



# DRUMHELLER

## MEDIA RELEASE



### Is Homelessness Hiding in Drumheller?

Drumheller Valley FCSS and local partnering organizations are running a Rural Homelessness Estimation Count in Drumheller, as part of a province-wide homelessness count that will take place this fall. In total, 21 communities are taking part, which makes this one of the largest coordinated rural homelessness data collection projects ever completed anywhere in the world.

Homelessness is often hidden in rural communities and rarely looks like it does in urban centres. For Drumheller Salvation Army this is all too apparent: *“People typically think that homelessness refers to people sleeping rough, on the streets,”* said Jenessa McAuley, who is representing the Salvation Army on the Homelessness Task Force, *“but people who become homeless experience a much broader range of living situations than that, and this issue affects Drumheller more than people may realize.”*

Hidden homelessness can fall under a range of living situations that people without appropriate, stable, and permanent housing may experience:

- **Unsheltered:** Absolutely homeless, living on the street or in places not intended for human habitation.
- **Emergency Sheltered:** People who are staying in overnight shelters due to homelessness or family violence.
- **Provisionally Accommodated:** People with accommodation that is temporary or that lacks security for tenure e.g. couch surfing.
- **At Risk of Homelessness:** People who are not yet homeless but their current economic situation is precarious.

Currently, data is very limited for homelessness in rural and remote areas. Identifying the scope of rural homelessness will allow us to better lobby for improved funding and services available for homelessness prevention and reduction initiatives here in our community. A Homelessness Task Force has been established in Drumheller to promote the campaign and lead the estimation. The task force will also review the results and develop an action plan to address homelessness as it appears in Drumheller.

*“We are asking everyone in Drumheller who is living in an unstable housing situation, or who has previously lived in an unstable housing situation to consider taking part in this anonymous survey”* said April Harrison, FCSS Coordinator

**Why should I do it?** People who have experienced/are currently experiencing homelessness or are at-risk of homelessness have the best understanding of what it is like and how we can make things better. **We need YOUR voice.**

**About the survey:** It will take approximately 10 minutes and it is anonymous and confidential.

**When Can I do it?** October 1-30, 2018

**How do I do it?** Go to the locations listed below to fill out a survey. Someone will be available to help you.

**Where can I do it?**

- Drumheller Salvation Army – if you go on a Thursday from 12noon you'll also get a free meal!
- Alberta Supports
- AHS Disability Services
- Big Country Victim Services
- Drumheller Public Library
- Drumheller Family Literacy
- Drumheller RCMP building
- Drumheller Valley FCSS (at Town Hall)
- FCSS Senior's Office
- FRW/FSLW at school
- Growing opportunities
- MH Enterprises
- Wheatland Crisis Society

**All media enquiries:**

April Harrison, FCSS Coordinator - 403-823-1315

**About the ARHEP**

The Drumheller Homelessness Estimation Count is part of the Alberta Rural Homeless Estimation Project, which is coordinated by the Family and Community Support Services Association of Alberta (FCSSAA) and is administered by the Alberta Rural Development Network (ARDN).

A joint partnership between:

