SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION TO HOUSING COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 5, 2020

The Federally funded Point in Time Count takes place over 24-hour period every 3 years across Canada. This year’s count will take place the evening of March 3rd and throughout the day March 4th. The data provides a snapshot on homelessness across the region. Governments, funders and community agencies rely on data from homeless counts to help make informed policy and program decisions. As in previous years, the goals of the 2020 Homeless Count are to obtain a reliable estimate on the number of people experiencing homelessness, to obtain a demographic profile of those individuals through the count survey, and to identify long-term data trends of homelessness in the region. For previous count results please go to http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/homelessness/HomelessnessPublications/2017MetroVancouverHomelessCount.pdf

This year (2020), the count coincides with other provincial counts (same year, different communities and dates). As such, the Reaching Home count project team and provincial project team as well as City of Vancouver have been coordinating as much as possible on the survey questions themselves.

The count relies on over 1200 volunteers across Metro Vancouver to be successful. We are currently recruiting volunteers and ask that you please spread the word across your communities for volunteer sign up. https://www.vancitycommunityfoundation.ca/initiatives/2020-homeless-count

Further, once the Count results become available, we would welcome the opportunity to present the findings to this committee.

More information on volunteering:

2020 Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver (March 3-4, 2020):
Call for Volunteers

The 2020 Homeless Count team is recruiting qualified volunteers for the 2020 Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver. The Count will take place throughout the region inside shelters during the evening of Tuesday, March 3, 2020 and on streets throughout the day and evening of Wednesday, March 4, 2020.

By volunteering for the Count, you are helping to gather valuable information used by governments, service providers, community groups, and funders so they can plan for appropriate programs to address homelessness and measure progress in reducing homelessness.

To complete the online application form and for more information, please go to:
https://www.vancitycommunityfoundation.ca/initiatives/2020-homeless-count [can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com]

What’s involved

The Homeless Count involves identifying and conducting a brief anonymous survey with people experiencing homelessness. The street survey typically involves walking, biking or driving around a
neighbourhood looking for individuals to survey. The shelter survey is conducted in various shelters across the region. Shifts will be 2 to 3 hours and volunteers will be required to attend a 2-hour training session sometime between February 10 and March 2, 2020. Volunteers will work in teams of 2 and must be 19 years of age or older.

Ideal volunteers

While everyone is welcome to apply, to ensure the scientific integrity and a proper implementation of the Count we are looking for volunteers with specific skills and experience, such as:

- experience with previous homeless counts or professional/volunteer experience working with people experiencing homelessness;
- compassion, acceptance, and comfort with one-on-one conversations with people on the street;
- a non-judgmental attitude and a good sense of humour.

Background

Homeless counts have taken place in Metro Vancouver every three years since 2002 and every year in the City of Vancouver since 2010. They provide critical information on the number and characteristics of our region’s homeless population and how this population has changed over time.

The 2020 Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver is an initiative of the Reaching Home Interim Community Entity, Vancity Community Foundation and Community Advisory Board (CAB). The Homeless Count is delivered in partnership with the Indigenous Reaching Home Community Entity, the Indigenous Homelessness Steering Committee, the Council of Community Homelessness Tables, and is conducted by BC Non-Profit Housing Association.

This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada’s Reaching Home: Canada’s Homelessness Strategy:

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