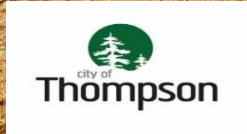


Homelessness Partnering Strategy Point-in-Time Count 2018 Thompson, Manitoba



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Figure 1 – Volunteers ready to start the 2018 PiT Count

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FOREWORD

Homelessness in Canada is the result of a complex interplay of structural factors, systems failures and individual and relational factors. The Canadian Observatory¹ on Homelessness recognises low-income, critical lack of affordable housing and supports, and discrimination as key factors contributing to homelessness in Canada. Systems factors such as inadequate care for people transitioning from child welfare, mental health and substance use programs, corrections and hospitals are all associated with homelessness. Personal circumstances, particularly family violence, are also a factor in precipitating people's homelessness.

A consistent theme across the three PiT Counts has been the disproportionate representation of Indigenous people amongst the homeless in Thompson. The causes of homelessness amongst Indigenous people must be viewed within the context of the historical injustices brought on through processes of colonization². The North has a long colonial history that has affected Indigenous peoples and communities. The legacy of residential schools, the 60's scoop where Indigenous children were removed from their families and communities, as well as relocations due to hydro development and mining are all aspects of colonization in northern Manitoba that have affected Indigenous communities to this day. It is well established that poverty, chronic health problems, public intoxication and other interpersonal, social and individual problems amongst Indigenous people are frequently the expressions of intergenerational traumas resulting from historical processes and prejudices which are pervasive in Canadian society³. Whatever the causes, homelessness clearly results in the exclusion and marginalization of some groups in a region where homelessness often has dire consequences.

As stated in previous PiT Count reports, a number of initiatives have already begun and every year some gains are made in reducing the number of homeless in the community. The 2018 Point in Time Homeless Count is the third attempt to provide a more accurate count of homeless people currently in Thompson. As stated in previous reports, such data is a cornerstone to understanding the magnitude and complexity of the problem as well as providing insight into possible future action. This report is built on previous efforts of the Community Advisory Board (CAB), the City of Thompson, agencies, universities and the community.

This type of research is not simply about gathering "numbers". It is the outcome of relationships between services, programs and community members. It is about working in partnership toward community engagement around an issue that directly or indirectly touches us all. From the start this

¹ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. (2017). Homelessness 101. Why do people become homeless. Retrieved from: <http://homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/homelessness-101/causes-homelessness>

² Thistle, J. (2017.) Indigenous Definition of Homelessness in Canada. Toronto: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press

³ Harper, V., Menzies, P., Lavallée, L., Centre for, A., & Mental, H. (2014). Journey to Healing: Aboriginal People with Addiction and Mental Health Issues, What Health, Social Service and Justice Workers Need to Know. Toronto: Centre for Addiction & Mental Health.

was a joint effort of local initiatives and the Federal Government to contribute to the development and wellbeing of a northern community. It is the result of directly working with homeless people and service providers to provide data for future development. With the engagement of different groups such as students and youth, this research will contribute to planting the seeds for future generations to continue finding venues to build a more inclusive and just society.

“I learned that there is so much that needs to be done yet.

Where do we begin as a community?”

(Volunteer, 2016)

PREFACE

This project was funded in part by the Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS). The City of Thompson is the Community Entity (CE) designated by the HPS to report annually on the amount received. The 2014-2019 Community Plan of the Thompson Community Advisory Board (CAB) included the completion of Point in Time (PiT) Homeless Counts in 2015 and 2016 (Thompson Community Advisory Board for Homelessness, 2014).

In 2016 the HPS supported coordinated community homeless counts in communities across Canada using the PiT Count methodology. These counts provide vital information to participating communities about their homeless population, and contribute to the understanding of homelessness in Canada. The HPS decided to provide the same support for a 2018 count. Between March and April 2018, over 60 communities across Canada, including Thompson, participated in Everyone Counts - the 2nd HPS Coordinated Point-in-Time Count. The findings from these communities will provide an unprecedented dataset on homelessness in Canada.

The Thompson 2018 PiT count was administered through the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Thompson. Faculty members of the University of Manitoba Northern Social Work Program (NSWP) took the lead on designing the count, data analysis and the writing of the report. Twenty-six students of the NSWP, as well as the homeless, partners of this initiative, staff from CMHA and other agencies and community members took the enumeration training and volunteered on the day of the count.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research was funded in part by the Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) through the City of Thompson and the Thompson Community Advisory Board (CAB).

We would like to thank the CAB-PiT Count Subcommittee for their contribution to developing the original proposal for the Thompson PiT Count 2015 and their continued support through 2016 and this year with the 2018 PiT Count. In addition, many service providers, local agencies and groups have contributed in a variety of ways such the Northern Regional Health Authority, Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), Phoenix House (MAPS), Thompson Homeless Shelter, 31 McGill, Thompson Crisis Centre, YWCA Thompson, Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, and the Ma Mow We Tak Friendship Centre.

Many thanks go out to the local volunteers who assisted with data collection. This includes staff from agencies who helped with the sheltered survey and second year students from the NSWP, Residents of Phoenix House (MAPS), CMHA staff, and community/agency volunteers who helped with the unsheltered surveys. Your community connections and ability to make survey participants feel more at ease by speaking to someone from their community or in their preferred language makes this kind of research possible. Special thanks and appreciation also go out to the individuals experiencing homelessness for participating in the survey.

We acknowledge Elder Jack Robinson, who has always been a valuable part of the research team; he brings his wisdom and personal experience. Thanks to Bhawna Varmer, the Thompson Housing Agency Coordinator/Community Entity and Darren Fulford, CMHA for their guidance and support in the PiT count planning and organization process. Special thanks go to Abby Ogunbanwo, the Thompson Homeless Shelter co-ordinator and to the CMHA for the open house and healthy, warm lunch provided on the day of the count. In addition, Cynthia Lathlin and the Northern Health Region for providing the space to set up our volunteer control centre on the day of the count.

Finally, we want to acknowledge the Research Ethics Boards (REBs) from the University of Manitoba and the Thompson Hospital for reviewing and approving the ethics applications in a timely manner, which allowed us to undertake the PiT count within a tight schedule.



Figure 2 - NSWP Student Volunteers - PIT Count 2018

KEY FINDINGS

Total count results

- On the evening of March 13 and during the day of March 14th, 2018, 130 individuals were considered homeless in Thompson.

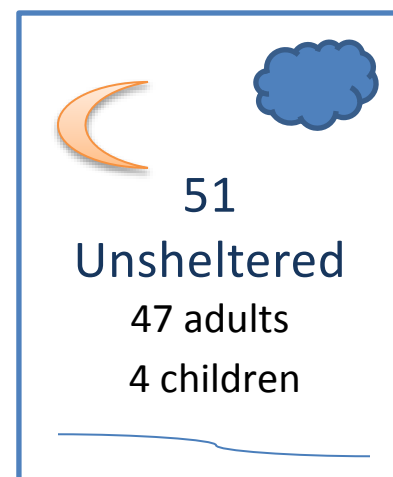
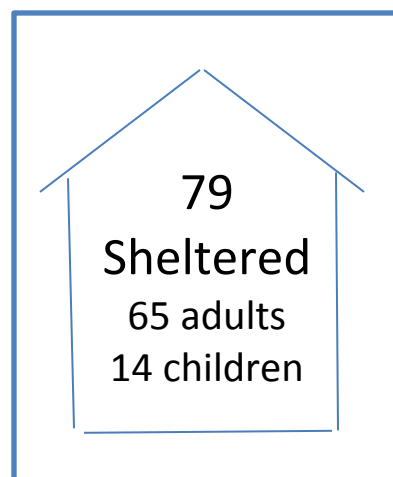
Sheltered Versus Unsheltered Homeless

- Of the 112 adults surveyed 47 (34.5%) were counted on the street (unsheltered) and 65 (69.1%) were staying in transitional facilities (sheltered).
- 18 children were with their parent(s) at the time of the count (14 in the sheltered surveys and 4 in the unsheltered surveys)
- 70 (65%) of the adult homeless people were considered chronically homeless.

Demographics of Adult Participants

- 60.4% were male and 35.1% were female
- The average age was 42 (S.D. 12; Range 20-76 years).
- The largest age group was the 40-49 years of age group (27%).
- 35 (36.1%) stated that they first became homeless before the age of 20.
- 104 (94.5%) identified themselves as Indigenous.
- 57 (51.8%) stated they had lived in Thompson for years.
- 82 (76.6%) stated either they or a family member had been to residential school.
- 61 (43.9%) stated they or a family member had been involved in the foster care system.
- 27 (18.2%) reported they needed services for a chronic/acute medical condition.
- 54 (36.5%) stated they needed services for substance use.
- 70 (65%) met criteria for chronic homelessness

130
Counted
Homeless
People
Including:



“What is considered to be homeless might be different for different people”

-Stakeholder (cited in Vink et al., 2014, p.9)

DEFINITIONS

Community Advisory Board (CAB)

The CAB/Steering Committee should be representative of the community. It should include a range of partners, including representatives from public, private, not-for-profit organizations, Indigenous groups, and other concerned community members. The CAB approves the priorities identified in the Community Plan and ensures they are met through the funding process. They are generally responsible for developing committee terms of reference for the solicitation, review and recommendation of projects to the Community Entity, as well as assessing progress in addressing the community priorities and updating the community plan.

Community Entity Model

Under the Community Entity (CE) funding delivery model, the federal government entrusts a community body, often the community’s municipal government, with the ability to implement the local HPS community plan. This includes developing the Community Plan in collaboration with the CAB, publishing Calls for Proposals (CFPs), approving projects recommended by a Community Advisory Board (CAB), contracting and monitoring of all agreements they hold with third party service providers (both financially and for results), reporting on their activities and disbursements, and reporting on the results and outcomes for these agreements.

Chronically Homeless

Individuals living on the street with no physical shelter of their own, including those who spend their nights in the Thompson Homeless Shelter. Chronically homeless also refers to individuals, often with disabling conditions (chronic physical or mental illness and/or substance abuse problems), and who are currently homeless and have been homeless for six months or more in the past year. For example, those who have spent more than 180 nights in a shelter or place not fit for human habitation.

Eligible to Participate

Those people who were approached and were identified as not having a permanent residence to return to the night of the count.

Emergency Shelter

Short term accommodation intended for individuals and families who have no shelter.

Episodically Homeless

Individuals, often with disabling conditions, who are currently homeless and have in the past year experienced three or more episodes of homelessness. Episodes are defined as periods when a person

would be in a shelter or place not fit for human habitation for a certain period, and after at least 30 days, would be back in the shelter or place.

Economic Migrant

Economic immigrants includes immigrants who have been selected for their ability to contribute to Canada's economy through their ability to meet labour market needs, to own and manage or to build a business, to make a substantial investment, to create their own employment or to meet specific provincial or territorial labour market needs.⁴

Homelessness

Those who do not have a safe, affordable, appropriate, permanent housing to which they can return whenever they choose.⁵

HPS Designated Communities

This funding stream provides HPS funding to 61 communities, primarily major urban centres, identified as having a significant problem with homelessness and needing ongoing support to address the issue.

Housing First

An approach that focuses on moving people who are experiencing homelessness as rapidly as possible from the street or emergency shelters into permanent housing with support that varies according to client need. A case management team and/or a case manager that serves as a main point of contact for the client from assessment to follow-up provide the supports. The focus is primarily on the chronically and episodically homeless. The Housing First model, developed in New York City in 1992 by Dr. Sam Tsemberis, is premised on the notion that housing is a basic human right, and so should not be denied to anyone, even if they are abusing alcohol or other substances.⁶

Housing with Supports

These activities involve:

- Identifying permanent housing with supports for clients and working with them to secure permanent housing, with the expectation of a coordinated intake management system in place. Housing services staff would work with landlords to identify units, show possible units to clients, negotiate leases and follow-up with clients through regular visits to ensure that housing is maintained.
- Supports to ensure that those who benefit from Housing First remain permanently housed. These include: facilitating landlord-tenant relationships; offering training in life skills related to maintaining a stable home (e.g. cooking, household maintenance, health and financial literacy); bridging supports (e.g. short-term assistance with rent subsidies); and providing assistance with furnishing the apartment, utilities, first and last month's rent, security or damage deposits, cleaning, necessary

⁴ Statistics Canada (2016) Census of Population

⁵ Calgary Homeless Foundation (2014) *Point in Time Count Report*.

⁶ see <https://pathwaystohousing.org/housing-first-model>.

repairs, and insurance. It would also include re-housing clients who may not be successful in maintaining their housing.

Ineligible to Participate

Those people who were approached and were identified as having a permanent residence to return to the night of the count.

Over-Crowding

Housing that does not have enough bedrooms for the size and composition of the household.

Sheltered

Individual staying overnight in an emergency homeless shelter, a family violence facility, or a safe house.

Survey Participants

Those people who identified themselves as chronically, episodically homeless or transitionally housed for purposes of the Thompson Homeless Point-In-Time Count.

Transitionally Housed

Housing facilities that provide services beyond basic needs and that, while not permanent, generally allow for a longer length of stay than emergency housing facilities (up to three years). These facilities offer more privacy to residents than emergency housing. Transitional housing is targeted to those in need of structure, support, and/or skill building to move from homelessness to housing stability, and ultimately to prevent a return to homelessness. Transitional housing can be used with Housing First clients on a temporary basis (maximum 3-4 months) or on an extended basis (maximum 3 years) while permanent housing is being secured.

Undetermined Responses

This category was used for those survey questions that were left blank or the answer did not pertain to the question.

Unsheltered

Individuals staying in a place not meant to be housing, such as a shack, shed, tent or a public space.

Minoskanawetaahk (95 Cree Road)

This facility is part of the Project Northern Doorway initiative. It offers permanent supportive housing to individuals with a history of chronic homelessness, with many residents having a mental illness with concurrent substance use. Staff there utilizes a “Housing First” and “Low Barrier” approach, meaning that they provide supported housing without length of residency restrictions to those with challenging behaviours, active & ongoing substance use, and for those who have minimal mental health support or are in need of support with medication compliance.⁷ As with the previous PiT Count, residents at this facility were not asked to participate in this study.

