Prince George Point-in-Time Homeless Count Report 2018

Community Partners Addressing Homelessness &
United Way of Northern British Columbia

Community
Partners
Addressing
Homelessness

United Way
Northern British Columbia
unitedwaynbc.ca

Acknowledgements

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REFLECTIVE PREFACE

2018 is only the second time that Prince George has participated in the National Point-in-Time Homeless Count and so there are still efforts to refine data collection methods. As there are only two sets of data to compare, it should be cautioned that results and data should be reviewed with this consideration in mind. The basic methodology has not changed from the 2016 count to the 2018 count. Training is still required for every volunteer participating in surveying respondents. The questions posed on the 2018 PiT Count survey remain the same as the 2016 questions with just a few minor adjustments. The long-term commitment to the National counts will increase the accuracy of both data and conclusions as time progresses. As a comparative narrative, we, along with other communities, are still learning how to read and refine data. As a result, commentary should be considered more in terms of identifying trends, identifying gaps in data collection and refining the methodology.

It is very tempting for many readers to look for the one figure – that of how many homeless we have in our community. However, this figure will always be an under-representation of the real numbers due to a variety of factors. There are hidden homeless in every community. These can be individuals that may be patients in hospitals, incarcerated, staying temporarily with friends or family, or just simply declining to take part in the Point in Time survey.

There is also the reality that some years will see more volunteers participating in conducting surveys. By default, the raw data number will appear larger than previous counts. This means that some responses will be more accurately represented using the percentage rather than the actual number.

In general, there has been little significant change in the statistics. The numbers reflect the reality that 2016 saw a slightly higher rate of volunteers and slightly greater community group participation.

One potential anomaly that arose was data showing that there were slightly more females recorded as homeless which is a first for Prince George. However, it should be recognized that there was more participation from women's services than men's and it could be argued that this may have skewed the numbers collected. There has been anecdotal information from some services that report having seen an increase in women but there is no supporting evidence for this. We also saw a change in the older age group with 9 respondents in the 2016 count aged between 65 – 74 and 0 respondents for that group in the 2018 count.

Overwhelmingly, in both the 2016 and 2018 counts, government sources were the major income reported amongst respondents and affordable housing was the highest barrier to finding housing.

Given the similarity in responses to both National counts, we see little significant change and would draw the conclusion that while homelessness does not appear to be increasing, it is not decreasing either. We are starting to see more confidence in reporting why people become homeless and the age at which they become homeless. This may in turn, lead us to better target and plan resources and services.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On April 18, 2018 Prince George took part in a nationally coordinated effort, led by the Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy, to measure homelessness in Canada. The Point-in-Time (PiT) Homeless Count was administered by the United Way of Northern BC, and conducted in partnership with the Community Partners Addressing Homelessness and community stakeholders.

It should be noted that participation in the national PiT Count was voluntary for communities. However, it was considered by many to be a critical starting point to establishing a national picture of Homelessness across Canada and would further, allow communities to engage in comparative studies based on national standards. This in turn, strengthens and broadens homelessness data for the future.

Over a period of 14 hours volunteers and staff surveyed individuals in 11 agencies, including shelters, transitional housing facilities and drop-in centres. From 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm, about 25 volunteers were involved surveying individuals in outdoor locations, such as sidewalks, parks and other public places.

Also, to accurately get a number of those absolutely homeless 8 organizations, including emergency shelter, transitional housing and institutional facilities, provided enumeration data.

The count offers a "snapshot" of homelessness in Prince George on a particular date. It should not be taken as exact given that there are "hidden" homeless that we do not see on the street. Examples would be those staying short term with friends/relatives, people in medical care etc.

Some of the key findings include:

- A **minimum** of 133 individuals were absolutely homeless the night of April 17th, 2018, staying either outdoors (survey response) or in emergency shelters (using shelter data)
- 79 individuals stayed in transitional housing (using transitional housing data)

Of those surveyed:

- 24 of 150 respondents (16%) stayed outdoors the night prior
- 61 of 150 respondents (41%) stayed in emergency shelters the night prior
- 79% identified as being of indigenous descent
- 50% of 143 respondents were female, 46% were male
- Ages ranged from 15 to 78
- 48% of respondents are between the ages of 25-44, 43% ages 45-64, 7% under 25, 2% older than 65
- 3% had served in the Canadian military or RCMP
- Almost half of the respondents (45%) had previously been in foster care and/or group homes.
- 96 of the respondents are Chronically homeless (homeless for 6 months or more of the past year)
- 33 of the respondents are Episodically homeless (homeless 3 or more times in the past year)
- When asked the age they first became homeless, 34% indicated under 18, while the median age was 24
- Most respondents (96%) indicate they do want to get into permanent housing.

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

This report provides the background, the methodology and a summary of the data of the 2018 Prince George Point-in-Time (PiT) Homeless Count. This is Prince George's fourth Homeless Count and it is the second one that has been conducted as part of a national coordinated initiative of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS).

This second coordinated Point-in-Time Count conducted by United Way of Northern BC, the community entity, is a Federal Government initiative under Employment and Social Development Canada. All 61 HPS Designated Communities were invited to participate. It was required that the Count be held within March or April of 2018.

It was recognized that if communities across Canada were to use similar methods and similar questions in a PiT count that is conducted around the same time of year, a national picture of homelessness could emerge. Having a greater number of communities conducting the count in the same way at the same time would contribute to a broader picture of homelessness across Canada. This could then be a benchmark against which progress in reducing homelessness can be measured.

Conducting a Homeless Count is both time consuming and complex; it requires careful and effective planning and a regimented implementation. In Prince George, the *Community Partners Addressing Homelessness (CPAH)* has taken on the task of conducting a Homeless Count on two previous occasions, 2008 and 2010. CPAH is a long established community group of more than 45 volunteer agencies and government representatives that has been active for over a decade and has developed an intimate understanding of the homeless sector in Prince George and the issues associated with it. The previous counts were conducted at the direction of the community and with minimal resources to support the count.

SECTION 2: PURPOSE

The PiT Count has two purposes:

1. A count of people experiencing absolute homelessness – identify how many people are experiencing homelessness in shelters and on the street at a given time. Over several years, these counts can be used by the community to track progress in addressing and reducing homelessness.

2. A count of the homeless population – through the survey, gives the community information on the demographics and service needs of their homeless population. This information can be used to target community resources to where they are most needed.

SECTION 3: METHODOLOGY

Prior to the PiT count, communities conducted counts through very diverse and community specific ways. The HPS PiT Count Methodology is intended to standardize the basic elements of the count across communities, with some ability to adapt to local needs. Recognizing the need to balance methodological rigor and community flexibility, the HPS PiT Count approach included Core Standards for the methodology consistent across communities, while allowing flexibility for the approach to be tailored to each community's local context. In addition to the Core Standards, the HPS approach also included recommended standards, based on effective practices used by communities in Canada. For more information on the PiT count standard methodology please

access the Guide *"GUIDE TO POINT-IN-TIME COUNTS IN CANADA"* and the *"PiT Count Toolkit"* both of which are available through the Government of Canada's Employment and Social Development Canada website. http://www.esdc.gc.ca/eng/communities/homelessness/point_in_time.shtml

PiT counts were required to be conducted within March or April 2018, and be conducted within a 24-hour period. Core questions had to be included in the survey and the data results were to be uploaded to the government through the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) program.

