

Rainy River District

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS PLAN 2014-2024
5-YEAR UPDATE



Rainy River District
Social Services
Administration Board

Prepared by:

Whitesell & Company

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Introduction

The Housing Services Act, 2011 (HAS) came into effect in January 2012 in response to the Ministry of Housing's Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy (LTAHS) in November 2010. The legislation included a requirement for Service Managers to develop 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plans and, as required, the Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board (RRDSSAB) launched their plan on January 1, 2014. The HSA also states the following: "At least every five years, a service manager shall review its housing and homelessness plan and amend it as the service manager considers necessary or advisable."

The RRDSSAB has completed this 5-year review of their Housing & Homelessness Plan based upon the following three components as outlined in the HSA:

1. **Assessment.** An assessment of current and future housing needs within the Service Manager's service area.
2. **Objectives, Targets & Achievements.** Objectives and targets relating to housing needs. Achievements are a description of how progress towards meeting the objectives and targets will be measured.
3. **Planning.** A description of the measures proposed to meet the objectives and targets.

A detailed checklist of reporting criteria for this plan can be found in Appendix A. The checklist cross-references the plan requirements with the content of this report.

The RRDSSAB Service Area is made up of thirteen communities that includes ten municipalities and three unorganized areas, spread out between 240 km of Crown land. The only operating shelter is a domestic violence shelter in Atikokan which is the furthest East municipality in the Rainy River District. There have been many positive changes since the Housing & Homelessness Plan was implemented five years ago, including a Homeless Enumeration that was conducted in Fort Frances and Atikokan in April 2018 and the signing of Bill C-97 by the Governor General on June 21, 2019 which contained the *National Housing Strategy Act*. The historic Act included the explicit right to housing — a first for Canada and one of only a few countries with such legislation in place.

It is declared to be the housing policy of the Government of Canada to recognize that the right to adequate housing is a fundamental human right affirmed in international law; and to recognize that housing is essential to the inherent dignity and well-being of the person and to building inclusive and sustainable communities.

National Housing Strategy Act, June 2019

The 2018 Homeless Enumeration was an indicator of the depth of need for housing and supports in the Rainy River District. The enumeration was a period prevalence count that has proven to be more reliable for rural communities compared to the point-in-time counts used most urban centres. This initiative established a baseline of data to monitor need over time with the understanding that all homeless census initiatives do

not account for the actual depth of need.³⁵ Of the 111 individuals who were experiencing various forms of homelessness, 31 people (28%) were also experiencing concurrent mental health and addictions. This suggests that a Housing First approach will be required for many or most of these individuals to achieve housing stability. The enumeration pointed to a connection between homelessness and foster care with 47% of the individuals reporting that they had experienced that system.

Another positive development was the donation of \$25,000 in October 2018 by Treaty 3 First Nations to the Fort Frances Homeless Committee for the opening of a winter shelter.³⁶ Fort Frances does not have a homeless shelter so the seasonal shelter will help save lives. The data from the *Out of the Cold* shelter for winter 2018-19 were remarkably consistent with the findings from the 2018 enumeration:

- 80% of the 79 unique individuals who accessed the shelter identified as having Indigenous heritage — this was identical to the enumeration results;³⁷
- the gender split percentage for individuals was near even for the enumeration and shelter; and,
- 71% of individuals accessing the seasonal shelter were aged 25-59 while the enumeration cited 86% from the same age range.

The DSSAB responsibilities range from delivering Ontario Works and social housing to managing childcare services and land ambulance service. In 2018, the Rainy River DSSAB retained Whitesell & Company, Inc. (“consultant”) to lead the development 5-year update to the Housing & Homelessness Plan. This Plan is the result of that effort and is intended to clarify the District’s current and future housing needs. The Plan provides a comprehensive overview of the existing service system as well as the demands and constraints facing the District. Further, the Plan draws on a range of existing research to propose evidenced-based adaptations to the system that will enhance service delivery.

The Plan takes a broad view of the opportunities and challenges in Rainy River District. There are some limits to this approach. Although the Rainy River DSSAB plays a substantial role in the provision of housing and homelessness services, there are priorities identified in this plan that are beyond the direct control of the DSSAB. Increasing the amount of assisted living for seniors, for example, entails the provision of services from organizations other than the DSSAB. Multi-sectorial steering committees or coalitions are common in the implementation of housing and homeless plans, and this will provide another avenue for implementation.

³⁵ Appendix B has an infographic summary of the enumeration findings.

³⁶ Appendix C has the 2019 data for Out of the Cold. The 10 First Nations included: Lac La Croix, Seine River, Nigigoon-siminikaaning, Couchiching, Mitaanjigamiing, Naicatchewenin, Rainy River First Nations, Big Grassy, Big Island and Onigaming.

³⁷ This figure is consistent with cities such as Yellowknife and Whitehorse with Indigenous homeless populations of 90% in their shelter system. Thunder Bay, by comparison, has a homeless Indigenous population of 50%.

In addition to provincial requirements, the 5-Year Plan Update has been developed in the context of the Rainy River DSSAB vision, mission and values:

Vision

To provide quality, people-centred services in an efficient, affordable and sustainable manner.

Mission

To meet needs by providing services with caring, integrity and accountability.

Values

- Being proactive, adaptive and responsive
- Coordinated and integrated services
- Effective and efficient service delivery
- Equitable access to services
- The long-term health and wellness of residents
- Effective leadership, advocacy, and communication
- Partnerships in the community
- Satisfied employees
- Fiscal sustainability, accountability, and transparency

Ending Chronic Homelessness

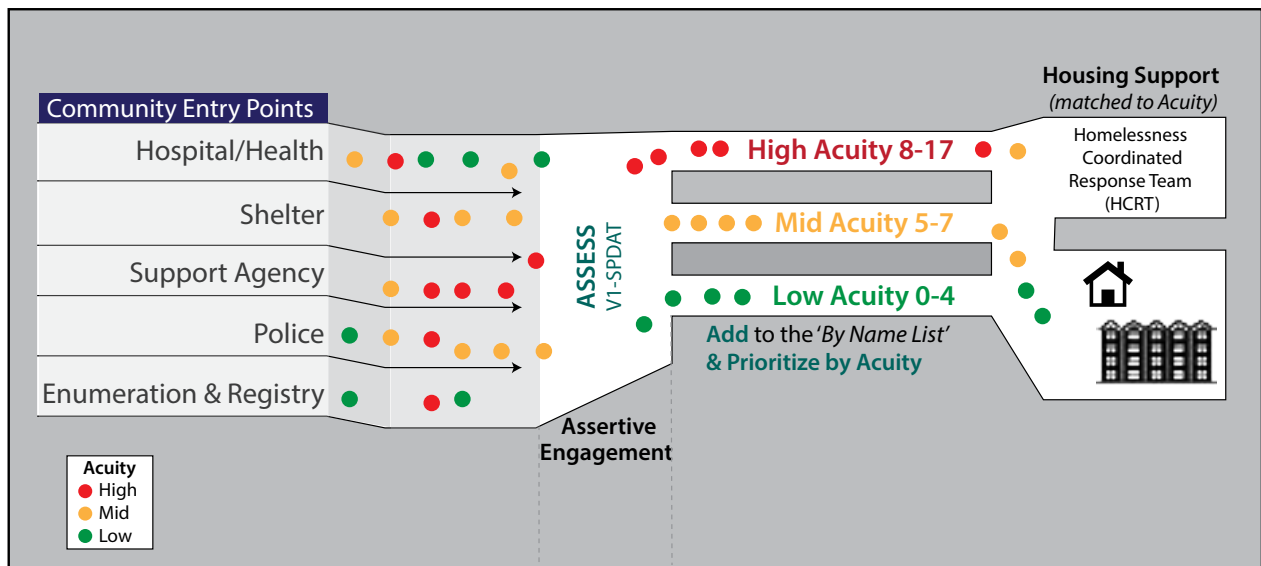
The province adopted a policy of ending chronic homelessness by 2025 through a Housing First approach.³⁸ Recognizing that the only known cure for homelessness is housing, Housing First works by applying the cure as quickly as possible. Housing First is designed to help people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to quickly access housing or stabilize their current housing. Evidence supports the fact that the provision of housing supports increases the probability of housing success. In the Housing First approach, supports are tailored to the household's needs and, often, must be in place for an extended period of time to address a range of barriers to housing stability including, mental health, addiction and accessibility.

