

# **PRINCE ALBERT WINTER HOMELESSNESS COUNT 2016**

Submitted to:

**Community Advisory Board  
Homelessness Partnering Strategy – Prince Albert  
c/o River Bank Development Corporation**

Submitted by:



**Living Skies Centre  
for Social Inquiry**

**April 2016**

Funding for this project was provided by Service Canada.



For questions on the *Prince Albert Homelessness Partnering Strategy*, please contact:

Brian Howell  
River Bank Development Corporation  
1350 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue West  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 5P2  
(306) 763-4221  
rbii@sasktel.net

This document was prepared by the Living Skies Centre for Social Inquiry.



When referencing this work, please use the following citation:

Nilson, C., (2016). *Prince Albert Winter Homelessness Count 2016*. Prince Albert, SK: Living Skies Centre for Social Inquiry.



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This point-in-time winter homelessness count was greatly enhanced by the kind and generous support of local volunteers and stakeholders. Many thanks to members of the PIT Count Team (Elder Stuart Amyotte, Vicki Bird, Brian Howell, and Shelley Essauce), PIT Count Committee (Prudence McKenzie, Erin Settee, Jon Bergen, Brian Howell, Diane Switzer, Dawn Robins, Donna Brooks, and Sherry Ukrainetz) and the entire Prince Albert Homelessness Partnering Strategy Community Advisory Board (Bill Bray, Dawn Robins, Carol Soles, Janet Carriere, Diane Switzer, Prudence McKenzie, Deanna Grunerud, Daryl Cousin, Tyler McKinnon, and Jeff Rowden). Most of all, a sincere thanks to the human service agencies and individuals affected by homelessness who participated in this count process.



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>DEDICATION</b>		<b>p.4</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>		<b>p.5</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>		<b>p.6</b>
<b>1.0 UNDERSTANDING HOMELESSNESS</b>		<b>p.7</b>
<b>2.0 POINT-IN-TIME COUNTS</b>		<b>p.8</b>
<b>3.0 PREPARATION</b>		<b>p.10</b>
<b>4.0 METHODOLOGY</b>		<b>p.11</b>
4.1	Homeless Hot-Spotting	p.12
4.2	Street Count	p.14
4.3	Sheltered Count	p.14
<b>5.0 RESULTS</b>		<b>p.16</b>
5.1	Street Count Results	p.16
5.2	Sheltered Count Results	p.17
5.3	Combined Results of Street and Sheltered Count	p.18
5.3.1	<i>Demographics of Street and Sheltered Count</i>	<i>p.18</i>
5.3.2	<i>Accompanied by Others</i>	<i>p.19</i>
5.3.3	<i>Homelessness History, Duration and Frequency</i>	<i>p.20</i>
5.3.4	<i>Homeless Shelter Stay in Past Year</i>	<i>p.20</i>
5.3.5	<i>Reasons for Homelessness</i>	<i>p.20</i>
5.3.6	<i>Barriers to Housing</i>	<i>p.21</i>
5.3.7	<i>Sources of Income</i>	<i>p.21</i>
5.3.8	<i>Desire for Permanent Housing</i>	<i>p.22</i>
5.3.9	<i>Support Required</i>	<i>p.22</i>
<b>6.0 FINDINGS</b>		<b>p.24</b>
<b>7.0 LIMITATIONS</b>		<b>p.25</b>
<b>REFERENCES</b>		
<b>APPENDICES</b>		



*To the many people in Prince Albert who have no place to call home,  
may this report contribute towards a community effort  
to help you find a place...that you can call home.*

*To all the human service professionals who helped with this count,  
thank you for your time, energy and expertise.*

- Chad



# PRINCE ALBERT WINTER HOMELESSNESS COUNT 2016

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<b>BACKGROUND</b>	The Community Advisory Board for Prince Albert’s Homelessness Partnering Strategy requested a point-in-time winter homelessness count to better understand homelessness in Prince Albert. Results will be added to a national database used to track homelessness in communities across Canada.
<b>DEFINITIONS</b>	<b>Absolute Homeless</b> - Individual has absolutely no place to stay—is on street, roaming around the community.
	<b>Sheltered Homeless</b> - Individual has no home of their own but is staying in some sort of shelter or facility at night.
	<b>Hidden Homeless</b> - Individual has no home of their own but is staying with friends, relatives or strangers (does NOT include lengthy seasonal visits).
<b>METHODS</b>	<b>Homeless Hot-Spotting</b> – the researcher and community partners, observed homeless locations and numbers on three separate nights leading up to the count. This helped identify suitable areas for the street count enumeration and survey.
	<p><b>Street Count</b>—On March 22, 2016, between 8pm and 2am, two teams drove/walked around Prince Albert and approached individuals on the street to participate in the count. Overall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 31 individuals were approached to be interviewed.</li> <li>• 4 individuals were screened out and not interviewed.</li> <li>• 22 homeless individuals were screened in and interviewed.</li> <li>• 4 individuals were not in a condition to be interviewed.</li> <li>• 1 individual declined to be interviewed.</li> </ul>
	<b>Sheltered Count</b> – 9 different human service agencies with clients staying in their facilities (voluntarily or mandated) on the night of March 22, 2016, gathered data from their clients using a survey provided by the researcher. In total, 79 homeless individuals were interviewed during the sheltered count.
<b>FINDINGS</b>	<p><b>On the night of March 22, 2016:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 101 individuals self-reported to be homeless.</li> <li>• 9 individuals were going to stay on the street.</li> <li>• 10 individuals did not know where they would stay.</li> <li>• 2 individuals were going to try and find a friend’s house to stay at.</li> <li>• 79 individuals were staying in a facility (e.g shelter, treatment centre)</li> <li>• More females (58%) than males (40%) and transgender (2%) responded.</li> <li>• 85% of homeless respondents were Aboriginal.</li> <li>• Most street count respondents were between the ages of 25 and 34.</li> <li>• Reasons for homelessness: addiction, inability to pay rent, family conflict, eviction.</li> <li>• Barriers to housing: no money, addictions, no references, unaffordable housing.</li> <li>• 51% of respondents receive income assistance.</li> <li>• 88% of respondents want access to permanent housing.</li> <li>• Desired supports: financial support, help securing employment, counselling, addictions treatment, affordable housing, and access to <i>Homeward Bound</i>.</li> </ul>

# PRINCE ALBERT WINTER HOMELESSNESS COUNT 2016

## INTRODUCTION

To gain a better understanding of homelessness in the community, the Community Advisory Board for Prince Albert's Homelessness Partnering Strategy commissioned the Living Skies Centre for Social Inquiry to conduct a point-in-time homelessness count (PIT count). Held on March 22, 2016, this count involved the enumeration and survey of individuals on the street as well as those spending the night in various facilities throughout the community. The results of this count will not only be used for local planning and development, but will be submitted to the *National Homelessness Partnering Strategy* for inclusion in a Canada-wide observation of homelessness<sup>1</sup>.

One purpose of this report is to describe the process by which Prince Albert's 2016 winter homelessness count was designed and implemented. Another purpose of this report is to present on the results and findings of the 2016 PIT homelessness count.

The first section of this report provides a brief understanding of homelessness, including the various contexts and definitions of the issue. The second section describes the rationale, design, benefits and limitations of point-in-time methodologies for research on homelessness. Following this is an overview of the preparatory work that has gone into the planning and readiness of this PIT count. The fourth section of this report introduces the three-part methodology used to identify homelessness in Prince Albert. This is followed by a presentation of results and findings. The closing section of this report offers limitations to the methodology described herein.

---

<sup>1</sup>For more information, see [www.homelesshub.ca](http://www.homelesshub.ca).



## 1.0 UNDERSTANDING HOMELESSNESS

In Canada, there is no official definition of homelessness (Echenberg & Jensen, 2008). Quite often, defining homelessness involves selecting who is to be included in homeless counts—which often is affected by target groups for funding and service delivery (Peressini, McDonald & Hulchanski, 1996). Therefore, defining homelessness is a difficult and politicized task.

Depending on the purpose and use of the term ‘homelessness’, there are many different definitions associated with the homeless population. For example, some common terms used to define homeless populations are: literally homeless, marginally homeless, sheltered/unsheltered homeless, visible homeless, outdoor/street homeless, hidden homeless, relative homelessness, those at risk of homelessness, etc. (Peressini, McDonald & Hulchanski, 1996; City of Calgary, 2006; City of Toronto, 2009; Belanger, Awosoga & Weasel Head, 2013; Turnham, Wilson & Burt, 2004; Echenberg & Jensen, 2008).

A concise definition of homelessness should be adopted for a homeless count, as it will be used to shape the methodology chosen for the count (Echenberg & Jensen, 2008; City of Calgary, 2009). Chopin and Wormith (2008) offer a comprehensive definition of homelessness that breaks down homelessness into four different categories of experiences: absolute homelessness; sheltered homelessness; hidden homelessness; and, those at risk of becoming homeless.

*Absolute homelessness* refers to individuals who do not have conventional housing and do not use shelters or safe houses. Individuals experiencing absolute homelessness may live on the street, in tents, or find shelter in buildings that are often not suitable for human habitation. Chopin and Wormith (2008) distinguish the sheltered homeless from the absolute homeless. Some researchers, however, include these first two categories under the umbrella of “absolute homelessness”; that is, homeless individuals on the street and those in shelters (Echenberg & Jensen, 2008; Calgary Homeless Foundation, 2012; Mantel & Yung, 2000). According to Chopin and Wormith (2008), *sheltered homelessness* refers to the homeless sub-population that does not have permanent housing but makes use of shelters, emergency accommodation, transitional houses or safe houses.

*Hidden homelessness* refers to individuals who do not have permanent housing, but can stay with others such as family or friends in their residences to avoid being on the street. This is sometimes called ‘couch surfing.’ Finally, those *at risk* of becoming homeless are those who are on the brink of losing their housing, due to a host of reasons, such as: overpriced or inadequate housing, the termination of a relationship, etc. (Chopin & Wormith, 2008).

