

2018 Point-in-Time (PiT) Homeless Count

The Community Advisory Board is coordinating a count of homeless people in Yellowknife on Sunday April 22, 2018. Information about locations and volunteering is included below.

1. What is a Point-in-Time Count?

A Point-in-Time Count provides a snapshot of sheltered and unsheltered homeless people in the community, an opportunity to educate a broad range of stakeholders regarding homelessness, and important data to help guide programs and services in our efforts to end homelessness. Homeless counts are one of the ways that a community can determine the overall scope of homelessness and the sub-populations of people who are experiencing homelessness or who may be at risk of homelessness. This includes individuals or families who may be temporarily sheltered in various institutions like hospitals, jails or emergency shelters.

2. Why are we conducting a PiT Count?

Presently, PiT Counts are not mandatory but are done voluntarily by communities hoping to understand and effectively address homelessness and related issues. The 2018 PiT Count is a critical part of Yellowknife's response to homelessness. Conducting the count will further enable us to measure progress in reducing homelessness and provide Yellowknife with a vital benchmark, particularly valuable in our implementation of Housing First. It enables us to speak to trends over time with confidence and gives us a common language and information to compare successes and teachings in order to support our community in our collective efforts to end homelessness. Counts can significantly increase a community's ability to take action towards ending homelessness. In coming years, PiT Counts will be required for communities to be eligible to receive federal homelessness funding.

3. When, where and how will it be conducted?

The PiT Count will be conducted through a youth event and an adult event on **April 22, 2018**. Food and beverages will be provided at both locations.

- **Youth Event Location:** SideDoor Resource Centre 10:00am – 4:00pm
- **Adult Event Location:** Safe Harbour Day Centre 9:00am – 11:00 and 1:00pm – 3:00pm

4. What will the results be used for?

The data obtained will allow us to identify needs, trends and key issues related to homelessness in Yellowknife. Policy makers, service providers and funders will use the data to enhance planning for programs, services and, of course, housing to end homelessness!

5. Who is coordinating the Yellowknife PiT Count 2018 initiative?

Yellowknife is participating in a National Point-in-Time Count, with the City of Yellowknife organizing and conducting the event. Our community partners, service providers and volunteers are also integral to the count and it would not be possible without them!

6. What will be my duties as a volunteer?

There are two roles volunteers can play based on their skills and interests

Survey Volunteers: survey volunteers will conduct face-to-face surveys with consent from participants. These volunteers are required to have experience in relevant client based fields (e.g. social work, health, research, child and youth work).

Survey volunteers are required to complete a 3-hour training session before the count. Find more information below.

Support Volunteers: support volunteers will provide support on the day of the count. Duties will include serving food to attendees, registering volunteers, distributing and receiving supplies and providing general assistance to PiT Count Coordinator.

Support volunteers are not required to complete a training session.

7. Who can volunteer and how can I get involved?

A campaign will be launched with a goal to recruit for various duties. Volunteers must be 19 years or older. Preference to persons with previous experience will be given. If you would like to volunteer, please review all of the information here and then complete the online form. Please note that there is MANDATORY volunteer training as per below.

8. Will volunteers be trained?

We want to ensure that every volunteer is properly trained to participate in the 2018 Yellowknife Point-in-Time Homeless Count. Please note that ALL volunteers MUST attend one of the training sessions scheduled as follows:

- **Monday April 16th, 2018 from 5:30pm – 8:30pm**

- **Wednesday April 18th, 2018 5:30pm – 8:30pm**

Training will include safety, consent and survey administration and will take place in the main boardroom of City Hall. Dinner will be provided.

9. Have we done a PiT Count in Yellowknife before?

This will be the second PiT Homeless Count conducted in Yellowknife our first count occurred in 2015.