered respondents (41% vs. 38%).

Table 3.224: Gender – General – Smithers

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
Gender Identity	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Man/Male	5	63%	9	53%	**14**	**56%**
Woman/Female	3	38%	7	41%	**10**	**40%**
Another Gender Identity	0	0%	1	6%	**1**	**4%**
Respondents	**8**	**100%**	**17**	**100%**	**25**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	3		1		**4**	
Total	**11**		**18**		**29**	

3.11.2 Age

The majority of survey respondents (76%) were adults (25-54 years of age), while 16% were seniors (55+ years of age), and 8% were youth under 25 years of age.[158] The proportion of youth who were sheltered was greater than the proportion who were unsheltered (13% vs. 6%).

[157] During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their gender identity and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

[158] During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their age and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

Table 3.225: Age – General - Smithers

Age Groups	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	1	13%	1	6%	**2**	**8%**
Adult (25-54 Years)	6	75%	13	76%	**19**	**76%**
Senior (55+)	1	13%	3	18%	**4**	**16%**
Respondents	**8**	**100%**	**17**	**100%**	**25**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	3		1		**4**	
Total	**11**		**18**		**29**	

3.11.3 Indigenous Identity

A total of 18 survey respondents identified as Indigenous, representing 72% of all respondents.[159] A high proportion of unsheltered respondents were Indigenous (82%), compared to sheltered respondents (50%).

Table 3.226: Indigenous / Identity – General - Smithers

Indigenous Identity	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Indigenous Identity	4	50%	14	82%	**18**	**72%**
Not Indigenous Identity	4	50%	3	18%	**7**	**28%**
Respondents	**8**	**100%**	**17**	**100%**	**25**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	3		1		**4**	
Total	**11**		**18**		**29**	

3.11.4 Newcomers to Canada

Survey participants[160] were asked if they had come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee. One individual, representing 4% of survey respondents, reported coming to Canada as an immigrant and reported having been in Canada for 10 years or more.

3.11.5 Sexual Orientation

Survey participants were asked to identify their sexual orientation.

Two individuals, representing 8% of respondents, identified as LGBTQ2S. One respondent was sheltered, and one was unsheltered. A large majority of respondents identified as straight or heterosexual (92%).

[159] During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their Indigenous identity and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

[160] The term "participant" is used for people who were asked a question and "respondent" for those who answered the survey question.

Table 3.227: Sexual Identity – General - Smithers

Sexual Orientation	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Straight/Heterosexual	7	88%	16	94%	**23**	**92%**
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Two-spirit, Questioning, Queer (LGBTQ2S)	1	13%	1	6%	**2**	**8%**
Other (Not Listed / Multiple Responses)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Respondents	**8**	**100%**	**17**	**100%**	**25**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	3		1		**4**	
Total	**11**		**18**		**29**	

3.11.6 Who Was With Survey Respondents

Survey participants were asked if they were with anyone on the day of the count. Most respondents (64%) reported being alone, while, 16% reported being with a partner and 12% were with relatives.

A higher proportion of unsheltered respondents reported that they were with someone compared to sheltered respondents (47% vs. 13%), meaning that sheltered respondents were more likely to be alone than unsheltered respondents.

Table 3.228: Who Was With Survey Respondents - Smithers

Who Was With Survey Respondents (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
With Someone	1	13%	8	47%	**9**	**36%**
Partner	1	13%	3	18%	**4**	**16%**
Child/Children	0	0%	1	6%	**1**	**4%**
Friend(s)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Pet(s)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Relative(s)	0	0%	3	18%	**3**	**12%**
Other(s)[161]	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Alone	7	88%	9	53%	**16**	**64%**
Respondents	**8**	**100%**	**17**	**100%**	**25**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	3		1		**4**	
Total	**11**		**18**		**29**	

3.11.7 Barriers to Housing

Survey participants were asked what had caused them to lose their housing most recently.

[161] "Other" responses varied, with no specific response accounting for 2% or more respondents across all communities.

Table 3.229 shows that the main reasons reported by survey respondents for losing their housing most recently were addiction or substance use (24%), eviction (16%), high rents (16%), conflict with partner/spouse (16%), and "other" reasons (48%).

Table 3.229: Reason for Loss of Housing - Smithers

Loss of Housing (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Illness or Medical Condition	1	13%	0	0%	**1**	**4%**
Addiction or Substance Use	1	13%	5	29%	**6**	**24%**
Job Loss	1	13%	2	12%	**3**	**12%**
Unable to Pay Rent or Mortgage	1	13%	3	18%	**4**	**16%**
Unsafe Housing Conditions	2	25%	1	6%	**3**	**12%**
Experienced Abuse by: Parent / Guardian	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Experienced Abuse by: Spouse / Partner	0	0%	1	6%	**1**	**4%**
Conflict with: Parent / Guardian	0	0%	2	12%	**2**	**8%**
Conflict with: Spouse / Partner	1	13%	3	18%	**4**	**16%**
Incarcerated (Jail or Prison)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Hospitalization or Treatment Program	0	0%	1	6%	**1**	**4%**
Eviction	2	25%	2	12%	**4**	**16%**
Other Reason[162]	5	63%	7	41%	**12**	**48%**
Respondents	**8**		**17**		**25**	
Don't Know / No Answer	3		1		**4**	
Total	**11**		**18**		**29**	

Survey participants were also asked what barriers they faced in finding a place of their own.

[162] "Other Reason" for loss of housing, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, included responses related to a) conflict with someone other than a parent/guardian or spouse/partner, b) death of a family member or other, and c) end of a relationship/divorce.

Table 3.230, shows that the three main barriers to accessing housing identified by respondents were high rents (56%), low incomes (48%), and a lack of available, suitable housing (32%), while 28% cited "other" reasons.

Table 3.230: Barriers to Accessing Housing - Smithers

Barriers to Accessing Housing (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Income Too Low	4	50%	8	47%	**12**	**48%**
History of Eviction/Lack of References	1	13%	2	12%	**3**	**12%**
Lack of Identification	1	13%	2	12%	**3**	**12%**
No Income/No Income Assistance	1	13%	3	18%	**4**	**16%**
Addiction	1	13%	2	12%	**3**	**12%**
Rent Too High	5	63%	9	53%	**14**	**56%**
Poor Housing Conditions	1	13%	2	12%	**3**	**12%**
No Housing Available that Suits My Needs	3	38%	5	29%	**8**	**32%**
Mental Health Issues	0	0%	1	6%	**1**	**4%**
Family Breakdown/Abuse/Conflict	1	13%	1	6%	**2**	**8%**
Conflict with Law	1	13%	0	0%	**1**	**4%**
Pets	1	13%	1	6%	**2**	**8%**
Discrimination	1	13%	0	0%	**1**	**4%**
Lack of Transportation	2	25%	1	6%	**3**	**12%**
Other Reason[163]	2	25%	5	29%	**7**	**28%**
Respondents	**8**		**17**		**25**	
Don't Know / No Answer	3		1		**4**	
Total	**11**		**18**		**29**	

3.11.8 Health Conditions

Survey participants were asked about their health, and whether they had a medical condition, physical disability, mental illness and/or addiction. Medical condition refers to chronic problems like asthma and diabetes, while physical disability refers to a condition affecting mobility or movement.

More than half of respondents (52%) reported an addiction, 22% reported a mental illness, 13% reported a medical condition, and 9% reported a physical disability. Sheltered respondents were more likely to report a physical disability and mental illness than unsheltered respondents, while addiction was more prevalent amongst the unsheltered respondents.

[163] "Other Reason" for barriers to accessing housing varied widely, with no specific response accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities.

Table 3.231: Health Conditions - Smithers

Health Condition (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Medical Condition / Illness	1	13%	2	13%	**3**	**13%**
Physical Disability	1	13%	1	7%	**2**	**9%**
Addiction	3	38%	9	60%	**12**	**52%**
Mental Illness	2	25%	3	20%	**5**	**22%**
Respondents	**8**		**15**		**23**	
Don't Know / No Answer	3		3		**6**	
Total	**11**		**18**		**29**	

Table 3.232 shows the number of health conditions respondents identified. Twenty-two percent (22%) reported two or more health conditions, while 39% reported no health conditions and 39% reported one health condition. Sheltered respondents were more likely to identify no health conditions than sheltered respondents (63% vs. 27%).

Table 3.232: Health Conditions (Number) - Smithers

Number of Health Conditions	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
No Health Conditions	5	63%	4	27%	**9**	**39%**
1 Health Condition	1	13%	8	53%	**9**	**39%**
2 Health Conditions	1	13%	2	13%	**3**	**13%**
3 Health Conditions	0	0%	1	7%	**1**	**4%**
4 Health Conditions	1	13%	0	0%	**1**	**4%**
Respondents	**8**	**100%**	**15**	**100%**	**23**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	3		3		**6**	
Total	**11**		**18**		**29**	

3.11.9 Youth in Care

All survey participants were asked if they had ever lived in foster care, in a youth group home or under a youth/young adult agreement. In Smithers, 35% of respondents reported they had been in care. A higher proportion of sheltered respondents than unsheltered respondents indicated they had been in care (38% vs. 33%).

Table 3.233: Youth Who Were in Foster Care, Youth Group Homes, or Under a Youth Agreement - Smithers

Youth in Care	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	3	38%	5	33%	**8**	**35%**
Currently	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Previously	2	25%	4	27%	**6**	**26%**
Don't Know / No Answer	1	13%	1	7%	**2**	**9%**
No	5	63%	10	67%	**15**	**65%**
Respondents	**8**	**100%**	**15**	**100%**	**23**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	3		3		**6**	
Total	**11**		**18**		**29**	

3.11.10 Income

Survey participants were asked to identify their sources of income and could identify as many sources as applied.

Table 3.234 shows survey respondents in Smithers identified a wide range of income sources. Thirty-six percent (36%) identified employment as a source of income, 32% identified welfare/income assistance, and 20% identified informal/self-employment.

Sheltered survey respondents were more likely to identify employment than unsheltered respondents (63% vs. 24%), as well as informal employment (50% vs. 6%). Unsheltered respondents were more likely to identify welfare/income assistance as a source of income than sheltered respondents (35% vs. 25%).

Table 3.234: Sources of Income - Smithers

Sources of Income (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Welfare / Income Assistance	2	25%	6	35%	**8**	**32%**
Employment	5	63%	4	24%	**9**	**36%**
Job/Employment - Full-Time	2	25%	0	0%	**2**	**8%**
Job/Employment - Part-Time	4	50%	4	24%	**8**	**32%**
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Informal/Self Employment	4	50%	1	6%	**5**	**20%**
Panhandling	2	25%	0	0%	**2**	**8%**
Binning/Bottles	1	13%	1	6%	**2**	**8%**
Vending	1	13%	0	0%	**1**	**4%**
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Seniors Benefits	0	0%	2	12%	**2**	**8%**
Old Age Security (OAS)/Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
CPP or Other Pension	0	0%	2	12%	**2**	**8%**
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Disability Benefit	1	13%	0	0%	**1**	**4%**
Employment Insurance	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Youth Agreement	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Money from Family/Friends	2	25%	2	12%	**4**	**16%**
Honoraria	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
No Income	0	0%	4	24%	**4**	**16%**
Other[164]	4	50%	2	12%	**6**	**24%**
Respondents	**8**		**17**		**25**	
Don't Know / No Answer	3		1		**4**	
Total	**11**		**18**		**29**	

[164] "Other" sources of income accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities were related to other types of informal/part time employment or odd jobs.

3.11.11 Services Accessed

Survey participants were asked about the types of services they had used over the past 12 months.

As shown in

Table 3.235, respondents reported that they had accessed a variety of services including health, food, housing and other services such as drop ins. It is important to note that while individuals experiencing homelessness may have a need for a variety of services, the availability of those services varies greatly by community.

Health services and food services were the most cited services that respondents had accessed over the previous 12 months (79% each).

For food services, sixty-three percent (63%) of respondents had accessed food banks and 63% had accessed meal programs.

For health services, a high proportion of respondents had accessed the emergency room (53%), the ambulance (37%), addictions services (37%), the hospital (non-emergency) (32%), and the health clinic (26%).

Forty-seven percent (47%) of respondents used employment services, 42% used housing services and 42% used other services, primarily drop-in services (32%).

APPENDIX 2

Table 3.235: Services Accessed in 12 Months Prior to Count - Smithers

Services Accessed (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Health Services	4	80%	11	79%	**15**	**79%**
Health Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Ambulance	3	60%	4	29%	**7**	**37%**
Emergency Room	2	40%	8	57%	**10**	**53%**
Hospital (Non-Emergency)	2	40%	4	29%	**6**	**32%**
Dental Clinic or Dentist	0	0%	2	14%	**2**	**11%**
Mental Health Services	2	40%	2	14%	**4**	**21%**
Addiction Services	3	60%	4	29%	**7**	**37%**
Health Clinic	1	20%	4	29%	**5**	**26%**
Food services	3	60%	12	86%	**15**	**79%**
Food Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Food Banks	2	40%	10	71%	**12**	**63%**
Meal Programs/Soup Kitchens	2	40%	10	71%	**12**	**63%**
Legal Services	2	40%	4	29%	**6**	**32%**
Legal Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Legal	2	40%	3	21%	**5**	**26%**
Parole or Services for Ex-Offenders	2	40%	3	21%	**5**	**26%**
Employment and Financial Services	3	60%	6	43%	**9**	**47%**
Employment and Financial Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Employment/Job Help	3	60%	5	36%	**8**	**42%**
Budgeting/Trusteeship	1	20%	1	7%	**2**	**11%**
Housing Services	4	80%	4	29%	**8**	**42%**
Housing Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Housing Help/Eviction Prevention	1	20%	1	7%	**2**	**11%**
Homeless Outreach	4	80%	4	29%	**8**	**42%**
Transitional Housing	2	40%	1	7%	**3**	**16%**
Other Services	2	40%	6	43%	**8**	**42%**
Other Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Drop-In	1	20%	5	36%	**6**	**32%**
Newcomer Services	1	20%	0	0%	**1**	**5%**
Faith-Based/Spiritual Services	1	20%	2	14%	**3**	**16%**
Other	2	40%	1	7%	**3**	**16%**
None	1	20%	0	0%	**1**	**5%**
Respondents	**5**		**14**		**19**	
Don't Know / No Answer	6		4		**10**	
Total	**11**		**18**		**29**	

3.11.12 History of Homelessness

Nearly half of survey respondents (46%) had been homeless for less than a year. Sheltered respondents were more likely to have been homeless for less than a year compared to unsheltered respondents (63% vs. 38%). Sixty-two percent (62%) of unsheltered respondents reported being homeless for a year or more, compared to 38% of sheltered respondents.

Table 3.236: Length of Time Homeless- Smithers

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
Length of Time Homeless	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Under 1 year	5	63%	6	38%	**11**	**46%**
Up to and including 7 days	1	13%	0	0%	**1**	**4%**
8 days to <1 month	1	13%	0	0%	**1**	**4%**
1 month to <1 year	3	38%	6	38%	**9**	**38%**
1 year to under 5 years	3	38%	9	56%	**12**	**50%**
5 years to under 10 years	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
10 years or more	0	0%	1	6%	**1**	**4%**
Respondents	**8**	**100%**	**16**	**100%**	**24**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	3		2		**5**	
Total	**11**		**18**		**29**	

Survey participants were asked if this was their first time being homeless and if not, they were asked how old they were the first time they experienced homelessness.

Table 3.237 shows that the majority (67%) of respondents reported that this was *not* the first time they had experienced homelessness. Fifty-three percent (53%) of all respondents reported experiencing homelessness for the first time when they were under 25 years of age.

Table 3.237: Times Homeless - Smithers

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
Times Homeless	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
First Time	2	25%	6	38%	**8**	**33%**
Not First Time	6	75%	10	63%	**16**	**67%**
Respondents	**8**	**100%**	**16**	**100%**	**24**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	3		2		**5**	
Total	**11**		**18**		**29**	

Table 3.238: Age When First Homeless – General - Smithers

Age When First Homeless	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	5	71%	5	42%	**10**	**53%**
Adult (25-54 Years)	2	29%	6	50%	**8**	**42%**
Senior (55+)	0	0%	1	8%	**1**	**5%**
Respondents	**7**	**100%**	**12**	**100%**	**19**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	4		6		**10**	
Total	**11**		**18**		**29**	

Table 3.239 shows the length of time survey respondents had lived in Smithers. Individuals experiencing homelessness in Smithers were likely to be long term residents of the community. Twenty-four percent (24%) of survey respondents had lived in Smithers all their lives and another 20% had lived there for ten or more years. Thirty-two percent (32%) of respondents indicated they had lived in Smithers for less than one year.

Respondents were also asked to identify where they lived before arriving in Smithers. As shown in Table 3.240, the majority of respondents had lived in Metro Vancouver (9%) or elsewhere in B.C. (55%) before arriving in the community.[165]

Table 3.239: Length of Time in Community - Smithers

Length of Time in Community	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 1 year	5	63%	3	18%	**8**	**32%**
Under 1 month	4	50%	0	0%	**4**	**16%**
1 month to <6 months	0	0%	2	12%	**2**	**8%**
6 months to <1 year	1	13%	1	6%	**2**	**8%**
1 year to under 5 years	0	0%	3	18%	**3**	**12%**
5 years to under 10 years	0	0%	3	18%	**3**	**12%**
10 years or more	3	38%	2	12%	**5**	**20%**
Always Been Here	0	0%	6	35%	**6**	**24%**
Respondents	**8**	**100%**	**17**	**100%**	**25**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	3		1		**4**	
Total	**11**		**18**		**29**	

[165] There is a discrepancy in responses between individuals who indicate they have always been in a community when asked how long they have been there and where they were before arriving in the community. This is due to different response rates to the question and also because some individuals may have lived in a community for much of their lives, but have left for short periods, and may respond to the question of where they were before by citing another community, even if they answered the length of time in community question as 'Always been here.'

Table 3.240: Where Lived Before Community – Smithers

Where Lived Before	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Always Been Here	0	0%	5	31%	**5**	**23%**
Metro Vancouver	0	0%	2	13%	**2**	**9%**
Elsewhere in BC	4	67%	8	50%	**12**	**55%**
Elsewhere in Canada	2	33%	1	6%	**3**	**14%**
Other Countries	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Respondents	**6**	**100%**	**16**	**100%**	**22**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	5		2		**7**	
Total	**11**		**18**		**29**	

3.11.13 Service in the Military or RCMP

Survey participants were asked if they ever had any service in the Canadian Forces, including army, navy, airforce or RCMP. One individual, representing 4% of respondents, reported service in an unspecified military,

3.11.14 Unsheltered on the Night of the Count – Where and Why

Unsheltered survey participants were asked where they stayed the previous night. Eighty-two percent (82%) of unsheltered survey respondents indicated that they stayed at someone else's place or couch-surfed the night of the count. The remaining respondents reported that they slept at an 'other' location (18%).

Table 3.241: Where Stayed Night of Count (Unsheltered Only) - Smithers

Location	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Outside	0	0%
In a Vehicle (Car, Van, RV, Truck)	0	0%
Makeshift Shelter or Tent	0	0%
Abandoned/Vacant Building	0	0%
Someone Else's Place or Couch-Surfing	14	82%
On a Boat, Not Paying Moorage	0	0%
Parent(s)/Guardian(s) House, 25 and Older	0	0%
Other[166]	3	18%
Respondents	**17**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	1	
Total	**18**	

[166]"Other" location, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, were related to motels and hotels, with short-term or no security of tenure.

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Survey participants who were unsheltered were asked for the main reason why they did not stay in a shelter the previous night. The main reasons given by respondents was that they were able to stay with a friend (41%) or an "other" reason (41%).

Table 3.242: Main Reason for Not Staying at a Shelter on the Night of the Count (Unsheltered Only) - Smithers

Reasons for not Staying in a Shelter	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Able to Stay with a Friend	7	41%
Dislike	0	0%
Don't Feel Safe	0	0%
Turned Away	2	12%
Bedbugs/Pests	0	0%
Other[167]	7	41%
Multiple Responses	1	6%
Respondents	**17**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	1	
Total	**18**	

Survey participants who were unsheltered were also asked if they had stayed in a shelter in the last year. As shown in Table 3.243, almost three quarters had stayed in a shelter during the last 12 months.

Table 3.243: Have you stayed in a shelter in the last 12 months? – Smithers

Previous Stay in Shelter	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Yes	10	71%
No	4	29%
Respondents	**14**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	4	
Total	**18**	

[167] "Other" reasons for not staying in a shelter, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, were related to a) availability (particularly shelters closed or full), b) other options (particularly RVs, trailers, and vehicles, and family), and c) a desire to avoid negative activities/experiences at the shelter.

3.12 Community Profiles – Williams Lake

The 2018 Homeless Count in Williams Lake took place on the evening of March 25 and during the day of March 26.

The Williams Lake count was conducted in two shelter facilities,[168] along two walking and driving routes, at one magnet event that provided food and services to community members, and at seven agencies where people accessing services could complete the survey.

