



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NIPISSING COUNTS 2024

District-wide homelessness count results

North Bay, ON: During a 24-hour period starting on October 9, 2024, social service agencies, homelessness service providers, health care facilities, municipalities, and correctional facilities across Nipissing District participated in a coordinated count and survey of homelessness, known locally as Nipissing Counts 2024. The count revealed a total of 531 individuals experiencing homelessness across the District, according to the Federal Government's requirements to include individuals in emergency shelters, unsheltered locations, public institutions, hidden homelessness, and transitional housing. This represents a 77% increase from the 2021 count of 300, and 81% increase from the 2020 count of 293.

Nipissing Counts 2024 was overseen by the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB), with the support of members of the Nipissing District Housing and Homelessness Partnership (NDHHP), who worked to guide the project from planning through to execution of the count and surveys. This initiative was funded by the Government of Canada's Reaching Home Strategy.

The objective of Nipissing Counts 2024 is to gather demographic, numerical, and community need information on the District's homeless population to better understand the challenges facing individuals experiencing homelessness in the District. Given the difficulty in accurately measuring the extent of local homelessness, the Nipissing Counts 2024 information and data is also compared with other homelessness data sources to improve understanding and estimation of the homeless population. Surveys were extended for up to seven days in areas outside of North Bay in recognition of the hidden nature of homelessness in more rural municipalities and limited social service locations in these areas.

Key Survey Findings:

- 81% were single adults
- 61% identified as male
- 48% identified as Indigenous



- 138 were staying in unsheltered situations including encampments and vehicles
- 130 were staying in emergency or violence against women shelters (VAW shelters)
- 117 were staying in public institutions with no fixed address (health care, treatment, correctional facilities)
- 80 were experiencing hidden homelessness including couch-surfing
- 66 were staying in a transitional housing program

"These findings highlight a growing and urgent challenge in Nipissing District, with more individuals and families experiencing homelessness," said Mark King, Chair of the DNSSAB Board. *"This data provides us with crucial insight into the realities of homelessness in our communities – these numbers represent real people who are facing increasingly difficult circumstances."*

"Addressing homelessness in Nipissing comes with unique challenges, as the District spans over 17,000 square kilometers of mostly rural and remote communities – more than twice the size of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. With no public transit services and most social supports centralized in North Bay, individuals in outlying areas face significant barriers to accessing essential services," King noted.

"DNSSAB will continue working with community partners and advocating tirelessly to government officials at all levels. Advocacy is central to our work, and we remain committed to securing the funding, resources, and policy changes needed to address homelessness, improve access to affordable housing, and enhance community supports," King added.

Methodological Note:

The homeless population is always difficult to enumerate with complete accuracy. By extension, making direct comparisons between PiT Counts must always consider factors such as changes and improvements in surveying and sampling techniques: (e.g. search and count locations, number of volunteers, geographical locations); seasonal differences/effects; and the definitions of homelessness used in the study.

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