Housing First is an intensive model of service delivery so clients with high acuity are prioritized to receive this type of intervention. It may not be appropriate for all clients. Most people, such as those experiencing episodic homelessness due to family breakups or financial crises, will achieve housing stability with lower levels of assistance and it will be the only occurrence of homelessness for that household.

³⁸ Housing First is a recovery-oriented approach to ending homelessness that involves moving people who experience homelessness into independent and permanent housing as quickly as possible, without preconditions, and then providing them with additional supports and services as needed. Chronically homeless people have experienced homelessness continuously for longer than six months or have three or more episodes of homelessness in the previous 12 months — this includes people who access emergency shelters or sleep overnight in locations not suitable for human habitation.

Identifying clients’ support needs based upon their acuity is currently being accomplished through robust assessment tools and real-time, ‘by name list’ (BNL) data collection.³⁹ Web-based database technology such as the Homeless Individual and Family Information System (HIFIS 4) provides an opportunity for community agencies to share these data in an effort to coordinate support services.⁴⁰ *Figure 1* is a summary of a Coordinated Access System based upon acuity.⁴¹

Figure 1—Coordinated Access System to Housing & Supports



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Several communities in Canada have announced the end of chronic homelessness. Functional zero was declared in Medicine Hat, AB in 2017 and in January 2019, Kawartha-Haliburton announced a 51% reduction in only six months with a target of functional zero by July 2020 meaning that the community will have three or less people experiencing chronic homelessness over three consecutive months.⁴²

In Canada, our rural communities such as the Rainy River District experience a lack of resources and capacity. Rural Canada has a critical shortage of affordable housing options, but this issue has not received the same attention as it has in urban centres. The Rainy River District has been stretched to the limit to alleviate the stress on their residents who are experiencing homelessness. Priority populations such as women experiencing intimate partner or gender-based violence, Indigenous Peoples and Youth become even more

39 The VI-SPDAT — Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool — is one of the leading assessment tools and it has been embedded in the HIFIS 4 online homelessness database system.

40 HIFIS 4 Features Overview: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/homelessness/hifis.html>

41 Housing First is a set of evidence-based principles, processes and tools that are designed to provide permanent housing to those experiencing homelessness and providing supports to ensure housing stability. The success of Housing First to end chronic homelessness is about removing barriers to housing and ensuring an adequate supply of housing units. Social and affordable housing are vital to the success of the Housing First approach.

42 There were several factors that contributed to the reduction of chronic homelessness that began with the 20,000 Homes Campaign, community partnerships and real time data tracking with a ‘by name’ list of people who needed housing and supports. <https://caeh.ca/bright-spot-kawartha-haliburton/>

vulnerable due to the lack resources despite their priority status for housing. As mentioned earlier, additional clarity about the scope of homelessness and the populations that are impacted was derived through the 2018 Homeless Enumeration and the Out of the Cold seasonal shelter statistics.

Without affordable housing options, smaller communities in the Rainy River District cannot effectively prevent homelessness or consistently help people access the housing continuum. This negatively impacts the affected individuals and families who may become chronic users of emergency shelters or they relocate to larger centres such as Thunder Bay.⁴³ This migration removes people from their familiar environment and any support system they may have. But leaving the rural jurisdiction for a larger urban centre in search of services is not a panacea. People may discover that they must be homeless for a year before they are entitled to access many services, and this adds to their vulnerable situation. Also, when people leave the local rural population, it negatively impacts the community and its ability to grow.

The lack of affordable housing negatively impacts other stakeholders in the community such as business owners who offer lower wage jobs, seniors transitioning to supportive care, families, disenfranchised youth and people experiencing mental health issues and addictions.

The Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy (LTAHS) vision states that every person in Ontario has an affordable, suitable and adequate home to provide the foundation to secure employment, raise a family and build strong communities. This vision is consistent with the manner in which the Rainy River District administers its responsibilities in the housing and homelessness sector.

⁴³ The 2018-19 seasonal shelter data illustrated this point. Ten of the 79 individuals (13%) had plans to leave Fort Frances. Twenty-one individuals (27%) were new to Fort Frances.

Methodology—Five-Year Update

This Five-Year Plan Update is building upon the substantial time and effort that went into the development of the original 10-year Housing & Homelessness Plan. The consultant engaged individuals, community agencies and non-profit organizations, emergency services, police and businesses during the study period that extended for almost 12 months from Spring 2018 to Spring 2019.

Consistent with the focus that emphasized in the 2016 update to the LTAHS, the consultant invested additional time working with Indigenous Peoples to determine the current state of housing and homelessness as well as assessing the situation concerning local Indigenous housing and support services. The consultant also interviewed women experiencing violence while they were accessing the women's emergency shelter in Atikokan.

Community Consultations

Two community consultations were facilitated in Fort Frances and Atikokan to determine priorities in these centres related to housing and homelessness. A total of approximately 32 people attended the sessions. They represented service agencies, emergency services, police, politicians, Rainy River DSSAB staff and business owners.

A proprietary nominative group technique called, *Strategic Opportunity Grid (SOG)*, was utilized to engage the group in the discussion of issues and priorities. Following the definition of the issues to establish common meaning, the participants voted individually to comparatively rank the issues as priorities. The facilitator aggregated the participants' data to produce the SOG ranked on the value/importance of the priority and current performance. There were no unimportant priorities but there was relativity in the degree of importance.⁴⁴

The issues were very similar in both communities although they were described differently by the two sets of participants. The top priority, however, in both communities was affordable housing — that is, the lack of affordable housing.

Key Informant Interviews & Focus Groups

The consultant conducted 37 individual interviews and six focus groups as part of the data collection for the Update Plan. A comprehensive list of community stakeholders was provided by the Rainy River DSSAB staff. The interviews were based on a semi-structured guide that focused on the interviewee's relationship with housing and homelessness in the community, their perceptions of the issues and priorities with the system and supports and their views about how to reduce the risk of homelessness and end chronic homelessness.

The interviews and focus groups included people experiencing homelessness, including off-reserve Indigenous individuals and families. Another targeted demographic were seniors and service providers supporting seniors. The aging population in Rainy River District suggests that future affordable housing solutions will need to be tailored to their needs.

⁴⁴ The results from the Fort Frances and Atikokan community consultations can be found in Appendix D.

The founders of the Borderline PRIDE organization connected with the consultant with the purpose of better understanding the housing and support needs for LGBTQ2S youth.

First Nations Interviews & Focus Groups

In addition to the interviews cited above, the consultant invested five days interviewing First Nations residents in the Rainy River District — status and non-status people. Focus groups were also conducted to determine housing and supports needs in Fort Frances and Atikokan. The Executive Directors, staff and clients from the United Native Friendship Centre and the Atikokan Native Friendship Centre (ANFC) were engaged in the consultations. In Atikokan, the consultant participated in an emerging housing coalition meeting of service providers, politicians, businesspeople and the local representative from RRDSSAB.

“Indigenous organizations have asserted that traditional knowledge, culture and world view need to be recognized and affirmed in order to build positive working relationships. Given that a PPC [Period Prevalence Count] will involve enumerating Indigenous peoples, and recognizing the importance of reconciliation, it is important that the PPC planning process includes a commitment to ongoing dialogue and relationship- building with local Indigenous groups.”⁴⁵

The consultant met with Board members from the ANFC to better understand the cultural dimensions to housing in the community and the need for focused action and resources to provide housing and supports.

