BRANDON'S 3RD POINT IN TIME HOMELESSNESS SURVEY

Everyone
Counts

Photography by Sandy Black

2018

BRANDON
NEIGHBOURHOOD **BNRC**
RENEWAL corporation

Canadä

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Table of Contents

Forward

Everyone Counts, Brandon's third Point-In-Time (PiT) Count of people experiencing homelessness, is about giving a voice to people struggling to find a place to call home. The information gathered on April 12, 2018 about people experiencing homelessness in Brandon helps us better understand the challenges they face and how we can best respond to solve the problem as a community. This year's PiT Count shows we have had success tackling absolute homelessness, but there is still more work to do to help those that are part of hidden homelessness, often called couch surfers.

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge that *Everyone Counts* took place on the original unceded territories of the Dakota Sioux, Treaty Two, a shared territory with the Ojibway, Cree and Oji-Cree nations, and the Homelands of the Métis Nation.

The 2018 Brandon PiT Count was funded by the Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) and organized by the Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation (BNRC). This year's PiT Count could not have taken place without collaboration with community partners, and support from individuals, organizations, and businesses. Our Advisory Committee's knowledge, support, and community connections were integral to planning the PiT Count and the PiT Stop.

We would like to particularly acknowledge the people who chose to share their story and the volunteer surveyors who listened. Thank you also to the PiT Stop volunteers, community organizations, and performers that came out to Princess Park on a cold day to provide food, information, and entertainment to those that came by.

The opinions and interpretations in this publication are those of the Advisory Committee and do not necessarily reflect those of the Government of Canada.

Key Findings

The minimum number of homeless adults and children in Brandon on April 12, 2018 was 121. This is based on shelter data (44), PiT Count surveys (70), and observed homelessness (7).

The number of surveys conducted with homeless adults was 84.

- 16 emergency sheltered

- 43 unsheltered

- 25 provisionally accommodated

The number of respondents that identified as Indigenous, including First Nations, Métis, and Inuit was 62.

79% of respondents moved to Brandon from somewhere else in Manitoba.

66 respondents had experienced addiction during their lifetime with 33 of these respondents reporting being addicted to more than one substance.

The average age of respondents was 37 and 16.9% of the respondents were 25 years old or younger. The youngest respondent was 18 and the oldest was 58.

The average age people became homeless was 25 years old, the youngest was 7 and oldest 51.

The average number of days respondents experienced homelessness over the past year was 178, the shortest was 2 days and longest was 365 days.

Introduction

Definitions of Homelessness

The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (COH) describes homelessness as "a range of housing and shelter circumstances, with people being without any shelter at one end, and being insecurely housed at the other"[1]. For many, homelessness is "a fluid experience, where one's shelter circumstances and options may shift and change quite dramatically and frequently". The COH organizes people experiencing homelessness into four typologies:

1. Unsheltered, or absolutely homeless and living on the streets or in places not intended for human habitation;
2. Emergency Sheltered, including those staying in overnight shelters for people who are homeless, as well as shelters for those impacted by family violence;
3. Provisionally Accommodated, referring to those whose accommodation is temporary or lacks security of tenure; and
4. At Risk of Homelessness, referring to people who are not homeless, but whose current economic and/or housing situation is precarious or does not meet public health and safety standards.

Situating Homelessness in Brandon

As the second largest city in Manitoba, Brandon's population was just below 49,000 in the 2016 census. The city serves as a regional centre for all of Southwestern Manitoba. Brandon's population has been on the rise since the early 2000s due, in part, to increased immigration as a result of the Provincial Nominee Program. As the city's population grows, so do challenges related to housing availability and affordability.

The private apartment vacancy rate in 2017 was 1.5% in Brandon and has been around or below 1% for most of the past 15 years[2]. In 2016, nearly 20% of Brandon's population was spending more than 30% of their income on shelter costs[3]. In addition, 4.9% of the population was living in unsuitable housing and 5.8% lived in households in core need of repairs.

Definitions

Survey Participants: Potential participants were individuals that self-identified as homeless or housed in emergency/transitional shelter.
Eligible to Participate: Individuals that were approached and identified as not having a permanent residence to return to the night of the count were eligible to participate.
Ineligible to Participate: Individuals that were approached and identified as having a permanent residence to return to the night of the count were not eligible to participate.
Unsheltered: Individuals that were staying in a place not meant to be housing, such as a shack, shed, tent or a public space.
Sheltered: Individuals staying overnight in an emergency shelter, transitional shelter, a family violence shelter, or a safe house.
Provisionally Sheltered: Individuals staying overnight in a temporary situation, such as couch surfing.

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[1] Canadian Observatory on Homelessness - http://homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/COHhomelessdefinition.pdf
[2] City of Brandon - http://economicdevelopmentbrandon.com/apartment-vacancy-rate
[3] Focus on Geography, 2016 Census - http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/as-sa/fogs-spg/Facts-CSD-Eng.cfm?TOPIC=8&LANG=Eng&GK=CSD&GC=4607062

Methodology

The PiT Count method measures sheltered and unsheltered homelessness. The goal of this method is to provide a snapshot of the homelessness in a community. Characteristics of the community's homeless population are collected during the surveys and this information informs decision making such as directing resources to where they are needed most. Over time, PiT Counts can be used to track changes in homelessness in the community and measure progress towards elimination.

Brandon's 2018 PiT Count included an unsheltered count with volunteers surveying people in public spaces between 11 am and 11 pm, along with a sheltered count in partnership with organizations providing emergency shelter. Surveyors conducted surveys walking the streets of downtown Brandon, including the Town Centre, and were stationed at Helping Hands and Samaritan House during their meal and food hamper times. Survey participants were remunerated for completing the survey with a $5 gift card to Robin's Donuts and a pair of quality socks. Surveyors were in teams of at least two people all day long.

The 2018 PiT Count Survey used the core questions from the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) core survey, screening questions to identify provisionally homeless (i.e. hidden homelessness/couch surfing), selected questions from the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (COH), and local questions focused on addictions and housing availability by day of the week (Appendix A).

The PiT Count was promoted with a press release in early March which was covered by local media, along with follow-up inquiries. Posters were put up at downtown businesses and service providers. An information pamphlet was distributed by service providers, as well as on Bear Clan Patrols during the weeks leading up to April 12 (Appendix B).

Volunteers were recruited from previous PiT Count Volunteers, Housing First Clients, community organizations, and service providers. Multiple training sessions were held in the two weeks leading up to the PiT Count with small groups of volunteers during afternoons and evenings. Each session lasted between one and one and a half hours.HPS resources provided on the Community Workspace on Homelessness[4] were used to plan the training sessions and as materials at the training. Surveyors were provided with a background of the PiT Count, information on how to be respectful to participants and to be safe while volunteering, and provided an opportunity to practice conducting the survey and accurately recording the information gathered. All surveyors were required to sign a confidentiality agreement and a waiver (Appendix C).