United Way of Northern BC, the Community Entity for the designated HPS funding in Prince George, took direction from the Community Advisory Board, Community Partners Addressing Homelessness, and contracted a coordinator to complete the project. The CPAH provided direction and advice, as did an Advisory Committee.

It was decided that the count would be conducted in on April 18, 2018. The Count Advisory Committee agreed on the time of the outdoor – unsheltered count which took place from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm on April 18th. In addition, it was agreed that we would survey in 'drop in' facilities for a period of time during the day. Shelters and transitional housing facilities could survey at any point on April 18th. Surveys were conducted by volunteers and staff at the Firepit Cultural Drop-in facility in the afternoon and in the evening when the street count was being conducted. St Vincent De Paul conducted surveys during their morning, lunch, and afternoon drop in time. Additionally, surveys were conducted in a number of shelters, service agencies and outdoor locations. A complete overview of how many respondents completed the survey at which location is shown below in Table 1.

Location or Agency	# of surveys completed
Shelters / Transitional Housing	61 total in shelters
AWAC Women's Shelter	13
ASAP Men and Women's Shelter	19
Ketso Yoh Men's Shelter	9
Reconnect Youth Village	6
Phoenix Transition	10
Amber House (E Fry)	4
Other Unsheltered locations (includes Drop-in)	90 total in unsheltered
Firepit Cultural Drop-in	27
St. Vincent de Paul Drop-in	9
New Hope Society	9
Hadih House	10
Various outdoor/street locations	35

Table 1 Location of Data Collection

Outdoor Surveying

Outdoor surveying was conducted by 23 volunteers, all of whom showed up at Count Headquarters by 5:45 pm and checked in. The volunteers were paired in teams of two, with one of the team being someone familiar with the homeless populations. Each team was provided with a map of their area, along with a backpack containing some 'rescue' items, gift bags, clipboards, pens, pencils, surveys, a screening tool, and instructions. They were

advised to call if there were any issues, to call if they needed more supplies and to check back in by 8:30 pm. If they returned early, they were offered another area. We covered any potential emergency situations by having AWAC outreach workers available that could attend if needed.

We had a total of 20 'areas' mapped and ready for surveyors. Of these 20 areas – 15 were identified as priority, with the others ready in case we had enough volunteers.

Ten (10) teams were covering downtown areas where surveyors walked streets, lanes, plazas, bottle depot and vacant lots. An additional 5 areas that were deemed a priority, were large parks that are within walking distance of the various services in the downtown. The extra 5 areas were further away from the downtown and not all were surveyed.

Training

Volunteers were required to attend a mandatory training session prior to participating in the Count. Two training session times were offered to volunteers of the general public and those participating from service provider agencies. There was a wide range of topics covered in these training sessions including; basic information regarding the PiT Count and the role it would play in addressing homelessness in our community, volunteers role and responsibilities, volunteer safety and what was expected on the day of the Count from volunteers and from Count coordinators. A large portion of the training sessions was focused on understanding the screening and survey questions. Each volunteer was given a sample survey to take home and review. In this section of the training volunteers reviewed the screening questions, tally sheets and survey questions and were asked to pair up and do a mock one-on-one survey exercise. The purpose of the mock surveying was to ensure that each volunteer thoroughly understood the survey questions that they would be asking and to allow them to have the opportunity to consult with a count coordinator if they had any questions.

Training was offered approximately a week and a half before the Count. There were two evenings of training and an additional training session was held before the count for some individuals who were not able to make either evening session. We trained approximately 35 volunteers including those who would conduct surveys in agencies.

SECTION 4: FINDINGS

Respondent Demographics

The median age of respondents of the 2018 Point-in-Time Homeless Count was 44 years old. The age range of respondents was from 15 to 78.

- There were 143 people who responded when they were asked to specify their gender with the majority being female (50 %) and falling between the ages of 25-44 years.
- When compared to their female counterparts, 46% of respondents were male with the majority falling between the ages of 45-54 (35%).
- Indigenous respondents (111 or 79%) are significantly over-represented.

Variable	# of respondents	%
Age	(n = 143)	
17 years and under	2	1.4
18-24	8	5.6
25-34	29	20.3
35-44	39	27.3
45-54	35	24.5
55-64	27	18.9
65-74	0	0
75+	3	2.1
Gender	(n = 144)	
Female	73	50.7
Male	66	45.8
Two-Spirit	3	2.1
Transgender	1	0.7
Indigenous Indicator	(n = 140)	
First Nations	87	62.1
Inuit	0	0
Metis	19	13.6
Have Indigenous Ancestry	5	3.6
Not Indigenous	29	20.3
Service in the Canadian Military or RCMP?	(n = 138)	
Yes	4	2.9
No	134	97.1

Table 2 Respondent Demographics

Respondents Age and Gender

When gender was cross-referenced with age the following trend emerged from the data:

- Female respondents were on the whole younger than male respondents, with males in the majority in the 45 – 64 age category. (Figure 1)

Age	Female	Male	Two-Spirit	Transgender
17 years and under	1	1		
18-24	7	1		
25-34	16	12		
35-44	23	14		1
45-54	13	20	2	
55-64	8	17	1	
65-74				
75+	2	1		

