

2016 Homelessness Partnering Strategy Point-in-Time Count Thompson, Manitoba



**NORTHERN SOCIAL
WORK PROGRAM**



**FACULTY OF ARTS,
BUSINESS AND SCIENCE**



**COMMUNITY
ADVISORY BOARD
ON HOMELESSNESS**

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FOREWORD

Homelessness is a social issue that is complex and not unique to Thompson, Manitoba. For some, homelessness is simply caused by a shortage of affordable housing. While this is one component of the causes of homelessness, the north also has a long colonial history that has impacted Aboriginal peoples and communities. The legacy of residential schools, the 60's scoop of Aboriginal children being placed into care as well as relocation due to hydro development are all aspects of colonization in northern Manitoba that have impacted Aboriginal communities to this day. Interconnected with these issues are often poor housing conditions and overcrowding in some of the surrounding communities, as well as addiction and mental health conditions. Whatever the underlying reasons, homelessness clearly results in the exclusion and marginalization of some groups in a region where homelessness often has dire consequences.

A number of initiatives have already begun and every year some gains are made in reducing the number of homeless in the community. The 2016 Point in Time Homeless Count is the second attempt to provide a more accurate count of homeless people currently in Thompson. 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 working in partnership and community engagement around an issue that directly or indirectly touches us all. From the start this 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 Homeless Partnering Strategy (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 Count in 2015 and 2016 (Thompson Community Advisory Board for Homelessness, 2014).

In 2016 the Government of Canada's HPS supported coordinated community homeless counts in communities across Canada using the PiT Count methodology. These counts will provide vital information to participating communities about their homeless population, and contribute to the understanding of homelessness in Canada.

This 2016 PiT count was conducted in collaboration with faculty members, staff and students, of the University of Manitoba, Northern Social Work Program and the University College of the North (UCN), Faculty of Arts, Business and Science, as well as the homeless, partners of this initiative and staff from other agencies & community members.

University of Manitoba, Faculty of Social Work, Northern Social Work Program

The Northern Social Work Program (NSWP) is an extension of the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Social Work on the Fort Garry Campus. It has offered a bachelor in social work (BSW) degree to northern Manitobans for the last 32 years. The NSWP is designed for mature students who, without the support of the program, would be unable to successfully complete a university degree due to lack of financial resources, lack of academic qualifications, remote location, and cultural barriers.

University College of the North (UCN), Faculty of Arts, Business and Science

The Faculty of Arts, Business and Science, offers a variety of programs, including degrees in Aboriginal and Northern Studies, Business, English and History, Social Science, as well as a minor in science. This faculty also offers diploma and certificate programs, including Aboriginal Human Resource Management, Business Administration, Community Development Administration, Natural Resources Management Technology, and Office Administration. Programs are offered in a variety of locations in northern Manitoba, bringing education 'close to home', wherever possible

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 continuing to contribute to the 2016 PiT Count. Also 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), Men Are Part of the Solutions (MAPS), Boys and Girls Club - Youth Build Program, Youth Aboriginal Council (R. D. Parker High School), Students Making a Change (SMAC) at Burntwood Elementary School, Thompson Homeless Shelter, Minoskanawetaahk (95 Cree Road), 31 McGill, Arrow's Path, Thompson Crisis Centre, YWCA Thompson, Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, and the Ma Mow We Tak Friendship Centre.

Also, many thanks to the local volunteers who assisted with data collection including staff from agencies who completed the sheltered survey and those who completed the unsheltered survey: second year students from the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Social Work, RCMP, Residents of Phoenix House (MAPS), UCN instructors, CMHA, and community/agency volunteers. 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 was of great benefit to the study.

Also, special thanks and appreciation to the individuals experiencing homelessness for participating in the survey.

Thank you to each of the following agencies, who participated in the PiT count, met with the research team and completed the survey:

- Addictions Foundation Manitoba (AFM)
- Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA):
 - o 31 McGill/Arrow's Path
 - o Thompson Homeless Shelter
 - o Minoskanawetaahk (95 Cree Road)
- Ma Mow We Tak Friendship Centre - Hostel
- Men Are Part of the Solution (MAPS) - Phoenix House
- RCMP
- Thompson Crisis Centre (TCC)
- Thompson YWCA

A special acknowledgement goes to Elder Jack Robinson who has always been a valuable part of the research team; he brings his wisdom and personal experience. Much appreciation goes to Tina McKay and Keyra Hayter, the research assistants for this project for their enormous support and dedication to this project. Thanks also to Leanne Grenier, the Thompson Housing Agency Coordinator/Community

Entity for her guidance and support in preparing the proposal and the PiT count planning and organization process. Special thanks go to Christina Moody, the Thompson Homeless Shelter co-ordinator and to the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) for the healthy, warm lunch that was provided on the day of the count.

Finally, we want to acknowledge the support of our two universities when conducting this collaborative research: the University of Manitoba Northern Social Work Program and the University College of the North, Faculty of Arts, Business and Science. In particular, we want to thank the Research Ethics Boards (REBs) from both universities 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 - Volunteers completing forms as part of the PiT Count

KEY FINDINGS

Total count results

- On the evening of February 23 and during the day of February 24th, 2016, 118 individuals were considered homeless

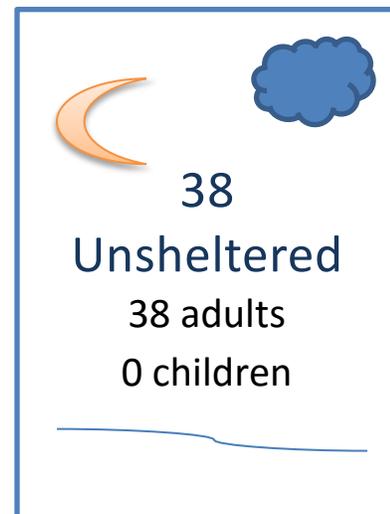
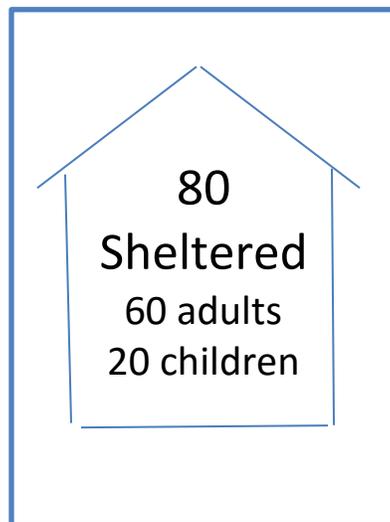
Sheltered Versus Unsheltered Homeless

- 38 (38.8%) of the participants were counted on the street (unsheltered) and 60 (61.2%) were staying in transitional facilities (sheltered).
- 57 (58%) of the homeless people were considered chronic.

Demographics

- 56.1% were male and 38.8% were female.
- The mean age was 42 (range 18-72) and the majority were between 30-59 years of age (63.3%).
- 27 (28%) stated that they first became homeless before the age of 20.
- 89 (90.8%) identified themselves as Aboriginal.
- 36 (36.7%) had moved to Thompson in the last year.
- 43 (43.9%) had been involved in the foster care system.
- 80 (81.7%) have some secondary or high school or have graduated from high school.
- 78 (79.6%) declared that they wanted permanent housing.
- 53 (57.6%) stated that addiction services was a major need.

118
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, Aboriginal 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.

Homelessness

Those who do not have a safe, affordable, appropriate, permanent housing to which they can return whenever they choose.¹

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. The supports are provided by 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. 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.²

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

¹ Calgary Homeless Foundation (2014) *Point in Time Count Report*.

² see <https://pathwaystohousing.org/housing-first-model>.

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.³

³ Paulette Carriere Simkins (personal communication, April 16th, 2015).



Figure 3 - Volunteers getting ready to start the 2016 PiT Homeless Count

INTRODUCTION

Definition of Homelessness

The purpose of the 2016 Point in Time (PiT) Count was to survey homeless adults in Thompson on the evening of February 23rd and during the day on February 24th, 2016. This PiT Count was part of a larger national initiative by the Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS). The HPS supported coordinated community homeless counts across Canada in 2016 using the PiT Count methodology. As the first attempt at using this coordinated approach, it will provide vital information to participating communities about their homeless population, provide comparative analysis and contribute to the understanding of homelessness in Canada.

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.⁴ For the Count, we were able to capture individuals classified as “chronically” and “episodically” homeless.

Chronically homeless is understood as 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.

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 living in permanent supportive and/or transitional housing may also identify as chronic or episodically homeless individuals because these facilities are not seen by residents as permanent. While people may stay at these facilities for months or even years, these are not considered permanent residences. Minoskanawetaahk, the Ma-Mow-We-Tak Hostel, the Thompson Crisis Centre or MAPS (Men are Part of the Solution) often fit this perception (see Appendix C).

Based on studies done in other northern locations, those who tend to be in these various states of homelessness are often single-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.⁵

⁴ Calgary Homeless Foundation (2014) *Point in Time Count Report*.

⁵ Qulliiit Nunavut Status of Women (2007); Kidd et al. (2013); George and O'Neill (2011); Stewart and Ramage (2011).

Situating Homelessness in Northern Manitoba⁶

The city of Thompson is the largest semi-urban center in northern Manitoba and is situated 750 kilometers north of Winnipeg. 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 people. The average age of a Thompson resident is 30.6, well below the provincial median age of 38. Regionally, the area surrounding Thompson has a median age of only 24, and this trend is growing within the region’s Aboriginal communities. In communities such as Garden Hill and Split Lake, the average age is under 20. Thompson’s current population is estimated as 36% Aboriginal (McKinnon & Lafreniere, 2009). The city is located on the territory of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation⁷.

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.⁸ At present, Thompson’s population is estimated at closer to 12, 829. 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%⁹. The 2009 drop in housing prices has been observed as a balancing out of housing prices from the highs recorded in 2008, and the result of a slower local economy. As of November 2010, the average price is \$219,284, a 10% decrease from the 2008 high, and a 23% increase from 2009.¹⁰ By 2012, the average price of a house was \$199,998.¹¹

In Thompson, 58% of private dwellings are owned and 42% are rented.¹² Rental rates in Thompson are high in relation to the provincial average. As of April 2012, bachelor units rented for \$548 per month, 1-bedroom units for \$699 and 2-bedroom units for \$771. While these prices might be manageable for professionals, they remain restrictive for those in service roles and students moving to Thompson for

⁶ “Situating Homelessness in Northern Manitoba” has been excerpted in part from Bonnycastle, M; Simpkins M.; Siddle, A. (forthcoming) The Inclusion of Indigenous Voice in co-constructing “home”: A case of Indigenous Homelessness in a northern semi-urban community in Manitoba. In *Aboriginal Homelessness in Canada, New Zealand and Australia*. Evelyn Peters and Julia Christensen (Editors), University of Manitoba Press.

⁷ Thompson Economic Diversification Working Group, 2012.

⁸ FemNorthNet Project 2012, 5

⁹ Manitoba Real Estate Association

¹⁰ Thompson Community Advisory Board for Homelessness (2011) *Community Plan 2011-2014*.p.3.

¹¹ Thompson Unlimited (2013) Thompson, Manitoba: A Community Profile 2013-2014.

¹² Ibid Thompson Unlimited (2013).

higher education, migrants and Aboriginal families without secure employment including single mothers looking for larger units.¹³

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. Sometimes it is simply a matter of survival that brings people to the city—for example, fleeing a violent family member or being kicked out of an overcrowded house on reserve. The 2006 Canadian census showed that overcrowding and lack of major repairs remained a significant problem on reserves (Statistics Canada, cited in Peters & Robillard, 2009). Lack of resources in the First Nations and northern communities reinforces such needs to move to Thompson. Mental health, domestic violence and social issues such as racism all intersect with housing needs in northern communities; and in the case of Aboriginal people, these issues are associated with colonization and relocation.¹⁴

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 child care, and accessible job training. According to the 2014, "Community Advisory Board on Homelessness: 2014-2019 Community Plan", "there is a near zero vacancy rental rate. Also 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" (p. 17). In addition, newcomers often arrive with a lack of life skills and education, lack credit and housing references, and/or face mental health issues. Some within a short period of time become involved with alcohol and drug addiction. A number of positive initiatives and strategies have been developed to help with an easier transition into the city.

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.¹⁵ 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 Aboriginal People in the region's history and affirms the city's commitment to strengthen relationships with Aboriginal 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.¹⁶

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 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,

¹³ The Thompson Economic Diversification Working Group (2012) *Housing Action Plan*. Final Report.

¹⁴ Christensen 2012; MacKinnon 2010; Hart 2010; Fernandez, MacKinnon, and Silver 2010; Hart et al. 2015.

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

¹⁶ City of Thompson 2013b.

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 organizations¹⁷; 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 0% , and its young population, combined with an aging/static housing stock and rising prices, together produce a major housing crisis.¹⁸ The emergency shelter beds are split between a homeless shelter, a women's crisis centre, and an addiction treatment centre and transition hostel. The Ma-Maw-We-Tak Friendship Centre and the Additions Foundation of Manitoba (AFM) 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.¹⁹ 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.²⁰ 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 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 new 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 has 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, Aboriginal people, people with mental health issues and people with addiction.²¹

¹⁷ Siddle, 2013.

¹⁸ City of Thompson, 2014; FemNorthNet Project 2012.

¹⁹ Thompson Economic Diversification Working Group 2012, 15.

