

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ***NIPISSING COUNTS 2021***

#### **The DNSSAB and Nipissing District Prepare for Annual Enumeration of Homelessness**

**North Bay, ON** – This October the District of Nipissing Social Services Administrative Board (DNSSAB), with the support of various community partners, will be coordinating the annual District-wide homelessness Point-in-Time (PiT) count. New this year will be the implementation of a By-Name List (BNL) homelessness registry, in accordance with the Ontario Government's initiative to build a comprehensive understanding of homelessness across the province. In 2021, the PiT Count known locally as *Nipissing Counts 2021* will be taking place in communities across the district including: North Bay, West Nipissing, Mattawa, Temagami, East Ferris, Bonfield, Calvin, Papineau-Cameron, Chisholm, and South Algonquin.

The data and information gathered from these initiatives will help to build a provincial and local picture of homelessness. This will be achieved through a count of the number of individuals experiencing homelessness and the administration of an anonymous survey to create a fuller understanding of the demographics and services needs of the community. This year, the DNSSAB has also been tasked with implementing a By-Name List registry. This registry will support coordinated access among the service providers within each community, through providing real-time data that will open the door for better triage to services, performance evaluation and advocacy.

Over a 24-hour period from October 13<sup>th</sup> to October 14<sup>th</sup>, trained volunteers will count and survey individuals who are staying in shelters, transitional housing, couch surfing and sleeping rough (without shelter). During this time, surveyed individuals will have the opportunity to opt-in to the By-Name List registry. The DNSSAB will also hold registry days following the 24-hour enumeration, for those who wish to opt-in then.

Nipissing Counts will provide a "snapshot" of homelessness in the Nipissing District, indicating the minimum number of people experiencing homelessness in communities. The results from this project will be made publically available and we will use the results of these initiatives to improve the community response to homelessness.

"Point in Time counts have proven to be very informative, providing a synopsis of what the current homelessness situation is in the District, and are one of the tools to gauge and plan for local needs. The DNSSAB is excited about the addition of the By Name List registry which will assist in providing the right services to the right people, to help them transition out of homelessness, and over time, track movement in and out of the area," says DNSSAB Board Chair, Mark King.

This project will mark the DNSSAB's fourth PiT Count involving homelessness. Previous counts have taken place in 2016, 2018, and most recently in March of 2020. The results of these initiatives 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](#)

## ***Contact information***

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