



United Way Peterborough & District Releases the 2021 Point-in-Time Count

A survey of people experiencing homelessness in the City of Peterborough

PETERBOROUGH, ON (August 17, 2022) –Today at Brock Mission, the **United Way of Peterborough and District** released the 2021 Point-in-Time Count. **CEO Jim Russell** explained that this is a one-day enumeration of homeless people in Peterborough with the goal of “understanding the complexities and intersecting issues that cause someone to end up homeless.”

For a period of 24 hours, starting at 10:00AM on December 9th, **50 volunteers** covered predetermined areas where homeless people are known to sleep rough. 204 people were approached and **176** took part in the full survey.

The last Point-in-Time Count was conducted in 2018 and there are significant increases in a number of areas. Some of these increases and other key findings are:

- Living rough, or sleeping outdoors, has increased by 350% since the last PiT Count (2018)
- 78% of respondents indicated that they have a substance use concern, which is 32% higher than in 2018
- Chronic homelessness has increased by 45% since the last PiT Count (2018). 71% of all respondents were experiencing chronic homelessness, which is 6 or more months homeless within the last year
- 27% of survey respondents identified as Indigenous
- Approximately 1 in 5 respondents didn't know where they were going to sleep the night of the PiT Count
- 96% of respondents indicated that they have at least one form of income

The full survey report can be found online at uwpeterborough.ca/our-research/ or by scanning here:

The following community leaders joined Jim Russell to share their reactions on the report:

- **Kerri Kightley**, 2021 PiT Coordinator, United Way Peterborough and District
- **Will Pearson**, Manager of Research for Social Change Lab, Trent University
- **Dorothy Olver**, Program Manager of Social Services, City of Peterborough
- **Christian Harvey**, Executive Director, One City Peterborough
- **Dr. Thomas Piggott**, Medical Officer and CEO, Peterborough Public Health



Manager of Community Impact, Betsy Farrar, highlighted a number of recommendations based on the findings of the survey, including:

- Deep investments in affordable housing from all levels of government are needed. Investments across the affordable continuum, and housing purpose built for people exiting homelessness.
- Connect with Indigenous communities to understand how to best invest funding to reduce Indigenous homelessness.
- Conduct ongoing evaluations of the homelessness system to understand Peterborough's progress on actualizing housing as a human right within current socio-economic contexts. Assess our community's fidelity to the Coordinated Access model as part of evaluating our progress.
- Develop and implement data practices around understanding prevalence and causes of deaths among people experiencing homelessness. Incorporate preventing death into Peterborough's response to homelessness.

For more information, please contact:
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