



Homelessness in Peterborough

BUILT FOR ZERO.
PTBO



At least 35,000 Canadians are homeless on any given night.

Homelessness refers to when people **don't have a safe, stable, affordable, and appropriate home**. When this happens, **people find other places to stay** that are **less safe** and **less stable** than a permanent home.

The only way to end homelessness is with housing.

THERE ARE THREE DIFFERENT KINDS OF HOMELESSNESS:



Unsheltered

Some people stay in places where humans are not meant to live permanently such as outdoor spaces, abandoned buildings, or vehicles.



Emergency Sheltered

Emergency Shelters are overnight spaces that offer people a safe place to stay. Some shelters are for sleeping only, while others offer food, clothing, or supports.



Hidden Homelessness

Sometimes it can be hard to see when people are experiencing homelessness. Sometimes it can be hidden. People may say that they are staying with a friend temporarily, staying at a hotel or motel, or say they are in-between places right now. People who are in jail, treatment centres, or hospitals with nowhere to go once discharged are also experiencing homeless.

There are people in every community across the country experiencing homelessness. It is important to acknowledge that everyone's experience of homelessness is different. The reasons someone may become homeless are different for every person. Anyone can become homeless at any time. The pathway in and out of homelessness is fluid and is also different for each individual person.

TOP THREE REASONS PEOPLE BECOME HOMELESS

Structural Factors



Broad economic and social issues.

They affect someone's ability to meet their basic needs.

This includes:

- unaffordable housing,
- poverty,
- lack of employment,
- discrimination,
- and lack of health supports.

System Failures



Other systems of care and support fail.

Resulting in vulnerable individuals experiencing homelessness.

This includes:

- difficult transitions from child welfare,
- individuals discharged from corrections, mental health, health and addictions services.

Individual, Relational Factors



Personal circumstances that lead to homelessness.

This includes:

- a traumatic event (house fire, job loss or family breakup),
- personal health issues or disabilities (including struggles with addictions and mental health),
- relationship breakdown (which could include family violence).

HOMELESSNESS IS A COMPLEX, SOCIAL ISSUE AND MOST SITUATIONS OF HOMELESSNESS ARE CAUSED BY MULTIPLE FACTORS, NOT JUST A SINGLE REASON. THE WAY TO END HOMELESSNESS IS WITH HOUSING.

Indigenous Homelessness

The Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness has adopted the Indigenous Definition of Homelessness, recognizing Indigenous world views.

“Indigenous ‘homelessness’ has been incorrectly understood by westerners as ‘being without a structure of habitation’ or ‘being roofless’ whereas Indigenous homelessness from an Indigenous perspective is really about being without All My Relations.”

Jesse Thistle

DID YOU KNOW:

1 in 15 Indigenous people in urban centres experience homelessness, compared to only 1 in 128 for the general population.

Indigenous people are more likely to experience homelessness in major urban centres.

8 TIMES

DURING THE 2018 PETERBOROUGH POINT IN TIME (PIT) COUNT:

27% of people surveyed identified as Indigenous.

Indigenous people account for 5% of the population within the City and County of Peterborough (including the First Nations).

5%

The over-representation of Indigenous peoples experiencing homelessness in Peterborough City and County is consistent with communities across Canada.

Youth Homelessness

Youth between the ages of 16-24, without a safe and permanent place to live are considered homeless. There are different pathways to homelessness for youth compared to adults.

35,000-40,000 young people experience homelessness over the course of the year.

58% of the youth surveyed in the Peterborough 2018 PiT count had experienced homelessness before their 25th birthday.

20% of the homeless population in Canada are youth aged 13-24.

40% were younger than 16 years old when they first experienced homelessness.

25-40% of youth experiencing homelessness in Canada identify as LGBTQ2S+.

30% of people surveyed in the 2018 PiT Count had been in the child welfare system.

People with involvement in the Child welfare system are **100 times** more likely to experience homelessness.

These differences suggest the importance of easy access to housing and supports for LGBTQ2S+ youth as well as supports that help youth reconnect with family and transition out of the child welfare system.

An indicator of future homelessness is being homeless as a youth.