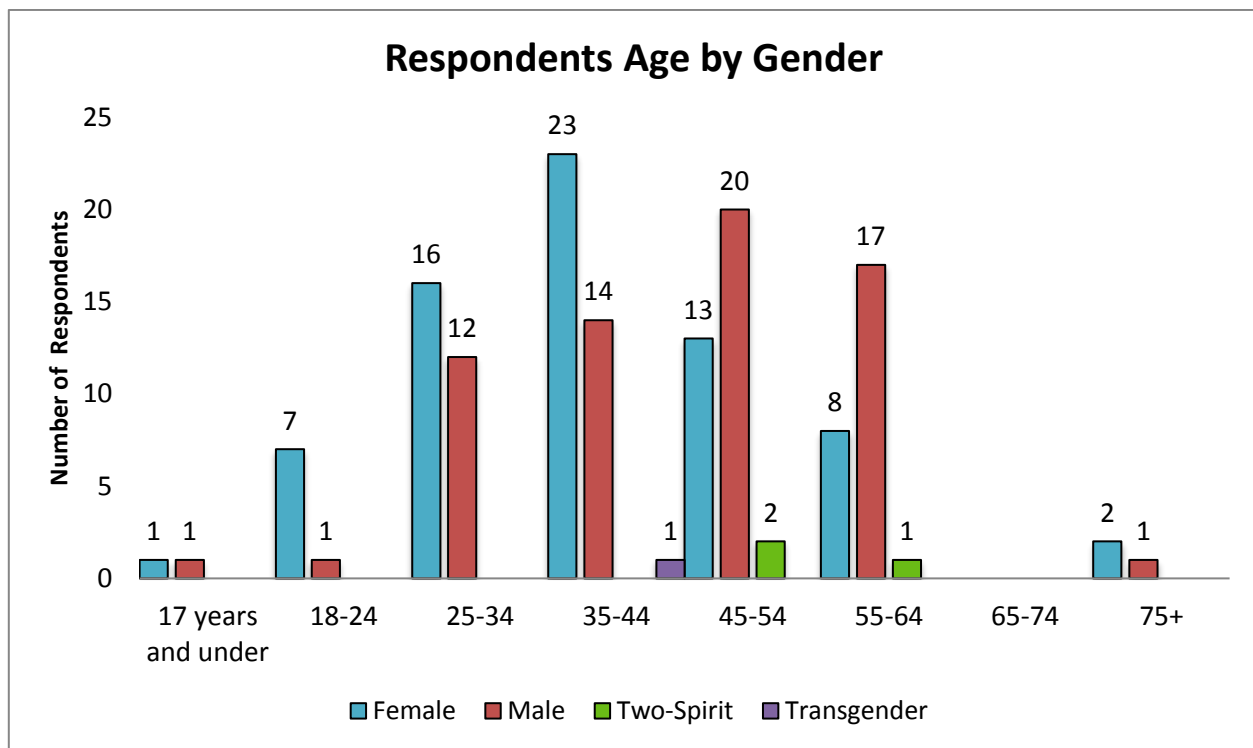**Table 3 Respondents Age and Gender**

Figure 1 Respondents Age and Gender

Respondents Age and Indigenous Status

When age was cross-referenced with Indigenous status, the following was noted:

● There is a notable variance between the number of Indigenous and non-Indigenous respondents in the 18 – 54 age categories. The distribution was more equal in the 55+ age category.

Indigenous homeless count respondents identified themselves as being from many communities. The three most common communities were Tl'azt'en Nation (10 respondents), Lake Babine Nation (9 respondents) and Takla Lake First Nation (9 respondents). Please find a complete list of communities in the Appendix A.

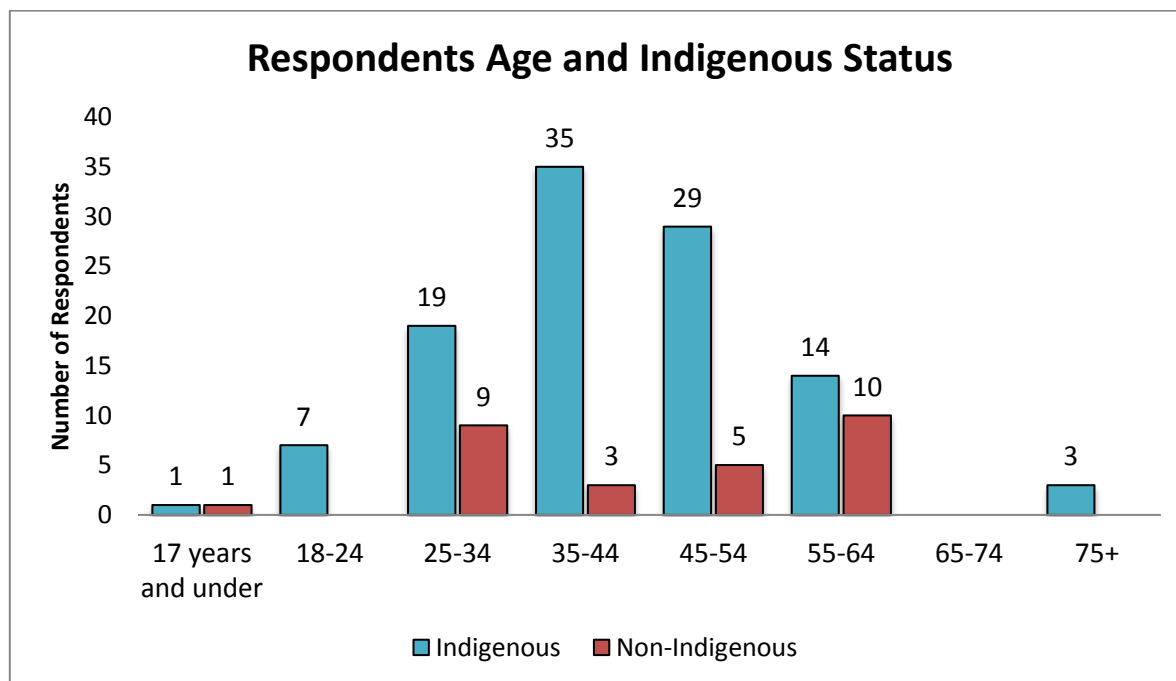| Age	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
17 years and under	1	1
18-24	7	0
25-34	19	9
35-44	35	3
45-54	29	5
55-64	14	10
65-74	0	
75+	3	0

Table 4 Respondents Age and Indigenous Status

Figure 2 Respondents Age and Indigenous Status

Respondents Age When They First Became Homeless

A total of 134 respondents responded to the question, "How old were you the first time you experienced homelessness?". The median age that respondents surveyed first became homeless was 24 years old. Table 5 provides a summary of the responses given.

Age (n = 134)	# of respondents
17 years and under	45
18-24	22
25-34	25
35-44	21
45-54	12
55-64	8
65-74	1

Table 5 Respondents Age When They First Became Homeless
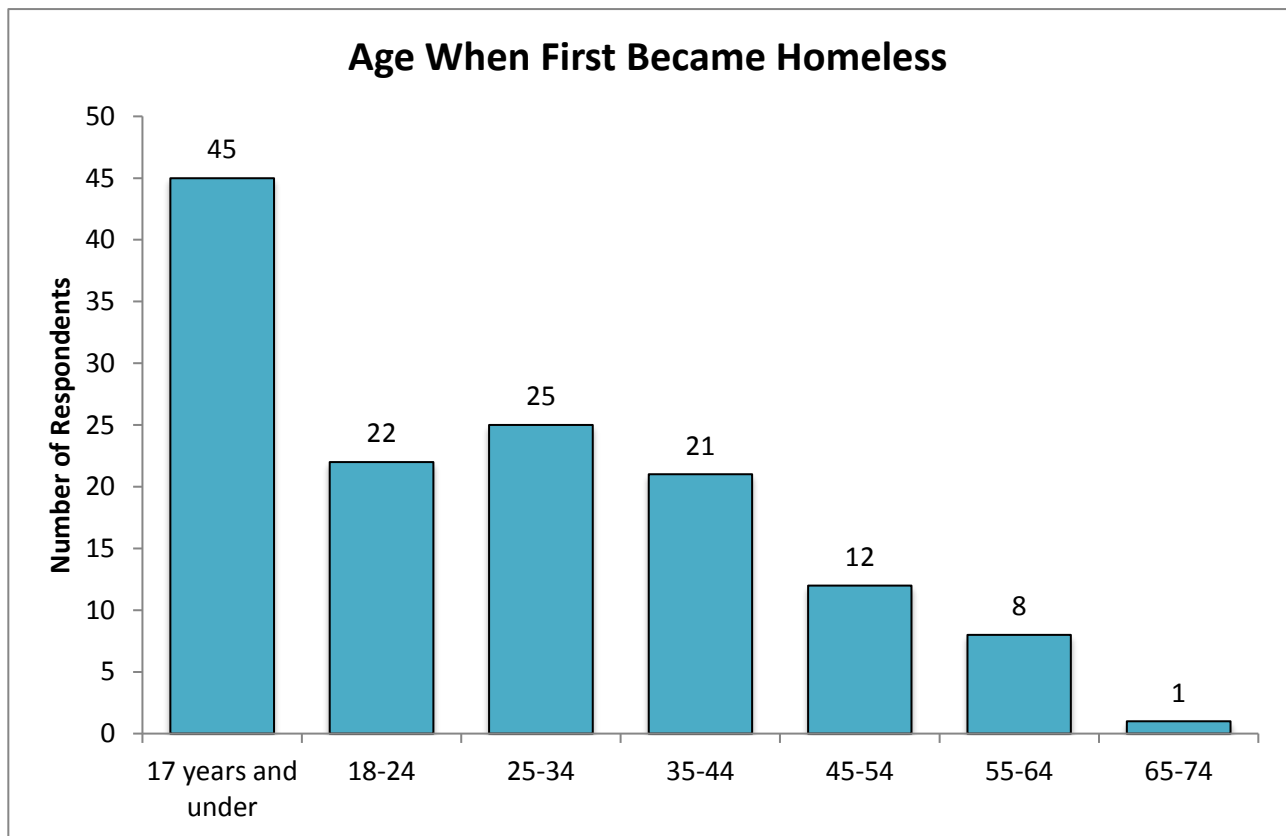

