

Media Release

For Immediate Release:

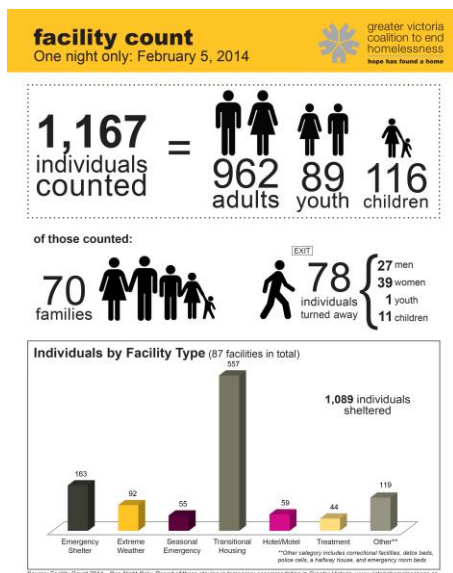
1,100+ people temporarily housed on one-night in Greater Victoria



COMMUNITY SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL
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VICTORIA, BC, September 16, 2014 – On a single night in February, 1,167 people sought shelter in temporary accommodations – including 116 children. This annual facility count was conducted this year as a partnership between the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness, the Community and Social Planning Council and the University of Victoria Centre for Addictions Research of BC.



“This number is largely unchanged since 2011,” says Andrew Wynn-Williams, Executive Director at the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness. “The reality is that this point-in time facility count is more reflective of the number of beds available than the number of people experiencing homelessness. It is an underestimate of people in need of permanent, affordable housing.”

“One of the key findings for me was when we looked at the number of families counted over the years, the number of families counted increases when hotels and motels are included in the facility count,” says Marika Albert, lead researcher for the facility count, “for me, this means that hotels and motels are often seen as the only affordable option for families experiencing homelessness, which is

deplorable and an important indication that we are far from addressing the affordable housing crisis in the region.”

The Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness is a partnership of local service providers, non-profit organizations, all levels of government, and the business, post-secondary and faith communities. The Coalition’s vision is to end homelessness in the Capital Region by 2018.

The Community Social Planning Council (CPSC) is the leading independent, non-partisan, and knowledgeable voice on socio-economic issues in BC’s Capital region; it fosters social innovation and integrated action aimed at social, economic and environmental conditions and to help create sustainable communities.

The Centre for Addictions Research of BC (CARBC) is a network of individuals and groups dedicated to the study of substance use and addiction in support of community-wide efforts to promote health and reduce harm. Our research is used to inform a broad range of projects, reports, publications and initiatives aimed at providing all people in BC and beyond with access to happier, healthier lives, whether using substances or not.

For more information:

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