A PiT Stop was held in Princess Park between 2 pm and 7 pm where food, entertainment, care kits, and information were provided to all members of the community. Surveyors were on hand to conduct surveys with attendees (Appendix D).
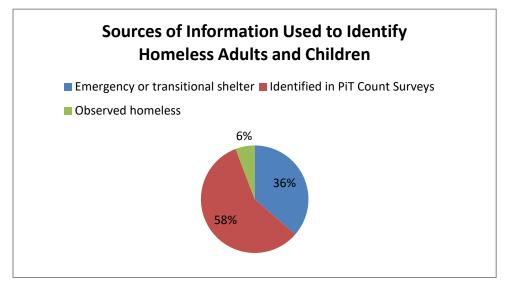
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[4] Community Workspace on Homelessness - https://workspaceonhomelessness.ca/pitcounts

Survey Findings

The minimum number of homeless adults and children in Brandon on April 12, 2018 was 121. This is based on shelter data, PiT Count unsheltered surveys, and observed homelessness.
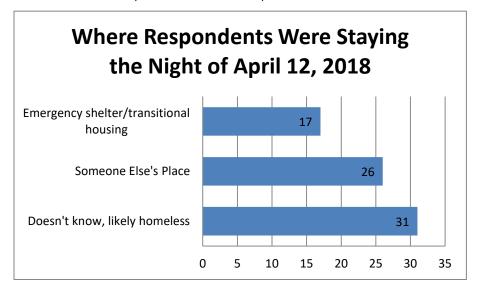
- 44 adults and children in emergency or transitional shelter
- 70 adults and children identified in PiT Count unsheltered surveys
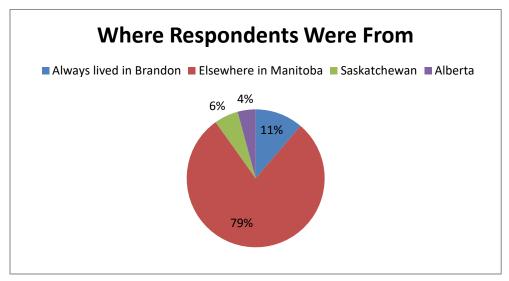- 7 adults observed as homeless, but did not complete the survey

Sources of Information Used to Identify Homeless Adults and Children

- Emergency or transitional shelter
- Identified in PiT Count Surveys
- Observed homeless

6%

36%

58%

Where are you staying tonight?

Volunteers conducted PiT Count surveys with 84 adults experiencing homelessness the night of April 12, 2018. The responses given to the question 'Where are you staying tonight?' were:

- Respondent doesn't know, likely homeless (31)
- Someone else's place (26)
- Emergency shelter, domestic violence shelter, transitional shelter/housing (17)
- Other places (less than 10 each): public space such as sidewalk, park, forest, bus shelter, vehicle, other unsheltered location, or makeshift shelter, tent or shack.

Where Respondents Were Staying the Night of April 12, 2018

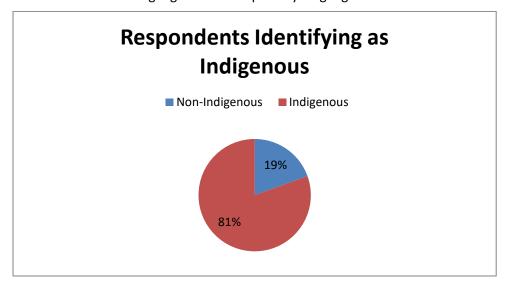|	
Emergency shelter/transitional housing	17
Someone Else's Place	26
Doesn't know, likely homeless	31

0   5   10   15   20   25   30   35

Only eight of the respondents had always lived in Brandon, the rest came from other communities in Manitoba (56), Saskatchewan (4), or Alberta (3). The average number of days these individuals had been living in Brandon was 1,661 days with the least being 3 days and the most being 40 years. The 56 respondents that moved to Brandon from elsewhere in Manitoba came from 19 different communities: 6 First Nation communities and 13 Municipalities. Winnipeg, Neepawa, Swan River, and Sioux Valley were identified by five or more respondents as communities they had lived before moving to Brandon.

Where Respondents Were From

Legend: ■ Always lived in Brandon ■ Elsewhere in Manitoba ■ Saskatchewan ■ Alberta
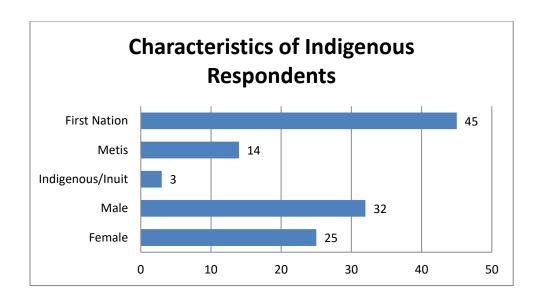
- 6%
- 4%
- 11%
- 79%

Demographics

A majority of survey respondents were not staying with anyone (54), while about a quarter of the respondents (28) indicated they were staying with another adult and/or dependents. Four different family units were identified. All together these families included nine dependent children ranging in age from 1 year to 14 years old.

Sixty-two respondents (81%) identified as Indigenous: 45 identified as First Nation, 14 as Métis, 2 as Indigenous, and 1 as Inuit. There were thirty-two Indigenous men and twenty-five Indigenous women surveyed. Twenty-two respondents said they spoke Cree, Dakota, or Ojibway as an additional language and five indicated one of these languages was their primary language.

Respondents Identifying as Indigenous

Legend: ■ Non-Indigenous ■ Indigenous

- 19%
- 81%

Characteristics of Indigenous Respondents

First Nation — 45
Metis — 14
Indigenous/Inuit — 3
Male — 32
Female — 25

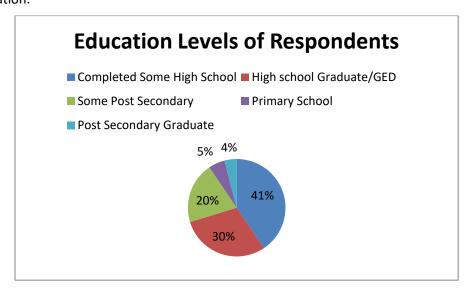(bar chart x-axis: 0, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50)

The average age of respondents was 37 and 16.9% of the respondents were 25 years old or younger. The youngest respondent was 18 and the oldest was 58. The number of men interviewed was 48, women was 31, and two-spirit people was 2. Sixty-seven respondents described their sexual orientation as straight/heterosexual and 7 described theirs as either bisexual or two-spirit. Six respondents served in the Canadian Military or RCMP.
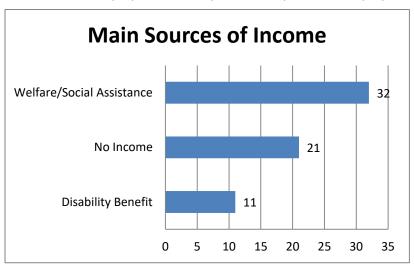
Thirty-three respondents lived in foster care and/or a group home. Of these individuals, 6 said they received support transitioning to independence and 20 said they did not receive support. Ten respondents became homeless as soon as they left care.

