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Kenora District Services Board

Our Mission: Dedicated to Improving Lives

Our Vision: With Forward Thinking and Engaged Employees, We Achieve Consistent Service and Better Outcomes

The Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) provides services to a catchment area of 407,000 km² ranging from the Manitoba border, to the east of Ignace, south to the Rainy River District and north to the 14th baseline.

The vast geography includes nine municipalities and four unincorporated territories with small villages and vast rural, remote areas.

The Kenora District encompasses 40 First Nations communities; some bordering municipalities, others situated far north.

In addition to the approximately 65,500 to 75,000 people living in the Kenora District, each community is unique in its economic capacity and challenges; some communities have thriving economies and growing populations while others are going through changing economies and are experiencing out migrating population.
Current baseline data on homelessness in the Kenora District is vital to understanding the challenges of homelessness and the extent of homelessness. The Kenora District 2021 Homelessness Enumeration Report is the second enumeration conducted for the District.

As part of Ontario’s five-year plan, *Building a Strong Foundation for Success: Reducing Poverty in Ontario (2020-2025)*, the Province is committed to addressing poverty by identifying long-term areas of action to help those most in need, while supporting the economic recovery impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The poverty reduction strategy is built upon four pillars:

1. Encouraging job creation and connecting people to employment
2. Connecting people with the right supports and services
3. Making life more affordable and building financial resiliency
4. Accelerating action and driving progress
In response to the Panel’s October 2015 report, *A Place to Call Home*, the Province committed to a number of immediate and long-term actions. These included:

- Committing to end chronic homelessness by 2025;
- Adopting four provincial priorities to guide action: chronic, youth, and Indigenous homelessness, and homelessness following transitions from provincially-funded institutions and service systems; and
- Planning to require local enumeration to gather data about homelessness.
- In 2016, the Province released the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy (LTAHS) Update, which further supports the goal of ending chronic homelessness by 2025, and charts a bold, coordinated, and progressive course towards housing policy and programs that are relevant to current realities and reflect new research and best practices. Guided by the vision that “every person has an affordable, suitable and adequate home to provide the foundation to secure employment, raise a family, and build strong communities,” the LTAHS Update has two overarching outcomes: decreasing the number of people who are homeless, and increasing the number of households achieving housing stability.
- As part of this commitment, the Province has amended the *Housing Services Act, 2011* to require Service Managers to conduct local homeless enumeration.

Through the support of the Ministry of Housing, the KDSB has conducted its second homelessness enumeration of a Point-In-Time (PiT) Count of homelessness in each of the nine municipalities of the Kenora District in October 2021.

The results of this enumeration will influence future service planning and support the importance and need for affordable housing. In addition, the results will allow communities to gain a better understanding of the multi-faceted issues related to forms of homelessness in the Kenora District.

The KDSB will conduct a homelessness enumeration every two years to provide a comparison and measurement of the progress made towards eliminating homelessness in the Kenora District.
Homelessness and the Kenora District’s Housing Crisis:

Homelessness has become a progressively complex issue in the Kenora District. Many people experiencing homelessness at some point in their lives do not make use of conventional facilities; such as emergency or transitional shelters, making it difficult to plan for appropriate services and supports accurately.

Lack of housing and its impact on Community Health and Poverty:

Through its Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHIPI), the KDSB supported over 22,044 nightly stays for 3,021 individuals at the three emergency shelters in the District in 2020. Common reasons were given by individuals staying at the emergency shelter:

1. Judicial System (Waiting for Court, Released from Jail or on Bail)
2. Medical Services
3. Missed Transportation
4. Reasons related to escaping violence
5. Kicked out
6. No place to go or no home

Housing Wait list (January 2022):

The waiting list for housing has increased by 346% since 2011.

As of January, the KDSB had over 1,700 approved applications for housing.

*This data reflects applicants who may have applied for multiple communities
In March 2020, the KDSB was approved as a Designated Community under the Federal Governments Reaching Home Program. The KDSB operates as the Community Entity District-wide.

The designation marked the first time in KDSB’s history in which the Federal Government will be a formal partner in our region’s collective strategy to end homelessness.

For the duration of the COVID-19 Pandemic, funding allocations have allowed KDSB flexibility to use as required to support our communities and our vulnerable population

Definitions:

Homelessness:

Homelessness is the situation of an individual or family who does not have a permanent address or residence; the living situation or an individual/family who does not have permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means, and ability to acquire it.