## 2.0 POINT-IN-TIME COUNTS

One of the more commonly-used methods of estimating the extent of homelessness in a community is a point-in-time (PIT) count (Chopin & Wormith). Point-in-time homeless counts involve a simple enumeration of individuals on the street or in shelters, who self-identify as being homeless (Calgary Homeless Foundation, 2012; Chopin & Wormith, 2008; Findlay et al., 2012). Many PIT counts also involve a short survey (City of Toronto, 2009; Nilson, Okanik & Watson, 2015) or a comparative analysis of the data gathered in other years of the PIT count (City of Vancouver, 2012; Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, 2011; Sorenson, 2012).

Most PIT counts involve a team of researchers, community stakeholders and volunteers approaching potential respondents on the street or in shelter facilities. In their approach, the enumerators ask respondents for their informed consent to ask a number of questions concerning their social, economic, housing, and personal situations. Data are captured in surveys and brought back to the research team (Chopin & Wormith, 2008; Nilson, Okanik & Watson, 2015).

During the survey process, a number of different variables are explored. The most common variables include the number of unsheltered homeless people; the number of homeless individuals in emergency shelters; and demographic variables (Calgary Homeless Foundation; 2012; Chopin & Wormith, 2008; City of Calgary, 2006; City of Toronto, 2009; City of Toronto, 2006; City of Vancouver, 2012; Findlay et al., 2012; Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness, 2014; Kutzner & Ameyaw, 2010; Vracar, 2013; Wellington County, 2014).

In addition to the number of homeless individuals, other variables can also be drawn from emergency shelters (which could include prison or holding cells, detox, hospitals or short-term housing facilities), such as: information on the type of bed that is occupied- emergency or transitional; the involvement of child welfare and the capacity and occupancy of that shelter (City of Calgary, 2006). Similarly, previous counts range in their exploration of demographic variables—from relatively few—to several demographic variables, including, but not limited to: age; gender; sexual orientation; level of education and ethnicity; citizenship/newcomer status; employment status; income sources; community of origin or military status (Calgary Homeless Foundation, 2012; City of Toronto, 2009; Turner, 2015).

There are a number of important benefits to conducting PIT counts. One benefit is that they capture data from individuals in shelters and on the street. This provides a broader cross-section of information on homelessness in the community (Eberle, Kraus, Pomeroy & Hulchanski, 2001). Another advantage of the PIT method is the smaller reference period it allows. According to Mantel & Young (2000), a reference period is the time in which data are collected (e.g., March 22 between 8pm and 2am). Having a smaller reference period means that there are fewer opportunities to encounter duplicate entries (Echenberg & Jansen, 2008). A third benefit is that PIT counts create opportunities for multiple community partners to become involved in developing an understanding and ownership over homelessness (Laflamme, 2001).

Despite the PIT count's status as a standard practice in the literature on homeless counts, there are limitations to the method that should be explored. As PIT counts provide only a 'snapshot'

of the current status of the homeless population, they cannot be used to give a sense of the full homelessness situation in a city (Calgary Homeless Foundation, 2012). At best, PIT counts give the minimum number of homeless individuals in a city (City of Vancouver, 2012). Since PIT counts only capture a 'snapshot' of the full experience of homelessness in a city, they also cannot be used to differentiate between short-term and long-term homelessness (Chopin & Wormith, 2008). Nonetheless, Condon & Newton (2007) note that the long-term homeless are likely to be over-represented in PIT counts, as they are more likely, on any one day, to be counted in a PIT count. According to Chopin & Wormith (2008) PIT counts do not capture any seasonal variations or other cyclical variations that impact the number of individuals enumerated in a homeless count.



## 3.0 PREPARATION

To undertake the 2016 point-in-time winter homelessness count in Prince Albert, there were a number of preparations required of the Community Advisory Board, as well as the research team. Some of these preparations were standard practices in PIT homelessness counts, whereas others were suggested by the National Homelessness Partnering Strategy. The following bullets summarize activities undertaken in preparation of the homeless count described herein.

- Selection of a research team and PIT coordinator.
- Identify key tasks to accomplish for the 2016 PIT count (see appendices).
- Identify project assets and funder requirements for the 2016 PIT count (see appendices).
- Complete a scan of homelessness count methodologies implemented in other jurisdictions (see appendices).
- Conduct consultations with homelessness stakeholders on location, engagement strategies, data collection and count logistics.
- Mobilize a *Point-in-Time Count Committee* to support the PIT Count Coordinator, engage homelessness stakeholders, and maximize effectiveness of the PIT count.
- Develop *Terms of Reference* for the PIT Count Committee (see appendices).
- Review optional, mandatory and local questions for the street and shelter surveys (see appendices).
- Develop a volunteer waiver for members of the PIT count research team (see appendices).
- Create a list of training topics to cover with PIT count research team (see appendices).
- Recruit volunteers to the PIT count research team.
- Engage shelter facilities in the sheltered count methodology planning.
- Create a Hot-Spotting Map to monitor homelessness areas prior to the count (see appendices).
- Finalize Street Count Survey and Sheltered Count Survey.
- Plan logistics and gather supplies for the PIT count.
- Take training in HIFIS (Homeless Individuals and Families Information System) data entry and storage.
- Meet with shelter agencies participating in the count.
- Conduct 2016 PIT winter homelessness count.
- Gather shelter data from partner agencies.
- Enter data onto Excel and HIFIS.
- Analyse data from street count and sheltered count.
- Prepare report and dissemination materials.

## 4.0 METHODOLOGY

The methodology for this homeless count had four primary influences. One is the practices of other Canadian city homeless counts. The second is leading research recommendations described in the literature. The third is the national *Homeless Partnering Strategy* point-in-time recommendations and training provided by Employment and Social Development Canada. The final influence is consultations with Prince Albert human service providers who are engaged with individuals affected by homelessness.

With respect to the latter's influence on this methodology, the research team held consultations with several key stakeholders from the human service sectors engaged with Prince Albert's homeless population. This consultation process helped determine the date and timing of the count; what relevant information to request from the homeless community; hot-spotting of areas where homeless people are likely to be found; the determination of what community facilities to include/participate in the sheltered homeless count; as well as the organization, skills and training necessary for the street count team.

Overall, the most important asset to this PIT count has been the various human service agencies that took the time to contribute their expertise, knowledge and data. Table 1 shows the different roles of each agency involved in this homelessness count.

Table 1. **Agencies and their Roles in 2016 Prince Albert Homelessness Count**

AGENCY	METHODS CONSULT	COUNT COMMITTEE	HOT SPOTTING	SHELTERED COUNT
Access Place	•			
Brief and Social Detox				•
Cold Weather Shelter (YWCA)	•			•
Homeward Bound (YWCA)	•			
Indian Métis Friendship Centre	•			
Métis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan				•
Mobile Crisis Unit		•	•	•
Our House (YWCA)	•			•
Prince Albert Metis Women's Association	•	•		
Prince Albert Outreach (Van Program)	•		•	
Prince Albert Police Service	•	•	•	•
Prince Albert Safe Shelter				•
Regional Intersectoral Committee		•		
River Bank Development Corporation		•		
Social Services – Income Assistance	•	•		
taxi company (anonymous)			•	
Valley Hill Youth Treatment Centre				•
West Flat Citizens Group	•	•		
YWCA Prince Albert	•	•		•

The resulting methodology has three components. These include hot-spot mapping before the count, a street count, and a sheltered count. The following sub-sections explain the design and implementation of each part of the methodology.

#### 4.1 HOMELESS HOT-SPOTTING

To identify areas in Prince Albert that are common for observing homelessness, the research team reached out to four community partners whose staff are mobile during the evening hours. These include Mobile Crisis Unit, Prince Albert Police Service, PA Outreach Van and an anonymous taxi driver. Along with the research team, these community partners tracked *observed* homelessness on three different nights leading up to the count. The purpose of this hot-spotting exercise was to develop an informed sense of where individuals affected by homelessness may be reachable during the actual PIT count. While hot-spotting, observers were asked to watch for certain behaviours and/or characteristics that are associated with homelessness (e.g., backpack, wondering aimlessly, sitting/sleeping, seen in various locations).

On three evenings leading up to the March 22<sup>nd</sup> count, the research team and community partners conducted 10 different hot-spotting sessions. These sessions involved driving around Prince Albert and tracking observed homelessness throughout the evening hours. Observers were asked not to approach or communicate with individuals they observe to be homeless. Table 2 summarizes the hot-spotting observations of each observer. The numbers in the columns represent the total number of individuals observed to be homeless, for each night, by observer.

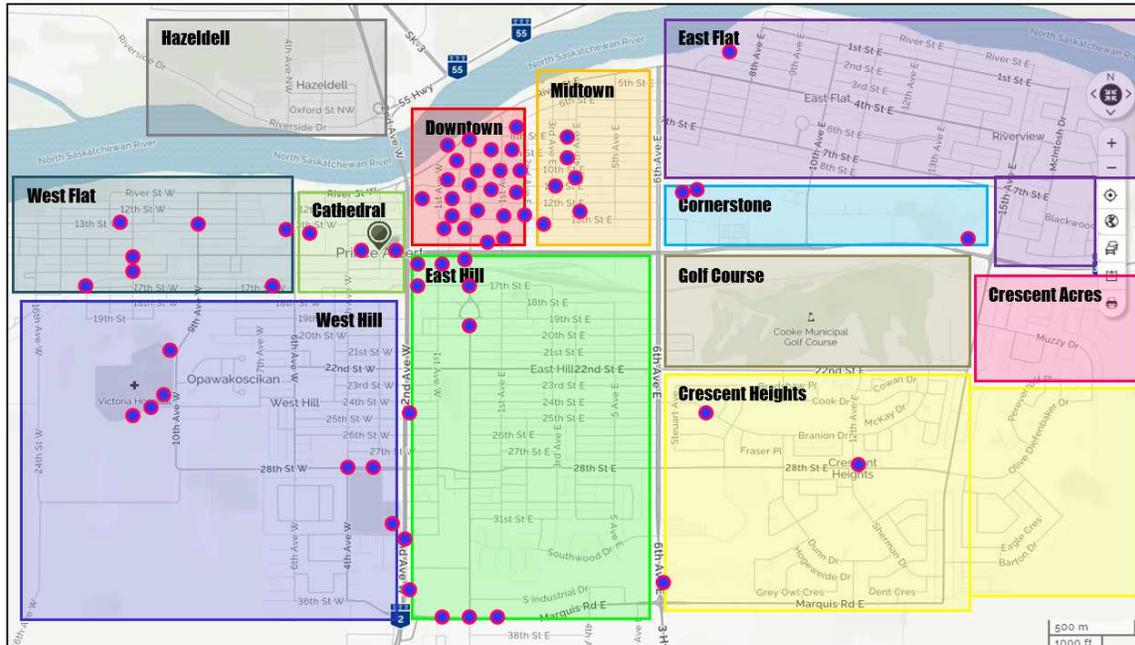
Table 2. Homeless Hot-Spotting Observations by Observer and Date

OBSERVER	MARCH 19	MARCH 20	MARCH 21
PA Outreach Van	-	-	14
Prince Albert Police Service	-	15	17
Mobile Crisis Unit	12	3	5
taxi driver	4	5	-
research team	19	10	-

To track information during the hot-spotting effort, the research team created a map of Prince Albert that included 12 different zones. While hot-spotting, the research team and community partners identified locations of homelessness by placing dots on the map, and captured the number of individuals in each zone by placing numbers in the table (see appendices). The result was a more informed understanding of the intensity and geography of observed homelessness in Prince Albert.