Rainy River District Women’s Shelter of Hope

The Shelter of Hope is the only emergency shelter in the District. Located in Atikokan, the shelter operates on a 24-hour basis every day of the year. The consultant interviewed the Executive Director as well as staff and a small group of clients. The shelter features counselling, outreach and a young women’s forum as well as a transitional and housing support program and second-stage housing called, New Horizons.

Background Research, Document Review & Data Analysis

Data came from multiple sources, including previous Census counts, service provider data (where available), and outside research on housing and homelessness issues. Unfortunately, two key data sources were not available in the development of this plan. The first, Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) housing and rental market data, provides rental and ownership costs for the communities it covers, along with housing start data.

⁴⁵ Kauppi, C. (2017). *Period Prevalence Counts of People Experiencing Homelessness: A Guide for Rural and Northern Communities*. Ministry of Housing, p. 13. Cited in the Rainy River District Enumeration Report 2018.

CMHC does not collect data for communities under 10,000 people. The second source is the Census Long Form, which in prior years provided housing cost, income sources, and low-income rates. The National Household Survey (NHS) that replaced the long form is not equivalent in detail or data collection and is particularly problematic for smaller communities where the non-response rate can be high. In Rainy River District the non-response rate for the 2011 NHS is 32.9 percent. Despite these limitations, the NHS remains the only available source of information on these data points.

Section 1: Assessment

Rainy River District is a small, sparsely populated community with less than 1.3 people per square km. Seven of the 10 communities served by the DDSAB are populated by less than 1,000 people. The DDSAB responds to a range of socio-economic and demographic realities that are, in a word, challenging. These challenges will influence the scope of its housing needs over the next five years and the available options to meet those needs.

The population of Rainy River District (including the First Nation communities), contracted by 6.7 percent between 2006 and 2016. When considering the 10 communities and unorganized areas which make up the Rainy River DSSAB Service Area, the decrease in population is 8.3 percent.

Table 1 indicates that population decline is occurring in all but three of the local communities — Alberton, Emo and Morley. The unorganized population areas are also showing an increase in the past five years. This population change can be attributed to the resurgence of gold mining in the District that is being driven by new technologies. Well-paying jobs translate into increasing demands for housing. This has the potential of stressing the current housing supply and affecting overall affordability in the private real estate market.

Table 1—Population Change 2006-2016, Rainy River District and RR Service Area

	Population 2016	Population 2011	Population 2006	2006-2016 Pop Change	2011-2016 Pop Change
Ontario	13,448,494	12,851,821	12,160,282	10.6%	4.6%
Rainy River District	20,110	20,370	21,564	-6.7%	-1.3%
RR Service Area	17,741	17,918	19,357	-8.3%	-.01%
Fort Frances	7,739	7,952	8,103	-4.5%	-2.7%
Rainy River T	807	842	909	-11.2%	-4.2%
Alberton	969	864	958	.01%	12.2%
Atikokan	2,753	2,787	3,293	-16.4%	-1.2%
Chapple	638	741	856	-25.5%	-13.9%
Dawson	468	563	620	-24.5%	-16.9%
Emo	1,333	1,252	1,305	2.1%	6.5%
La Vallee	938	988	1,067	-12.1%	-5.1%
Lake of the Woods	230	296	323	-28.8%	-22.3%
Morley	481	474	492	-2.2%	1.5%
RR Unorganized	1,385	1,159	1,431	-3.2%	19.5%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006, 2011, 2016

Age Cohorts & Family Composition

Population expansion can result from external migration within the country, immigration or internal family formation. In the latter case, there is little indication that Rainy River District will reverse its current trend towards a smaller population footprint. In fact, one of the most pointed trends to emerge from the last ten years is a substantial aging of the District’s population away from the usual family formation cohorts.

As *Table 2* illustrates, the median age of the population in both the Rainy River District and the RR Service Area has increased steadily by 3.7 and 6.9 years, respectively, in the 10 years between 2006 and 2016. Five of the communities had a median age in 2016 that exceeded 50 years. An interesting point is that the communities that are showing an increase in population are also experiencing a decline in the median age due to an influx of younger people to work in the gold operations.

Table 2—Median Age of the Population, Rainy River District and RR Service Area

	2016 Median Age	2011 Median Age	2006 Median Age
Ontario	37.8	40.4	39.0
Rainy River District	44.7	43.2	41.0
Rainy River Service Area	49.7	45.1	42.8
Fort Frances	44.7	44.0	42.3
Rainy River T	52.6	50.8	47.8
Alberton	40.8	41.1	41.6
Atikokan	50.3	48.5	43.0
Chapple	39.8	38.4	35.7
Dawson	54.5	47.8	44.2
Emo	40.5	41.4	39.9
La Vallee	43.6	40.9	39.4
Morley	40.6	45.5	39.6
Lake of the Woods	59.6	N/A	49.5
Rainy River Unorganized	55.5	52.9	47.3

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006, 2011, 2016.

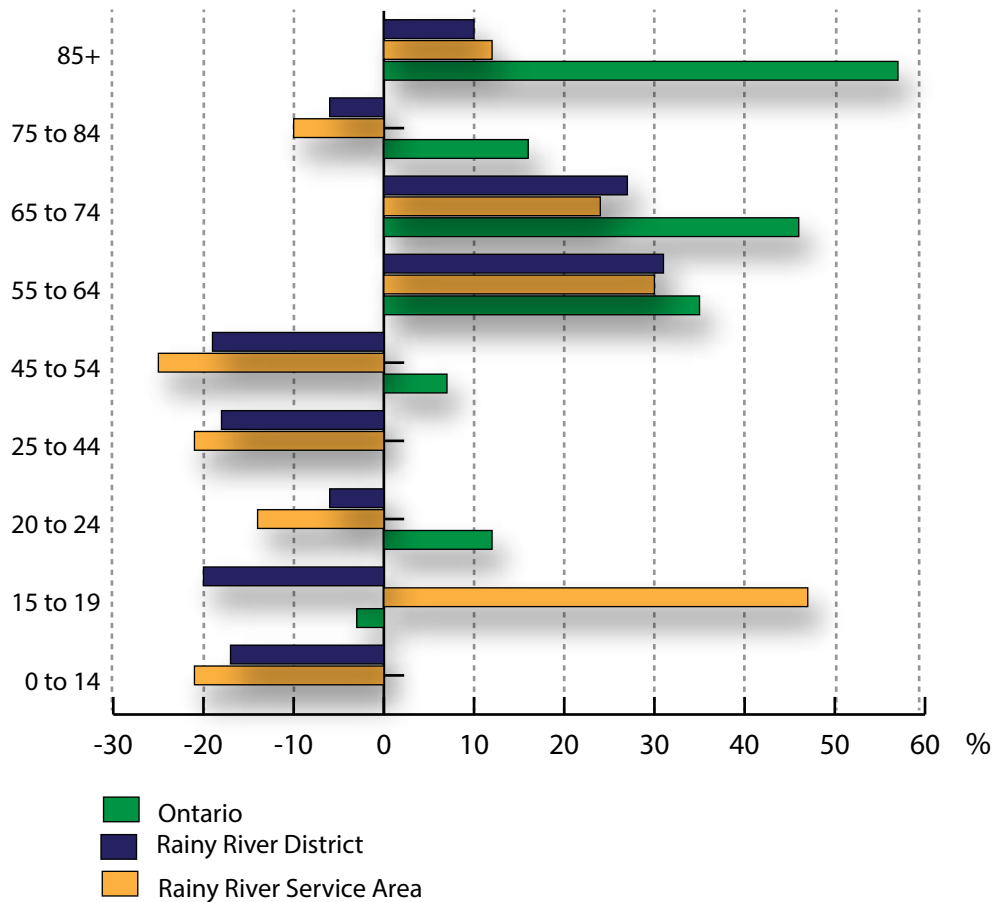
Note: Lake of the Woods data unavailable due to a forest fire during the enumeration period.