Homelessness describes a range of housing and shelter circumstances, with people being without any shelter at one end, and being insecurely housed at the other. That is, homelessness encompasses a range of physical living situations, organized here in a typology that includes:

1) Unsheltered, or absolutely homeless and living on the streets or in places not intended for human habitation;
2) Emergency Sheltered, including those staying in overnight shelters for people who are homeless, as well as shelters for those impacted by family violence;
3) Provisionally Accommodated, referring to those whose accommodation is temporary or lacks security of tenure;
4) At Risk of Homelessness, referring to people who are not homeless, but whose current economic and/ or housing situation is precarious or does not meet public health and safety standards. It should be noted that for many people homelessness is not a static state but rather a fluid experience, where one’s shelter circumstances and options may shift and change quite dramatically and with frequency;
5) **Chronic Homelessness** refers to individuals who are currently experiencing homelessness and who meet at least 1 of the following criteria:

1. They have a total of at least 6 months of homelessness over the past year
2. They have recurrent experiences of homelessness over the past 3 years, with a cumulative duration of at least 18 months.

Chronic Homelessness includes time spent in the following contexts:

A. Staying in unsheltered locations, that is public or private spaces without consent or contract, or places not intended for permanent human habitation.

B. Staying in emergency shelters, including overnight shelters or people experiencing homelessness (including those for specific populations, such as youth, families, and newcomers), shelters for people impacted by family violence, and emergency shelters for people fleeing a natural disaster or destruction of accommodation.

C. Staying temporarily with others without guarantee of continued residency or the immediate prospects for accessing permanent housing, or short-term rental accommodations without the security of tenure.

It does not include situations where individuals have access to secure, permanent housing, whether subsidized or not. The definition also does not include time spent in transitional housing or public institutions. Although individuals who are discharged into homelessness from transitional housing or public institutions can be considered chronically homeless if they were experiencing chronic homelessness upon entry to transitional housing or the public institutions.

**Methodology and Limitations:**

**Point-In-Time (PiT) Count**

A point-in-time count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on a single night. A point-in-time count is intended to capture numbers and basic demographics of persons experiencing homelessness at a single point in time.

The data from PiT Counts can help participating communities to identify service needs and inform planning to prevent and reduce homelessness.

A PiT Count of homelessness has two primary purposes:
1. An enumeration, or count, of people experiencing absolute homelessness

   It is intended to identify how many people in a community experience homelessness in shelters and on the streets at a given time. Conducted over subsequent years, PiT counts can be used by the community to track progress in reducing homelessness.

2. A survey of people experiencing homelessness

   Through an accompanying survey, the PiT Count gives the community information on the demographics and service needs of people affected by homelessness. This information can be used to target community resources to where they are most needed.

Limitations

As this method focusses on accessing people through service organizations and agencies, people who do not access such services may not be included in the count.

1 day snapshot in small, rural communities: The District of Kenora has a 0.2 population density per square kilometre, this method may not fully demonstrate the amount of people experiencing homelessness in smaller municipalities where services are not centralized, limited, or do not presently exist in one day’s time.

Hidden Homelessness: Many people experiencing homelessness stay with relatives, friends, acquaintances, neighbours, or strangers because they do not have a permanent home. They are considered ‘hidden’ because they are not visible in the community as experiencing homelessness and may not use services available to people experiencing homelessness even though they do not have a place to call home. As people experiencing hidden homelessness are difficult to identify, current enumeration methods likely do not reflect the full scope of homelessness in a community or the District of Kenora.

COVID-19 Pandemic: The homelessness enumeration was to take place in May of 2020, however due to the lockdown it was not conducted. In May 2021, was the rescheduled time to conduct the enumeration but the Province was still in lockdown. A mandated Point-In-Time Count took place in October 2021, which was a different time of year as opposed to occurring in the spring. The COVID-19 Pandemic caused limitations due to the restrictions and affected results.
In order to educate its partners and the community, the KDSB worked with local service providers across the district. KDSB staff networked directly with staff within appropriate organizations, including health and human services.

Advertisement to the District of Kenora’s homeless population and communities at large was implemented through a poster campaign and an info-share memo providing the appropriate details for the survey, including location, date, time and purpose. A social media campaign was also developed to provide reach across the region.

A press release was issued by the KDSB alerting the public that the KDSB will be conducting its second Enumeration on Homelessness in October 2021, followed by a series of press interviews, conducted by KDSB’s Chief Administrative Officer, resulting in multiple media stories within Northern Ontario.

Surveys were primarily completed online by KDSB’s Housing Services Supervisors, Integrated Social Services Supervisors, Integrated Social Services Case Managers, and Integrated Services Workers, with the survey respondents through a one-on-one interview.

Additionally, paper copies were left at enumeration site locations with local service providers in the event that a respondent felt more comfortable with a paper method.

