



THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD

Canada



lakehead
social planning
council



THUNDER BAY
Drug Strategy

MEDIA RELEASE

Six Recommendations to End Homelessness in the District of Thunder Bay - Point in Time Count Report Released

November 13, 2018 - The full report of results and recommendations from the District of Thunder Bay's second Point in Time (PiT) Count of people experiencing homelessness was released today.

For a 24 hour period starting at 6 PM on April 21, 2018, 516 people were experiencing homelessness in The City of Thunder Bay, with 474 of these individuals completing a survey.

The Homelessness Enumeration Report focused on the following data categories for deeper analysis: Demographics, Place to Stay at Night, Chronic and Episodic Homelessness, Foster Care, Mental Health and Addictions, Reasons for Homelessness, Sources of Income and Length of Time in the City of Thunder Bay.

From this analysis the following six recommendations were developed:

- 1. Advocacy: Support for Addictions Treatment**
- 2. Advocacy: Address the Service Gaps in Child Welfare Systems and Individuals Aging out of Foster Care**
- 3. Expansion of Culturally Competent Supports and Housing for Indigenous People**
- 4. Expansion of the High Needs Homeless and Home for Good Systems**
- 5. Research on Migratory and Transient Homelessness**
- 6. Development of a Coordinated Access System**

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB), the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre (TBIFC) and the Lakehead Social Planning Council (LSPC) led the initiative of an enumeration of people experiencing homelessness, along with support from the Thunder Bay Drug Strategy and the Thunder Bay Poverty Reduction Strategy, both of which have housing as a key area or pillar of focus.



Quotes:

“The District of Thunder Bay Point-In-Time Count of people experiencing homelessness was an opportunity for a diverse group of community members and organizations to work together to create a snapshot of homelessness. The Board of Directors has approved several key recommendations from the full analysis of the enumeration results including:

- Advocate to the Northwest Local Health Integration Network (NWLHIN), the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to encourage additional addiction support services
- Explore funding opportunities to expand the High Needs Homeless and Home for Good systems to assist a greater number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness
- Advocate to the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, and the Federal Minister of Families, Children and Social Development for funding to develop a community-wide Coordinated Access System that streamlines the process for persons experiencing homelessness to access housing and appropriate supports
- Advocate to the Ontario Ministry of Children Community and Social Services to address the service gaps in the child welfare system
- Explore opportunities to establish research partnerships to determine the causes of migratory and transient homelessness in order to inform the development of adequate social policy interventions.”

William (Bill) Bradica, Chief Administrative Officer, The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board

“The success of the 2018 District of Thunder Bay Point-In-Time Count was clearly demonstrated by the concerted and collective efforts of local services, municipal, provincial and federal partners and the many volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure that the enumeration of individuals experiencing homelessness met program objectives. The collective impact and community engagement allowed data collectors to secure information that will help all of us continue to work together to help eliminate both chronic and episodic homelessness. The LSPC, along with its principal partners – TBDSSAB, TBIFC (and the many service organizations) is pleased to jointly present the full PiT 2018 report. Thank you to everyone who, in the spirit of collaborative leadership and commitment, continues to work diligently to reduce homelessness in our community. Sadly, based on the evidence, it is clear that we still have a lot of work to do.” **Marie Klassen, Director of Services, Lakehead Social Planning Council**



“Chi-Meegwetch to all partners, volunteers, and those who participated in the 2018 Point in Time Count. As a community, we have a lot of work to do. We will utilize our collective strengths to develop effective strategies and approaches to end homelessness. We will move forward! It is important to remember that we are all human beings first; that we all need a place to call home; that we all have something to give...patience, kindness, love, and understanding. I believe everyone has the right to housing...this is the vision that the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre is working towards.”

Charlene Baglien, Executive Director, Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre

Background

The PiT Count provided vital information to participating communities about individuals and families experiencing homelessness, and contributed to the understanding of homelessness in the District of Thunder Bay. A PiT Count is a method used to measure sheltered and unsheltered homelessness. It aims to anonymously enumerate individuals in a community who are, at a given time, staying in shelters or sleeping outside providing a "snapshot" of homelessness in a community. PiT Counts include a survey that can provide communities with information on the characteristics of individuals and families experiencing homelessness (e.g. age, gender, Veteran status, Indigenous identity). This information can be used by communities to direct resources to areas of greatest need and to connect individuals to specific supports to help them achieve stable housing.

In 2016, the Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) funded community entities (TBIFC and LSPC) to complete an enumeration of individuals experiencing homelessness. The Province of Ontario currently requires all Service Managers (TBDSSAB) to conduct an enumeration of those experiencing homelessness in their communities. Service Managers and the HPS funded community entities worked together to complete a second enumeration of individuals and families experiencing homelessness. This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy.

For questions or more information,

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