In both Rainy River District and the RR Service Area, the only age cohorts to increase from 2006 through 2016 were those comprised of people aged 45-54, 55-64 and 85 or older. As Chart 1 on the next page shows, the number of persons entering or in retirement age (55 to 64) grew by 41 percent in the District, and 38 percent in the Service Area.

Although the population experienced a slight decline in those aged 75 to 84, the number of residents 85 and older grew substantially. On the other end of the age spectrum, both the District and Service Area witnessed a steep decline in the number of residents in the prime family formation stage of 25 to 44. The decline of the younger age cohorts would indicate that population growth through internal replacement will not be forthcoming.

Barring an influx of new residents from outside of the Rainy River District, these numbers suggest that population decline will slowly continue.

Chart 1—Percentage Increase or Decrease in Age Cohorts, 2006 - 2016

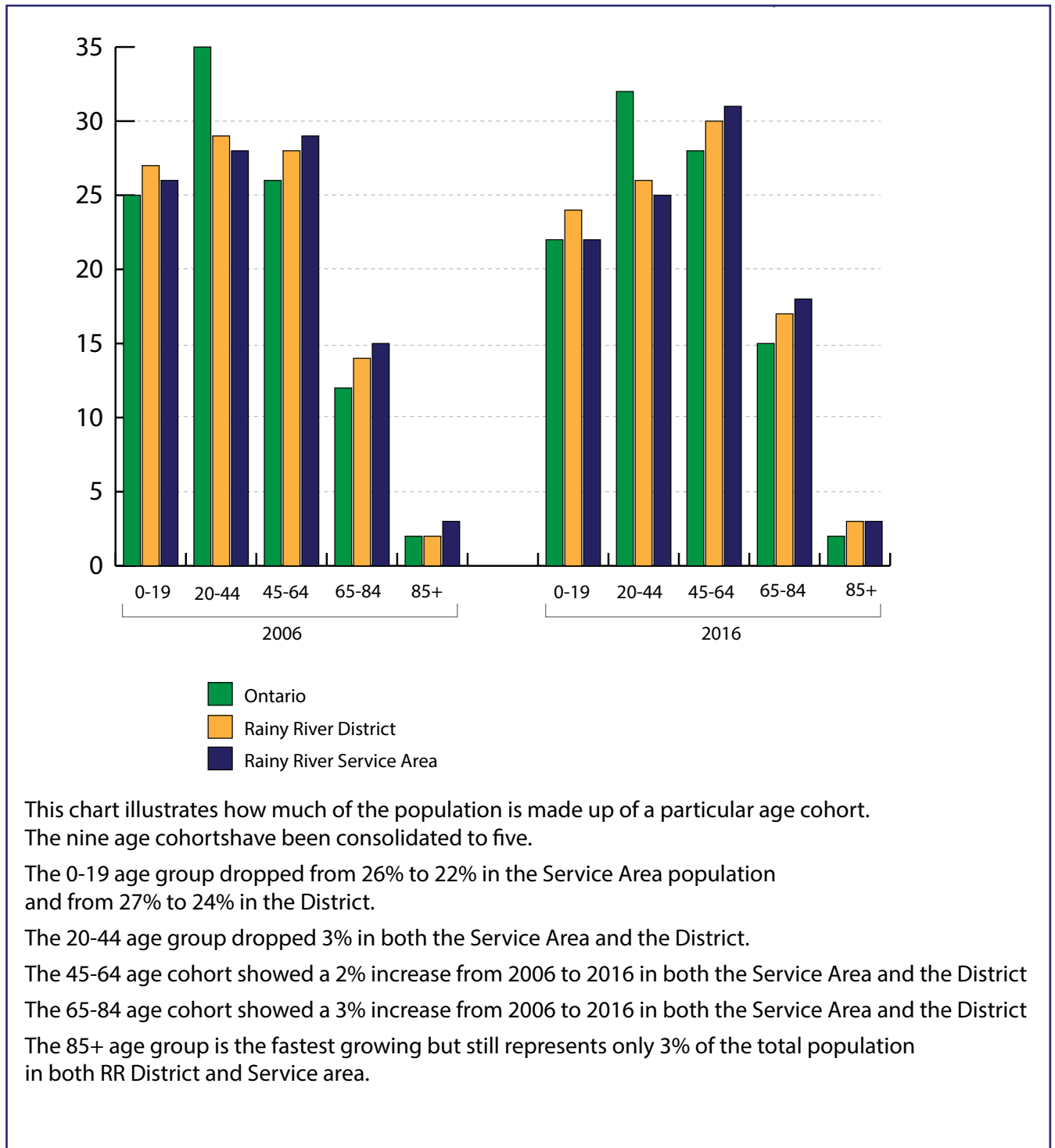


Source: Statistics Canada Census 2006, 2016

In *Chart 2*, on the following, page the nine age cohorts have been consolidated into five groups to provide a different perspective about the population composition. The population up to the age of 43 in the Rainy River District and Service Area decreased in this 10-year period, 2006-2016 so, once again, unless there is impact from an influx of younger families through immigration or new work opportunities, the overall population will continue to decline.

The challenge in the next five years and beyond will be meeting the health, mental health and accessibility needs of an aging population. The age cohorts 65-84 and 85+ both showed an increase of 3 percent.

Chart 2—Age Cohorts as % of the Population 2006 and 2016



Source: Statistics Canada Census 2006, 2016

Table 3 summarizes the average family size in the five-year period 2011-2016. These data reinforce the fact that the population of Rainy River District is slowly declining. The 10 communities and unorganized area that comprise the service area all show smaller family sizes during this period of time.

At the other end of the age spectrum and examining the over-65 population in more detail, there is some important information. Residents 65+ who are not living in a family in Rainy River District are, most frequently, living alone. A third of seniors live by themselves and most of these seniors are female. This living arrangement is so prevalent that seniors make up nearly half of all residents who live alone in Rainy River District.

Table 3—Average Family Size 2011 and 2016

	2016	2011
Ontario	2.6	3.0
Rainy River District	2.3	2.9
Rainy River Service Area	2.4	2.9
Fort Frances	2.2	2.8
Rainy River T	2.2	2.8
Alberton	2.7	2.9
Atikokan	2.1	2.7
Chapple	2.7	3.1
Dawson	2.3	3.0
Emo	2.6	3.1
La Vallee	2.6	3.1
Lake of the Woods	2.1	n/a
Morley	2.7	3.1
RR Unorganized	2.2	2.6

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2016

Much of the current family formation in Rainy River District is occurring outside of the ‘traditional’ arrangement of a married couple. Married couple families declined over the years between 2006 and 2016, while the number of ‘non-traditional’ families increased. In this respect, Rainy River District tracks the broader societal trends occurring at the provincial level.

Housing Stock Comparison

Housing in Rainy River District is largely composed of single detached houses and that has not changed in nearly 20 years. The few apartment buildings that do exist are concentrated in the larger communities, with scarce other housing forms available. As a percentage of the total stock, single detached houses range from a low of 78 percent in Fort Frances to almost 100 percent in the smaller towns (*Table 4*).

Table 4—Housing Stock Comparison Rainy River District and Ontario, 2016 (% of Total)

	Ontario	Rainy River District
Single-detached house	54%	85%
Apartment: building with 5+ storeys	17%	0%
Semi-detached house	6%	1%
Row house	9%	2%
Apartment: duplex	3%	1%
Apartment: <5 storeys	10%	9%
Other single attached house	0%	1%
Movable dwelling	0%	1%
Other dwelling	28%	14%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2016

Housing Tenure

A similar picture emerges with respect to housing tenure. Most of the housing market in Rainy River District is ownership based. Although some of the larger towns are equal to the provincial average in terms of ratio of ownership to rental, rental units are largely unavailable in the smaller communities (*Table 5*).