The Integrated Social Services team conducted the survey with participants through partnerships with multiple service delivery partners at many locations. $10.00 gift cards to local businesses within the community were provided to participants for sharing their stories.
Communities where a Point-in-Time Count was Conducted:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community:</th>
<th>Service Provider:</th>
<th>Enumeration Site:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Dryden**    | Dryden Native Friendship Centre  
Dryden High School – KPDSB  
Dryden Police Service  
Dryden Regional Hospital  
Ontario Works – KDSB  
Northwestern Health Unit  
Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)  
City of Dryden  
Dryden Safety and Wellbeing Plan Committee (Social Development Pillar) | KDSB Ontario Works Office  
Dryden Native Friendship Centre  
Dryden Regional Health Centre  
Dryden High School |
| **Machin**    | Machin Health Centre  
Municipality of Machin | Old Credit Union Building  
Machin Municipal Office |
| **Ear Falls** | Ontario Works – KDSB  
Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre  
Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)  
Ear Falls Health Centre  
Northwestern Health Unit  
Township of Ear Falls  
Municipality of Red Lake  
Red Lake Area Emergency Shelter | Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre – Ear Falls Site |
| **Red Lake**  | Margaret Cochenour Hospital  
Ontario Works – KDSB  
Red Lake Emergency Shelter  
New Starts for Women Shelter  
Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) – Kelly Hall Community Counselling  
Red Lake Indigenous Friendship Centre  
Northwestern Health Unit  
Municipality of Red Lake  
Red Lake High School – KPDSB | Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre  
Red Lake Area Emergency Shelter |
| **Ignace**    | Ontario Works – KDSB  
Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)  
Mary Berglund Health Centre  
Ignace School – KPDSB  
Ignace Food Bank  
Northwestern Health Unit  
Dryden Regional Health Centre, Mental Health and Addictions Program – Ignace | Ontario Works Office |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sioux Lookout</strong>&lt;br&gt;October 20</td>
<td>Office&lt;br&gt;Township of Ignace&lt;br&gt;Northwest EMS&lt;br&gt;Ontario Works – KDSB&lt;br&gt;Out of the Cold Shelter&lt;br&gt;First Step Women’s Shelter&lt;br&gt;Sioux Lookout Supportive Housing&lt;br&gt;Nishnawbe-Gamik Friendship Centre&lt;br&gt;Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)&lt;br&gt;Sioux North High School – KPDSB&lt;br&gt;Northwestern Health Unit&lt;br&gt;Municipality of Sioux Lookout&lt;br&gt;Equay-Wuk&lt;br&gt;Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority&lt;br&gt;Meno Ya Win – Mental Health and Addictions Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pickle Lake</strong>&lt;br&gt;October 21</td>
<td>Municipality of Pickle Lake&lt;br&gt;Northwest EMS&lt;br&gt;Pickle Lake Health Centre&lt;br&gt;Ontario Works – KDSB&lt;br&gt;Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)&lt;br&gt;Crolancia School – KPDSB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kenora</strong>&lt;br&gt;October 20</td>
<td>Ontario Works – KDSB&lt;br&gt;Jubilee Church&lt;br&gt;Women’s Place Kenora&lt;br&gt;NeChee Friendship Centre&lt;br&gt;Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)&lt;br&gt;Morning Star Detox Centre&lt;br&gt;Changes Recovery Homes&lt;br&gt;City of Kenora&lt;br&gt;Kenora Association for Community Living&lt;br&gt;Northwestern Health Unit&lt;br&gt;Lake of the Woods Hospital&lt;br&gt;Canadian Mental Health Association – Kenora Branch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sioux Narrows/ Nestor Falls</strong>&lt;br&gt;October 19</td>
<td>Municipality of Sioux Narrows/Nestor Falls&lt;br&gt;Northwestern Health Unit – Health Promoter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
District-wide Survey Results
Communities & dates where a Point-in-Time Count was conducted:

- Pickle Lake: Oct 21
- Sioux Narrows/Nestor Falls: Oct 19
- Sioux Lookout: Oct 20
- Red Lake: Oct 20
- Machin: Oct 19
- Kenora: Oct 20
- Ear Falls: Oct 19
- Dryden: Oct 20

Total homelessness by community:

- Dryden: 37
- Ignace: 4
- Kenora: 121
- Red Lake: 15
- Pickle Lake: 8
- Sioux Lookout: 36

118 surveys were completed across the Kenora District. An additional 103 individuals were observed as homeless (these individuals did not complete the survey).

Total: 221
Where respondents stayed the night prior to the survey:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homeless Shelter</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsheltered in a Public Space</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encampment</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone Else's Place</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel/Motel</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jail, Prison, Remand Centre</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment Centre</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabin in the Bush</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decline to Answer</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How much time respondents have experienced homelessness over the past year:

Number of times provided (90.76%)  Don't Know (6.72%)  Declined to answer/No answer (2.52%)
How many different times respondents have experienced homelessness over the past year:*
what caused respondents to lose their housing most recently:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reasons given for Homelessness by individuals surveyed:</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Addiction or substance use issue</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>38.66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health: hospitalization, treatment program, physical or mental health issue</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>41.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incarceration: jail or prison</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict: with spouse/partner or parent/guardian or other</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>25.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced abuse: by spouse/partner or parent/guardian or other</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>11.76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not enough income for housing</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>15.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unfit/unsafe housing condition</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building sold or renovated</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner moved in</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landlord/tenant conflict</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complaint</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced discrimination</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left the community/relocated</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Departure of a family member</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other: many reasons provided</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>55.46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/decline to answer</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>24.37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Percentage is reflective of the number of individuals who identified multiple factors that lead to experiencing homelessness.
Age of respondents:

How old were you the first time you experience homelessness:
Gender Identity of respondents:

- Male (54.3%)
- Female (42.53%)
- Transgender, Two-Spirit, Genderqueer (2.26%)
- Decline to Answer (0.9%)

Sexual Orientation of Survey respondents:

- Straight/Heterosexual (82.35%)
- LGBTQ2S+ (10.92%)
- Decline to answer/No answer (6.72%)
Racial Identity of respondents:

- Indigenous (88.14%)
- Non-Indigenous (9.32%)
- No Answer Selected (2.54%)

Language respondents feel best able to express themselves:

- English (95.8%)
- Ojibwe (2.52%)
- No Answer (1.68%)
Family members that are staying with respondents the night of the survey:

Total Children/Dependants on behalf of 20 respondents that indicated so:

21 (10 Female, 10 Male, 1 No Answer)
"I have been homeless since I was 20, I am 49."

- Survey respondent
Respondents who have served in the Military:

2.52% or 3 respondents out of 119 said Yes.

Was your most recent housing loss related to the COVID-19 Pandemic:

95.80% said No.
Challenges impacting the homeless respondents in the Kenora District:

**Illness or Medical Condition**
- Yes (49.58%)
- No (44.54%)
- Don't Know (0.84%)
- Decline to Answer/No Answer (5.04%)

**Physical Limitation**
- Yes (37.82%)
- No (55.46%)
- Don't Know (2.52%)
- Decline to Answer/No Answer (4.2%)
2021 Kenora District Homelessness Enumeration

Challenges impacting the homeless respondents in the Kenora District:

- **Learning or Cognitive Limitations**
  - Yes (26.89%)
  - No (63.87%)
  - Don't Know (4.2%)
  - Decline to Answer/No Answer (5.04%)

- **Mental Health Issue**
  - Yes (64.71%)
  - No (29.41%)
  - Don't Know (0.84%)
  - Decline to Answer/No Answer (5.04%)
Challenges impacting the homeless respondents in the Kenora District:

### Substance Use Issue

- Yes (76.47%)
- No (19.33%)
- Don't Know (0.84%)
- Decline to Answer/No Answer (3.36%)

### Acquired Brain Injury

- Yes (20.17%)
- No (68.91%)
- Don't Know (6.72%)
- Decline to Answer/No Answer (4.2%)
Respondents who have been in a Foster Care/Group Home:

Respondents’ sources of income:
How long respondents have been in the community:

How long have you been in this community?

- 35 respondents have always lived within the community they were surveyed. 29.41%
- 77 provided a length of time. 64.71%
- 2 did not know or declined to answer. 1.68%
- *5 respondents answered with only a community name and no time length.

Of those 77 respondents who provided a length of time:
of the respondents who provided a length of time: where did respondents live before they came here?

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

96.64% said No.

3.36% said Don’t Know or did not provide an answer.
"I moved home and could not find affordable housing."

- Survey respondent
Respondents who have stayed in an Emergency Shelter in the past year:

- Yes (68.07%)
- No (28.57%)
- Don't Know/No Answer (3.36%)

Highest level of education respondents have completed:

- Primary School: 14
- Some High School: 58
- High School Graduate/GED: 31
- Some Post Secondary: 4
- Post Secondary Graduate: 7
- Graduate Degree: 1
- No Formal Education: 0
- Don't Know/Decline to Answer: 4
Respondents in the past year have:

- Been to an Emergency Room: 63
- Been Hospitalized: 33
- Interacted with Police: 44
- Been To Prison/Jail: 23

# of times respondents in the past year have:
Respondents who want to have permanent housing:

Challenges or problems respondents have experienced when trying to find housing:

Other challenges or problems included no housing being available.
**Conclusion**

The 2021 Kenora District Homelessness Enumeration provides the KDSB with valuable up-to-date baseline data on the scope of homelessness in the District.

The prevalence of homelessness in the District continues to reflect a crisis in each of its communities.

Through 2021’s findings, it is demonstrated that homelessness is a complex issue with many facets such as trauma, addictions, and mental health challenges. It has also been unequivocally demonstrated that the lack of safe, adequate, and affordable housing in the Kenora District’s Municipalities produce devastating results in regards to poverty and homelessness.

Proactive homelessness prevention initiatives are necessary for individuals and families who face adversities and social disparities in reaching their full well-being potential.

The data collected in KDSB’s 2021 enumeration will be used to direct investments and community initiatives in the effort to end chronic homelessness.

The results of the PiT 2021 enabled the KDSB to produce the mandated By-Name List (BNL) to be used in 2022. The BNL is a real-time person-specific list of all people known to be experiencing homelessness in the Kenora District. The BNL is a set of data points that support Coordinated Access and prioritization and an understanding of homelessness inflow and outflow at a system level.