²⁰ City of Thompson 2013a

²¹ 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 second 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. The Sheltered individuals were counted in the homeless shelter as well as in transitional housing. The Sheltered count was conducted by midnight staff in each of facilities and unsheltered surveys were conducted by volunteers. To prepare the proposal and develop the methodology, the research team consulted PiT counts from Calgary, Edmonton and the Canadian Point-in-Time Count – Methodology and Toolkit – A guide for participating communities (DRAFT) Calgary Homeless Foundation, 2014)

Ethics

Ethics approval was requested and approved by the University of Manitoba and UCN by the Ethics Boards of the two universities and from the Northern Health Region. Copies of the Ethics Board Certificates are 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 two surveys (sheltered and unsheltered) were reviewed by the CAB-PiT Count Subcommittee. This review included content and comprehension of the surveys. The subcommittee also recommended a

number of additional questions be added to this year's survey to provide additional information for service providers in order to improve programs and services. A group from the Federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy also reviewed the surveys. As a result several new questions were added to the 2016 PiT Count. These included questions regarding experience with residential school; sources of income; experience with the foster care system; and recent barriers to finding a place to live. These questions were specifically requested by CAB and service providers. 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. A poster was distributed to the homeless shelter, transitional houses, agencies, universities and public places (See Appendix M).
2. Two radio interviews were conducted, one by a member of the research team and the other by two members of the Point in Time Committee. Both were done the week of the count.
3. An article was published by the Thompson Citizen (See Appendix N).

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. Three training sessions were completed on February 10th, 11th and 22nd, 2016. 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 2016 Thompson PiT Count research team developed two surveys and several additional forms to be completed by volunteers working on the count. Both surveys and all other forms that were used are included in Appendixes D1-D6 and titles and descriptions listed in figure 4 below.

The Sheltered Homeless People Survey (Appendix D5) was used within the different facilities participating in the count, and the Unsheltered Homeless People Survey (Appendix D2) 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.

The questions included in the surveys were chosen from the Federally coordinated PiT Count as well as from suggestions by the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness ([2015](#)). 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. The CAB PiT Count Committee considered potential ethical issues of asking questions about sensitive information in a short period of time. As such they decided to

not include questions about addictions or mental health but did opt to include questions about residential school experience and experience in the foster care system.

FORMS		DESCRIPTION
Appendix D - Surveys and forms	D1 - Unsheltered survey - Screening questions	To be filled out by volunteers conducting street count
	D2 - Unsheltered Survey	To be filled out by volunteers conducting street count
	D3 – Unsheltered Tally Sheet	To be filled out by volunteers conducting street count
	D4 - Sheltered Survey - Screening questions	To be filled out by volunteers conducting the shelter count
	D5 - Sheltered Survey	To be filled out by volunteers conducting the shelter count
	D6 – Sheltered Tally Sheet	To be filled out by volunteers conducting the shelter count
Appendix E - Volunteer Sign up Form		Filled out by volunteers
Appendix F - Volunteer Oath of Confidentiality		Filled out by volunteers
Appendix G - Volunteer Receipt of Honorarium		Filled out by volunteers
Appendix H - Facility Bed Capacity Form		To be filled out by volunteers within participating facilities
Appendix I - Verbal Informed Consent Script		Provide necessary information for participants to give informed consent
Appendix J - Script for Debriefing with Participants		To thank survey participants
Appendix K - Community Counselling Resources		To provide to survey participants if requested
Appendix L - Important Numbers		Information for volunteers, includes emergency and research team contact numbers
Appendix M - Volunteer Recruitment Poster		Poster distributed to recruit volunteers
Appendix N - Thompson Citizen Article		Article published in the Thompson Citizen about the PiT C

Figure 4 - Other Forms Used for the 2016 Thompson PiT Count

Search Maps

A “search maps” sub-committee with representatives from the RCMP and the City of Thompson was in charge of creating the search maps. First, the PiT Committee identified areas where most homeless people commonly stay (see Appendix B). Based on this information the sub-committee prepared search maps that were used by each of the survey teams. On the day of the count 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 tuques, socks, neck warmers, lighters, juice and granola bars for each of the participants in the evening and the day count. In addition Students Making a Change (SMAC) at Burntwood School distributed 40 gift bags at the shelter lunch to participants.

Night Facility Count (Sheltered Homeless)

To capture the number of homeless people sheltered on the evening of February 23, 2016 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 195 beds were available as temporary housing for potentially homeless in Thompson. 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 by Individuals	# of beds used by Families
Homeless Shelter	24	24	0	24	0
Minoskanawetaahk	16	16	0	13	0
31 McGill	4	4	0	4	0
Phoenix House	12	8	0	8	0
TCC	52	21	31	21	28
YWCA	85	55	30	22	8
Ma Mow We Tak Hostel	not specified	not specified	not specified	not specified	not specified
RCMP Holding Cells*	3	3	0	3	0
AFM	not specified	not specified	not specified	not specified	not specified
Totals	196	131	61	95	36

Figure 5 - Summary of Beds Available

Day Street Count (Unsheltered Homeless)

The day street count involved conducting surveys on the street on February 24, 2016 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 one volunteer with lived experience of homelessness, one volunteer from the UM-NSWP second year students and one community or community agency volunteer. Surveyors were identified with an arm band and 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 a 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 Participants (counted and observed)

The total counted, observed and declined numbers of the PiT Count are captured in figure 6.

Counted and observed people	Frequency	Percentage
Total adults (counted + observed + declined)	143	85.1
Total children (counted + observed)	25	14.9
Total counted + observed + declined	168	100.0

Figure 6 - Counted and observed people

In total 98 adults completed surveys in shelters and on the street. As shown in figure 7, 61.2% of these were sheltered and 38.8% were unsheltered.

Homeless people counted	Frequency	Percentage
Sheltered Adults	60	61.2
Unsheltered Adults	38	38.8
Total adults Counted	98	100.0

Figure 7 - Sheltered & Unsheltered counted adults

In addition, the participants were able to include information on any children that may be accompanying them. The next table captures this.

Group of counted people	Frequency	Percentage
Children with sheltered mothers (counted)	20	16.9
Total adults counted	98	83.1
Total homeless people counted (Adults + children)	118	100.0

Figure 8 - Adults and children counted

This increased the total to 118 people who were counted as homeless in Thompson on February 23-24, 2016. By including 20 children with mothers who were counted at the Thompson Crisis Centre and the YWCA, 67.8% of the total was therefore counted in shelters.

In addition, a tally sheet was used in order to include those people who were approached or observed but not included into the count as they may have declined to participate, were already counted, or were screened out.

Not counted people		Frequency	Percentage
Observed	Adults	18	36.0
	Children	5	10.0
Screening out		2	4.0
Declined		25	50.0
Total not counted but included in the tally sheet		50	100.0

Figure 9 - Observed and not counted people

The above chart shows 50 people who were homeless but were not counted. This number includes 18 adults and 5 children who were observed on the street or at either the RCMP cells shelters/agencies and the hospital. In addition, 2 who were screened out and 25 who declined to be counted.

In general, the picture of homelessness in Thompson on February 23-24, 2016 showed 168 people who were counted, approached but declined or observed. From this total 15% were children in shelters.

Family Members with Counted Homeless People

Family Member	Frequency	Percent
None	56	51.1
Partner	4	4.1
Other Adult	9	9.2
Declined to answer	8	8.2
Children	10	10.2
Total	87	88.8
Missing Data	11	11.2
Total	98	100.0

Figure 10 - Family members with counted adults

From the total counted homeless people, over half were without another family member while 10 (10.2%) were accompanied with children. Another 13 were accompanied by a partner or other adult.

Participants Age

The average age of participants was 41.4 years in a range between 18 to 77 years old.

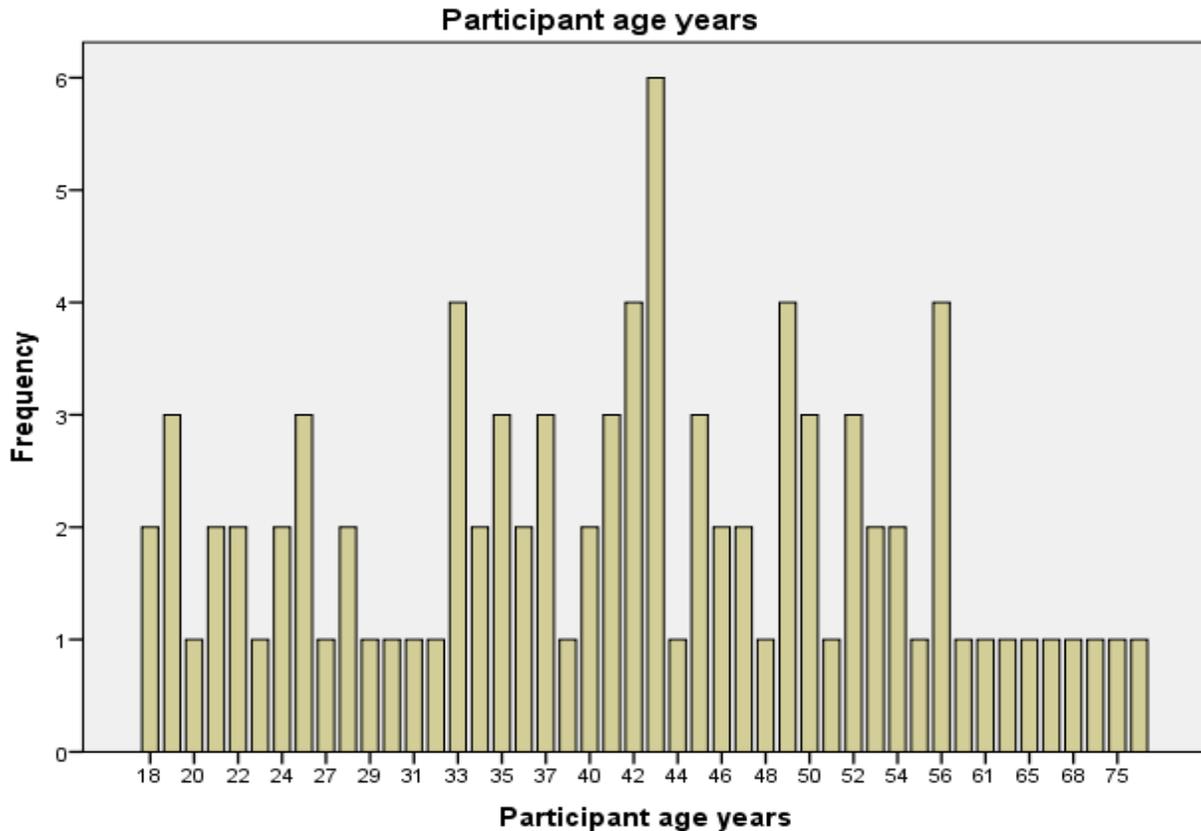


Figure 11 - Percentage of Age of adults surveyed

In the next table these numbers are clustered into six age groups in order to provide further analysis.

Age Group	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Under 20	6	6.1	6.5
20-29	16	16.3	23.9
30-39	18	18.4	43.5
40-49	28	28.6	73.9
50-59	16	16.3	91.3
60+	8	8.2	100.0
Total	92	93.9	
Missing Data	6	6.1	
Total	98	100.0	

Figure 12 - Age Group of homeless adults

This table shows that 73.9% of the participants were 49 years or younger. This percentage does not include the 20 children who were with mothers at the Thompson Crisis Centre and the YWCA.

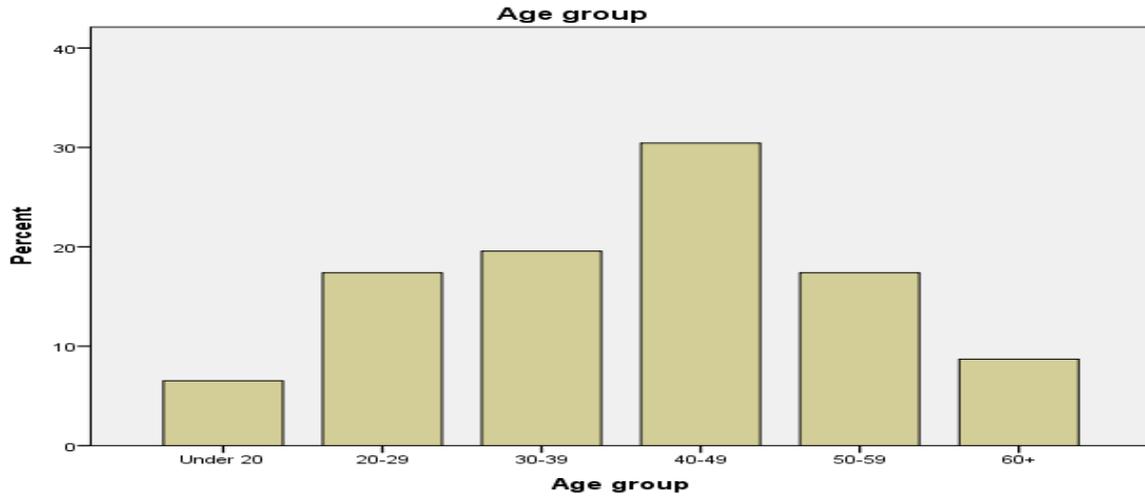


Figure 13 - Percentage of Age Group of homeless people

As shown in the graph, there is a curve effect. The smallest group was found in the under 20 year old range, growing steadily towards the 40-49 years old range which represents the highest percentage of those homeless. Numbers drop off again in the next two age ranges.

In the next section we look at the age of the participants when they first experienced homelessness.