⁷ Paulette Carriere Simkins (personal communication, April 16th, 2015).



Figure 3 - Volunteers with Elder Jack Robinson getting ready to start the 2018 PiT Count

INTRODUCTION

Homelessness

The purpose of the 2018 Point in Time (PiT) Count was to survey homeless adults in Thompson on the evening of March 13th and during the day on March 14th, 2018. This PiT Count was part of a larger national initiative by the Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS). This is the second time the HPS has supported coordinated community homeless counts across Canada using the PiT Count methodology. Thompson was one of 32 communities in Canada to participate in the first coordinated PiT Count in 2016. That number increased to 60 communities for the 2018 count. As more communities join in the coordinated count, a broader picture of homelessness in Canada will emerge.

PiT Counts provide vital information to participating communities about their homeless population, provide comparative analysis and contribute to the understanding of homelessness in Canada.

According to the HPS (2017), a PiT Count of homeless serves two main purposes:

1. To count people experiencing absolute homelessness in order to support communities in their efforts to track their progress in reducing homelessness.
2. To give communities information on the demographics and service needs of their homeless population.

For this PiT Count, homelessness is defined as those who do not have safe, affordable, appropriate, permanent housing to which they can return whenever they choose.⁸ For the Count, we were able to capture individuals classified as “chronically” and “episodically” homeless.

Chronically homeless is understood as individuals, often with disabling conditions (e.g., chronic physical or mental illness, substance use problems) living on the street with no physical shelter of their own for six months or more in the past year. The chronically homeless include those who spend their nights in the Thompson Homeless Shelter.

Episodically homeless refers to individuals, often with disabling conditions, who are currently homeless and have experienced three or more episodes of homelessness in the past year. Episodes are defined as periods when a person would be in a shelter or place not fit for human habitation for a certain period, and after at least 30 days, would be back in the shelter or place.

Those exiting institutions (e.g., child welfare, mental health facilities, hospitals, and correctional institutions) that have a history of chronic and episodic homelessness and cannot identify a fixed address upon their release may also identify as chronic or episodically homeless individuals because these facilities are not permanent.⁹ While people may stay at these facilities for months or even years,

⁸ Calgary Homeless Foundation (2014) *Point in Time Count Report*.

⁹ Homeless Partnering Strategy (2016) Directives 2014-2019

these are not considered permanent residences. The Ma-Mow-We-Tak Hostel, the Thompson Crisis Centre, YWCA or Phoenix House (MAPS) often fit this perception.

Based on studies done in other northern locations, those who tend to be in these various states of homelessness are often lone-parent women, youth, single men, those with mental health problems, those with addiction issues, and those who come from over-crowded housing conditions on reserve and come into a center like Thompson for work, independence, safety and social reasons.¹⁰

Situating Homelessness in Northern Manitoba

The city of Thompson is the largest semi-urban center in northern Manitoba and is situated 750 kilometers north of Winnipeg.). The city is located in Treaty 5 area on the territory of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation¹¹. Thompson acts as an economic and service ‘hub’ for northern Manitoban communities, including commercial, educational, recreational and medical services. Employment opportunities such as the Vale nickel mine or Manitoba Hydro also contribute to inward migration from outlying communities. The City of Thompson services an area that covers 396,000 square kilometers, which includes 32 communities and approximately 72,000 people¹². According to the 2016 Census, the average age of a Thompson resident is 32.2, well below the provincial median age of 39.2. Regionally, the area surrounding Thompson has an even lower median age, estimated at 24, and this trend is growing within the region’s Indigenous communities. In communities such as Garden Hill and Split Lake, the average age is under 20.

Starting in 1956, the city of Thompson was built by Inco in order to have a stable workforce to work in the nearby nickel mine. The city has experienced wide population fluctuations over the decades, with an all-time population high of over 20,000 in the 1970s.¹³ According to the 2016 Census profile Thompson’s population is about 13,678. Thompson’s current population is estimated as 43% Indigenous (Statistics Canada, 2016). There is a growing immigrant population in Thompson, this population grew 47% between 2011 and 2016. The majority of immigrants to Thompson between 1980 and 2016 (76.5%) are economic migrants (Statistics Canada, 2016). Otherwise the population is shrinking.

The economy, the unique demographic make-up of Thompson as well as its isolated northern location presents particular challenges in terms of access to housing and other core social goods for the vulnerable segments of the city’s population. Housing prices have fluctuated over the last number of years. For example, from 2006 to 2008, the average price of a home in Thompson increased, due to an economic boom and shortage of housing by 92%; \$126,292 in 2006 to \$243,391 in 2008. However, in 2009 the average price of a home dropped from \$243,391 to \$178,233 or 27%¹⁴. The 2009 drop in housing prices has been observed as a balancing out of housing prices from the highs recorded in 2008,

¹⁰ Qullit Nunavut Status of Women (2007); Kidd et al. (2013); George and O’Neill (2011); Stewart and Ramage (2011).

¹¹ Thompson Economic Diversification Working Group, 2012.

¹² Bonnycastle, Simpkins & Siddle, A. (2016)

¹³ FemNorthNet Project 2012, p.5

¹⁴ Manitoba Real Estate Association

and the result of a slower local economy. As of November 2010, the average price was \$219,284, a 23% increase from 2009.¹⁵ By 2012, the average price of a house was \$199,998.¹⁶ With economic slowdowns, this price has likely dropped again over the last number of years.

There were 4,910 private dwellings in Thompson in 2016, 47.3% of these were single-detached houses (Statistics Canada). According to CMHC (2017), there were 1351 rental units. Fewer than 40% of these rental units were bachelor and one bedroom. In comparison with other communities in Manitoba, rental rates are relatively high in Thompson. As of October 2017, the average rent for a one bedroom was \$809. Bachelor units rented for an average of \$720 per month, and 2-bedroom units went for \$923. The vacancy rate has crept up to 1.6% for all rentals with the vacancy rate for 1-bedroom units at 2.4%.¹⁷ According to the 2016 Census, the average monthly shelter cost for renters was \$981 versus \$1,256 for those who owned their home. There were 13.4% of households spending more than 30% of their income on shelter costs. In addition, 10.8% of households reported they were not in suitable housing and 10.7% reported they were in housing in need of major repairs.

Though Thompson's rental rates might be manageable for professionals, they remain restrictive for youth, students moving to Thompson for higher education, those in service roles, migrants and Indigenous families without secure employment including lone parents.¹⁸ Lone parents accounted for 33.9% of families living with low income in Thompson (Statistics Canada, 2016). The total number of low-income households was 13.9%. The rate of low income for families with children 0-9 years ranged from 23.4% to 26.5%. Young people aged 20 to 29 also experienced higher rates of low-income than the general population ranging from 13.9% to 15.5%. All these conditions lead to the growing gap between real income and housing prices¹⁹.

Being homeless in Thompson is often depicted as a phenomenon of circular mobility generated by the movement of residents back and forth from outlying communities and reserves into Thompson in need of medical/rehabilitation treatment, education or other services and supports. Lack of resources in the First Nations and northern communities reinforces such needs to move to Thompson. Sometimes it is simply a matter of survival that brings people to the city—for example, fleeing family conflict or being kicked out of an overcrowded house on reserve. The 2016 Canadian census showed that overcrowding and lack of major repairs remains a significant problem on reserves.²⁰ Mental health, domestic violence and social issues such as racism all intersect with housing needs in northern communities; and in the case of Indigenous people, these issues are associated with colonization and relocation.²¹

¹⁵ Thompson Community Advisory Board for Homelessness (2011) *Community Plan 2011-2014*, p.3.

¹⁶ Thompson Unlimited (2013) *Thompson, Manitoba: A Community Profile 2013-2014*.

¹⁷ CMHC 2017 Rental Market Report: Manitoba Highlights.

¹⁸ The Thompson Economic Diversification Working Group (2012) *Housing Action Plan*. Final Report.

¹⁹ Silver, 2014.

²⁰ Statistics Canada (2017) *Census in brief: The housing conditions of Aboriginal people in Canada*.

²¹ Christensen 2012; MacKinnon 2010; Hart 2010; Fernandez, MacKinnon, and Silver 2010; Hart et al. 2015.

City of Thompson's Homelessness Strategy

For many newcomers, the move into Thompson is one faced with many challenges and barriers. For example, there is a lack of affordable housing, affordable childcare, and accessible job training. According to the *2014 Community Advisory Board on Homelessness: 2014-2019 Community Plan*, there was a "...near zero" vacancy rental rate at the time the report was written. Though CMHC (2017) states the vacancy rate is now nearer to 1.6% now, the issues accessing housing remain. The CAB Community Plan also stated that, "for housing at the welfare support level there is a long waiting list as well as the threat of those units being sold off to develop yet more expensive market level rental units, leaving fewer available for the homeless".²² Newcomers often arrive unprepared for the demands of the housing market, which regularly requires credit histories and housing references. Though a number of positive initiatives and strategies have been developed to help with transitioning to city life, there are many who are not connected to these services.

The Community Advisory Board (CAB) was formed in 2000 to make recommendations as to how resources from the federal government's Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) can be invested most effectively in the community.²³ In 2009, the City of Thompson in collaboration with the Thompson Urban Aboriginal Strategy created the Aboriginal Accord. The Aboriginal Accord is a document that recognizes the role of Indigenous People in the region's history and affirms the city's commitment to strengthen relationships with Indigenous governments and peoples. The Thompson Aboriginal Accord is one of only two of its kind in Canada today. It is a living document with an ongoing responsibility adopted by signatories and partners to report on the success of the commitment in concrete ways such as in the observing of new programs and initiatives.²⁴

Also in 2009 The City of Thompson contracted with Prairie By-Law Enforcement. In response to changes to the Manitoba Police Services ACT Thompson created its own Community Safety Officer program and in 2016 hired eight Community Safety Officers (CSOs). The main focus of the Prairie By-Law Officers and later the City of Thompson By-Law Officers has been on downtown social issues. Early anecdotal indicators suggested the program was working to reduce RCMP workload and crime severity values in the city (City of Thompson, n.d.)²⁵, but after the first year it is recognized that the program is increasing RCMP workload and resulting crime severity statistics (Graham, 2017)²⁶

In 2012 the City of Thompson, alongside and in collaboration with 25 community stake holders, announced a Downtown Strategy (DS) promoting a safe, clean, active city for all members in the

²² City of Thompson (2014) *Homelessness Partnering Strategy Community Plan 2014-2019*. P. 17.

²³ Thompson Community Advisory Board for Homelessness (2011) *Community Plan 2011-2014*.

²⁴ http://thompson.municipalwebsites.ca/Editor/images/documents/Indigenous%20Accord/Aboriginal_Accord7_Large.pdf.

²⁵ City of Thompson Community Safety Officer Pilot Program (n.d).

²⁶ Graham, I. (July 31, 2017). Thompson second in crime severity and first by a wide margin in violent crime severity in 2016. Thompson Citizen. <http://www.thompsoncitizen.net/news/thompson/thompson-second-in-crime-severity-and-first-by-a-wide-margin-in-violent-crime-severity-in-2016-1.21493066>.

community. The DS covers primary components such as emergency, transitional and supported housing, addictions and mental health. The DS also includes ancillary components such as addressing poverty, domestic violence, unemployment, limited life skills and gaps in education. The DS encompasses guidelines that include 1) a proactive rather than punitive approach; 2) using holistic ways to address social issues; 3) enhancing positive relationships; 4) promoting collaborative partnerships with community organizations²⁷; and 5) addressing root causes of homelessness and promoting advocacy. Contrary to historical strategies, the DS is a long term commitment, which goes beyond ‘band aid solutions’ and isolated initiatives to encourage collaboration and mobilize different sectors, institutions and communities to contribute to the wellbeing of Thompson and northern communities.

That said, there continue to be struggles for those moving to the city. Thompson’s vacancy rate hovers at 1.6% , and its young population, combined with an aging/static housing stock and rising prices, together produce a major housing crisis.²⁸ The emergency shelter beds are split between a homeless shelter, a women’s crisis centre, an addiction treatment centre and a transition hostel. The Ma-Maw-We-Tak Friendship Centre and the YWCA also provide transitional and emergency housing.

As a last resort for those who cannot get into the homeless shelter there may also be the option of the RCMP Intoxicated Person Detention cells. The City of Thompson also has an “Extreme Cold Weather Policy”. Whenever the temperatures reach -35 and below, the city opens up alternative ‘warm spaces’ for those who cannot get into the homeless shelter.²⁹ During the winter of 2017-18 the cold weather policy was used 41 times, accommodating in total 205 individuals (181 males, 24 females). What is not captured in the statistics from these resources are those bed nights provided by friends and families, for those living in bush camps around the city and for those sleeping rough on the street.

In 2014, new housing strategies were developed in Thompson to respond to the needs of different groups. For instance, MAPS (Men Are Part of the Solution) created Phoenix House, a 12 bed transitional sober housing living facility for men. This home provides a healing environment for men who have been homeless to use holistic approaches to become empowered and practice healthy relationships. Another recent initiative is ‘Project Northern Doorway’ (PND) which is focused on the needs of the chronically homeless. A component of PND is Minoskanawetaahk, a 16-bed permanent supportive house purchased by the Thompson Housing Authority and leased to CMHA. There have been a number of discussions regarding the need for a new facility specifically for women and children.

Current and future priorities identified by the Thompson Community Advisory Board (CAB) on Homelessness are: chronically and episodically homeless individuals, families and children, youth, Indigenous people, people with mental health issues and people with addiction.³⁰

²⁷ Siddle, 2013.

²⁸ FemNorthNet Project 2012.

²⁹ <http://www.thompson.ca/Home/DownloadDocument?docId=9f58661c-846a-4824-8809-9649e0c1438b>

³⁰ City of Thompson (2014) *Homelessness Partnering Strategy Community Plan 2014-2019*. P. 22.

