

Media Release: May 9th, 2016

2016 KELOWNA HOMELESSNESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

On February 24, 2016, the Central Okanagan Foundation, in the role of the Community Entity, carried out the Kelowna Point-in-Time Count. The Central Okanagan Foundation, in the role of the Community Entity, manages the Homelessness Partnering Strategy funding, in collaboration with the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness.

The Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy provided support to 31 communities across Canada to conduct a coordinated Point-in-Time Count of the homeless population. The Point-in-Time Count will provide vital information to participating communities about their homeless population, and contribute to the understanding of homelessness in Canada. It aims to enumerate individuals in a community who are, at a given time, staying in shelters or "sleeping rough" (e.g., on the street, in parks), providing a "snapshot" of homelessness in a community. Point-in-Time Counts include a survey that provides communities with information on the characteristics of their homeless population (e.g., age, gender, and ethnicity).

In Kelowna, the Point-in Count Time Coordinator (Central Okanagan Foundation) consulted with the Aboriginal Engagement Coordinator (Central Okanagan Foundation), local stakeholders (including RCMP, mental health and the Interior Health Authority), and local homeless-serving agencies to develop a community strategy for carrying out the Point-in Count Time Count.

The results of the 2016 Point-in-Time Count will provide a better understanding of the current state of homelessness in Kelowna. These results may be used to provide direction and inform strategic community planning. Further, these findings may act as a benchmark to track changes in the homeless population over time and measure progress in addressing homelessness. **The results of the Kelowna 2016 Point-in-Time count cannot be compared to previous homelessness counts, as a different methodology was used. Comparing counts will result in inaccurate conclusions about the current state of homelessness in Kelowna.**

"The Government of Canada, through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy, is supporting the first homeless count coordinated among communities across Canada in 2016. I want to thank the Central Okanagan Foundation, in the role of the Community Entity, for carrying out the Kelowna Point-in-Time Count so that we can gain a better understanding of homelessness in our community. Our government is committed to working in partnership with local stakeholders in Kelowna-Lake Country to provide the support needed to help homeless Canadians find stable housing in our community," *said Stephen Fuhr, Member of Parliament for Kelowna-Lake Country.*

The results of the 2016 Point-in-Time Count can be found on the Central Okanagan Foundation website <http://www.centralokanaganfoundation.org/>

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