As Figure 1 shows, a majority of the homelessness observations were made in the *downtown* zone, with several observations spread throughout a few of the other zones.

Figure 1. Observed Homelessness Prior to the PIT Count



Where intensity is concerned, the research team and community partners tracked the number of observations made each time they went out to observe homelessness. As Table 3 shows, these numbers varied per evening and per observer. Since more than one observation of homelessness was made during each of the three nights, the minimum and maximum number of observed homelessness is provided for those zones where more than one observer made observations.

Table 3. Minimum to Maximum Numbers of Observed Homelessness per Zone and Date

ZONE	March 19	March 20	March 21
Downtown	5 to 15	2 to 10	1 to 14
Midtown	0	1 to 4	1
Cathedral	2	2 to 3	0
West Flat	1 to 4	1	0
East Flat	0	0	1
Cornerstone	2	0	1
Golf Course	0	0	0
West Hill	2	0	2 to 6
East Hill	1	1	1 to 4
Crescent Heights	1	1	1
Crescent Acres	0	0	0
Hazeldell	0	0	0

The information gathered during the hot-spotting exercise helped the research team prepare for the PIT count on March 22. This information also provides some very general understandings of the extent to which homelessness is observable in Prince Albert.

## 4.2 STREET COUNT

To both enumerate and survey homeless individuals on the street, the research team drove and walked throughout different zones on the night of March 22, 2016. Between 8pm and 2am, two sets of survey teams scanned different parts of the city. One survey team included a male First Nations Elder, a female human service provider, and a male research lead. The other survey team included a male human service provider and female social work student. Throughout the evening, the two teams kept in regular contact via cell phone.

To capture data, the survey teams administered voluntary surveys to individuals who provided informed consent to be surveyed for the PIT count. If individuals chose not to be in the survey, or were not able to participate in the survey (e.g., sleeping), and still appeared to be homeless, some basic demographic information was captured on a tally sheet.

The questions on the *Street Count Survey* (see appendices) were largely influenced by the national survey provided by *Employment and Social Development Canada*. In addition to questions required by the national effort, the survey also contained local questions added by the research team. Overall, the survey collects information on respondent demographics, reasons for homelessness, services that may help respondents acquire a home, their sources of income, and whether they would actually like permanent housing. While some of the questions were open-ended, a majority were fixed-item response.

To identify potential interview participants, the research team approached individuals who were walking around or sitting in the homelessness hot-spots identified through the consultation and mapping process. To eliminate bias, all individuals in these hotspots were approached by the research team—regardless of whether they were wearing a designer suit or donned a backpack and roughed up clothing. The following opening remarks were recited to individuals on the street: “Hello there, we’re conducting research on homelessness in Prince Albert and wanted to see if we could chat with you. Your participation is voluntary, and we don’t want your name or anything identifiable. Do you have a few short minutes to answer some questions?”

Prior to the survey process, respondents were asked a number of screening questions. If they identified that they had a permanent residence to return to that night, they were screened out of the survey. Another screening question to ensure that people would not be interviewed more than once was also included. Once screened into the survey process, respondents were asked 17 different questions. Following the interview, participants were offered a snack and bottle of water. Questions were asked and responses were recorded by a member of the research team. On average, interviews lasted 5 to 7 minutes per individual.

## 4.3 SHELTERED COUNT

On the same night of the street count, a sheltered homelessness count was conducted by agencies that were sheltering (voluntary or mandated) individuals who were without a home at the time of their stay with that agency. During the count, those agencies included YWCA Prince Albert, Prince Albert Police Service, Mobile Crisis Unit, Cold Weather Shelter, Our House, Prince Albert Safe Shelter, Brief and Social Detox, MACSI (Metis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan), and Valley Hill Youth Detox Centre.



Using a census count design (Mantel & Yung, 2000), the research team developed a *Sheltered Count Survey* (see appendices). This instrument solicited the same information from the homeless population as the street count, however, was designed for service providers to complete with or on behalf of their clients (depending on literacy skills and coherence).

Agency staff were briefed by the lead researcher prior to the sheltered count. They were asked to complete the count the night of March 22, 2016. Staff were requested to inform clients that their participation in the count was voluntary, and that no identifiable information would be gathered on the forms.

Screening questions were included to ensure that individuals who may have already completed the survey with the street count research team were not duplicated in the data. Variables measured through the *Sheltered Count Survey* were identical to those in the *Street Count Survey*.

## 5.0 RESULTS

Results from the PIT count are presented in three different subsections. The first subsection examines some of the basic results that are exclusive to the street count. Similarly, the second section presents results that are exclusive to the sheltered count. The third subsection presents combined results from the street and sheltered count.

### 5.1 STREET COUNT RESULTS

During the street count, 31 individuals were approached to be surveyed. Of these individuals, 4 were screened out because they were not homeless and 22 were screened in and agreed to participate in the survey. In addition, the research team observed 5 other homeless individuals who did not participate in the survey. Of these, 1 was sleeping, 1 declined to be interviewed, and 3 were not in a fair condition to be interviewed (e.g., intoxicated).

Although the two research teams covered all zones in the city, interviews with the 22 participating respondents only took place in four different zones. As Table 4 shows, these include Downtown, Midtown, West Hill and East Hill.

Table 4. Number of Street Count Interview Locations by Zone

ZONE	N
Downtown	14
Midtown	3
Cathedral	0
West Flat	0
East Flat	0
Cornerstone	0
Golf Course	0
West Hill	3
East Hill	2
Crescent Heights	0
Crescent Acres	0
Hazeldell	0

Among the 22 individuals interviewed by the research team, 20 disclosed they had no permanent residence to return to that night, while 2 were not sure. When it comes to where they were staying on the night of the count, most either had no idea or were staying in a public space (on the street)<sup>2</sup>. Finally, as Table 5 shows, there are a number of different reasons for why respondents were not staying at a shelter that night.

---

<sup>2</sup>These answers were corroborated when the research team seen several of the respondents still on the street many hours later.

Table 5. Responses by Participants of the Street Count(N = 22)

VARIABLE	VARIANT	N
Do you have a permanent residence that you can return to tonight?	no	20
	not sure	2
Where are you staying tonight?	public space	9
	vehicle	0
	makeshift shelter	0
	abandoned building	0
	other unsheltered location	1
	don't know	10
	will try to find a friend	2
Why are you not staying at a shelter tonight?	shelter is full	4
	not allowed in shelter	6
	do not like the shelter	6
	do not like other residents at shelter	2
	not sure	4

## 5.2 SHELTERED COUNT RESULTS

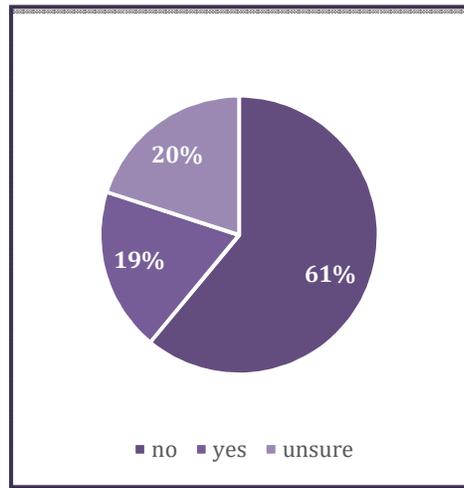
During the night of the count, all 9 shelter agencies were able to provide completed surveys from individuals reporting to be homeless. The two shelter agencies returning the most surveys were YWCA Prince Albert (n = 23) and Our House (n = 25). The remaining agencies returned anywhere from 1 to 9 completed surveys. In total, 79 surveys were completed during the sheltered count (see Table 6).

Table 6. Agency Reporting of Sheltered Homelessness

AGENCY	N
Prince Albert Police Service	1
Mobile Crisis Unit	1
YWCA Prince Albert	23
Cold Weather Shelter	7
Our House	20
Prince Albert Safe Shelter	9
Brief and Social Detox	4
Métis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan	7
Valley Hill Youth Treatment Centre	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>79</b>

During the sheltered count survey, respondents were asked if they could not stay in the shelter that night, would they be able to find somewhere else to go. As Figure 2 illustrates, a majority (n = 48) said they would not have a place to go, while 15 said they would and 16 said they were not sure.

Figure 2. Proportion of Client Responses to “Would You Have Another Place to Go?” (n = 79)



### 5.3 COMBINED RESULTS OF STREET AND SHELTERED COUNT

Outside of the aforementioned data points, the remaining variables captured by the Street Count Survey and Sheltered Count Survey were identical. For ease of readability, the remaining results of the 2016 PIT winter homelessness count will be presented together.

#### 5.3.1 Demographics of Street and Sheltered Count

Results from the street and sheltered count reveal that individuals affected by homelessness range in age from under 18 up to 65 or older. A high proportion of homeless individuals in both counts identified as First Nation. In both counts, there were slightly more females affected by homelessness than males. Almost no respondents had a military/RCMP background, had recently moved to Prince Albert, or recently immigrated to Canada (see Table 7).

