

Peterborough conducting homelessness count from March 20-23 #ICountPtbo - because in Ptbo everyone counts!

United Way of Peterborough & District, in partnership with the City & County of Peterborough is conducting a week long initiative to better understand the needs of people experiencing homelessness in our community. It is a comprehensive check-in across our community to identify and enumerate as many people as possible experiencing homelessness. Between March 20th and 23rd, more than 70 staff and volunteers will take part in a street count and canvass shelters, drop-ins and other community service locations to conduct a short housing and homelessness survey with individuals experiencing homelessness.

Four things you need to know about the #ICountPtbo

If you're out and about on March 20, you may be approached by a volunteer

Teams of volunteers will be taking to the streets to conduct surveys and are being trained to approach everyone they meet as they walk along their routes. If you are approached by a volunteer, you can expect that they will introduce themselves as a volunteer for a housing needs survey and ask if you would be willing to answer some questions. Every person the volunteers meet will be given the option of completing the survey. If you agree, and are not homeless, you will be screened out within the first couple of questions. This approach ensures that any preconceived notions of what homelessness looks like will not impact the results of the count.

This is Peterborough's Second Count

This year's #ICountPtbo initiative is the second homelessness count in Peterborough; the first count was conducted in 2016. It is part of a coordinated national count happening in communities across the country. This information will help in deepening the understanding of the need and level of vulnerability of people experiencing homelessness across the City and County of Peterborough. It will be used to support better planning and help ensure the most vulnerable people experiencing homelessness are prioritized to access housing and support services first.

The Names Collected Will Allow us to Match Households to Appropriate Resources

The count includes invitation for participants to share their name and contact information. The names collected will be organized based on each individual or family's needs, and as different resources become available, the households will be matched with the most appropriate resource. This could include affordable housing, financial supports, supportive housing or private market units.

We Need You!

Organizers are looking for volunteers to help with the count. This year the survey has been broadened to include more locations and the County of Peterborough. Each volunteer will be part of a team who will be given an area of the community or service location and be specifically trained ahead of time to ask appropriate and sensitive questions to obtain the necessary data. Interested volunteers can sign up at signup.com/go/icountptbo.

Visit United Way's website or follow @UnitedWayPtbo and #ICountPtbo on Twitter for more information.

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