



Making a difference...together



COMMUNITY SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL
research·insights·solutions



February 14, 2023

2023 Greater Victoria Point in Time Count & Survey to Take Place March 7-8

VICTORIA, BC - On the night of **March 7, 2023**, and throughout the following day, the Community Social Planning Council (CSPC), with support from the Capital Regional District (CRD), the Alliance to End Homelessness in the Capital Region, and many volunteers, will conduct the bi-annual Point-in-Time (PiT) Homeless Count and Survey. The project is funded by the Government of Canada with an investment of \$116,800 through Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy.

"Homelessness is a reality for too many Canadians and a challenge for every Canadian community. It's crucial that we base our decisions on accurate and sound data. That is why Greater Victoria's Point-in-Time Count and Survey is so important – it will help us to make informed decisions about how to reduce chronic homelessness and meet our goal of reducing it nationally by 50 percent by 2027-2028," said the Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion. "Through this PiT count, we will develop a clearer picture of homelessness that will allow us to find effective ways to reduce chronic homelessness and create welcoming communities that provide safe and affordable housing for all Canadians."

"The PiT Survey provides critical public information on causes and experiences of homelessness in our region," says Diana Gibson, Executive Director of the CSPC, which has been leading the PiT Count since the first coordinated national PiT Count in 2016. "The data from the PiT is used to support planning, services and de-stigmatize homelessness."

Over a 24-hour period, trained volunteers will count and survey individuals who are staying in shelters, short-term housing, and sleeping rough (without shelter). The PiT Count survey will provide a "snapshot" of homelessness in the region and important information that improves our understanding of the needs and circumstances of the people who are affected by homelessness in our community.

"The PiT Count harnesses the power of community, through volunteers undertaking important work together to build a snapshot of the challenges we have yet to fully resolve," says Colin Plant, CRD Board Chair. "This is vital work in helping to inform ongoing and collaborative efforts to address the needs of so many who continue to struggle through experiences of homelessness."

"The Point in Time Count is an important part of Victoria's response to homelessness," notes City of Victoria Mayor, Marianne Alto, "It helps us measure the utility of existing programs, more effectively coordinate resources in our community, and inform how we provide services to unhoused Victorians."

Jeff Bray, Co-Chair of the Alliance to End homelessness in the Capital Region, says "the Point in Time Count is an important tool that provides a snapshot of the current state of the of persons experiencing homelessness in our Region. This information is critical as one of the many tools that can help inform plans for both, short and longer-term solutions that meet the needs of our unhoused neighbours."

Volunteer Victoria will be joining to partner on the volunteer recruitment, training, and logistics on the day of the Count. For anyone interested in volunteering for this extensive project, please visit this link: [Volunteer Signup](#) or contact Volunteer Victoria and ask about PiT volunteer positions.

The Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness will also be joining to partner on Indigenous outreach and providing a cultural lens for the research methodology, volunteer training, and communication strategy.

The 2023 Greater Victoria Point in Time Count will follow the process of previous Canada wide projects which had over 60 participating communities across Canada using the same survey tools and methodology to collect information on peoples' experiences of homelessness.

Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy

Launched in April 2019, Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy is a community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness across Canada. This program provides direct support and funding to Designated Communities (urban centres), Indigenous communities, territorial communities and rural and remote communities across Canada to help them address their local homelessness needs. The Strategy also supports the goals of the NHS, in particular, to support the most vulnerable Canadians in maintaining safe, stable and affordable housing and to reduce chronic homelessness nationally by 50 percent by fiscal year 2027 to 2028. The Government of Canada has invested nearly \$4 billion over nine years to address homelessness through Reaching Home. This includes \$394.2 million invested through the COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, \$299.4 million in additional investments for 2021-22 announced in the 2020 Fall Economic Statement; \$567 million over two years, beginning in 2022-23, announced in Budget 2021; and \$562.2 million over two years announced in Budget 2022.

Media Participation

Media are invited to contact the PiT Count Coordinator for more information. Ensuring the safety and anonymity of our participants is our utmost priority. The media will not be invited to accompany PiT Count volunteers; however, the media is invited to attend a brief press conference on the day of the count.

For more information

[The Canadian Definition of Homelessness](#)

Contact information

Diana Gibson, Executive Director
Point in Time Project Director
Community Social Planning Council
E-mail: diana@communitycouncil.ca
Tel: 250-891-9344

Lauren Davis, Project Coordinator
Point in Time Project Coordinator
Community Social Planning Council
E-mail: lauren@communitycouncil.ca

Andy Orr
Senior Manager, Corporate Communications
Capital Regional District
Tel: 250-360-3229
Cell: 250-216-5492

Volunteer inquiries, contact

E-mail: lisa@volunteervictoria.bc.ca