Table 7. Demographics of Street/Sheltered Count Respondents

VARIABLE	VARIANT	Street Count (N = 22)	Sheltered Count (N = 79)
Gender	male	8 (36%)	32 (41%)
	female	14 (64%)	45 (57%)
	transgender	0 (0%)	1 (1%)
	<i>declined</i>	0(0%)	1 (1%)
Age	18 or under	0 (0%)	15 (19%)
	19 to 24	3 (14%)	14 (18%)
	25 to 34	15 (68%)	21 (26%)
	35 to 44	3 (14%)	13 (16%)
	45 to 54	0 (0%)	10 (13%)
	55 to 64	1 (4%)	4 (5%)
	65 or older	0 (0%)	2 (3%)
Aboriginal	yes	21 (96%)	65 (82%)
	no	1 (4%)	12 (15%)
	<i>decline</i>	0 (0%)	2 (3%)
Ethnicity	First Nations	18 (82%)	46 (71%)
	Métis	3 (14%)	10 (15%)
	Inuit	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
	Non-status	0 (0%)	8 (12%)
	<i>missing</i>	1 (4%)	1 (2%)
Military/RCMP Background	yes	1 (4%)	2 (3%)
	no	21 (96%)	77 (97%)
Recent Move to Prince Albert	yes	1 (4%)	28 (35%)
	no	21 (96%)	48 (61%)
	<i>missing</i>	0 (0%)	3 (4%)
Immigrant to Canada(past 5 years)	yes	0 (0%)	1 (1%)
	no	22 (100%)	78 (99%)

### 5.3.2 Accompanied by Others

During the PIT count, respondents were asked if anyone else was with them on the street or in the shelter. Overall, half of the street count respondents (n = 11) and most of the sheltered count respondents (n = 63) were not with anyone else. Of those who were accompanied by others, street count respondents were accompanied by their partners or other adults, and shelter count respondents were accompanied by their children (see Table 8).

Table 8. Respondents Accompanied by Others

ACCOMPANIED BY OTHERS	VARIANT	Street Count (N = 22)	Sheltered Count (N = 79)
Yes	partner	7 (32%)	0 (0%)
	other adult	4 (18%)	0 (0%)
	children	0 (0%)	12 (15%)
	missing	0 (0%)	4 (5%)
	<i>total</i>	11	0 (0%)
No		11 (50%)	63 (80%)

### 5.3.3 Homelessness History, Duration and Frequency

Data gathered during the point-in-time count revealed there to be considerable variation in the history, duration and frequency of homelessness. As Table 9 shows, there are no solid trends among respondents in the street or sheltered count.

Table 9. History, Frequency & Duration of Homelessness Among Homeless Count Respondents

VARIABLE	VARIANT	Street Count (N = 22)	Sheltered Count (N = 79)
When did you first become homeless?	within last few months	4 (18%)	20 (25%)
	within past year	8 (36%)	16 (20%)
	2 to 5 years	5 (23%)	15 (19%)
	more than 5 years	5 (23%)	21 (27%)
In past year, how much of the time have you been homeless	0 to 2 months	7 (31%)	22 (28%)
	3 to 5 months	4 (18%)	16 (20%)
	6 to 12 months	11 (50%)	29 (37%)
	missing	0 (0%)	12 (15%)
In past year, how many different times have you experienced homelessness?	once	4 (18%)	30 (38%)
	twice	5 (23%)	7 (9%)
	three or four times	7 (32%)	27 (34%)
	five or more times	6 (27%)	2 (3%)
	missing	0 (0%)	13 (16%)

### 5.3.4 Homeless Shelter Stay in Past Year

When it comes to a homeless shelter stay among respondents in the past year, there was a fairly close balance between those who have stayed at a homeless shelter and those who have not. Among both street and sheltered count respondents, slightly more identified as having not stayed in a homeless shelter over the past year than those who have (see Table 10).

Table 10. Respondent Stayed in a Homeless Shelter Within Past Year

	Street Count (N = 22)	Sheltered Count (N = 79)
yes	10 (45%)	34 (43%)
no	12 (55%)	39 (50%)
decline	0 (0%)	1 (1%)
missing	0 (0%)	5 (6%)

### 5.3.5 Reasons for Homelessness

During both the street count and sheltered count, respondents were asked to provide their own explanations for why they were experiencing homelessness. As Table 11 shows, the most common reason for street count respondents to become homeless is addiction followed by inability to pay rent and family conflict with a spouse or partner. Among sheltered count respondents, the most common reasons for homelessness included addiction, eviction, and family conflict with a spouse or partner.

Table 11. Respondent-Reported Reasons for Why They Are Homeless

REASON	Street Count (N = 22)	Sheltered Count (N = 79)
illness or medical condition	0 (0%)	7 (9%)
addiction or substance use	14 (64%)	20 (25%)
job loss	3 (14%)	6 (8%)
evicted: unable to pay rent	7 (32%)	4 (5%)
evicted: other reason	3 (14%)	11 (14%)
domestic abuse: spouse or partner	1 (5%)	9 (11%)
domestic abuse: parent or guardian	0 (0%)	3 (4%)
family conflict: spouse or partner	5 (23%)	6 (8%)
family conflict: parent or guardian	2 (9%)	17 (22%)
left care (e.g. foster care)	1 (5%)	2 (3%)
incarcerated	0 (0%)	3 (4%)
hospitalization or treatment	0 (0%)	5 (6%)
unsafe housing conditions	1 (5%)	8 (10%)
don't know	1 (5%)	3 (4%)
decline	0 (0%)	6 (8%)
other	1 (5%)	0 (0%)

### 5.3.6 Barriers to Housing

A local question included on both the street count and sheltered count survey inquired about barriers to respondents acquiring housing. When explaining what is keeping them from finding a place of their own, respondents identified lack of money, addiction issues, having no reference, and unaffordable housing, among others (see Table 12).

Table 12. Respondent-Reported Barriers to Acquiring Their Own Home

REASON	Street Count (N = 22)	Sheltered Count (N = 79)
no money	9 (41%)	23 (29%)
addiction issues	7 (32%)	12 (15%)
lack of stability	1 (5%)	1 (1%)
no reference	5 (23%)	5 (6%)
lack of education	0 (0%)	3 (4%)
housing is not affordable	3 (14%)	10 (13%)
too young for own housing	0 (0%)	7 (9%)
other	3 (14%)	11 (14%)

### 5.3.7 Sources of Income

When asked to identify their source(s) of income, respondents from the street count identified income assistance, informal self-employment, employment, and money from others. Slightly over half of all respondents in the sheltered count identified income assistance as a source of income. In total, 8 respondents in the overall PIT count reported having no source of income (see Table 13).

Table 13. Respondent-Reported Sources of Income

INCOME SOURCE	Street Count (N = 22)	Sheltered Count (N = 79)
employment	3 (14%)	5 (6%)
informal self-employment*	5 (23%)	0 (0%)
employment insurance	0 (0%)	1 (1%)
income assistance	9 (41%)	43 (54%)
disability benefit	0 (0%)	4 (5%)
seniors benefit	0 (0%)	2 (3%)
child and family tax benefit	0 (0%)	7 (9%)
money from friends/family	1 (5%)	5 (6%)
other	4 (18%)	12 (15%)
no income	2 (9%)	6 (8%)
decline	2 (9%)	2 (3%)

\* self-employment income (e.g. panhandling, bottle return, boosting)

### 5.3.8 Desire for Permanent Housing

When asked whether they wanted permanent housing (as opposed to being mobile), 88% of the total 101 respondents stated that they wanted permanent housing. As Table 14 shows, two respondents in the street count and 8 respondents from the sheltered count identified that they did not desire permanent housing.

Table 14. Respondent Wants Permanent Housing

	Street Count (N = 22)	Sheltered Count (N = 79)
yes	20 (91%)	69 (87%)
no	2 (9%)	8 (10%)
missing	0	2 (3%)

### 5.3.9 Support Required

The final question in both the street and sheltered count survey was an open-ended question that asked participants what kind of support they required. Among street count participants, the most common things that would help them acquire a home was help securing employment, addictions treatment, counselling, and financial support. Among shelter count respondents, support was required in accessing affordable housing, counselling, addictions treatment and financial support, among others. Respondents from both cohorts identified that they would like support from *Homeward Bound*<sup>3</sup>. As Table 15 illustrates, 13% of street count respondents and 38% of sheltered count respondents were unsure of what support they required.

<sup>3</sup> *Homeward Bound* is a homeless housing initiative in Prince Albert that has adopted the Housing First approach.

Table 15. Supports Required by Respondents

Thing That Would Help in Acquiring a Home	Street Count (N = 22)	Sheltered Count (N = 79)
more life skills	0 (0%)	7 (9%)
financial support	4 (18%)	11 (14%)
references	0 (0%)	2 (3%)
education	0 (0%)	3 (4%)
help securing employment	8 (36%)	12 (15%)
affordable housing	1 (5%)	22 (28%)
counselling	4 (18%)	15 (19%)
family support	0 (0%)	1 (1%)
transportation	0 (0%)	3 (4%)
addictions treatment	6 (27%)	13 (16%)
Homeward Bound	5 (23%)	2 (3%)
<i>unsure</i>	3 (13%)	30 (38%)

## 6.0 FINDINGS

On the night of March 22, 2016, a point-in-time homelessness count conducted in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan provided a glimpse of the extent, nature and context of homelessness in the community. In total, 101 individuals self-identified as being homeless. Five others were observed as being affected by homelessness, but due to their condition (e.g. sleeping, intoxicated) were not interviewed. Some respondents were interviewed during a street count (n = 22), whereas others (n = 79) were surveyed within one of nine different agency shelters participating in the sheltered count.

Data from the count analysis reveal that among street count respondents, almost half (n = 9) were going to spend the night in an open public space (e.g., street, alley, building entrance), while the other half (n = 10) were not sure where they were going to stay that night. The remaining 2 were going to try and find a friend's place to stay. When asked if they had another place to stay besides the facility they were in, 48% of shelter count respondents replied *no*, while 16% said they were *unsure* and 15% said they could find somewhere to stay.

With respect to demographics, slightly more females (58%) than males (40%) participated in the count. A majority (85%) of respondents were Aboriginal. While street count respondents tended to be between the ages of 25 to 34, sheltered count respondents ranged in age from 15 to over 60 years.

