

**For Immediate Release**  
**Point-in-Time (PiT) Homeless Count in Duncan**

**March 1, 2017 Duncan, BC** – On Tuesday February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 the United Way Central and Northern Vancouver Island in collaboration with the Tze Tza Watul Community Advisory Board and other community partners, conducted a Point-in-Time (PiT) Homeless Count and Housing Needs survey to get an idea of the homeless population and of those at risk of homelessness in Duncan, BC.

A number of non-profit organizations, the Duncan RCMP, and shelters worked together to count the minimum number of homeless people within a 24-hour period; 192 surveys were completed. The surveys consisted of 22 questions.

Out of the 192 people surveyed, 83 people are currently experiencing absolute homelessness, 74 people are considered to be a part of the hidden homeless, and 35 people are at risk of becoming homeless. Out of the 83 people who were counted as experiencing absolute homelessness, 73.5% were male and 26.5% were female. Results from the surveys are currently being gathered and further details will be provided once the data has been thoroughly analyzed.

Information from the Duncan PiT Count will give funders such as United Way Central and Northern Vancouver Island, BC Housing, the City of Duncan, as well as the many dedicated front line service agencies better information on how to fund and target our efforts to minimize homelessness in the Cowichan Valley and specifically in Duncan.

“The initial results from the survey would suggest we need to work harder at creating housing options for people in Duncan who have found themselves homeless or who are at risk of becoming homeless. As we have seen across Canada, there has been a monumental shift in how we think about homelessness. Most importantly, there has been recognition that homelessness of any amount is unacceptable.”

*- United Way Central and Northern Vancouver Island.*

Representatives from the RCMP, local municipalities, service providers such as Warmland Emergency Shelter, Cowichan Valley Basket Society, United Way Central and Northern Vancouver Island, Cowichan Housing Association, Salvation Army, Social Planning Cowichan, House of Friendship and other agencies as well as numerous dedicated volunteers from the community conducted Duncan’s Point-in-Time (PiT) Homeless Count. The Duncan PiT Count was supported through funding provided by the Government of Canada’s Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) program.

For more information, contact:

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