Methodology

This study uses a Point-in-time (PiT) count methodology. This is the third time this method has been used in Thompson, Manitoba. A point-in-time count essentially counts the number of sheltered and unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness. The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (2015) defines it as,

A point-in-time (PiT) count is a research strategy used to help determine the extent of homelessness in a community on a given night, or at a single point-in-time. Point-in-time counts allow you to better understand the nature and extent of homelessness in your community and the characteristics of the population.

The PiT count is the most commonly used method of counting homeless people (e.g., City of Calgary, 2014, 2006; Saskatoon, 2008; Edmonton, 2012). This methodology provides a “snap shot” of the homeless population at the time of the survey. Two types of surveys were used to enumerate individuals: Sheltered and Unsheltered. Sheltered individuals were counted in the homeless shelter as well as in other transitional facilities in the community. Midnight staff in each of the facilities conducted the sheltered count. Volunteers conducted the unsheltered surveys on the street. To prepare the proposal and develop the methodology, the research team consulted PiT counts from Calgary, Edmonton and the Canadian Homeless Partnering Strategy’s “Everyone Counts: A guide to Point-in-Time Counts in Canada (ESDC, 2017).

Ethics

Ethics approval was requested and approved by the University of Manitoba and from the Northern Health Region. A copy of the UofM Ethics Board Certificate is attached as Appendix A.

Informed Consent

For the purpose of the PiT count, when enumerators (volunteers) approached a person who was, or appeared to be, experiencing homelessness, they used a verbal consent process, explained the purpose of the count, and asked for his/her voluntary participation (Appendix I). If voluntary consent was given, the enumerator continued on to ask two screening questions.

As per the sample script, the enumerators recorded verbal consent from participants who agreed to participate in the survey. The enumerators recorded refusals and acceptances to participate in the tally sheet. This will help to gauge the participation rate in the Count.

Piloting the surveys

The CAB-PiT Count Subcommittee initially reviewed the two federal surveys (sheltered and unsheltered). The surveys included 14 required questions from the Federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy. The subcommittee also recommended an additional four questions be added to this year’s survey to provide additional information for service providers in order to improve programs and services. These included

questions regarding experience with residential school; experience with the foster care system; need for services; and recent barriers to finding a place to live. In designing the survey, we followed the Federal format as recommended.

Advertising the Point in Time Count

Three different initiatives were used to promote the PiT count:

1. Posters were distributed to the homeless shelter, transitional houses, agencies, universities and public places.
2. A radio interview with two members of the Point in Time Committee occurred during the week of the count.
3. Advertisements were placed in the Thompson Citizen newspaper.

Volunteer Training

Volunteers were recruited from the two local universities, people with lived experience from Phoenix House, the general community and social agencies. In total 30 volunteers worked on completing the survey of unsheltered homeless individuals. In addition, staff from the homeless shelter and transitional housing facilities worked on completing the survey for the sheltered enumerated people. Two training sessions were completed on March 1st and 2nd, 2018. The content of the training was comprised of a short background of the PiT count, ethics protocol and consent form, survey, team work and logistics. The training included an overview of the day of the count. In addition, each facility was visited and provided with an explanation of the process and on how to complete the survey there.

Description of Survey Forms

The 2018 Thompson PiT Count research team developed two surveys and several additional forms to be completed by volunteers working on the count. The Sheltered Homeless People Survey (Appendix E3) was used within the different facilities participating in the count, and the Unsheltered Homeless People Survey (Appendix E2) was used when approaching people on the street. The two surveys included the same survey questions, with the only difference being the screening questions asked before starting the survey.

Questions included in the surveys came from the Federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy. These questions focused on the demographics of the homeless and at-risk populations to help the community better understand their needs and aid future planning of services. When considering other possible questions, the CAB PiT Count Committee reflected on potential ethical issues of asking questions about sensitive information in a short period of time. As such, they decided not to include questions about addictions or mental health but did opt for additional questions about residential school experience and experience in the foster care system.

Search Map

Prior to the 2016 PiT Count a “search map” sub-committee, with representatives from the RCMP and the City of Thompson, created a search map that identified areas where most homeless people commonly stay (see Appendix B). Based on this information a search map was prepared that identified specific search areas used by each of the survey teams. This search map was again used for the 2018 PiT Count. On the day of the count, teams were assigned specific areas on the map from which to concentrate their work. These teams were composed of volunteers including people with lived experience who were familiar with areas where homeless people use to stay.

Gift Bag for Participants

The PiT count team put together a gift bag that included mitts, tuque, socks, neck warmer, lighter, and granola bars for each of the participants in the evening and the day counts.

Night Facility Count (Sheltered Homeless)

To capture the number of homeless people sheltered on the evening of March 13, 2018 various shelters and transitional housing facilities in town were asked to conduct a survey of all people in their facilities that night. Data reported on the Facility Bed Capacity Forms supplied to each facility showed a minimum of 177 beds were available as temporary housing for potentially homeless in Thompson on the night of the count. This number is further broken down in the following table (figure 5).

Facility Name	Total Licensed Beds	# of Beds for Individuals	# of Beds for Families	# of beds used on March 13th
Homeless Shelter	24	24	0	24
31 McGill	16	16	0	16
Phoenix House	12	12	0	11
TCC	13	11	3	12
YWCA	85	55	30	22
Ma Mow We Tak Hostel	not specified	not specified	not specified	2
RCMP Holding Cells*	3	3	0	0
AFM	24	24	0	16
Totals	177	145	33	103

Figure 4 - Summary of beds available

Day Street Count (Unsheltered Homeless)

The day street count involved conducting surveys on the street on March 14, 2018 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers were divided into teams and an effort was made to create diverse volunteer teams which included people with lived experience of homelessness, students and community or community agency volunteers. Surveyors were identified with a PiT Count Button.

The volunteer teams were concentrated in the downtown areas of Thompson, around Plaza Mall, Canadian Tire, the Homeless Shelter, and in and around the City Centre Mall (see Appendix B). They used screening questions to search for potential participants. A volunteer base was also set up in the community kitchen of the Thompson Clinic in the Plaza Mall. Some survey participants were invited into the clinic to warm up while they answered the survey questions. In addition, the Thompson Homeless Shelter hosted an open house and lunch for homeless people, volunteers and the staff involved in the count. To prepare for the next count, the local count committee should consider the lessons learned from the count and what could be improved for the next count (e.g., questions, logistics, and search areas). A survey or focus group of volunteers and staff from the count is encouraged to get a range of perspectives.

FINDINGS - NUMBER OF HOMELESS

Point in Time Count Participation Rate

Figure 5 shows a breakdown of the results of 225 people being approached during the count.

Survey Form	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Unsheltered Survey	Declined or already surveyed	32	23.5%
	Screened Out	57	42%
	Observed	0	0
	Survey Completed	47	34.5%
	Sub Total	136	100
Sheltered Survey	Declined or already surveyed	14	14.9%
	Screened Out	3	3.2%
	Observed	12	12.8%
	Survey Completed	65	69.1%
	Sub Total	94	100
Both Surveys	Total Approached	230	100
	Total Surveys Completed	112	48.7%

Figure 5 - Breakdown of the people approached and completed surveys

During the night of March 13th, staff and volunteers approached 94 people staying at shelter facilities in the City of Thompson. Of those approached 17 people either declined to complete the survey or screened out. An additional 12 were observed as homeless but unable to participate. Sixty-five people completed the sheltered survey. On the morning of March 14th, 136 people were approached on the streets of Thompson. Of these, 89 individuals either declined to be surveyed, had already been surveyed or were screen out. Forty-seven people completed the unsheltered survey. In total there were 112 surveys completed during the 2018 Thompson PiT Count. The following is a breakdown of the results of the surveys completed.

SURVEY QUESTION RESULTS

Both the sheltered and unsheltered surveys ask the same 18 questions of each participant. Fourteen of these questions came directly from the recommended Federal Government’s 2018 Homeless Partnering Strategy report (ESDC, 2017). The remaining four questions were development by the Community Advisory Board (CAB) PiT Count Committee.

Question 1: What Family Members Are With You?

The following table and graph provides the breakdown to this question. The vast majority (72.9%) stated that they had no family members with them. Another 20.6% said they were with a partner or another adult that day.

Category	Frequency	Percent
none	82	73.9
partner	8	7.2
other adult	14	12.6
Children/dependents	6	5.4
declined to answer	1	.9
Total	112	100.0

Figure 6 - Table of what family members are with you

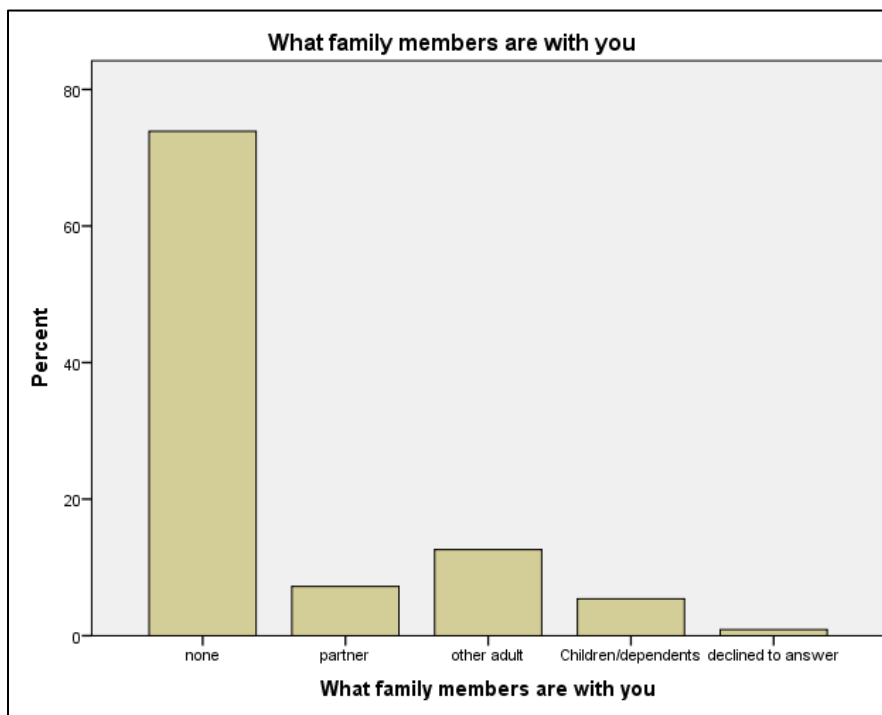


Figure 7 - Graph of what family members are with you

Of the 112 participants, six (5.4%) had 18 children with them. Their children’s ages ranged from 2 years to 19 years (average 8 years). There were seven male and 11 female children. The following table shows the breakdown of ages and gender of the children.

Participant	# of children	Age(s)	Gender(s)
1	4	7, 6, 4, 2	2 M, 2 F
2	4	19, 9, 6, 4	4 F
3	2	5, 10	2 F
4	1	5	1 F
5	4	4, 9, 11, 13,	4 M
6	3	11, 12, 13	1 M, 2F

Figure 8. Breakdown for age and gender of children with participants

Question 2: How Old Are You?

Based on the answers of 111 participants, their average (mean) age was 42 (42.36 years/S.D. 12.9) with a range between 20 and 76 years old. This average is higher than both that for Thompson residents (32.2 years) and for the overall province (39.2 years). In the next graph, the ages are clustered into five age groups in order to provide further analysis.

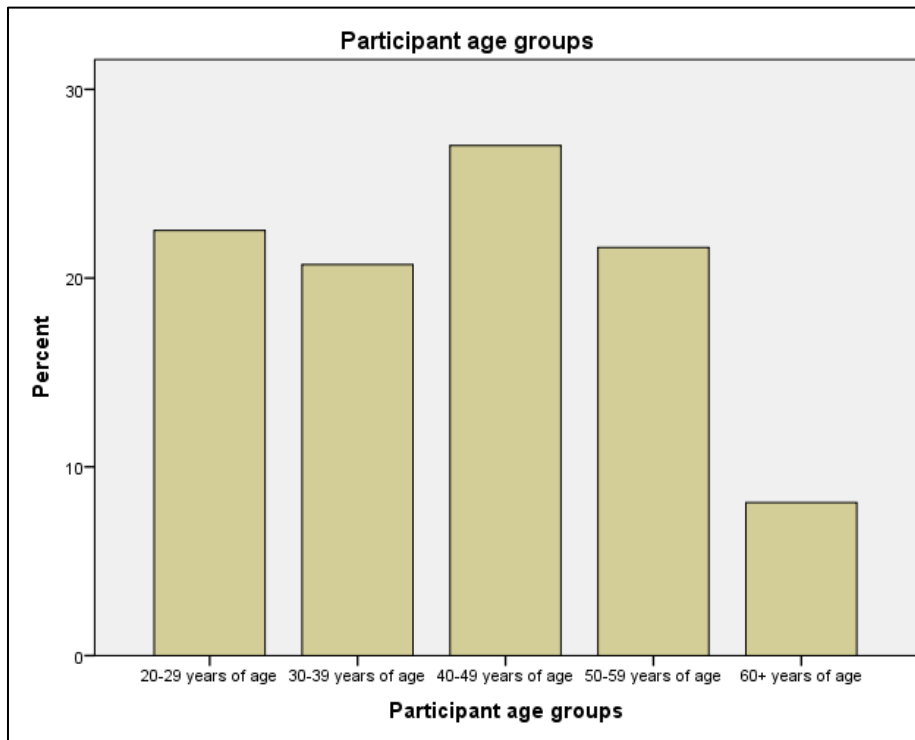


Figure 9 - Graph of participant age groups

The lowest category shown in the graph is the “60+ years of age” (8.1%) The largest category was those in the “40 -49 years of age” group (27%). The other three groups each hovered around the 20-23% range.

Question 3: How Old Were You The First Time You Experienced Homeless?

In terms of the age when the participants had first experienced homelessness, 112 participants answered this question. The average (mean) age for first becoming homeless was 28.1 years (S.D. 14.9) with a range between 2 years and 66 years of age.