When it comes to the history, duration and frequency of homelessness, results varied within both cohort groups. Respondents from both cohorts in the PIT count had been homeless anywhere from the last few months to 10 years. During the past year alone, some respondents had only recently become homeless while others had been homeless the entire year. Also within the past year, 55% of street count respondents and 50% of shelter respondents had not stayed in a homeless shelter (e.g., Our House).

When it comes to explaining why they were homeless, respondents pointed to addiction, inability to pay rent, family conflict and eviction. The barriers to housing identified by respondents included lack of money, addiction issues, no landlord references, and no access to affordable housing.

Overall, 88% of all respondents identified that they wanted permanent housing. To help them get to that goal, a number of respondents identified several supports that they required. To name a few, these include financial support, help securing employment, access to affordable housing, addictions treatment, counselling, and support from *Homeward Bound*.

## 7.0 LIMITATIONS

Although the research team has taken the necessary steps to produce an evidence-based homeless count in Prince Albert, there are a number of limitations which may impact the overall quality of findings:

- The research team tried to articulate the differences between absolute, sheltered and hidden homelessness; however, without scalable criteria for homelessness, there is always room for subjective judgements of enumerators, and even clients themselves.
- The study does not include sheltered data from the hospital or Prince Albert's many in-custody correctional facilities. Therefore, the sheltered count estimates reported herein may be underestimated.
- While the research team requested that agency enumerators only include Prince Albert-based clients in this homelessness count, the high rate of transience may have made this task difficult.
- During the street count, the research team traveled to almost every homeless hot-spot in Prince Albert, as identified by homelessness stakeholders and the hot-spotting exercises. Despite this effort, there are likely several homeless individuals who were not found the night of the count. Many individuals affected by absolute homelessness hide so that others cannot find them.

## REFERENCES

- Belanger, Y. D., Awosoga, O., & Weasel Head, G. (2013). Homelessness, Urban Aboriginal People, and the need for a national enumeration. *Aboriginal Policy Studies*, 2(2), 4-33.
- Calgary Homeless Foundation. (2012). Point-in-time count report: Winter 2012. Calgary, AB: Calgary Homeless Foundation.
- City of Calgary. (2009). Best practices and lessons learned in conducting counts of homeless persons in Calgary, 1992-2008. Calgary, AB: Community and Neighbourhood Services Social Research Unit.
- City of Calgary. (2006). Results of the 2006 count of homeless persons in Calgary: Enumerated in emergency and transitional housing facilities, by service agencies, and on the streets. Calgary, AB: The City of Calgary, Community and Neighbourhood
- City of Toronto. (2009). Street needs assessment results 2009. Toronto, ON: Shelter, Support & Housing Administration. Services.
- City of Toronto. (2006). 2006 street needs assessment: Results and key findings. Toronto, ON: City of Toronto.
- City of Vancouver. (2012). One step forward: Results of the 2011 Metro Vancouver Homeless Count. Vancouver, BC: Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness.
- Chopin, N. S. & Wormith, J. S. (2008). Count of Saskatoon's homeless populations: Research findings. Saskatoon, SK: Community – University Institute for Social Research.
- Condon, M., & Newton, R. (2007). In the proper hands: SPARC BC research on homelessness and affordable housing. Retrieved from <http://www.homelesshub.ca/resource/proper-hands-sparc-bc-research-homelessness-and-affordable-housing>.
- Dunton, L., Albanese, T., & D'Alanno, T. (2014). Point-in-time count methodology guide. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Retrieved from <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/PIT-Count-Methodology-Guide.pdf>.
- Eberle, M., Kraus, D., Pomeroy, S., & Hulchanski, D. (2001). Homelessness- causes and effects: A profile, policy review and analysis of homelessness in British Columbia. Government of British Columbia, Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security & BC housing Management Commission. Retrieved from <http://www.homelesshub.ca/resource/homelessness---causes-and-effects-profile-policy-review-and-analysis-homelessness-british>
- Echenberg, H., & Jensen, H. (2008). Background paper: Defining and enumerating homelessness in Canada. Publication No. PRB 08-30E. Ottawa, ON: Library of Parliament.

- Findlay, I.M., Holden, B., Patrick, G. & Wormith, S. (2012). Saskatoon's homeless population 2012: A research report. Saskatoon, SK: Community – University Institute for Social Research.
- Gaetz, S. (2014). Canadian point-in-time count: Methodology and toolkit. Vancouver, BC: National Conference on Ending Homelessness.
- Girard, M.-C. (2006). Determining the extent of the problem: The value and challenges of enumeration. *Canadian Review of Social Policy*, 58, 101-107.
- Grant, R.W., & Sugarman, J. (2004). Ethics in human subjects research: Do incentives matter? *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy*, 29(6), 717-738.
- Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness. (2014). Results of the 2014 Homeless Count in the Metro Vancouver Region. Vancouver, BC.
- Kutzner, D., & Ameyaw, S. (2010). Prince George Homeless Count report 2010. Prince George, BC: Community Partners Addressing Homelessness.
- Kamloops Homeless Count Working Group. (2012). The 2012 Kamloops and Merritt Homeless Count. Kamloops, BC: The Government of Canada Homelessness Partnering Strategy.
- Laflamme, F. (2001). Survey of homeless in Canada: Street component feasibility study. Statistical Consultation Group, Statistics Canada. Retrieved from <http://www.homelesshub.ca/resource/survey-homeless-canada-street-component>.
- Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. (2011). 2011 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count report. Los Angeles, CA: LAHSA.
- Mantel, H., & Yung, W. (2000). Sample design options for a survey of homeless in Canada. Ottawa: Statistics Canada. Retrieved from <http://www.homelesshub.ca/resource/sample-design-options-survey-homeless-canada>.
- Nilson, C. Okanik, K., & Watson, K. (2015). *Prince Albert Winter Homelessness Count 2015*. Prince Albert, SK: Living Skies Centre for Social Inquiry.
- Paradis, E. K. (2000). Feminist and community psychology ethics in research with homeless women. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 28(6), 839-858.
- Peressini, T., McDonald, L., & Hulchanski, D. (1996). Estimating homelessness: Towards a methodology for counting the homeless in Canada. Ottawa, ON: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.
- Rea, L.M., & Parker, R.A. (2005). *Designing & conducting survey research: A comprehensive guide* (3rd Edition). San Francisco, CA: John Wiley & Sons. Retrieved from <http://books.google.ca/books?hl=en&lr=&id=wmKVRDn5YGEC&oi=fnd&pg=PT9&dq=screening+questions+survey&ots=pmgTAV8kUq&sig=6iEDy4jtL5g0UVAUTyEw02TXro#v=onepage&q=screening%20questions%20survey%20filter&f=false>.

- Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. (2012). Housing needs count: A comprehensive report about the homeless population in Wood Buffalo. Wood Buffalo: Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.
- San Francisco Local Homeless Coordinating Board. (2013). Homeless point-in-time count and survey: A comprehensive report. San Francisco, CA: City and County of San Francisco.
- Sorensen, M. (2012). 2012 Edmonton Homeless Count. Edmonton, AB: Homeward Trust.
- Turner, A. (2015). 2014 Alberta Point-in-Time Homeless Count: Provincial report. Alberta: Turner Research and Strategy.
- Turnham, J., Wilson, E., & Burt, M. (2004). A guide to counting unsheltered homeless people. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Vracar, N. (2013). Homelessness in Regina: Current situation and solutions from other communities. Regina, SK: Carmichael Outreach.
- Wellington County. (2014). Wellington County Point-in-Time Count: Measuring rural youth homelessness. Wellington County, ON: Wyndham House.

## APPENDICES



**KEY TASKS**  
**2016 PRINCE ALBERT PIT COUNT**

<b>KEY TASKS</b>	<b>TASK</b>	<b>BENEFIT</b>
	Methodological scan of PIT counts	Informs PIT methods
	Mobilize PIT Count Committee	Outlines stakeholders
	Stakeholder consultations	Informs count strategy
	Map of key target areas for PIT count	Identifies locations
	Finalize and prepare surveys	Confirms readiness
	Work plan	Outlines strategy
	Timeline	Communications plan
	Recruit volunteer teams	Provides resources
	Train volunteers	Prepares volunteers
	Practice PIT count	Prepares team
	Actual PIT count	Provides data
	Data analysis and data management strategy	Provides solid methods
	PIT count data entered onto HIFIS	Data stored properly
Analyze and report on results	Information on homeless	
Dissemination of findings	Public awareness	



**2016 Prince Albert PIT Count**



## PROJECT ASSETS & FUNDER REQUIREMENTS

PROJECT ASSETS		
ASSETS	AGENCY	BENEFIT
	Prince Albert PIT Count Committee	support and direction for PIT count
	Living Skies Centre for Social Inquiry	past PIT count experience
	Won Ska Cultural School	past PIT count experience
	River Bank Development Corporation	experience in project management
	<i>shelter agencies:</i> PA Safe Shelter, YWCA, Our House, Cold Weather Shelter, Prince Albert Police Service, MACSI, PA Mobile Crisis, PAPHR Brief and Social Detox, Valley Hill Youth Treatment Centre	administer sheltered homeless survey
	<i>homelessness stakeholders:</i> Access Place, YWCA, Community Mobilization Prince Albert, Indian and Metis Friendship Centre, MACSI, Mobile Crisis, Prince Albert Metis Women's Association, PA Outreach Inc., Prince Albert Police Service, Prince Albert Safe Shelter, Regional Intersectoral Partnership, River Bank Development Corporation, PAPHR Brief and Social Detox, Social Services – Income Assistance, Valley Hill Youth Treatment Centre, and West Flat Citizens Group.	engagement, information and direction

KEY FUNDER REQUIREMENTS	REQUIREMENTS	BENEFIT
	Use 12 core questions in HPS survey	Maintains consistent national data
Follow 8 core standards of PIT counts found in HPS guide	Maintains consistent national methods	



## 2016 Prince Albert Point-in-Time Homelessness Count



# Living Skies Centre for Social Inquiry

## METHODOLOGICAL SCAN

To conduct an effective point-in-time (PIT) count of homelessness, it is important to consider how past counts have been executed. Within this, it is important to examine the planning, development and preparations of past counts. To allow for this, a methodological scan provides a comparative overview of the key methods, approaches and findings of PIT counts in other jurisdictions. While there are certainly a number of methodological differences to consider when examining PIT counts across different community sizes, there is still a lot to learn from examining PIT counts in small, medium and large centres.