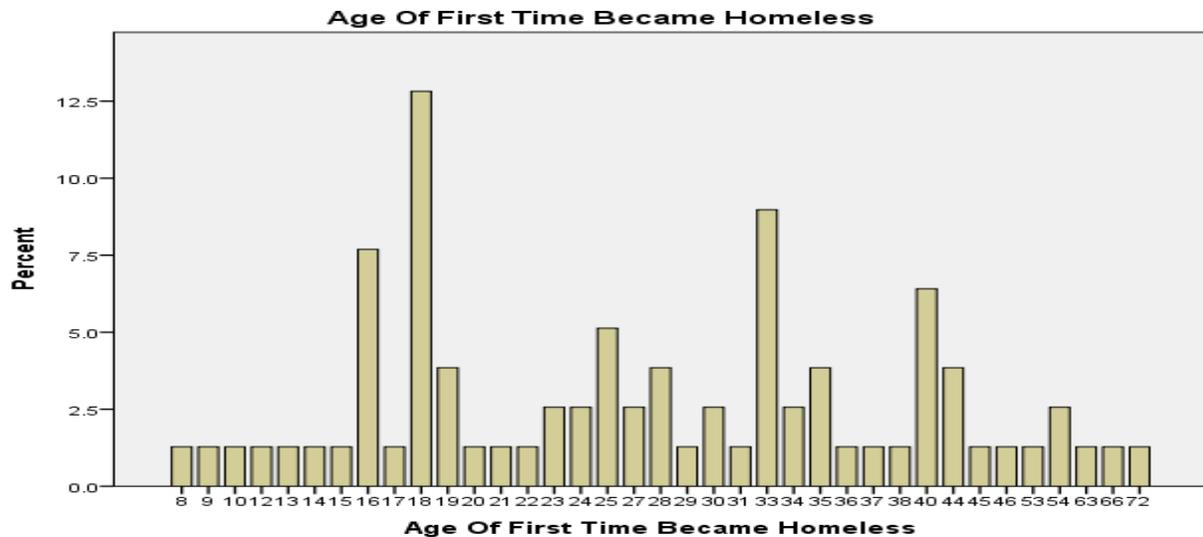


Figure 14 - First Time Becoming Homeless

78 participants reported the age when they first became homeless. This age ranged between 8 - 72 years old with an average age of 29 years. These numbers would change if we added the age of children who were with mothers at the Thompson Crisis Centre. Their ages were between 1-22 years old. In general, we can therefore say that in Thompson some children have experienced homelessness from as early as 1 year of age. In the next table these numbers are clustered into seven age groups in order to provide further analysis.

Age Group First Time Became Homeless	Frequency Participants	Children in Shelters with mothers	Total	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Under 20	27	19	46	47.0	47.0
20-29	17	1	18	18.4	65.4
30-39	18		18	18.4	83.8
40-49	10		10	10.2	94.0
50-59	3		3	3.0	97.0
60-69	2		2	2.0	99.0
70+	1		1	1.0	100.0
Sub-Total	78		98	100	
Missing data	20		20		
Total	98	20	118		

Figure 15 - Age Group – First Time Becoming Homeless

The above table shows the age group when people first became homeless. It shows that, including the children of mothers surveyed, 47% were participants under 20 years of age when they first became homeless. The table also shows that 94% of those who answered this question were people under 50 years old when they first became homeless. These percentage breakdowns are further captured in the following graph.

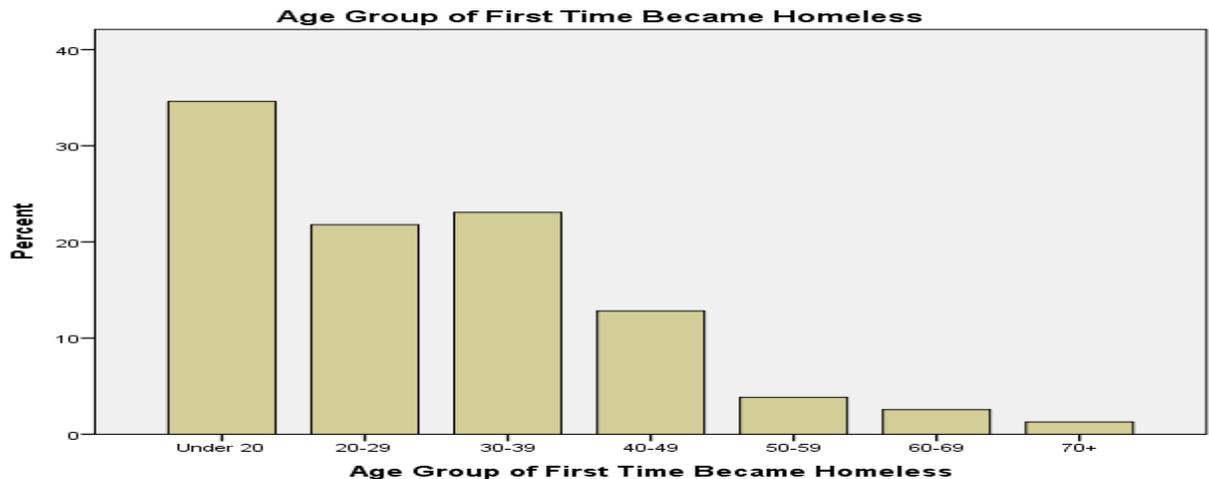


Figure 16 - Percentage of Age Group When First Becoming Homeless

Participants Gender

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Male	55	56.1
Female	38	38.8
Don't know	1	1.0
Total	94	95.9
Missing data	4	4.1
Total	98	100.0

Figure 17 - Gender Homeless Adults

The table shows that the majority of the counted homeless people were men (56.1%) versus 38.8% who identified as female. This is illustrated in the following graph.

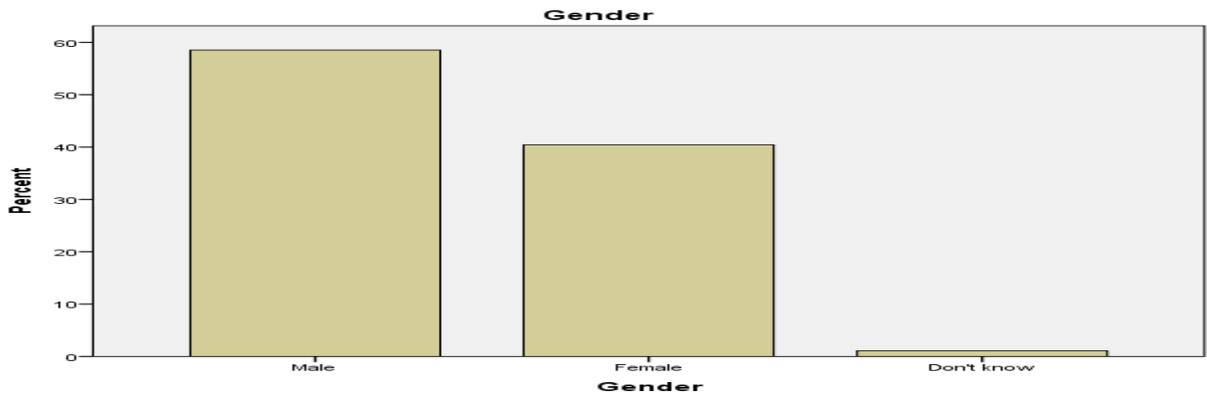


Figure 18 - Gender Homeless Adults

Gender and Age

		Gender			Total
		Male	Female	Don't know	
Age group	Under 20	1	5	0	6
	20-29	5	10	1	16
	39-39	9	9	0	18
	40-49	20	8	0	28
	50-59	12	4	0	16
	60+	7	1	0	8
Total		54	37	1	92

Figure 19 - Gender and Age Cross-tabulation

This table shows the correlation between age groups and gender. There are differences regarding gender in each age group. In the following graph, the number of homeless women and girls is higher in younger ages (under 29 years of age) whereas men have a higher representation in the age groups of 40-49 and older.

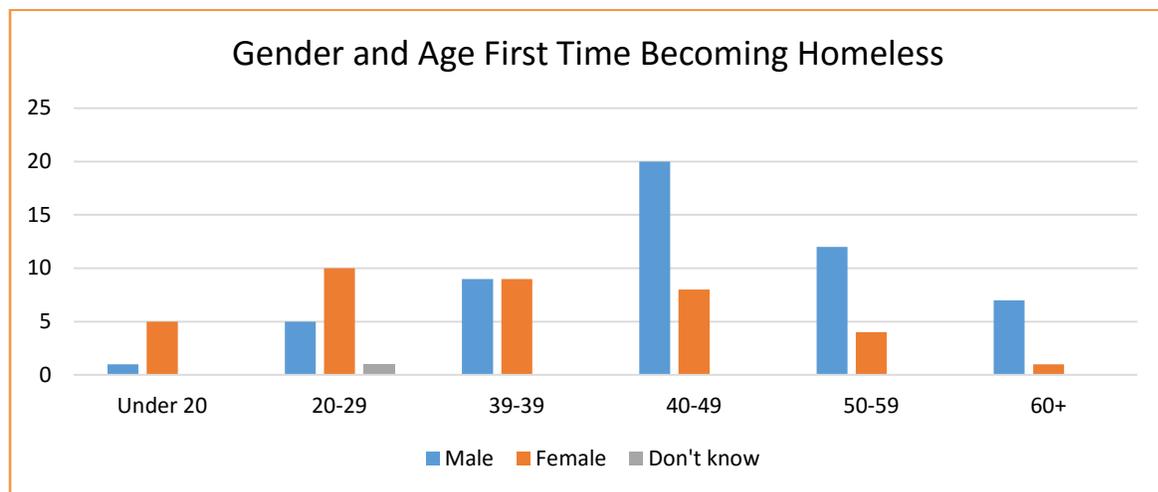


Figure 20 - Graph of Gender and Age Cross-tabulation

Shelter History and Location of Participants Surveyed

Number of homeless people who have been in emergency shelters in the past year	Frequency	Percent
Yes	61	62.2
No	31	31.6
Sub-Total	92	93.9
Missing data	6	6.1
	98	100.0

Figure 21 - Shelter History in the Past Year

From the above table, we see that 61 (62.2%) of those who answered this question had used an emergency shelter in the past year. This percentage is further illustrated in the following graph.

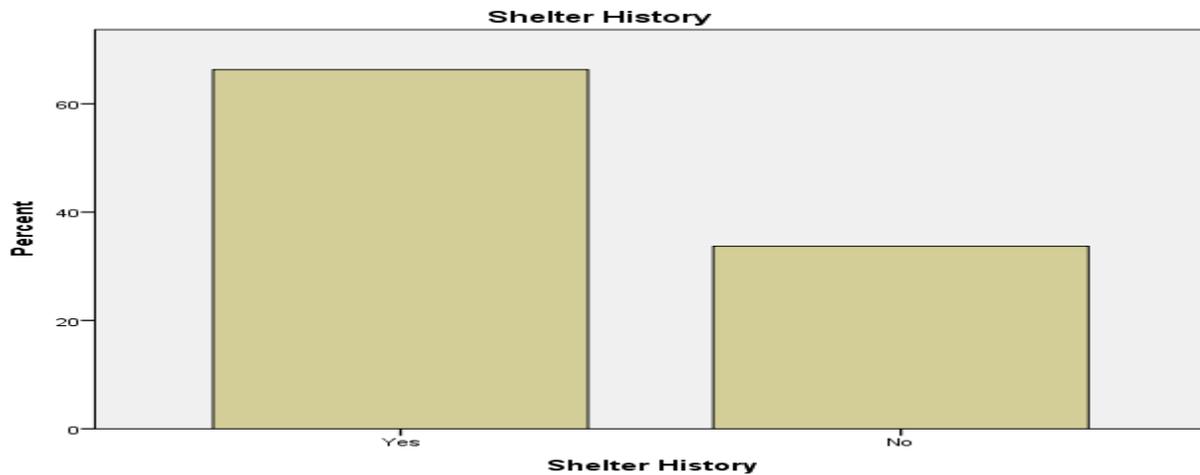


Figure 22 - Shelter History

A breakdown of what shelters were used the previous night is shown next.