Figure 3 Respondents Age When They First Became Homeless

Places Stayed Last Night

Respondents to the PiT survey reported a variety of locations that they had stayed the previous night. A total of 150 respondents responded to the question, "Where did you stay last night?". The majority of the homeless people in Prince George who participated in the survey slept indoors the night prior, while 20 people (13%) reported having stayed outside (Table 6). The most commonly indicated overnight sleeping locations include:

- Emergency shelter (61 respondents or 40%)

- Transitional Housing (24 respondents or 16%)

- Outdoors or locations unfit for Human habitation - parks, bus shelters, sidewalks, tents, abandoned vehicle (24 respondents or 16%)

- Someone Else's Place – temporary (20 respondents or 13%)

Places Stayed (n=150)	# of respondents	%
Emergency Shelter	61	40.7
Transitional Housing	24	16.0
Outdoors	24	16.0
Someone Else's Place	20	13.3
Motel/Hotel	10	6.7
Respondent doesn't know (likely homeless)	6	4.0
Own Apartment House	4	2.7
Hospital, Jail, Prison, Remand Centre	1	0.67

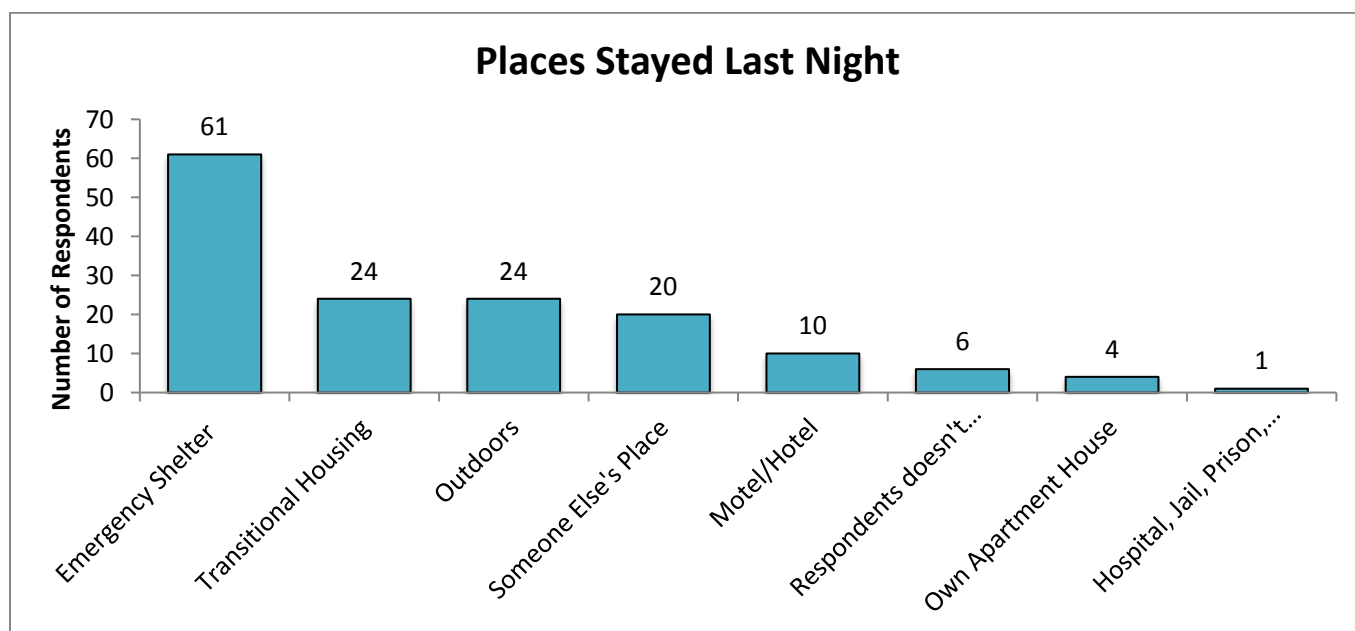**Table 6 Places Stayed Last Night**

Figure 4 Places Stayed Last Night

Staying In An Emergency Shelter Within The Past Year

146 respondents indicated they had stayed in an emergency shelter in the past year. Those that had not were asked to indicate the main reasons they had for not staying in an emergency shelter within the past year. Each respondent was able to indicate more than one reason; Table 7 reflects the responses to this question.

Reason for not staying in an emergency shelter the past year (n = 29)	# of responses
Fear for safety	6
Prefer to stay with friends/Family	6
Bed bugs & other pests	2
Turned away (banned)	2
Pet(s)	1
Turned away (shelters are full)	1
Other (not in list)	6

Table 7 Reasons For Not Staying In An Emergency Shelter Within The Past Year

General Characteristics

- A total of 63 respondents stated that they had previously been in foster care and/or a group home.
- A total of 117 respondents had stayed in an emergency shelter in the past year.
- Chronic homeless (homeless more than 6 months in past year) 96 respondents.
- Episodic homeless (homeless 3 or more times in past year) 33 respondents.
  Note that for the number of times homeless – 1 time can include the entire year

Variable	# of respondents	%
Family Members with them (n = 139)	28	20.1
Came to Canada as an immigrant or refugee (n = 126)	3	2.4
Previously been in foster care and/or group home *(Current number of those in foster care not available)* (n = 139)	63	45.3
Stayed in an emergency shelter in the past year (n = 146)	117	80.1
Want to get into Permanent Housing (n = 142)	132	92.9
Length of time homeless in the past year	(n = 129)	
0 - 2 Months	20	15.5
3 - 5 Months	13	10.1
6+ Months (Chronically Homeless)	96	74.4
Number of times homeless in the past year	(n = 129)	
1 Time	86	66.7
2 Times	10	7.8
3+ Times (Episodically Homeless)	33	25.6

Table 8 Respondents General Characteristics

Living in Prince George

Survey respondents were asked how long they have been in Prince George.