A total of 43 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness during the Williams Lake count. This included 42 adults and 1 child who was under the age of 19 and accompanied by a parent or guardian.[169]

The majority of individuals identified as experiencing homelessness were sheltered (86%) and 14% reported being unsheltered.[170] Among the survey respondents who were unsheltered on the night of the count, 50% (3 individuals) reported couch-surfing or staying with friends. The one accompanied child who was sheltered stayed at a transition house.

Table 3.244: Adults and Accompanied Children, Shelters, Transition Houses, Detox, NFA and Unsheltered – Williams Lake

Homeless Category	Adults and Unaccompanied Youth		Accompanied Children		Total Homeless	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Sheltered Total	36	86%	1	100%	**37**	**86%**
Shelters	35	83%	0	0%	**35**	**81%**
Transition Houses	1	2%	1	100%	**2**	**5%**
Detox Centres	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
No Fixed Address (NFA)[171]	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Other	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Unsheltered Total	6	14%	0	0%	**6**	**14%**
Total Individuals Experiencing Homelessness	**42**	**100%**	**1**	**100%**	**43**	**100%**

Table 3.245: Sheltered and Unsheltered - Williams Lake

Homeless Category	#	%
Sheltered	37	86%
Unsheltered	6	14%
Total	**43**	**100%**

[168] Can include any of the following: temporary or permanent shelters, or transition houses for women and children fleeing violence, or safe houses for youth if available in the community

[169] Children, for the 2018 Homeless Count, are defined as "accompanied children" who are under 19 years of age and who were with a parent or guardian during the count.

[170] Unsheltered respondents include individuals sleeping outside, in a tent or makeshift structure, in a vehicle, or couch-surfing.

[171] Includes individuals staying in jails, hospitals and short-term medical facilities.

3.12.1 Gender

Among survey respondents, 58% identified as male and 42% identified as female.[172]

A greater proportion of unsheltered respondents identified as male than sheltered respondents (67% vs. 54%), while the proportion of respondents identifying as female was greater among sheltered respondents than unsheltered (46% vs. 33%).

Table 3.246: Gender – General – Williams Lake

Gender Identity	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Man/Male	7	54%	4	67%	**11**	**58%**
Woman/Female	6	46%	2	33%	**8**	**42%**
Another Gender Identity	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Respondents	**13**	**100%**	**6**	**100%**	**19**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	24		0		**24**	
Total	**37**		**6**		**43**	

3.12.2 Age

The majority of survey respondents (94%) were adults (25-54 years of age), while one survey respondent (6%) was a senior (55+ years of age) who stayed in a shelter on the night of the count.[173] All the sheltered respondents were adults (25 – 54).

Table 3.247: Age – General - Williams Lake

Age Groups	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Adult (25-54 Years)	13	100%	3	75%	**16**	**94%**
Senior (55+)	0	0%	1	25%	**1**	**6%**
Respondents	**13**	**100%**	**4**	**100%**	**17**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	24		2		**26**	
Total	**37**		**6**		**43**	

[172]During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their gender identity and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

[173]During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their age and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

3.12.3 Indigenous Identity

A total of 13 survey respondents identified as Indigenous, representing 68% of all respondents.[174]

The proportion of respondents identifying as Indigenous was similar for both unsheltered and sheltered respondents (67% vs. 69%).

Table 3.248: Indigenous / Identity – General - Williams Lake

Indigenous Identity	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Indigenous Identity	9	69%	4	67%	**13**	**68%**
Not Indigenous Identity	4	31%	2	33%	**6**	**32%**
Respondents	**13**	**100%**	**6**	**100%**	**19**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	24		0		**24**	
Total	**37**		**6**		**43**	

3.12.4 Newcomers to Canada

Survey participants[175] were asked if they had come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee. One individual, representing 6% of survey respondents reported coming to Canada as an immigrant and reported being here less than one year.

3.12.5 Sexual Orientation

Survey participants were asked to identify their sexual orientation.

A large majority of respondents identified as straight or heterosexual (94%) and one survey respondent (6%) identified as having an 'other' sexual orientation.

Table 3.249: Sexual Identity – General - Williams Lake

Sexual Orientation	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Straight/Heterosexual	11	92%	4	100%	**15**	**94%**
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Two-spirit, Questioning, Queer (LGBTQ2S)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Other (Not Listed / Multiple Responses)	1	8%	0	0%	**1**	**6%**
Respondents	**12**	**100%**	**4**	**100%**	**16**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	25		2		**27**	
Total	**37**		**6**		**43**	

[174]During the Homeless Count, survey respondents self-identified their Indigenous identity and the data in this report is based solely on completed surveys.

[175] The term "participant" is used for people who were asked a question and "respondent" for those who answered the survey question.

3.12.6 Who Was with Survey Respondents

Survey participants were asked if they were with anyone on the day of the count. Most respondents (67%) reported being alone, while 17 % reported being with a partner and 11% with a friend.

A higher proportion of sheltered respondents reported that they were alone compared to unsheltered respondents (75% vs. 50%).

Table 3.250: With Someone - Williams Lake

Who Was with Survey Respondents (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
With Someone	3	25%	3	50%	**6**	**33%**
Partner	3	25%	0	0%	**3**	**17%**
Child/Children	1	8%	0	0%	**1**	**6%**
Friend(s)	0	0%	2	33%	**2**	**11%**
Pet(s)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Relative(s)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Other(s)[176]	0	0%	1	17%	**1**	**6%**
Alone	9	75%	3	50%	**12**	**67%**
Respondents	**12**	**100%**	**6**	**100%**	**18**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	25		0		**25**	
Total	**37**		**6**		**43**	

3.12.7 Barriers to Housing

Survey participants were asked what had caused them to lose their housing most recently.

[176] "Other" responses varied, with no specific response accounting for 2% or more respondents across all communities.

Table 3.251 shows that the main reasons reported by survey respondents for losing their housing most recently were addiction or substance use (44%), eviction (38%), high rents (25%), and “other” reasons (31%).

Table 3.251: Reason for Loss of Housing - Williams Lake

Loss of Housing (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Illness or Medical Condition	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Addiction or Substance Use	6	55%	1	20%	**7**	**44%**
Job Loss	1	9%	0	0%	**1**	**6%**
Unable to Pay Rent or Mortgage	3	27%	1	20%	**4**	**25%**
Unsafe Housing Conditions	1	9%	1	20%	**2**	**13%**
Experienced Abuse by: Parent / Guardian	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Experienced Abuse by: Spouse / Partner	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Conflict with: Parent / Guardian	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Conflict with: Spouse / Partner	0	0%	1	20%	**1**	**6%**
Incarcerated (Jail or Prison)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Hospitalization or Treatment Program	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Eviction	3	27%	3	60%	**6**	**38%**
Other Reason[177]	3	27%	2	40%	**5**	**31%**
Respondents	**11**		**5**		**16**	
Don't Know / No Answer	26		1		**27**	
Total	**37**		**6**		**43**	

Survey participants were also asked what barriers they faced in finding a place of their own.

[177] "Other Reason" for loss of housing, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, included responses related to a) conflict with someone other than a parent/guardian or spouse/partner, b) death of a family member or other, and c) end of a relationship/divorce.

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Table 3.252, shows that the main barriers to accessing housing identified by respondents were high rents and low incomes (76% each), as well as addiction and discrimination (29% each).

Table 3.252: Barriers to Accessing Housing - Williams Lake

Barriers to Accessing Housing (more than 1 response possible)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Income Too Low	10	83%	3	60%	**13**	**76%**
History of Eviction/Lack of References	1	8%	0	0%	**1**	**6%**
Lack of Identification	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
No Income/No Income Assistance	2	17%	1	20%	**3**	**18%**
Addiction	5	42%	0	0%	**5**	**29%**
Rent Too High	8	67%	5	100%	**13**	**76%**
Poor Housing Conditions	1	8%	0	0%	**1**	**6%**
No Housing Available that Suits My Needs	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Mental Health Issues	2	17%	0	0%	**2**	**12%**
Family Breakdown/Abuse/Conflict	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Conflict with Law	1	8%	0	0%	**1**	**6%**
Pets	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Discrimination	5	42%	0	0%	**5**	**29%**
Lack of Transportation	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Other Reason[178]	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Respondents	**12**		**5**		**17**	
Don't Know / No Answer	25		1		**26**	
Total	**37**		**6**		**43**	

3.12.8 Health Conditions

Survey participants were asked about their health, and whether they had a medical condition, physical disability, mental illness and/or addiction. Medical condition refers to chronic problems like asthma and diabetes, while physical disability refers to a condition affecting mobility or movement.

A large majority of respondents (83%) reported an addiction, 50% reported a medical condition, 50% reported a physical disability, and 33% reported a mental illness. Unsheltered respondents were more likely to report an addiction than sheltered respondents (100% vs. 75%), and also more likely to report a medical condition (67% vs. 42%).

[178] "Other" responses varied widely, with no specific response accounting for 2% or more respondents across all communities.

Table 3.253: Health Conditions - Williams Lake

Health Condition (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Medical Condition / Illness	5	42%	4	67%	**9**	**50%**
Physical Disability	6	50%	3	50%	**9**	**50%**
Addiction	9	75%	6	100%	**15**	**83%**
Mental Illness	4	33%	2	33%	**6**	**33%**
Respondents	**12**		**6**		**18**	
Don't Know / No Answer	25		0		**25**	
Total	**37**		**6**		**43**	

Table 3.254 shows the number of health conditions respondents identified. Seventy-two percent (72%) reported two or more health conditions, while 6% reported no health conditions. Unsheltered respondents were more likely to report two or more health condition than sheltered respondents (83% vs. 67%).

Table 3.254: Health Conditions (Number) - Williams Lake

Number of Health Conditions	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
No Health Conditions	1	8%	0	0%	**1**	**6%**
1 Health Condition	3	25%	1	17%	**4**	**22%**
2 Health Conditions	4	33%	3	50%	**7**	**39%**
3 Health Conditions	3	25%	0	0%	**3**	**17%**
4 Health Conditions	1	8%	2	33%	**3**	**17%**
Respondents	**12**	**100%**	**6**	**100%**	**18**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	25		0		**25**	
Total	**37**		**6**		**43**	

3.12.9 Youth in Care

All survey participants were asked if they had ever lived in foster care, in a youth group home or under a youth/young adult agreement. In Williams Lake, 47% of respondents reported that they had been in care.

The proportion of respondents reporting they had been in care was greater among sheltered respondents than unsheltered respondents (50% vs. 40%).

Table 3.255: Youth Who Were in Foster Care, Youth Group Homes, or Under a Youth Agreement - Williams Lake

Youth in Care	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	6	50%	2	40%	**8**	**47%**
Currently	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Previously	3	25%	2	40%	**5**	**29%**
Don't Know / No Answer	3	25%	0	0%	**3**	**18%**
No	6	50%	3	60%	**9**	**53%**
Respondents	**12**	**100%**	**5**	**100%**	**17**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	25		1		**26**	
Total	**37**		**6**		**43**	

3.12.10 Income

Survey participants were asked to identify their sources of income and could identify as many sources as applied.

Table 3.256 shows that 76% of respondents identified welfare/income assistance as a source of income, followed by informal/self-employment (12%), seniors' benefits (12%), and disability benefit (12%). Twelve percent (12%) of respondents reported no income.

Sheltered survey respondents were more likely to identify welfare/income assistance as a source of income than unsheltered respondents (83% vs. 60%).

Table 3.256: Sources of Income - Williams Lake

Sources of Income (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Welfare / Income Assistance	10	83%	3	60%	**13**	**76%**
Employment	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Job/Employment - Full-Time	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Job/Employment - Part-Time	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Informal/Self Employment	1	8%	1	20%	**2**	**12%**
Panhandling	1	8%	1	20%	**2**	**12%**
Binning/Bottles	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Vending	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Seniors Benefits	0	0%	2	40%	**2**	**12%**
Old Age Security (OAS)/Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
CPP or Other Pension	0	0%	2	40%	**2**	**12%**
Other/Unspecified	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Disability Benefit	2	17%	0	0%	**2**	**12%**
Employment Insurance	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Youth Agreement	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Money from Family/Friends	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Honoraria	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
No Income	1	8%	1	20%	**2**	**12%**
Other[179]	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Respondents	**12**		**5**		**17**	
Don't Know / No Answer	25		1		**26**	
Total	**37**		**6**		**43**	

[179] The specific "Other" accounting for 2% or more respondents across all communities were related to other types of informal/part time employment or odd jobs.

3.12.11 Services Accessed

Survey participants were asked about the types of services they had used over the past 12 months.

As shown in

Table 3.257, respondents reported that they had accessed a variety of services including health, food, housing and other services such as drop ins. Generally, respondents in shelters reported accessing a greater number of services compared to respondents who were unsheltered, although this was not true in every category. It is important to note that while individuals experiencing homelessness may have a need for a variety of services, the availability of those services varies greatly by community.

Food services (83%) were the most cited services that respondents had accessed over the last previous twelve months, including meal programs (67%) and foodbanks (67%).

Health services were the second most frequently cited services that respondents had accessed over the previous 12 months (78%), with a large proportion (56%) using the emergency room and 39% using the hospital (non-emergency).

Sheltered respondents were more likely than unsheltered respondents to have accessed housing services (77% vs. 20%).

Other services, in particular drop-in and faith-based services, were used by a high proportion of respondents (72% and 17% respectively).

APPENDIX 2

Table 3.257: Services Accessed in 12 Months Prior to Count - Williams Lake

Services Accessed (more than 1 response possible)	**Sheltered**		**Unsheltered**		**Total**	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Health Services	11	85%	3	60%	**14**	**78%**
Health Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Ambulance	2	15%	0	0%	**2**	**11%**
Emergency Room	9	69%	1	20%	**10**	**56%**
Hospital (Non-Emergency)	5	38%	2	40%	**7**	**39%**
Dental Clinic or Dentist	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Mental Health Services	4	31%	2	40%	**6**	**33%**
Addiction Services	2	15%	1	20%	**3**	**17%**
Health Clinic	2	15%	1	20%	**3**	**17%**
Food services	11	85%	4	80%	**15**	**83%**
Food Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Food Banks	8	62%	4	80%	**12**	**67%**
Meal Programs/Soup Kitchens	8	62%	4	80%	**12**	**67%**
Legal Services	2	15%	1	20%	**3**	**17%**
Legal Services (Not Specified)	1	8%	0	0%	**1**	**6%**
Legal	0	0%	1	20%	**1**	**6%**
Parole or Services for Ex-Offenders	1	8%	1	20%	**2**	**11%**
Employment and Financial Services	4	31%	1	20%	**5**	**28%**
Employment and Financial Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Employment/Job Help	4	31%	1	20%	**5**	**28%**
Budgeting/Trusteeship	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Housing Services	10	77%	1	20%	**11**	**61%**
Housing Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Housing Help/Eviction Prevention	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Homeless Outreach	8	62%	1	20%	**9**	**50%**
Transitional Housing	3	23%	0	0%	**3**	**17%**
Other Services	11	85%	3	60%	**14**	**78%**
Other Services (Not Specified)	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Drop-In	10	77%	3	60%	**13**	**72%**
Newcomer Services	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Faith-Based/Spiritual Services	2	15%	1	20%	**3**	**17%**
Other	1	8%	0	0%	**1**	**6%**
None	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Respondents	**13**		**5**		**18**	
Don't Know / No Answer	24		1		**25**	
Total	**37**		**6**		**43**	

3.12.12 History of Homelessness

Sixty percent (60%) of survey respondents had been homeless for less than a year. Sheltered respondents were more likely to have been homeless for less than a year compared to unsheltered respondents (70% vs. 40%).

Table 3.258: Length of Time Without Own Place - Williams Lake

Length of Time Homeless	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 1 year	7	70%	2	40%	**9**	**60%**
Up to and including 7 days	2	20%	1	20%	**3**	**20%**
8 days to <1 month	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
1 month to <1 year	5	50%	1	20%	**6**	**40%**
1 year to under 5 years	2	20%	1	20%	**3**	**20%**
5 years to under 10 years	1	10%	1	20%	**2**	**13%**
10 years or more	0	0%	1	20%	**1**	**7%**
Respondents	**10**	**100%**	**5**	**100%**	**15**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	27		1		**28**	
Total	**37**		**6**		**43**	

Survey participants were asked if this was their first time being homeless and if not, they were asked how old they were the first time they experienced homelessness.

Table 3.259 shows that the majority (63%) of respondents reported that this was *not* the first time they had experienced homelessness. Seventy percent (70%) of all respondents reported experiencing homelessness for the first time when they were under 25 years of age.

Table 3.259: Times Homeless - Williams Lake

Times Homeless	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
First Time	5	42%	1	25%	**6**	**38%**
Not First Time	7	58%	3	75%	**10**	**63%**
Respondents	**12**	**100%**	**4**	**100%**	**16**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	25		2		**27**	
Total	**37**		**6**		**43**	

Table 3.260: Age When First Homeless – General - Williams Lake

Age When First Homeless	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Youth (Under 25 Years)	6	86%	1	33%	**7**	**70%**
Adult (25-54 Years)	1	14%	1	33%	**2**	**20%**
Senior (55+)	0	0%	1	33%	**1**	**10%**
Respondents	**7**	**100%**	**3**	**100%**	**10**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	30		3		**33**	
Total	**37**		**6**		**43**	

Table 3.261 shows the length of time survey respondents had lived in Williams Lake. Individuals experiencing homelessness in Williams Lake were likely to be long term residents of the community. Fifty-three percent (53%) of survey respondents had lived in Williams Lake all their lives. Thirty-five percent (35%) of respondents indicated they had lived in Williams Lake for less than one year.

Respondents were also asked to identify where they lived before arriving in Williams Lake. As shown in

Table 3.262, the majority of respondents (76%) had lived in other parts of B.C. (outside of Metro Vancouver) prior to arriving in the community.

Table 3.261: Length of Time in Community - Williams Lake

Length of Time in Community	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 1 year	4	33%	2	40%	**6**	**35%**
Under 1 month	2	17%	0	0%	**2**	**12%**
1 month to <6 months	1	8%	1	20%	**2**	**12%**
6 months to <1 year	1	8%	1	20%	**2**	**12%**
1 year to under 5 years	1	8%	1	20%	**2**	**12%**
5 years to under 10 years	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
10 years or more	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Always Been Here	7	58%	2	40%	**9**	**53%**
Respondents	**12**	**100%**	**5**	**100%**	**17**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	25		1		**26**	
Total	**37**		**6**		**43**	

Table 3.262: Where Lived Before Community – Williams Lake

Where Lived Before	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Always Been Here	2	17%	2	40%	**4**	**24%**
Metro Vancouver	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Elsewhere in BC	10	83%	3	60%	**13**	**76%**
Elsewhere in Canada	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Other Countries	0	0%	0	0%	**0**	**0%**
Respondents	**12**	**100%**	**5**	**100%**	**17**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	25		1		**26**	
Total	**37**		**6**		**43**	

3.12.13 Service in the Military or RCMP

Survey participants were asked if they ever had any service in the Canadian Forces, including army, navy, airforce or RCMP. Two individuals, representing 13% of respondents reported service in the Canadian Military.

3.12.14 Unsheltered on the Night of the Count – Where and Why

Unsheltered survey participants were asked where they stayed the previous night. Fifty percent (50%) of unsheltered survey respondents reported that they stayed at someone else's place or couch-surfed the night of the count. The remaining respondents reported that they slept in an abandoned/vacant building (17%), or at an 'other' location (33%).

Table 3.263: Where Stayed Night of Count (Unsheltered Only) - Williams Lake

Location	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Outside	0	0%
In a Vehicle (Car, Van, RV, Truck)	0	0%
Makeshift Shelter or Tent	0	0%
Abandoned/Vacant Building	1	17%
Someone Else's Place or Couch-Surfing	3	50%
On a Boat, Not Paying Moorage	0	0%
Parent(s)/Guardian(s) House, 25 and Older	0	0%
Other[180]	2	33%
Respondents	**6**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	0	
Total	**6**	

[180] "Other" location, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, were related to motels and hotels, with short-term or no security of tenure.

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Survey participants who were unsheltered were asked for the main reason why they did not stay in a shelter the previous night. The main reason given by respondents was that they were able to stay with a friend (25%), disliked shelters (25%), were turned away (25%), or for an 'other' reason.

Table 3.264: Main Reason for Not Staying at a Shelter on the Night of the Count (Unsheltered Only) - Williams Lake

Reasons for not Staying in a Shelter	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Able to Stay with a Friend	1	25%
Dislike	1	25%
Don't Feel Safe	0	0%
Turned Away	1	25%
Bedbugs/Pests	0	0%
Other[181]	1	25%
Multiple Responses	0	0%
Respondents	**4**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	2	
Total	**6**	

Survey participants who were unsheltered were also asked if they had stayed in a shelter in the last year. As shown in Table 3.265, more than three quarters (83%) had stayed in a shelter during the last 12 months.

Table 3.265: Have you stayed in a shelter in the last 12 months? – Williams Lake

Previous Stay in Shelter	Unsheltered	
	#	%
Yes	5	83%
No	1	17%
Respondents	**6**	**100%**
Don't Know / No Answer	0	
Total	**6**	

[181] "Other" reasons for not staying in a shelter, accounting for 2% or more of responses across all communities, were related to a) availability (particularly shelters closed or full), b) other options (particularly RVs, trailers, and vehicles, and family), and c) a desire to avoid negative activities/experiences at the shelter.