Agencies	Frequency	Percent
AFM	3	3.1
31 McGill	2	2.0
Minoskanawetaahk	12	12.2
Thompson Homeless Shelter	13	13.3
Ma Mow We Tak Hostel	1	1.0
Phoenix House	6	6.1
RCMP cells	1	1.0
TCC	7	7.1
Thompson General Hospital	3	3.1
YWCA	11	11.2
Private House (couch surfing)	1	1.0
Total	60	61.2

Figure 23 - Sheltered Homeless People Counted

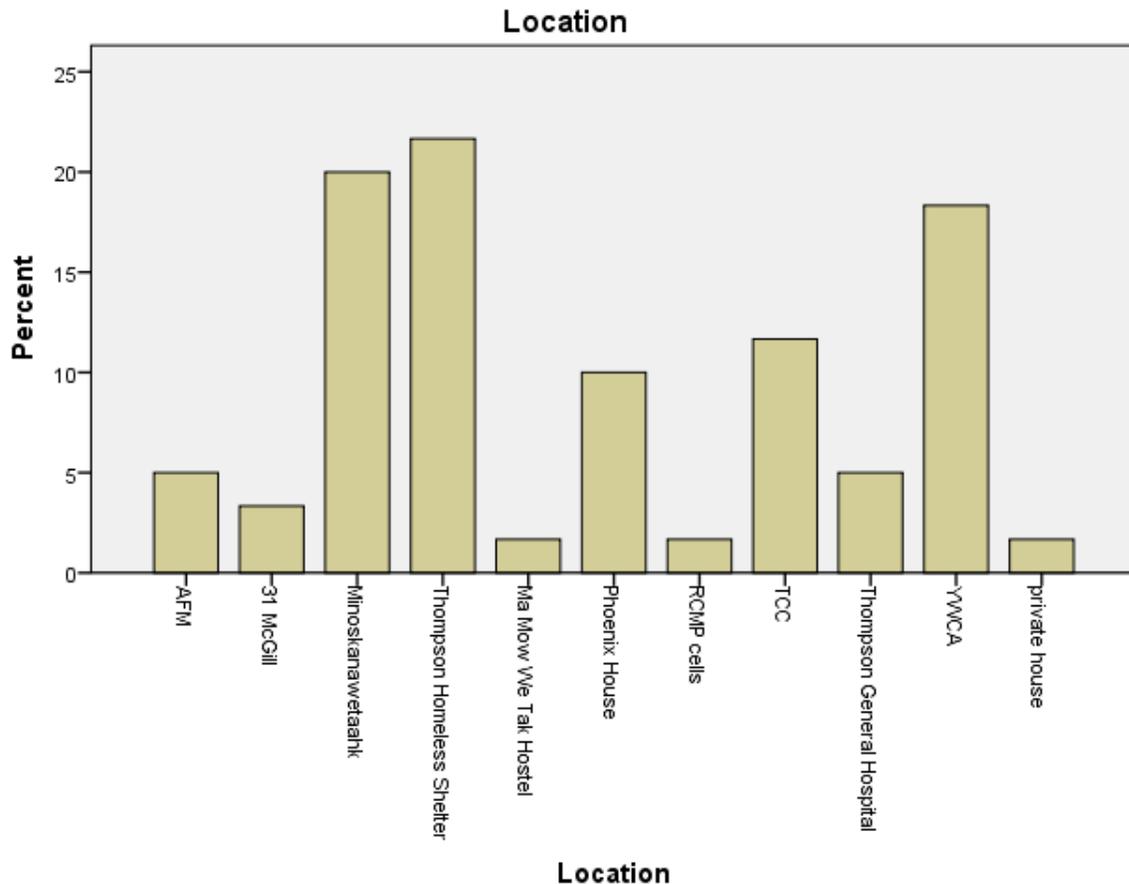


Figure 24 - Percentage of Sheltered Homeless People Counted

Aboriginal Participants

Identify as Aboriginal	Frequency	Percent
Yes	89	90.8
No	4	4.1
Total	93	94.9
Missing data	5	5.1
Total	98	100.0

Figure 25 - Ethnic Background

From the above table we can see that 90% of the homeless people counted in 2016 identified as Aboriginal. When compared to approximate 36% of Thompson residents that identify as Aboriginal (McKinnon & Lafreniere, 2009), this does point to a concern regarding over representation. This difference may be associated with issues of circular housing mobility of Aboriginal people across the North. The high number of Aboriginal homeless is further illustrated in the following graph.

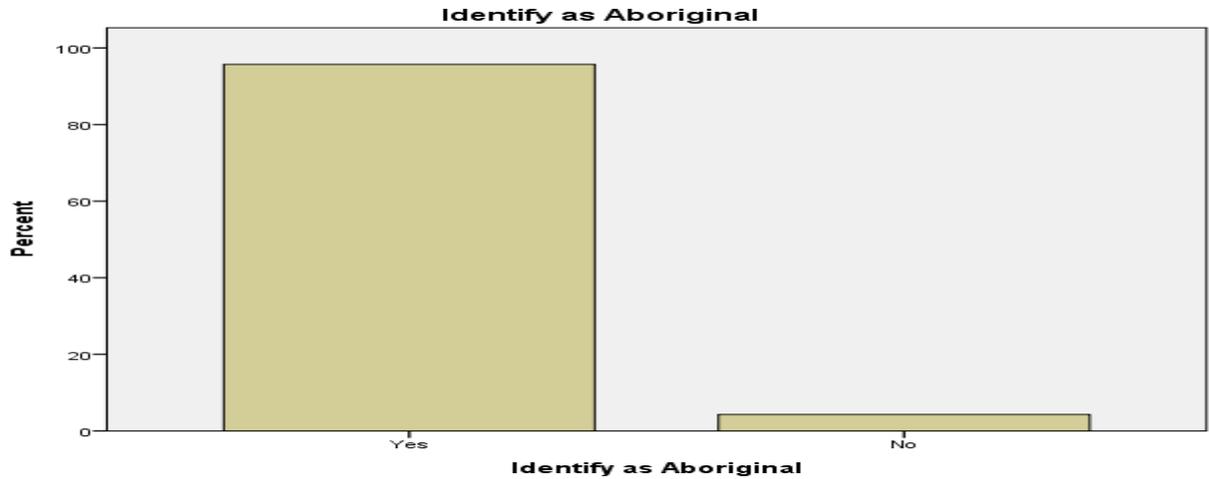


Figure 26 - Aboriginal Participants

Aboriginal Groups	Frequency	Percent
First Nations	73	74.5
Inuit	3	3.1
Metis	4	4.1
None status/have Aboriginal ancestry	7	7.1
Not Applicable	2	2.0
Total	89	90.8
Missing data	9	9.2
Total	98	100.0

Figure 27 - Aboriginal Groups

First Nations people make up approximately three quarters of the homeless population in the count. This percentage is captured in the following graph.

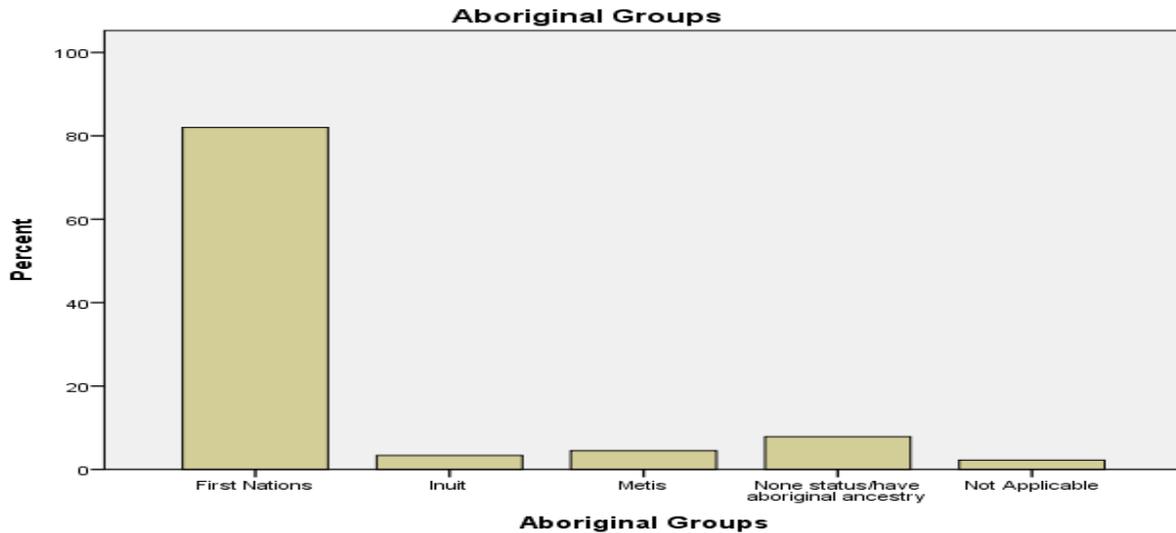


Figure 28 - Aboriginal Groups

We were also able to determine the community of origin of the participants in the count. These communities are listed below.

Community of Origin

Northern Manitoba Communities	Frequency	Percent
Nelson House	28	28.6
Split Lake	10	10.2
Lac Brochet	8	8.2
Cross lake	6	6.1
Oxford House	5	5.1
Shamattawa	5	5.1
York Landing	5	5.1
Gods Lake	4	4.1
Pukatawagan	3	3.1
Norway House	2	2.0
The Pas	2	2.0
Other	2	2.0
Rankin Inlet	2	2.0
Lynn Lake	2	2.0
Tadoule Lake	1	1.0
Thicket Portage	1	1.0
South Indian Lake	1	1.0
Churchill	1	1.0
Sub-total	91	92.9
Missing data	10	10.2
Total	98	100.0

Figure 29 - Northern Manitoba Community of Origin of Participants

Of the 90 participants that answered that they originated from a northern community, 28.6% stated they were from Nelson House, while Split Lake contributed to 10.2% and Lac Brochet with 8.2%. The rest were somewhat equally distributed across more than 15 additional northern communities. These numbers are further illustrated in the following graph.

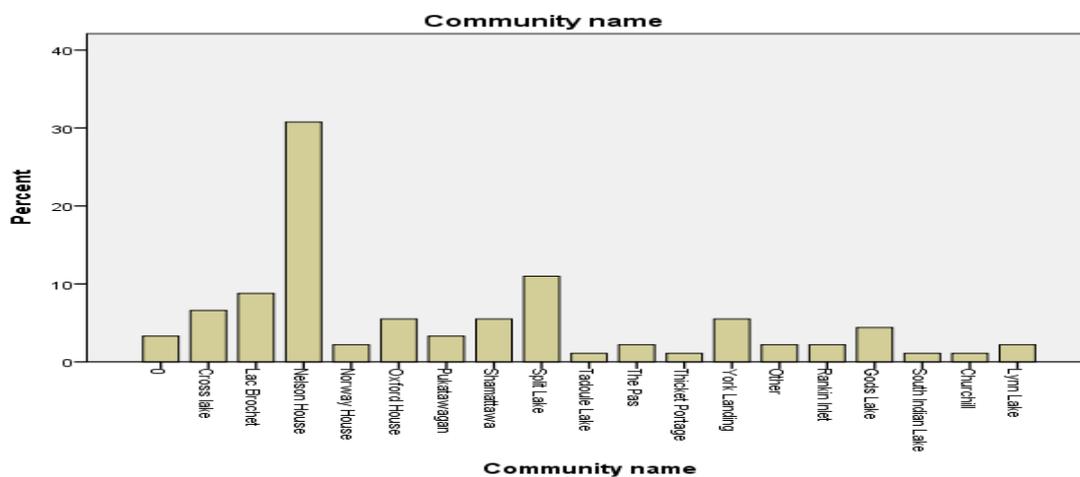


Figure 30 - Percentage of Those Counted as Homeless by Community

Residential School Experience

Attended Residential School?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	15	15.3
No	78	79.6
Don't know	1	1.0
Sub-Total	94	95.9
Missing data	4	4.1
Total	98	100.0

Figure 31 - Number and Percentage of Homeless People who Attended Residential Schools



Figure 32 - Percentage of Homeless people who attended Residential Schools

From 98 participants, 15.3% attended residential schools at some point during their lives. What these numbers do not capture is the intergenerational stories of trauma that many may carry.

Service with military/RCMP

Military Services	Frequency	Percent
Yes, Military	2	2.0
Yes, RCMP	5	5.1
No	84	85.7
Don't know	1	1.0
Sub-Total	92	93.9
Missing data	6	6.1
Total	98	100.0

Figure 33 - Military Services

Seven of the participants who answered this question stated that they had either served in the military or with the RCMP.

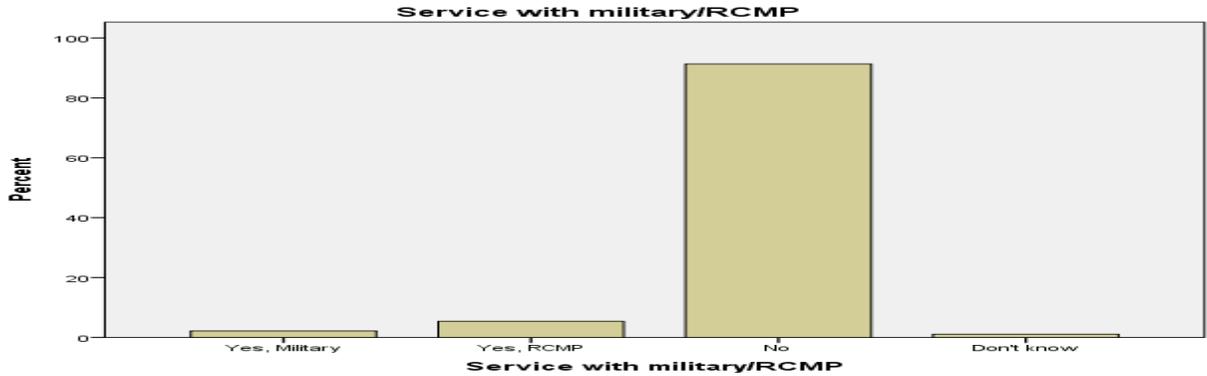


Figure 34 - Percentage of Homeless with Experience in Military Services

Housing Mobility

Moved to Thompson	Frequency	Percent
Yes	36	36.7
No	56	57.1
Don't know	1	1.0
Sub-Total	93	94.9
Missing Data	5	5.1
Total	98	100.0

Figure 35 - Number of participants who moved to Thompson from other Communities in the Past Year



Figure 36 - Percentage of Homeless People who have moved from other Communities in the Past Year

From the above you can see that over one third (36.7%) of the participants stated that they had relocated to Thompson in the last year. Again, this may reflect issues of circular housing mobility facing Aboriginal people across the North. This is further illustrated in the responses given in regard to where they were prior to coming to Thompson.