Length of time in Prince George	# of respondents
Always been here	25
Less than a year	21
More than a year	94

Table 9 How Long Respondents Have Been In Prince George

Homeless count respondents were asked where they had lived prior to moving to Prince George. There were 14 respondents that came from the Lower Mainland and 27 respondents were from Northern BC. Please refer to Appendix A for the complete list of where respondents came from before they moved to Prince George.

Respondents also indicated the main reasons they had for moving to Prince George. The three most common reasons for moving to Prince George were:

- Family moved to Prince George (28 respondents)

- To access services and support, (including medical, legal, shelter) (20 respondents)

- To visit friends/family (16 respondents)

Main reason came to Prince George	# of respondents (n = 121)
Family moved here	28
To access services and support	20
To visit friends/family	16
Employment (seeking)	10
Fear for safety	10
Grew up in PG	4
To attend school	4
Restart life	3
To get away from family	3
Death in family	2
To find housing	2
Employment (secured)	1
Other	6

Table 10 Main Reason For Coming To Prince George

Respondent's Age When They First Became Homeless

A total of 134 respondents responded to the question, "How old were you the first time you experienced homelessness?". The median age that respondents surveyed first became homeless was 24 years old. Table 11 provides a summary of the responses given.

Age (n = 134)	# of respondents
17 years and under	45
18-24	22
25-34	25
35-44	21
45-54	12
55-64	8
65-74	1

Table 11 Respondents Age When They First Became Homeless
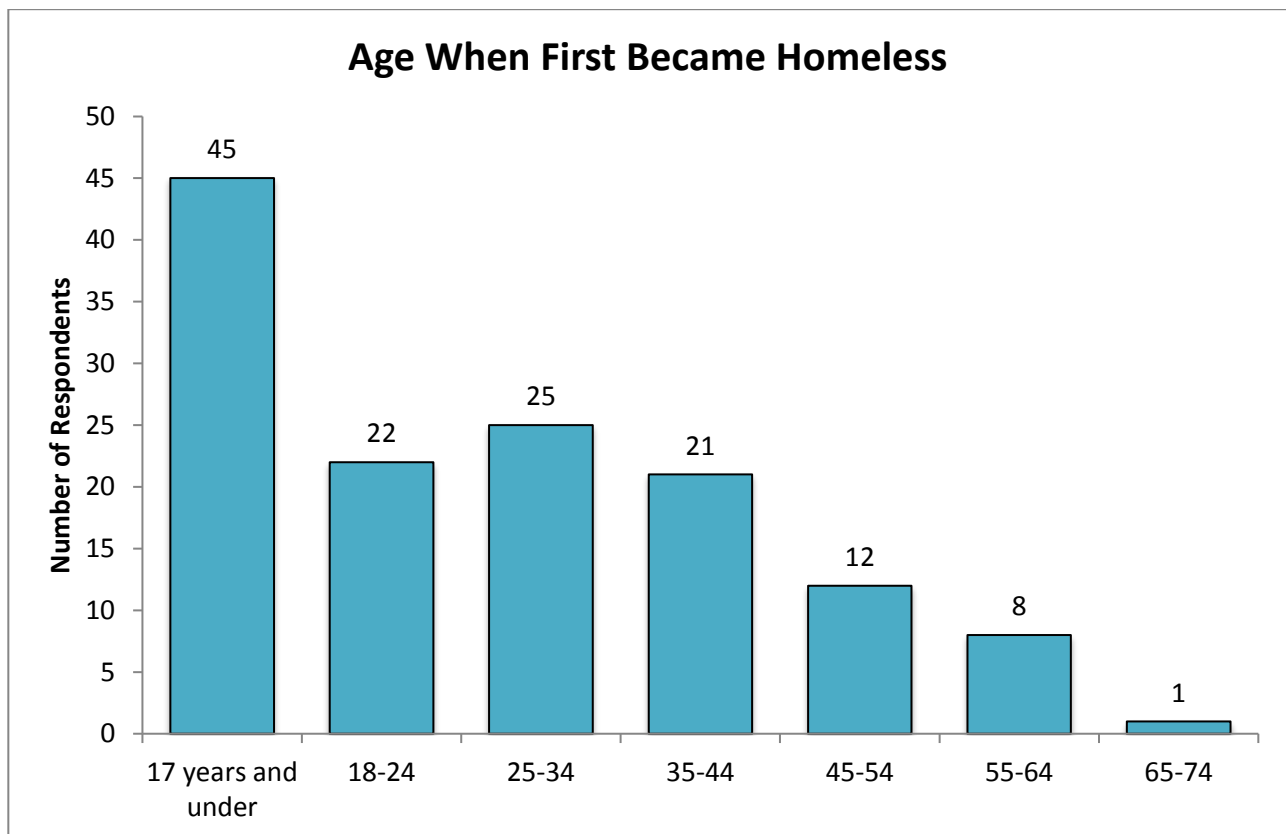
Figure 5 Respondents Age When They First Became Homeless

Income and Homelessness

Homeless count respondents were asked, "What are your sources of income?". Each respondent was able to indicate more than one source. The three most common sources of income were:

- Welfare/Social Assistance (71 responses)
- Disability Benefit (41 responses)
- Informal/ Self Employment (e.g. bottle returns, panhandling, etc.) (18 responses)
- It is noteworthy that the main source of income is government (133 responses)

Source of Income (n = 137)	# of responses
Welfare/Social Assistance	71
Disability Benefit	41
Informal/Self Employment	18
GST refund	10
No Income	8
Seniors Benefits	8
Employment	4
Employment Insurance	3
Other	10

Table 12 Respondents Sources Of Income

Reason for Housing Loss

Respondents were asked the question, "What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently?".
Table 13 provides a summary of the reasons chosen by respondents. Respondents were able to choose more
than one reason for housing loss. The four most commonly reported responses were:

- Unable to pay rent or mortgage (36 responses)

- Addiction or substance use (32 responses)

- Unsafe housing conditions (21 responses)

- Family Conflict (21 responses)

Reason for housing loss (n = 128)	# of responses
Unable to Pay Rent or Mortgage	36
Addiction or Substance Use	32
Unsafe Housing Conditions	21
Family Conflict	21
Illness or Medical Condition	13
Job Loss	13
Evicted: Other Reason (Not Financial)	6
Experienced Abuse by: Spouse / Partner	6
Death in family	5
Difficulty with Roommate	3
Experienced Abuse by: Parent / Guardian	3
Judgement from landlord	3
Chose to be independent	2
Hospitalization or Treatment Program	2
Pets	2
Other	13

Table 13 Respondents Reason For Housing Loss

Staying In An Emergency Shelter Within The Past Year

146 respondents indicated they had stayed in an emergency shelter in the past year. Those that had not were asked to indicate the main reasons they had for not staying in an emergency shelter within the past year. Each respondent was able to indicate more than one reason; Table 14 reflects the responses to this question.

Reason for not staying in an emergency shelter the past year (n = 29)	# of responses
Fear for safety	6
Prefer to stay with friends/Family	6
Bed bugs & other pests	2
Turned away (banned)	2
Pet(s)	1
Turned away (shelters are full)	1
Lack of transportation	0
Other (not in list)	6

Table 14 Reasons For Not Staying In An Emergency Shelter Within The Past Year

Help Find Permanent Housing

Survey respondents were asked what would help them get into permanent, stable housing. 120 respondents indicated what would help them get into permanent housing (Table 15). Each respondent was able to indicate more than one answer.