4 Appendices

4.1 2018 Report on Homeless Counts in B.C.

	#	Community	Date	Source
BC FUNDED COUNTS	1	Campbell River	13-Apr-2018	
	2	Comox Valley	7-Mar-2018	
	3	Cranbrook	18-Apr-2018	
	4	Fort St. John	18-Apr-2018	
	5	Merritt	4-Apr-2018	
	6	Parksville/Qualicum	18-Apr-2018	
	7	Penticton	30-Apr-2018	
	8	Port Alberni	11-Apr-2018	
	9	Prince Rupert	21-Mar-2018	
	10	Sechelt/Gibsons	23-Apr-2018	
	11	Smithers	17-Apr-2018	
	12	Williams Lake	26-Mar-2018	
HOMELESSNESS PARTNERING STRATEGY FUNDED COUNTS	13	Capital Region District	16-Mar-2018	https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/housing-pdf/housing-planning-and-programs/2018-pit-count---community-report---final---july-19.pdf?sfvrsn=a92ee2ca_2
	14	Kamloops	28-Mar-2018	https://www.kamloops.ca/sites/default/files/docs/our-community/297700pdf_pit_2018_rep.pdf
	15	Kelowna	6-Mar-2018	http://www.centralokanaganfoundation.org/application/files/9915/2884/5444/COF_PiT_Report_2018_FINAL.pdf
	16	Nanaimo	18-Apr-2018	https://www.nanaimo.ca/docs/social-culture-environment/community-social-service-programs/nanaimo-pit-count-report-2018_final_june-6.pdf
	17	Nelson	11-Apr-2018	https://nelsoncares.ca/10th-annual-report-card-on-homelessness-in-nelson/
	18	Prince George	18-Apr-2018	
INDEPENDENT	19	Salt Spring Island	13-Mar-2018	http://saltspringcommunityservices.ca/point-in-time-homeless-count-2018/
	20	Terrace	18-Apr-2018	
2017 COUNTS	21	Vernon	19-Oct-2017	https://www.vernon.ca/sites/default/files/docs/building-planning/171023_final_report_-_our_homeless_count.pdf
	22	Duncan	21-Feb-2017	https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/cwav/pages/522/attachments/original/1515171590/Duncan_PiT_Homeless_Count_-

				_Community_Report-_March_2017%281%29.pdf?1515171590
	23	Metro Vancouver	8-Mar-2017	http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/homelessness/HomelessnessPublications/2017MetroVancouverHomelessCount.pdf
	24	Fraser Valley	8-Mar-2017	http://www.fvrd.ca/assets/Government/Documents/2017%20FVRD%20Homelessness%20Survey%20Report.pdf

4.2 Glossary of Terms

The following terms are used throughout the report.

Aboriginal Identity	Refers to whether the person identified with the Aboriginal peoples of Canada. This includes those who are First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit) and/or those who are Registered or Treaty Indians (that is, registered under the Indian Act of Canada), and/or those who have membership in a First Nation or Indian band. Aboriginal peoples of Canada are defined in the Constitution Act, 1982, Section 35 (2) as including the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada.[182]
Accompanied Children	See Children
Children	Refers to children under 19 who were with their parent or guardian during the 2018 Homeless Count. Children are counted below the age of 19 based on reporting in the shelter statistics forms and responses to the question "Are you with anyone today?" No individual survey record of these individuals exists, as they were not interviewed. Unaccompanied youth refers to anyone under the age of 25 who was not physically accompanied by a parent during the Count (e.g. interviewed on the street).
Don't know/no answer	Respondents in this category include both, *respondents* who declined to answer a question but who may have completed the rest of the survey, and those *individuals* who did not answer the survey at all, but were counted through additional information from shelter operators, hospitals, jails and BC Housing. See "*individual*" and "*respondent*".
Indigenous Identity	See Aboriginal Identity
Individual	Refers to all people included in the count's total number, including those who were counted through additional information from shelter operators, hospitals, jails and BC Housing and through the survey. See "*respondent*".
Magnet Event	A magnet event is a strategy used during a PiT Count to attract individuals experiencing homelessness to a planned event. The event, generally lasting a few hours, is advertised well in advance of the day of the count, and usually includes food, services and the option to complete a PiT Count survey. The strategy increases the opportunity to survey individuals experiencing homelessness who might otherwise not be surveyed through a sheltered or unsheltered count.
NFA / No Fixed Address locations	Includes jails and hospitals, and short-term medical facilities; respondents/individuals are included in "Sheltered" unless broken out differently in specific tables.
Participant	Refers to those who were *asked* to participant in the survey.
PiT count	Point-in-Time homeless count
Respondent	Refers to those who *participated* in a survey. See "*individual".*
Sheltered	"Sheltered" individuals or respondents includes all those who stayed or answered a survey and slept at either a temporary nightly shelter, winter response shelter or other shelter programs, such as transition houses for women and children fleeing violence, or safe houses for youth. It also includes individuals with no fixed address (see *NFA*) unless this information is detailed differently in specific tables.
Unspecified	"Unspecified" refers to survey respondents from communities where respondents

[182] Statistics Canada. No date. "Aboriginal identity of person." Definitions, data sources and methods, variables. Last updated April 04, 2017. http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3Var.pl?Function=DECI&Id=246617 (accessed June 10, 2018).

	were not broken out by sheltered or unsheltered.
Unsheltered	"Unsheltered" individuals or respondents includes all those who completed a street survey and who had no physical shelter the previous night (i.e. were staying outside, in alleys, doorways, parkades, parks and vehicles). It also includes people who were staying temporarily at someone else's place (couch surfing) the previous night, and who were interviewed on the street or at a homeless service.

4.3 Sheltered and Unsheltered Survey Instrument

Survey ID:

Homeless Count 2018
Sheltered Survey

Volunteer Name:_____ Shelter Name:_____

- **Participation is voluntary** and **your name will not be recorded**.
- You can choose to **skip any question** or to **stop the interview at any time.**
- The answers you provide are collected under BC's Privacy Act.
- Results will contribute to the understanding of homelessness across BC and Canada, and will help with research to improve services
- **Doing the interview will not affect your use of services in any way.**

Do you consent to be interviewed? ☐ Yes (**Go to Q.1**) ☐ No (**END**)

SCREENING QUESTIONS

1. Will you be sleeping in this shelter tonight?

☐ Yes **(Go to Q.2)**
☐ No **(Go to Q.2)**
☐ No answer **(END)**

2. Have you already answered a survey today **(with someone wearing a yellow sticker)**?

☐ Yes **(END)**
☐ No **(Go to Q.3)**
☐ No answer **(END)**

3. Have you already answered a survey in another community in the last 6 weeks?

☐ Yes **(Community name _____) (Go to Q.4)**
☐ No **(Go to Q.4)**
☐ Don't know/No answer **(Go to Q.4)**

4 . Do you currently have a place to stay where you pay monthly rent?

☐ Yes **(Go to Q.5)**
☐ No **(Go to Q.5)**
☐ No answer **(Go to Q.5)**

SURVEY QUESTIONS

5. How long have you been without a place of your own?

_____ _____ _____ _____
Days **# Weeks** **# Months** **# Years**

☐ Don't know / No answer

6. How old are you [OR] what year were you born?

Age _____ Year born _____
☐ Don't know / No answer

7. What gender you identify with? **[Show list]**

☐ Male / Man
☐ Female / Woman
☐ Two-Spirit
☐ Trans Female / Trans Woman
☐ Trans Male / Trans Man
☐ Genderqueer/Gender Non-Conforming
☐ Not Listed (specify): _____
☐ Don't Know / No answer

8. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee?

☐ Yes (choose one)
  ☐ Immigrant (Go to Q.8a)
  ☐ Refugee (Go to Q.8a)
  ☐ Refugee Claimant (Go to Q.8a)
☐ No (Go to Q.9)
☐ Don't know/No answer (Go to Q.9)

8a. How long have you been in Canada?

Length:_____ _____ _____ _____
Days **# Weeks** **# Months** **# Years**

Or date of arrival:_____ _____ _____
Day **Month** **Year**

☐ Don't know / No answer

9. Do you identify as Indigenous/Aboriginal? This includes First Nations, Metis, Inuit, with or without status.

☐ Yes - specify (**check only one**)
  ☐ First Nations:_____ (specify if known)
  ☐ Inuit
  ☐ Métis
  ☐ Not listed (please describe:_____)
  ☐ Don't know / No answer
☐ No
☐ Don't know / No answer

10. Do you have the following health challenges? (Read list.)

	Yes	No	Don't know/ No answer
Medical condition/illness	○	○	○
Physical disability	○	○	○
Addiction	○	○	○
Mental illness	○	○	○

11. Is there anybody with you today?

☐ Yes Who? (Check all that apply)
  ☐ Partner/spouse
  ☐ Child(ren)
    Age(s) 1.____ 2.____ 3.____ 4.____
  ☐ Friend(s)
  ☐ Pet(s)
  ☐ Relative(s)
  ☐ Other (specify):_____
☐ No
☐ Don't know/No answer

Page 1 of 2 →

2018 Homeless Count

PART 2: SURVEY (CONTINUED)

12. How long have you been in (*community name*)?

Length: _____ _____ _____ _____
Days # Weeks # Months # Years

- ☐ Always been here **(Go to Q.13)**
- ☐ Don't know / No answer **(Go to Q.13)**

12a. Where did you live before you came here (i.e. what community)?

- ☐ Community name_____
  AND province _____
- ☐ OR country _____
- ☐ Don't know / No answer

13. What are your sources of income? **Check all that apply.**

- ☐ Welfare/income assistance
- ☐ Panhandling
- ☐ Disability benefit
- ☐ Binning/bottles
- ☐ Employment insurance
- ☐ Youth agreement
- ☐ Money from family/friends
- ☐ Job full-time
- ☐ Job part-time or casual
- ☐ Old age security (OAS)/guaranteed income supplement (GIS)
- ☐ CPP or other pension
- ☐ Honoraria
- ☐ Vending
- ☐ No income
- ☐ Other (specify):_____
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

14. What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently? **[Do not read the options.** Check all that apply. "Housing" means a place where you paid rent - does not include temporary arrangements (e.g., couch surfing) or shelter stays.]

- ☐ Illness or medical condition
- ☐ Addiction or substance use
- ☐ Job loss
- ☐ Unable to pay rent or mortgage
- ☐ Unsafe housing conditions
- ☐ Experienced abuse by: parent / guardian
- ☐ Experienced abuse by: spouse / partner
- ☐ Conflict with: parent / guardian
- ☐ Conflict with: spouse / partner
- ☐ Incarcerated (jail or prison)
- ☐ Hospitalization or treatment program
- ☐ Eviction
- ☐ Other reason _____
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

15. What do you think is keeping you from finding a place of your own? **(Check all that apply)**

- ☐ Income too low
- ☐ History of Eviction/Lack of references
- ☐ Lack of identification
- ☐ No income/no income assistance
- ☐ Addiction
- ☐ Rent too high
- ☐ Poor housing conditions
- ☐ No housing available that suits my needs
  (specify) _____
- ☐ Mental health issues
- ☐ Family breakdown/abuse/conflict
- ☐ Conflict with law
- ☐ Pets
- ☐ Discrimination (specify) _____
- ☐ Lack of transportation
- ☐ Other (specify):_____
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

16. What services have you used in the past 12 months? **(Check all that apply)**

- ☐ Health services
  - ☐ Ambulance
  - ☐ Emergency room
  - ☐ Hospital (non emergency)
  - ☐ Dental clinic or dentist
  - ☐ Mental health services
  - ☐ Addiction services
  - ☐ Health clinic
- ☐ Food Services
  - ☐ Food banks
  - ☐ Meal programs/soup kitchens
- ☐ Legal Services
  - ☐ Legal
  - ☐ Parole or services for ex-offenders
- ☐ Employment and Financial services
  - ☐ Employment/Job help
  - ☐ Budgeting/trusteeship
- ☐ Housing Services
  - ☐ Housing help/eviction prevention
  - ☐ Homeless outreach
  - ☐ Transitional housing
- ☐ Other Services
  - ☐ Drop-in
  - ☐ Newcomer services
  - ☐ Faith-based/spiritual services
  - ☐ Other (specify):_____
  - ☐ None
  - ☐ Don't know/No answer

17. How do you describe your sexual orientation, for example straight, gay, lesbian? **[Show list]**

- ☐ Straight/heterosexual
- ☐ Gay
- ☐ Lesbian
- ☐ Bisexual
- ☐ Two-spirit
- ☐ Questioning
- ☐ Queer
- ☐ Not listed: _____
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

18. Have you ever lived in foster care, in a youth group home or under a youth/young adult agreement?

- ☐ Yes
  - ☐ Currently (since when: _____)
  - ☐ Previously (for how long: _____)
  - ☐ Don't know / No answer
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know / No answer

19. Have you ever had any service in the Canadian Forces? ***(Includes army, navy, airforce, RCMP)***

- ☐ Yes **(Check all that apply)**
  - ☐ Canadian military (army, navy, airforce)
  - ☐ RCMP
  - ☐ Other country military (specify) _____
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know / No answer

For the next questions, homeless means "you don't have a place of your own where you pay rent".

20. Is this your first time being homeless?

- ☐ Yes **(END)**
- ☐ No **(Go to Q.21)**
- ☐ Don't know/No answer **(Go to Q.21)**

21. How old were you the first time you experienced homelessness?

Age _____ Year _____ ☐ Don't know/ No answer

2018 Homeless Count **End**

Survey ID:

Homeless Count 2018
Street Survey

Volunteer Name:_____ Location:_____

- **Participation is voluntary** and **your name will not be recorded.**
- You can choose to **skip any question** or to **stop the interview at any time.**
- The answers you provide are collected under BC's Privacy Act.
- Results will contribute to the understanding of homelessness across BC and Canada, and will help with research to improve services
- **Doing the interview will not affect your use of services in any way.**

Do you consent to be interviewed? ☐ Yes (**Go to Q.1**) ☐ No (**END**)

SCREENING QUESTIONS

1. Have you already answered a survey today **(with someone wearing a yellow sticker)**?
- ☐ Yes **(END)**
- ☐ No **(Go to Q.2)**
- ☐ No answer **(END)**

2. Have you already answered a survey in another community in the last 6 weeks?
- ☐ Yes **(Community name _____) (Go to Q.3)**
- ☐ No **(Go to Q.3)**
- ☐ Don't know/No answer **(Go to Q.3)**

3. Do you currently have a place to stay where you pay monthly rent?
- ☐ Yes **(END)**
- ☐ No **(Go to Q.4)**
- ☐ No answer **(Go to Q.4)**

4. Where did you stay last night?
- ☐ Outside **(Go to Q.5)**
- ☐ In a vehicle (Car, van, RV, truck) **(Go to Q.5)**
- ☐ Makeshift shelter or tent **(Go to Q.5)**
- ☐ Abandoned/vacant building **(Go to Q.5)**
- ☐ Someone else's place or couch-surfing **(Go to Q.5)**
- ☐ On a boat
  - ☐ paying moorage **(END)**
  - ☐ not paying moorage **(GO TO Q.5)**
- ☐ Parent(s)/guardian's house – If **youth under 25 (END)** if 25 or older **(Go to Q.5)**
- ☐ Shelter, Safe House, Transition House (specify) _____ **(Go to Q.5)**
- ☐ Detox, recovery house, hospital, jail **(END)**
- ☐ Own place inside where you pay rent (specify): _____ **(END)**
- ☐ Other (specify): _____ **(Go to Q.5)**
- ☐ No answer **(END)**

SURVEY QUESTIONS

5. How long have you been without a place of your own?

_____ _____ _____ _____
Days **# Weeks** **# Months** **# Years**

- ☐ Don't know / No answer

6. How old are you [OR] what year were you born?

Age _____ Year born _____
- ☐ Don't know / No answer

7. What gender you identify with? **[Show list]**
- ☐ Male / Man
- ☐ Female / Woman
- ☐ Two-Spirit
- ☐ Trans Female / Trans Woman
- ☐ Trans Male / Trans Man
- ☐ Genderqueer/Gender Non-Conforming
- ☐ Not Listed (specify): _____
- ☐ Don't Know / No answer

SURVEY QUESTIONS (continued)

8. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee?
- ☐ Yes (choose one)
  - ☐ Immigrant (Go to Q.8a)
  - ☐ Refugee (Go to Q.8a)
  - ☐ Refugee Claimant (Go to Q.8a)
- ☐ No (Go to Q.9)
- ☐ Don't know/No answer (Go to Q.9)

8a. How long have you been in Canada?

Length: _____ _____ _____ _____
Days **# Weeks** **# Months** **# Years**

Or date of arrival: _____ _____ _____
Day **Month** **Year**

- ☐ Don't know / No answer

9. Do you identify as Indigenous/Aboriginal? This includes First Nations, Metis, Inuit, with or without status.
- ☐ Yes - specify (**check only one**)
  - ☐ First Nations: _____ (specify if known)
  - ☐ Inuit
  - ☐ Métis
  - ☐ Not listed (please describe: _____)
  - ☐ Don't know / No answer
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know / No answer

10. Do you have the following health challenges? (Read list.)

	Yes	No	Don't know/ No answer
Medical condition/illness	○	○	○
Physical disability	○	○	○
Addiction	○	○	○
Mental illness	○	○	○

11. Is there anybody with you today?
- ☐ Yes Who? (Check all that apply)
  - ☐ Partner/spouse
  - ☐ Child(ren) Age(s) 1.____ 2.____3. ____4.___
  - ☐ Friend(s)
  - ☐ Pet(s)
  - ☐ Relative(s)
  - ☐ Other (specify):_____
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

12. How long have you been in (*community name*)?

Length: _____ _____ _____ _____
Days **# Weeks** **# Months** **# Years**

- ☐ Always been here **(Go to Q.13)**
- ☐ Don't know / No answer **(Go to Q.13)**

12a. Where did you live before you came here (i.e. what community)?
- ☐ Community name_____ AND province _____
- ☐ OR country _____
- ☐ Don't know / No answer

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2018 Homeless Count

PART 2: SURVEY (continued)

13. What are your sources of income? **Check all that apply.**

- ☐ Welfare/income assistance
- ☐ Panhandling
- ☐ Disability benefit
- ☐ Binning/bottles
- ☐ Employment insurance
- ☐ Youth agreement
- ☐ Money from family/friends
- ☐ Job full-time
- ☐ Job part-time or casual
- ☐ Old age security (OAS)/guaranteed income supplement (GIS)
- ☐ CPP or other pension
- ☐ Honoraria
- ☐ Vending
- ☐ No income
- ☐ Other (specify):_____
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

14. What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently? [**Do not read the options**. Check all that apply. "Housing" means a place where you paid rent - does not include temporary arrangements (e.g., couch surfing) or shelter stays.]

- ☐ Illness or medical condition
- ☐ Addiction or substance use
- ☐ Job loss
- ☐ Unable to pay rent or mortgage
- ☐ Unsafe housing conditions
- ☐ Experienced abuse by: parent / guardian
- ☐ Experienced abuse by: spouse / partner
- ☐ Conflict with: parent / guardian
- ☐ Conflict with: spouse / partner
- ☐ Incarcerated (jail or prison)
- ☐ Hospitalization or treatment program
- ☐ Eviction
- ☐ Other reason _____
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

15. What do you think is keeping you from finding a place of your own? **(Check all that apply)**

- ☐ Income too low
- ☐ History of Eviction/Lack of references
- ☐ Lack of identification
- ☐ No income/no income assistance
- ☐ Addiction
- ☐ Rent too high
- ☐ Poor housing conditions
- ☐ No housing available that suits my needs (specify) _____
- ☐ Mental health issues
- ☐ Family breakdown/abuse/conflict
- ☐ Conflict with law
- ☐ Pets
- ☐ Discrimination (specify) _____
- ☐ Lack of transportation
- ☐ Other (specify):_____
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

16. If you did NOT stay in a shelter, safe house or transition house last night, what is the MAIN reason why? **(Check only one)**

- ☐ Able to stay with a friend (specify) _____
- ☐ Dislike (specify) _____
- ☐ Don't feel safe (specify) _____
- ☐ Turned away (specify) _____
- ☐ Bedbugs/pests (specify) _____
- ☐ Other (specify):_____
- ☐ Slept in a shelter/safe house/transition house
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

17. Have you stayed in a shelter in the last 12 months?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

18. What services have you used in the past 12 months? **(Check all that apply)**

- ☐ Health services
  - ☐ Ambulance
  - ☐ Emergency room
  - ☐ Hospital (non emergency)
  - ☐ Dental clinic or dentist
  - ☐ Mental health services
  - ☐ Addiction services
  - ☐ Health clinic
- ☐ Food Services
  - ☐ Food banks
  - ☐ Meal programs/soup kitchens
- ☐ Legal Services
  - ☐ Legal
  - ☐ Parole or services for ex-offenders
- ☐ Employment and Financial services
  - ☐ Employment/Job help
  - ☐ Budgeting/trusteeship
- ☐ Housing Services
  - ☐ Housing help/eviction prevention
  - ☐ Homeless outreach
  - ☐ Transitional housing
- ☐ Other Services
  - ☐ Drop-in
  - ☐ Newcomer services
  - ☐ Faith-based/spiritual services
  - ☐ Other (specify):_____
  - ☐ None
  - ☐ Don't know/No answer

19. How do you describe your sexual orientation, for example straight, gay, lesbian? **[Show list]**

- ☐ Straight/heterosexual
- ☐ Gay
- ☐ Lesbian
- ☐ Bisexual
- ☐ Two-spirit
- ☐ Questioning
- ☐ Queer
- ☐ Not listed: _____
- ☐ Don't know/No answer

20. Have you ever lived in foster care, in a youth group home or under a youth/young adult agreement?

- ☐ Yes
  - ☐ Currently (since when: _____)
  - ☐ Previously (for how long: _____)
  - ☐ Don't know / No answer
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know / No answer

21. Have you ever had any service in the Canadian Forces? ***(Includes army, navy, airforce, RCMP)***

- ☐ Yes **(Check all that apply)**
  - ☐ Canadian military (army, navy, airforce)
  - ☐ RCMP
  - ☐ Other country military (specify) _____
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know / No answer

For the next questions, homeless means "you don't have a place of your own where you pay rent".