Education and Income

Most respondents had completed some high school (30) followed by high school graduate/GED (22), some post secondary (15) and post secondary graduate (3). Only four respondents only had a primary school education.

Education Levels of Respondents

- Completed Some High School
- High school Graduate/GED
- Some Post Secondary
- Primary School
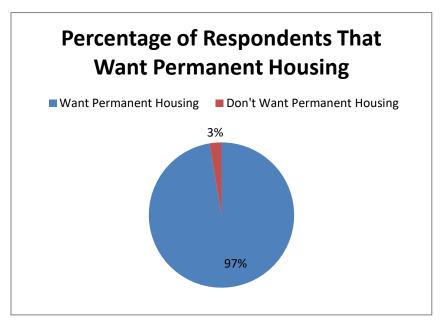- Post Secondary Graduate

(pie chart: 41%, 30%, 20%, 5%, 4%)

Thirty-two respondents were on welfare/social assistance and twenty-one did not have an income at all. Some respondents received income through government programs and policies: Disability benefit (11) and other programs (less than 10 each): GST refund, employment insurance, child and family tax benefits, and seniors benefits. Less than ten respondents identified the following, non-government sources of income: informal/self-employment, money from family/friends, employment, odd jobs.

Main Sources of Income

Source	Value
Welfare/Social Assistance	32
No Income	21
Disability Benefit	11

Experience with Homelessness

A large majority of respondents (74) want to get into permanent housing with only 2 indicating they did not.

Percentage of Respondents That Want Permanent Housing

■ Want Permanent Housing   ■ Don't Want Permanent Housing
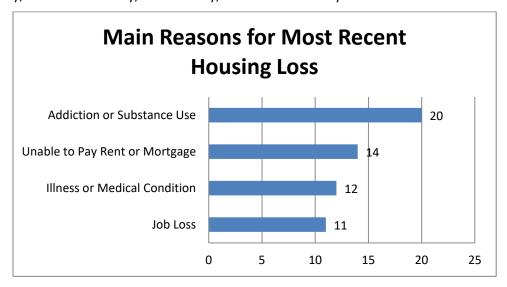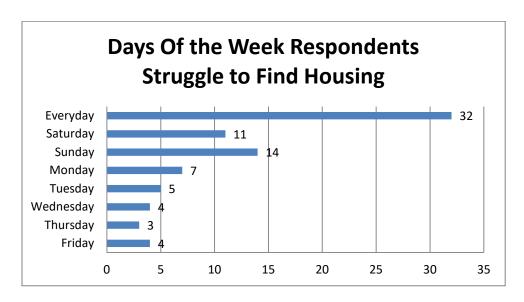
3%

97%

The average age at which respondents first experienced homelessness was 25, the youngest was 7 years old and the oldest was 51 years old. The average number of days respondents experienced homelessness over the past year was 178, the shortest was 2 days and longest was 365 days. Respondents experienced homelessness over the past year an average of 3.3 times, the fewest was once and the most was 52 times. Twenty-three respondents stayed in an emergency shelter in the past year.

The following reasons were identified as causes of respondent's most recent housing loss:

- Addiction or substance use (20)
- Unable to pay rent or mortgage (14)
- Illness or medical condition (12)
- Job loss (11)
- Other reasons (less than 10 each): conflict with spouse/partner, unsafe housing conditions, experienced abuse by spouse/partner, hospitalization or treatment, incarcerated, house fire, mental health due to grief, conflict with parent/guardian, and experienced abuse by parent/guardian.

When asked if there was a day of the week where finding housing is more of a struggle than others, 32 respondents indicated that all days were a struggle, 14 said Sunday, 11 said Saturday, 7 said Monday, 5 said Tuesday, 4 said Wednesday, 4 said Friday, and 3 said Thursday.

Main Reasons for Most Recent Housing Loss

Reason	Count
Addiction or Substance Use	20
Unable to Pay Rent or Mortgage	14
Illness or Medical Condition	12
Job Loss	11

Days Of the Week Respondents Struggle to Find Housing

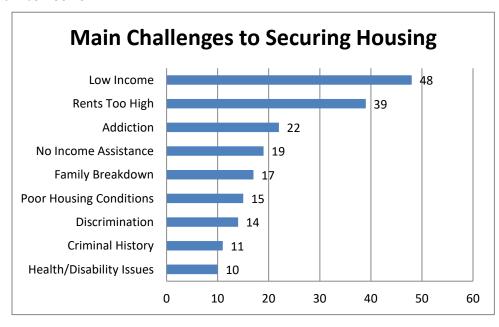| Day	Count
Everyday	32
Saturday	11
Sunday	14
Monday	7
Tuesday	5
Wednesday	4
Thursday	3
Friday	4

The following challenges to securing housing were identified by respondents:

- Low income (48)
- Rents too high (39)
- Addiction (22)
- No income assistance (19)
- Mental health issues (18)
- Family breakdown (17)
- Poor housing conditions (15)
- Discrimination (14)
- Criminal history (11)
- Health/disability issues (10)
- Other challenges (less than 10 each): domestic violence, children, and pets.

Addictions

Sixty-six respondents had experienced addiction during their lifetime with thirty-three of these respondents reporting being addicted to more than one substance. Thirteen respondents indicated an addition to alcohol plus one or more other substances, while seventeen indicated an addiction to methamphetamine plus one or more other substances. The substances identified by respondents were:

- Alcohol (21)
- Methamphetamine (19)
- Cannabis (15)
- Prescription pills (13)
- Cocaine (12)
- Other drugs (less than 10 each): opiates, heroine, LAD, crack, tobacco, morphine, speed, salvia, and mushrooms.

