HOMLESS NEEDS SURVEY

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The night of March 11, 2020, at least 1,523 people were experiencing homelessness in Greater Victoria.

- **GENDER**
  - Two thirds identified as male.
  - 63% Male, 33% Female, 2% Other

- **SEXUAL ORIENTATION**
  - 12% identify as LGBTQ2S+
  - Among youth, the number rose to 30%.

- **INDIGENOUS**
  - 35% are Indigenous, compared to 5% of the Greater Victoria population. 44% are women, 59% first experienced homelessness as a youth, and 55% have experiences with foster care — which are all higher rates than the general survey population.
  - 62% have personal or close family history of attending residential school.

- **FAMILIES**
  - 30 individuals had children with them. Of the 42 children/dependents, 28% were unsheltered or slept in vehicles.

- **EXPERIENCES OF FOSTER CARE**
  - 1 in 3 were in government care as a child or youth. A third became homeless within a month of leaving care.

- **AGE**
  - The majority are aged 25–55.
  - 36% Under 18, 34% 19–24, 25% 25–39, 14% 40–54, 5% 55+

- **TIME IN GREATER VICTORIA**
  - Only 12% have lived in the region for less than one year.
  - 42% Longer than 5 years, 20% 1–5 years, 20% Under a year, 12% Don’t know/no answer

- **HEALTH CHALLENGES**
  - 90% have at least one health challenge, including 29% with an acquired brain injury. Research indicates that homelessness exacerbates some health challenges, such as substance use.
  - 67% Substance use issue, 59% Mental health issue, 45% Illness/medical condition, 40% Physical disability

- **LONG-TERM HOMELESSNESS**
  - 1 in 2 respondents first experienced homelessness as youth (under 25).
  - 82% have been homeless for a total of 6 months or longer over the past year — this is an increase from the previous PiT survey (72%).

- **INCOME SOURCES**
  - 94% have at least one source of income, with the most common being welfare/social assistance (37%), disability benefits (36%), employment, including full-time, part-time and casual (17%), and informal sources of income (16%).

- **NEED FOR HOUSING AND SERVICES**
  - 92% want permanent housing.
  - The top three obstacles to finding housing: high rent, low income, and lack of available options.
  - Top three needed services include primary care services, services for substance use, and mental health supports.