The scan has been designed to showcase some of the major themes, lessons learned and methodological practices of PIT counts across Canada. In particular, this scan found valuable information on the role of community partners in the count, volunteers, volunteer training, planning, survey design, methodology, census/sampling and incentives. Table 1 provides a summary of key findings in the scan. Lessons learned through this scan will help to shape the methodology of the 2016 Prince Albert PIT Homelessness Count.

Table 1. **Methodological Scan Table**

THEME	LESSONS LEARNED	SOURCES
<b>Community Partners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) in order to conduct an effective count it is essential to have the support of community partners (e.g. shelters, police, social agencies)</li> <li>b) community involvement supports researchers, reduces barriers, recruits volunteers, and increases access to information, data and homeless individuals</li> <li>c) community partners help determine a mapping strategy for the count, which helps identify the number of volunteers needed and the shelters who can participate in the count</li> </ul>	Mantel & Yung (2000); Kutzner&Ameyaw (2010); Ladlamme (2001); Dunton, Albanese & D’Alanno (2014); City of Vancouver (2012); Calgary Homeless Foundation (2012)
<b>Volunteers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) consultations with homelessness stakeholders can help determine the number of volunteers needed</li> <li>b) having experience working with individuals affected by homelessness is an important asset</li> <li>c) the size of the city and the homeless density should be used to determine the number of zones</li> </ul>	Mantel & Yung (2000); City of Calgary (2009); Gaetz (2014)
<b>Volunteer Training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) it is important for volunteers to participate in training so that they understand procedures and can effectively administer the survey</li> <li>b) safety plans and procedures for volunteers are important—including how to react to</li> </ul>	City of Vancouver (2012); Findlay, Holden, Patrick & Wormith (2012)



	threats and who not to approach during the count	
<b>Planning</b>	<p>a) proper counts require proper planning—including stakeholder consultation, volunteers, methods, instruments, date, process, data collection, data storage, analysis, dissemination.</p> <p>b) a shorter reference period for a PIT count will minimize double-counting</p> <p>c) having PIT counts mid-week and not on social assistance pay days will minimize the temporary decrease in street populations surrounding weekends and paydays</p> <p>d) PIT counts are often held in the late evening to minimize disturbance from those people moving around for jobs, services, entertainment, etc.</p>	Nilson, Okanik & Watson (2015); City of Calgary (2009); Gaetz (2014); Laflamme (2001); Calgary Homeless Foundation
<b>Survey Design</b>	<p>a) PIT counts are often combined with a survey that asks additional questions of individuals affected by homelessness</p> <p>b) counting homeless is not enough, there is a lot to learn from surveys with homeless individuals</p> <p>c) surveys should also allow for open-ended questions to enrich the data gathered during the count</p> <p>d) most counts focus on absolute and sheltered homelessness because of the difficulty in estimating hidden homelessness</p> <p>e) common variables in PIT counts include demographics, reasons for homelessness, services required, duration of homelessness, income source, military status, dependencies, legal issues, use of shelters, risk factors for homelessness, shelter type, barriers to housing, food security, etc.</p>	Girard (2006); Kutzner & Ameyaw (2010); Calgary Homeless Foundation (2012); Chopin & Wormith (2008); City of Calgary (2006); City of Toronto (2009); City of Vancouver (2012); Findlay, Holden, Patrick & Wormith (2012); Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness (2014); Kutzner & Ameyaw (2010); Kamloops Homeless Count Working Group (2012); Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (2012); San Francisco Local Homeless Coordinating Board (2013); Sorensen (2012); Turner (2015)
<b>Methodology</b>	<p>a) most counts often involve a methodological scan of other PIT counts, consultation with service providers, a short survey, comparative analysis to data from past years</p> <p>b) some counts involve tally sheets used to account for individuals who appeared to be homeless but did not complete the survey (e.g., refused, sleeping)</p> <p>c) it is important to enumerate both absolute and sheltered homeless to maximize count validity</p> <p>d) screening or filter questions help avoid including individuals who are either not members of the target population or who have already been enumerated</p> <p>c) it is important to recognize the limitations of</p>	Kamloops Homeless Count Working Group (2012); Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (2012); San Francisco Local Homeless Coordinating Board (2013); Sorensen (2012); Turner (2015); Calgary Homeless Foundation (2012); Chopin & Wormith (2008); City of Calgary (2006); Sorensen (2012); Rea & Parker (2005); Chopin & Wormith (2008)

	PIT counts—they are only mere snapshots of the actual homeless population and represent only the bare minimum number of homeless individuals; they also do not account for the largest cohort: hidden homelessness	
<b>Census and Sampling</b>	<p>a) a census includes all homeless individuals in a particular zone and does not require estimates; a sample is a partial enumeration of the entire homeless population</p> <p>b) both census and sampling can be used; however, most shelter counts involve a census while absolute counts involve sampling</p>	Mantel & Young (2000); Dunton, Albanese & D'Alanno (2014); City of Vancouver (2012); Laflamme (2001)
<b>Incentives</b>	<p>a) it is often a challenge to determine what an appropriate incentive is for survey respondents—it is important that the incentive itself does not influence the research itself (e.g., answers, voluntariness)</p> <p>b) offering monetary honorarium may place the researchers at risk and unduly induce a homeless individual to participate in the research</p> <p>c) more common incentives include cigarettes, snacks, gift cards, gift packs, etc.</p>	Paradis (2000); Grant & Sugarman (2004); Nilson, Okanik & Watson (2015); Findlay, Holden, Patrick & Wormith (2012)

## SCAN REFERENCES

- Calgary Homeless Foundation. (2012). Point-in-time count report: Winter 2012. Calgary, AB: Calgary Homeless Foundation.
- City of Calgary. (2009). Best practices and lessons learned in conducting counts of homeless persons in Calgary, 1992-2008. Calgary, AB: Community and Neighbourhood Services Social Research Unit.
- City of Calgary. (2006). Results of the 2006 count of homeless persons in Calgary: Enumerated in emergency and transitional housing facilities, by service agencies, and on the streets. Calgary, AB: The City of Calgary, Community and Neighbourhood
- City of Toronto. (2009). Street needs assessment results 2009. Toronto, ON: Shelter, Support & Housing Administration. Services.
- City of Toronto. (2006). 2006 street needs assessment: Results and key findings. Toronto, ON: City of Toronto.
- City of Vancouver. (2012). One step forward: Results of the 2011 Metro Vancouver Homeless Count. Vancouver, BC: Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness.
- Chopin, N. S. & Wormith, J. S. (2008). Count of Saskatoon's homeless populations: Research findings. Saskatoon, SK: Community – University Institute for Social Research.
- Dunton, L., Albanese, T., & D'Alanno, T. (2014). Point-in-time count methodology guide. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Retrieved from <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/PIT-Count-Methodology-Guide.pdf>.
- Findlay, I.M., Holden, B., Patrick, G. & Wormith, S. (2012). Saskatoon's homeless population 2012: A research report. Saskatoon, SK: Community – University Institute for Social Research.
- Gaetz, S. (2014). Canadian point-in-time count: Methodology and toolkit. Vancouver, BC: National Conference on Ending Homelessness.
- Girard, M.-C. (2006). Determining the extent of the problem: The value and challenges of enumeration. *Canadian Review of Social Policy*, 58, 101-107.
- Grant, R.W., & Sugarman, J. (2004). Ethics in human subjects research: Do incentives matter? *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy*, 29(6), 717-738.
- Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness. (2014). Results of the 2014 Homeless Count in the Metro Vancouver Region. Vancouver, BC.

- Kutzner, D., & Ameyaw, S. (2010). Prince George Homeless Count report 2010. Prince George, BC: Community Partners Addressing Homelessness.
- Kamloops Homeless Count Working Group. (2012). The 2012 Kamloops and Merritt Homeless Count. Kamloops, BC: The Government of Canada Homelessness Partnering Strategy.
- Laflamme, F. (2001). Survey of homeless in Canada: Street component feasibility study. Statistical Consultation Group, Statistics Canada. Retrieved from <http://www.homelesshub.ca/resource/survey-homeless-canada-street-component>.
- Mantel, H., & Yung, W. (2000). Sample design options for a survey of homeless in Canada. Ottawa: Statistics Canada. Retrieved from <http://www.homelesshub.ca/resource/sample-design-options-survey-homeless-canada>.
- Nilson, C. Okanik, K., & Watson, K. (2015). *Prince Albert Winter Homelessness Count 2015*. Prince Albert, SK: Living Skies Centre for Social Inquiry.
- Paradis, E. K. (2000). Feminist and community psychology ethics in research with homeless women. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 28(6), 839-858.
- Rea, L.M., & Parker, R.A. (2005). *Designing & conducting survey research: A comprehensive guide* (3rd Edition). San Francisco, CA: John Wiley & Sons. Retrieved from <http://books.google.ca/books?hl=en&lr=&id=wmKVRDn5YGEC&oi=fnd&pg=PT9&dq=screening+questions+survey&ots=pmgTAV8kUq&sig=6iEDy4jtL5gOUVAUTyEw02TXro#v=onepage&q=screening%20questions%20survey%20filter&f=false>.
- Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. (2012). *Housing needs count: A comprehensive report about the homeless population in Wood Buffalo*. Wood Buffalo: Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.
- San Francisco Local Homeless Coordinating Board. (2013). *Homeless point-in-time count and survey: A comprehensive report*. San Francisco, CA: City and County of San Francisco.
- Sorensen, M. (2012). *2012 Edmonton Homeless Count*. Edmonton, AB: Homeward Trust.
- Turner, A. (2015). *2014 Alberta Point-in-Time Homeless Count: Provincial report*. Alberta: Turner Research and Strategy.

**2016 Prince Albert PIT Homelessness Count Committee  
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

## **MISSION**

To plan and implement a successful point-in-time count of homelessness in order to better understand the extent of absolute and sheltered homelessness in Prince Albert, SK.