Table 5—Housing Tenure in Rainy River District, 2016

	# Owned Dwellings	# Rented Dwellings	TOTAL	Ownership % of Total	Rented % of Total
Ontario	3,601,825	1,559,720	5,169,175	70	30
Rainy River District*	6335	1765	8430	75	21
RR Service Area	5960	1580	7545	79	21
Fort Frances	2,365	965	3,335	71	29
Rainy River T	270	90	360	75	25
Alberton	345	30	370	93	8
Atikokan	1085	215	1305	83	17
Chapple	215	15	230	94	6
Dawson	165	15	185	89	8
Emo	390	125	520	75	25
La Vallee	325	40	360	90	11
Lake of the Woods	120	10	135	89	8
Morley	130	40	165	80	24
RR Unorganized	550	35	580	95	6

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2016

Note: totals of ownership and rental columns may not be exactly 100%

Private Dwellings & Usual Residents

Consistent with the District’s population decline, there has been a decrease in the number of private dwellings occupied by usual residents. As *Table 6* indicates, in Rainy River District as a whole and in many communities throughout the District, this decline accelerated in the latter half of the decade leading up to 2011, increasing from negative 1.9 percent between 2001 and 2006 to negative 4.2 percent between 2006 and 2011. The decline in the Rainy River Service Area in the 10-year period between 2006-2016 has continued at negative 4.8 percent.

Table 6—Private Dwellings Occupied by Usual Residents 2006 - 2016

% change	2006 - 2016	2001-2011	2006-2011	2001-2006
Ontario	13.5%	15.8%	7.3%	7.9%
RR District	-1.8%	-3.2%	-2.4%	-0.8%
RR Service Area	-4.8%	-6.0%	-4.2%	-1.9%
Fort Frances	-3.2%	0.4%	1.7%	-1.2%
Rainy River T	-12.2%	-8.2%	-4.6%	-3.8%
Alberton	7.2%	-6.4%	-10.2%	4.2%
Atikokan	-8.1%	-15.4%	-10.2%	-5.8%
Chapple	-23.3%	-10.0%	-9.7%	-0.3%
Dawson	-22.9%	-7.1%	-8.6%	1.7%
Emo	-1.9%	-12.5%	-12.4%	-0.2%
La Vallee	-1.4%	-0.3%	-2.7%	2.5%
Lake of the Woods	8.0%	4.6%	-0.7%	5.4%
Morley	-8.3%	16.7%	-2.8%	20.0%
RR Unorganized	2.7%	-20.6%	-11.1%	-10.7%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2016

Changes in Housing Stock Composition

The growth in single housing stock has turned around since the original 2014 report. Overall, the Rainy River Service Area is showing an additional 45 single units even though Fort Frances has lost 70 single units. Atikokan is the highlight of this table because the town went from -100 single units to positive 35 over the past five years. Single apartments in both multi-unit configurations total 55 new units.

Table 7—Changes in Housing Stock Composition, Actual Units, 2011 - 2016

	Single	Semi	Row	Duplex	Apartment, Under 5 storeys	Apartment, Over 5 storeys
Rainy River District	-25	-10	40	5	30	10
Rainy River Service Area	45	5	0	5	45	10
Fort Frances	-70	-5	10	-5	10	0
Rainy River T	-15	0	0	5	-20	0
Alberton	40	0	0	0	0	0
Atikokan	35	-5	0	0	0	0
Chapple	-30	0	0	0	0	0
Dawson	-15	0	0	0	5	0
Emo	25	5	0	5	45	0
La Vallee	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lake of the Woods	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Morley	-5	0	-10	0	0	10
RR Unorganized	80	0	0	0	5	0

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011, 2016

Age of Housing

Housing in Rainy River Service Area is aging, with a very large proportion—76 percent—over 30 years old based on the 2016 census (*Table 8*). Older stock presents a number of challenges, not the least of which is the escalating costs associated with the replacement of major components. Research performed by CMHC has found that building components such as roofs, heating systems and cooling systems will all require replacement at around years 20 to 25 of a building’s lifecycle.⁴⁶ Based on the available Census data, a large majority of the housing stock in Rainy River District is now entering this maintenance phase. Consistent with the overall age of units, the percentage of homes requiring major repair is considerably higher than the provincial rate with four communities and the unorganized rural area exceeding 10 percent.

Table 8—Age of Housing in Percentages, Rainy River District and RR Service Area

Constructed	prior to 1990	1991 - 2016	Requiring Major Repair
Ontario	66.8	33.2	6.1
Rainy River District	79.9	19.9	11.7
Rainy River Service Area	75.6	24.9	9.4
Fort Frances	89.4	10.3	10.1
Rainy River T	93.1	6.9	6.9
Alberton	73.3	26.7	8.0
Atikokan	94.3	5.7	13.4
Chapple	69.6	28.3	8.7
Dawson	72.2	27.8	0.0
Emo	72.8	27.2	6.8
La Vallee	63.0	33.3	7.4
Lake of the Woods	69.7	36.4	15.2
Morley	69.7	36.4	15.2
RR Unorganized	64.7	35.3	11.2

Source: Statistics Canada 2016

⁴⁶ CMHC, (2000) *Service Life of Multi-Unit Residential Building Elements and Equipment*.

Socio-Economic Health

Rainy River District has never fully recovered from the 2008 recession. Employers are cautious about hiring full-time employees and people often need more than one part-time position to meet their expenses. Major sources of economic development for the District are emerging, including two gold mines and a biomass energy plant. Nevertheless, the available data continues to indicate a mixed picture of the District’s economic health.

The 2016 unemployment rate in the Rainy River Service Area was 9.1 percent. This was .9 percent higher than 10 years earlier. There are few positive indicators in *Table 9*. The participation rate is down in all communities with the exception of Dawson and the employment rate is higher in Dawson and Chapple. The unemployment rate, however, increased in all communities with the exception of Fort Frances and Rainy River. Unemployment in Atikokan increased by 48 percent between 2006 and 2016.

Table 9—Rainy River District Labour Force Indicators 2006-2016

	Participation Rate		Employment Rate		Unemployment Rate	
	2006	2016	2006	2016	2006	2016
Ontario	67.1	64.7	62.8	59.9	6.4	7.4
Rainy River District	64.2	59.7	59.1	54.3	7.9	9.1
Rainy River Service Area	65.8	60.5	60.4	55.0	8.2	9.1
Fort Frances	64.4	61.2	59.7	56.9	7.3	7.1
Rainy River T	53.4	36.3	45.9	34.7	15.2	4.4
Alberton	78.3	73	73.7	66.9	5.9	8.4
Atikokan	62.4	56	56.8	48.7	9.0	13.3
Chapple	61.8	64.3	61.0	63.3	2.4	3.2
Dawson	56.1	65.3	46.9	60	16.4	8.2
Emo	63.1	62.1	60.1	58.4	4.7	6.8
La Vallee	75.0	67.1	72.6	59.9	3.2	10.8
Lake of the Woods	74.0	47.9	61.0	39.6	16.2	17.4
Morley	73.4	73	68.4	62.2	5.2	11.1
RR Unorganized	62.1	59.7	59.6	54.3	4.7	9.1

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2016

Sources of Income & Affordability

Another indicator of economic health is the proportion of income that comes from earnings, as opposed to government transfers. Based on this measure, the Rainy River Service Area does not compare favourably to either the provincial rate, or to Dryden and Kenora. Earnings as a percentage of income are considerably lower in the Rainy River Service Area. But government transfers in the RR Service Area are lower. In all but three communities, men draw more of their income from earnings than women, while women rely more heavily on government transfers in every community. This situation is similar at the provincial level and in the two comparative communities. (*Table 10*).