22. Is this your first time being homeless?

- ☐ Yes **(END)**
- ☐ No **(Go to 23)**
- ☐ Don't know/No answer **(Go to Q.23)**

23. How old were you the first time you experienced homelessness?

Age _____ Year _____ ☐ Don't know/ No answer

2018 Homeless Count **End**

4.4 12 B.C. Count Community Contributors

Community	Community Organization
Campbell River	AIDS Vancouver Island
Campbell River	Alano Club
Campbell River	Campbell River and North Island Transition Society (CRNITS)
Campbell River	Campbell River Beacon Club
Campbell River	Campbell River Sobering Assessment Centre
Campbell River	City of CR
Campbell River	Laichwiltach Family Life Society
Campbell River	MHSA ACT Teams
Campbell River	North Island Employment Foundations Society
Campbell River	North Island Survivors' Healing Society
Campbell River	Options for Sexual Health
Campbell River	Salvation Army
Campbell River	The John Howard Society of North Island
Comox Valley	AIDS Vancouver Island
Comox Valley	Amethyst House
Comox Valley	City of Courtenay Bylaw
Comox Valley	Comox Bay Care Society Care-A-Van
Comox Valley	Comox Valley Family Services
Comox Valley	Comox Valley Food Bank
Comox Valley	Comox Valley Head Injury Society
Comox Valley	Comox Valley Recovery Centre
Comox Valley	Comox Valley Transition Society
Comox Valley	Connect Program at VIRL
Comox Valley	Cumberland Affordable Housing Committee
Comox Valley	Dawn to Dawn

Comox Valley	Eureka Support Society
Comox Valley	First Nation Health Authority
Comox Valley	Hornby and Denman Community Health Care Society
Comox Valley	Komoks First Nation
Comox Valley	LILLI House
Comox Valley	LINC Youth Centre
Comox Valley	Mental Health & Substance Use
Comox Valley	North Island Hospital
Comox Valley	Salvation Army Family Services
Comox Valley	Salvation Army Pidcock House
Comox Valley	SD71
Comox Valley	Wachiay Friendship Centre
Cranbrook	Ankors
Cranbrook	Community Social Planning Society of Cranbrook and Area
Cranbrook	Operation Street Angel: Ktunaxa Nation
Cranbrook	Salvation Army Coordinator- Community Ministries
Cranbrook	The Homeless Outreach Team
Cranbrook	United Way of Cranbrook and Kimberley
Fort Saint John	FSJ Women's Resource society
Fort Saint John	Salvation Army
Fort Saint John	Urban Matters
Merritt	ASK Wellness
Merritt	Library
Merritt	Conayt Friendship Society
Merritt	Nicola Valley Shelter & Support Society
Merritt	Nicola Valley Region and District Foodbank
Parksville	Discovery College
Parksville	Forward House Community Services Society

Parksville	Haven Society
Parksville	Island Crisis Care Society
Parksville	Lighthouse Community Hall – Soupy Café
Parksville	Manna Homeless Society
Parksville	Society of Organized Services
Parksville	The Salvation Army
Penticton	Compass House
Penticton	Pathways Addictions
Penticton	Soupateria
Port Alberni	Alberni Community and Women's Services
Port Alberni	Alberni Drug and Alcohol Prevention Society
Port Alberni	Better at Home/Alberni Valley Assisted Living Society
Port Alberni	Canadian Mental Health Association – PA
Port Alberni	City of Port Alberni
Port Alberni	INEO Employment Services
Port Alberni	Island Health - Mental Health & Substance Abuse
Port Alberni	Kuu-Us Crisis Line Society
Port Alberni	Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction/Service BC
Port Alberni	Port Alberni Friendship Centre
Port Alberni	Port Alberni Shelter Society
Port Alberni	Scott Fraser MLA - Constituency Office
Port Alberni	The New Leaf Supportive Recovery
Prince Rupert	North Coast Transition Society
Prince Rupert	Mental Health and Addictions CORE
Prince Rupert	Friendship House
Prince Rupert	Sally Ann
Prince Rupert	Blue Heron Program Offices
Prince Rupert	Library

Prince Rupert	Raven's Keep Transition House
Prince Rupert	Extreme Weather Shelter
Prince Rupert	Youth Program
Sechelt	Arrowhead Mental Health Clubhouse (SCCSS)
Sechelt	Intensive Case Management Team
Sechelt	Needle Exchange (VCH)
Sechelt	RainCity Housing
Sechelt	Salvation Army
Sechelt	Sechelt Foodbank (SCCSS)
Sechelt	Sunshine Coast Community Services Society
Sechelt	Sunshine Coast Mental Health and Addictions Services (VCH)
Sechelt	Sunshine Coast Youth Outreach (SCCSS)
Sechelt	Yew Transition House (SCCSS)
Smithers	Broadway Place
Smithers	Bulkley Valley District Hospital
Smithers	Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre
Smithers	Northern Health-Mental Health and Addictions
Smithers	Office of the Wetsuwet'en
Smithers	Passage House
Smithers	Positive Living North
Smithers	Salvation Army
Smithers	Smithers Community Services Association
Smithers	Smithers Interministerial Group
Smithers	Witset (Moricetown Band)
Williams Lake	Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) - Cariboo Chilcotin Branch
Williams Lake	Cariboo Friendship Society
Williams Lake	Cariboo Friendship Society – Shelter
Williams Lake	Cariboo Friendship Society - Transition House

Williams Lake	Mental Health Substance Use
Williams Lake	Salvation Army

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For further information and data, contact: Debbie Kraus: dkraus@bchousing.org.

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

Date: October 15, 2018

Prepared For: Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Title: Amendments to the Local Elections Campaign Financing Expense Limit Regulation to Set Contribution Limits

Issue: The attached Order In Council proposes changes to the Local Elections Campaign Financing Expense Limit Regulation that are necessary to establish contribution limits beginning in 2019.

SUMMARY:

s.13,s.14

BACKGROUND:

In 2017, government amended the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* (LECFA). These amendments included banning contributions made by organizations and establishing limits on individual contributions made to the election campaigns of candidates and elector organizations in local elections. These new rules (in addition to expense limits) apply for the first time in the 2018 general local elections.

For the 2018 general local elections, contribution limits were set in LECFA itself at $1,200 per donor per year (e.g. an individual could provide up to $1,200 to the election campaign of an unendorsed candidate and up to a total of $1,200 to an elector organization and all of its endorsed candidates in each of 2017 and 2018).

A $1,200 contribution limit was identified as an appropriate benchmark – it was consistent with contribution limits established in provincial elections and was supported by the Union of BC Municipalities and the City of Vancouver. Other provinces that have implemented contribution limits for local government elections have a variety of limits based on the experiences of each jurisdiction.

The amendments to LECFA also provided the Lieutenant Governor in Council with authority to set contribution limits by regulation beginning in 2019 to allow flexibility for government to adjust those limits, if needed, for future local elections. For example, government could set different contribution limits for communities based on population.

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Amendments were also made to the Local Elections Campaign Financing Expense Limit Regulation (the Regulation) in Fall 2017 to allow candidates to contribute an additional amount to their own election campaigns in the 2018 general local elections – unendorsed candidates can contribute an additional $1200 ($2400 in total) to their own campaigns in 2018 and endorsed candidates can contribute an additional $1200, collectively to their endorsing elector organization's campaign (see below for more detail). These amendments addressed the "self-funding" issue (e.g. concerns expressed by candidates regarding their ability to finance their own campaigns) that was a significant source of discussion during Committee stage debate for the amendments to LECFA.

Under LECFA, contribution limits must be made with the recommendation of each minister who is responsible for legislation that governs the elections to which LECFA applies – for example, municipal and regional district board elections (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing), board of education elections (Minister of Education), and Advisory Council elections in the Sechelt Indian Government District (Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation).

DISCUSSION:

The amendments to the Regulation will:

- Set contribution limits beginning in 2019 at $1,200 per donor per year. This means that an individual could provide up to $1,200 per calendar year to the election campaign of an unendorsed candidate, and up to a total of $1,200 to an elector organization and all of its endorsed candidates.
- Provide for unendorsed candidates to contribute an additional $1,200 to their own election campaign in the year of an election. For example, if there is a by-election in 2019, a candidate could provide up to a total of $2,400 to their election campaign.
- Provide for endorsed candidates to contribute an additional $1,200 – in total – to their endorsing elector organization's campaign in the year of an election. For example, if there is a by-election in 2019, the total additional amount that could be provided to an elector organization's campaign through all of its endorsed candidates could not be more than $1,200.

The proposed approach sets contribution limits that are consistent with the limits established for 2017 and 2018. The decision to maintain the current contribution limits is based on the policy work and consultations undertaken for the 2017 LECFA amendments and that continues to represent the best available information for setting appropriate contribution limit amounts.

Staff from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation have reviewed the proposed amendments and have not identified any concerns. A written recommendation from each minister in the form of a briefing note will be provided with the OIC package.

Ministry staff are monitoring the 2018 general local elections and will also be reviewing candidate and elector organization disclosure statements when they are available (by end of February 2019) and

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Consultation:

UBCM staff are being consulted as the proposed amendments will directly affect local elections.

Elections BC staff are also being consulted on the proposed amendments.

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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- None

PREPARED BY:	APPROVED BY:	DATE APPROVED:
Gabriel Hill, Senior Policy Analyst Policy, Research and Legislation Branch (778) 698-5043	Tara Faganello, Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government Division	October 12, 2018
	Jacqueline Dawes, Deputy Minister	October 15, 2018

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

Date: October 16, 2018

Prepared For: Honourable John Horgan, Premier

Title: BC Non-Profit Housing Association (BCNPHA) Background

SUMMARY:

- **BCNPHA is an umbrella association representing the non-profit housing sector throughout the province of British Columbia (BC). The Association was formed in 1993 and is now comprised of over 500 non-profit housing societies, businesses, individuals and stakeholders.**
- **The BCNPHA provides leadership and support to members in creating and supporting a high standard of affordable housing throughout BC.**
- **The Housing Central Conference is BCNPHA's annual conference. This year it will be three days of education and networking events focused on affordable housing, and will take place on November 18 – 20, 2018 in Vancouver.**
- **BC Housing provides an annual sponsorship to BCNPHA for the conference. This year BC Housing is providing $90,000 in sponsorship funding.**

BACKGROUND:

BC Non-Profit Housing Association

The mission of BCNPHA is to empower BC's non-profit housing sector through advocacy, education and support.

Supporting a strong non-profit and co-op housing sector is one of BC Housing's Service Plan goals. BC Housing works with over 800 non-profit housing partners to deliver subsidized housing, many of whom are members of BCNPHA. Through BC Housing's operating agreements with non-profit housing providers, subsidy is available for BCNPHA membership.

BC Housing works with BCNPHA to build greater capacity within the sector, including initiatives to promote strategic partnerships and innovation, and to support non-profit financial, operational and governance processes.

Through a joint research initiative, BC Housing and BCNPHA prepared a guide to help non-profit housing providers who are near the end of their operating agreements. The guide provides information to help non-profits prepare for the expiry of their operating agreements and outlines options to consider pre- and post-expiry.

Housing Central Conference: Provincial Participation

BCNPHA's Housing Central Conference will take place on November 18 – 20, 2018 in Vancouver. BC Housing staff are presenting at more than a dozen workshops, including CEO Shayne Ramsay who will be speaking alongside CEO Seonag Macrae of Community Living BC about the importance of partnerships when creating inclusive housing. BC Housing is a conference sponsor, providing approximately $90,000 this year towards the conference.

Premier John Horgan and Minister Selena Robinson will be speaking at the Sunday morning plenary session.

BC Housing is also hosting a meet-and-mingle session on Monday, November 9, 5:30-7pm.

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DISCUSSION:

The 2018 Housing Central partners include, BCNPHA, Co-op Housing Federation of BC and the Aboriginal Housing Management Association.

Housing Central states that "We recognize that it's partnerships like these that have the power to do great things in affordable housing and look forward to inspiring a new level of co-operation and collaboration between our members and across sectors."

Recent/current funding proposals/partnerships:

1. Housing Research Collaborative (HRC)
    - The HRC was initiated in early 2017 under the leadership of Director Dr. Penny Gurstein (Director of the UBC School of Community and Regional Planning and recently appointed to the Board of Commissioners for BC Housing).
    - Consensus has been building across Canada and beyond that an effective response to the need for affordable housing requires a multi-sectoral approach, including all levels of government, the for-profit and non-profit sectors and community involvement.
    - The goal of the HRC, a community of housing providers and housing research professionals from many sectors, is to further our understanding and contribute to policy development on comprehensive affordable housing strategies to meet the need for affordable housing along the spectrum from the homeless to middle-income households.
    - The HRC has received significant funding, $300,000 over three years to establish itself.
    - The initial work will be to establish a data portal to make data accessible to academics and policy makers. It is likely that one of the areas of interest from the committee will be to seek BC Assessment data, and perhaps support from BC Assessment and BC Stats.
    - The overall longer term goal is to improve data quality, access to data and to use the data to assist in informing policy makers about the policy choices they have using evidence based policy making.
2. BC Housing Service Plan performance measure
    - BC Housing's Service Plan's Objective 2.1 is to Collaborate with our non-profit housing partners to ensure long-term provision of social housing.
    - An interim measure has been in place while BC Housing works with BCNPHA to engage the sector in the development of a revised performance measure that will gauge BC Housing's performance in supporting a strong non-profit housing sector.
3. BC Housing's Operational Review process
    - In consultation with BCNPHA, BC Housing is identifying opportunities within the current Operational Review process to help improve financial, operating and governance practices for non-profit housing providers
4. BC Housing supports education initiatives developed for non-profit housing providers, some of these are offered through BCNPHA, e.g. workshops and sessions at the Housing Central Conference, offerings delivered regionally throughout the year, publications and offerings through the BCNPHA website. Topics include: The Housing Registry, leadership, strategic partnerships, Vulnerability Assessment Tool, building maintenance, capital repairs and capital planning.

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5. Joint research project on the Expiry of Operating Agreements Guide
    - In BC, operating agreements representing almost 30,000 subsidized housing units will expire by the year 2033.
    - This guide was commissioned by BC Housing and prepared for BC Housing and BCNPHA by CitySpaces Consulting Ltd.
    - This guide provides information to help non-profits prepare for the expiry of their operating agreements and outlines options to consider pre- and post-expiry.
    - The guide is iterative, and work is ongoing to keep it current. The guide and ancillary resources are available through both BC Housing and BCNPHA.
6. Building BC: Community Housing Fund (CHF)
    - The Building BC: Community Housing Fund is an investment of close to $1.9 billion over 10 years to develop 14,350 units of mixed-income, affordable rental housing for independent families and seniors.
    - The first CHF request for proposals was issued in April 2018 and closed on September 17, 2018. This RFP will be used to select the first set of projects to be funded – a future RFP will be issued later in the 10-year period to provide communities with another opportunity to apply for this funding.
    - Below is a summary of projects, units, $, etc. from the submissions received under the CHF call. This is information based on what was submitted by the non-profit groups and has not been reviewed by BCH staff. There is likely to be under/over-representation of values, equity, funding requests and operating/capital budgets. The summary below is grouped by region. Also, there were 6 co-op projects that came in (Golden, Coquitlam, Surrey, North Vancouver and Vancouver (2) for a total of 511 units.

Region	#of Projects	Total Units	Land Value	Equity Funding Request	Society Equity	Construction Financing	Total Project Budget	Operating Subsidy
North	10	119	1,603,050	11,350,260	2,598,918	19,436,407	33,446,210	540,649
Interior	25	959	23,217,077	94,900,000	11,510,929	191,129,774	304,568,559	3,501,593
Vancouver Island	38	2,435	60,483,973	243,600,000	106,005,748	465,036,282	814,642,030	3,352,446
Vancouver Coastal	67	5,971	414,067,822	595,499,790	555,795,584	1,416,360,451	2,603,129,141	24,659,268
Fraser	37	2,443	193,228,623	244,100,000	192,367,130	473,229,811	925,777,864	8,554,437
Total	148	9,311	510,097,638	928,650,155	618,548,953	1,976,115,468	3,567,713,957	29,371,903

PREPARED BY:

Marie Weeks, Advisor, Indigenous Relations
Executive Office
(604) 456-8870

APPROVED BY:

Greg Steves, Assistant Deputy Minister
Office of Housing and Construction Standards

Jacqueline Dawes, Deputy Minister

DATE APPROVED:

October 12, 2018

October 15, 2018

BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

Date: October 17, 2018

Prepared For: Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Honourable Claire Trevena, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
Honourable Jinny Sims, Minister of Citizens' Services

Title: Homeless Encampment Update

Issue: The encampment response strategy in development, as part of the Homelessness Action Plan

Briefing Date: October 18, 2018

SUMMARY:

- **Homeless encampments are increasing in number and size, and becoming entrenched in communities where activism is a component – such as Saanich, Nanaimo and Maple Ridge.**
- **The Province responds to encampments on a case-by-case basis, which is more and more challenging as the complex needs, resources and legal approaches vary from camp to camp.**
- **This takes up important resources that could be directed to affordability and long-term housing solutions.**
- **We want to be able to prevent encampments and have adequate interim shelter options while longer-term housing is being developed.**
- **We are proposing a coordinated provincial response to encampments based on four focus areas: Coordination, Engagement and Management, Encampment Closure and Transition, and Prevention and Best Practices**
- **This encampment response strategy fits within the Homelessness Action Plan and the funding focus includes expanded interim shelter options, rent supplements and outreach as well as a coordination role led by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.**
- **This coordination role will streamline decision-making and legal approaches to encampment response to consider consistency, charter rights and future legal proceedings.**

BACKGROUND:

Encampments in 2018

During the spring and summer months, when the weather improves and winter shelter spaces close, we traditionally see an increase in people experiencing homelessness. We see more camping in parks and public spaces, as well as the establishment of encampments.

In 2018, we have seen that increase and the establishment of large encampments on Vancouver Island – as well as the moderate growth of a camp in Maple Ridge that started about 17 months ago.

Ministry staff have monitored encampments since the spring and estimate more than 600 people experiencing homelessness stayed in more than a dozen of these encampments.

The three main encampments in Saanich, Nanaimo and Maple Ridge are distinct with different populations with different needs. They do share some common concerns such as fire safety risks, illicit drug use and a lack of shelter options in their respective municipalities – including community and municipal resistance to the development of housing options.

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Each camp also has a coordinated group of advocates and community members helping with various aspects – some, on the ground supplies, others communications and legal supports. They have social media pages and stage events.

The current status of these camps:

- Nanaimo: The city was granted a court injunction to close the camp and is considering allowing people to stay until 170 units of workforce modular supportive housing are opened at the end of November.
- Saanich: The 25 people in the core roving camp group were issued trespass notices Oct. 15 after moving from a private property to highway land beside the municipal hall.
- Maple Ridge: About 25 people will move into newly opened modular and shelter spaces. The City is hoping to move towards encampment closure this winter. There are about 80 people at this location.

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure have provided the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MAH) staff with a list of encampments on its lands throughout the province, which include bylaw and trespass responses to 120 people at 44 sites.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing staff are also in contact with enforcement and compliance staff from the Ministry of Forests, Land and Natural Resource Operation, and Rural Development to share best practices and aligned response to encampments.

Response to the encampments has been dependent on ownership of the land, municipal participation, the level of concern from local authorities and capacity of local service providers. MAH and BC Housing have provided consistent response expertise and outreach.

BC Housing's Housing Action Response Team has been particularly effective in coordinating swift on-site outreach in collaboration with local service providers such as police, fire, health authorities, non-profit housing providers, social assistance staff and others.

Encampment Legal Context

British Columbia courts recognize a limited and qualified right to seek temporary overnight shelter under section 7 of the Charter, which guarantees the right to life, liberty and security of the person.