## **GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

<b>GOALS</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES</b>
<b>Support the PIT Count Coordinator</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- maintain communication and ongoing assistance with PIT count coordinator</li><li>- provide insight, suggestions and help in developing PIT count plan</li><li>- provide guidance in planning methodology, forming PIT count team, and executing PIT count</li></ul>
<b>Engage Homelessness Stakeholders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- help the PIT count coordinator build relations with key stakeholders</li><li>- help to recruit participation of volunteers in street count</li><li>- help to encourage community service agencies in sheltered count</li></ul>
<b>Maximize Effectiveness of PIT Count</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- provide information on homeless hotspots, mobility and behaviour patterns of individuals affected by homelessness</li><li>- review PIT count process to identify successes, challenges and learning for subsequent counts.</li></ul>

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Members of the 2016 Prince Albert PIT Count Committee shall consist of representatives from a variety of key homelessness stakeholder groups. These include housing, policing, shelters, social services, neighbourhood, income support, First Nations, Métis and intersectoral groups, to name a few.

## **TERM**

Members of the 2016 Prince Albert PIT Count Committee shall be invited to volunteer on the committee as advisory members. The committee shall form in January of 2016 and maintain existence for the entirety of the PIT count, including production and dissemination of a final research report.

## **MEETINGS**

The 2016 Prince Albert PIT Count Committee shall meet at least once per month before the PIT count and at least once after the PIT count. The chair of the committee, at the request of the PIT Count Coordinator, may call additional meetings.

## **DECISION-MAKING**

The decision-making framework for the 2016 Prince Albert PIT Count Committee shall be one of consensus. If consensus cannot be achieved, the Committee shall take a vote with a majority rules (50% + 1) where quorum is present. At least 50% of the membership is required for quorum.

## **REPORTING**

Reporting of the 2016 Prince Albert PIT Count Committee shall be conducted by a Committee member, who will then in turn report on progress to the Prince Albert Homelessness Partnering Strategy Community Advisory Board.

## 2016 Prince Albert Point-in-Time Homelessness Count POTENTIAL SURVEY QUESTIONS

TYPE	PRIORITY	QUESTION
<b>Screening</b>	mandatory	Have you answered this survey already tonight?
	mandatory	Are you willing to participate in the survey?
	mandatory	Do you have a permanent residence that you can return to tonight?
	mandatory	Where are you staying tonight?
<b>Survey</b>	mandatory	What family members are with you?
	mandatory	How old are you?
	mandatory	What gender do you identify with?
	mandatory	Do you identify as Aboriginal or do you have Aboriginal ancestry?
	optional	Which Aboriginal community are you from?
	mandatory	Have you ever had any service in Canadian Military or RCMP?
	mandatory	Did you move to Prince Albert in the past year?
	optional	If you are new to Prince Albert, where did you live prior to coming here?
	mandatory	Did you come to Canada as an immigrant in the past 5 years?
	optional	When did you first become homeless?
	mandatory	Over the past year, how much of the time have you been homeless?
	mandatory	Over the past year, how many different times have you been homeless?
	mandatory	Have you stayed in a shelter in the past year?
	optional	What is keeping you from finding a place of your own?
	mandatory	Where do you get your money from?
	optional	What kind of services are you in need of?
	optional	Do you want permanent housing?
optional	What would help you get into permanent housing?	



**Are there other questions the PIT Count Committee is interested in?**

---



---



---



---

## 2016 Prince Albert Point-in-Time Homelessness Count TRAINING TOPICS

AREA	TOPIC
<b>Background</b>	purpose of PIT counts and their role in addressing homelessness
	about homelessness in Prince Albert
	overview of count methodology
	the survey tools
	count logistics
<b>Role</b>	role of enumerators in the count
	role of PIT count coordinator
	role of PIT count committee
<b>Actions</b>	approaching potential respondents
	obtaining consent
	sensitivity
	asking questions
	confidentiality and privacy
	safety
	dealing with difficult respondents
	recording data
<b>Simulations</b>	approaching individuals
	conducting interviews
	mock count



**Are there other training topics the PIT Count Committee suggests?**

---



---



---



---

# VOLUNTEER WAIVER

**POINT-IN-TIME COUNT - PRINCE ALBERT, SK**

**ASSUMPTION OF RISKS, RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT**

**BY SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT YOU WAIVE CERTAIN LEGAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO SUE**

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

**INITIAL HERE**

**TO: RIVER BANK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, LIVING SKIES CENTRE FOR SOCIAL INQUIRY** and any individual, corporation, association, institution, or organization that is associated with the **2016 Prince Albert PIT Homelessness Count** as an organizer, promoter, sponsor or advertiser and the respective agents, officials, officers, community partners and employees of all of the aforesaid; (hereafter all collectively referred to as the “Event Partners”).

**ASSUMPTION OF RISKS**

By signing below, I warrant that I am fit to safely participate in any and all activities I am involved in during the course of the **2016 Prince Albert PIT Homelessness Count** (hereafter referred to as the “Event”). I am aware that my participation and involvement in the Event may expose me to some unexpected and high level risks, dangers or hazards, including risk of personal injury, property damage and loss resulting therefrom. Such risks, dangers and hazards, given the nature of the Event, may be outside of the scope of an expected or reasonable level of risk that a volunteer may be subject to in the course of participating in an event. By signing below, I freely and fully agree to assume any and all of these risks, dangers and hazards, even if caused by the negligence of the Event Partners, including the failure of the Event Partners to protect and safeguard me from the risks, dangers and hazards and the possibility of any personal injury, death, property damage and loss resulting therefrom.

**RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS AND INDEMNITY**

In consideration of the Event Partners permitting me to participate in the Event, by signing below I hereby release, waive and forever discharge the Event Partners of and from any and all claims, demands, damages, costs, expenses, actions and causes of action, whether in law or equity, in respect of injury, death, loss or damage to my person or property that I may suffer, or that any other person, entity or representative may



suffer resulting therefrom, however caused, arising directly or indirectly by reason of my participation in the Event, whether prior to, during or subsequent to the Event, and notwithstanding that same may have been contributed to or caused by the negligence of any of the Event Partners.

I agree to hold and save harmless and to indemnify the Event Partners from and against any and all liability incurred by any or all of them arising as a result of, or in any way connected with, my participation in the Event.

This assumption of risks, release, waiver and indemnity shall be governed by and interpreted solely in accordance with the laws of the Province of Saskatchewan and any litigation in respect thereof shall be brought solely within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of the Province of Saskatchewan.

**FURTHER VOLUNTEER ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

- I acknowledge that as a volunteer, I am not covered under any Workers' Compensation Plan attached to River Bank Development Corporation or the Living Skies Centre for Social Inquiry.
- I agree to carry out my assigned volunteer tasks in a reasonable and safe manner.
- The personal information on this form will only be collected and shared under the authority of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). The purpose of collecting this information includes: determining eligibility for volunteer opportunities, programs, services, and recognition, to facilitate the Event registration process, to administer and evaluate volunteers and programs, statistical purposes and to activate the Volunteer Accident Insurance coverage. This information may be shared with other volunteers and personnel of the Event Partners only insofar as it is necessary to plan and implement the **2016 Prince Albert PIT Homelessness Count**. If you have any questions regarding the collection of information, please contact **Brian Howell, River Bank Development Corporation**.

By signing below, I acknowledge having read, understood and agreed to the above assumption of risks, release, waiver, indemnity and acknowledgements. I further agree that everything I have agreed to contained herein shall bind my estate and personal representatives.

---

Date	day /month/year	Name of Volunteer (please print)
------	-----------------	----------------------------------

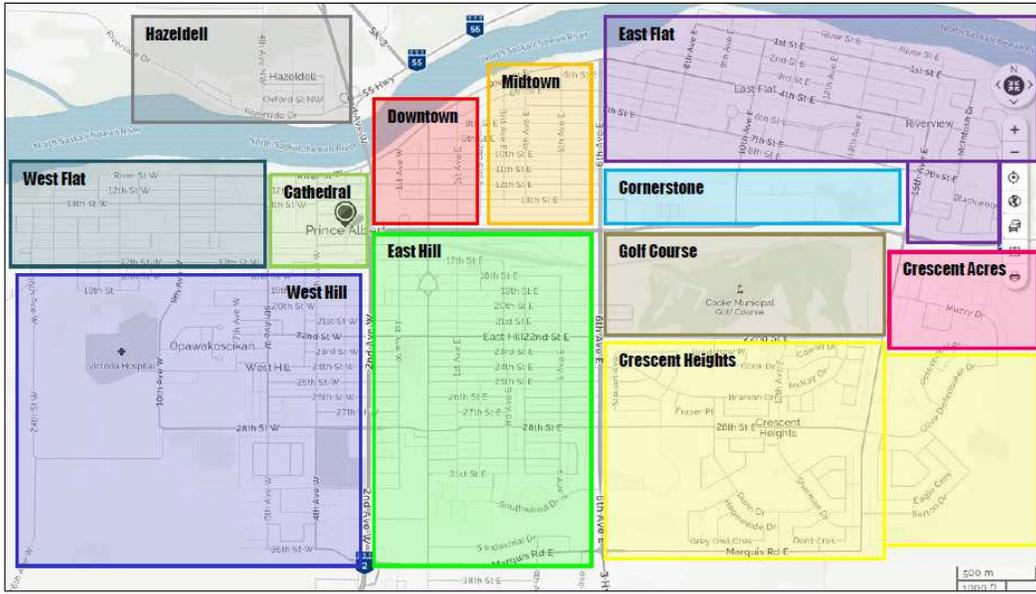
---

Signature of Volunteer

---

Name of Witness	Signature of Witness
-----------------	----------------------





Mark an X for every individual you see who you feel may be homeless		
Downtown	Golf Course	
Midtown	West Hill	
Cathedral	East Hill	
West Flat	Crescent Heights	
East Flat	Crescent Acres	
Cornerstone	Hazeldeil	

Please make a copy and return to Chad at 980-7527. Thank you very much.