Main Challenges to Securing Housing

Challenge	Value
Low Income	48
Rents Too High	39
Addiction	22
No Income Assistance	19
Family Breakdown	17
Poor Housing Conditions	15
Discrimination	14
Criminal History	11
Health/Disability Issues	10

Services and Supports

Participants were asked to indicate what services they needed, their responses were:

- Mental health (36)
- Addiction or substance use (27)
- Serious or ongoing medical condition (29)
- Physical disability (20)
- Learning disability (15)

Main Substances Used by Respondents That Had Experienced Addiction

Substance	Value
Alcohol	21
Methamphetamine	19
Cannabis	15
Prescription Pills	13
Cocaine	12

Comparison to 2016 PiT Count

PiT Counts are intended to be a snapshot in time of homelessness in a community during a specific period of time. Caution that recognizes the fluidity of homelessness must be used when comparing results to previous PiT Counts. However, the data can provide an indication of general trends over time. A comparison between the 2018 and 2016 PiT Count data indicates that progress is being made in Brandon towards ending homelessness. Significant credit for this progress can be given to Brandon Housing First and the cross-community collaborative effort that has made the initiative a success[5]. The comparison also suggests that a higher number of people experiencing homelessness in 2018 were identified and chose to participate than in 2016.

Measure	2016 (April 13)	2018 (April 12)
Minimum number of homeless adults and children based on shelter data, surveys, and observed homelessness	206	121
Surveyed	146	84
Sheltered Surveyed	118	41
Unsheltered Surveyed	28	36
Observed Homelessness	25	7

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[5] Brandon Housing First - http://brandonhousingfirst.ca/

Conclusions

Homelessness continues to be a problem in the City of Brandon. On any given day, there are people experiencing homelessness that can be found either living on the street or surfing from couch to couch. The Advisory Committee has identified four main conclusions that can be drawn from information gathered during the 2018 PiT Count:

- Indigenous people continue to be significantly overrepresented in Brandon's homeless population. According to the 2016 census[6], 13% of people living in Brandon identified as Indigenous, while 81% of those surveyed in the 2018 PiT Count identified as Indigenous. This points to the need for Brandon, as a community, to continue to embrace and take focused steps towards implementing Calls to Action made by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada[7].

- Substance abuse and mental health challenges are prevalent amongst people experiencing homelessness in Brandon. Brandon has an urgent and acute need for more addictions and mental health services across the continuum – from community mental health supports to detoxification and long-term rehabilitation.

- Despite the hard work of a number of government agencies and non-for-profit organizations, people experiencing homelessness struggle to find shelter and food on the weekends. This problem of lack of services on the weekend could be tackled through a collaborative approach across agencies and organizations to coordinate service availability 7 days a week.

- The lack of affordable housing continues to be a problem in Brandon. There is a strong history of the community partnering to find innovative solutions that results in new, renovated, and better maintained housing stock. This means Brandon is in a good position to take advantage of opportunities under new federal and provincial housing programs.

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[6] Statistics Canada City of Brandon Census Profile - http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=POPC&Code1=0091&Geo2=PR&Code2=46&Data=Count&SearchText=Brandon&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=All&GeoLevel=PR&GeoCode=0091&TABID=1
[7] Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action - http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf

Appendix A – Surveys

UNSHELTERED SURVEY

Location: _____   **Time:** _____AM/PM

Interviewer: _____   **Contact #:** _____

C. Where are you staying tonight?

a. DECLINE TO ANSWER b. OWN APARTMENT/ HOUSE	c. SOMEONE ELSE'S PLACE **->ASK C1 AND C2** d. MOTEL/HOTEL **->ASK C2** e. HOSPITAL, JAIL, PRISON, REMAND CENTRE **->ASK C2**	f. EMERGENCY SHELTER, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER g. TRANSITIONAL SHELTER/HOUSING h. PUBLIC SPACE (E.G., SIDEWALK, PARK, FOREST, BUS SHELTER) i. VEHICLE (CAR, VAN, RV, TRUCK) j. MAKESHIFT SHELTER, TENT OR SHACK k. ABANDONED/VACANT BUILDING l. OTHER UNSHELTERED LOCATION m. RESPONDENT DOESN'T KNOW [LIKELY HOMELESS]
[THANK & END SURVEY]	**[FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS]**	**[SKIP TO SURVEY QUESTION 1]**

C1: Can you stay there as long as you want or is this a temporary situation?

a. AS LONG AS WANTED **[THANK AND END SURVEY]**
b. TEMPORARY SITUATION ------**> GO TO C2**
c. DON'T KNOW --------------------**> GO TO C2**
d. DECLINE TO ANSWER **[THANK AND END SURVEY]**

C2: Do you have a house or apartment that you can safely return to?

a. YES **[THANK AND END SURVEY]**
b. NO ----------------------**> BEGIN SURVEY**
c. DON'T KNOW --------**> BEGIN SURVEY**
d. DECLINE **[THANK AND END SURVEY]**

BEGIN SURVEY

1. What family members are staying with you tonight? [Indicate survey numbers for adults. Check all that apply]

☐ NONE ☐ PARTNER - Survey #: ___ ___ ___	☐ OTHER ADULT - Survey #: ___ ___ ___ ___ ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

☐ CHILD(REN)/DEPENDENT(S) [indicate gender and age for each]		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	GENDER								
	AGE								

2. How old are you? [OR] What year were you born? [If unsure, ask for best estimate]

○ AGE _____**OR** YEAR BORN _____	○ DON'T KNOW	○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

➔ **For the next questions, "homelessness" means any time when you have been without a secure place to live, including sleeping in shelters, on the streets, or living temporarily with others (e.g. couch surfing).**

3. **How old were you the first time you experienced homelessness?**

o AGE_____	o DON'T KNOW	o DECLINE TO ANSWER

4. **In total, *how much time* have you been homeless over the PAST YEAR?** [Best estimate.]

o LENGTH _____ DAYS | WEEKS | MONTHS	o DON'T KNOW	o DECLINE TO ANSWER

5. **In total, *how many different times* have you experienced homelessness over the PAST YEAR?** [Best estimate.]

o NUMBER OF TIMES _____ [Includes this time]	o DON'T KNOW	o DECLINE TO ANSWER

6. **Have you stayed in an emergency shelter in the past year?** [e.g. Safe and Warm, YWCA, CMHA]

o YES	o NO	o DON'T KNOW	o DECLINE TO ANSWER

7. **How long have you been in Brandon?**

o   LENGTH _____ DAYS / WEEKS / MONTHS / YEARS --------->
 o   ALWAYS BEEN HERE
 o   DON'T KNOW
 o   DECLINE TO ANSWER
	Where did you live before you came here?
	 o COMMUNITY _____
	       PROVINCE_____
	       OR COUNTRY_____
	 o DECLINE TO ANSWER