The primary body of case law relates to municipal lands mainly held as parks. Courts have held that, in the absence of alternative shelter being available, individuals can seek overnight shelter in designated municipal parks. The Courts have so far rejected claims to daytime or continuous occupation of government owned lands. They have also rejected the argument the government has a positive right to pay for and provide housing or shelter under the Charter.

To date, there has been no definitive ruling on the question of whether the right to seek shelter in municipal parks applies to Provincial Crown lands of any kind.

DISCUSSION:

Encampment Response Strategy

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The provincial position is that encampments or tent cities are not a suitable alternative to housing. A rapid provincial response to encampments is possible but quick closure is not necessarily realistic. Once an encampment is established and resources are focused on the response, the only way to achieve encampment closure is by voluntary agreement with campers or a lengthy court process.

The encampment response strategy works to prevent camps from becoming entrenched and new ones from forming. This includes engagement and best practice resources, with particular attention to places where community resistance to social housing is an issue.

Legal Considerations

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The recognition of a limited right to seek overnight shelter has resulted from a balancing by the courts of public uses of public property as compared to the needs of the homeless. The greater the number of alternative shelter options available, the more courts are likely to allow the Province to prevent overnight sheltering.

Whatever the type of lands, the Province and its agencies should be seen to apply any enforcement powers in an even-handed way. This means that homeless individuals should be able to access public amenities on the same terms as every other citizen.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Yes; preliminary costing is underway within the framework of the Homelessness Action Plan.

PREPARED BY:	APPROVED BY:	DATE APPROVED:
Sarah Petrescu, Policy Analyst Housing Policy Branch (250) 812-7885	Gregory Steves, ADM Office of Housing and Construction Standards	October 17, 2018
	Jacqueline Dawes, Deputy Minister	October 17, 2018

BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

Date: October 19, 2018

Prepared For: Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Title: Registered Interior Designers – Building Regulatory System

Issue: Recognizing Registered Interior Designers in British Columbia's (BC) Building Regulatory System

Meeting With: Georgi-Anna Sizeland and Susan Steeves, Co-Chairs, Regulatory Process Committee, Interior Designers Institute of British Columbia on October 22, 2018

SUMMARY:

- **The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing supports the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training in evaluating the appropriate role for qualified interior designers within the building regulatory system.**
- **The Building and Safety Standards Branch has learned in confidence that the Ministry of Environment is proposing to repeal five Acts that govern self-regulating professions and replace them with a Professional Governance Act.**
- **A meeting between the Ministers of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Advanced Education, Skills and Training is recommended to consider how legislative, regulatory, and non-regulatory responses to the Interior Designers Institute of BC's concerns might fit within any new legislation governing registered professions in BC.**

BACKGROUND:

Registered Interior Designers (RIDs) are members of the Interior Designers Institute of BC (IDIBC). Under IDIBC's bylaws, RIDs are required to maintain qualification requirements that include graduation from an accredited university degree program, completion of internship, passing a standardized North American exam, carrying professional and liability insurance, adherence to a code of ethics and standards of practice, and participating in continuing education. Registered Interior Designers are highly qualified professionals who design functional, sustainable, healthy, and safe building interiors.

Interior Designers Institute of BC has long been lobbying the Province to recognize RIDs as registered professionals and has raised the following concerns to various levels of government:

- interpretation of the *Architects Act*, as it applies to the BC Building Code and the publication of the Architectural Institute of BC's practice Bulletin 31 (Buildings Requiring the Services of an Architect);
- their inability to independently provide interior design services without the oversight of a registered Architect; and
- direct limitations under the current regulatory system create significant financial challenges for independent interior designers' small businesses.

In July 2018, IDIBC submitted a white paper titled "Recognizing Registered Interior Designers in BC's Regulatory System" (Appendix 2) to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training (AEST).

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DISCUSSION:

Interior Designers Institute of BC's white paper identifies aspects of BC's building regulatory system that obstruct RIDs from providing the services for which they are qualified:

- absence of a defined scope of practice for interior construction and renovations, with a corresponding right to practice, within a professional statute such as the *Architects Act* or a standalone practice act;
- absence of recognition within the BC Building Code's professional design and review requirements as registered professionals (currently defined as an Architect or Engineer) who can sign the Letters of Assurance, required by local governments to issue building permits; and,
- increasing local governments' reliance on registered professionals to reduce liability and manage risk of enforcing the BC Building Code.

Further, IDIBC's white paper recommends legislative changes, within the purview of AEST, and supporting regulatory and non-regulatory changes and actions, within the purview of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, to address the issues.

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Although AEST is responsible for the *Architects Act* and any legislative amendments, the matters raised by the IDIBC have direct impact to the viability and efficiency of the construction industry. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has an opportunity to understand these matters and, within any new legislative landscape, craft regulations that will protect the public from unqualified interior design practitioners, broaden consumer options, restore economic viability to RIDs as small business owners and employers, and support ongoing work to modernize the building regulatory system.

A meeting between the Ministers of Municipal Affairs and Housing and AEST is recommended to consider how legislative, regulatory, and non-regulatory responses to IDIBC's concerns might fit within any new legislation governing registered professions in BC.

Attachments:

1. Information Briefing Note: Interior Designers – Right to Practice – December 2017
2. Recognizing Registered Interior Designers in BC's Regulatory System: White Paper

PREPARED BY:	APPROVED BY:	DATE APPROVED:
Shannon Laboucane, Policy Analyst Building and Safety Standards Branch (778) 974-3912	Greg Steves, Assistant Deputy Minister Office of Housing and Construction Standards	October 18, 2018
	Jacqueline Dawes, Deputy Minister	October 18, 2018

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

ATTACHMENT 1

CLIFF #231737

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

Date: December 13, 2017

Prepared For: Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Title: Interior Designers – Right to Practice

Issue: The Interior Designers Institute of British Columbia (IDIBC) is seeking a statute for qualified interior design practitioners to submit and secure building permits within their scope of practice.

SUMMARY:

- **The practice of interior design is unregulated in British Columbia, resulting in inconsistent application of the British Columbia Building Code and, in some cases, unnecessary duplication of professional services and increased costs.**
- **The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is supporting the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills, & Training in evaluating the possible creation of a scope of practice, within regulation, for qualified interior designers. Defining that scope will provide certainty for qualified interior designers when dealing with building officials, will distinguish between qualified and unqualified interior designers, and will increase the confidence of the public when engaging qualified interior designers.**
- **A joint meeting between the Interior Designers Institute of BC (IDIBC) and the two Ministers of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Advanced Education would be beneficial.**
- **The Building and Safety Standards Branch intends to explore and form recommendations on this issue in 2018 with the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills, & Training, and with representatives from the Architectural Institute of BC (AIBC) and the IDIBC.**

BACKGROUND:

The Interior Designers Institute of BC is an association of interior design practitioners. The IDIBC is registered as a society and has more than 500 members, over 200 of who have qualified for the right to the exclusive use of the title "Registered Interior Designer (RID)". Qualification requirements include graduation from an accredited university degree program, completion of internship, passing a standardized North American examination, carrying professional and liability insurance, adherence to a code of ethics and standards of practice, and participation in continuing education.

The IDIBC argues that the effective practice of Registered Interior Designers is negatively impacted by:

- Unrestricted use of the title "Interior Designer" by persons lacking education, experience, and professional codes of ethics and standards of practice.
- Uncertainty and, in most cases, denial of the ability of RIDs to work independently on tenant improvements in existing buildings and renovations in complex buildings due to ambiguous code language which leads to inconsistent application of British Columbia Building Code requirements with respect to the role of registered professionals (i.e. architects).

Other provincial jurisdictions addressed these concerns by defining, scoping, and regulating the practice of interior design within statutes.

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CLIFF #231737

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DISCUSSION:

The IDIBC asserts that defining, scoping, and regulating the practice of interior designers within a statute would, along with supporting changes in the British Columbia Building Code, mitigate the negative impacts outlined above. Regulatory options would include the creation of a standalone practice Act for interior designers, or the insertion of suitable language within an updated *Architects Act*.

Representatives from the two affected Ministries have met with IDIBC representatives and with representatives from the AIBC to explore the option of amending the *Architects Act*. All parties have expressed an interest in moving forward.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing can provide support to this initiative by changing the British Columbia Building Code to acknowledge a limited scope of practice for qualified interior designers, in alignment with potential amendments to the *Architects Act*. The code's professional accountability documents, called Letters of Assurance, could be amended, through consultation with the AIBC and other stakeholders, to reflect the code change. These code amendments would bring certainty to the RID profession that has been acknowledged by the Building and Safety Standards Branch, but has not been resolved, since the introduction of Letters of Assuance within the building code in 1992.

By supporting the creation of a statute regarding interior designers and responding with building code changes, the Building and Safety Standards Branch can reinforce *Building Act* objectives; consistency in the interpretation and application of the building code, and ensuring competency in building industry practitioners. The Branch Executive Director, Andrew Pape-Salmon, has been invited to meet with IDIBC representatives and others early in 2018 to further discuss this initiative.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Defining, scoping, and regulating the practice of interior design may avoid unnecessary duplication of professional services, reducing costs to the building industry and consumers.

PREPARED BY:	APPROVED BY:	DATE APPROVED:
Don Pedde, Senior Codes Administrator Building and Safety Standards Branch (250) 812 4541	Greg Steves, ADM Office of Housing and Construction Standards	December 12, 2017
	Jacqueline Dawes, Deputy Minister	December 13, 2017

Recognizing Registered Interior Designers in BC's Building Regulatory System: White Paper

Executive Summary

Registered Interior Designers (RIDs) work collaboratively with architects and engineers in the design and construction of commercial and residential buildings. They are professionals who are highly qualified to design functional, sustainable, healthy, and safe building interiors that meet occupants' needs and BC's construction standards. RIDs are members of the Interior Designers Institute of BC, which is the second largest association of RIDs in Canada with over 550 members. Over 70 percent of RIDs are small business owners and employers and over 90 percent are women.

However, BC's building regulatory system increasingly obstructs RIDs from providing the services for which they are qualified. This is largely due to changes in how local governments are managing the risk of regulating building construction:

- A strict interpretation of provisions of the *Architects Act* that specify when the services of an architect are required, despite the Architectural Institute of BC's efforts to create more flexibility.
- Wholesale application of the BC Building Code's professional design and review provisions, which require an architect to assume professional accountability for interior design work.

This has forced RIDs to hire an architect to obtain building permits for interior design projects and to assume responsibility for interior design work. The additional architectural fees that result have challenged RIDs' ability to compete on an equal footing.

As opportunities for RIDs to practice become more limited, so too does consumer choice and access to cost-effective interior design services and a competitive market. This in turn impacts the overall cost of construction projects and ultimately affordability. It also threatens the viability of a small business sector that makes a significant contribution to BC's economy and provides much-needed opportunities for women to enter the construction field, and reduces employment opportunities for graduates of BC's interior design programs.

Revision of the provincial "Guide to the Letters of Assurance in the BC Building Code" to clarify when RIDs are permitted to undertake interior design work would be a first step toward eliminating these obstacles. A legislated scope of practice, either in a new act or through amendments to the *Architects Act*, would provide a lasting solution. It would support a Building Code revision to enable RIDs to provide professional accountability documents on which local governments can legally rely. It would also:

- protect the public from unqualified practitioners of interior design;
- reduce barriers to labour mobility by harmonizing BC's approach to regulating interior designers with the approach taken by other provinces, in which the professi on and its scope of practice are recognized;
- broaden consumer choice and access to cost-effective RID services, lowering costs for interior design work and restoring this small business sector's economic viability;
- support provincial priorities to improve housing affordability and reduce unnecessary red tape;
- ensure that BC reaps the benefit of the provincial investment in interior design programs; and
- support ongoing efforts to modernize the building regulatory system, by ensuring that the legislative framework reflects the multidisciplinary, collaborative approach that design professionals have adopted to respond to the complexities of 21st century building design and construction.

Legislative and regulatory recognition of the role of RIDs will support the public interest in ensuring that interior design practitioners are appropriately qualified and that the competitive, cost-effective services they provide continue to be available to consumers.

July 19, 2018

Recognizing Registered Interior Designers in BC's Building Regulatory System: White Paper

Issues and Impacts

Registered Interior Designers (RIDs) use their creative and technical expertise to achieve functional, sustainable, healthy, and safe interior spaces that meet occupants' needs and BC's construction standards. They are professionals who are highly qualified, through education, supervised practice, and examinations, to provide cost-effective design and management services for interior construction and alterations. The practice of interior design is continuing to evolve in response to the growing interest in areas such as energy efficiency and environmental sustainability.

BC's interior design sector also generates significant economic activity. An estimated 25 percent of the total value of building permits issued can be attributed to building interiors ; in 2017, this equated to $3.5 billion. Interior construction and alterations managed by RIDs comprise a large part of this . (See Appendix A for more information on the profession.)

However, there are limitations in BC's current building regulatory system that increasingly obstruct RIDs from providing the services for which they are qualified:

- Lack of a defined scope of practice for interior construction and alterations, with a corresponding right to practice, within a professional statute such as the *Architects Act* or a standalone practice act*;*
- A resulting lack of recognition within the BC Building Code's professional design and review requirements as a "registered professional" (currently defined as an architect or engineer) who can sign the Building Code's professional accountability documents ("Letters of Assurance"), which local governments require in order to issue a building permit, and
- Increasing local government reliance on registered professionals to reduce liability exposure and mitigate the inherent risk of regulating building construction.

These limitations have led to a number of interrelated issues and negative impacts:

- There is no legal means to protect the public by preventing unqualified individuals from practicing interior design.
- BC is out of step with other provinces in which interior design is a regulated profession, which creates barriers to labour mobility.
- Compared to these other provinces, consumer choice and access to cost-effective interior design services and a competitive marketplace are limited in BC, which in turn increases the overall costs of residential and commercial construction projects and ultimately affordability.
- Most local governments now require interior designers to engage a registered professional to obtain building permits for and to assume full or partial responsibility for interior construction and alterations. This introduces project delays and coordination issues, while the additional fees needlessly increase project costs.
- As a consequence, RID firms have lost business and graduates of provincially-funded interior design programs have fewer employment opportunities, with a resulting threat to business viability, closures of independent interior design firms, and departure to other provinces.

Objective

To attain legislative and regulatory recognition of the role of RIDs in BC's building regulatory system in order to:

- protect the public from unqualified practitioners;

- broaden consumer choice and access to cost-effective services from qualified interior designers; and
- restore the economic viability of interior design small businesses.

This can be accomplished by means of short-term non-regulatory actions and longer-term legislative and regulatory changes.

Non-regulatory actions

1. Government decision to invite the Interior Designers Institute of BC (IDIBC) to participate in the upcoming revision of the provincial "Guide to the Letters of Assurance in the BC Building Code."
2. Revision of the provincial "Guide to the Letters of Assurance in the BC Building Code" to clarify when RIDs are permitted to undertake interior construction and alterations.

Legislative and regulatory changes

1. Establishment of a defined scope of practice, with a corresponding right to practice[1] for RIDs, either by amending the *Architects Act* or by adopting a new interior design practice act.
2. Subsequent revisions to the BC Building Code to clearly distinguish interior construction and alterations[2]—the typical scope of projects that RIDs undertake—from base building alterations, and to include RIDs in the Code's professional design and review requirements.

Background

RIDs are building professionals who work collaboratively with architects and engineers in the design and construction of commercial and residential buildings, with a focus on building interiors. On the residential side, the provision of cost-effective services to social housing projects is a significant component of some firms' practice.

Interior design in British Columbia has evolved over time to meet the demands of increasingly complex building design and construction. By virtue of their qualifications, RIDs are important participants in the multidisciplinary, integrated approach now adopted by most building projects. They apply a well-defined Body of Knowledge[3] to plan and design interior spaces that protect and enhance occupant health, safety, and well-being.

RIDs are members of the IDIBC. The organization was established in 1950 and has 565 members, of whom 304 are RIDs[4], and an established, robust governance structure. IDIBC bylaws regulate membership and registration, qualification requirements, mandatory continuing education and professional liability insurance, complaints and discipline, and professional conduct. (See Appendix A for more information on the IDIBC and the profession.)

The current BC building regulatory system recognizes a scope of practice with a corresponding right to practice for architects and engineers through their professional statutes, but not for interior designers. Although

[1] A defined scope of practice outlines the range of tasks that an RID is legally permitted to perform. A right to practice restricts that scope of practice to registrants (RIDs and architects) who have met the required qualifications, undertake continuing education, carry professional liability insurance, and abide by a code of professional conduct.

[2] Interior construction and alterations would exclude the building's exterior walls, fire separations, exits, access for persons with disabilities, or changes to building occupancy, all of which require a registered architect.

[3] The formal Body of Knowledge of an RID includes expertise in design theory and process, human environment needs, building products and materials, and interior construction and Building Code requirements.

[4] Over 90 percent of RIDs are women.

unqualified individuals may not call themselves Registered Interior Designers, due to the IDIBC's status as an occupational title society under the *Societies Act*, they can call themselves interior designers and practice interior design, leaving the public unprotected.[5]

This contrasts with other Canadian provinces that recognize the profession of interior design and its scope of practice, with a corresponding right to practice, either through a standalone statute (Nova Scotia and New Brunswick), within the architectural profession's statute (Alberta and Saskatchewan), or through an exemption from the architectural scope of practice (Ontario, Quebec, and Prince Edward Island). Labour mobility is limited for RIDs from other provinces who are not able to practice at an equivalent level in BC, and for BC RIDs who must re-qualify in other provinces in order to practice there. (For details on the regulation of interior design in other Canadian provinces, see Appendix B.)

Despite the lack of a legislated scope of practice and authority to sign Building Code Letters of Assurance, RIDs in BC were long recognized as competent to undertake a variety of interior construction and alteration projects and were able to secure building permits for them without the involvement of an architect. However, in recent years RIDs' ability to obtain building permits from local governments has suffered an increasingly steep decline. This is primarily due to local government risk management strategies, including:

- a strict interpretation of the provisions of section 60 of the *Architects Act,* which specify when the services of an architect are required; and
- a broad application of the Building Code's requirements for professional design and review and the "Guide to the Letters of Assurance in the BC Building Code."

The situation for RIDs has continued to deteriorate despite the IDIBC's persistent efforts to gain commitments from the Province to address the issues and to work with the AIBC toward legislative amendments.

In May 2017, the AIBC revised its Bulletin 31,"Buildings Requiring the Services of an Architect," to clarify the application of section 60. The revised Bulletin states that, notwithstanding section 60's wording, "many alterations or repairs (tenant improvements/renovations) may not require architectural services." The bulletin was intended to maximize the very limited flexibility possible under the restrictions imposed by the *Architects Act*, which are poorly aligned with today's multidisciplinary, collaborative approach to building design and construction. However, in RIDs' recent experience, given the lack of a clearly defined scope for interior alterations, most local governments are adhering to a strict interpretation of section 60, despite the Bulletin.

The Building Code includes requirements for professional design and review for large residential, commercial, and other complex buildings. Building owners or tenants must retain a registered professional to coordinate all design work and construction reviews that are performed by the other registered professionals on the project (one for each applicable discipline: architectural, structural, mechanical, etc.). The coordinating registered professional (CRP) and the other registered professionals must provide local governments with a series of signed Letters of Assurance that document their role and assure the substantial Code compliance of design and construction. The initial Letters must accompany the building permit application.

[5] For example, interior design practitioners who are not IDIBC members and have not taken IDIBC-mandated Building Code training could design building interiors with unsafe access to exits, incorrect separations between occupancies, or finishes that are not fire resistant, all of which could pose threats to life safety. Unlike RIDs, non-members are also not required to carry professional liability insurance.

Recognizing Registered Interior Designers in BC's Building Regulatory System: White Paper

The current provincial "Guide to Letters of Assurance in the BC Building Code," published in 2010, fosters "the appropriate and consistent use and application" of Letters of Assurance. Many local government building departments rely on the Guide to make decisions related to the Letters. The Guide explains when a registered professional[6] is needed and states that the requirements for Letters of Assurance "are not intended to apply to simple building alterations."

However, based on their interpretation of the Guide, building departments now widely apply Code requirements for professional design and review, including Letters of Assurance, to *all* interior construction and alteration projects in complex buildings, even uncomplicated alterations. This appears to be part of a broader local government trend toward managing risk through reliance on registered professionals whenever possible.

Because they lack a legislated scope of practice/right to practice, RIDs are not included in the Code definition of a registered professional. They therefore cannot provide design and construction review services for building components listed under the architectural discipline in the Letters of Assurance[7] or act as a CRP. If a local government building department applies the Code's professional design and review requirements, the RID must engage an architect, who assumes responsibility for the architectural building components and completes the applicable sections of the Letters of Assurance. The architect (or in some cases an engineer) must act as the CRP. Once engaged, the CRP will submit initial Letters of Assurance and obtain a building permit, and is subsequently obligated to act in an oversight role until completion of the project, including conducting field reviews of the construction and submitting further Letters of Assurance.

For a simple alteration project, the cost of an architect and a CRP is added to the cost of the RID's services. If the alteration is more complicated, a CRP is required, but an architect's fee for the interior design services is still duplicative. An architect has additional qualifications and a much broader scope of work (with a correspondingly higher level of risk) than an RID, so may charge a higher fee for interior design. Duplication of services and/or higher architects' fees reduce consumer access to cost-effective interior design and even the likelihood that a project will proceed.

