



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 14, 2020

## ***EVERYONE COUNTS*** **DNSSAB prepares for District-wide homelessness count**

**North Bay, ON** – This year, the District of Nipissing Social Service Administration Board (DNSSAB) through the support of community partners, is taking part in a coordinated effort to measure homelessness across Canada. The DNSSAB has received Federal funding through Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy to oversee the implementation of Nipissing District's third Point in Time (PiT) Count. In 2020, the PiT Count known as *Everyone Counts – Nipissing District* will be taking place across the district including; North Bay, Mattawa, and West Nipissing.

The information gathered from these initiatives will help to build a national, provincial and local picture of homelessness. This will be achieved through a count of the number of people experiencing homelessness and an anonymous survey to better understand the demographics and service needs of the community. The Point-in-Time Count provides a community-wide measure of homelessness, identifying service needs and informing plans to prevent and reduce homelessness.

For a 24-hour period over March 11<sup>th</sup>, and March 12<sup>th</sup>, trained volunteers will count and survey individuals who are staying in shelters, transitional housing, couch surfing and sleeping rough (without shelter). Everyone Counts will provide a "snapshot" of homelessness in the Nipissing District, indicating the minimum number of people experiencing homelessness in our community.

Results from Everyone Counts will be made publically available and we will use the results of this initiative to improve the response to homelessness. In the future, successive counts will allow us to measure progress towards our ultimate goal: ending chronic homelessness in the Nipissing District.

"The data gathered through this mandatory count will help us to direct our resources and to plan for the situation in our District," says DNSSAB Chair, Mark King. "The stability offered by a safe and affordable home has been shown to affect every facet of someone's life, from their health to employment to education – it is a necessity."

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This is the third time the DNSSAB has been involved in a PiT count involving homelessness. In 2016 and 2018, the DNSSAB conducted a count and survey of homelessness in partnership with the Homelessness Partnering Strategy. The results of that experience can be found in a presentation titled “Point in Time (PiT) Count Results” which can be found on the [DNSSAB Website](#).

## ***Media Participation***

The media is invited to contact Marianne Zadra, Executive Coordinator and Communications, for more information.

Ensuring the safety and anonymity of our participants is our utmost priority. Media will not be invited to accompany Everyone Counts volunteers; however, the media will be kept up to date.

## ***For more information:***

[Reaching Home: Everyone Counts- A Guide to Point-in-Time Counts in Canada](#)

[The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness: Point-in-Time Count Toolkit](#)

[The Canadian Definition of Homelessness](#)

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## ***Contact information***

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