

# Nanaimo Homeless Coalition

## Let's Talk About Homelessness in Nanaimo



### For Immediate Release

### Homeless Point-in-Time Count Surveys 175 Homeless People in Nanaimo

**Nanaimo, BC** – February 18, 2016 – On February 9, the Nanaimo Coalition conducted a Point-in-Time (PiT) Homeless Count to get an idea of the homeless population in Nanaimo.

A number of non-profit organizations, the Nanaimo RCMP bike team and shelters worked together to count the minimum number of homeless people within a 24-hour period; 175 surveys were completed. The surveys consisted of 24 questions.

Out of the 175 people surveyed, 69% were male, 30% female and 1% transgender. The Homeless Coalition is currently gathering the results from the surveys and will provide more details once the data has been analyzed.

“Nanaimo’s participation in the first ever Nation-wide PiT Count was a complete success,” said Courtney Defriend, PiT Count Coordinator. “With full support of the Nanaimo Homeless Coalition we were able to conduct an accurate count to reflect the minimum amount of homeless individuals in Nanaimo. Our results so far are consistent with themes from local counts in previous years: as predicted, we saw more men than women experiencing homelessness.”

Information from the PiT Count will give funders such as United Way, BC Housing, the City of Nanaimo, as well as the many dedicated front line service agencies on our coalition better information on how to fund and target our efforts to end homelessness.

“While our community has been working hard to put in place supports and housing for those experiencing homelessness in Nanaimo, the results of these surveys indicate we have more to do,” said John Horn, Social Planner at the City of Nanaimo and Co-Chair of the Nanaimo Homeless Coalition.

“The initial results from the survey would suggest we need to work harder at creating housing options for homeless people in Nanaimo.”

Nanaimo Homeless Coalition in association with United Way Central and Northern Vancouver Island (UWCNVI) and volunteers from the community, conducted Nanaimo’s 2016 Point-in-Time (PiT) Homeless Count. The Tillicum Lelum Aboriginal Friendship Centre was contracted to coordinate the PiT Count.

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