The Coordinated Access System is a requirement of the Reaching Home Canada’s Homelessness Strategy and is a federal requirement. The Coordinated Access system streamlines the process for people experiencing homelessness to access housing and support.

The Coordinated Entry System will be launched in the Kenora District in early 2022. The Coordinated Entry process consists of an intake and update for the BNL to be used by Homelessness Service Providers in the region. By standardizing intake, information sharing in real-time, adopting uniform prioritization policies and coordinating referral processes a Coordinated Access connects people to the right housing and support as efficiently as possible. This ensures communities get the most out of limited
resources and more rapidly and effectively prevents and ends homelessness for those in greatest need.

A strong Coordinated Access system follows the principles of Housing First and shares real-time data to facilitate the housing process.

Acknowledgments

The KDSB would like to thank the following organizations that were involved in the 2021 Point-In-Time Count Community Partnership Plan. The success of the collection of this data would not have been possible without their support:

- KDSB Social Services
- KDSB Northwest EMS
- City of Dryden
- City of Kenora
- Municipality of Sioux Lookout
- Municipality of Red Lake
- Township of Ear Falls
- Township of Ignace
- Lac Seul Unincorporated Territory
- Lake of the Woods North Unincorporated
- Lake of the Woods South Unincorporated
- Municipality of Machin
- Oxdrift Unincorporated Territory
- Township of Pickle Lake
- Township of Sioux Narrows/Nestor Falls
- Dryden Native Friendship Centre
- KPDSB-Alternative Education Program
- Dryden Police Service
- Dryden Regional Health Centre-Dryden & Ignace
- Dryden Community Living
- Dryden Interagency Committee
- N.E.W. Northwest Employment Works
- Dryden Hoshizaki House
- Northwestern Health Unit
• Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)
• Dryden Safety and Wellbeing Plan Committee (Social Development Pillar)
• Dryden Regional Health Centre
• Machin Health Centre
• Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre
• Ear Falls Health Centre
• Red Lake Area Emergency Shelter
• Margaret Cochenour Hospital
• New Starts for Women Shelter
• Community Counselling
• Red Lake High School – KPDSB
• Mary Berglund Health Centre
• Ignace School – KPDSB
• Ignace Food Bank
• Out of the Cold Shelter
• First Step Women’s Shelter
• Sioux Lookout Supportive Housing
• Nishnawbe-Gamik Friendship Centre
• Sioux North High School – KPDSB
• Equay-Wuk
• Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority Meno Ya Win – Mental Health and Addictions Program
• Pickle Lake Health Centre
• Crolancia School – KPDSB
• Jubilee Church
• Women’s Place Kenora
• Ne-Chee Friendship Centre
• Morning Star Detox Centre
• Changes Recovery Homes
• Kenora Association for Community Living
• Lake of the Woods Hospital
• Canadian Mental Health Association – Kenora Branch
• Kenora Fellowship Centre
• Kenora Emergency Shelter
• Del Art Manor Recovery Home
• Clarissa Manor Recovery Home
Appendix A: The Survey

Kenora District Point-In-Time (PiT) Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SURVEY</th>
<th>Survey Number: 0000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location: __________________________________________________________</td>
<td>Time: _____ AM/PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interviewer: ________________________________________________________</td>
<td>Contact #: _________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. Where are you staying tonight? / Where did you stay last night?

a. DECLINE TO ANSWER
b. OWN APARTMENT / HOUSE
   [THANK & END SURVEY]

C1. Do you have access to a permanent residence where you can safely stay as long as you want?

a. Yes [THANK & END]
b. No (not permanent AND/OR not safe) [BEGIN SURVEY]
c. Don’t Know [BEGIN SURVEY]
d. Decline to answer [THANK & END]

h. HOMELESS SHELTER (EMERGENCY, FAMILY OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER)
   i. HOTEL/MOTEL (FUNDED BY CITY OR HOMELESS PROGRAM)
   j. TRANSITIONAL SHELTER/HOUSING
   k. UNSHelterED IN A PUBLIC SPACE (E.G. STREET, PARK, BUS SHELTER, FOREST OR ABANDONED BUILDING)
   l. ENCAMPMENT (E.G. GROUP OF TENTS, MAKESHIFT SHELTERS OR OTHER LONG-TERM OUTDOOR SETTLEMENT)
m. VEHICLE (CAR, VAN, RV, TRUCK, BOAT)
n. UNSURE: INDICATE PROBABLE LOCATION _____(b. - m.)

BEGIN SURVEY

1. Do you have family members or anyone else who is staying with you tonight? / Did you have any family members or anyone else who stayed with you last night? [Indicate survey number for partners. Check all that apply]

- NONE
- PARTNER - Survey #: ___ ___ ___ ___
- OTHER ADULT(S) (Can include other family or friends)
- DECLINE TO ANSWER

- CHILD(REN)/DEPENDENT(S)
  [indicate gender and age for each]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GENDER</th>
<th>AGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

- AGE _______ OR YEAR BORN ____________
- DON’T KNOW
- DECLINE TO ANSWER
For this survey, “homelessness” means any time when you have been without a permanent and secure place to live, including sleeping in shelters, on the streets, or living temporarily with others without having your own permanent housing (e.g. couch surfing).