The need to pay additional architectural fees makes it challenging for RIDs to price their services competitively. It also threatens the viability of an entire sector of small businesses that provide much-needed opportunities for women to enter the construction industry and make a significant contribution to BC's economy. (See Appendix A for current statistics on the economic impact of this sector.) If the obstructions to RIDs' practice continue to escalate, existing firms may close and their principals would need to seek work at architectural firms, or leave BC.

The Province also funds three (soon to be four) interior design university degree programs that are expected to graduate 50 to 60 bachelors of interior design in 2018. These graduates are needed to serve the needs of BC's

[6] Currently, the Guide states the need for a registered professional to provide Letters of Assurance if an alteration involves changes to fire and life safety components, fire separations, exits, or access for persons with disabilities; or changes to the structural integrity of the base building.

[7] Building components under the architectural discipline that could be applicable to interior construction and alterations include "interior signage," "review of all applicable shop drawings," and "interior and exterior finishes."

booming construction sector, but with the current obstructions to practice, the likelihood increases that graduates will leave BC to seek opportunities elsewhere.

Recommendations

Non-regulatory actions:

1. Government decision to invite the IDIBC to participate in the upcoming revision of the "Guide to the Letters of Assurance in the BC Building Code."

   The Building and Safety Standards Branch is planning to make revisions to the Guide before fall 2018, presenting a potential opportunity for the IDIBC to exert some influence on Guide wording. The IDIBC could participate in the process by reviewing and commenting on draft Guide revisions, by attending and observing Guide revision meetings, or even by attending and contributing to the discussion at meetings. The AIBC will be participating in this process as well, representing an early opportunity for collaboration and joint problem solving.

2. Revision of the "Guide to the Letters of Assurance in the BC Building Code" to clarify when RIDs are permitted to undertake interior construction and alterations.

   Such a revision could be expected to favourably influence the discretion that local government building departments exercise when determining whether to require Letters of Assurance for a simple interior alteration. However, the risk aversion that drives these local government decisions can only be fully addressed by the legislative and regulatory changes proposed by this paper.

Legislative and regulatory changes:

1. Establishment of a defined scope of practice, with a corresponding right to practice for RIDs, either by amending the *Architects Act* or by adopting a new interior design practice act.

   Amending the *Architects Act* is an expedient way to accomplish this goal. The essential elements of an amendment would be to:

   - include explicit language that clearly defines what RIDs can and cannot do when the interior of a building is constructed or altered;
   - restrict this scope of work to RIDs and registered architects;
   - specify what an interior designer must do to become and remain registered; and
   - modify the AIBC's governance structure to accommodate self-regulation of the profession of interior design.

   Alberta's *Architects Act* and General Regulation provide an example of how another Canadian jurisdiction has followed this approach to regulating interior design.

   Alternatively, a new practice act would include the same essential self-regulatory elements as those listed above, except that the IDIBC would act as its own regulatory body, a role for which the IDIBC has demonstrated capacity. A new act would enable the IDIBC to autonomously regulate the profession of interior design, rather than requiring a merger with a much larger professional group.

   The *Interior Designers Acts* of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick provide examples of this approach.

   In a letter dated May 21, 2014, the AIBC indicated its support for regulating the interior design profession within a statute, with rights to both title and scope of practice and corresponding obligations in the public interest (see Appendix C).

2. Subsequent revisions to the BC Building Code to clearly distinguish interior construction and alterations—the typical scope of RID projects—from alterations in general, and to include RIDs in the Code's professional design and review requirements.

   Establishment of a legislated scope of practice would support a Code revision clarifying the interior construction and alterations that RIDs typically undertake. It would also open the door to a Code revision including RIDs in the Code's professional and design review requirements, enabling RIDs to sign Letters of Assurance and to obtain building permits for interior construction and alteration projects.

Rationale

By establishing an recognized role and scope of practice/right to practice for RIDs, the recommendations will:

- protect the public from unqualified practitioners;
- reduce barriers to labour mobility by harmonizing BC's approach to regulating interior designers with the approach taken by other provinces;
- broaden consumer choice and access to cost-effective RID services, lowering costs for interior design work and restoring this small business sector's economic viability;
- support provincial priorities to improve housing affordability and reduce unnecessary red tape;
- ensure that BC reaps the benefit of the provincial investment in interior design programs; and
- support ongoing efforts to modernize the building regulatory system, by ensuring that the legislative framework reflects the multidisciplinary, collaborative approach that design professionals have adopted to respond to the complexities of 21st century building design and construction.

Potential Policy Issues

AIBC: The AIBC's cooperation is obviously necessary for any amendment to the *Architects Act*. In 2006, the IDIBC and the AIBC signed a Memorandum of Understanding to pursue the inclusion of self-regulation and a scope of practice/right to practice for RIDs within the *Architects Act* (see Appendix C). In recent discussions at the staff level, the IDIBC and the AIBC have confirmed a common interest in amendments to the Act and a commitment to resume work based on the Memorandum of Understanding, if government signals a willingness to proceed.

While a new practice act for RIDs would require much less active collaboration with the AIBC, the *Architects Act* would still need a significant consequential amendment, exempting the interior design scope of practice from the requirement for an architect.

Local governments: While Guide revisions can help, ultimately local governments will only feel more secure dealing directly with RIDs on interior construction and alteration projects if RIDs have a legislated scope of practice, are included in the Code's professional design and review requirements, and carry appropriate liability insurance.

Moving beyond the legislative changes proposed in this paper, an amendment to *Local Government Act* section 743 is also worth consideration. Its provisions grant immunity to local governments that rely on certification of the Code compliance of a building's design by an architect or engineer. Local government reluctance to deal directly with RIDs would be greatly reduced by adding RIDs to the professionals referred to in these provisions.

Consultations

The IDIBC has not yet consulted with external stakeholders. IDIBC members fully support efforts to gain self-regulation for RIDs, either under the *Architects Act* or in a standalone act, and are willing to bear any additional costs.

Recognizing Registered Interior Designers in BC's Building Regulatory System: White Paper

Appendix A: The Interior Design Profession in BC

What is a Registered Interior Designer?

Registered Interior Designers (RIDs) use creative and technical expertise to plan and design functional, sustainable, healthy, and safe interior spaces that meet occupants' needs and BC's construction standards. They are well qualified to oversee the complex process of designing and managing interior construction and alterations, coordinating with general contractors, trades, suppliers, and other professionals to ensure the safe, successful completion of a project.

Once engaged on a project, the RID is responsible for:

- Analyzing clients' needs, goals, and safety requirements;
- Integrating findings with knowledge of interior design;
- Formulating preliminary design concepts that are aesthetic, appropriate, functional, and compliant with applicable codes and standards;
- Developing and presenting final design recommendations;
- Preparing working drawings and specifications for non-load bearing interior construction, reflected ceiling plans, lighting, interior detailing, materials, finishes, space planning, furnishings, fixtures, and equipment in compliance with applicable codes;
- Collaborating and coordinating with other professionals in the technical areas of mechanical, electrical, and load-bearing design as required for regulatory approval;
- Preparing and administering bids and contract documents as the client's agent; and
- Reviewing and evaluating design solutions during implementation and upon completion.

The practice of interior design has evolved considerably over the past 70 years. Clients are now interested in indoor air quality, sustainability, energy efficiency, and employee productivity, which has driven the need for more specialized knowledge and more highly qualified interior design practitioners.

Interior Designers Institute of BC (IDIBC)

Established in 1950, the IDIBC is BC's only professional association for interior designers and is the second largest association of interior designers in Canada. The IDIBC's mission is "to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the public and support excellence in Interior Design by regulation of the Interior Design profession in British Columbia."

IDIBC has 565 members, 304 of whom are RIDs. Approximately 72 percent of RIDs lead or are employed by independent small businesses, and roughly 90 percent of RIDs are women.

The IDIBC has a well-defined governance structure. A board of eight directors manages the IDIBC's business and administers its bylaws. There are 10 committees for different aspects of IDIBC affairs, including membership, continuing education, emerging professionals, and events. The bylaws include provisions for:

- classes of members and the requirements for admission to each member class, applications procedures, and fees;
- general meetings, notice, and voting;
- election of directors and officers, term of office, powers and duties, board meetings, and committees;
- complaint and discipline procedures; and
- a code of ethics and professional conduct.

Recognizing Registered Interior Designers in BC's Building Regulatory System: White Paper

Appendix A: The Interior Design Profession in BC

The IDIBC was registered as a occupational title society under the *Society Act* in 1993, giving its members the exclusive right to use of the title "Registered Interior Designer (RID)." IDIBC members who practice interior design and use the title "Registered Interior Designer" must meet rigorous requirements that are comparable to self-regulated professions such as architecture and engineering:

- graduation from a four-year university degree program that is accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA)[8]
- completion of a three-year supervised internship
- successful completion of an examination offered by the Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ)[9]
- professional and general liability insurance
- adherence to a code of ethics and professional conduct
- mandatory participation in a continuing education program[10] that includes Building Code courses

Economic impact of the interior design sector

The practice of interior design shapes almost every type of building in BC. Commercial interior construction and alterations range from individual offices to several hundred thousand square feet of corporate office space; from a small fast food outlet to a world class restaurant; from a small medical clinic to a large hospital or care facility; and from a motel to a five-star hotel. Residential projects range from private residences to large multi-unit buildings to social housing. Government, business, industry, tourism, and private citizens all benefit from the skills of the RID.

In 2017, the total value of building permits issued in BC for residential and commercial projects was close to $14 billion. While it is difficult to estimate the proportion accounted for by interior construction and alterations, a common rule of thumb for quantity surveyors is to attribute 25% of the total to building interiors.

As an example of the economic impact of the interior design sector, the top ten interior design firms in BC each employ an average of 19 people and collectively manage commercial interior alteration projects of over two million square feet of office space every year. This equates to over $200 million of economic activity annually, just for the construction of these projects. If the value of furniture, technology, equipment, artwork, and accessories is added in, the associated economic activity can easily more than double to over $400 million annually. Given that this represents only the economic activity generated by ten firms for one type of project, the overall economic activity generated by the interior design sector is clearly considerably higher.

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[8] The CIDA is an independent, non-profit accrediting organization for interior design education programs at colleges and universities in the United States, Canada, and internationally. More than 150 interior design programs are accredited by the CIDA. Currently in BC, the BC Institute of Technology, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, and Vancouver Island University offer accredited programs. Emily Carr University of Art + Design is seeking accreditation for its program.

[9] The CIDQ administers the North American NCIDQ exam, which tests interior designers' knowledge in areas that relate to occupant health, safety, and well-being, such as building systems, construction codes and standards, and design application. A bachelor degree and extensive supervised work experience as an intern must be completed before the exam can be written. Successful completion of the exam entitles an interior designer to use the title "NCIDQ Certified Interior Designer."

[10] The IDIBC introduced mandatory continuing education (CE) in 2002. RIDs are required to complete 30 CE units within a three-year cycle. IDIBC members can register and track their CE units on the Interior Design Continuing Education Council (IDCEC) website. IDCEC also registers CE providers and evaluates and approves CE courses.

Recognizing Registered Interior Designers in BC's Building Regulatory System: White Paper

Appendix B: Regulation of Interior Design in Other Canadian Provinces

	Practice act Full self-regulation includes right to title, a defined scope of practice and right to practice within this scope (i.e., must be a registered or licensed member of the regulatory body in order to practice).	**Title act** Right to title in either a standalone act for a specific organization or established under an act (e.g., *Societies Act* in BC) that governs how non-profit organizations may be established and operate.	**Title**	**Legislated scope of practice** Refers to the range of activities that a qualified practitioner of an occupation may practice. It establishes the boundaries of an occupation, especially in relation to other occupations where similar activities may be performed. The scope of practice for interior design may be established through a practice act for interior design or through another profession's (i.e., architects) act.	**Ability to obtain building permit**	**Ability to sign Letters of Assurance (or comparable accountability document)**	**Applicable legislation**
BC	NO	YES	Registered Interior Designer (RID)	NO	NO	NO	*Societies Act*
AB	YES Within the Alberta *Architects Act* and General Regulation (LIDs)	YES Within the *Registered Interior Designers Institute of Alberta Act* (RIDs)	Licensed Interior Designer (LID) Registered Interior Designer (RID)	YES (LIDs)	YES (LIDs)	YES (LIDs)	*Architects Act* and General Regulation *Registered Interior Designers Institute of Alberta Act*
SK	NO	YES	Interior Designer	YES The scope of practice within the Saskatchewan *Interior Designers Act* is, with some additional limitations, exempted from the right to practice provision for architects in the *Architects Act*	YES	N/A	*Interior Designers Act; Architects Act*
MB	NO	YES	Professional Interior Designer (PID)	NO	Varies by municipality	Varies by municipality	*Professional Interior Designers Institute of Manitoba Act*
ON	NO	YES	Interior Designer	YES Via an exemption; the Ontario *Architects Act* exempts an interior design scope of practice from its right to practice provision	YES With provincially-issued Building Code Identification Number (BCIN)	N/A	*Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario Act*
PQ	NO	YES Via a registered trademark	Designer d'intérieur certifié APDIQ®	YES Via an exemption; the Quebec *Architects Act* exempts an interior design scope of practice from its right to practice provision	YES	N/A	*Architects Act* (title registered at Office of Intellectual Property of Canada)
NB	YES	NO	Interior Designer	YES	YES	N/A	*Interior Designers Act*
NS	YES	NO	Interior Designer	YES	YES	YES	*Interior Designers Act*

Recognizing Registered Interior Designers in BC's Building Regulatory System: White Paper

Appendix B: Regulation of Interior Design in Other Canadian Provinces

	Practice act Full self-regulation includes right to title, a defined scope of practice and right to practice within this scope (i.e., must be a registered or licensed member of the regulatory body in order to practice).	**Title act** Right to title in either a standalone act for a specific organization or established under an act (e.g., *Societies Act* in BC) that governs how non-profit organizations may be established and operate.	**Title**	**Legislated scope of practice** Refers to the range of activities that a qualified practitioner of an occupation may practice. It establishes the boundaries of an occupation, especially in relation to other occupations where similar activities may be performed. The scope of practice for interior design may be established through a practice act for interior design or through another profession's (i.e., architects) act.	**Ability to obtain building permit**	**Ability to sign Letters of Assurance (or comparable accountability document)**	**Applicable legislation**
PE	NO	NO	NO	YES Via an exemption; the PEI *Architects Act* exempts an interior design scope of practice from its right to practice provision	YES Issued for interior design submissions that are consistent with the PEI *Architects Act* exemptions	NO	*Architects Act*
NL	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	No legislation

Recognizing Registered Interior Designers in BC's Building Regulatory System: White Paper
Appendix C

May 21, 2014 Letter from the AIBC

June 14, 2006 Memorandum of Understanding between the AIBC and the IDIBC

This initiative did not progress further as revisions to the *Architects Act* were put on hold.

ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

ARCHITECTURE CENTRE
SUITE 100 - 440 CAMBIE STREET
VANCOUVER BC CANADA
V6B 2N5

TEL: 604 683 8588 / TOLL FREE IN BC: 1 800 667 0753
FAX: 604 683 8568 / 1 800 661 2955
E-MAIL: AIBC@AIBC.CA
INTERNET: WWW.AIBC.CA

May 21, 2014 *By Email*

Ms Susan Steeves, Ms Georgi Sizeland, Mr Jim Toy
The Interior Designers Institute of BC
Suite 400 - 601 W. Broadway
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4C2

Dear Susan, Georgi, and Jim:

Re: Securing Building Permits / Letters of Assurance / Professional Responsibility

Further to your letter received 11 April 2014; my subsequent telephone conversation with Jim Toy; and the ensuing meeting convened 14 May 2014 at our offices with Susan Steeves and Jim Toy … attended by AIBC Council member and Act Review Working group chairperson, Gord Richards as well as the undersigned … we are pleased to provide the response below.

We understand fully the current situation apropos the difficulty experienced by some of your Registered Interior Designer (RID) members in being refused building permits by some authorities having jurisdiction on projects they are legally entitled to undertake and for which (under either the *Architects Act* and/or the applicable building codes) an architect and/or coordinating registered professional may not be required.

We understand also that you are pursuing (and seeking our support for) an amendment to the BC Building Code that would allow RIDs to assume responsibility for interior tenant improvements and to sign and to sign and seal letters of assurance on those projects.

Upon review, including consideration by our Governance Committee, we do *not* support your above-noted proposed amendment to the BC Building Code.

We *do* support, however, the principle that the public interest is best served by professional licensing and regulation under statute of persons who take responsibility and professional accountability for the design and field review of building projects. RIDs in this province are not recognized under statute as qualified professionals and so do not qualify as 'registered professionals' under the applicable building codes.

Cont'd . . .

ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

ARCHITECTURE CENTRE
SUITE 100 - 440 CAMBIE STREET
VANCOUVER BC CANADA
V6B 2N5

TEL: 604 683 8588 / TOLL FREE IN BC: 1 800 667 0753
FAX: 604 683 8568 / 1 800 661 2955
E-MAIL: AIBC@AIBC.CA
INTERNET: WWW.AIBC.CA

We *do* support an approach which would result in the IDIBC's RIDs becoming licensed and regulated under provincial statute, with the complete array of professional obligations and responsibilities that would entail *inter alia* demonstrating (for admission to membership) appropriately high competence via education, experience and examination success as well as (once registered) to being subject to continuing education, practice standards, ethical behavior and disciplinary consequences for the contrary.

What model or form such legislation might take is a topic which we would be prepared to discuss with you and the provincial government but most important is the fundamental principle of RIDs coming under provincial statute as to professional rights to both title and scope of practice, with corresponding obligations in the public interest.

In anticipation of your considerate response;

Michael A. Ernest Architect AIBC
Executive Director

Cc: Gord Richards Architect AIBC

ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Interior Designers Institute OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF BC AND THE INTERIOR DESIGNERS INSTITUTE OF BC

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) is made and entered into by and between the Interior Designers Institute of BC, hereinafter referred to as IDIBC, and the Architectural Institute of BC, hereinafter referred to as AIBC.

A. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this MOU is to develop a framework for on-going discussions between the IDIBC and AIBC regarding the possible incorporation of their memberships into a single self-governed and self-regulated entity established under the provincial legislation currently known as the Architects Act.

The MOU will also provide a basis for cooperative efforts in communicating with, and soliciting feedback from, the AIBC and IDIBC membership, the public, government and other industry stakeholders on this proposed merger.

As part of this process the AIBC and IDIBC will seek to:

A. ensure public protection, health, safety and welfare, and safeguard the interest of society, architecture, the environment, sustainability and culture;

B. establish mutually acceptable scopes and standards for practice, including expertise, autonomy, commitment and accountability;

C. set standards in recognizing qualifications;

D. prevent practice by unqualified persons;

E. establish a system of governance to properly monitor performance, facilitate implementation, (including the audit of) qualification standards and systems of continuing professional education and resolve disagreements;

F. represent the interests of interior designers and architects in the interaction with municipal, provincial and federal authorities and regulators;

G. restrict the use of the term "interior design", "interior designer" and/or "interior architect" to those persons who are qualified and registered under the Act; and

H. createan appendix which would provide the specifics of agreement.

B. BACKGROUND

Members of the AIBC currently enjoy both rights to title (architect) and exclusive rights to practice as granted under the *Architects Act.* Members of the IDIBC currently enjoy rights to title (registered interior designer) as granted by their founding legislation. Members of both organizations are significant contributors to the design of the built form industry and environment in the province of British Columbia.

In 2004, a Joint Task Force of AIBC and IDIBC members began meeting to discuss possible incorporation of both memberships into a single self-governing and self-regulating entity. An attempt was made to identify shared principles, as well as potential benefits of a merger to members of the public, architects, interior designers and other industry stakeholder groups.

C. SHARED PRINCIPLES:

Principles of Professionalism

Members of the AIBC and the IDIBC are dedicated to high standards of professionalism, integrity and competence, and bring unique skills and aptitudes essential to the sustainable development of the built environment and the welfare of their societies and cultures. Principles of professionalism are established in legislation, as well as in codes of ethics and regulations defining professional conduct.

Expertise

Architects and Registered Interior Designers possess a systematic body of knowledge, skills and theory developed through education, training, and experience. The process of education, training and examination is structured to assure the public that, when an architect or interior designer is engaged to perform professional services, that architect or registered interior designer has met acceptable standards enabling competent performance of those services.

Furthermore, members of AIBC and IDIBC are charged to maintain and advance their knowledge, to respect the body of architectural and interior design accomplishment and to contribute to its growth.

Professional Education - as certified by national representative organizations, the Canadian Architectural Certification Board (CACB) against the Canadian Education Standard and the Interior Designers of Canada and FIDER.

Experience - a minimum number of hours of specified experience in all aspects of architectural or interior design practice completed under the personal supervision and direction of a licensed/registered architect or registered interior designer.

Examination-Architect Registration Examination (ARE) as produced by the National Committee of Architectural Certification Boards (NCARB) for Architects and the NCIDQ for Interior Designers.