Table 10—Sources of Income by Gender, Rainy River District and Service Area 2016

2016 Census	Earnings as % of Total Income	Male	Female	Government Transfers as % of Total Income	Male	Female
Ontario	69.5	72.3	65.8	16.3	12.1	21.9
Kenora City	70.2	71.9	68.1	13.2	10.4	17
Dryden City	67.6	69.9	64.5	15.4	12	19.9
Rainy River District	66.3	67.8	64.2	16.6	13.4	21.1
Rainy River Service Area	55.7	56.8	53.8	12.8	10.2	16.8
Fort Frances	65.6	65.9	64.8	15.9	12.8	19.8
Rainy River T	53	54.5	50.2	21.6	16.2	30.1
Alberton	74.1	72.7	74.7	10.1	9	11.9
Atikokan	66.2	69.2	61.7	19.7	16.3	24.4
Chapple	72.5	74.6	67.2	15.1	12.2	19.9
Dawson	60.6	60.2	64.5	17.2	14.6	21.6
Emo	73.6	78.4	67.1	12.6	8.4	19.3
La Vallee	74.6	74.1	76.8	12.7	11	16
Lake of the Woods	x	x	x	x	x	x
Morley	72.2	75	64.7	15.4	11.2	22.1
RR Unorganized	61	61.1	60.8	13.4	12.5	14.7

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2016

X – Data Unavailable

Affordable housing is often used to describe shelter costs that are 30 percent or less of gross household income for either rental or owned properties. Affordable also applies to subsidized housing with rent geared to income with affordability as the objective of the subsidy calculation.

The housing affordability calculation for income that qualifies for home ownership in Rainy River District is displayed in *Table 11*. The 2019 average home price in the District is \$274,812 based on MLS listings. In 2016, the average value of all dwellings was \$182,320 and the average monthly rental price was \$733.⁴⁷

Table 11: Affordable Home Price by Percentile, Rainy River District

Income Percentile	Affordable Price
20th Percentile: \$28,900	\$107,500
30th Percentile: \$41,000	\$152,500
40th Percentile: \$52,200	\$194,500
50th Percentile: \$61,900	\$230,500
60th Percentile: \$73,400	\$273,500

Source Government of Ontario Household Incomes and Affordable Housing Prices, Provincial Policy Statement, Housing Table 2016

The median annual income in 2017 for a single person living in Canada is \$33,000. That number jumps to \$92,700 for families. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) numbers, 58 per cent of Canadians are firmly in the middle-income bracket.

In 2017, 3.4 million Canadians, or 9.5% of the population, lived below the poverty line, down from 10.6% in 2016. In 2017, 622,000 children under 18 years of age, or 9.0%, lived below the poverty line, down from 11.0% (755,000 children) in 2016. The poverty line in Canada is based on a Market Basket Measure.⁴⁸ In 2017, the poverty line for a family of four living in Winnipeg was \$36,558.⁴⁹ *Table 12* on the next page compares the low-income rate after tax for Rainy River District based on gender.

⁴⁷ Statistics Canada, 2016 National Household Survey

⁴⁸ The current content of the basket is made up of four categories of goods and services—food, clothing and footwear, shelter, transportation—and an “other goods and services” category.

⁴⁹ <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75f0002m/75f0002m2019009-eng.htm>

Table 12—Rainy River District and Service Area, Low-Income Rate, 2006-2016

	% individuals low income after tax - All persons		Male		Female		% individuals low income after tax < 18 years of age		Male		Female	
	2006	2016	2006	2016	2006	2016	2006	2016	2006	2016	2006	2016
Ontario	11.1	9.8	10.5	9.7	11.6	9.9	13.7	11.5	13.7	11.5	13.8	11.4
Kenora, City	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.2	4.4	5.1	4.8	4.5	5.1	5.7	4.9
Dryden, City	3.9	5.1	3.7	4.9	4.1	5.2	5.2	6.5	7.3	7.1	2.9	7
Rainy River District	6.6	5.0	6.8	5.3	6.3	4.8	8.8	5.8	9.2	5.6	8.3	5.1
Rainy River Service Area	5.7	3.8	5.9	4.4	4.2	3.4	8.1	4.8	5.7	5.0	6.1	6.1
Fort Frances	7	6.4	6.4	6.6	7.7	6.1	8.9	7.8	6.1	7.1	11.2	8.5
Rainy River T	2.3	4.4	0	5.1	0	5.1	0	9.4	0	12.5	0	12.5
Alberton	0	2.1	0	3.0	0	2.2	0	2.0	0	0	0	5.0
Atikokan	10.2	5.0	12.5	5.2	8.1	4.8	14.4	4.3	21.1	4.1	5.9	4.5
Chapple	11.7	5.6	16.3	6.3	7.1	3.3	20.5	6.1	0	12.5	0	5.9
Dawson	14.5	5.4	13.7	6.3	14	4.3	17.6	5.5	15	11.1	21.4	12.5
Emo	1.9	2.3	3.9	3.1	0	2.2	0	3.0	0	3.2	0	0
La Vallee	1.9	2.7	0	4.1	0	2.2	0	2.5	0	0	0	5.3
Lake of the Woods	9.5	-	9.4	-	9.7	-	22.2	-	20	-	28.6	-
Morley	0	4.2	0	4.1	0	4.2	0	4.2	0	0	0	8.3
RR Unorg.	3.9	3.8	2.7	4.4	0	3.1	5.8	7.9	0	10.5	0	5.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006, 2016
 2006 – 2019-24 Housing & Homelessness Plan
 2016 – Prevalence of Low Income based on the low income cut offs after tax (LICOAT) %

People who are experiencing severe poverty or disabilities that prevent participation in the work force are enumerated in the Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program caseloads as illustrated in *Tables 13 and 14*, respectively.

Table 13—Rainy River District Ontario Works Caseload, 2013 – 2019

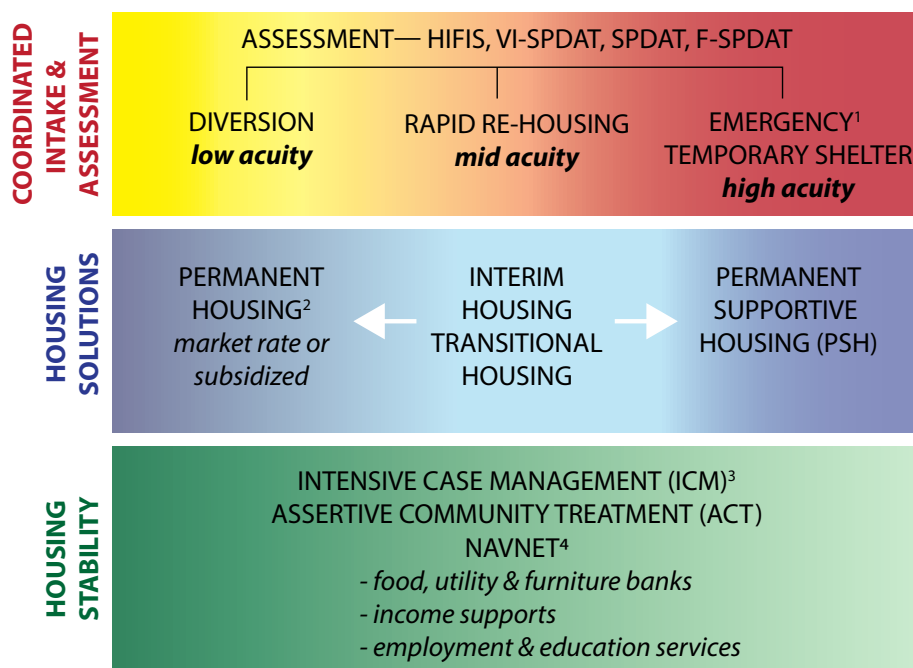
Year	Clients
2013	232
2014	244
2015	252
2016	246
2017	215
2018	233
2019	244

Table 14: Rainy River District Ontario Disability Support Program Caseload, 2013 – 2019

Year	Clients
2013	431
2014	449
2015	426
2016	482
2017	487
2018	493
2019	490

People who have experienced chronic homelessness or who belong to a priority population such as women who have experienced intimate partner or gender-based violence, youth and Indigenous Peoples may receive income from either or both OW and ODSP depending on their circumstances. If an individual is assessed as having high acuity, he/she/they may access the Housing First System through Rainy River District or housing and homelessness agencies in the community so that they can find safe, affordable housing with supports. *Figure 2* is a model of a Housing First System.