8. **Did you come to Canada as an immigrant, refugee or refugee claimant?**

o YES, IMMIGRANT -------------------> o YES, REFUGEE----------------------> o YES, REFUGEE CLAIMANT---------> o NO o DON'T KNOW o DECLINE TO ANSWER	**If YES: How long have you been in Canada?** o LENGTH: _____ DAYS | WEEKS | MONTHS | YEARS OR DATE: _____/_____/_____ DAY / MONTH / YEAR o DON'T KNOW o DECLINE TO ANSWER

9. **Do you identify as Indigenous or do you have Indigenous ancestry? This includes First Nations with or without status, Métis, and Inuit.** [If yes, please follow-up to specify.]

o   YES --->
 o   NO
 o   DON'T KNOW
 o   DECLINE TO ANSWER
	If YES: o FIRST NATIONS (with or without status)
	            o INUIT
	            o MÉTIS
	            o HAVE INDIGENOUS ANCESTRY

10. **Have you ever had any service in the Canadian Military or RCMP?** [Includes Canadian Navy, Army, or Air Force]

o YES, MILITARY	o NO	o DON'T KNOW	o DECLINE TO ANSWER

○   YES, RCMP

11. What gender do you identify with? [Show list.]

○ MALE / MAN	○ TRANS FEMALE / TRANS WOMAN	○ NOT LISTED:
○ FEMALE / WOMAN	○ TRANS MALE / TRANS MAN	_____
	○ GENDERQUEER/GENDER NON-	○ DON'T KNOW
○ TWO-SPIRIT	CONFORMING	○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

12. How do you describe your sexual orientation, for example straight, gay, lesbian? [Show list.]

○ STRAIGHT/HETEROSEXUAL	○ BISEXUAL	○ QUEER	○ DON'T KNOW
○ GAY	○ TWO-SPIRIT	○ NOT LISTED:	○ DECLINE TO
○ LESBIAN	○ QUESTIONING	_____	ANSWER

13. What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently? [Do not read the options. Check all that apply. "Housing" does not include temporary arrangements (e.g., couch surfing) or shelter stays.]

☐ ILLNESS OR MEDICAL CONDITION	☐ CONFLICT WITH: PARENT / GUARDIAN
☐ ADDICTION OR SUBSTANCE USE	☐ CONFLICT WITH: SPOUSE / PARTNER
☐ JOB LOSS	☐ INCARCERATED (JAIL OR PRISON)
☐ UNABLE TO PAY RENT OR MORTGAGE	☐ HOSPITALIZATION OR TREATMENT PROGRAM
☐ UNSAFE HOUSING CONDITIONS	☐ OTHER REASON: _____
☐ EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: PARENT / GUARDIAN	☐ DON'T KNOW
☐ EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: SPOUSE / PARTNER	☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

14. What are your sources of income? [Read list and check all that apply]

☐ EMPLOYMENT	☐ DISABILITY BENEFIT	☐ OTHER SOURCE:
☐ INFORMAL/SELF-EMPLOYMENT (E.G., BOTTLE RETURNS, PANHANDLING)	☐ SENIORS BENEFITS (E.G., CPP/OAS/GIS)	_____
		☐ NO INCOME
☐ EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	☐ GST REFUND	☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER
☐ WELFARE/SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	☐ CHILD AND FAMILY TAX BENEFITS	
	☐ MONEY FROM FAMILY/FRIENDS	

C01 What is the highest level of education you completed?

☐ PRIMARY SCHOOL	☐ SOME POST SECONDARY	☐ DON'T KNOW
☐ SOME HIGH SCHOOL	☐ POST SECONDARY GRADUATE	☐ DECLINE TO
☐ HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE/GED	☐ GRADUATE DEGREE (E.G., MASTERS, Ph.D.)	ANSWER

C02 Have you ever been in foster care and/or group home?

○ YES ○ NO ○ DON'T KNOW ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

➔ **If yes...C02b Approximately how long after leaving foster care/group home did you become homeless?**

○ LENGTH _____ DAYS / WEEKS / MONTHS / YEARS	○ DON'T KNOW	○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

➔ **C02c Did you receive support in transitioning you to independence after leaving foster care/group home?**

○ YES ○ NO ○ DON'T KNOW ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

C04 In the past year (12 months) have you: [Ask respondents to give their best estimate]

BEEN TO AN EMERGENCY ROOM	Y ____ N____ # _____ *Times*

BEEN HOSPITALIZED	Y ____ N____	# _____ Times
→DAYS YOU HAVE SPENT HOSPITALIZED		_____ Days Total
INTERACTED WITH POLICE (*Tickets, arrests, searches*)	Y ____ N____	# _____ Times
BEEN TO PRISON/JAIL	Y ____ N____	# _____ Times
→DAYS YOU HAVE SPENT IN PRISON/JAIL		_____ Days Total

C05 Do you want to get into permanent housing?

o YES	o NO	o DON'T KNOW	o DECLINE TO ANSWER

C06 What challenges or problems have you experienced when trying to find housing? [Select all that   apply]

☐ LOW INCOME	☐ MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES	☐ DISCRIMINATION
☐ NO INCOME ASSISTANCE	☐ ADDICTION	☐ DON'T WANT HOUSING
☐ RENTS TOO HIGH	☐ FAMILY	☐ OTHER:
☐ POOR HOUSING CONDITIONS	BREAKDOWN/CONFLICT	_____
	☐ CRIMINAL HISTORY	☐ NO BARRIERS TO
☐ DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	☐ PETS	HOUSING
☐ HEALTH/DISABILITY ISSUES	☐ CHILDREN	☐ NONE OF THE ABOVE
		☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

C08 I'm going to read a list of services that you may or may not need. Let me know which of these apply to you. Do you have a need for services related to: [Read categories, select all that apply]

☐ SERIOUS OR ONGOING MEDICAL CONDITION	☐ BRAIN INJURY
☐ PHYSICAL DISABILITY	☐ PREGNANCY
☐ LEARNING DISABILITY	☐ NONE OF THE ABOVE
☐ ADDICTION OR SUBSTANCE USE	☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER
☐ MENTAL HEALTH (*Counselling, treatment, etc.*)	

L01 What languages do you speak and what is your primary language? (List below)

_____

L02 Have you experienced addiction during your lifetime?

☐ YES	☐ NO

➔   **L02a If yes, would you be comfortable sharing what substance or substances have you been addicted to? (List below)**

_____

L03 Is there a day of the week that you struggle more than others to find shelter?

☐ MONDAY	☐ SATURDAY
☐ TUESDAY	☐ SUNDAY
☐ WEDNESDAY	
☐ THURSDAY	
☐ FRIDAY	

Thank you for sharing this information and for your time. Here are your socks and gift card.