Prior to Thompson	Frequency	Percent
Northern Manitoba Community	32	32.7
Southern Manitoba Community	3	3.1
Other Province	2	2.0
Sub-Total	37	37.8
Missing data	61	62.2
Total	98	100.0

Figure 37 - Place of Living Prior to Coming to Thompson

The table shows that of the 37 who had moved to Thompson in the last year, 32 had lived previously in northern Manitoba. The rest had come from southern Manitoba or another province.

Length of Homelessness

Length	Frequency	Percent
Don't know	8	8.2
Decline to answer	2	2.0
0-2 months	19	19.4
3-5 months	0	0
6-12 months	26	26.5
More than 12 months	31	31.6
Sub-Total	86	87.8
Missing data	12	12.2
Total	98	100.0

Figure 38 - Length of Homelessness

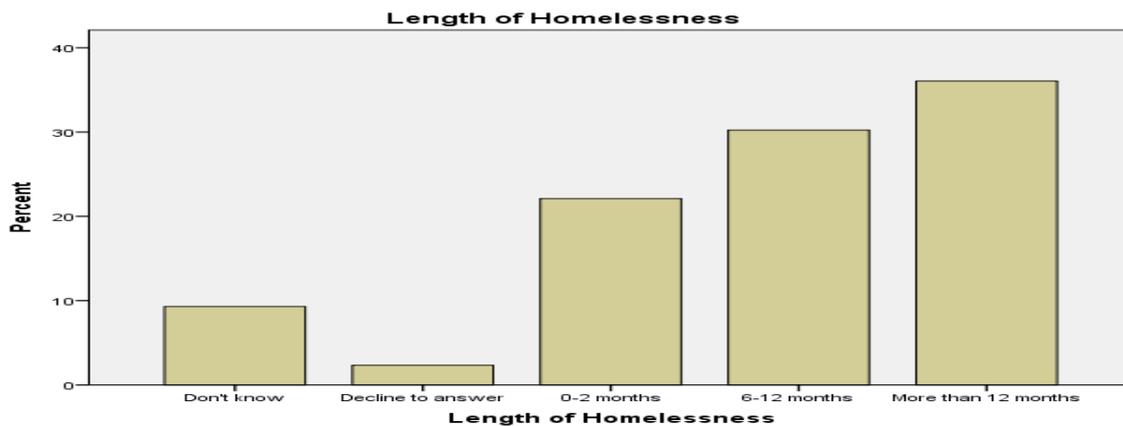


Figure 39 - Percentage of Length of Homelessness

The above table and graph show that 68% of those who answered this question stated that they had been homeless for over 6 months in the last year, with over half of these being homeless for the entire year. In both these situations, individuals would be considered chronic homeless.

Episodes of Homelessness

Episodes of homeless	Frequency	Percent
Don't know	8	8.2
Decline to answer	1	1.0
1 time	45	45.9
2 times	4	4.1
3 times or more times	31	31.6
Sub-Total	89	90.8
Missing data	9	9.2
Total	98	100.0

Figure 40 - Episodes of Homelessness in the Last Year

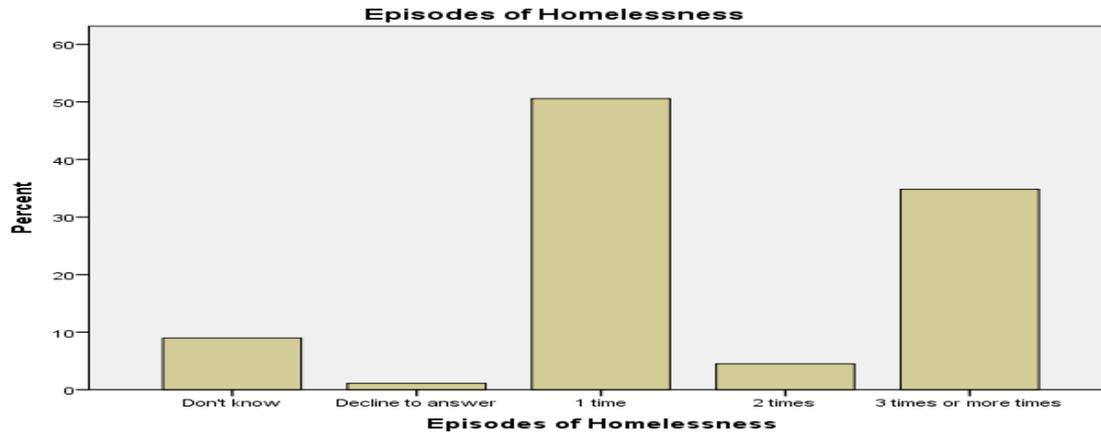


Figure 41 - Percentage of Episodes of Homelessness in the Last Year

The above table and graph shows that the largest percentage of the homeless (45.9%) had only one episode of homelessness in the last year. It is important to remember that, when we take into consideration the figures from the previous question regarding length of time homeless, that one period of homelessness had likely been for a long duration (6 months or more).

Causes of Losing Their Housing Most Recently

Figure 41 shows what participants commented on diverse causes that made them lose their housing most recently. Some of these had more than one cause. In general, health related issues were the major causes (34.1%) as well as domestic violence (26.4%). Other causes are related with housing issues, lost jobs or incarceration.

Causes		Frequency		Percentage
Health and Behaviour issues	Addiction/Substance Use	21	31	34.1
	Illness/Medical	6		
	Hospitalization/treatment	4		
Domestic Violence	Domestic Abuse: partner	9	24	26.4
	Family Conflict: partner	6		
	Family Conflict: parent/guardian	7		
	Domestic Abuse: Parent/guardian	2		
Housing issues	Evicted: Other reason	6	11	12.1
	Unsafe Housing	4		
	Evicted: Unable to pay rent	1		
Other issues	Job Loss	9	23	25.3
	Incarcerated	2		
	other	12		
Decline to answer		4		
Don't know		6		
Total participants who responded		91		
Missing data		7		
Total		98		

Figure 42 - Causes of Losing Their Housing

These issues are further illustrated in the following diagram.

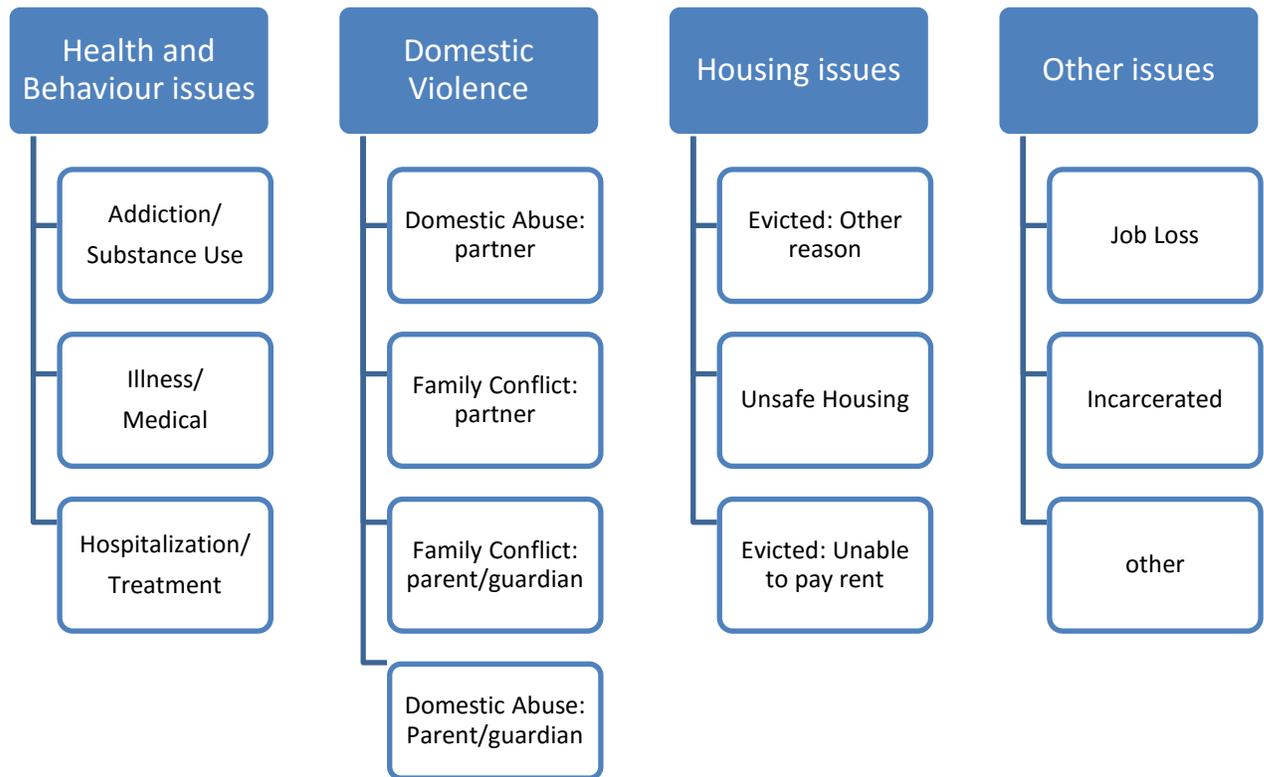


Figure 43 - Causes of Losing Their Housing

Income Sources

Income Source	Frequency	Percentage
Welfare/Income assistance	64	69.6
Employment	15	16.3
Disability Benefit	13	14.1
Seniors Benefit	7	7.6
Money from family/friends	5	5.4
Informal: bottle returns/ panhandling	3	3.2
Child Family Tax Benefit	2	2.2
Other	2	2.2
Decline to answer	1	
Total participants who responded	92	100
Missing data	6	
Total	98	

Figure 44 - Income Sources

Participants provided data on what sources of income they live on. As shown in the above table, welfare/income assistance made up approximately two thirds (69.6%) of their income source. The next largest source was employment (16.3%) followed by disability benefits (14.1%). This breakdown is further illustrated in the following graph.

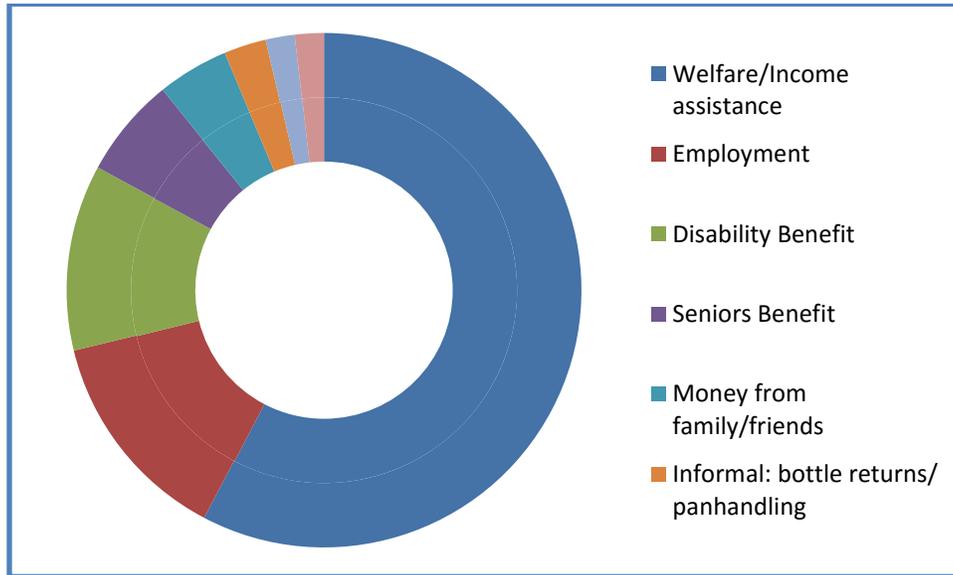


Figure 45 - Percentage of Income Sources

Experience of Homeless People with Foster Care

Recently there has been growing interest in looking at the relationship between homelessness and being involved in the foster care system. The following table looks at that issue.

Involved with Foster Care	Frequency	Percent
Yes	43	43.9
No	49	50.0
Decline to answer	1	1.0
Total	93	94.9
Missing data	5	5.1
Total	98	100.0

Figure 46 - Frequency & Percentage of Homeless People Who Experienced the Foster Care System

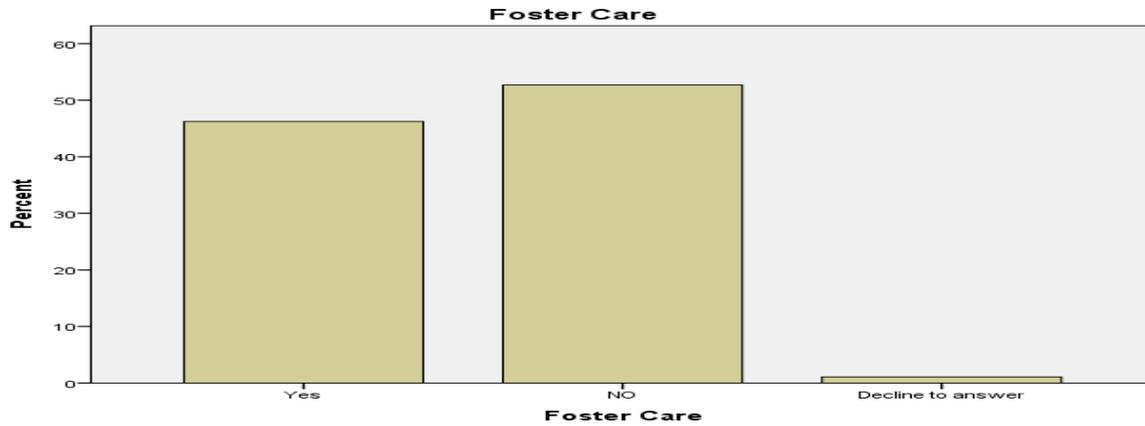


Figure 47 - Percentage of Homeless People Who Experienced the Foster Care System

The above shows a very high percentage (43.9%) of the homeless people surveyed had been involved with the foster care system. This finding is reflective of the high percentage of Aboriginal people who have been involved with the foster care system in the north and the issue of a lack of supports and resources for youth aging out of care.

