

FACTSHEET: Homelessness in Nanaimo

Like many cities across Canada, Nanaimo is in the midst of an affordable housing and homelessness crisis. Since 2016, the population of homeless residents has doubled; already strained services for vulnerable residents are unable to keep up with demand.

Facts about homelessness:

Someone experiencing homelessness lives day-to-day, with no certainty when or where they'll be able to eat, bathe, or sleep. They live without the basic amenities many of us take for granted. When focused on survival, it's near impossible for someone without the security of shelter and stability of regular meals to think about recovery, health and employment.

- The 2018 Nanaimo Point-in-Time Count found **335 homeless individuals**. An estimated 150-200 people were not captured by the Count, bringing Nanaimo's homeless population to over 500 people.
- Over **70% had been homeless for more than six months**.
- **Many of the homeless individuals in Nanaimo are from Nanaimo**. The Point-in-Time Count found most of those on the streets have always lived in Nanaimo or have been here for well over five years.

How we're taking action:

The Nanaimo Homeless Coalition recognizes the negative impact this crisis is having on our community and is working with all levels of government to take action.

- The Nanaimo Homeless Coalition drives solutions to end homelessness by uniting the organizations, citizens and governments which support at-risk residents, while also working to diminish the harm caused by homelessness on individuals and community.
- In 2017/18 BC Housing invested \$5.1 million and the City of Nanaimo invested over \$1 million.
- In 2018, Nanaimo's Action Plan to End Homelessness was developed by the Nanaimo Homeless Coalition and endorsed by City Council.
- At the same time, the City adopted an Affordable Housing Strategy aimed at increasing housing options for all residents.
- In May 2019, Nanaimo City Council approved the creation of a City-led Health and Housing Task Force to facilitate the implementation of these two plans.
- Nanaimo receives annual Reaching Home funding from the federal government, which is allocated by the Nanaimo Homeless Coalition to local non-profits working to end homelessness.
- The Nanaimo Homeless Coalition meets regularly to research, plan and share information on how to better serve Nanaimo's at-risk residents.



Resources:

- [Nanaimo's Action Plan to End Homelessness 2018-2023](#)
- [Nanaimo's Affordable Housing Strategy](#)
- [2018 Nanaimo Point-in-Time Count](#)