3. How old were you the first time you experienced homelessness?
   ○ AGE___________  ○ DON’T KNOW  ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

4. In total, **for how much time** have you experienced homelessness over the PAST YEAR? (the last 12 months) [Does not need to be exact. Best estimate.]
   ○ LENGTH ______________  DAYS | WEEKS | MONTHS  ○ DON’T KNOW  ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

4b. In total, **how many different times** have you experienced homelessness over the PAST YEAR? (the last 12 months) [Best estimate.]
   ○ NUMBER OF TIMES ________  [Includes this time]  ○ DON’T KNOW  ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

5. Have you stayed in a homeless shelter in the past year? For example, (COMMUNITY NOTE: Include examples of emergency shelters and extreme weather shelters for interviewers to provide).
   ○ YES  ○ NO  ○ DON’T KNOW  ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

5b. ➔ If not, what are the main reasons? [Do not read categories; select all that apply]

   □ TURNED AWAY (SHELTERS ARE FULL)
   □ TURNED AWAY (BANNED)
   □ LACK OF TRANSPORTATION
   □ FEAR FOR SAFETY
   □ BED BUGS & OTHER PESTS
   □ CROWDED
   □ OTHER:
     ______________________
   □ DON’T KNOW
   □ DECLINE TO ANSWER

6. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant, refugee or a refugee claimant (i.e. applied for refugee status after coming to Canada)?
   ○ YES, IMMIGRANT ----------------->
   ○ YES, REFUGEE----------------->
   ○ YES, REFUGEE CLAIMANT --------->
   ○ NO
   ○ DON’T KNOW
   ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

6b. ➔ **If YES:**
   How long have you been in Canada?
   ○ LENGTH: ___________ DAYS | WEEKS | MONTHS | YEARS
   OR DATE: ________/_______/______ DAY / MONTH / YEAR
   ○ DON’T KNOW
   ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

6c. Are you a Canadian Citizen?
   ○ YES
   ○ NO ---------------->
     ----------------->
   ○ DON’T KNOW
   ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER
7. How long have you been in (community name)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPTION</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>LENGTH ______ DAYS / WEEKS / MONTHS / YEARS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>ALWAYS BEEN HERE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>DON'T KNOW</td>
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<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>DECLINE TO ANSWER</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7b. Where did you live before you came here?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPTION</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>CITY: ____________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>DECLINE TO ANSWER</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7c. What is the main reason you came to (community name)? [Do not read categories; select one]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPTION</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>TO ACCESS EMERGENCY SHELTER(S)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>TO ACCESS SERVICES AND SUPPORTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>FAMILY MOVED HERE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>TO VISIT FRIENDS/FAMILY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>TO FIND HOUSING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>EMPLOYMENT (SEEKING)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>EMPLOYMENT (SECURED)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>TO ATTEND SCHOOL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>FEAR FOR SAFETY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>RECREATION/SHOPPING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>OTHER: _____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>DON'T KNOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>DECLINE TO ANSWER</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8a. Do you identify as First Nations (with or without status), Métis, or Inuit, or do you have North American Indigenous ancestry? [If yes, please specify] (COMMUNITY NOTE: The wording of this question can be adapted to what makes sense in your community, for example by listing specific First Nations)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPTION</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>YES, FIRST NATIONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>YES, INUIT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>YES, MÉTIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>YES, INDIGENOUS ANCESTRY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>DON'T KNOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>DECLINE TO ANSWER</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8b. In addition to your response in the question above, do you identify with any of the racial identities listed below? [Show or Read list. Select all that apply]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPTION</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐</td>
<td>ARAB (e.g., Syrian, Egyptian, Yemeni)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐</td>
<td>ASIAN-EAST (e.g., Chinese, Korean, Japanese)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐</td>
<td>ASIAN- SOUTH-EAST (e.g., Filipino, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Malaysian, Laotian)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐</td>
<td>ASIAN-SOUTH OR INDO-CARIBBEAN (e.g., Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Indo-Guyanese, Indo-Trinidadian)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐</td>
<td>ASIAN-WEST (e.g., Iranian, Afghan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐</td>
<td>BLACK-CANADIAN/AMERICAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐</td>
<td>BLACK-AFRICAN (e.g., Ghanaian, Ethiopian, Nigerian)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐</td>
<td>BLACK-AFRO-CARIBBEAN OR AFRO-LATINX (e.g., Jamaican, Haitian, Afro-Brazilian)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐</td>
<td>LATIN AMERICAN (e.g., Brazilian, Mexican, Chilean, Cuban)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐</td>
<td>WHITE (e.g. European, French, Ukrainian, Euro-Latinx)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐</td>
<td>NOT LISTED (PLEASE SPECIFY): _____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐</td>
<td>IDENTIFY AS INDIGENOUS ONLY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐</td>
<td>DON'T KNOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐</td>
<td>DECLINE TO ANSWER</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8c. Which Indigenous community are you from?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPTION</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>COMMUNITY /RESERVE NAME__________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>DON'T KNOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>DECLINE TO ANSWER</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Have you ever served in the Canadian Military or RCMP? [Military includes Canadian Navy, Army, or Air Force]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPTION</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>YES, MILITARY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>BOTH MILITARY AND RCMP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>DON'T KNOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>DECLINE TO ANSWER</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPTION</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>YES, RCMP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>DON'T KNOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>DECLINE TO ANSWER</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. As a child or youth, were you ever in foster care or in a youth group home (COMMUNITY NOTE: include any other Provincial child welfare programs)? [Note: This question applies specifically to child welfare programs.]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPTION</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>DON'T KNOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○</td>
<td>DECLINE TO ANSWER</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
10b. Approximately how long after leaving foster care/group home did you become homeless?