Participant Age Groups	Frequency	Percentage
Under 20 years of age	35	36.1
20 - 29 years of age	21	21.6
30 – 39 years of age	18	18.6
40 – 49 years of age	13	13.4
50 – 59 years of age	5	5.2
60 + years of age	5	5.2
Total	97	100

Figure 10 - Table of participant first homeless age groups

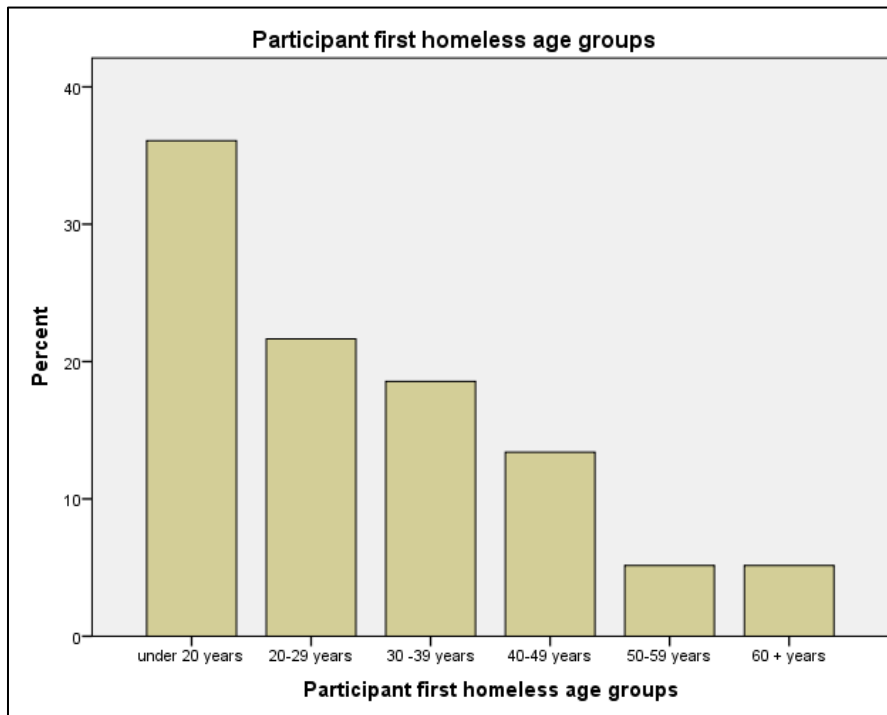


Figure 11 - Graph of participants first homeless age groups

The graph depicts a slope from left to right indicating a greater chance of becoming homeless at an early age, with 35 (36.1%) of the participants first becoming homeless under the age of 20.

Of the 93 participants that gave answers for both their age and the age when they first experienced homelessness:

- 14.22 years was the mean (average) between first experiencing homelessness and their current age (S.D. 13; Range 0-56 years).
- 53 (57.0%) had first experienced homelessness under the age of 30.
- Of these, 32 (34.4%) had first experienced homelessness under the age of 20 and 21 (22.6%) had between the ages of 20-29.
- 12 (63.2%) of the 19 participants in the 20-29 year age group, had first experienced homelessness under the age of 20.

Question 4: In Total, How Much Time Have You Been Homeless Over The Past Year?

Of the participants, 108 answered this question. Eleven (10.2%) individuals stated that they had been homeless under two months in the last year. Another 10 (9.3%) stated that they had been homeless between 3- 5 months.

Time Period	Frequency	Percentage
0 – 2 months	11	10.2
3 – 5 months	10	9.3
6 – 11 months	25	23.1
12+ months	45	41.7
Don't know	6	5.8
Decline to answer	10	9.7
Total	108	100

Figure 12 - Table of time homeless in the last year

The next two categories showed the majority of the participants. There were 25 (23.1%) that stated that they had been homeless for between 6 and 11 months and 45 (41.7%) that stated that they had been homeless for the entire year. These frequencies are again shown in the following graph.



Figure 13 - Graph of time homeless in last year

As mentioned in the definitions section of this report, an individual that has been homeless for six months or more in the past year are considered chronically homeless. The above table and graph show that 70 (65%) of the participants are considered chronically homeless.

70 (65%) of the 108 participants that answered this question are considered chronically homeless (on the street for more than 6 months in the last year).

Question 5: How Many Times Have You Experienced Homelessness Over The Last Year?

Of the participants, 108 answered this question. The below table and graph show their answers.

Number of Times	Frequency	Percentage
1 time	34	31.1
2 times	13	12.6
3 or more times	31	28.2
Don't know	21	20.4
Decline to answer	9	7.8
Total	108	100

Figure 14 -Table of how many times experienced homelessness in the last year

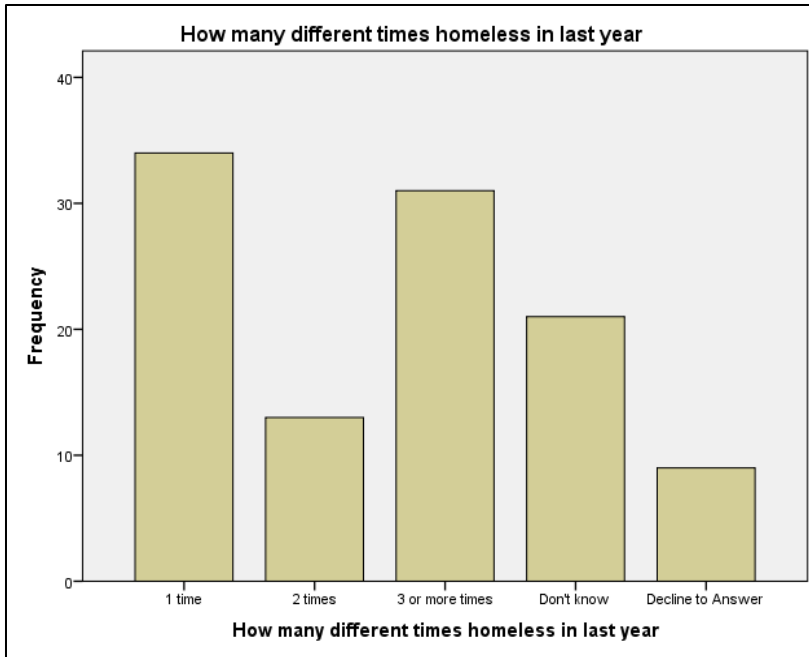


Figure 15 - Graph of how many different times homeless in the last year

Thirty-four (31.1%) of the 103 participants that answered this question stated that they were homeless once in the last year. In many ways, this number makes sense when we take into consideration the previous graph (figure 13) that showed that just over 40% of the participants were homeless for the past year. The above table and graph also point out that 31 (28.2%) had been homeless three or more times. These would fit under the definition of episodically homeless provided in the definition section of this report.

31 (28.2%) of the 108 participants that answered this question are considered episodically homeless (three or more times experienced homelessness in the last year).

Question 6: Have You Stayed In An Emergency Shelter In The Past Year?

The following graph shows that of the 111 participants that answered this question, 65 (58.6%) had stayed at an emergency shelter in the last year, 41 (36.6%) had not and 5 (4.5%) declined to answer.

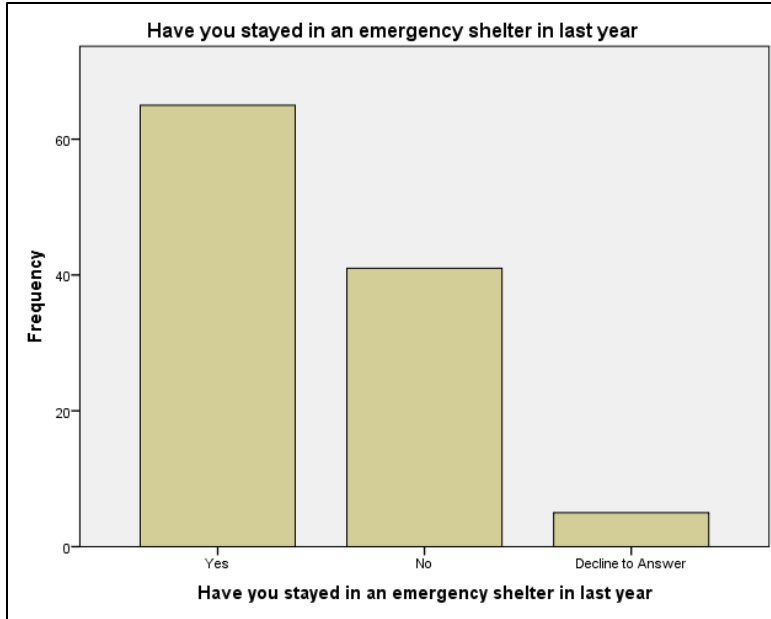


Figure 16 - Graph of have you stayed in an emergency shelter in the last year

Question 7: How Long Have You Been In Thompson?

When asked how long they had been in Thompson, there were a number of periods given. Of the 110 participants, their answers ranged from days, weeks, months, years and always lived here. The following graph shows that just over half (57/51.8%) stated that they had lived in Thompson for years while another six (5.5%) stated that they had always been here. Twenty (18.2%) stated that they had lived in the city for a number of months while 21 (19.1%) had been here for less than a month (14 for weeks and 7 for days). Six (5.5%) stated they either did not know or declined to answer.

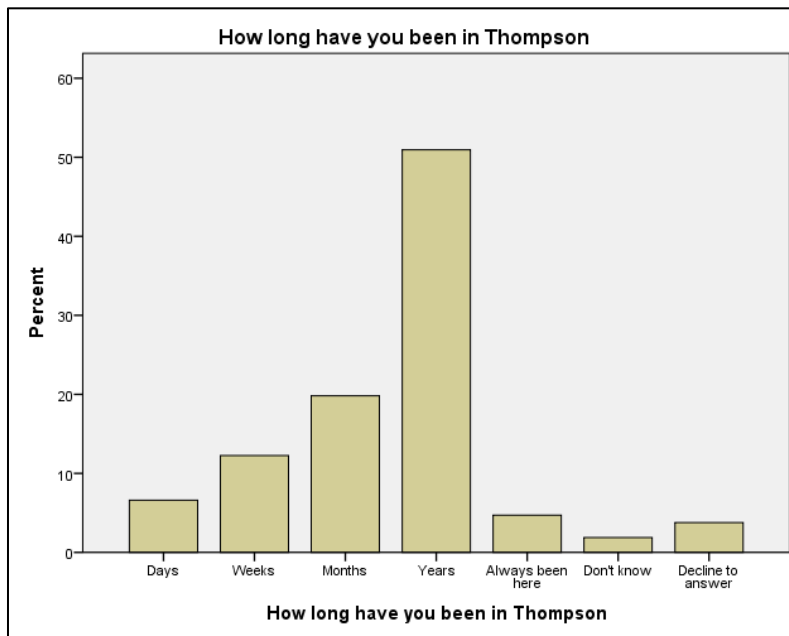


Figure 17 - Graph of how long you have been in Thompson

Over half of the participants stated that they had been living in Thompson for years.

A second part of question 7 asked, “Where did you live before you came here?” The following graph shows a breakdown of the 19 communities mentioned by 88 (80%) of the participants. The vast majority of the answers were for northern First Nations communities in Manitoba. The highest number came from the closest community Nelson House (11/10%). This was followed by Winnipeg (9/8.2%), Oxford House (8/7.3%) and Split Lake (8/7.3%).

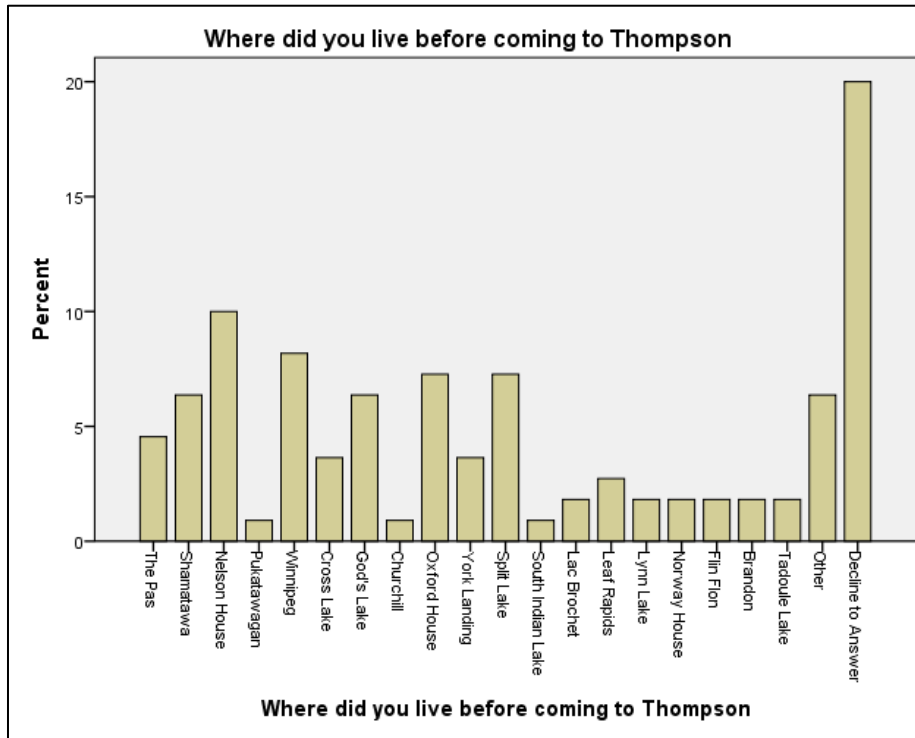


Figure 18 - Graph of where did you live before coming to Thompson

Question 8: Did You Come To Canada As An Immigrant, Refugee Or Refugee Claimant?

Of the 109 participants who answered this question, 108 (99.1%) stated no. One person (0.9%) declined to answer. From this finding, it may be stated that at this time, new settlers are not finding themselves visibly homeless in Thompson. The next question builds on this.

Question 9: Do You Identify As Indigenous Or Do You Have Indigenous Ancestry?

The following graph shows the responses to this question. Of the 110 participants who answered this question, 104 (94.5%) stated that they identify as Indigenous or have Indigenous ancestry. Five participants (4.5%) stated that they did not.