<b>UNSHeltered SURVEY</b>		Survey Number: _____
Location: _____	Time: _____ AM/PM	Interviewer: _____
		Contact #: _____

**NOTE ANSWERS FROM SCREENING QUESTIONS**

**C. Do you have a permanent residence that you can return to tonight?**

a. YES	b. NO	c. DON'T KNOW	d. DECLINE TO ANSWER
--------	-------	---------------	----------------------

**D. Where are you staying tonight?**

h. PUBLIC SPACE (E.G., SIDEWALKS, SQUARES, PARKS, FORESTS, BUS SHELTER) i. VEHICLE (CAR, VAN, RV, TRUCK) j. MAKESHIFT SHELTER, TENT OR SHACK	k. ABANDONED/VACANT BUILDING l. OTHER UNSHELTERED LOCATION UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION (SPECIFY) _____ m. RESPONDENT DOESN'T KNOW [LIKELY HOMELESS]
--	--

**BEGIN SURVEY**

**1. What family members are with you?** [Indicate survey numbers for adults]

<input type="checkbox"/> NONE <input type="checkbox"/> PARTNER - Survey #: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> CHILD(REN)/DEPENDENT(S) [indicate age for child/dependent]	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER ADULT - Survey #: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
--	--

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
GENDER										
AGE										

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

o AGE _____ OR YEAR BORN _____	o DON'T KNOW	o DECLINE TO ANSWER
--------------------------------	--------------	---------------------

**3. What gender do you identify with?** [Do not read categories]

o MALE	o TRANSGENDER	o DON'T KNOW
o FEMALE	o OTHER RESPONSE _____	o DECLINE TO ANSWER

**4. Do you identify as Aboriginal or do you have Aboriginal ancestry? This includes First Nations, Métis, Inuit, with or without status.**

<input type="checkbox"/> YES -----> <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER	<b>If YES:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST NATIONS <input type="checkbox"/> INUIT <input type="checkbox"/> MÉTIS <input type="checkbox"/> NON-STATUS / HAVE ABORIGINAL ANCESTRY
---	----------------	--

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

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

**6. Did you move to Prince Albert in the past year?**

o YES	o NO	o DON'T KNOW	o DECLINE TO ANSWER
-------	------	--------------	---------------------

**7. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee within the past 5 years?**

o YES	o NO	o DON'T KNOW	o DECLINE TO ANSWER
-------	------	--------------	---------------------

**8. When did you first become homeless?** \_\_\_\_\_

Other Side →→



9. Over the past year, how much of the time have you been homeless? [Best estimate.]

<input type="radio"/> LENGTH _____ DAYS / WEEKS / MONTHS	IF UNSURE: <input type="radio"/> 0-2 MONTHS
<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> 3-5 MONTHS
<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER	<input type="radio"/> 6-12 MONTHS

10. Over the past year, how many different times have you experienced homelessness?

[Includes this time. Best estimate.]

<input type="radio"/> NUMBER OF TIMES _____	IF UNSURE: <input type="radio"/> 1 TIME [current episode]
<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> 2 TIMES
<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER	<input type="radio"/> 3 OR MORE TIMES

11. Have you stayed in an emergency shelter in the past year?

<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
---------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------------------	---

12. Why aren't you in a shelter tonight?

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

<input type="checkbox"/> ILLNESS OR MEDICAL CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY CONFLICT: SPOUSE OR PARTNER
<input type="checkbox"/> ADDICTION OR SUBSTANCE USE	<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY CONFLICT: PARENT OR GUARDIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> JOB LOSS	<input type="checkbox"/> LEFT CARE (CHILD PROTECTION)/(PROV. TERM)
<input type="checkbox"/> EVICTED: UNABLE TO PAY RENT	<input type="checkbox"/> INCARCERATED (JAIL OR PRISON)
<input type="checkbox"/> EVICTED: OTHER REASON	<input type="checkbox"/> HOSPITALIZATION OR TREATMENT PROGRAM
<input type="checkbox"/> DOMESTIC ABUSE: SPOUSE OR PARTNER	<input type="checkbox"/> UNSAFE HOUSING CONDITIONS
<input type="checkbox"/> DOMESTIC ABUSE: PARENT OR GUARDIAN	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW
<u>Other reason/Notes:</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

14. What is keeping you from finding a place on your own?

15. Where do you get your money from? [May provide examples. Select all that apply]

<input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SENIORS BENEFITS (E.G., CPP/OAS/GIS)
<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMAL/SELF-EMPLOYMENT (E.G., BOTTLE RETURNS, PANHANDLING)	<input type="checkbox"/> CHILD AND FAMILY TAX BENEFITS
<input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	<input type="checkbox"/> MONEY FROM FAMILY/FRIENDS
<input type="checkbox"/> WELFARE/INCOME ASSISTANCE	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER SOURCE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> DISABILITY BENEFIT	<input type="checkbox"/> NO INCOME
	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

16. Do you want permanent housing or do you prefer to be mobile? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

17. What kind of supports or help do you need?



<b>SHELTERED SURVEY</b>		Survey Number: _____
Location: _____	Time: _____ AM/PM	
Interviewer: _____	Contact #: _____	

**SCREENING QUESTIONS**

We are conducting a survey to better understand homelessness in Prince Albert. Your participation in this survey is voluntary and your name will not be recorded. You can choose to skip any question or stop the interview at any time. Results of this survey will contribute to the understanding of homelessness across Canada.

- A. Have you already answered this survey tonight?**  
 [YES: Thank and tally]                      [NO: Go to B]
- B. Are you willing to participate in the survey?**  
 [YES: Go to C]                                      [NO: Thank and tally]
- C. If you weren't staying here tonight, would you have somewhere to stay?**
- |        |       |               |                      |
|--------|-------|---------------|----------------------|
| a. YES | b. NO | c. DON'T KNOW | d. DECLINE TO ANSWER |
|--------|-------|---------------|----------------------|

**BEGIN SURVEY**

- 1. What family members are with you?** [Indicate survey numbers for adults]
- |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NONE   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER ADULT - Survey #: _____ |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PARTNER - Survey #: _____                                  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER             |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHILD(REN)/DEPENDENT(S) [indicate age for child/dependent] |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
|   | 1 | 2  | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| GENDER  |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| AGE   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
- 2. How old are you? [OR] What year were you born?** [If unsure, ask for best estimate]
- |                                 |  |                                  |   |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> AGE _____ | <input type="radio"/> OR YEAR BORN _____ | <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW | <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|
- 3. What gender do you identify with?** [Do not read categories]
- |                              |  |   |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> MALE   | <input type="radio"/> TRANSGENDER          | <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW        |
| <input type="radio"/> FEMALE | <input type="radio"/> OTHER RESPONSE _____ | <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |
- 4. Do you identify as Aboriginal or do you have Aboriginal ancestry? This includes First Nations, Métis, Inuit, with or without status.**
- |   |                |  |
|---|----------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> YES -----><br><input type="radio"/> NO<br><input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW<br><input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER | <b>If YES:</b> | <input type="radio"/> FIRST NATIONS<br><input type="radio"/> INUIT<br><input type="radio"/> MÉTIS<br><input type="radio"/> NON-STATUS / HAVE ABORIGINAL ANCESTRY |
|---|----------------|--|
- 5. Have you ever had any service in the Canadian Military or RCMP?**  
 [Military includes Canadian Navy, Army, or Air Force]
- |                                     |                          |                                  |   |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> YES, MILITARY | <input type="radio"/> NO | <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW | <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |
| <input type="radio"/> YES, RCMP     |                          |                                  |   |
- 6. Did you move to Prince Albert in the past year?**
- |                           |                          |                                  |   |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> YES | <input type="radio"/> NO | <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW | <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---|

Other Side → →



7. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant or refugee within the past 5 years?

<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
---------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------------------	---

8. When did you first become homeless? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Over the past year, how much of the time have you been homeless? [Best estimate.]

<input type="radio"/> LENGTH _____ DAYS / WEEKS / MONTHS	IF UNSURE:	<input type="radio"/> 0-2 MONTHS
<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW		<input type="radio"/> 3-5 MONTHS
<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER		<input type="radio"/> 6-12 MONTHS

10. Over the past year, how many different times have you experienced homelessness?

[Includes this time. Best estimate.]

<input type="radio"/> NUMBER OF TIMES _____	IF UNSURE:	<input type="radio"/> 1 TIME [current episode]
<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW		<input type="radio"/> 2 TIMES
<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER		<input type="radio"/> 3 OR MORE TIMES

11. Have you stayed in an emergency shelter in the past year?

<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
---------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------------------	---

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

<input type="checkbox"/> ILLNESS OR MEDICAL CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY CONFLICT: SPOUSE OR PARTNER
<input type="checkbox"/> ADDICTION OR SUBSTANCE USE	<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY CONFLICT: PARENT OR GUARDIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> JOB LOSS	<input type="checkbox"/> LEFT CARE (CHILD PROTECTION)/(PROV. TERM)
<input type="checkbox"/> EVICTED: UNABLE TO PAY RENT	<input type="checkbox"/> INCARCERATED (JAIL OR PRISON)
<input type="checkbox"/> EVICTED: OTHER REASON	<input type="checkbox"/> HOSPITALIZATION OR TREATMENT PROGRAM
<input type="checkbox"/> DOMESTIC ABUSE: SPOUSE OR PARTNER	<input type="checkbox"/> UNSAFE HOUSING CONDITIONS
<input type="checkbox"/> DOMESTIC ABUSE: PARENT OR GUARDIAN	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW
<u>Other reason/Notes:</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

13. What is keeping you from finding a place on your own?

14. Where do you get your money from? [May provide examples. Select all that apply]

<input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SENIORS BENEFITS (E.G., CPP/OAS/GIS)
<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMAL/SELF-EMPLOYMENT (E.G., BOTTLE RETURNS, PANHANDLING)	<input type="checkbox"/> CHILD AND FAMILY TAX BENEFITS
<input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	<input type="checkbox"/> MONEY FROM FAMILY/FRIENDS
<input type="checkbox"/> WELFARE/INCOME ASSISTANCE	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER SOURCE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> DISABILITY BENEFIT	<input type="checkbox"/> NO INCOME
	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

15. Do you want permanent housing or do you prefer to be mobile? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

16. What kind of supports or help do you need?