Facility/Program Name: _____   **Time:** _____
_____AM/PM

Interviewer: _____   **Contact #:** _____
_____

C.   [Surveyor: Indicate overnight location]

f. EMERGENCY SHELTER, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER **g.** TRANSITIONAL SHELTER	**Other location:**

BEGIN SURVEY

1. **What family members are staying with you tonight?** [Indicate survey numbers for adults. Check all that apply]

☐ NONE	☐ OTHER ADULT - Survey #: ___ ___ ___ ___
☐ PARTNER - Survey #: ___ ___ ___	☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

☐ CHILD(REN)/DEPENDENT(S)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
[indicate gender and age for each]	GENDER								
	AGE								

2. **How old are you? [OR] What year were you born?** [If unsure, ask for best estimate]

○ AGE _____ **OR** YEAR BORN _____	○ DON'T KNOW	○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

➔ **For the next questions, "homelessness" means any time when you have been without a secure place to live, including sleeping in shelters, on the streets, or living temporarily with others.**

3. **How old were you the first time you experienced homelessness?**

○ AGE_____	○ DON'T KNOW	○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

4. **In total, _how much time_ have you been homeless over the PAST YEAR?** [Best estimate.]

○ LENGTH _____ DAYS	WEEKS	MONTHS	○ DON'T KNOW	○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

5. **In total, _how many different times_ have you experienced homelessness over the PAST YEAR?** [Best estimate.]

○ NUMBER OF TIMES _____ [Includes this time]	○ DON'T KNOW	○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

6. **Have you stayed in an emergency shelter in the past year?** [Give local examples of homeless shelters]

○ YES ○ NO ○ DON'T KNOW ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

7. **How long have you been in (_community name_)?**

	Where did you live before you came here?
○ LENGTH _____ DAYS / WEEKS / MONTHS / YEARS --------> ○ ALWAYS BEEN HERE ○ DON'T KNOW ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER	○ COMMUNITY _____ PROVINCE_____ OR COUNTRY_____ ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

8. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant, refugee or refugee claimant?

	If YES: How long have you been in Canada?
○ YES, IMMIGRANT -------------------> ○ YES, REFUGEE-----------------------> ○ YES, REFUGEE CLAIMANT---------> ○ NO ○ DON'T KNOW ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER	○ LENGTH: _____ DAYS	WEEKS	MONTHS	YEARS OR DATE: _____/_____/_____ DAY / MONTH / YEAR ○ DON'T KNOW ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

9. Do you identify as Indigenous or do you have Indigenous ancestry? This includes First Nations with or without status, Métis, and Inuit. [If yes, please follow-up to specify.]

	If YES:
○ YES ---> ○ NO ○ DON'T KNOW ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER	○ FIRST NATIONS (with or without status) ○ INUIT ○ MÉTIS ○ HAVE INDIGENOUS ANCESTRY

10. Have you ever had any service in the Canadian Military or RCMP?
[Military includes Canadian Navy, Army, or Air Force]

○ YES, MILITARY ○ YES, RCMP	○ NO	○ DON'T KNOW	○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

11. What gender do you identify with? [Show list.]

○ MALE / MAN ○ FEMALE / WOMAN ○ TWO-SPIRIT	○ TRANS FEMALE / TRANS WOMAN ○ TRANS MALE / TRANS MAN ○ GENDERQUEER/GENDER NON-CONFORMING	○ NOT LISTED: _____ ○ DON'T KNOW ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

12. How do you describe your sexual orientation, for example straight, gay, lesbian? [Show list.]

○ STRAIGHT/HETEROSEXUAL ○ GAY ○ LESBIAN	○ BISEXUAL ○ TWO-SPIRIT ○ QUESTIONING	○ QUEER ○ NOT LISTED: _____	○ DON'T KNOW ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

13. What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently? [Do not read the options. Check all that apply. "Housing" does not include temporary arrangements (e.g., couch surfing) or shelter stays.]

☐ ILLNESS OR MEDICAL CONDITION ☐ ADDICTION OR SUBSTANCE USE ☐ JOB LOSS ☐ UNABLE TO PAY RENT OR MORTGAGE ☐ UNSAFE HOUSING CONDITIONS ☐ EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: PARENT / GUARDIAN ☐ EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: SPOUSE / PARTNER	☐ CONFLICT WITH: PARENT / GUARDIAN ☐ CONFLICT WITH: SPOUSE / PARTNER ☐ INCARCERATED (JAIL OR PRISON) ☐ HOSPITALIZATION OR TREATMENT PROGRAM ☐ OTHER REASON: _____ ☐ DON'T KNOW ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

14. What are your sources of income? [Read list and check all that apply]

☐ EMPLOYMENT	☐ DISABILITY BENEFIT	☐ OTHER SOURCE:
☐ INFORMAL/SELF-EMPLOYMENT (E.G., BOTTLE RETURNS, PANHANDLING)	☐ SENIORS BENEFITS (E.G., CPP/OAS/GIS)	_____
		☐ NO INCOME
☐ EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	☐ GST REFUND	☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER
☐ WELFARE/SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	☐ CHILD AND FAMILY TAX BENEFITS	
	☐ MONEY FROM FAMILY/FRIENDS	

C01 What is the highest level of education you completed?

☐ PRIMARY SCHOOL	☐ SOME POST SECONDARY	☐ DON'T KNOW
☐ SOME HIGH SCHOOL	☐ POST SECONDARY GRADUATE	☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER
☐ HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE/GED	☐ GRADUATE DEGREE (E.G., MASTERS, Ph.D.)	

C02 Have you ever been in foster care and/or group home?

○ YES ○ NO ○ DON'T KNOW ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

➔ **If yes...C02b Approximately how long after leaving foster care/group home did you become homeless?**

○ LENGTH _____ DAYS / WEEKS / MONTHS / YEARS	○ DON'T KNOW	○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

➔ **C02c Did you receive support in transitioning you to independence after leaving foster care/group home?**

○ YES ○ NO ○ DON'T KNOW ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

C04 In the past year (12 months) have you: [Ask respondents to give their best estimate]

BEEN TO AN EMERGENCY ROOM	Y ____ N____	# _____ *Times*
BEEN HOSPITALIZED	Y ____ N____	# _____ *Times*
➔DAYS YOU HAVE SPENT HOSPITALIZED		_____ *Days Total*
INTERACTED WITH POLICE (*Tickets, arrests, searches*)	Y ____ N____	# _____ *Times*
BEEN TO PRISON/JAIL	Y ____ N____	# _____ *Times*
➔DAYS YOU HAVE SPENT IN PRISON/JAIL		_____ *Days Total*

C05 Do you want to get into permanent housing?