Figure 2—Housing First System for Individuals & Families



1. DV Shelters, Family Shelters, Youth Shelters, Single Men Shelters, Co-Ed Shelters, Motels/Hotels
2. Scattered Site, Multiple Unit Residential Buildings (MURBs), Congregate Living
3. HIFIS & SPDAT are used to track client progress (case management)
4. Navigators and networks inter-system for individuals with complex service needs.

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Economic Development & 2024 Population Projections

Agnico Eagles Gold Mines Ltd. purchased the Hammond Reef Gold Mine in 2017. The mine is located 23 km outside of Atikokan and has two open pits with a projected lifespan of 11 years. A promise of “hundreds” of jobs accompanied the announcement and that is amazing news for Atikokan that used to have a population of 6,000 people. With a current population of near 2,800 people but an infrastructure that can support thousands more, this could be a gold rush for the town.

The Rainy River Gold Mine is located in the Township of Chapple and is projected to operate until 2031.

In addition to the gold mines, Atikokan is also the location for a new sawmill operated by Resolute Forest Products. The sawmill employs 81 people. BioPower Sustainable Energy Corp. purchased the Atikokan Thermal Generating Station and it will be converted into a biomass plant. The wood pellets produced by the sawmill will feed the new biomass plant and employ another 75 people.

“They’ve identified the deposit. They know it’s there. They’ve just about finished the environmental assessment process. Hopefully, it will become a mine some day... it would be great if we could get some more people working here.”

- Atikokan Mayor, Dennis Brown

A linear projection model that carries forward historical population trends has been used to provide an estimate of the profile of Rainy River District to the end of the Housing & Homelessness Plan period, 2024. This projection indicates that by 2024 the population will have dropped to under 20,000, and slightly under half the population will be over the age of 55. Common law and lone parent families will make up almost half of the family formation, and these ‘non-traditional’ family types will account for most of the future childbirths.

As *Table 15* shows, the Rainy River Service Area will lose approximately 2,624 people by 2024, an overall decrease of 13.8 percent between 2011 and 2024.

By 2024, the older age cohorts will comprise almost half of the total population. The trend towards an older population base has been in force for a few decades and barring unusual circumstances such as an epidemic or an even bigger gold rush, the probability is high for this projection. The number of seniors living alone will remain relatively static until 2024.

Table 15—Rainy River District Population Estimate, 2024

	Population in 2011	Population in 2024
Rainy River District	20,110	18,287
Rainy River Service Area	17,741	15,294

Source: Whitesell & Company, Inc.

Section 2: Objectives, Targets & Achievements

There were several key findings in this Plan update that confirm and expand the findings from 2013-14 when the original Housing and Homelessness Plan was researched and written. There are some notable improvements in the response to homelessness by the District such as strategic community engagement, designing and implementing an enumeration, completing an 8-plex apartment project, opening an Out of the Cold shelter with First Nations partnerships and utilizing homelessness data to inform decision making.

- **There is a disproportionate number of Indigenous People experiencing homelessness** in the Rainy River District evidenced by the Enumeration as well as the data from the Out of the Cold shelter;³⁵
- **The population of Rainy River District is getting smaller as it gets older**, with the number of people under 60 declining over the last ten years. The population as a whole has steadily decreased;
- **The child, youth and young adult population has decreased** by approximately 3% over a 10-year period ending in 2016;
- **The aging population is expanding the demand for assisted living**, as the 65-84 age cohort increased in the 10 years between 2006 and 2016. Seniors have increasing accessibility and service needs that cannot be met by their current housing;
- **Low-income residents continue to struggle to afford housing**, with 41% of households paying more than 30% of their monthly income on rent and utilities and 12% of households are spending over 50% — see figure x below;
- **The housing stock is aging and single detached units dominate**. In fact, single detached houses make up two-thirds of Rainy River District's housing stock. A significant change, however, was signaled with the successful build of an 8-plex in Fort Frances in 2019;
- **There are relatively few apartment and rental units**, and those that do exist are concentrated in just a few communities;
- **Homeless youth are a population that is underserved**, with a lack of appropriate emergency shelter or affordable housing options. The scope of LGBTQ2S youth experiencing homelessness is unknown statistically but reported anecdotally as an issue;
- **Rainy River District has many of the elements it needs to deliver an effective housing and homelessness system**, but additional coordination to link these elements is still required in the next five years. By using approaches and tools such as Housing First, Rapid Re-Housing, Homeless Enumeration, best practices and systems thinking, the District can continue on a path to end homelessness.

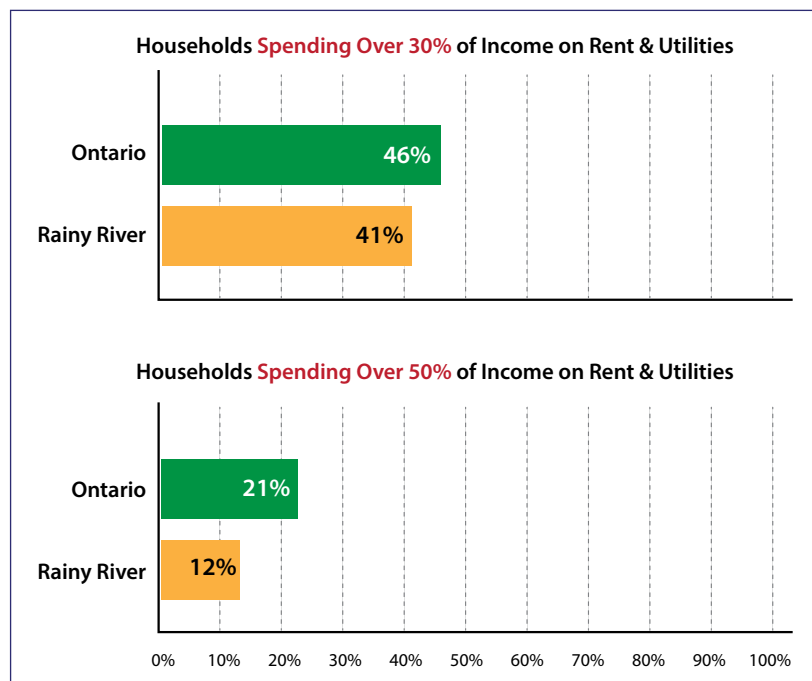
³⁵ According to the 2014 National Shelter Study shows that the rate of shelter use for Indigenous Peoples is 10 times higher than for non-Indigenous people. Segaert, A., (2016). National Shelter Study 2005-2014. Gatineau, QC: Employment and Social Development Canada. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/communities/homelessness/reports-shelter-2014.html>.