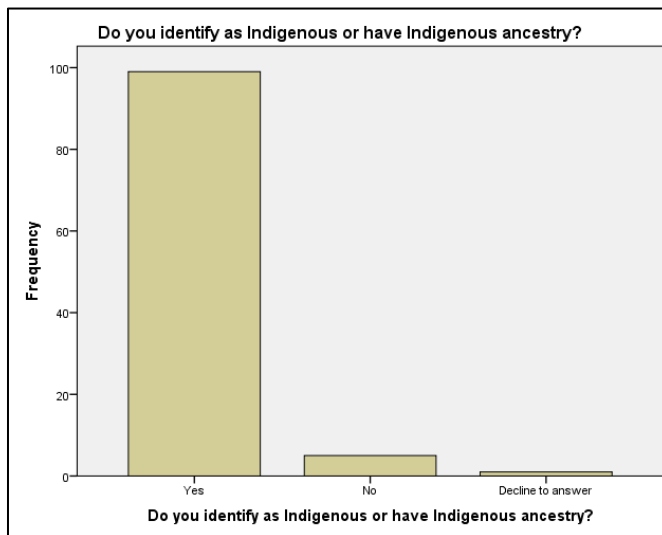


Figure 19 - Do you identify as Indigenous or have Indigenous ancestry?

The second part of question 9 asked those that identified as Indigenous or have Indigenous ancestry to be more specific. The following table shows the results of this inquiry. Ninety-five (95%) of the 100 people who responded to this stated that they identified as First Nation. Two (2%) stated that they were of Metis ancestry and another three (3%) stated that they had Indigenous ancestry.

Indigenous Identity	Frequency	Percentage
First Nation (with or without status)	100	95.2
Inuit	0	0
Metis	2	1.9
Have Indigenous ancestry	3	2.9
Total	100	100

Figure 20 - Indigenous identity

Question 10: Have You Ever Had Any Service In The Canadian Military Or RCMP?

Concerning this question, of the 111 responses 103 (92.8%) responded “no” to this question. Five (4.5%) responded that they had previous military background and two (1.8%) responded that they had

previous RCMP background. One (0.9%) declined to answer. These numbers are shown in the following table.

Service in Military or RCMP	Frequency	Percentage
Yes, Military	5	4.5
Yes, RCMP	2	1.8
No	103	92.8
Decline to answer	1	.9
Total	111	100

Figure 21: Service in Military or RCMP

Question 11: What Gender Do You Identify With?

While there were nine possible responses to this question, the responses from 111 participants were captured in four categories. Sixty-seven (60.4%) stated that they identify as male/man. Thirty-nine (35.1%) stated that they identify as female/woman. In addition, four (3.6%) stated they identify as two-spirited. One person declined to answer. These numbers are illustrated as percentages in the following graph.

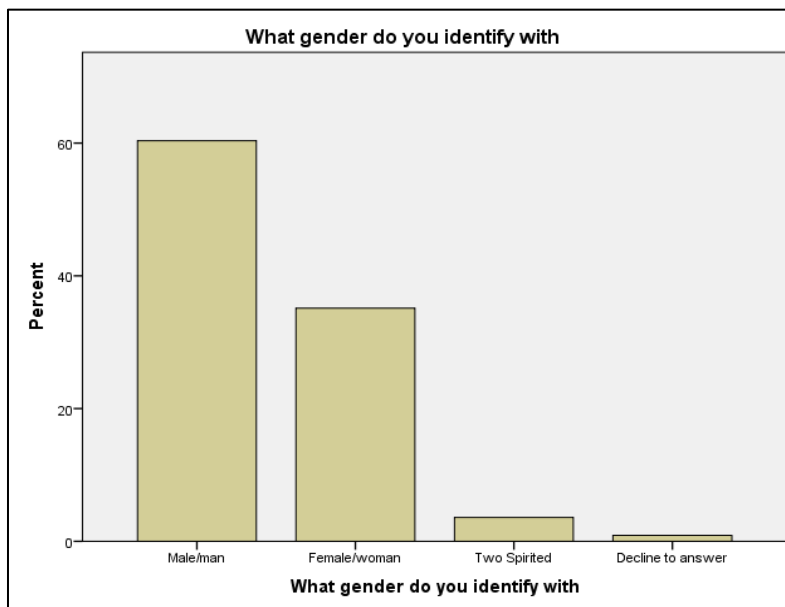


Figure 21 - Gender you identify with

At this time it may be good to look at possible associations between gender and three variables that we already looked at (current age & age first became homeless). We look at a bivariate analysis of gender and age groups first using a 6X4 Crosstab on the next page.

Count Row % Column % Total %	Gender				
Age Group	Male/Man	Female/ Woman	Two-Spirited	Decline to Answer	Total
20-29	17 68% 25.4% 15.5%	8 32% 21.1% 7.3%	0	0	25 22.7%
30-39	12 52.2% 17.9% 10.9%	10 43.5% 26.3% 9.1%	0	1 4.3% 100% 0.9%	23 20.9%
40-49	17 56.7% 25.4% 15.5%	10 33.3% 26.3% 9.1%	3 10% 75% 2.7%	0	30 27.3%
50-59	17 70.8% 25.4% 15.5%	6 25% 15.8% 5.5%	1 4.2% 25% 0.9%	0	24 21.8%
60+	4 50% 6% 3.6%	4 50% 10.5% 3.6%	0	0	8 7.3%
Total	67 60.9%	38 34.5%	4 3.6%	1 0.9%	110 100%

Figure 22 - Bivariate analysis of age groups and gender

For the male/men homeless population, their major age groups are 20-29 years (17/25.4%), 40-49 years (17/25.4%) and 50-59 (17/25.4%). For female/women homeless population, the major age groups are in the 30-39 (10/26.3%) and 40-49 (26.3%) age groups. Two-spirited homeless make up 3.6% (4) of the overall population and are in the 30-39 (3/75%) and 50-59 (1/25%) age groups.

The following graph is also a bivariate analysis. It compares gender to age when first became homeless. In the Bar Chart, you see that of the 60 male/men responses, just over half (35/58.4%) first experienced homelessness in either the “under 20 years” category (19/31.7%) or the 20-29 age category (16/26.7%). For female/women, of the 32 respondents just under half stated to having first experience homelessness in the “under 20 years” category (15/46.9%). This may indicate that female/women are more susceptible to becoming homeless at an earlier age.

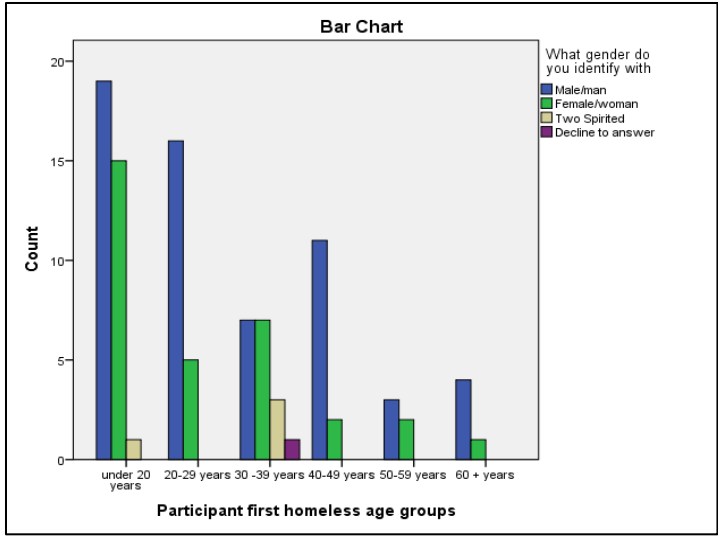


Figure 23 - Bivariate analysis of gender and age when first experience of homelessness

Finally, we will look at the relation between age groups and time spent homeless in last year. The following table provides a brief look at this relationship.

Count Row % Column % Total %	Time Homeless				Total
	Under 6 months	6 months or more	Don't know	Decline to answer	
Age Group					
20-29	6 26% 28% 6%	12 52% 17% 11%	2 9% 33% 2%	3 13% 30% 3%	23 22%
30-39	3 13% 14% 3%	12 52% 17% 11%	3 13% 50% 3%	5 22% 50% 5%	23 22%
40-49	5 17% 24% 5%	23 80% 33% 22%	0 0% 0% 0%	1 3% 10% 1%	29 27%
50-59	5 21% 24% 5%	17 71% 24% 16%	1 4% 17% 1%	1 4% 10% 1%	24 22%
60+	2 25% 10% 2%	6 75% 9% 6%	0 0% 0% 0%	0 0% 0% 0%	8 7%
Total	21 20%	70 65%	6 6%	10 9%	107 100%

Figure 24 - Bivariate analysis of age groups and time homeless

From the above table we can see that those over 40 years of age seem to have the highest rates of chronic homelessness (80% for these 40-49, 71% for those 50-59 and 75% for those 60+). That said just over half of those under 40 years of age also have been chronically homeless in the last year. These numbers and percentages may be higher if we were able to take into consideration the number of participants who either did not know the length of homeless in the last year or declined to answer.

Question 12: How Do You Describe Your Sexual Orientation?

Of the ten possible responses to this question, the responses from 108 participants were captured in seven categories in the following table. The vast majority described themselves as straight/heterosexual (95/88%). The categories of bisexual (4/3.7%) and lesbian (4/3.7%) were the next largest categories.

Sexual Orientation	Frequency	Percentage
Straight/Heterosexual	95	88.0%
Gay	1	0.9%
Lesbian	4	3.7%
Two Spirited	1	0.9%
Bisexual	4	3.7%
Don't know	1	0.9%
Declined to answer	2	1.9%
Total	108	100%

Figure 25 - Sexual orientation

Question 13: What Happened That Caused You To Lose Your Housing Most Recently?

Though not shown the participants, there were 14 possible answers listed in the survey along with an “other reason” category that allowed the volunteer to write in possible answers given by the participant. Participants were encouraged to give as many answers as they needed to answer this question. The following table shows a diverse response to this question from 94 participants. In addition, two stated they did not know and nine declined to give an answer to this question. Please note that, because participants could answer more than once, the total does not reflect individual participants.

Causes of Losing Housing	Frequency	Percentage
Illness or Medical Condition	6	4.2%
Addiction or Substance Use	26	18.1%
Job Loss	11	7.7%
Unable to Pay Rent or Mortgage	11	7.7%
Unsafe Housing Conditions	7	4.9%
Experienced Abuse: Parent/Guardian	4	2.8%
Experienced Abuse: Spouse/Partner	9	6.3%
Family Conflict: Parent/Guardian	15	10.5%
Family Conflict: Spouse/Partner	11	7.7%
Left Care [Child Protection]	0	0
Incarceration	2	1.4%
Hospitalization or Treatment Program	4	2.8%
Other Reason (see below)	37	25.9%
Total	143	100%

Figure 26 - What happened that caused you to lose your home most recently

Answers were given in all categories except Left Care [Child Protection]. The highest reason given from the list was Addiction or Substance Abuse (26/18.1%). This was followed by Family Conflict: Parent/Guardian (15/10.5%), Family Conflict: Spouse/Partner (11/7.1%), Unable to Pay Rent or Mortgage (11/7.1%) and job loss (11/7.1%). The table also shows that 37 participants checked off “other reason”. That said, only 16 of these reasons were noted on the surveys as follows.

Other Reason Given For What Happened That Caused You to Lose Your Housing Most Recently	Student Housing
	Age
	Loss of family member
	Loss of mother (2)
	Lost wife about 3 years ago
	Fires/House/Trailer burnt down (4)
	Unemployment
	Broken leg and lost employment
	CFS and RCMP
	Lack of support
	House sold I was renting
	Divorced
	Eviction (2)
	Money lost to hotel – losing deposit

Figure 27 - Other reasons for what happened that caused you to lose your home most recently

Question 14: What Are Your Sources Of Income?

Similar to the previous question, participants were encouraged to check off all the responses that applied to them individually. Answers from 101 participants (94.4%) to one or more of the categories

are shown in the below table. Two stated they did not know their source of income (1.9%) and four declined to answer this question (3.7%).

Sources of Income	Frequency	Percentage
Employment	20	15%
Informal/Self-employment*	3	2.3%
Employment Insurance	5	3.8%
Welfare/Income Assistance	68	51.1%
GST Refunds	8	6.0%
Disability Benefit	9	6.8%
Senior Benefit(e.g., CPP/OAS/GIS)	8	6.0%
Child and Family Tax Benefits	2	1.5%
Money From Family/Friends	2	1.5%
Other Sources (see below)	8	6.0%
Total	133	100%
*(e.g., bottle returns, panhandling)		

Figure 28 - Sources of income

From the above it is clear that half (68/51.1%) of those that answered this question were receiving welfare/income assistance as a source of income. This was followed by employment (20/15%) and disability benefit (9/6.8%). Eight participants (6%) also answered other sources, with six responses shown in the below table.

Other Sources of Income	Education sponsorship
	Summer job
	Bootlegging/dealing drugs
	Band – last month
	None
	Trapper

Figure 29 - Other sources of income given

This completes the survey questions suggested by the Federal Government’s 2018 Homeless Partnering Strategy. The Community Advisory Board PiT Count Committee developed the following questions, with the hope of capturing additional information that is more regionally specific to Thompson.

Question 15: Have You Or Someone In Your Family Ever Been In A Residential School?

The following graph shows the result to this question.



Figure 30 - Have you or someone in your family ever been in residential school

Of the 107 participants who answered this question, three quarters (82/76.6%) stated that either they or a family member had been to a residential school. This number is broken down in a second part of this question, where 81 participants stated:

Category	Frequency	Percentage
That they had personally been to a residential school	11	13.6%
That another member of their family had been to a residential school	59	72.8%
That both they themselves and another family member had been to a residential school	11	13.6%

Figure 31 - Table of residential school experience

Question 16: Have You or Someone in Your Family Ever Been In Foster Care/Group Home?