Help find permanent housing (n = 120)	# of responses	%
Financial (income, job, enough money)	25	20.8
Housing (affordable, available, lower rent)	51	43.0
Supports and Services	28	23.3
Substance abuse support/treatment	10	8.3
Other	6	6.7

Table 15 What Will Help Respondents Find Permanent Stable Housing
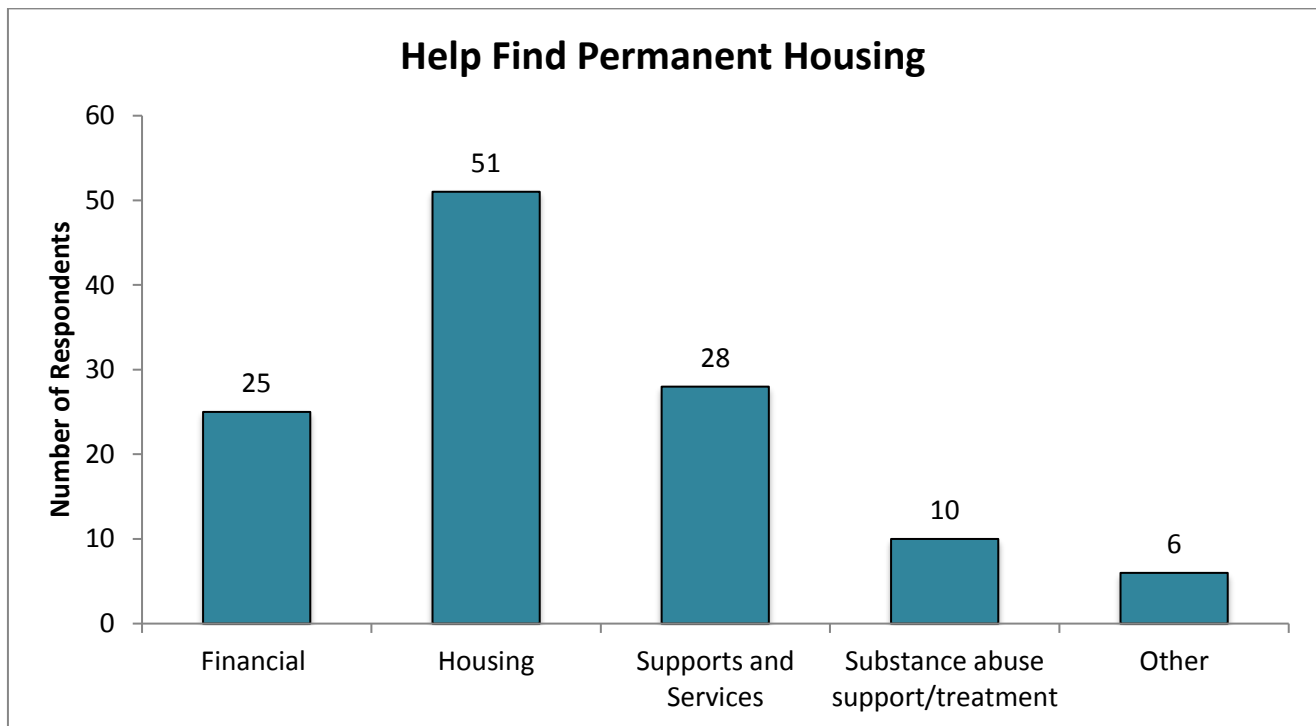
Figure 6 What Will Help Respondents Find Permanent Stable Housing

Challenges Or Problems Finding A Place of their Own

Homeless count respondents were asked to indicate what types of challenges or problems they face when finding a place of their own. Each respondent was able to indicate more than one reason; Table 16 reflects the responses to this question. The three most common reasons keeping respondents from finding a place of their own were:

- Rents too high (95 responses)
- Low Income (77 responses)
- Addiction (52 responses)

Challenges/Problems in finding a home (n = 137)	# of responses
Rents Too High	95
Low Income	77
Addiction	52
Discrimination	50
Poor Housing Conditions	34
Mental Health Issues	29
Family Breakdown / Conflict	26
Health / Disability Issues	26
No Income Assistance	24
Criminal History	20
Pets	12
Domestic Violence	11
Children	8
Don't Want Housing	3
Lack of references	3
Difficulty finding roommates to share rent	2
Barriers to housing	1
Other (not in list)	5

Table 16 Challenges When Trying To Find Housing

Staying Outside

A total of 101 respondents indicated that they sleep outside or "camp" when the weather is warmer. Table 17 reflects the responses for when respondents were asked for the reasons they don't stay in a shelter.

Reasons for not staying in shelter	# of respondents (n = 101)
To keep my things with me	32
To stay with my partner	30
Safety	27
Accessibility	20
Barred from facilities	20
Smells/sounds	17
Bed bugs	9
Pets are not allowed	7
Pride & Dignity	7
Shelter was full	3

Table 17 Reasons Why Respondents Do Not Stay In A Shelter

Need for Services

A total of 113 respondents commented on their need for various services in Prince George. Each respondent was asked if they had a need for services related to services listed below. They were able to indicate the need for one or more service; the following trends emerged from the data:

- Need for services related to Addiction or Substance Use (84 responses)
- Need for services related to Mental Health (67 responses)
- Need for services related to Serious or Ongoing Medical Condition (51 responses)

Need for services	# of respondents (n = 113)
Addiction Or Substance Use	84
Mental Health (Counselling, treatment, etc.)	67
Serious or Ongoing Medical Condition	51
Physical Disability	42
Learning Disability	30
Brain Injury	19
Pregnancy	1

