

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
Date: 1/23/2023 6:34:26 PM
Subject: FW: 2023 Metro Vancouver Homeless Count: Call for Volunteers

Dear Mayor and Council,

This year's Homeless Count coincides with the Metro Vancouver Count which takes place every three years. The Count will take place on the evening of March 7th and March 8th during the day. The Count is convened by Reaching Home Community Entity - Lu'ma Native Housing Society - and the Community Advisory Board (CAB). The Homeless Count is delivered in partnership with the Indigenous Reaching Home Community Entity, the Indigenous Homelessness Steering Committee, the Council of Community Homelessness Tables, and is conducted by the Homelessness Services Association of BC.

Homeless counts provide critical information on the number and characteristics of Vancouver's homeless population, and how this population has changed over time. Although counts do not give us a full picture of the extent of homelessness, the information they provide is invaluable for planning appropriate programs to address homelessness.

Homeless counts began taking place across the Metro Vancouver region every three years in 2002 and the City started conducting an annual count in 2010. The count takes place throughout the city over a 24 hour period in March, inside shelters during the evening, and on the streets the next day. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City did not conduct a count in 2021 or 2022.

Volunteer for the 2023 Homeless Count

Homeless Counts would be impossible without the help of the more than 400 volunteers we recruit and train (Vancouver count). Volunteers work in teams of two and play a key role by conducting an anonymous survey with people who are experiencing homelessness in Vancouver. Shifts are generally two to three hours and volunteers are required to attend a 2-hour training session between February 21st and March 6th.

We'd like to invite you to volunteer for this year's Count. If you'd like to volunteer during the Count, you can complete an application form [here](#).

I recognize that this is a challenging schedule as it overlaps with a Public Hearing on Tuesday night and Council meeting on the Wednesday. Sandra Singh has noted that the 6-8:30 am shift gets her back to City Hall in time to change and be in Chambers for 9:30 am if need be.

2020 Homeless Count Results

The most recent homeless count took place in shelters on March 3rd, 2020 in the evening and on the street on March 4th all day.

Results were presented on October 7th, 2020. The presentation can be found [here](#).

The 2020 count found:

- 2,095 residents in Vancouver identified as homeless
- 547 people were living on the street
- 1,548 people were living in sheltered locations, including emergency shelters, detox centres, safe houses and hospitals, with no fixed address

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact [Sandra Singh](#) and she will ensure responses through the weekly Q&A.

Best,
Paul

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