○ YES ○ NO ○ DON'T KNOW ○ DECLINE TO ANSWER

C06 What challenges or problems have you experienced when trying to find housing?
[Select all that apply]

☐ LOW INCOME	☐ MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES	☐ DISCRIMINATION
☐ NO INCOME ASSISTANCE	☐ ADDICTION	☐ DON'T WANT HOUSING
☐ RENTS TOO HIGH	☐ FAMILY BREAKDOWN/CONFLICT	☐ OTHER: _____
☐ POOR HOUSING CONDITIONS	☐ CRIMINAL HISTORY	☐ NO BARRIERS TO HOUSING
☐ DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	☐ PETS	☐ NONE OF THE ABOVE
☐ HEALTH/DISABILITY ISSUES	☐ CHILDREN	☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

C08 I'm going to read a list of services that you may or may not need. Let me know which of these apply to you. Do you have a need for services related to: [Read categories, select all that apply]

☐ SERIOUS OR ONGOING MEDICAL CONDITION	☐ BRAIN INJURY
☐ PHYSICAL DISABILITY	☐ PREGNANCY
☐ LEARNING DISABILITY	☐ NONE OF THE ABOVE
☐ ADDICTION OR SUBSTANCE USE	☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER
☐ MENTAL HEALTH *(Counselling, treatment, etc.)*	

L01 What languages do you speak and what is your primary language? (List below)

L02 Have you experienced addiction during your lifetime?

☐ YES ☐ NO

L02a If yes, would you be comfortable sharing what substance or substances have you been addicted to? (List below)

L03 Is there a day of the week that you struggle more than others to find shelter?

☐ MONDAY	☐ SATURDAY
☐ TUESDAY	☐ SUNDAY
☐ WEDNESDAY	
☐ THURSDAY	
☐ FRIDAY	

UNSHELTERED TALLY SHEET

Area: _____ **Time:** _____ to _____

Interviewer: _____ **Contact phone #:** _____

Instructions: For those who are ***not*** **surveyed**, please fill in the sheet below indicating the reason. For those who DECLINE or are OBSERVED only, but who are clearly homeless, please also indicate the reason you believe they are homeless (e.g., asleep outside with belongings).

| # | Location (e.g., building, park, nearest intersection) | Reason not Surveyed | | | | *Observed Homelessness | |
		Declined*	Already Responded	Screened Out (Response to C)	Observed*	Observed Homeless	Indicators of Homelessness
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							

Appendix B – Communications

News Release

Everyone Counts: Brandon's 2018 Point-in-Time Homeless Count

Brandon, MB – In 2018, Brandon will take part in a coordinated effort to measure homelessness across Canada.

On April 12, 2018, the Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation, in association with a number of community partners and volunteers will conduct "*Everyone Counts*", Brandon's third Point-in-Time (PiT) Homeless Count.

"Ending homelessness in Brandon is a priority in Brandon's 5 year community plan," said Lonnie Patterson, Coordinator of the 2018 PiT Count. "Previous PiT Counts have provided important insight into who is experiencing homelessness in Brandon and helped focus community action on emerging problems, such as youth homelessness. This year's count will provide valuable information about what is happening in our city in 2018."

On the day of the count, trained volunteers will count and survey individuals who are staying on the streets or in shelters. A "PiT Stop" with entertainment, food, and wellness opportunities will also be held from 2-7 pm at Princess Park to encourage participation in the survey and foster important relationships with community members who should have their voice heard.

Our PiT count will improve our understanding of the needs and circumstances of the people who are affected by homelessness in our community. The survey will provide us with key data on gender, age, ethnicity, veteran status, and more. Anonymous results will be made public and will be used to improve our response to homelessness in Brandon and to raise awareness about what homelessness looks like in Brandon. Successive PiT counts also allow us to measure progress towards our ultimate goal: ending homelessness in Brandon.

Everyone Counts: Brandon's 2018 Point-in-Time Homelessness Count is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Homeless Partnering Strategy. In March and April of 2018, individuals experiencing homelessness will be counted in communities across the country. This coordinated effort will help us to create a picture of homelessness in communities across Canada.
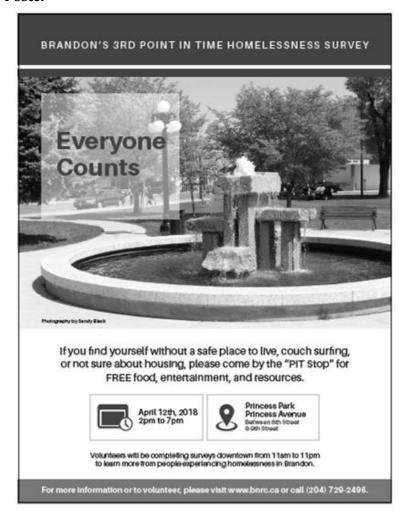
-30-

For more information contact:
Lonnie Patterson
2018 Brandon PiT Count Coordinator
Email: lonniep@mymts.net
Cell Phone: (204) 226-0530

Poster

Handout

Appendix C – Volunteer Training

Volunteer Information Sheet

Everyone Counts: Brandon's 3rd Point-in-Time Homelessness Count
VOLUNTEER INFORMATION SHEET

Thank you for volunteering for Everyone Counts, Brandon's 3rd PiT Count. It is only with your help conducting surveys on Thursday, April 12th that we are going to gain important insights to help better understand and support people experiencing homelessness in Brandon.
Please fill out the following information and return to me at lonniep@mymts.net. More information will be provided in the near future.

Take Care,
Lonnie Patterson
Coordinator, 2018 Brandon PiT Count

Contact Information:

First Name	
Last Name	
Street Address	
City	
Phone	
Email	
Vehicle	

Training Availability:
Volunteers are required to complete training prior to the PiT Count. Please indicate which training session you will attend in the table below. All training sessions will take place at the Park Community Centre (1428 Louise Ave).

Wednesday, April 4th 1pm-2:30pm	
Wednesday, April 4th 7pm-8:30pm	
Thursday, April 5th 7pm-8:30pm	

Availability on Thursday, April 12th
Please indicate your two preferred scheduling options in the table below, including first and second choice if you have one.

11am-1pm	
1pm-3pm	
3pm-5pm	
5pm-7pm	
7pm-9pm	
9pm-11pm	

Volunteer Oath of Confidentiality

OATH OF CONFIDENTIALITY

As a volunteer with **Everyone Counts: Brandon's 3rd PiT Count** understand my role and responsibilities are a valuable part of the work of **Everyone Counts: Brandon's 3rd PiT Count** (hereafter referred to as the "Event"), and I agree to carry out my responsibilities to the best of my ability. While participating in the event, I may meet individuals – including survey participants and other volunteers - who wish to remain anonymous.

This is to certify that I, _____, as a volunteer with the Event, understand that any information (written, verbal or other form) obtained during the performance of my duties must remain confidential. This includes all information about team members, staff and survey participants, as well as any other information otherwise marked or known to be confidential.