Table 18 Services Needed By Respondents
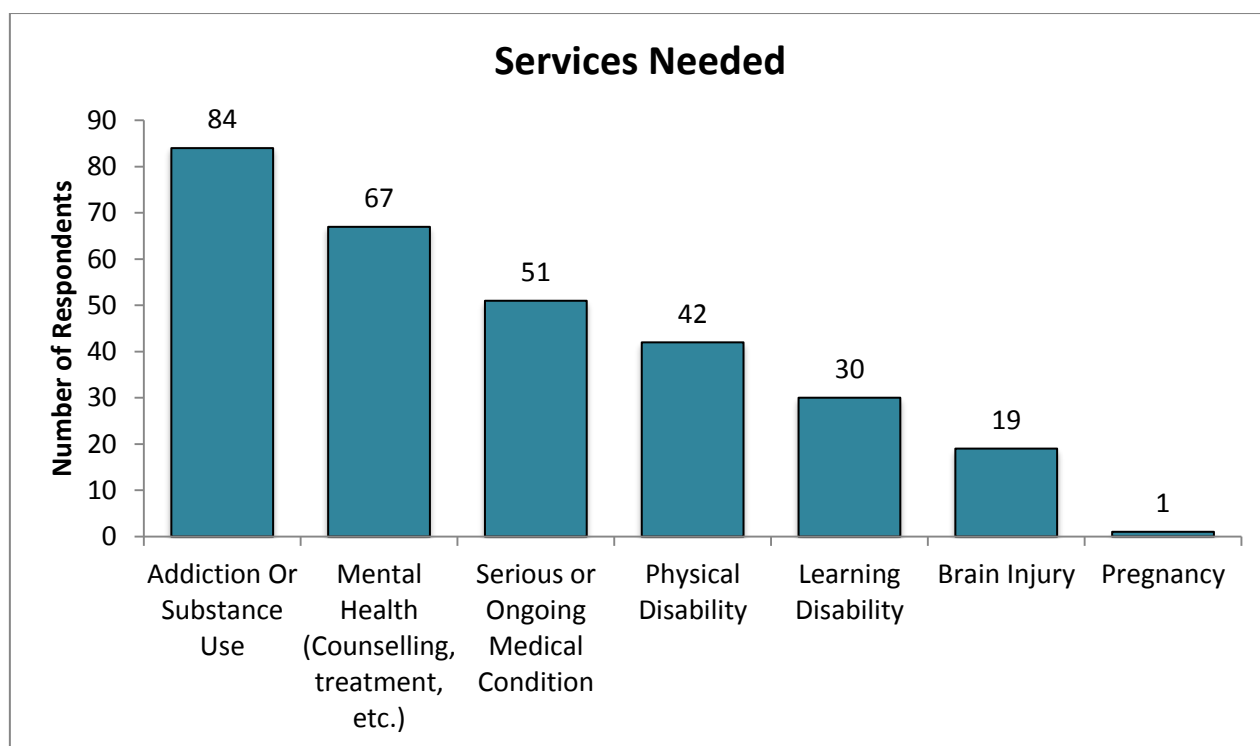
Figure 7 Services Needed By Respondents

APPENDICES

Table A.1 "Which Indigenous community are you from?"

Indigenous Community	n = 77
Tl'azt'en Nation	10
Lake Babine Nation	9
Takla Lake First Nation	9
Burns Lake Indian Band	4
Kwadacha Nation	4
McLeod Lake Indian Band	3
Moricetown Indian Band	3
Nak'azdli Band	3
Saik'uz First Nation	2
Squamish Nation	2
Beaver Lake Cree Nation	1
Cheslatta Carrier Nation	1
Da'naxda'xw First Nation	1
Dease River First Nation	1
Driftpile First Nation	1
Fishing Lake First Nation	1
Gitanmaax Band Council	1
Gitanyow First Nation	1
Hagwilget Village First Nation	1
Heiltsuk Nation	1
Horse Lake First Nation	1
Kispiox Band Council	1
Kitselas Indian Band	1
Kwakiutl First Nation	1
Micmacs of Gesgapegiag	1
Nadleh Whuten First Nation	1
Nee-Tahi-Buhn Band	1
Ojibways of Onigaming First Nation	1
Saddle Lake	1
Sakimay First Nations	1
Sucker Creek	1
Williams Lake Indian Band	1

Table A.2 "Where did you live before you came to Prince George?"

Moved to Prince George from…	n = 81
Vancouver/Lower Mainland	14
Fort St. James	6
Edmonton	5
Terrace	5
Burns Lake	4
Vanderhoof	4
Smithers	3
Tachie	3
Dawson Creek	2
Prince Rupert	2
Victoria	2
Bear Lake	1
Calgary	1
Chetwynd	1
Edson	1
Fort McMurray	1
Fort St. John	1
Good Hope Lake	1
Grand Prairie	1
Guelph	1
Kamloops	1
Lake Babine Nation	1
Lethbridge	1
Lillooet	1
McLeod Lake	1
Moricetown Indian Band	1
Nanaimo	1
North Battleford	1

Queen Charlotte	1
Quesnel	1
Red Deer	1
Regina	1
St. John's	1
St. Paul	1
Surrey	1
Takla Lake First Nation	1
Tatla Lake	1
Tl'azt'en Nation	1
Tsay Keh Dene	1
Whitehorse	1
Williams Lake	1
Yellowknife	1

Appendix B: Survey Instrument

Survey Number: _____

2018 PRINCE GEORGE PiT SURVEY

Location: _____ **Time:** _____ AM/PM
Interviewer: _____ **Contact #:** _____

NOTE ANSWERS FROM SCREENING QUESTIONS

C. Where did you stay last night?

a. DECLINE TO ANSWER b. OWN APARTMENT/ HOUSE	c. SOMEONE ELSE'S PLACE **->ASK C1 AND C2** +- d. MOTEL/HOTEL **->ASK C2** e. HOSPITAL, JAIL, PRISON, REMAND CENTRE **->ASK C2**	f. EMERGENCY SHELTER, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER g. TRANSITIONAL SHELTER/HOUSING h. PUBLIC SPACE (E.G., SIDEWALK, PARK, FOREST, BUS SHELTER) i. VEHICLE (CAR, VAN, RV, TRUCK) j. MAKESHIFT SHELTER, TENT OR SHACK k. ABANDONED/VACANT BUILDING l. OTHER UNSHELTERED LOCATION m. RESPONDENT DOESN'T KNOW [LIKELY HOMELESS]
[THANK & END SURVEY]	**[FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS]**	**[SKIP TO SURVEY QUESTION 1]**

C1: Can you stay there as long as you want or is this a temporary situation?

a. AS LONG AS WANTED **[THANK AND END SURVEY]**
b. TEMPORARY SITUATION ------> **GO TO C2**
c. DON'T KNOW -------------------> **GO TO C2**
d. DECLINE TO ANSWER **[THANK AND END SURVEY]**

C2: Do you have a house or apartment that you can safely return to?

a. YES **[THANK AND END SURVEY]**
b. NO ----------------------> **BEGIN SURVEY**
c. DON'T KNOW --------> **BEGIN SURVEY**
d. DECLINE **[THANK AND END SURVEY]**

BEGIN SURVEY

1. What family members stayed with you last night? [Indicate survey numbers for adults. Check all that apply]

☐ NONE				☐ OTHER ADULT - Survey #: ___ ___ ___ ___			
☐ PARTNER - Survey #: ___ ___ ___ ___				☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER			

☐ CHILD(REN)/DEPENDENT(S)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
[indicate gender and age for each]	GENDER								
	AGE								

2. How old are you? [OR] What year were you born? [If unsure, ask for best estimate]

○ AGE _____ **OR** YEAR BORN _____	○ DON'T KNOW	○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

➔ **For the next questions, "homelessness" means any time when you have been without a secure place to live, including sleeping in shelters, on the streets, or living temporarily with others.**

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

○ AGE_____	○ DON'T KNOW	○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

4. In total, *how much time* have you been homeless over the PAST YEAR? [Best estimate.]

○ LENGTH _____ DAYS | WEEKS | MONTHS	○ DON'T KNOW	○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

5. In total, *how many different times* have you experienced homelessness over the PAST YEAR? [Best estimate.]

○ NUMBER OF TIMES _____ [Includes this time]	○ DON'T KNOW	○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

6. **Have you stayed in an emergency shelter in the past year?** [Give local examples of homeless shelters]

○ YES	○ NO	○ DON'T KNOW	○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

→ **06b If not, what are the main reasons?** [Do not read categories; select all that apply)