Educational Level

Education Level	Frequency	Percent
Primary School	11	11.2
Some Secondary School	53	54.1
High School Graduate	24	24.5
Post-Secondary	3	3.1
Decline to answer	2	2.0
Sub-Total	93	94.9
Missing data	5	5.1
Total	98	100.0

Figure 48 - Educational Level

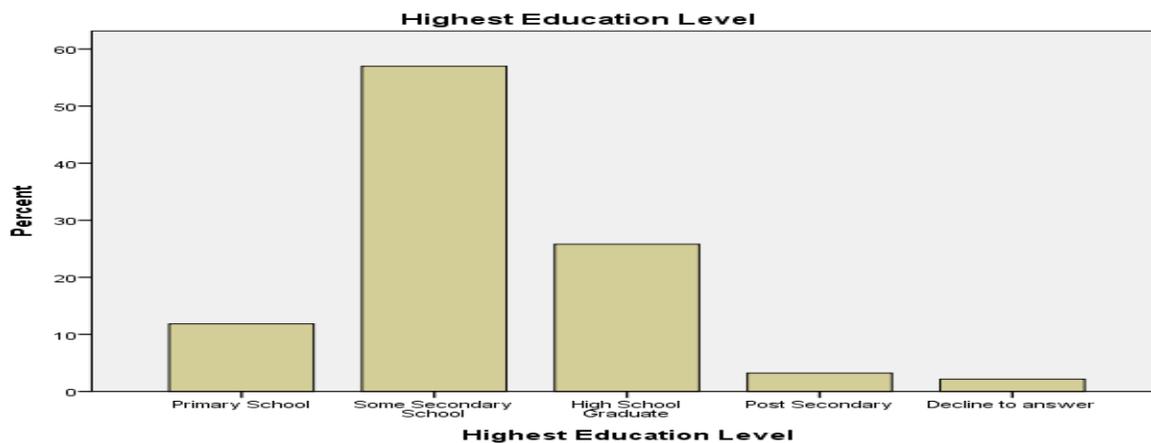


Figure 49 - Percentage of Highest Educational Level

Of the homeless people who answered that they had attended school, there were differences in the levels achieved. From the findings, 11.2 % had completed elementary school, 54.1% had some secondary school, and 24.5% had graduated high school. An additional 3.1% had gone on to postsecondary education.

Needs of Services from Homeless People’s Perspective

Participants were asked about what services they felt they needed. Their answers were varied and most provided more than one answer.

Needs of Services	Frequency	Percentage
Addictions	53	57.6
Serious/ongoing Medical	28	30.4
Physical Disability	27	29.3
Mental Illness	15	16.3
Learning Disability	10	10.9
FASD	6	6.5
Brain Injury	3	3.2
None of the above	17	18.5
Decline to answer	1	1.1
People who answered	92	93.9
Missing data	6	6.1
Total	98	100.0

Figure 50 - Needs of Services from Participants' Perspective

Addiction services were the major need identified by the participants (57.6%). Other needs are related with serious / ongoing medical (30.4%), physical disability 29.3%, mental health (16.3%), and learning disability (10.9%).

Permanent Housing: Desire, Barriers and Possible Supports

Do you want permanent housing?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	78	79.6
No	11	11.2
Don't Know	3	3.1
Sub-Total	92	93.9
Missing data	6	6.1
Total	98	100.0

Figure 51 - Desire to have Permanent Housing



Figure 52 - Percentage of People who want Permanent Housing

Ninety two participants responded to the question about their desire to have permanent housing. Of these 78 (79.6%) responded affirmatively to the question. The next question reflects on some of the specifics that would help them to be successful finding and keeping permanent housing.

What would help you find permanent, stable housing?

- The availability of more affordable housing – “A cheap place to live”
- The need for addictions treatment: AFM; Support to rehabilitate from alcohol consumption; Getting away from alcohol.
- Rental housing needs: Need a co-signer; First month’s rent; References; Furniture etc.
- Counselling: More time at TCC; More Rehabilitation supports.
- Education
- Employment
- Financial assistance/aid

The participants also reflected on identified barriers to being successful in finding permanent housing. These are discussed next.

Barriers to have a stable place	Frequency	Percentage
Rents too high	45	51.7
Low income	43	49.4
Addictions	22	25.3
Health/disability issues	11	12.6
Family breakdown/conflict	9	10.3
Domestic violence	7	8.0
Poor housing conditions	5	5.7
Discrimination	3	3.4
Mental Health issues	2	2.3
None of the above	3	3.4
Other	4	4.6
Don't want housing	3	3.4
People who responded to this question	87	88.8
Missing data	11	11.2

Figure 53 - *What is stopping you from finding a place to live?*

The main barriers for homeless people when seeking a stable place to live are high rental costs (51.7%) and their income is too low (49.4%). Issues of addictions (25.3%), family breakdown/conflict (10.3%), domestic violence (8.0%) also plays into this.

COMPARISON BETWEEN 2015 & 2016 PIT COUNTS

The two Thompson PiT Counts were done at approximately the same time of the year. The 2015 PiT Count was done in early March while the 2016 PiT Count was done in late February. One clear difference found in a comparison of the two studies was the number of people counted each time. These are shown in the following table.

Category	2015	2016
Sheltered	47 (37.3%)	60 (61.2%)
Unsheltered	79 (62.7%)	38 (38.8%)
Total	126	98

Figure 54 - 2015 & 2016 Counted Homeless People

Between the two years, the table shows both an increase in the number that were sheltered and a decrease in the number that were unsheltered on the day of the count.

Certainly there were differences in the weather during both counts and the colder days in 2015 may have resulted in more people using facilities and being visible on the street. In addition, there was comments that due to benefit payments (social assistance, hydro) during the time of the 2016 count a number of people had travelled to their home communities. In any case we need to be cautious when comparing the findings as any changes may simply reflect the risks involved in doing such 24 hour counts. If you look at the percentages of those counted, you do see close similarities between the two years. That said, one major change was in the percentage of those considered chronically homeless. In 2015, the percentage was 41.2% whereas in 2016 this percentage had doubled to 83.9%. As stated earlier, chronic is defined as those that have spent more than 180 days homeless in the last year.

Similarities were found in both PiT Counts about Aboriginal identity, gender and age.

Category	2015	2016
Aboriginal Identity	94.4%	90.8%
Gender	57.1% male 42.9% female	56.1% male 38.8% female
Average Age	42	42
Range	15-76	18-77

Figure 55 - 2015 & 2016 Demographics

In both count years, females made up more of the younger age groups, while males made up more of the older age groups. New in the 2016 count were questions directed to gathering further data on vulnerability for children and youth. For example, the participants were asked if they had children with them, at what age did they first experience homelessness and if they had been involved with foster care or residential school system. We found that 25 children were with their parents. In addition, 34.6% of the participants had first experienced homelessness before the age of 20. Finally, 43.9% had been in foster care and 15.3% had attended residential school as a child.

VOLUNTEERS EVALUATION

In reviewing the volunteer evaluation forms it appears that overall the organization of the Point in Time Homeless count worked well. There was a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction with many of the volunteers. They felt that the training was adequate and that they would volunteer again for future counts. The following are some of their more specific responses.

1. Did you receive adequate training to take part in the 2016 Point in Time Homeless count?
 - All volunteers (100%) answered that they felt they had received adequate training.
2. What did you enjoy the most about your experience?
 - The opportunity to meet the people who live on the streets.
 - The opportunity to get hands on research training.
 - The ability that it gave them to feel trusted.
 - The feeling of being out of their own personal elements and the different insight that was gained.
3. What did you least enjoy about your experience?
 - The cold weather.
 - People who declined to be surveyed or would not answer all questions.
 - It appeared that there were not many homeless people out on the street that day and this affected how the volunteers felt.
4. Did your experience meet your expectations?
 - 89% answered they felt their expectations had been met.
 - 11% answered that their expectations had not been met.
5. What is your satisfaction level in terms of your experience?
 - 4 (22%) said they felt neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.
 - 11 (61%) felt satisfied with their experience.
 - 3 (17%) felt very satisfied with their experience.
6. What have you learned from this experience?
 - That there is a pattern among the chronically homeless.
 - That small problems became large problems and that as a community we are not doing enough to come up with a solution to the problem.
 - That the homeless people have generally great senses of humor and were quite comfortable telling their story.
7. Do you have any stories to share about your experience as a volunteer?
 - They had feelings of heart break and the need to advocate for change.
 - They also enjoyed the opportunity to get to know the people they were talking to.

One concern that volunteers had that day was regarding the apparent lack of homeless people on the street. One possible reason given was that the count was focused too much on the central area of town and that the survey may have missed people for that reason. The weather was also seen as a possible reason, as it was quite cold that particular day and volunteers found it difficult to stay outside for long periods of time walking around. The weather may have also had an impact on the number of visible homeless people that day.

One recommendation voiced was that the PiT count might “branch” out for the next PiT Count to focus on other areas in town such as around the mall, bars in town and near the high school. Another suggestion was to separate the groups of volunteers a bit more as there was a lot of cross over between groups and often groups would pass by each other and survey people who may have already been surveyed. A final suggestion was that a summer count may be a possible way to count a greater number of homeless people.

DISCUSSION

The 2016 Thompson Point in Time Count is the second homeless count that has taken place in the City of Thompson. Based on the results, 38 (38.8%) of the participants were counted on the street and considered unsheltered. In addition 57 (68.1%) of the participants were considered chronically homeless.

Only one person was counted at the RCMP holding cells the day of the PIT Count. This is consistent with last year. 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. Last year it was observed that overall lower uses of cells may be a sign that things are changing (Graham, Feb 24, 2015).

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 Minoskanawetaahk and Phoenix House as well as the increase of beds in other facilities. These initiatives have all directly provided sheltered places for people to stay overnight or temporarily. Paulette Simkins, Executive Director of the Thompson Homeless Shelter and the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) in Thompson, reflected on these additions by stating, “Despite the recent bitterly cold weather, with overnight temperatures and wind chill reaching the -35 Celsius threshold that brings the city’s cold weather policy into effect, far fewer people have stayed overnight in the warmup buildings at the city’s outdoor rinks this winter than last” (Graham, February 24, 2015). Further to this, Graham commented, “RCMP Thompson detachment Inspector Will Tewnion has credited initiatives such as Project Northern Doorway and the deployment of city by-laws enforcement officers with reducing crime in our city and they certainly have played a role. Whatever the cause, lower crime is welcome” (Graham, February 24, 2015).

Concerns must be noted regarding the over representation of self-declared Aboriginal respondents (90.8%). As mentioned earlier in the report it is estimated that 36% of the general population in Thompson are Aboriginal. In terms of the homeless, that number increases to over 90%. In addition, of the 36.7% that stated that they had relocated to Thompson in the last year, 88.9% 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 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 (95 Cree Road) 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 both of the two last PiT Counts, 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 (61% of those over 40 were considered chronic), 25% of those under 30 were also chronic. In addition, over half of those surveyed stated that they experienced homelessness before the age of 30. Findings show that young women are overrepresented in the under 20 age group. In addition, one must also take into consideration the 25 children that were listed as accompanying parents. These figures highlight that preventive programming and services are clearly 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 over a 24 hour period. This 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.
- Youth who don’t tend to congregate in public places, but who could be categorized as episodically homeless.
- Those who simply do not want to participate.
- Those who may have temporarily traveled back to their home community for various reasons.

This method provides a “snap shot” of what homelessness looks like on one day and therefore does not account for seasonal differences in the number of individuals staying in places not meant to be housing.

Limitations to the survey

While we based the survey questions on recommendations from the Federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy and other PiT count surveys done in other Canadian cities, 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 resulted in not everyone being surveyed as the residents are coming and going throughout the evening and the next day.

Geographical Areas

Volunteers were sent out in groups to specific areas defined by the “mapping” sub-committee of the PiT Count Committee. This was a change from the 2015 Pit Count.

CONCLUSIONS

The results of the 2016 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 initiatives with children such as a Westwood School teacher's activity with grade 2/3 students to help the homeless (Gibson Kirby, February 24, 2015).

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 Winnipeg²².

It is the research team's hope that the 2016 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 2016 PiT Count and that still need to be addressed are:

- Youth - 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.
- Permanent Housing – the need for a better understanding of what this may mean in terms of housing needs. 79.6% stated that they wanted permanent housing.
- Service needs – There was a high interest in a variety of services, as shown in figure 50.
- The need and interest in doing another PiT Count in the future. The research team believes that a third PiT Count, besides providing comparisons to the last two 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.

²² Distasio, Sareen & Isaak 2014.

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.
- 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.
- Student volunteers didn't feel comfortable cutting off people who wanted to share their stories during the PiT count. Magnet events and/or sharing circles might give people the opportunity to share their stories with the volunteers.