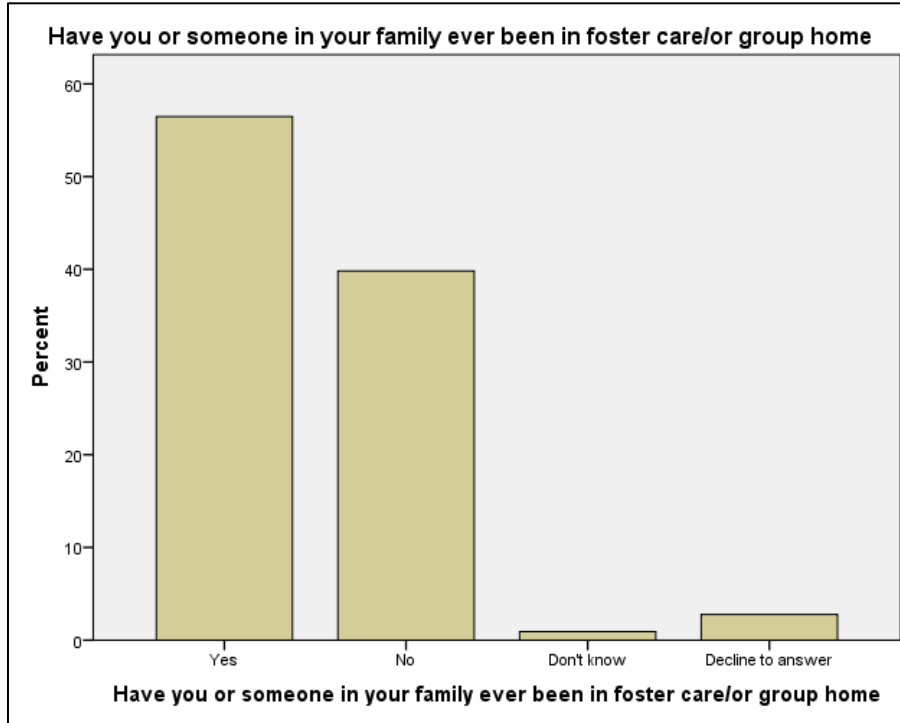


Figure 32 - Have you or someone in your family ever been in foster care

From the above graph, you can see that, of the 108 participants that answered this question, 61 (56.5%) stated that they or a member of their family had been in foster care while and additional 43 (39.8%) stated no to this question. This number is broken down in a second part of this question with the following answers from 59 of those participants:

Category	Frequency	Percentage
That they had personally been In foster care	25	42.4%
That another member of their family had been in foster care	19	32.2%
That both they themselves and another family member had been in foster care	15	25.4%

Figure 33 - Foster care experience

Question 17: Do You Have A Need For Services Related To ...?

For this question, 10 possible answers were provided. The participants were able to check off as many as they felt applied to them. Of the 105 participants that replied to this question, 80 (76.2%) checked off one or more services. Another 11 (10.5%) responded, “don’t know” to the question while 14 (13.3%) declined to answer.

Need for Services	Frequency	Percentage
Chronic/Acute Medical Condition	27	18.2%
Physical Disability	21	14.2%
Learning Disability	11	7.4%
Addiction or Substance Use	54	36.5%
Mental Health	25	16.9%
Brain Injury	4	2.7%
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)	5	3.38%
Pregnancy (if respondent is female)	1	0.7%
Totals	148	100

Figure 34 - Table of do you need services related to

Clearly, the homeless desire support in a number of health related areas. The highest level of need stated is with addictions or substance abuse services (54/36.5%). This is followed by chronic/acute medical condition (27/18.2%), mental health (25/16.9%), and physical disability (21/14.2%).

Question 18: What Is Keeping You From Finding A Place Of Your Own?

For this question, 16 possible answers were provided. The participants were able to check off as many as they felt applied to them. Of the 106 participants that replied to this question, 90 (84.9%) checked off one or more services. One (0.9%) stated don't know to the question while 15 (14.2%) declined to answer.

What is keeping you from finding a place of your own?	Frequency	Percentage
Low Income	44	23.2%
No Income Assistance	7	3.7%
Rents too High	43	22.6%
Poor Housing Conditions	5	2.6%
Family Breakdown/Conflict	8	4.2%
Trauma and Grief	12	6.3%
Domestic Violence	1	0.5%
Addictions	27	14.2%
Mental Health Issues	10	5.3%
Criminal History	6	3.2%
Pets	1	0.5%
Children	1	0.5%
Discrimination	2	1.1%
Don't Want Housing	2	1.1%
Other (see below)	21	11.1%
Total	190	100

Figure 35 - Table of what is keeping you from finding a place of your own

That said, only 16 of these reasons were noted on the surveys. The following are those reasons.

Other Reasons Given	No form of identification to prove
	No Kids
	Can't find housing
	Lack of housing in Thompson
	No official ID's
	Gov't nepotism on reserve
	No places
	Don't know
	Waiting
	Ran out of money
	Friend caused

Figure 36 - Other reasons for keeping you from finding a place of your own

COMPARISON BETWEEN 2015, 2016 & 2018 PIT COUNTS

The three Thompson PiT Counts were done at approximately the same time of the year. The 2015 PiT Count was done in early March; the 2016 PiT Count was done in late February; and the 2018 was done in mid-March. The first comparison looks at the number of participants in each of the three counts.

Category	2015	2016	2018
Sheltered	47 (37.3%)	60 (61.2%)	65 (56.1%)
Unsheltered	79 (62.7%)	38 (38.8%)	47 (43.9%)
Total	126	98	112

Figure 37 - Comparison of the numbers surveyed over the three PiT Counts

Similarities were found in the three PiT Counts about Indigenous identity, gender and age.

Category	2015	2016	2018	
Indigenous Identity	94.5%	90.8%	94.5%	
Gender	Male	51.7 %	56.1%	60.4%
	Female	42.9%	38.8 %	35.1%
Two Spirited			3.6%	
Average Age	42	42	42	
Range	15-76	18-77	20-76	

Figure 38 - Comparison - 2015, 2016 & 2018 Demographics

In terms of chronic and episodic homelessness, the following table compares the findings from each of the three counts. By definition, an individual that has been homeless for six months or more in the past year is considered chronically homeless. An individual who has been homeless three or more times in the last year would fit under the definition of episodically homeless.

Category	2015	2016	2018
Chronic Homelessness	51/81 (63%)	57/98 (58.2%)	70/108 (65%)
Episodic Homelessness	16/83 (19.3%)	31/89 (34.8%)	31/108 (28.7%)

Figure 39 - Comparison - Chronic and Episodic Homelessness

DISCUSSION

The 2018 Thompson Point in Time Count is the third homeless count that has taken place in the City of Thompson. Based on the results, of the 112 participants, 47 (34.5%) were counted on the street and considered unsheltered. In addition 70 (65%) of the participants were considered chronically homeless.

No person was counted at the RCMP holding cells the day of the PiT Count. This is consistent with the last count. A few years ago the RCMP holding cells were used much more by the homeless. In a 2013 photovoice research project conducted in Thompson with homeless people, one participant took a



picture of the RCMP building and commented, “You don’t have to pay when you stay there” (Bonnycastle, 2013). It was further commented that RCMP cells often became a “second hotel” for them when the weather is very cold. It was easier to get in trouble, be picked up and taken to the RCMP cell then stay on the street under such conditions. In 2015, it was observed that overall lower uses of cells may be a sign that things are changing (Graham, Feb 24, 2015).

Figure 40 - The Thompson Homeless Shelter

In the last few years, significant efforts have been made to provide shelter and increase the capacity of beds for homeless people or people at risk of becoming homeless. Some of those initiatives have been the development of the city’s “extreme cold weather” policy, the opening of the 16 bed Minoskanawetaahk and the 12 bed Phoenix House. Recent renovations at the YWCA and Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Center Hostel are also adding additional capacity. These initiatives have all directly provided sheltered places for people to stay. Such initiatives, along with and the deployment of city by-laws enforcement officers have been associated with reducing crime in the city (Graham, February 24, 2015).

Concerns must be noted regarding the over representation of self-declared Indigenous respondents (94.5%). As mentioned earlier in the report it is estimated that 43% of the general population in Thompson are Indigenous. In terms of the homeless, that number doubles to over 90%. In addition, of the 41 (37.3%) that stated that they had relocated to Thompson in the last year, the vast majority of these came from a northern Manitoba community. Both these findings should be considered when addressing homelessness issues in Thompson. At a minimum any way forward must include a more comprehensive understanding of the Northern Manitoba region and circular housing mobility.

In conducting the study it became clear that discrepancies exist regarding the definitions used. A clear example is with the designation given to Minoskanawetaahk (95 Cree Road). For many, this facility is seen as transitional housing and, therefore the occupants are considered to be without permanent housing. Because there is no end date for occupancy, others perceive Minoskanawetaahk as permanent supportive housing. Such discrepancies can lead to uncertainties as to whether the occupants should be counted as homeless or not. As this has been an issue in all of the PiT Counts to date, it is suggested that future surveys must make sure that clear definitions are established.

In a similar tone, the survey had a number of questions regarding the self-declaration of homelessness. Individuals had varying ideas as to what “being homeless” meant and whether they saw themselves as such. Such interpretations were not necessarily consistent with the definitions given in this report. This may have caused some discrepancies in the number given here and may show a need to work on the way questions are posed in future surveys.

A final concern is with the findings related to age. Though chronic homelessness tends to show up in later years (46 or 66% of the participants considered chronic were over 40 years of age), that still leaves 24 or 33% of the participants considered chronic below that age category. In addition, over half (57.7%) of those surveyed stated that they experienced homelessness for the first time before the age of 30. Bivariate analysis confirmed a high percentage of males and females were included in this finding. Findings also show that younger women are overrepresented in their age categories. Close to half of the female participants (47%) were under 40 years as compared to male participants (28%) in the same categories. In addition, one must also take into consideration the 28 children that were listed as accompanying parents. These figures highlight that preventive programming and services are urgently needed in order to make sure that young people do not get caught up in a life of homelessness. In particular, there may be a need to look specifically at creating services and programs that are targeted to these age groups. Increased access to housing for people with children is one example of such.

LIMITATIONS

Limitations to Point-In-Time Count Method

It is well known that there are limitations to a method that measures homelessness only over a 24 hour period. The PiT Count methodology tends to underestimate the number of individuals experiencing homelessness because this is generally a difficult population to contact. For example this count does not count:

- “Couch-surfers” those staying with family and friends and constantly moving around.
- Those not using services such as the Thompson Shelter.
- Those who don’t tend to congregate in public places, but who could be categorized as episodically homeless. Youth particularly come to mind here.
- Those who simply do not want to participate.

- Those who may have temporarily traveled back to their home community for various reasons.

Though this method provides a “snap shot” of what homelessness looks like on one day, it does not necessarily account for seasonal differences in the number of individuals staying in places not meant to be housing. This has led to a number of remarks about holding the count at different times of the year.

Limitations to the survey

While we based the survey questions on recommendations from the Federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy there are some questions that were not self-evident for the volunteers and the participants. Even with some training, there were some questions that were left blank. This is something that can be remedied in the future with simpler language and more interview training.

How widely the surveys were distributed within organizations and the skill of the interviewer was out of our control. Many people working in shelters and transitional housing are extremely busy which may have also resulted in not everyone being surveyed as the residents are coming and going throughout the evening and the next day.

CONCLUSIONS

The results of the 2018 Thompson Homeless PiT Count demonstrate that homelessness continues to remain a significant problem in the City of Thompson. The count provides essential information to government, organizations, and agencies providing services and supports to homeless individuals. It also gives clear information to help the Thompson community find positive solutions to address social problems. This information can also help to promote further initiatives in the community and region.

Over the last few years, Housing First Initiatives in Thompson were able to move some homeless into more permanent housing. This is an approach that has been quite successful in communities across Canada³¹. That said the findings across the three PiT Counts have been relatively consistent in the number of people needing services and support. This may mean that added initiatives and programs are still needed if as a community we are intent on reducing the homeless population in Thompson.

It is the research team's hope that the 2018 PiT Count data will inform future development strategies and action plans, and allow the CAB to continue their collaborative work with members of the social service and business communities, as well as society at large. The aim of more permanent housing is still at the forefront of the CAB and the information provided in this report supports this.

Questions that arose from the 2018 PiT Count and that still need to be addressed are:

- How to address the issues of youth homelessness and aging out of care. This is reflected in the data; particularly that 30.4% of the homeless captured in the survey were under the age of 30. Research emerging in Canada suggests we need to look for new approaches beyond simply providing emergency shelter and housing when responding to youth homelessness.³²
- Permanent housing that is both accessible and affordable – the need for a better understanding of what the barriers are and what possible solutions can be initiated. Paying attention to recent Federal announcement regarding a new National Housing Strategy, particular in areas of public housing that has rent geared to income, may be one important step.
- The need and interest in doing another PiT Count in the future. The research team believes that a fourth PiT Count, besides providing comparisons to the last three counts, might also be able to address some of the limitations discussed above. It is also suggested that the next count occur during the summer/fall to add seasonal variations in the findings.

³¹ Distasio, Sareen & Isaak 2014.

³² Gaetz, S. (2014). Coming of age: Reimagining the response to youth homelessness in Canada. <http://homelesshub.ca/comingofage>

RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT THE NEXT PIT COUNT

The CAB of homelessness outlined some considerations for the next PiT Count:

- That it is not necessary to do a PiT count every year.
- That the next PiT count be done in the summer months. This may be a time when there are more homeless in Thompson.
- Those members of CAB and the Point in Time Homeless Count Committee take a more active role in the activities, particularly on the day of the count.
- It's a lot of work to conduct the PiT count. It will be important to hire an assistant or coordinator for this (perhaps summer student).
- Doing magnet events during the next PiT count – music, haircuts, etc. to draw people in. These events might include sharing circles to give people the opportunity to share their stories with the volunteers. One idea is to have such activities included in the open house at the shelter.

