



Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Homelessness Enumeration Report Completed

The Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board (RRDSSAB), in partnership with over 40 service agencies across the district, conducted a count of homelessness over two weeks between April 5th and April 18th 2018. This count was part of a province-wide effort to gain a better understanding of homelessness in communities across the province.

Over the course of several months results from the enumeration has been compiled and we are happy to share with the public *Putting the Spotlight on Homelessness – Rainy River District Enumeration 2018 Report*. The report includes results and interpretation from the enumeration. All data from this report comes from self-reported individuals who have experienced homelessness in Fort Frances and Atikokan at the time of enumeration.

The intent of this report is to provide the public with the result in an effort to understand the homelessness issues and data within our community. The report brings to light that 111 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness, 82 identified in Fort Frances and 29 identified in Atikokan. Overall the numbers suggest that 1.05% of Fort Frances population is experiencing some degree of homelessness, while Atikokan may have lower numbers they are also seeing a 1.05% of their population is experiencing homelessness.

The demographics in Fort Frances show the largest age group of those experiencing homelessness are between 30-39 years of age and females are more strongly represented in most age ranges.

Hidden homelessness was, as expected, the most prevalent form in Fort Frances. This is among the least understood forms of homelessness as it is very difficult to capture. By the very nature of it, it is not visible. "This does not mean of course, that individuals experiencing this form of homelessness are any less vulnerable to the realities of any form of homelessness" confirmed Sandra Weir, Integrated Services Manager.

"The homelessness report is our first step in understanding homelessness within our district" stated Sandra Weir. "We are hoping with the data gathered we will be able to

develop and advocate for services and gaps in our community as we work towards ensuring everyone has safe affordable housing throughout the District”.

For anyone wishing to review this report they are encouraged to visit website at www.rrdssab.on.ca or call 807-274-5349 to learn more.

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For more information, please contact Sandra Weir, Integrated Services Manager at sandraw@rrdssab.on.ca or 807-274-5349 ext. 230 or Jamie Petrin, Community Engagement Coordinator (Homelessness) jpetrin@rrdssab.on.ca or 807-274-5349 ext. 248.