Autonomy

Architects and interior designers provide objective expert advice to the client and/or users. Architects and interior designers are charged to uphold the ideal that learned and uncompromised professional judgment should take precedence over any other motive in the pursuit of the art and science of architecture. Architects and interior designers are also charged to embrace the spirit and letter of the laws governing their professional affairs and to consider thoughtfully the social, urban and environmental impact of their professional activities.

Commitment

Architects and interior designers bring a high level of selfless dedication to the professional services done on behalf of their clients and society. Members of the profession are charged to serve their clients and the public in a competent and professional manner and to exercise unprejudiced and unbiased judgment on their behalf.

Accountability

Architects and interior designers are aware of their responsibility for the independent and, if necessary, critical advice provided to their clients and for the effects of their work on society and the environment. Architects and interior designers undertake to perform professional services only when they, together with those whom they may engage as consultants, are qualified by education, training and/or experience in the specific area of professional service involved.

D. FRAMEWORK TIMETABLE

The parties agree to meet on a monthly basis until submission to government.

Item	Completion Date
First Draft MOU with appendices discussed	September 15, 2005
Detailed appendix completed. Establishment of mutually acceptable scopes and standards for practice, including expertise, autonomy, commitment and accountability. Set standards in recognizing qualifications. Establishment of a system of governance to properly monitor performance, facilitate implementation, including the audit of qualification standards and systems of continuing professional education and resolve disagreements. Other?	October 15, 2005
Joint government and stakeholder consultation process	October 15, 2005
Governing Council approvals of MOU	November 15, 2005
Final revision of draft *Architects Act*	January 15, 2006
AIBC / IDIBC Merger Agreement	February 15, 2006
Governing Council and Membership Approval	March 15, 2006
Formal submission to Ministry of Advanced Education	April 15, 2006
Membership Approval	June 15, 2006
Bylaw Development	September 15, 2006

E. IT IS MUTUALLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT:

PARTICIPATION IN SIMILAR ACTIVITY - This instrument in no way restricts the AIBC or the IDIBC from pursuing similar discussions with other public or private agencies, organizations and individuals, but agree to so notify in the event that they do.

COMMENCEMENT/EXPIRATION/TERMINATION - This MOU takes effect upon the approval by the governing councils of the AIBC and the IDIBC and shall remain in effect until terminated by either party with a 30 day written notice.

PRINCIPAL CONTACTS - The principal contacts for this instrument are:

AIBC Contact:

	Dorothy Barkley
Signature	*Please print*

IDIBC Contact:

	Keith Seeton
Signature	*Please print*

NON-FUNDING OBLIGATIONS - Nothing in this MOU shall obligate the AIBC or the IDIBC to dedicate or transfer any funds. Specific work projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds or services will require separate agreements.

ESTABLISHMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY - This MOU is not intended to and does not create any binding rights, benefits, fiduciary or trust responsibility for the AIBC or the IDIBC.

THE PARTIES BELOW HAVE EXECUTED THIS INSTRUMENT

Architectural Institute of British Columbia

	June 14, 2006
Signature	*Date*

Interior Designers Institute of British Columbia

	June 14, 2006
Signature	*Date*

APPENDIX A - DRAFT 1

A. Definition of the Practice of Interior Design:

The accepted definition will be the **July 2004 NCIDQ Definition of Interior Design.** *(Discussion: a different version has been recorded in the minutes of our meetings - however, the original proposal was to adopt the NCIDQ version as the standard, as it is endorsed by FIDER and NCIDQ, accepted by the JDC and is in general accordance with the accepted standard across the USA. At the time of our initial discussions the NCIDQ was in the process of finalizing the definition - the July 2004 version is the result.)*

B. Scope of Practice:

The scope of practice will be non-structural, non-seismic design and construction, related to interior space.

C. Registration Requirements:

There will be two classes of registration:

To be registered as an Intern **ID.AIBC,** members will be required to attain in addition to payment of dues and acceptance of the Code of Ethics:

- Graduation from a **FIDER** accredited Interior Design Education Program.

To be registered as **RID.AIBC,** members will be required to:

- Attain Intern **ID.AIBC** requirements.
- Attain a minimum of 3,560 hours of practical experience under the direct supervision of a Registered Interior Designer.
- Successfully pass the complete **NCIDQ** exam.
- Demonstrate national and local codes competency as they relate to interior spaces.
- Undergo an oral review.
- Maintain continuing education standards.

D. Liability:

The AIBC is a corporation and carries E. & O. insurance for senior staff and volunteers. IDIBC members joining the AIBC will not assume any current or ongoing liability.

E. Affiliation:

RID.AIBC members will maintain international, national and provincial affiliations.

F. Transfer of Members:

Current IDIBC members will be automatically transferred to AIBC membership, having demonstrated local code competence and meeting education, examination and experience requirements as RID.AIBC.

There will be a "Transfer Review Committee" set up to advise on and administer the transfer process. The committee will be comprised of an equal number of registered architects and registered interior designers.

G. Membership Dues:

It is not the intent to radically change current IDIBC dues, however membership in the AIBC carries with it costs associated with areas such as registration, practice, conduct, continuing education etc. A business plan will be developed, and dues estimated, which will require approval by IDIBC.

H. Council Representation:

RID.AIBC members will be represented by at least one seat on Council.

I. Boards and Committees:

RID.AIBC members will have the opportunity for representation on Boards and Committees. Additionally, other areas will be explored to further enshrine and protect the rights of RIDs within the new *Architects Act* (e.g. Conduct/Discipline).

J. Practice:

- RID.AIBC-owned firms will be required to register for practice through a Certificate of Practice.
- A RID.AIBC and a registered architect will be able to co-own a firm with the RID.AIBC as a majority owner.
- An architect cannot use his/her professional seal as an employee of an interior design firm, however, an architect may use his/her seal when acting as a principal of an interior design firm.
- The AIBC will assist in lobbying municipal officials to recognize RID.AIBC authority in areas such as the permitting process (including "Certificates of Assurance for Barrier Free Design").

K. Bylaws:

Bylaws will need to be re-written as part of the drafting of the new Act. At that time all members under the Act will be part of the development and approval of the new Bylaws.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

Date: October 19, 2018

Prepared For: Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Title: Grand Forks Housing

Issue: Housing Support for Grand Forks Recovery after catastrophic May 2018 flood.

Meeting With: Linda Larson, MLA for Boundary-Similkameen on October 22, 2018

SUMMARY:

- **The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing continues to support Grand Forks and Regional District of Kootenay-Boundary's community-led flood recovery effort.**

BACKGROUND:

The 2018 freshet and subsequent flood event in Grand Forks and surrounding area of Regional District of Kootenay-Boundary resulted in catastrophic impacts to the community, including 393 households immediately impacted by the flood with moderate to severe damage to their homes.

While the flood emergency response phase is over, the immediate recovery needs are beyond the capacity of the community to assess and resolve.

The latest needs assessment updated in October identified 8 cases (7 singles and 1 couple) requiring complex care, the community is looking at options to help resolve this outstanding housing need. Approximately 90 households are still receiving government financial assistance for housing needs.

City of Grand Forks engaged an engineering company to prepare a hydrological survey of the area to assess options for permanent flood protection. The report prepared by Dobson Engineering recommended that three neighbourhoods and the downtown area be modified and approximately 100 homes be considered for a buyout program to establish the boundaries of a new flood plain. Recommendations from the report were communicated to the community in September and include:

- North Ruckle – subject to complete buyout (approximately 68 homes).
- South Ruckle – subject to partial buyout. 16 properties in imminent risk; construct some bank protection measures and a setback dike.
- Johnson Flats – raise some homes; bank protection measures; small number of homes to be bought out where there is high risk of flooding (more than 5 percent annual risk).
- Downtown – build a dike; repairs and improvements to the storm system; build flood walls to protect high-value buildings with no other options; select homes bought out.

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The Ministry, represented by both Local Government Division and the Office of Housing and Construction Standards, is working closely with a local government team to support community-led recovery efforts with a cross-ministry focus on: housing; business and economic recovery; health, wellness, and social supports; and flood hazard management, mitigation and adaptation.

BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

BC Housing has been involved since the initiation of the original emergency response and continues to support the community with affordable housing projects.
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DISCUSSION:

Funding for eligible households is provided through the Housing Emergency Assistance Program (HEAP) administered by the Canadian Red Cross (CRC).

HEAP has just recently been extended including adjustments to the existing eligibility criteria. The exclusion criteria for receiving DFA has been removed based on feedback from the RDKB recovery team. HEAP extensions will be based on demonstrated financial need on a sliding scale of support.

Based on data collected by CRC there are an estimated 90 households that will continue to receive HEAP based on demonstrated financial need.

The Province and the CRC are working with affected households on a case-by-case basis to ensure those still in need of financial support continue to receive it.

A request from the city of Grand Forks and the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary for additional funding ($1M) to secure hotel/motel accommodation and temporary workforce modular housing has been approved by the Province to support the immediate housing need for winter.

Temporary housing is secured for 54 flood-affected households identified as having immediate housing needs. 20 households will be housed through hotel/motels, 10 households will be housed through short-term vacation rentals, and 24 households will be housed through temporary modular housing.

Two provincially-supported housing projects are currently under construction in the community: a six-bed women's transition house, and three Habitat for Humanity units.

In addition, to address longer term housing pressures that were worsened by the flood, BC Housing expedited two affordable housing projects in the community: a 50-plus unit affordable family housing project, and an up to 50-unit housing-with-high-supports project.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing continues to work with provincial and local partners to address the long-term recovery needs of Grand Forks and the Regional District of Kootenay-Boundary.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- None

PREPARED BY:	**APPROVED BY:**	**DATE APPROVED:**
Kim Tiffin Policy Analyst Housing Policy Branch (250) 208-7147	Greg Steves, Assistant Deputy Minster Office of Housing and Construction Standards	October 18, 2018
	Jacqueline Dawes, Deputy Minister	October 19, 2018

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

BRIEFING NOTE FOR DECISION

Date: October 22, 2018

Prepared For: Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Title: Stewart House Society – Ministerial Consent to Delete Society Bylaw

RECOMMENDED OPTION:

s.13

BACKGROUND:

The Legislature passed a new *Societies Act* (Act) in November 2016. All existing societies in British Columbia (BC) are required to transition to comply with the new Act before November 28, 2018. As part of this transition, many societies will need to reorganize their constitution and bylaws so that the constitution consists only of the society's existing name and purposes. Any unalterable provisions in a society's constitution must be moved to the society's bylaws, and be identified as having been "previously unalterable".

Under the new Act, certain societies designated by regulation can only alter previously unalterable provisions in their new bylaws with prior consent from a designated minister. This one-time requirement for ministerial consent is in place to increase societies' flexibility while still protecting the public interest.

The class of societies which may be designated include the following:

- societies that perform functions under other enactments;
- societies that may have a minister or other public officer on the board or as a voting member (or a director or member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council); and
- societies that receive government funding.

Societies that have received funding from BC Housing have therefore been designated in section 18 of the Societies Regulation as societies that require approval from the Minister responsible for Housing to alter previously unalterable provisions moved from their constitution to their bylaws. This allows the Minister to ensure that government investments in social housing remain appropriately protected. Upon the minister approving an amendment to a bylaw that has been identified as previously unalterable, further amendments to that bylaw do not require ministerial consent. Under the new Act, unalterable provisions are not permitted.

BC Housing reviews any bylaw change requests for compliance with its Constating Document Compliance Review Policy and forwards the request to the Ministry for review. Where appropriate, BC Housing has the option of requiring a society to insert in their bylaws a statement requiring BC Housing's consent to future alterations.

Stewart House Society is a designated non-profit charitable organization that works to provide low income housing in Port Coquitlam, BC. The Society's purpose is to provide low-cost housing to those people whose income is below the Housing Income Limits as defined by BC Housing.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

DISCUSSION:

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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- None

OPTIONS:

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RECOMMENDATION:

s.13

APPROVED (recommended option) / NOT APPROVED

Honourable Selina Robinson

October 30, 2018
Date

Attachments: **(2)**

1. Proposed Bylaw Revision
2. Draft Response Letter

PREPARED BY:	APPROVED BY:	DATE APPROVED:
Candice Gartner, Senior Policy Analyst Housing Policy Branch (778) 587 3084	Greg Steves, Assistant Deputy Minister Office of Housing and Construction Standards	October 22, 2018
	Jacqueline Dawes, Deputy Minister	October 22, 2018

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

ATTACHMENT 1: Proposed Bylaw Revision

Original Provision	New Provision	Justification
16.3 Accountability to the United Church The Society shall at all times be accountable and responsible, through its Board of Directors, to the United Church of Canada through its local and governing Presbytery. This provision was previously unalterable.	None; to be deleted.	s.13

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

ATTACHMENT 2: Draft Response Letter

Date

Margaret.Mason@nortonrosefulbright.com

Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP
1800 – 510 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 0M3 Canada

Attention: Margaret H. Mason

Subject: Request for Ministerial Consent to alter Previously Unalterable Bylaws for Stewart House Society (the "Society").

Dear Society:

Thank you for your request to approve changes to your bylaws. I wish to apologize for the delayed reply. I approve the Society's request for consent to delete the following bylaw:

> 16.3 Accountability to United Church
>
> The Society shall at all times be accountable and responsible, through its Board of Directors, to the United Church of Canada through its local and governing Presbytery. This provision was previously unalterable.

I confirm that the Society is responsible for ensuring its bylaws comply with the *Societies Act (British Columbia*) and all other Provincial and Federal statutes and regulations and the terms and conditions of any funding or other agreements which may affect the Society.

Yours truly,

Selina Robinson

Minister

pc: BC Housing, Director of Program Planning

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

Date: October, 18, 2018

Prepared For: Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Title: City of Quesnel Housing Issues

Issue: Proposed Shelter Relocation, Quesnel Housing Strategy Update

Meeting With: Bob Simpson, Mayor, City of Quesnel on October, 29, 2018.

SUMMARY:

- **The need for additional opportunities across the housing spectrum – such as seniors housing, women's emergency housing, low income housing – is identified in the City of Quesnel's 2013 Affordable Housing Strategy.**
- **BC Housing continues to work with the City of Quesnel in developing a 30-suite supportive housing project at the Elliott Street location.**
- **BC Housing has completed a Request for Proposals in which the Quesnel Shelter and Support Society was the successful proponent in securing the operational contract for the future Elliott Street facility.**
- **BC Housing is working with the City of Quesnel and Quesnel Shelter and Support Society to identify a new site for a high barrier shelter facility.**

BACKGROUND:

Shelter Relocation

BC Housing has worked with the City of Quesnel (City) and Quesnel Shelter and Support Society (QSSS) to relocate the Season House shelter to a new site since 2012. The impetus for relocation stemmed from structural concerns about the existing building and community concerns about the current location in a high traffic tourist area.

In its original proposal presented to Council in July of 2017, BC Housing aimed to build a 28-unit facility in the 300 block of Elliott Street for individuals who are experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness, plus 8 year-round shelter beds, 10 extreme weather response spaces, and 4 supportive recovery beds, which are funded by the Northern Health Authority (QSSS only provides space). The facility was to include programming space and connections to supports in the neighbourhood.

In response to community concerns raised during public consultation held in September of 2017, BC Housing removed the shelter component and drop-in services from the proposal. The revised proposal includes a total of 30 supportive housing suites for people struggling with homelessness, as well as programming and amenity spaces for residents of the facility. The facility will include space for the 4 support recovery beds that will be funded and managed by Northern Health Authority (NHA).

To realize the supportive housing project, BC Housing has purchased the Elliott site property and completed a Request for Proposals in which the QSSS was the successful proponent in securing the operational contract. Other key milestones achieved include a signed Housing Agreement between BC Housing and the City; a Good Neighbour Agreement between the City, QSSS and the RCMP; and a Zone Amendment that was adopted by Council on October 2, 2018.

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With respect to the shelter and support services that were removed from the original proposal, the Province is working closely with the City to identify a new location for the current shelter. In the meantime, the emergency shelter at 146 Carson Avenue will remain open until the new site is operational, and the QSSS will continue to operate this shelter.

Housing Strategy

The City of Quesnel released its Affordable Housing Strategy on April 15, 2013. The priorities of the plan are:

- to improve the quality of emergency and transitional housing options for people in immediate need by keeping current accommodations in good physical condition and adding space for much needed services;
- to provide more supportive housing options for those who cannot live independently by creating more of these housing options in safe and stable environments that meet the needs of singles, single parents and seniors; and
- to provide more low cost and attractive market housing options for independent seniors and single income households by implementing incentives to stimulate market development.

DISCUSSION:

Minister Robinson has had several meetings on the topic, including at the UBCM convention in 2017 and a one-to-one meeting with Mayor Simpson in November 2017; a delegation from Quesnel met with the Deputy Minister at the 2018 UBCM convention.

At the most recent meeting, the City's delegation raised concerns over the result of the Request For Proposal process for the Elliot Street operating contract. The ministry has drafted a response directing the City to the HousingHub and assuring them that BC Housing uses rigorous assessment criteria and an inclusive review panel towards a fair and transparent selection process (see Attachment 1).

BC Housing continues to work with the City of Quesnel to address its shelter relocation and broader housing needs. BC Housing provided funding for outreach to the Quesnel Shelter and Support Society to support the City in removing a homeless camp and to hire a consultant to review services provided for individuals struggling with mental health and addictions.

Mayor Bob Simpson is the sole incumbent mayoral candidate running in Quesnel's 2018 municipal election.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- None

Attachments: (1)

1. Drafted Minister's Response Letter to UBCM 2018 Delegation Meeting

PREPARED BY:	APPROVED BY:	DATE APPROVED:
Candice Gartner, Senior Policy Analyst Housing Policy Branch (778) 587-3084	Greg Steves, Assistant Deputy Minister Office of Housing and Construction Standards	October 22, 2018
	Jacqueline Dawes, Deputy Minister	October 22, 2018

BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

ATTACHMENT 1: Drafted Minister's Response Letter to UBCM 2018 Delegation Meeting

Ref: 240658

His Worship Mayor Bob Simpson
and Members of Council
City of Quesnel
410 Kinchant St
Quesnel BC V2J 7J5

Dear Mayor Simpson and Councillors:

Thank you to your delegation for meeting with Jacqueline Dawes, Deputy Minister, on my behalf, at the 2018 Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Convention. Government is committed to partnering with local governments to build vibrant and healthy communities that are more affordable, economically resilient, and socially and environmentally responsible.

Deputy Minister Dawes has apprised me of the discussion with your delegation and the issues brought forward were of great interest to me.

The newly established HousingHub and the various funding streams available through BC Housing can assist communities, like yours, to access the necessary resources and partner to deliver housing. The HousingHub can bring together partners to find and develop or redevelop available land and partner to create affordable homes for people who live and work in our communities.
I encourage City staff to continue engaging with BC Housing staff to learn more about these housing initiatives. Please feel free to contact Amy Wong, Regional Director, Northern Region, by telephone at: 604 456-8843, or by email at: awong@bchousing.org. You can also reach out to Malachy Tohill, BC Housing, Northern Region, by telephone at: 250 562-9251, or by email at: northernregion@bchousing.org.

I appreciate the challenges with determining and implementing an appropriate service delivery model. While I acknowledge your concerns with the Quesnel Shelter and Support Society, a request for proposals was conducted to select a housing operator for the proposed supportive housing project to ensure fairness and transparency in the selection process. Respondents were evaluated by a panel which included a representative from the city of Quesnel, based on multiple sets of criteria, including their experience working with people who are homeless and/or those struggling with mental health and addictions. After completing a thorough evaluation, the Quesnel Shelter and Support Society was selected to operate the facility. As such, I encourage you to seek amicable solutions and working relationships with the Society to the benefit of those most vulnerable in your community.

I understand that you ran out of time at Convention to discuss cannabis-related planning and approval issues with Deputy Minister Dawes. Local governments have played an important role as we move towards the legalization of cannabis and will continue to contribute to the discussion following legalization through UBCM. I appreciate the feedback that local governments and UBCM have

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provided to the Province of British Columbia. In relation to revenue sharing, the Province is continuing to work with the UBCM to understand both the up-front and long-term costs that local governments will bear. This matter is the responsibility of my colleague, the Honourable Carole James, Minister of Finance. I encourage you to continue to engage with UBCM on this topic so that UBCM can continue to represent local government interests.

If you have any specific questions respecting cannabis legalization and local government, please feel free to contact Kara Woodward, Director, Policy, Research and Legislation, Local Government Division, by telephone at: 778 698-3465, or by email at: Kara.Woodward@gov.bc.ca.

As my second Convention as Minister has come to an end, I trust we will continue to embrace this year's theme of "Communication, Collaboration and Cooperation". Through meaningful connections and productive dialogue, both Deputy Minister Dawes and I look forward to working in partnership with local governments to deliver the services that British Columbians count on.

Thank you again to your delegation for taking the time to meet.

Sincerely,

Selina Robinson
Minister

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

Date: October 22, 2018

Prepared For: Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Title: BC Housing in Saanich North and the Islands

Issue: Affordable housing in the constituency of Saanich North and the Islands

Meeting With: Adam Olsen, MLA for Saanich North and the Islands, on October 23, 2018.