Accordingly, I agree not to disclose any confidential information acquired during my volunteer service with the event, to any third party – including media - either during my service with the Event or after my service with the Event has ended. This is in recognition of the difficult situations individuals experiencing homelessness face, and also demonstrates respect for those who support them on a day-to-day basis.

I agree to refrain from posting photos of survey participants, other volunteers, survey materials and all survey locations. I agree to uphold participant confidentiality in all use of social media during and after the count.

INSERT IF RELEVANT: I also understand that all **gift cards and socks** being distributed to interviewees as part of the event are intended solely for the purpose of recognizing the contributions of the interviewees. I agree to respect the needs of these individuals by not keeping any **gift cards and socks** for my own personal use, and returning all leftover **gift cards and socks** to the Head Quarters.

Unless authorized in the course of my volunteer duties, I will not make public statements to the media, expressly or implied, on behalf of the event about any individual I encounter during my volunteer activities.

I understand that any unauthorized release or carelessness in the handling of this confidential information is considered a breach of the duty to maintain confidentiality. I further understand that any breach of the duty to maintain confidentiality could be grounds for immediate dismissal from this Event and future **Everyone Counts: Brandon's 3rd PiT Count**, and/or possible liability in any legal action arising from such a breach.

I understand that a breach of confidentiality is warranted only where a survey participant poses immediate and serious harm to themselves or others or I encounter a youth under the age of sixteen. I will immediately notify my team Leader and/or headquarters if these issues should arise.

I understand that this undertaking survives the termination of my volunteer relationship with **Everyone Counts: Brandon's 3rd PiT Count**. The laws of Manitoba, Canada, shall govern this Agreement and its validity, construction and effect.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, fully understand and accept the responsibilities set above relating to personal, confidential and/or proprietary information.

_____

Date: (dd/mm/yyyy)   Name of Volunteer (please print)

_____

Signature of Volunteer

_____

Name of Guardian (if less than 18)   Signature of Legal Guardian

_____

Name of Witness (please print)   Witness (signature)

VOLUNTEER WAIVER

Everyone Counts: Brandon's 3rd PiT Count	
ASSUMPTION OF RISKS, RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT	
BY SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT YOU WAIVE CERTAIN LEGAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO SUE	
PLEASE READ CAREFULLY	INITIAL HERE:

TO: Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation and any individual, corporation, association, institution, or organization that is associated with the **Everyone Counts: Brandon's 3rd PiT Count** as an organizer, promoter, sponsor or advertiser and the respective agents, officials, officers and employees of all of the aforesaid; (hereafter all collectively referred to as the "Event Partners")

ASSUMPTION OF RISKS

By signing below, I warrant that I am fit to safely participate in any and all activities I am involved in during the course of **Everyone Counts: Brandon's 3rd PiT Count** (hereafter referred to as the "Event"). I am aware that my participation and involvement in the Event may expose me to some unexpected and high level risks, dangers or hazards, including risk of personal injury, property damage and loss resulting therefrom. Such risks, dangers and hazards, given the nature of the Event, may be outside of the scope of an expected or reasonable level of risk that a volunteer may be subject to in the course of participating in an event. By signing below, I freely and fully agree to assume any and all of these risks, dangers and hazards, even if caused by the negligence of the Event Partners, including the failure of the Event Partners to protect and safeguard me from the risks, dangers and hazards and the possibility of any personal injury, death, property damage and loss resulting therefrom.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS AND INDEMNITY

In consideration of the Event Partners permitting me to participate in the Event, by signing below I hereby release, waive and forever discharge the Event Partners of and from any and all claims, demands, damages, costs, expenses, actions and causes of action, whether in law or equity, in respect of injury, death, loss or damage to my person or property that I may suffer, or that any other person, entity or representative may suffer resulting therefrom, however caused, arising directly or indirectly by reason of my participation in the Event, whether prior to, during or subsequent to the Event, and notwithstanding that same may have been contributed to or caused by the negligence of any of the Event Partners.

I agree to hold and save harmless and to indemnify the Event Partners from and against any and all liability incurred by any or all of them arising as a result of, or in any way connected with, my participation in the Event.

This assumption of risks, release, waiver and indemnity shall be governed by and interpreted solely in accordance with the laws of the Manitoba and any litigation in respect thereof shall be brought solely within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of the Manitoba.

FURTHER VOLUNTEER ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- I acknowledge that as a volunteer, I am not covered under any Workers' Compensation Plan.

- I agree to carry out my assigned volunteer tasks in a reasonable and safe manner.

The personal information on this form will only be collected and shared under the authority of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). The purpose of collecting this information includes: determining eligibility for volunteer opportunities, programs, services, and recognition, to facilitate the Event registration process, to administer and evaluate volunteers and programs, statistical purposes and to activate the Volunteer Accident Insurance coverage. This information may be shared with other volunteers and personnel of the Event Partners only insofar as it is necessary to plan and implement the **Everyone Counts: Brandon's 3rd PiT Count**. If you have any questions regarding the collection of information, please contact **Lonnie Patterson, Coordinator at lonniep@mymts.net or (204) 728-5313**.

INITIAL HERE:

By signing below, I acknowledge having read, understood and agreed to the above assumption of risks, release, waiver, indemnity and acknowledgements. I further agree that everything I have agreed to contained herein shall bind my estate and personal representatives.

_____

Date   dd/mm/yyyy   Name of Volunteer (please print)

_____

Signature of Volunteer

_____

Name of Guardian (if less than 18)   Signature of Legal Guardian

_____

Name of Witness (please print)   Witness (signature)

Appendix D – PiT Stop

Everyone Counts: Brandon's 3rd Point in Time Homelessness Count

PiT Stop – Food/Stage/Sponsors

STAGE

Noel Moes

Sweet Medicine Singers

Ainsley Friesen

Until it's No Fun

FOOD

Coffee (Forbidden Flavours)

Soup (Komfort Kitchen) and Buns (Co-op)

Pupusas (Pupusaria)

Coffee and Donuts (Robin's Donuts)

Subs (Subway)

SPONSORS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

New System Store (socks)
Forbidden Flavours (coffee)
Komfort Kitchen (soup)
Robin's Donuts (coffee and donuts)
Co-op (buns)
SERC (condoms and lube)
Vector Promotions (drawstring bags)
Brandon First (canopy and chairs)
Park Community Centre (tables and chairs)
YWCA Brandon (tents)
Brandon University Psych Nursing Program
Brandon Friendship Centre
Brandon Bear Clan
Youth for Christ
CMHA Westman
7th Street Health Access Centre
Housing First
Westman Families of Addicts
CEYS