

## 2018 Point-in-Time (PIT) Homeless Count & Survey

### 1. What is it?

On April 11 from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. volunteers, specialized teams and various partner organizations will conduct counts and face-to-face surveys with persons experiencing homelessness in Red Deer.

It provides a snapshot in time of the scope of people who may be sleeping in rough sleeper camps, in vehicles or on the street, as well as individuals or families who may be temporarily sheltered in various institutions such as hospitals, jails or emergency shelters.

### 2. Why are we doing it?

The information from the count and survey helps us understand and effectively address homelessness and related issues. Over a series of approximately 17 questions, we ask people where they are staying, their age, if they're with family, their immigration status, Aboriginal status, their income, and time spent homeless. As we learn how the population changes over time and what the needs are, we can improve housing programs and support services. The count is a key part of [Red Deer's 5 Year Plan to End Homelessness](#), and helps us measure what progress we are making in the plan.

### 3. When and where will it be conducted?

On Wednesday, April 11 from 9 p.m. to approximately 11 p.m. participants will gather information through face-to-face surveys with consent from persons experiencing homelessness throughout Red Deer.

- Volunteers will conduct surveys in neighbourhoods around the downtown and where persons experiencing homelessness have been reported in the past. Part of Red Deer County will be counted this year.
- Specialty teams will count and survey at People's Place Shelter, the Mat Program, Youth HQ Shelter and Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter.
- Specialty teams will count and survey in Transitional Housing and Medical Detox at Safe Harbour Society and Horizon House at John Howard Society
- Provincial data will provide a count for Red Deer Remand Centre/RCMP Jail, Red Deer Regional Hospital and Alberta Works sponsored spaces

### 4. How are the results used?

The results are a snapshot in time and don't always indicate what homelessness will be from one year to the next.

The PIT count is only one tool of many to collect data that allows us to identify trends and key issues related to homelessness in Red Deer. Shelter and program data is also critical information so that policy makers, service providers and funders can be informed in planning and making changes and decisions for housing related programs and services in Red Deer.

#### **5. When will the results be made available?**

Preliminary results are expected to be released in the summer of 2018.

#### **6. Who is involved in the PIT count?**

In coordination with The Government of Canada, 7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness and The City of Red Deer, the 2018 PIT Homeless Count & Survey relies on the efforts key community stakeholders including local housing and support agencies, RCMP, Red Deer College and its students, Provincial and Federal government agencies and their representatives, not-for-profit organizations, people with lived experience, members of the faith community and everyday volunteers.

Note: The 7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness, which includes Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Grande Prairie and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, will conduct counts at the same time using a standard set of questions.

This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy and The City of Red Deer.

#### **7. How do I volunteer?**

Volunteers must be a minimum of 18 years old. No previous experience is required. The first step is for volunteers to go to [www.reddeer.ca/PITCount](http://www.reddeer.ca/PITCount) and follow the instructions to register. For those without access to the Internet, please call 403-342-8100.

Volunteers will receive details on training prior to participating.

#### **8. Have we done a PIT Count in Red Deer before?**

Yes, in 2012, 2014 and 2016. Results can be found [here](#).

#### **9. Where do I find more information?**

For more information, visit [www.reddeer.ca/PITCount](http://www.reddeer.ca/PITCount).