SUMMARY:

- **The Government of British Columbia is making the largest investment in housing affordability in British Columbia history: more than $7 billion over 10 years.**
- **Government recognizes that there is an urgent need for a variety of housing options in communities throughout the province where people are struggling to find reasonably priced rental accommodation.**
- **Since Budget 2018 was released, BC Housing has undertaken a number of procurement processes to solicit proposals and partnerships for developing a wide range of housing under the Building BC programs.**
- **Additional procurement processes are anticipated and will be required to meet government's building commitments for the next 10 years.**

BACKGROUND:

Community Housing Fund (April 18, 2018 – September 17, 2018)
Almost $1.9 billion over 10 years to deliver 14,350 affordable new rental homes, built through partnerships with municipalities, non-profit housing providers, housing co-operatives, and Indigenous organizations

- EOI request for fully-costed submissions to construct and operate projects
- First round of approvals will likely be announced in December 2018

Building BC: Women's Transition Housing Fund (May 25, 2018 – July 13, 2018)
$734 million over 10 years to build and operate 1,500 new units of housing including transition houses, safe homes, second-stage and long-term housing.

- A total of 75 submissions were received and are currently being evaluated

Indigenous Housing Fund (June 18, 2018 – October 5, 2018)
$550 million over 10 years to build and operate 1,750 units of social housing both on- and off-reserve

- Fully-costed submissions to construct and operate projects
- Successful proponents to be notified by November 15, 2018

Supportive Housing Fund (August 2, 2018 – October 30, 2018)
$1.2 billion over 10 years to build and operate 2,500 units of supportive housing for people who are experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness.

- To be evaluated and compared against recent homeless counts to determine communities with greatest need
- First round of approvals will likely be announced in January 2019

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DISCUSSION:

BC Housing is aware of the demand for affordable housing options in MLA Olsen's constituency, and on Salt Spring Island in particular. While there has been a great deal of interest in and support for these projects in the community, there are development challenges on Salt Spring related to water and sewage as well as the development process itself, with Islands Trust.

Due to Islands Trust's moratorium on new projects which will increase demand on existing water and sewer services, BC Housing is presently only considering proposals for Salt Spring Island which are exempt from the moratorium, or which can demonstrate sufficient potable water, municipal approvals and sewer connections have been arranged.

Currently in development are the following projects:

- Croftonbrook (Phases 2 and 3) – Salt Spring Island – 20 and 32 units affordable seniors
- The Aranza – Sidney – 56 units affordable rental housing with Greater Victoria Rental Development Society
- 7247 West Saanich Road – Brentwood Bay – 40 units affordable housing with Greater Victoria Housing Society

PREPARED BY:	APPROVED BY:	DATE APPROVED:
Elizabeth McNabb BC Housing (604) 456-8770	Greg Steves, Assistant Deputy Minister Office of Housing and Construction Standards	October 22, 2018
	Jacqueline Dawes, Deputy Minister	October 22, 2018

BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

Date: October 25, 2018

Prepared For: Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Title: HousingHub Update and Cabinet Submission

SUMMARY:

- **The first HousingHub partnership is underway with the BC Conference of the United Church of Canada.**
- **HousingHub has also had discussions with over 130 developers, municipalities, non-profit groups and faith-based groups on potential projects across the province.**
- **In the fall of** s.12,s.13
s.12,s.13

BACKGROUND:

Announced as part of Budget 2018, HousingHub was created within BC Housing to seek innovative partnerships to create affordable rental housing and homeownership options for middle-income British Columbians, defined as those between the 50th and 75th percentile of household income.

HousingHub will bring together partners from all levels of government, Indigenous organizations, non-profits and the private sector in order to build the affordable rental and homeownership projects that are required. Potential partners include local governments, non-profit and co-operative housing organizations, community land trusts, Indigenous groups, faith-based groups, charities, the development community, financial institutions and other industries.

HousingHub can act as a resource for owners who are not experienced developers but want to create affordable housing with a reasonable rate of return, to benefit their communities.

HousingHub will help partners create affordable housing that will generally be self-sustaining, requiring little or no capital equity or operational funding from government. These projects will be developed through new construction or through the redevelopment of existing sites.

HousingHub can provide:

- low-interest financing;
- expertise to assist in the planning and development process;
- project coordination;
- a place for organizations to collaborate; and
- access to existing pre-development funding program, forgivable loans which the proponent may use to further develop their proposal

The HousingHub is being funded by redirecting resources from the former BC Home Owner Mortgage and Equity Partnership Program.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

DISCUSSION:

HousingHub Programs

Two affordable housing programs will be delivered through HousingHub:

1. Provincial Rental Supply Program
    - The Provincial Rental Supply Program aims to increase the supply of affordable housing for middle-income households. Developments must be able to operate without any ongoing operating subsidies or other funding from BC Housing. All units will be rented at or below market, and at rents affordable for eligible households considering the location and average household income for the area.
    - Partnerships are essential to the Provincial Rental Supply Program. Partner contributions may include capital funding, land or other equity contributions such as cash, grants, municipal concessions (e.g. rezoning or waivers) or land.
    - BC Housing may provide low-cost interim construction financing for the development of affordable housing. BC Housing may also help eligible non-profit housing partners obtain long-term take-out financing.
2. Affordable Home Ownership Program (AHOP)
    - The Affordable Home Ownership Program will support the development of new, affordable homes for eligible home buyers.
    - HousingHub targets to produce homes for sale at 5 to 20 percent below market value. This will be possible using BC Housing's low-interest interim construction financing and equity contributions from project partners.
    - Eligible buyers will be required to secure first mortgage financing from a private sector lender and provide a minimum down payment as per the typical mortgage insurance requirements.
    - The AHOP's discount below market value will be secured by a second mortgage that will be for a 25-year term with no payments of interest or principal until maturity or until the property is sold (whichever comes first). The AHOP's mortgage is an equity participating mortgage, requiring the home buyer to repay the amount of the AHOP mortgage plus a proportionate share of any increase in value of the home.
    - The home buyer will own the property outright and have the full benefits, rights and responsibilities of home ownership, and must maintain the home as their principal residence for the first five years of the AHOP mortgage term. The buyer can sell the property on the open market at any point, provided they repay the second mortgage at the time of sale.
    - Subsequent buyers would be eligible to receive the same AHOP second mortgage provided they meet the program eligibility requirements. If a subsequent buyer is not eligible then the AHOP mortgage proceeds would be paid into the local government's affordable housing fund for reinvestment into new housing in that community.
    - The equity participating mortgage model reduces risk for the buyer, as they will not be penalized in the event of a falling market, e.g. a loan that provided a 10 percent 'discount' to market would achieve less if markets increase faster than interest accrues.
    - The financial impact to BC Housing and the Province as a result of the AHOP second mortgage is nil. Any increases or subsequent decreases to the mortgage would see offsetting balance sheet transactions of equal amounts to asset and liability accounts. This accounting treatment is based on the fact that BC Housing will not be contributing cash for the second mortgage and any future

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

proceeds will flow to the local government's affordable housing fund. The second mortgage is generated through savings achieved typically from waived fees, free land in the form of bonus density, low rate construction financing.

HousingHub Update

The first partnership is with the BC Conference of the United Church of Canada (BCCUCC) to develop more than 400 new homes at four church sites in Coquitlam, Nanaimo, Richmond and Vancouver. Each development will include an affordable rental housing component, the redevelopment of the existing church facilities, offices and other programming space.

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s.12,s.13

PREPARED BY:

Cathy Shen, Advisor, Strategic Planning
BC Housing
(778) 452-6428

APPROVED BY:

Greg Steves, Assistant Deputy Minister
Office of Housing and Construction Standards

Jacqueline Dawes, Deputy Minister

DATE APPROVED:

October 22, 2018

October 25, 2018

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12;s.13

BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

Date: October 25, 2018

Prepared For: Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Title: BC Chamber of Commerce - Affordable Housing

Issue: BC Chamber of Commerce would like to propose solutions to providing housing while not curtailing economic growth in communities through a speculation tax.

Meeting With: Honourable Carole James, Minister of Finance
Val Litwin, President and CEO, BC Chamber of Commerce on November 1, 2018.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MAH) welcomes the opportunity to work with the BC Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) to find ways to increase affordable housing in communities.**
- **BC Housing's HousingHub is actively looking for partnerships with traditional and non-traditional partners to build affordable housing units.**
- **Questions regarding British Columbia's (BC) speculation tax and other tax initiatives can be directed to the Honourable Carole James, Minister of Finance.**

BACKGROUND:

In July 2018, the Chamber requested a meeting to discuss the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing's mandate item to build 114,000 units of affordable housing and to address the theme of speculation.

In their letter, the Chamber states that they would like to find a way to produce more housing while not unduly affecting hard-working Canadians and businesses. It claims to have several solutions that will "allow BC to temper the market, produce more housing stock and not curtail economic growth".

At their May 2018 Annual General Meeting, the Chamber's proposed policy to urge government to "press the pause button on BC's proposed speculation tax" was unanimously supported.

In its 2018-2019 Policy Positions Manual, the Chamber makes three housing recommendations that may relate to the proposals they wish to discuss with Minister Robinson and Minister James:

1. Provide tax incentives for developers to invest in purpose-built rental market housing for workers, without waiting for the completion of a 3-year study of housing needs assessments by local governments;

2. Ensure clarity for exemptions in the Speculation Tax legislation; and

3. Review the *Residential Tenancy Act* to ensure it is not discouraging renting out existing properties nor building new properties for the rental market.

In 2016, the Chamber passed three affordable housing policies that also may be part of the proposals they wish to discuss with Minister Robinson and Minister James (Appendix A). Government has acted on several of these already.

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DISCUSSION:

MAH is engaged in several initiatives intended to increase the supply of affordable housing that may be of interest to the BC Chamber of Commerce.

Building BC: Community Housing Fund

The Building BC: Community Housing Fund represents an investment of close to $1.9 billion over 10 years to build 14,350 units of income, affordable rental housing projects for independent families and seniors. BC Housing is working with non-profit organizations, housing co-operatives and local governments to create this supply through the submission and approval of project proposals.

The current Request for Proposals (RFP) closed on September 17, 2018, but there will be future opportunities to apply for this direct funding.

HousingHub

In 2018, the British Columbia Government created the HousingHub to increase supply of affordable housing for middle-income earners. The goal of the office is to identify and advance innovative approaches to create affordable homes, for rent or purchase, in the communities that are most in need.

The HousingHub is looking to partner with traditional and non-traditional groups to find and develop or redevelop available land and buildings to create affordable homes.

The HousingHub can be contacted through Michael Flanigan, Vice President, HousingHub, by phone at (778) 452-6457 or by email at mflanigan@bchousing.org.

Development Approvals Process

Local governments have the authority to process development and renovation permits at the speed that suits their local government's circumstances. However, stakeholder input indicates there may be room for improvement since delays increase costs.

MAH is currently undertaking a multi-stakeholder consultation process to review the local government development approvals process to see if it can be improved in terms of efficiency (including timeliness, predictability, certainty, consistency) and effectiveness (including fairness, balance, transparency, inclusivity, meet public and community interests).

From the ideas resulting from the consultations, government plans to identify priority solutions and action ideas, and to initiate or pilot their implementation. Consultations will take place between December 2018 and May 2019, with solutions initiated in the summer of 2019.

Rental Housing Task Force

In April 2018, Premier Horgan appointed a Rental Housing Task Force (the Task Force). Its role is to better understand what further changes may be needed to modernize British Columbia's tenancy laws.

The Task Force undertook a large and comprehensive consultation process over the summer of 2018. The Province took swift action on their early recommendations and limited 2019 and future rent increases to inflation.

Their summary report, What We Heard, is currently in draft form and will be ready for release in conjunction with recommendations to Premier John Horgan this fall. The Task Force will explore options around modernizing the *Residential Tenancy Act* to protect both tenants and landlords.

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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- None

Appendices: **(1)**

1. 2016 BC Chamber of Commerce Housing Policies

PREPARED BY:

Kim Tiffin, Policy Analyst
Housing Policy Branch
(250) 208-7147

APPROVED BY:

Greg Steves, Assistant Deputy Minister
Office of Housing and Construction Standards

Jacqueline Dawes, Deputy Minister

DATE APPROVED:

October 25, 2018

October 25, 2018

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Attachment 1– 2016 BC Chamber of Commerce Housing Policies

In 2016, the BC Chamber of Commerce's province-wide membership passed three policies targeted at affordable housing.

1) A policy calling for a study of citizenship and residency data on all real estate in British Columbia. The Chamber recommended that the provincial government:
    1. Ensure that citizenship and residency data collected through Ministry of Finance Property Transfer Tax Forms are recorded, analyzed and publicly available on a regular basis; and
    2. Requisition a full provincial study to collect and analyze citizenship and residency data on all real estate property in British Columbia and publish the results.

2) A policy calling for various approaches to increasing housing supply. The Chamber recommended that the provincial government:
    1. Identify and remove administrative barriers at all levels of government that slow increased density;
    2. Identify and implement incentives for the private sector to increase the housing supply through density, alternative and more efficient housing solutions on land that is currently zoned for residential; and
    3. Identify and implement incentives that will stimulate the diversification of housing stock.

3) A policy calling for government to incentivize the creation of affordable rental housing. The Chamber recommends that the provincial government:
    4. Work with the Federal Government to develop tax and other incentives for purpose-built market rental housing units for low- to mid-range income levels, using innovative designs and locating near transit hubs; and
    5. Work to combine other social program supports to help support those in the lower income ranges to access market rentals, such as expanding the SAFER program to other vulnerable populations.

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BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

Date: October 29, 2018

Prepared For: Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Title: 2019 Property Assessment Review Panel (PARP) Ministerial Order

Issue: List B contains 24 members to be appointed to PARP and 8 members that are appointed as a Chair (with their panel appointments rescinded).

BACKGROUND:

Property Assessment Review Panels are established by the Minister to review property assessments under the *Assessment Act*. The Panels provide British Columbia property owners and others with the first level of complaint in an accessible, affordable and equitable forum.

In accordance with section 31 of the *Assessment Act*:

(1) The Minister must appoint Property Assessment Review Panels to review and consider the annual assessments of land and improvements in British Columbia.

(2) Each Panel consists of three members, one of whom must be designated by the Minister as Chair.

(3) The Minister may determine the remuneration and expenses payable to the members of a Panel, as well as the terms of their appointment.

(4) If a member of a Panel resigns or is otherwise unable to complete the term of his or her appointment, the Minister may appoint a person to replace the member for the balance of that term.

This Ministerial Order is required to:

- Appoint new members to the Panels;
- Rescind member appointments and appoint as Chair; and
- Confirm the per diem to be paid to members and chairs. Current per diems are $600/day for chairs and $425/day for members (amended December 2017).

DISCUSSION:

The Property Assessment Review Panel Administration Office, as part of the Property Assessment Services Branch, has put forward the attached list of individuals for appointment. The list contains individuals to be newly considered for appointment and the rescinding of eight current member appointments in order to appoint them as Chair. The reason current members are being rescinded as member and being appointed as Chair is to address their Acting Chair status.

Each applicant has provided personal and background information in their application form and they have each signed a declaration confirming the accuracy and validity of their application. Staff feels that there are no major issues of concern regarding the suitability of these individuals for the positions that they are assigned. The Property Assessment Review Panel Administration Office has reviewed the applications for each individual; contacted references where necessary; considered feedback from fellow Panel members and chairs; feedback from BC Assessment staff; feedback from members of the public; and peer mentor reviews where available for the individuals included in List B. As no adverse information was found for the individuals under consideration, their appointment by the Minister is recommended.

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These appointments are integral to the continuation of the Panels being able to meet their legislative requirements.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Financial implications are related to the per diems and expense related costs for each appointed member.

Costs are accounted for with the Property Assessment Review Panel budget and are recoverable from BC Assessment.

Appendices: **(2)**

1. Administrative List B - 2019
2. Ministerial Order

PREPARED BY:	APPROVED BY:	DATE APPROVED:
Steve Feldman, PARP Administrator Property Assessment Services (250) 356-5268	Kevin Volk, ADM Community and Legislative Services Division	October 26, 2018
	Jacqueline Dawes, Deputy Minister	October 29, 2018

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

ORDER OF THE MINISTER OF

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING

Assessment Act

Ministerial Order No.

I, Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, order that

1) Person(s) listed as in the attached schedule entitled The Property Assessment Review Panel Administrative List B – 2019 be appointed to the Property Assessment Review Panel to serve in the status, and for the term indicated in the attached schedule.

2) Members of a Property Assessment Review Panel shall be paid with respect to duties performed, as follows:

Chair: $600.00 for each day or $300.00 for each half day

Member: $425.00 for each day or $212.50 for each half day

_____ _____

Date *Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing*

(*This part is for administrative purposes only and is not part of the Order*)

Authority under which Order is made:

Act and Section: *Assessment Act* : s. 31 (1) (2) (3) (4)

Other (Specify): _____

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BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

Date: October 30, 2018

Prepared For: Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Title: Regional District of Kootenay Boundary - Grand Forks Housing

Issue: Housing Support for Grand Forks Recovery after catastrophic May 2018 flood.

Meeting With: Regional District of Kootenay Boundary on October 30, 2018:

- Roly Russell (Chair of RDKB; Policy Group)
- Colleen Ross (City of Grand Forks Policy Group liaison for Recovery)
- Brian Taylor (Mayor-elect for City of Grand Forks)
- Graham Watt (Boundary Flood Recovery Team: Recovery Manager)

SUMMARY:

- **The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing continues to support Grand Forks and Regional District of Kootenay-Boundary's community-led flood recovery effort.**

BACKGROUND:

The 2018 freshet and subsequent flood event in Grand Forks and surrounding area of Regional District of Kootenay-Boundary resulted in catastrophic impacts to the community, including 393 households immediately impacted by the flood with moderate to severe damage to their homes.

While the flood emergency response phase is over, the immediate recovery needs are beyond the capacity of the community to assess and resolve.

The latest needs assessment updated in October identified 8 cases (7 singles and 1 couple) requiring complex care, the community is looking at options to help resolve this outstanding housing need. Approximately 90 households are still receiving government financial assistance for housing needs.

City of Grand Forks engaged an engineering company to prepare a hydrological survey of the area to assess options for permanent flood protection. The report prepared by Dobson Engineering recommended that three neighbourhoods and the downtown area be modified and approximately 100 homes be considered for a buyout program to establish the boundaries of a new flood plain. Recommendations from the report were communicated to the community in September and include:

- North Ruckle – subject to complete buyout (approximately 68 homes).
- South Ruckle – subject to partial buyout. 16 properties in imminent risk; construct some bank protection measures and a setback dike.
- Johnson Flats – raise some homes; bank protection measures; small number of homes to be bought out where there is high risk of flooding (more than 5 percent annual risk).
- Downtown – build a dike; repairs and improvements to the storm system; build flood walls to protect high-value buildings with no other options; select homes bought out.

s.13,s.17

The Ministry, represented by both Local Government Division and the Office of Housing and Construction Standards, is working closely with a local government team to support community-led recovery efforts

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with a cross-ministry focus on: housing; business and economic recovery; health, wellness, and social supports; and flood hazard management, mitigation and adaptation.

BC Housing has been involved since the initiation of the original emergency response and continues to support the community with affordable housing projects.

s.12,s.13,s.14

DISCUSSION:

Funding for eligible households is provided through the Housing Emergency Assistance Program (HEAP) administered by the Canadian Red Cross (CRC).

HEAP has just recently been extended including adjustments to the existing eligibility criteria. The exclusion criteria for receiving DFA has been removed based on feedback from the RDKB recovery team. HEAP extensions will be based on demonstrated financial need on a sliding scale of support.

Based on data collected by CRC there are an estimated 90 households that will continue to receive HEAP based on demonstrated financial need.

The Province and the CRC are working with affected households on a case-by-case basis to ensure those still in need of financial support continue to receive it.

A request from the city of Grand Forks and the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary for additional funding ($1M) to secure hotel/motel accommodation and temporary workforce modular housing has been approved by the Province to support the immediate housing need for winter.

Temporary housing is secured for 54 flood-affected households identified as having immediate housing needs. 20 households will be housed through hotel/motels, 10 households will be housed through short-term vacation rentals, and 24 households will be housed through temporary modular housing.

Two provincially-supported housing projects are currently under construction in the community: a six-bed women's transition house, and three Habitat for Humanity units.

In addition, to address longer term housing pressures that were worsened by the flood, BC Housing expedited two affordable housing projects in the community: a 50-plus unit affordable family housing project, and an up to 50-unit housing-with-high-supports project.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing continues to work with provincial and local partners to address the long-term recovery needs of Grand Forks and the Regional District of Kootenay-Boundary.

PREPARED BY:	APPROVED BY:	DATE APPROVED:
Kim Tiffin Policy Analyst Housing Policy Branch (250) 208-7147	Greg Steves, Assistant Deputy Minster Office of Housing and Construction Standards	October 30, 2018
	Jacqueline Dawes, Deputy Minister	*Vanessa Gedney OBO* October 30, 2018