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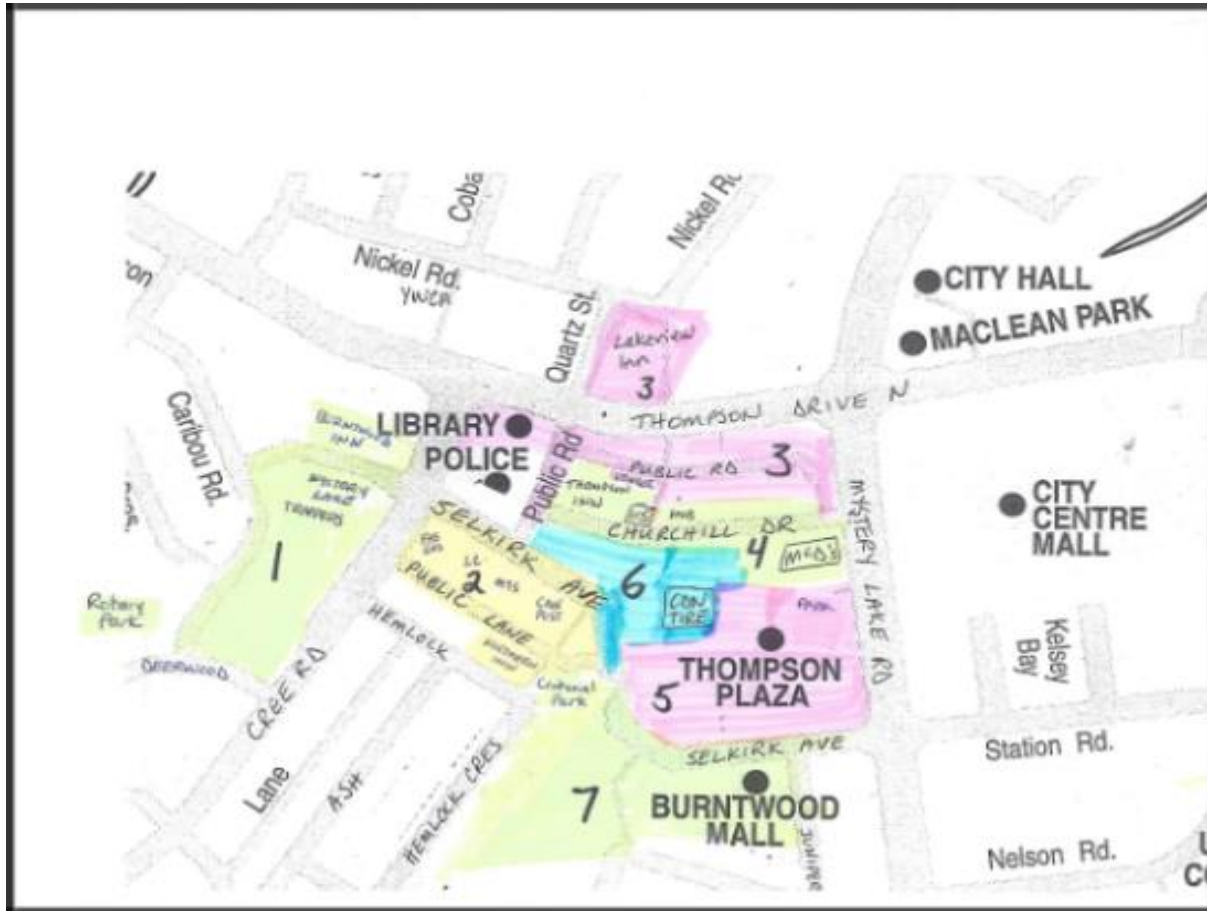
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Appendix A – University of Manitoba Research Ethics Board Certificate

 <p>UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA Research Ethics and Compliance</p> <p>EST. 1877</p>	<p>Human Ethics 208-194 Dafoe Road Winnipeg, MB Canada R3T 2N2 Phone +204-474-7122 Email: humanethics@umanitoba.ca</p>
PROTOCOL APPROVAL	
<p>TO: Colin Bonnycastle Principal Investigator</p> <p>FROM: Kelley Main, Chair Psychology/Sociology Research Ethics Board (PSREB)</p> <p>Re: Protocol #P2017:133 (HS21406) “THOMPSON POINT-IN-TIME COUNT 2018”</p>	
<p>Effective: December 1, 2017 Expiry: December 1, 2018 Psychology/Sociology Research Ethics Board (PSREB) has reviewed and approved the above research. PSREB is constituted and operates in accordance with the current <i>Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans</i>.</p>	
<p>This approval is subject to the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approval is granted only for the research and purposes described in the application.2. Any modification to the research must be submitted to PSREB for approval before implementation.3. Any deviations to the research or adverse events must be submitted to PSREB as soon as possible.4. This approval is valid for one year only and a Renewal Request must be submitted and approved by the above expiry date.5. A Study Closure form must be submitted to PSREB when the research is complete or terminated.6. The University of Manitoba may request to review research documentation from this project to demonstrate compliance with this approved protocol and the University of Manitoba <i>Ethics of Research Involving Humans</i>.	
<p>Funded Protocols: - Please mail/e-mail a copy of this Approval, identifying the related UM Project Number, to the Research Grants Officer in ORS.</p>	
<p>Research Ethics and Compliance is a part of the Office of the Vice-President (Research and International) umanitoba.ca/research</p>	

Appendix B – Map of Search Areas

City of Thompson - Geographical areas where most homeless people used to stay



Search Areas

- Area 1: Mystery Lake Hotel/Trappers
- Area 2: Selkirk Avenue/Public Lane
- Area 3: Thompson Drive/Public Road/ Lakeview Inn
- Area 4: Churchill Drive/Thompson Inn/McDonalds
- Area 5: Thompson Plaza
- Area 6: Canadian Tire
- Area 7: Burntwood Mall/Selkirk Avenue

Appendix C - List of Shelters, Permanent Supportive and Transitional Housing

Addictions Foundation Manitoba (AFM)

Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA)

- **31 McGill/Arrow Path**
- **Minoskanawetaahk (95 Cree Road)**
- **Thompson Homeless Shelter**

Ma Mow We Tak Friendship Centre - Hostel

MAPS - Phoenix House

RCMP

Thompson Crisis Centre (TCC)

Thompson YWCA

Appendix D - University of Manitoba Research Ethics Board Certificate



UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA



Canadian Mental
Health Association
Mental health for all

NORTHERN SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

Thompson point-in-time count 2018

VERBAL INFORMED CONSENT

Hello, would you like a granola bar

My name is _____ (first name only) and I am a volunteer working for the Thompson housing need survey. We are conducting a survey to provide better programs and services to people experiencing homelessness. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete.

Participation is voluntary and your name will not be recorded.

- You can choose to skip any question or to stop the interview at any time.
- Results will contribute to the understanding of homelessness across Canada, and will help with research to improve services.

Important Note: Please know that we will have to share what you tell us in the following circumstances: if you disclose information about plans to harm yourself or others, information concerning any unknown emotional, physical or sexual abuse of children, or information about any other criminal activities not already known to authorities. In these cases, we are required to report this information to the appropriate authorities.

The Thompson homeless PIT count 2018 is funded by the Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy. If you want more information or have concerns about this project, feel free to contact Colin Bonnycastle at 204 677 1452.

This research has been approved by the Psychology/Sociology Research Ethics Board. If you have any concerns or complaints about this project you may contact any of the above-named persons or the Human Ethics Secretariat at 474-7122. A copy of this consent form has been given to you to keep for your records and reference.

DO YOU AGREE TO PARTICIPATE: YES _____ NO _____

If yes, proceed with screening questions. If no, thank the person for their time and record refusal in the unsheltered tally sheet or on the sheltered survey form.

Appendix E1 - Unsheltered survey - Screening Questions and Tally Sheet



**UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA**



**Canadian Mental
Health Association**
Mental health for all

NORTHERN SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

Thompson point-in-time count 2018

UNSHELTERED SURVEY

SCREENING QUESTIONS

A. Have you answered this survey with a person with this [identification e.g., button?]

- 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. Where did you stay last night?

<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER <input type="checkbox"/> OWN APARTMENT/ HOUSE <input type="checkbox"/> 95 CREE ROAD	<input type="checkbox"/> SOMEONE ELSE'S PLACE -> ASK C1 AND C2 <input type="checkbox"/> MOTEL/HOTEL -> ASK C2 <input type="checkbox"/> HOSPITAL, JAIL, PRISON, REMAND CENTRE -> ASK C2	<input type="checkbox"/> EMERGENCY SHELTER, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSITIONAL SHELTER/HOUSING <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC SPACE (E.G., SIDEWALK, PARK, FOREST, BUS SHELTER) VEHICLE (CAR, VAN, RV, TRUCK) <input type="checkbox"/> MAKESHIFT SHELTER, TENT OR SHACK <input type="checkbox"/> ABANDONED/VACANT BUILDING <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER UNSHELTERED LOCATION <input type="checkbox"/> RESPONDENT DOESN'T KNOW [LIKELY HOMELESS]
[THANK & END SURVEY]	[FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS]	[SKIP TO SURVEY QUESTION 1]

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

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

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

- YES **[THANK AND END SURVEY]**
 NO -----> **BEGIN SURVEY**
 DON'T KNOW -----> **BEGIN SURVEY**
 DECLINE **[THANK AND END SURVEY]**



Location: _____ Time: _____ to _____

Interviewer: _____ Contact phone # _____

Instructions: For those who are **not surveyed**, please fill in the sheet below indicating the reason. For those who DECLINE or are OBSERVED only, but who are clearly homeless, please also indicate their gender, approximate age, and the reason you believe they are homeless (e.g., asleep outside with belongings).

#	Location (e.g., building, park, nearest intersection	Reason not Surveyed				* Indicators of Homelessness
		Declined	Already Responded	Screened Out (Response to C)	Observed*	
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						

Appendix E2 - Unsheltered Survey

 <p>UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA</p>	 <p>Canadian Mental Health Association <i>Mental health for all</i></p>
<p>THOMPSON POINT-IN-TIME COUNT 2018 UNSHELTERED SURVEY</p>	
<p>UNSHELTERED SURVEY SURVEY NUMBER: _____</p>	
<p>Location: _____</p>	<p>Time: _____ AM/PM</p>
<p>Interviewer: _____</p>	<p>Contact phone: _____</p>

C. [Surveyor: Indicate overnight location]

<p><input type="checkbox"/> EMERGENCY SHELTER, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> TRANSITIONAL SHELTER</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC SPACE (E.G., SIDEWALKS, SQUARES, PARKS, FOREST, BUS SHELTER)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> VEHICLE (CAR, VAN, RV, TRUCK)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> MAKESHIFT SHELTER, TENT, SHACK</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ABANDONED/VACANT BUILDING</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> OTHER UNSHELTERED LOCATION</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> RESPONDENT DOESN'T KNOW (LIKELY HOMELESS)</p>
<p>BEGIN SURVEY</p>	

1. What family members are with you? [indicate survey number of adults. Check all that apply]

<p><input type="checkbox"/> NONE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PARTNER - Survey #: _____</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> OTHER ADULT - Survey # _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DECLINED TO ANSWER</p>																											
<p><input type="checkbox"/> CHILD(REN)/DEPENDENT(S) [indicate age and gender for each]</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 12.5%;"></td> <td style="width: 12.5%;">1</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;">2</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;">3</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;">4</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;">5</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;">6</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;">7</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Gender</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Age</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Gender									Age								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8																				
Gender																												
Age																												

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

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

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

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

AGE (in years) _____ DON'T KNOW DECLINE TO ANSWER

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

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

5. In total, how many different times have you experienced homelessness over the past year? (Best estimate)

NUMBER OF TIMES _____ (include this time) DON'T KNOW DECLINE TO ANSWER

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

YES NO DON'T KNOW DECLINE TO ANSWER

7. How long have you been in Thompson?

Length _____ Days Weeks Months Years ----->	Where did you live before you came here?
<input type="checkbox"/> Always been here	Community _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	Province _____ or Country _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Decline to answer	<input type="checkbox"/> Declined to answer

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

<input type="checkbox"/> YES, IMMIGRANT ----->	If Yes: How long have you been in Canada?
<input type="checkbox"/> YES, REFUGEE ----->	
<input type="checkbox"/> YES, REFUGEE CLAIMANT ----->	
<input type="checkbox"/> NO	
<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW	
<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER	
	LENGTH: _____ DAYS WEEKS MONTHS YEARS OR DATE: _____ DAY MONTH YEAR
	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW
	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

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

<input type="checkbox"/> YES ----->	if YES,	<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST NATIONS (with or without status)
<input type="checkbox"/> NO		<input type="checkbox"/> INUIT
<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know		<input type="checkbox"/> MÉTIS
<input type="checkbox"/> Decline to answer		<input type="checkbox"/> HAVE ABORIGINAL ANCESTRY

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

<input type="checkbox"/> YES, MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINED TO ANSWER
<input type="checkbox"/> YES, RCMP			

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

<input type="checkbox"/> MALE/MAN	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANS FEMALE/TRANS WOMAN
<input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE/WOMAN	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANS MALE/TRANS MAN
<input type="checkbox"/> TWO-SPIRIT	<input type="checkbox"/> GENDERQUEER/GENDER NON-CONFORMING
<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT LISTED _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

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

<input type="checkbox"/> STRAIGHT/HETEROSEXUAL	<input type="checkbox"/> BISEXUAL
<input type="checkbox"/> GAY	<input type="checkbox"/> QUESTIONING
<input type="checkbox"/> LESBIAN	<input type="checkbox"/> QUEER
<input type="checkbox"/> TWO-SPIRIT	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT LISTED _____
<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

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

<input type="checkbox"/> ILLNESS OR MEDICAL CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY CONFLICT: PARENT OR GUARDIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> ADDICTION OR SUBSTANCE USE	<input type="checkbox"/> LEFT CARE [CHILD PROTECTION]
<input type="checkbox"/> JOB LOSS	<input type="checkbox"/> INCARCERATION (JAIL OR PRISON)
<input type="checkbox"/> UNABLE TO PAY RENT OR MORTGAGE	<input type="checkbox"/> HOSPITALIZATION OR TREATMENT PROGRAM
<input type="checkbox"/> UNSAFE HOUSING CONDITIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER REASON _____
<input type="checkbox"/> EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: PARENT/GUARDIAN _____	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW
<input type="checkbox"/> EXPERIENCED ABUSE: SPOUSE/PARTNER	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY CONFLICT: SPOUSE OR PARTNER	