- LENGTH _____ DAYS / WEEKS / MONTHS / YEARS
- DON’T KNOW
- DECLINE TO ANSWER

10c. Do you feel that Child Protection Services was helpful in transitioning you to independence after leaving foster care/group home?

- YES
- NO
- DON’T KNOW
- DECLINE TO ANSWER

11. Do you identify as having any of the following health challenges at this time:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ILLNESS OR MEDICAL CONDITION [e.g. diabetes, arthritis, TB, HIV]</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>DON’T KNOW</th>
<th>DECLINE TO ANSWER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICAL LIMITATION [e.g. challenges with mobility, physical abilities or dexterity]</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>DON’T KNOW</td>
<td>DECLINE TO ANSWER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEARNING OR COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS [e.g. dyslexia, autism spectrum disorder, or as a result of ADHD or an acquired brain injury]</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>DON’T KNOW</td>
<td>DECLINE TO ANSWER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE (diagnosed/undiagnosed) [e.g. depression, Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), bipolar disorder]</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>DON’T KNOW</td>
<td>DECLINE TO ANSWER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUBSTANCE USE ISSUE [e.g. tobacco, alcohol, opiates]</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>DON’T KNOW</td>
<td>DECLINE TO ANSWER</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you identify as having an acquired brain injury that happened after birth? (e.g. from injury related to an accident, violence, overdose, a stroke or brain tumor)

- YES
- NO
- DON’T KNOW
- DECLINE TO ANSWER

12. What gender do you identify with? [Show list or read list.]

- MAN
- WOMAN
- TWO-SPirit
- TRANS WOMAN
- TRANS MAN
- NON-BINARY (GENDERQUEER)
- NOT LISTED: __________________________
- DON’T KNOW
- DECLINE TO ANSWER

13. How do you describe your sexual orientation, for example straight, gay, lesbian? [Show list or read list.]

- STRAIGHT/HETEROSEXUAL
- GAY
- LESBIAN
- BISEXUAL
- TWO-SPirit
- PANSEXUAL
- ASEXUAL
- QUESTIONING
- QUEER
- NOT LISTED: __________________________
- DON’T KNOW
- DECLINE TO ANSWER
### 14a. What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently? [Do not read the options. Check all that apply. “Housing” does not include temporary arrangements (e.g., couch surfing) or shelter stays. Follow up for the reason if the respondent says “eviction” or that they “chose to leave”.]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A: HOUSING AND FINANCIAL ISSUES</th>
<th>B: INTERPERSONAL AND FAMILY ISSUES</th>
<th>C: HEALTH OR CORRECTIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ NOT ENOUGH INCOME FOR HOUSING (E.G. LOST BENEFIT, INCOME, OR JOB)</td>
<td>□ CONFLICT WITH: SPOUSE / PARTNER</td>
<td>□ PHYSICAL HEALTH ISSUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ UNFIT/UNSAFE HOUSING CONDITION</td>
<td>□ CONFLICT WITH: PARENT / GUARDIAN</td>
<td>□ MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ BUILDING SOLD OR RENNOVATED</td>
<td>□ CONFLICT WITH: OTHER (__________)</td>
<td>□ SUBSTANCE USE ISSUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ OWNER MOVED IN</td>
<td>□ EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: SPOUSE / PARTNER</td>
<td>□ HOSPITALIZATION OR TREATMENT PROGRAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ LANDLORD/TENANT CONFLICT</td>
<td>□ EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: PARENT / GUARDIAN</td>
<td>□ INCARCERATION (JAIL OR PRISON)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ COMPLAINT (E.G. PETS/NOISE/DAMAGE)</td>
<td>□ EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: OTHER (____ - _____)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ LEFT THE COMMUNITY/RELOCATED</td>
<td>□ DEPARTURE OF FAMILY MEMBER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ OTHER REASON: _________________________________________________</td>
<td>□ EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ OTHER REASON: _________________________________________________</td>
<td>□ DON’T KNOW</td>
<td>□ DECLINE TO ANSWER</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 14b. Was your most recent housing loss related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