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LIST OF APPENDIXES

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- University College of the North
- Northern Health Region

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Appendix G - Volunteer Receipt of Honorarium

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APPENDIX A - Ethics Boards' Certificates

University of Manitoba



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APPROVAL CERTIFICATE

November 26, 2015

Employment and Social Dev

TO: Marleny Bonnycastle
Principal Investigator

FROM: Kelley Main, Chair
Psychology/Sociology Research Ethics Board (PSREB)

Re: Protocol #P2015:143
"Thompson Point in Time homeless Count 2016"

Please be advised that your above-referenced protocol has received human ethics approval by the **Psychology/Sociology Research Ethics Board**, which is organized and operates according to the Tri-Council Policy Statement (2). It is the researcher's responsibility to comply with any copyright requirements. **This approval is valid for one year only.**

Any significant changes of the protocol and/or informed consent form should be reported to the Human Ethics Secretariat in advance of implementation of such changes.

Please note:

- If you have funds pending human ethics approval, please mail/e-mail/fax (261-0325) a copy of this Approval (identifying the related UM Project Number) to the Research Grants Officer in ORS in order to initiate fund setup. (How to find your UM Project Number: <http://umanitoba.ca/research/ors/mrt-faq.html#pr0>)
- if you have received multi-year funding for this research, responsibility lies with you to apply for and obtain Renewal Approval at the expiry of the initial one-year approval; otherwise the account will be locked.

The Research Quality Management Office may request to review research documentation from this project to demonstrate compliance with this approved protocol and the University of Manitoba *Ethics of Research Involving Humans*.

The Research Ethics Board requests a final report for your study (available at: http://umanitoba.ca/research/orec/ethics/human_ethics_REB_forms_guidelines.html) in order to be in compliance with Tri-Council Guidelines.

umanitoba.ca/research

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PROTOCOL REFERENCE# UCN 2015/16-EXT-01

December 21, 2015

Dr. Maureen Simpkins
Faculty of Arts, Business and Science
University College of the North
msimpkins@ucn.ca

Dear Dr. Simpkins:

Re: Research protocol titled, 'Thompson Point In Time Homeless Count (PiT) 2016'

ETHICS APPROVAL

Approval Date: December 21, 2015
Expiry Date: December 21, 2016

We acknowledge your role as a Co-Investigator on the above-referenced research protocol being led by Dr. Marleny Bonnycastle of the University of Manitoba, and are writing to advise you that the protocol has been granted ethics approval through the UCN Research Ethics Board (REB) full review process. This approval is for one year and will expire December 21, 2016.

We will contact you no later than November 21, 2016 to review the status of your project with you. At that time we will initiate the process of ethics approval renewal should research with human participants be expected to occur past December 21, 2016.

During the period of ethics approval covered by this certificate, any substantive changes in methodology or project design must be reviewed and approved by the UCN REB prior to implementation.

In addition, adverse events (unanticipated negative consequences or results affecting participants) must be reported to the UCN REB Chair, as soon as possible and in any event, no more than 3 days subsequent to their occurrence.

Best wishes for the successful completion of your research.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abayomi Oredogbe', written over a horizontal line.

Abayomi Oredogbe
UCN REB Chair

Regional Centres

Flin Flon, Churchill, Swan River, Pimicikamak (Cross Lake), Tataskweyak (Split Lake), Chemawawin (Easterville), Nisichawayasihk (Nelson House), Bunibonibee (Oxford House), Mathias Colomb (Pukatawagan), Misipawistik (Grand Rapids), Norway House, and St. Theresa Point

Northern health Region



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Email: hazzam@nrha.ca

January 29, 2016

Dr. Marleny Bonnycastle
3 Station Road
Thompson, MB R8N 0N3

Dear Dr. Bonnycastle,

Thank you for submitting your research application "*Thompson Point-In-Time Count 2016*".

I am pleased to inform you that Northern Regional Health Authority's (NRHA) approval has been granted for this research project as per NRHA's Research Policy.

Please find attached copies of the completed Appendixes A and B and the Regional Ethics Committee's approval letter.

I look forward to seeing the results from this endeavor.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Azzam", written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Hussam M. Azzam, MD, MMedEd, FAcadMED, FRCS(C), MRCOG, FACOG, CCPE
VP, Medical Services & CMO
Lead for Clinical Governance and Research
Northern Health Region.

Cc: Helga Bryant, CEO, Northern Regional Health Authority
Cristin Smook, Chair, Ethics Committee

Northern Regional Health Authority Regional Offices

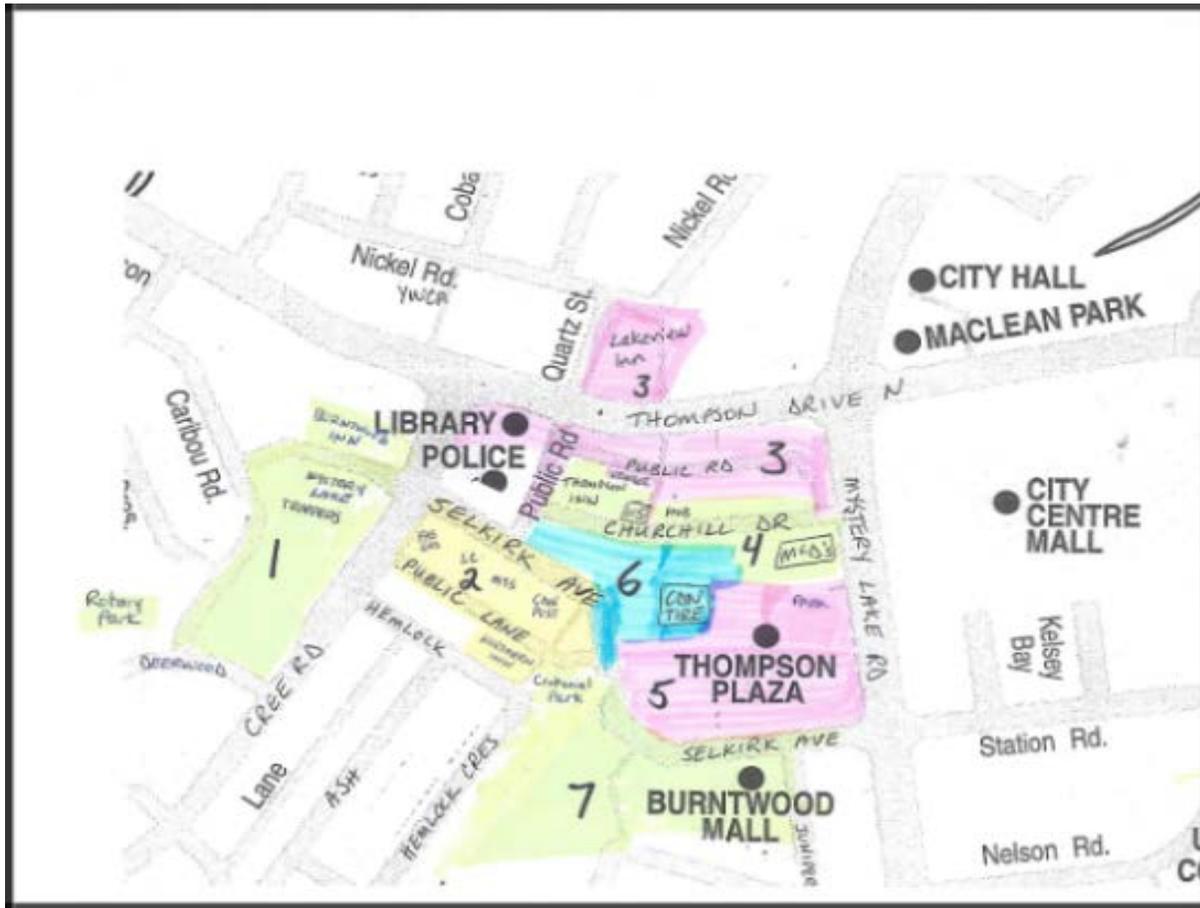
84 Church Street
Flis Flis MB R8A 1L8
(204) 687-1300 (888) 340-6742

67 - 1st Street West
The Pits MB R9A 1K4
(204) 623-6431 (888) 340-6742

867 Thompson Drive South
Thompson MB R8N 1Z4
(204) 677-5350 (888) 340-6742

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)
 - o 31 McGill/Arrow Path
 - o Minoskanawetaahk (95 Cree Road)
 - o Thompson Homeless Shelter
- Ma Mow We Tak Friendship Centre - Hostel
- MAPS - Phoenix House
- RCMP
- Thompson Crisis Centre (TCC)
- Thompson YWCA

→ 4C. Have you ever been in a residential school?

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

5. Have you ever had any service in the Canadian Military or RCMP?

[Military includes Canadian Navy, Army, or Air Force]

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

→ 5B. How long did you serve?

<input type="radio"/> # OF MONTS _____	<input type="radio"/> OR # OF YEARS _____	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
--	---	----------------------------------	---

6. Did you move to Thompson in the past year?

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

→ 6B. If you moved to Thompson in the last year, where were you living prior to coming here?

<input type="radio"/> COMMUNITY NAME _____ <input type="radio"/> AND PROVINCE _____ <input type="radio"/> OR COUNTRY _____ <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER	NORTHERN MANITOBA COMMUNITY NAME	
	a. CROSS LAKE b. LAC BROCHET c. LEAF RAPIDS d. NELSON HOUSE e. NORWAY HOUSE f. OXFORD HOUSE g. PUKATAWAGAN	h. SHAMATTAWA i. SPLIT LAKE j. TADOULE LAKE k. THE PAS l. THICKET PORTAGE m. WABOWDEN n. YORK LANDING

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

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

→ 7B. Were you born in Canada?

<input type="radio"/> YES	If NO:	<input type="radio"/> CANADIAN CITIZEN	<input type="radio"/> INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
<input type="radio"/> NO _____		<input type="radio"/> PERMANENT RESIDENT	<input type="radio"/> OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY) _____
<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW		<input type="radio"/> REFUGEE CLAIMANT	
<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER		<input type="radio"/> TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKER	

→ 7C. What is your country of origin/birth?

<input type="radio"/> COUNTRY NAME _____	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
--	----------------------------------	---

8. Over the past year, how much of the time have you been homeless? [Current episode of homelessness. Best estimate]

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

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

[Includes this time. Best estimate.]

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

→ 9B. How old were you when you first became homeless in your life?

<input type="radio"/> AGE _____	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
---------------------------------	----------------------------------	---

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- YES NO DON'T KNOW DECLINE TO ANSWER

14. What is the highest level of education you completed?

- PRIMARY SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE DON'T KNOW
 SECONDARY SCHOOL POST SECONDARY DECLINE TO ANSWER

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SERIOUS OR ONGOING 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"/> NONE OF THE ABOVE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MENTAL ILLNESS | <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |

16. Do you want to get into permanent housing?

- YES NO DON'T KNOW DECLINE TO ANSWER

17. What would help you find permanent, stable housing?

- _____ DON'T KNOW DECLINE TO ANSWER

18. What do you think is keeping you from finding a place of your own? [Select all that apply]

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> LOW INCOME | <input type="checkbox"/> CRIMINAL HISTORY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NO INCOME ASSISTANCE | <input type="checkbox"/> PETS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RENTS TOO HIGH | <input type="checkbox"/> CHILDREN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> POOR HOUSING CONDITIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> DISCRIMINATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DOMESTIC VIOLENCE | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T WANT HOUSING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HEALTH/DISABILITY ISSUES | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO BARRIERS TO HOUSING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ADDICTION | <input type="checkbox"/> NONE OF THE ABOVE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY BREAKDOWN/CONFLICT | <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |

APPENDIX D3 - Unsheltered Tally Sheet



NORTHERN SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

FACULTY OF ARTS BUSINESS AND SCIENCE

THOMPSON POINT-IN-TIME COUNT 2016

UNSHeltered TALLY SHEET	
Location: _____	Time: _____ AM/PM
Interviewer: _____	Contact #: _____

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				*Observed Homelessness			
		Declined	Already Responded	Screened Out		Observed homeless ness	Approx. Age	Observed Gender	Indicators of Homelessness
				C	D				
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									
11									
12									
13									
14									
15									

APPENDIX D5 - Sheltered Survey



NORTHERN SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

FACULTY OF ARTS BUSINESS AND SCIENCE

THOMPSON POINT-IN-TIME COUNT 2016

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

NOTE ANSWERS FROM SCREENING QUESTIONS

- C. Do you have a permanent residence that you can return to tonight?**
- | | | | |
|--------|-------|---------------|----------------------|
| a. YES | b. NO | c. DON'T KNOW | d. DECLINE TO ANSWER |
|--------|-------|---------------|----------------------|
- D. Where are you staying tonight?**
- | | |
|---|--|
| h. PUBLIC SPACE (E.G., SIDEWALKS, SQUARES, PARKS, FORESTS, BUS SHELTER) | k. ABANDONED/VACANT BUILDING |
| i. VEHICLE (CAR, VAN, RV, TRUCK) | l. OTHER UNSHELTERED LOCATION UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION (SPECIFY) _____ |
| j. MAKESHIFT SHELTER, TENT OR SHACK | m. RESPONDENT DOESN'T KNOW [LIKELY HOMELESS] |

BEGIN SURVEY

- 1. What family members are with you? [Indicate survey numbers for adults]**
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NONE | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER ADULT - Survey #: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PARTNER - Survey #: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHILD(REN)/DEPENDENT(S) [indicate age for child/dependent] | |
| | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 |
| GENDER | |
| AGE | |
- 2. How old are you? [OR] What year were you born? [If unsure, ask for best estimate]**
- | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> AGE _____ OR YEAR BORN _____ | <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW | <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |
|--|----------------------------------|---|
- 3. What gender do you identify with? [Do not read categories]**
- | | | |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> MALE | <input type="radio"/> TRANSGENDER | <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW |
| <input type="radio"/> FEMALE | <input type="radio"/> OTHER RESPONSE _____ | <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |
- 3B. If other response is selected, please select:
- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> TRANS WOMAN | <input type="radio"/> GENDERQUEER | <input type="radio"/> NON-BINARY |
| <input type="radio"/> TRANS MAN | <input type="radio"/> GENDERFLUID | <input type="radio"/> INTERSEX |
| <input type="radio"/> TWO-SPIRIT | <input type="radio"/> ANDROGYNOUS | <input type="radio"/> NONE OF THE ABOVE |
- 4. Do you identify as Aboriginal or do you have Aboriginal ancestry? This includes First Nations, Métis, Inuit, with or without status. [If yes, please follow-up to specify.]**
- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> YES → | IF YES: <input type="radio"/> FIRST NATIONS |
| <input type="radio"/> NO | <input type="radio"/> INUIT |
| <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW | <input type="radio"/> MÉTIS |
| <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER | <input type="radio"/> NON-STATUS / HAVE ABORIGINAL ANCESTRY |
- 4B. Which Aboriginal community are you from?
- | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> COMMUNITY /RESERVE NAME _____ | <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW | <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |
|---|----------------------------------|---|

→ 4C. Have you ever been in a residential school?