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

<input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DISABILITY BENEFIT
<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMAL/SELF-EMPLOYMENT (E.G., BOTTLE RETURNS, PANHANDLING)	<input type="checkbox"/> SENIORS BENEFIT (E.G. CPP/OAS/GIS)
<input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	<input type="checkbox"/> CHILD AND FAMILY TAX BENEFITS
<input type="checkbox"/> WELFARE/INCOME ASSISTANCE	<input type="checkbox"/> MONEY FROM FAMILY/FRIENDS
<input type="checkbox"/> GST REFUND	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER SOURCE _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW
	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

15. Have you or someone in your family ever been in a residential school?

<input type="checkbox"/> YES ----->	If Yes, select all that apply
<input type="checkbox"/> NO	
<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW	
<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER	
	<input type="checkbox"/> You
	<input type="checkbox"/> Another family member

16. Have you or someone in your family ever been in foster care/or group homes?

<input type="checkbox"/> YES ----->	If Yes, Select all that apply
<input type="checkbox"/> NO	
<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW	
<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER	
	<input type="checkbox"/> You
	<input type="checkbox"/> Another family member

17. Do you have a need for services related to...? [Read list and check all that apply]

<input type="checkbox"/> CHRONIC/ACUTE MEDICAL CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> BRAIN INJURY
<input type="checkbox"/> PHYSICAL DISABILITY	<input type="checkbox"/> FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER (FASD)
<input type="checkbox"/> LEARNING DISABILITY	<input type="checkbox"/> PREGNANCY (IF RESPONDENT IS FEMALE)
<input type="checkbox"/> ADDICTION OR SUBSTANCE USE	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW
<input type="checkbox"/> MENTAL HEALTH	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
	<input type="checkbox"/> NO

18. What is keeping you from finding a place of your own? [Read list and check all that apply]

<input type="checkbox"/> LOW INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES
<input type="checkbox"/> NO INCOME ASSISTANCE	<input type="checkbox"/> CRIMINAL HISTORY
<input type="checkbox"/> RENTS TOO HIGH	<input type="checkbox"/> PETS
<input type="checkbox"/> POOR HOUSING CONDITIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> CHILDREN
<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY BREAKDOWN/CONFLICT	<input type="checkbox"/> DISCRIMINATION
<input type="checkbox"/> TRAUMA AND GRIEF	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T WANT HOUSING
<input type="checkbox"/> DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> ADDICTION	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

Appendix E3 - Sheltered Survey - Screening questions and Shelter Survey



NORTHERN SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

Thompson point-in-time count 2018

SHELTERED SURVEY

SCREENING QUESTIONS

A. Have you answered this survey with a person with this [identification e.g., button?]

- 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. Are you staying here tonight?

<input type="checkbox"/> YES [BEGIN SURVEY & NOTE ON SURVEY FORM]	<input type="checkbox"/> NO [ASK RESPONDENT TO SPECIFY LOCATION]
--	---

[Surveyor, specify overnight location]

<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER <input type="checkbox"/> OWN APPARTMENT/HOUSE <input type="checkbox"/> SOMEONE ELSE’S PLACE <input type="checkbox"/> MOTEL/HOTEL <input type="checkbox"/> HOSPITAL, JAIL, PRISON, REMAND CENTRE	<input type="checkbox"/> EMERGENCY SHELTER, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSITIONAL SHELTER <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC SPACE (E.G., SIDWALKS, SQUARES, PARKS, FOREST, BUS SHELTER) <input type="checkbox"/> VEHICLE (CAR, VAN, RV, TRUCK) <input type="checkbox"/> MAKESHIFT SHELTER, TENT, SHACK <input type="checkbox"/> ABANDONED/VACANT BUILDING <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER UNSHELTERED LOCATION <input type="checkbox"/> RESPONDENT DOESN’T KNOW (LIKELY HOMELESS)
THANK AND END SURVEY	BEGIN SURVEY & NOTE LOCATION ON SURVEY FORM

SHELTERED SURVEY	Survey Number: _____
Location: _____	Time: _____ AM/PM
Interviewer: _____	Contact phone: _____

[Surveyor: Indicate overnight location]

<input type="checkbox"/> EMERGENCY SHELTER, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSITIONAL SHELTER	Other location: _____
--	-----------------------

BEGIN SURVEY

1. What family members are with you? [indicate survey number of adults. Check all that apply]

<input type="checkbox"/> NONE <input type="checkbox"/> PARTNER - Survey #: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER ADULT - Survey # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINED TO ANSWER																								
<input type="checkbox"/> CHILD(REN)/DEPENDENT(S)	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 12.5%;">1</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;">2</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;">3</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;">4</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;">5</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;">6</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;">7</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">[indicate age and gender for each]</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Gender</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Age</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	[indicate age and gender for each]	Gender								Age						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8																		
[indicate age and gender for each]	Gender																								
	Age																								

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

AGE _____ OR YEAR BORN _____ <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

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

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

AGE (in years) _____ DON'T KNOW DECLINE TO ANSWER

4. In total, how much time have you been homeless over the past year? [Best estimate]

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

5. In total, how many different times have you experienced homelessness over the last year? (Best estimate)

NUMBER OF TIMES _____ (include this time) DON'T KNOW DECLINE TO ANSWER

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

YES NO DON'T KNOW DECLINE TO ANSWER

7. How long have you been in Thompson?

<p>Length _____ Days Weeks Months Years -----></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Always been here <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Decline to answer</p>	<p>Where did you live before you came here?</p> <p>Community _____</p> <p>Province _____ or Country _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Declined to answer</p>
---	--

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

<input type="checkbox"/> YES, IMMIGRANT -----> <input type="checkbox"/> YES, REFUGEE -----> --> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, REFUGEE CLAIMANT -----> <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER	If Yes: How long have you been in Canada? LENGTH: _____ DAYS WEEKS MONTHS YEARS OR DATE: _____ DAY MONTH YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
--	--

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

<input type="checkbox"/> YES -----> <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Decline to answer	if YES, <input type="checkbox"/> FIRST NATIONS (with or without status) <input type="checkbox"/> INUIT <input type="checkbox"/> MÉTIS <input type="checkbox"/> HAVE ABORIGINAL ANCESTRY
---	--

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

<input type="checkbox"/> YES, MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> YES, RCMP	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINED TO ANSWER
--	-----------------------------	-------------------------------------	---

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

<input type="checkbox"/> MALE/MAN <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE/WOMAN <input type="checkbox"/> TWO-SPIRIT <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANS FEMALE/TRANS WOMAN <input type="checkbox"/> TRANS MALE/TRANS MAN <input type="checkbox"/> GENDERQUEER/GENDER NON-CONFORMING <input type="checkbox"/> NOT LISTED _____ <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
--	---

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

<input type="checkbox"/> STRAIGHT/HETEROSEXUAL	<input type="checkbox"/> BISEXUAL
<input type="checkbox"/> GAY	<input type="checkbox"/> QUESTIONING
<input type="checkbox"/> LESBIAN	<input type="checkbox"/> QUEER
<input type="checkbox"/> TWO-SPIRIT	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT LISTED _____
<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

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

<input type="checkbox"/> ILLNESS OR MEDICAL CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY CONFLICT: PARENT OR GUARDIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> ADDICTION OR SUBSTANCE USE	<input type="checkbox"/> LEFT CARE [CHILD PROTECTION]
<input type="checkbox"/> JOB LOSS	<input type="checkbox"/> INCARCERATION (JAIL OR PRISON)
<input type="checkbox"/> UNABLE TO PAY RENT OR MORTGAGE	<input type="checkbox"/> HOSPITALIZATION OR TREATMENT PROGRAM
<input type="checkbox"/> UNSAFE HOUSING CONDITIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER REASON _____
<input type="checkbox"/> EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: PARENT/GUARDIAN _____	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW
<input type="checkbox"/> EXPERIENCED ABUSE: SPOUSE/PARTNER	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY CONFLICT: SPOUSE OR PARTNER	

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

<input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DISABILITY BENEFIT
<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMAL/SELF-EMPLOYMENT (E.G., BOTTLE RETURNS, PANHANDLING)	<input type="checkbox"/> SENIORS BENEFIT (E.G. CPP/OAS/GIS)
<input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	<input type="checkbox"/> CHILD AND FAMILY TAX BENEFITS
<input type="checkbox"/> WELFARE/INCOME ASSISTANCE	<input type="checkbox"/> MONEY FROM FAMILY/FRIENDS
<input type="checkbox"/> GST REFUNDS	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER SOURCE _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW
	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

15. Have you or someone in your family ever been in a residential school?

<input type="checkbox"/> YES -----> <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER	If Yes, select all that apply <input type="checkbox"/> You <input type="checkbox"/> Another family member
---	---

16. Have you or someone in your family ever been in foster care/or group homes?

<input type="checkbox"/> YES -----> <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER	If Yes, Select all that apply <input type="checkbox"/> You <input type="checkbox"/> Another family member
---	---

17. Do you have a need for services related to...? [Read list and check all that apply]

<input type="checkbox"/> CHRONIC/ACUTE MEDICAL CONDITION <input type="checkbox"/> PHYSICAL DISABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> LEARNING DISABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> ADDICTION OR SUBSTANCE USE <input type="checkbox"/> MENTAL HEALTH	<input type="checkbox"/> BRAIN INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER (FASD) <input type="checkbox"/> PREGNANCY (IF RESPONDENT IS FEMALE) <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
---	---

18. What is keeping you from finding a place of your own? [Read list and check all that apply]

<input type="checkbox"/> LOW INCOME <input type="checkbox"/> NO INCOME ASSISTANCE <input type="checkbox"/> RENTS TOO HIGH <input type="checkbox"/> POOR HOUSING CONDITIONS <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY BREAKDOWN/CONFLICT <input type="checkbox"/> TRAUMA AND GRIEF <input type="checkbox"/> DOMESTIC VIOLENCE <input type="checkbox"/> ADDICTION	<input type="checkbox"/> MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES <input type="checkbox"/> CRIMINAL HISTORY <input type="checkbox"/> PETS <input type="checkbox"/> CHILDREN <input type="checkbox"/> DISCRIMINATION <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T WANT HOUSING <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
--	--

Appendix F - Script for Debriefing with Participants



NORTHERN SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

THOMPSON POINT-IN-TIME COUNT 2018

SCRIPT FOR DEBRIEFING WITH PARTICIPANTS

Thank you for doing this survey. If there are any questions that you would like to ask me, please feel free to do so. You have participated in the Thompson homeless PIT count 2018. This count will help to improve housing and support for people who have no housing.

The answers that you gave today will be combined with those of other homeless people, to write a report that summarizes all of the findings. A summary of the results from the interviews will be prepared for the Community Action Board, and a more detailed summary will be distributed among service providers, government offices and local universities. These summaries will be available in May 2018.

Once again, thank you for participating in this interview. Your time and the information that you shared is very valuable.

Appendix G - Community Counselling Resources



UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA



Canadian Mental
Health Association
Mental health for all

NORTHERN SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

THOMPSON POINT-IN-TIME COUNT 2018 COMMUNITY COUNSELLING RESOURCES

- **Rhonda Heskin**
Self Help Coordinator
Canadian Mental Health Association, Thompson
Manitoba Schizophrenia Society, Northern Outreach Coordinator
P: 204-677-6056
- **Cynthia Lathlin**
Indigenous Liaison Worker
Thompson Clinic
Northern Health Region
P: 204-677-1776
- **Adam Driscoll**
Recovery Support Navigator
Hope North Recovery Services
Northern Health Region
P: 204-778-9977

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

2018 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

The Canadian Mental Health Association Thompson in affiliation with the Thompson Community Advisory Board on Homelessness are seeking community support and recruitment in order to undertake this count

Should you be interested in volunteering, please connect with one of the contacts specified above under Volunteers needed

**The Point-In-Time count will be held on:
Tuesday, March 13, 2018 - EVENING and
Wednesday March 14, 2018 from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

The Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) is supporting a coordinated community homeless count across Canada in 2018 using the Point-in-Time (PiT) Count methodology. The count will provide vital information to participating communities about their homeless population, and contribute to the understanding of homelessness in Canada.

**For more information, please visit the
HPS Website address below:**

http://www.esdc.gc.ca/eng/communities/homelessness/point_in_time.shtml

CONTACTS

Darren Fulford
204-677-6057

housing@
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Appendix I - Volunteer Sign up Form



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NORTHERN SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

**THOMPSON POINT-IN-TIME COUNT 2018
Volunteer Registration Form**

Name	Phone	Email

Appendix J - Volunteer Duties Sheet



NORTHERN SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

THOMPSON POINT-IN-TIME COUNT 2018 Volunteer Duties Sheet

Responsibilities	Name	Phone	Email
Survey Questionnaire & Distribution			
Communications & Advertising			
Honorariums & gift bags			
Volunteer/Agency Recruitment			
Logistics			
Report and Knowledge Distribution			
Ethics – Uof M Ethics - NHR			
Training volunteers and agencies			

Appendix K - Volunteer Oath of Confidentiality



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THOMPSON POINT-IN-TIME COUNT 2018

Research Assistant, student, volunteer Agreement Oath of Confidentiality

(Print name)

understand that all of the information I have access to related to the study entitled: *Thompson PIT count 2018* must be kept confidential. In order to ensure participant privacy and confidentiality of information I agree that I will not disclose or discuss any information disclosed by study participants. My signature below indicates my pledge to maintain the confidentiality of all information revealed to me through the interviews and/or transcription of participant interviews.

(Signature)

(Date)

Appendix L - Volunteer Receipt of Honorarium



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Acknowledgement of Receipt of Honorarium

I acknowledge that I have received a \$30.00 honorarium for my collaboration with the research project titled: *Thompson Pit Count 2018*

\$30.00 Received

First & Last Name (Volunteer) (Recipient's Initials) (Date)

(Witness signature)