○ TURNED AWAY (SHELTERS ARE FULL)	○ PREFER TO STAY WITH FRIENDS/FAMILY
○ TURNED AWAY (BANNED)	○ PET(S)
○ LACK OF TRANSPORTATION	○ OTHER: _____
○ FEAR FOR SAFETY	○ DON'T KNOW
○ BED BUGS & OTHER PESTS	○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

7. **How long have you been in Prince George?**

○ LENGTH _____ DAYS / WEEKS / MONTHS / YEARS ---------> ○ ALWAYS BEEN HERE ○ DON'T KNOW ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER	**07b Where did you live before you came here?** ○ COMMUNITY _____ PROVINCE_____ OR COUNTRY_____ ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

→ **07c What is the main reason you came to Prince George?** [Do not read categories; select one)

☐ TO ACCESS EMERGENCY SHELTER(S)	☐ FEAR FOR SAFETY
☐ TO ACCESS SERVICES AND SUPPORTS	☐ RECREATION/SHOPPING
☐ FAMILY MOVED HERE	☐ MEDICAL
☐ TO VISIT FRIENDS/FAMILY	☐ FOREST FIRES
☐ TO FIND HOUSING	☐ LEGAL
☐ EMPLOYMENT (SEEKING)	☐ OTHER: _____
☐ EMPLOYMENT (SECURED)	☐ DON'T KNOW
☐ TO ATTEND SCHOOL	☐ DECLINE TO ASNWER

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

○ YES, IMMIGRANT ------------------> ○ YES, REFUGEE----------------------> ○ YES, REFUGEE CLAIMANT---------> ○ NO ○ DON'T KNOW ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER	**If YES:** **08b How long have you been in Canada?** ○ LENGTH: _____ DAYS | WEEKS | MONTHS | YEARS OR DATE: _____/_____/_____ DAY / MONTH / YEAR ○ DON'T KNOW ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

9. **Do you identify as Indigenous or do you have Indigenous ancestry? This includes First Nations, Métis, Inuit, with or without status.** [If yes, please follow-up to specify.]

○ YES -->
 ○ NO
 ○ DON'T KNOW
 ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER
	If YES: ○ FIRST NATIONS (with or without status)
	        ○ INUIT
	        ○ MÉTIS
	        ○ HAVE INDIGENOUS ANCESTRY

→**09b Which Indigenous community are you from?**

○ COMMUNITY /RESERVE NAME_____	○ DON'T KNOW	○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

10. **Have you ever had any service in the Canadian Military or RCMP?**
[Military includes Canadian Navy, Army, or Air Force]

○ YES, MILITARY ○ YES, RCMP	○ NO	○ DON'T KNOW	○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

11. What gender do you identify with? [Show list.]

○ MALE / MAN	○ TRANS FEMALE / TRANS WOMAN	○ NOT LISTED: _____
○ FEMALE / WOMAN	○ TRANS MALE / TRANS MAN	○ DON'T KNOW
○ TWO-SPIRIT	○ GENDERQUEER/GENDER NON-CONFORMING	○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

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

○ STRAIGHT/HETEROSEXUAL	○ BISEXUAL	○ QUEER	○ DON'T KNOW
○ GAY	○ TWO-SPIRIT	○ NOT LISTED:	○ DECLINE TO ANSWER
○ LESBIAN	○ QUESTIONING	_____	

13. What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently? [Do not read the options. Check all that apply. "Housing" does not include temporary arrangements (e.g., couch surfing) or shelter stays.]

☐ ILLNESS OR MEDICAL CONDITION	☐ CONFLICT WITH: PARENT / GUARDIAN
☐ ADDICTION OR SUBSTANCE USE	☐ CONFLICT WITH: SPOUSE / PARTNER
☐ JOB LOSS	☐ INCARCERATED (JAIL OR PRISON)
☐ UNABLE TO PAY RENT OR MORTGAGE	☐ HOSPITALIZATION OR TREATMENT PROGRAM
☐ UNSAFE HOUSING CONDITIONS	☐ OTHER REASON _____
☐ EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: PARENT / GUARDIAN	☐ DON'T KNOW
☐ EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: SPOUSE / PARTNER	☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

14. What are your sources of income? [Read list and check all that apply]

☐ EMPLOYMENT	☐ DISABILITY BENEFIT	☐ OTHER SOURCE:
☐ INFORMAL/SELF-EMPLOYMENT (E.G., BOTTLE RETURNS, PANHANDLING)	☐ SENIORS BENEFITS (E.G., CPP/OAS/GIS)	_____
	☐ GST REFUND	☐ NO INCOME
☐ EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	☐ CHILD AND FAMILY TAX BENEFITS	☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER
☐ WELFARE/SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	☐ MONEY FROM FAMILY/FRIENDS	

15. C02 Have you ever been in foster care and/or group home?

○ YES	○ NO	○ DON'T KNOW	○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

16. C04 In the past year (12 months) have you: [Ask respondents to give their best estimate]

BEEN TO AN EMERGENCY ROOM	Y ____ N____	# _____ *Times*
BEEN HOSPITALIZED	Y ____ N____	# _____ *Times*
→DAYS YOU HAVE SPENT HOSPITALIZED		_____ *Days Total*

17. C05 Do you want to get into permanent housing?

○ YES	○ NO	○ DON'T KNOW	○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

18. C06 What challenges or problems have you experienced when trying to find housing? [Select all that apply]

☐ LOW INCOME	☐ MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES	☐ DON'T WANT HOUSING
☐ NO INCOME ASSISTANCE	☐ ADDICTION	
☐ RENTS TOO HIGH	☐ FAMILY BREAKDOWN/CONFLICT	☐ OTHER: _____
☐ POOR HOUSING CONDITIONS	☐ CRIMINAL HISTORY	_____
☐ DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	☐ PETS	
☐ HEALTH/DISABILITY ISSUES	☐ CHILDREN	☐ NO BARRIERS TO HOUSING
	☐ DISCRIMINATION	☐ NONE OF THE ABOVE
		☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

19. C07 What would help you find permanent, stable housing?

○ _____

_____   ○ DON'T KNOW   ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

20. C08 I'm going to read a list of services that you may or may not need. Let me know which of these apply to you. Do you have a need for services related to: [Read categories, select all that apply]

☐ SERIOUS OR ONGOING MEDICAL CONDITION   ☐ BRAIN INJURY
☐ PHYSICAL DISABILITY   ☐ PREGNANCY
☐ LEARNING DISABILITY   ☐ NONE OF THE ABOVE
☐ ADDICTION OR SUBSTANCE USE   ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER
☐ MENTAL HEALTH *(Counselling, treatment, etc.)*

21. L01 Do you sleep outside or "camp" when the weather is warmer?

○ YES   ○ NO   ○ DON'T KNOW   ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

→ L01b If yes, what are the reasons you don't stay in a shelter? [Do not read the options. Check all that apply and add Other]

☐ BED BUGS
☐ SAFETY
☐ TO KEEP MY THINGS WITH ME   ☐ OTHER: _____
☐ TO STAY WITH MY PARTNER
☐ BARRED FROM FACILITIES   _____
☐ ACCESSIBILITY
☐ PETS ARE NOT ALLOWED   ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER
☐ SMELLS/SOUNDS

Thank you for participating!

ADDITIONAL NOTES