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

5. Have you ever had any service in the Canadian Military or RCMP?

[Military includes Canadian Navy, Army, or Air Force]

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

→ 5B. How long did you serve?

<input type="radio"/> # OF MONTS _____	<input type="radio"/> OR # OF YEARS _____	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
--	---	----------------------------------	---

6. Did you move to Thompson in the past year?

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

→ 6B. If you moved to Thompson in the last year, where were you living prior to coming here?

<input type="radio"/> COMMUNITY NAME _____ <input type="radio"/> AND PROVINCE _____ <input type="radio"/> OR COUNTRY _____ <input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER	NORTHERN MANITOBA COMMUNITY NAME	
	a. CROSS LAKE	h. SHAMATTAWA
	b. LAC BROCHET	i. SPLIT LAKE
	c. LEAF RAPIDS	j. TADOULE LAKE
	d. NELSON HOUSE	k. THE PAS
e. NORWAY HOUSE	l. THICKET PORTAGE	
f. OXFORD HOUSE	m. WABOWDEN	
g. PUKATAWAGAN	n. YORK LANDING	

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

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

→ 7B. Were you born in Canada?

<input type="radio"/> YES	IF NO:	<input type="radio"/> CANADIAN CITIZEN	<input type="radio"/> INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
<input type="radio"/> NO _____		<input type="radio"/> PERMANENT RESIDENT	<input type="radio"/> OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY) _____
<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW		<input type="radio"/> REFUGEE CLAIMANT	
<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER		<input type="radio"/> TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKER	

→ 7C. What is your country of origin/birth?

<input type="radio"/> COUNTRY NAME _____	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
--	----------------------------------	---

8. Over the past year, how much of the time have you been homeless? [Current episode of homelessness. Best estimate]

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

9. Over the past year, how many different times have you experienced homelessness? [Includes this time. Best estimate.]

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

→ 9B. How old were you when you first became homeless in your life?

<input type="radio"/> AGE _____	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
---------------------------------	----------------------------------	---

10. Have you stayed in an emergency shelter in the past year? [Indicate yes if respondent is in a shelter]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14. What is the highest level of education you completed?

<input type="radio"/> PRIMARY SCHOOL	<input type="radio"/> HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW
<input type="radio"/> SECONDARY SCHOOL	<input type="radio"/> POST SECONDARY	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

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

<input type="checkbox"/> SERIOUS OR ONGOING 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"/> NONE OF THE ABOVE
<input type="checkbox"/> MENTAL ILLNESS	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

16. Do you want to get into permanent housing?

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

17. What would help you find permanent, stable housing?

<input type="radio"/> _____	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="radio"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
-----------------------------	----------------------------------	---

18. What do you think is keeping you from finding a place of your own? [Select all that apply]

<input type="checkbox"/> LOW INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> CRIMINAL HISTORY
<input type="checkbox"/> NO INCOME ASSISTANCE	<input type="checkbox"/> PETS
<input type="checkbox"/> RENTS TOO HIGH	<input type="checkbox"/> CHILDREN
<input type="checkbox"/> POOR HOUSING CONDITIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> DISCRIMINATION
<input type="checkbox"/> DOMESTICK VIOLENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T WANT HOUSING
<input type="checkbox"/> HEALTH/DISABILITY ISSUES	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO BARRIERS TO HOUSING
<input type="checkbox"/> ADDICTION	<input type="checkbox"/> NONE OF THE ABOVE
<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY BREAKDOWN/CONFLICT	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

APPENDIX D6 - Sheltered Tally Sheet



UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA



NORTHERN SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

FACULTY OF ARTS BUSINESS AND SCIENCE

THOMPSON POINT-IN-TIME COUNT 2016

SHELTERED TALLY SHEET

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

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				*Observed Homelessness				
		Declined	Already Responded	Screened Out		Observed*	Observed homeless ness	Approx. Age	Observed Gender	Indicators of Homelessness
				C	D					
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										
11										
12										
13										
14										
15										

APPENDIX E - Volunteer Sign up Form



UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA



NORTHERN SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

FACULTY OF ARTS BUSINESS AND SCIENCE

Thompson PiT Count Volunteer Form

Please fill out this form to help us keep our volunteers organised. All information provided will be confidential.

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Will you be able to attend the mandatory volunteer training session on Friday Feb 27 (11 a.m.-1 p.m.)?

Yes No

If you are not available please provide alternate dates and we will try to arrange an alternative training session.

What times are you available for the PiT count period (please check all times you are available)?

- 10-12 p.m., March 3rd
- 8-10 a.m., March 4th
- 10 a.m.-12 p.m., March 4th
- 12-2 p.m., March 4th
- 2-4 p.m., March 4th
- 4-6 p.m., March 4th
- 6-8 p.m., March 4th
- 8-10 p.m., March 4th

To help us organise diverse volunteer teams, please answer the following optional questions.

What age group are you?

under 18 18-25 26-35 36-50 51-65 65 +

What ethnicity are you? (Please check all that apply)

European Cree Other Indigenous Asian African Other

APPENDIX F - Volunteer Oath of Confidentiality



UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA

NORTHERN SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM



FACULTY OF ARTS BUSINESS AND SCIENCE

THOMPSON POINT-IN-TIME COUNT 2016

Research Assistant, student, volunteer Agreement Oath of Confidentiality

I _____ (Print name)
understand that all of the information I have access to relate to the study entitled: *Thompson PiT count 2016* 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 G - Volunteer Receipt of Honorarium



UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA

NORTHERN SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM



FACULTY OF ARTS BUSINESS AND SCIENCE

THOMPSON POINT-IN-TIME COUNT 2016

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 2016*

\$30.00 Received

First & Last Name (Volunteer)

(Recipient's Initials)

(Date)

(Witness signature)

APPENDIX H - Facility Bed Capacity Form



UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA

NORTHERN SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM



FACULTY OF ARTS BUSINESS AND SCIENCE

THOMPSON POINT-IN-TIME COUNT 2016

FACILITY BED CAPACITY FORM

FACILITY NAME	TOTAL LICENSED BEDS	# OF BEDS FOR INDIVIDUALS	# OF BEDS FOR FAMILIES

DATE OF THE PIT COUNT

NUMBER OF BEDS USED BY INDIVIDUALS:

NUMBER OF BEDS USED BY FAMILIES:

NUMBER OF TURNAWAYS:

APPENDIX I - Verbal Informed Consent Script



NORTHERN SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM



FACULTY OF ARTS BUSINESS AND SCIENCE

THOMPSON POINT-IN-TIME COUNT 2016 VERBAL INFORMED CONSENT

Hi, would you like a granola bar.....

My name is _____ and I'm a volunteer for the Thompson housing needs 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. The results will contribute to the understanding of homelessness across Canada, and will help with research to improve services. Data will be stored in a locked cabinet for five years.

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 2016 is sponsored by the University of Manitoba and the University College of the North and funded by the Employment and Social Development Canada. If you want more information or have concerns about this project, feel free to contact Dr. Marleny Bonnycastle at 204 677 1455, Colin Bonnycastle at 204 677 1552 or Dr. Maureen Simpkins at 204 677 6659.

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 or sheltered survey - tally sheet table.

APPENDIX J - Script for Debriefing with Participants



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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 2016. 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 2016.

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

APPENDIX K - Community Counselling Resources



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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**
Aboriginal Liaison Worker
Thompson Clinic
Northern Health Region
P: 204-677-1776
- **Lori Oberdorfer**
Instructor / Student Counselor
Faculty of Social Work
University of Manitoba
University of Manitoba, Faculty of Social Work
P: 204 677 1460

APPENDIX L - Important Numbers



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THOMPSON POINT-IN-TIME COUNT 2016 IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY SERVICES:

AMBULANCE (204) 677-7911
RCMP (204) 677-6911
CRISIS CENTRE (204) 778-7273

RESEARCH TEAM:

Marleny Bonnycastle 204-677-1455
Colin Bonnycastle 204-677-1452

2016 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

The Thompson Community Advisory Board on Homelessness are seeking community support & recruitment to undertake this count.

Time Required:

**Training –February 11, 2016
11:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. Lunch provided
University of Manitoba, Northern Social Work Program -
3 Station Road, Room #5**

**Point-In-Time Count – Tuesday, February 23, 2016 NIGHT
Wednesday, February, 24, 2016 from 7:00a.m. to 1:00pm.**

The Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) is supporting a coordinated community homeless count across Canada in 2016 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 address:

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



CONTACTS

**Colin Bonnycastle
204-677-1452**

**Colin.Bonnycastle@
umanitoba.ca**

**Dr. Marleny
Bonnycastle
(204) 677-1455
marleny.bonnycastle
@umanitoba.ca**

**John Donovan, CAB
Chair
(204) 679-2070
donovanjfd@hotmail
.ca**

**Michelle Duchesne,
NHRA
(204) 679-0875
mduchesne2@nrha.
ca**

**Shyanna Lynxleg,
MKO
(204) 307-2081
shyanna@mkonorth
.com**

APPENDIX N - Thompson Citizen Article

Weather: Thompson, MB -15°C Light snow

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CMHA and University of Manitoba conduct point-in-time homelessness survey

KLOPER (ANTOZZI/NGK) / THOMPSON CITIZEN
MARCH 2, 2016 10:00 AM

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The Thompson branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association, along with the University of Manitoba Faculty of Social Work and various volunteers were out Feb. 23-24 conducting a point-in-time (PIT) count of Thompson's homeless population. Photograph by Kasper Antoszowski

Burnaby Firefighters Local 323 direct aid to Nepal
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The Thompson branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association, along with the University of Manitoba Faculty of Social Work and various volunteers were out Feb. 23-24 conducting a point-in-time (PIT) count of Thompson's homeless population. This year's count is part of a federally co-ordinated survey taking place across multiple Canadian communities over six months in order to determine federal funding and service priorities in the future.

Surveyors collect people's demographic data such as age, gender, education, community of origin, and how long they've been homeless. The survey also featured questions surrounding an issue which has been garnering increasing attention among social workers, though has rarely been asked in a general context: individual histories of military service.

The survey is not the first of its kind to take place in Thompson: an independent count was conducted in the spring of 2015. Marley Bonnycastle, assistant professor with the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Social Work, says that organizers are keen to expand on the information which they procured during the first "The number was quite high last year - 139 - and there's a question mark surrounding whether that number is accurate." Based on last year's count, Thompson has one of the highest per capita rates of homelessness in Canada.

Conducting the new count is a collaborative effort, featuring the involvement of a few different local agencies, including staff workers, social work students, and individuals who have lived the experience of homelessness. Elder Jack Robinson was one of those individuals: Robinson was the manager of Thompson's first homeless shelter for over three years, and has been involved with social advocacy in Thompson since then. Robinson has had his own experiences struggling with alcohol and rehabilitation, and knows firsthand the difficulties of the transition from an inpatient treatment centre. "When they go home, there's no support, nowhere to go. They go back to the same environment; their friends are still drinking, and they end up getting stuck." Robinson believes increasing support for lifestyle and addictions recovery in outlying communities would have a significant impact on the success of treatment administered in centres like Thompson.

Leanne Grenier, co-ordinator with the Thompson Housing Agency as well as the Homelessness Partnering Strategy, noted that information gathered through the PIT count will aid with the development of just such programs: "We want to share this information with KTC [Keewatin Tribal Council] and MKO [Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak], since we'll be able to identify what communities our homeless population is stemming from. If we find that a proportion of individuals are coming from certain communities, we can potentially work with them to provide more housing opportunities."

Grenier notes that along with formulating policy, "We hope the results from this point-in-time count show the city of Thompson the need to develop more housing in Thompson, whether it's transient housing, secondary suites, etc. We don't get a lot of funding to undertake capital projects, like increasing housing. It's also going to help lobby the government for more funding. Living in the north is pretty expensive, so it's hard for a homeless person to live alone in an apartment, since the per diem they get from employment income services really doesn't cover the cost of rent."

"We want to get people to start thinking differently about homelessness," Bonnycastle said, "to reduce the stereotypes and make people think, 'we need to do more,' especially with our weather. It's a human rights issue."