○ YES  ○ NO  ○ DON’T KNOW  ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

### 14c. How long ago did that happen (that you lost your housing most recently)? (Best estimate)

○ LENGTH ______________ DAYS | WEEKS | MONTHS | YEARS  ○ DON’T KNOW  ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

### 15. What are your sources of income? [Reminder that this survey is anonymous. Read list and check all that apply]

| □ FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT                                           | □ EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE               | □ CHILD AND FAMILY TAX BENEFITS     |
| □ PART TIME EMPLOYMENT                                           | □ DISABILITY BENEFIT [Name of PROV. DISABILITY BENEFIT] | □ GST/HST REFUND                   |
| □ CASUAL EMPLOYMENT (E.G. CONTRACT WORK)                         | □ SENIORS BENEFITS (E.G. CPP/OAS/GIS) | □ OTHER MONEY FROM A SERVICE AGENCY |
| □ INFORMAL INCOME SOURCES (E.G. BOTTLE RETURNS, PANHANDLING)     | □ WELFARE/SOCIAL ASSISTANCE [Prov. Benefit] | □ OTHER SOURCE:                     |
| □ MONEY FROM FAMILY/FRIENDS                                       | □ VETERAN/VAC BENEFITS               | □ NO INCOME                        |
| □ NO INCOME                                                      | □ DON’T KNOW                         | □ DECLINE TO ANSWER                |

### 16. What is the highest level of education you completed?

○ PRIMARY SCHOOL  ○ SOME POST SECONDARY  ○ NO FORMAL EDUCATION

○ SOME HIGH SCHOOL  ○ POST SECONDARY GRADUATE  ○ DON’T KNOW

○ HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE/GED  ○ GRADUATE DEGREE (E.G., MASTERS, Ph.D.)  ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER
17. **In the past year (12 months) have you:** [Ask respondents to give their best estimate]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Times</th>
<th>Days Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BEEN TO AN EMERGENCY ROOM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEEN HOSPITALIZED</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>→ DAYS YOU HAVE SPENT HOSPITALIZED</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERACTED WITH POLICE (Tickets, arrests, searches)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEEN TO PRISON/JAIL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>→ DAYS YOU HAVE SPENT IN PRISON/JAIL</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

18. **Do you want to get into permanent housing?**

- ○ YES
- ○ NO
- ○ DON’T KNOW
- ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

19. **What challenges or problems have you experienced when trying to find housing?** [Select all that apply]

- □ LOW INCOME
- □ NO INCOME ASSISTANCE
- □ RENTS TOO HIGH
- □ POOR HOUSING CONDITIONS
- □ DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
- □ HEALTH/DISABILITY ISSUES
- □ MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES
- □ ADDICTION
- □ FAMILY BREAKDOWN/CONFLICT
- □ CRIMINAL HISTORY
- □ PETS
- □ CHILDREN
- □ DISCRIMINATION
- □ DON’T WANT HOUSING
- □ OTHER: ________________
- □ NO BARRIERS TO HOUSING
- □ DECLINE TO ANSWER

20. **In what language do you feel best able to express yourself?**

- ○ ENGLISH
- ○ FRENCH
- ○ NO PREFERENCE
- ○ NEITHER (please specify)____________________
- ○ DON’T KNOW
- ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

21. **I am 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]

- □ SERIOUS/ONGOING MEDICAL CONDITION
- □ ADDICTION OR SUBSTANCE USE
- □ MENTAL HEALTH *(Counselling, treatment, etc.)*
- □ PHYSICAL DISABILITY
- □ LEARNING DISABILITY
- □ BRAIN INJURY
- □ PREGNANCY
- □ NONE OF THE ABOVE
- □ DECLINE TO ANSWER
Sources:

1. *In 2012, the COH (formerly the Canadian Homelessness Research Network) established a working group with leaders from the areas of research, policy and practice, to develop, refine and test a new definition. The COH Working Group included: Dr. Stephen Gaetz, Director, Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, York University; Carolann Barr, Executive Director, Raising the Roof; Anita Friesen, Senior Policy Advisor, Program Policy and Planning, Family Violence Prevention and Homeless Supports, Alberta Human Services; Bradley Harris, Social Services Consultant, The Salvation Army; Charlie Hill, Executive Director, National Aboriginal Housing Association; Dr. Kathy Kovacs-Burns, Associate Director, Health Sciences Council, University of Alberta; Dr. Bernie Pauly, Associate Professor, School of Nursing, University of Victoria; Bruce Pearce, President, Canadian Housing Renewal Association; Alina Turner, VP Strategy, Calgary Homeless Foundation; Allyson Marsolais, Project Manager, Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. Based on national consultation, the definition was revised in 2017.*

