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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

Date: 6/9/2026 4:29:37 PM

Subject: Memo - 2025 Homeless Count Presentation Follow-Up (2026-06-09)

Attachments: ACCS - GM - Memo (Council) - 2025 Homeless Count Presentation Follow-Up (2026-06-09).pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

On April 14, 2026, staff presented the 2025 Homeless Count findings to Council. This email provides information to questions that were asked that staff did not immediately have answers to. Including:

- Do staff have data on youth aging out of care?
- Do staff have any updates on detox care including information on wait times?
- Do staff have updates on secure care for mental health and addictions?
- Do we have updates on complex care housing?
- Does the Count data show a correlation between housing loss and addiction?
- Is there a correlation between housing loss and gender?

Please do not hesitate to reach out should you require any further information.

Thank you,

Margaret

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples

MEMORANDUM

June 9, 2026

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: City Leadership Team
Donny van Dyk, City Manager
Jason Twa, City Clerk
Mellisa Morphy, Acting Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office

FROM: Margaret Wittgens
General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services

SUBJECT: 2025 Homeless Count Presentation Follow-Up

RTS #: 18460

PURPOSE

On April 14, 2026 staff presented the Vancouver specific data from the 2025 Metro Vancouver Homeless Count as well as a summary of the City's ongoing programs, services, and initiatives related to homelessness response in which the City is a contributor.

This memo provides responses to questions from Councillors raised during and/or following the Council presentation for which either staff did not have information at the time or additional time was needed to provide the analysis.

DISCUSSION

Q: Do we have data on youth aging out of care?

While the City does not have specific statistics on youth aging out of care, 38% of respondents in the 2025 Homeless Count were either previously or currently in foster care, in a youth group home, or on an Independent Living Agreement.

Across BC, the rate of children in care is equivalent to about 0.5% of the population aged 0-18 years (BC Ministry of Children and Family Development), suggesting that youth aging out of care are significantly overrepresented among people counted in the Homelessness Count.

Q: Do staff have any updates on detox care including information on wait times?

Withdrawal management care is primarily delivered through the health sector. Staff continue to coordinate closely with Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) to monitor impacts and offer support within the City's jurisdiction.

VCH provided an update on the “Road to Recovery” model to Council in the fall of 2025. Road to Recovery remains the central framework in British Columbia for streamlining substance use care. This approach focuses on ensuring a seamless transition between detox, treatment, and recovery services.

Highlights regarding access include¹:

- 3,152 individuals accessed detox beds through Vancouver Access Central between October 1, 2023, and March 31, 2025.
- Clients triaged as urgent typically access a bed within an average of one day.
- For non-urgent requests, routine booking is generally available within seven days.

Q: Do staff have updates on secure care for mental health and addictions?

Involuntary care for mental health and addictions is under the provincial jurisdiction of the health sector. BC is seeing expansion of involuntary care in some areas of the province, with the creation of dedicated secure facilities for individuals with brain injuries, mental illness, and severe addiction.

In the province there are currently 28 dedicated involuntary beds -18 at Spiritwood Homes (formerly Alouette Homes) operated by VCH located in Maple Ridge and 10 at Surrey Pretrial in Surrey. Furthermore, within the VCH Geographic Region there are 527 beds in inpatient settings that can be used for providing care under the Mental Health Act depending on the patient's status and care needs. Specifically:

- 261 beds, including Spiritwood involuntary beds, are Regional/Tertiary Care in nature, providing the most specialized level of treatment.
- 198 Acute MHSU beds are in Vancouver and 68 are outside of Vancouver, all of which are open to patients from Vancouver.

Other key Provincial updates include²:

- Bill 32 (Dec 2025): Mental Health Amendment Act which clarified legal liability for healthcare providers while aiming to strengthen patient rights and align with modern constitutional standards.
- New Guidance for Youth (Dec 2025): The Province released specific guidance for physicians regarding children and youth.

Q: Do we have updates on complex care housing?

The Complex Care Housing (CCH) program was launched by the Province in 2022 and provides people at risk of or experiencing homelessness and who have complex mental health and/or substance use issues, with additional clinical, wrap around supports.

In spring 2026, BC Housing announced that 23 of the 48 studio units at 8302 Beatrice would provide tenants with additional clinical supports and enhanced health services (Complex Care Housing). The supportive/complex care housing will be operated by Kettle Society. The building

¹ Source: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/mental-health-and-addictions/building-better-mental-health-and-addictions-care>

² Source: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2025HLTH0057-001209#:~:text=The%20current%20guidance%20builds%20on,a%20mother%20with%20lived%20experience.>

is under construction and targeted to open in 2027. There are currently 75 Complex Care Housing beds in Vancouver, which will increase to a total of 98 beds once Beatrice is operational. As of April 1, 2026, there were Complex Care Housing services in place for 628 people across BC.

Staff will continue to work with BC Housing on new complex care opportunities as funding becomes available.

Q: Does the Count data show a correlation between housing loss and addiction?

Substance use is identified as a reason for housing loss in the 2025 homeless count by 19% of respondents. Some key findings when comparing data for respondents who indicate challenges with substance use with those who do not include:

- Respondents with substance use challenges were more likely to indicate addiction/substance use as a reason for housing loss (25% of those with substance use challenges vs. 4% without substance use challenges).
- Not enough income was the most frequent reason for housing loss for both those with substance use challenges, and those without.
- Respondents who indicated they did not have a substance use challenge were more likely to indicate not enough income (45%) as reason for housing loss, compared to those who indicated having substance use challenges (33%).

The other possible responses for reason for housing loss were relatively consistent between those who indicated substance use challenges and those who did not.

Q: Is there a correlation between housing loss and gender?

Depending on how someone self-identifies their gender, their identified reasons for housing loss may be different. Self-identified women, and those with 'Another gender ID' are more likely to indicate abuse by a partner as a reason for housing loss than respondents who identified as men (Woman: 27%, Another Gender ID: 22%, Man: 6%).

Women are also more likely to indicate unfit/unsafe housing as a reason for housing loss compared to men (Women: 24%, Men: 14%). Men are more likely to identify 'Not enough income' as a reason for housing loss (Men: 40%, Women: 33%, Another Gender ID: 33%). The other possible responses for reason for housing loss were relatively consistent regardless of the respondent's gender.

FINAL REMARKS

Staff hope these responses address the questions raised. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have additional questions and I will ensure a response through the weekly Q&A.



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