- **The implementation of the VI-SPDAT acuity assessment screening** will greatly contribute to housing success by directing the right client to the right service at the right time with tracking through HIFIS 4, the online database system;³⁶
- **The District has need for a shelter in Fort Frances for individuals experiencing homelessness.** The shelter should be open all year and staffed with Housing First professionals who consider the shelter a gateway to permanent housing stability and have training in Indigenous culture, tradition and needs.³⁷

Housing Affordability Thresholds

Households that spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent and utilities are especially vulnerable when unexpected expenses or crises occur. *Figure 3* illustrates how Rainy River District compares to Ontario when spending 30 percent and 50 percent of household income on rent and utilities.^{38 39} These households would be considered precariously housed due to their lack of resources for other life necessities such as food, clothing, footwear, transportation, etc.

Figure 3—Rent to Income Comparison



36 VI-SPDAT, Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool. HIFIS 4, Homeless Individuals and Family Information System.

37 Consideration needs to be given to attain Professional Aboriginal Relations Certification (PAR). The bronze, silver and gold certification is assessed by the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business with focus on four areas: employment, business development, community investment and community engagement. BC Housing is the only social housing provider in Canada to be certified under the PAR program.

38 https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/subjects/families_and_households

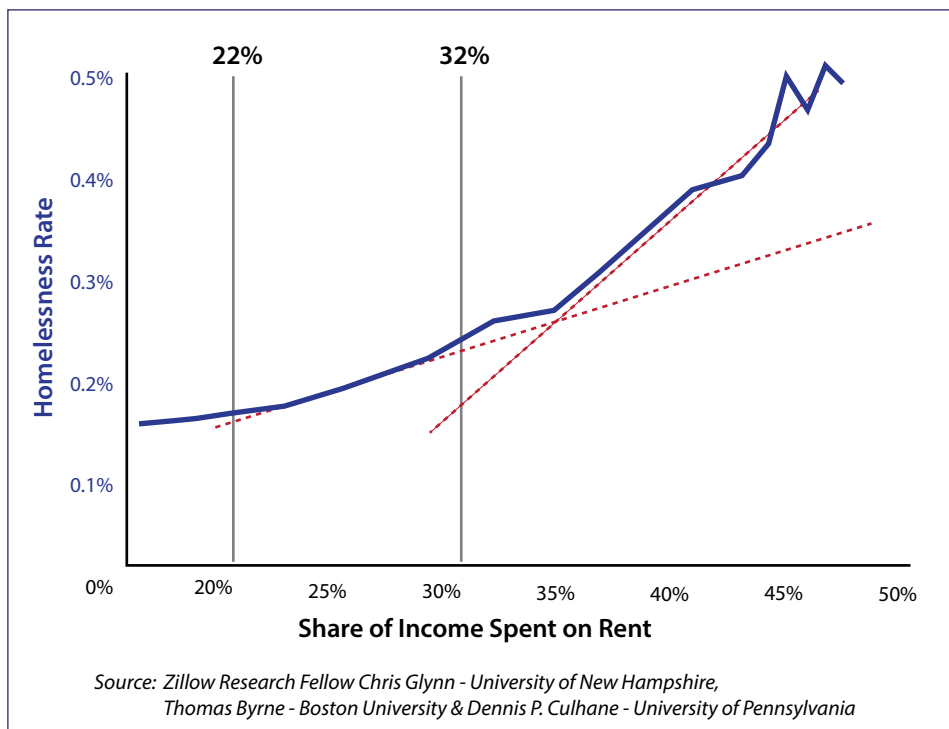
39 2018 Canadian Rental Housing Index is an online database that aggregates rental housing data for Canadian cities, regions and provinces. This is a joint project by the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association (ONPHA) and the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada (CHF Canada). <http://rentalhousingindex.ca>

The rate of homelessness increases when rent exceeds 32% of household income.⁴⁰ Statistics from the United States indicate that an uptick in rent affordability beyond 22 percent translates into more people experiencing homelessness — much lower than the widely accepted 30 percent rule. The data are not clear, but one theory is that people experiencing deep poverty are making shelter a priority, but they are especially vulnerable to income interruptions or unexpected expenses. There is relative housing stability from 22-30 percent. Beyond 32 percent translates into a faster rate of homelessness that is illustrated by the blue line in *figure 4* (the red, dotted lines are trend indicators). The mitigating factors may vary from community to community and the negative impact of affordability is unconditional and potentially devastating to a household.⁴¹

The 32 percent threshold provides a crucial benchmark for policymakers to gauge exactly where their communities stand and to adjust programs and resource allocations if households are approaching the threshold.

These thresholds also help explain why the story of incomes, rents and homelessness does not read the same everywhere. Prior research has operated largely under the implicit assumption that pulling the same levers with the same strength and in the same direction will have an identical effect on homelessness regardless of the community in question. This latest research suggests communities would be wise to take a more nuanced approach in how they contend with unique, local structural factors in seeking to reduce homelessness. This is especially true in rural communities such those in the Rainy River District where the cost of transportation is a life necessity and, therefore, a critical factor for households.

Figure 4—Homelessness & Rent Affordability—The 22% & 32% Thresholds



40 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 2017 <https://www.zillow.com/research/homelessness-rent-affordability-22247/>

41 Zillow Research Fellow Chris Glynn of the University of New Hampshire, Thomas Byrne of Boston University and Dennis P. Culhane of the University of Pennsylvania.

Housing First can be effective to address homelessness that has already occurred but “upstream” approaches to prevent homelessness are still evolving along with the studies to determine their effectiveness. A Housing Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) study by Molly Brown, DePaul University in Indianapolis included 515 participants and Brown reported that 31.4% of the participants were housed on completion of the program.⁴² What was especially interesting was that every \$100 of additional income improved the probability of sustaining housing by 11%. Also, next to engagement and income, case management was the highest predictor of rapid re-housing success, not just Housing First.

The reliance on Housing First as the panacea for ending homelessness is being challenged by multiple studies but it is also important to understand that success rates of HPRP don't necessarily apply to people experiencing moderate or serious mental health with co-occurring substance use issues. More emphasis needs to be placed on assessment to better determine needs of people experiencing episodic homelessness or people who are precariously housed to prevent chronic homelessness from ever happening. The research that illuminates the effectiveness of Housing First with populations such as women, youth and indigenous peoples has increased significantly in the past 10 years but the evidence that addresses homelessness prevention is far less refined.

As mentioned earlier in this document, there are some limits to the practicality of the recommendations. The Rainy River DSSAB — the Service Manager — plays a substantial role in the provision of housing and homelessness services, multi-sectoral and community coordination, advocacy and research. But, in the end, the funding streams upon which the RRDSSAB is reliant to provide critical services are finite. The RRDSSAB funding allocations for housing and homelessness programs based upon the 2019 Ontario Budget are detailed in Table 16. Some highlights from the funding include:

- \$98,378 increase in Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) for 2020-21;
- the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative funding will be reduced by \$66,200 in 2020-21 and then increased by \$44,600 for fiscal 2021-22 — still \$26,500 less than 2019-20;
- the District's Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH) funding was fully allocated by 2018-19;
- Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit is a bilateral agreement with CMHC, and funding will start flowing in April 2020 when federal funds become available;
- the province will continue to provide portable housing benefits to survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking under the Special Priority Policy — an alternative to waiting for rent-geared-to-income units to become available.

⁴² <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29751144>

**Table 16—Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board
—Funding Allocations 2019- 2022**

Program	2019-2020 Confirmed Allocation	2020 – 2021 Planning Allocation	2021 – 2022 Planning Allocation
Investment in Affordable Housing for Ontario (2014 Extension)*	\$0	N/A	N/A
Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative	\$365,092	\$463,830	\$463,830
Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative*	\$0	\$0	\$207,045
Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative	\$137,300	\$71,100	\$110,800

Note: Rainy River’s IAH-E funding was fully allocated by 2018-19. As Rainy River does not experience a loss in federal funding in 2019-20 and 2020-21, there is no allocation under COCHI for these years.

This Update Plan includes a review of the 2014 Strategic Goals and Objectives as well as some additional recommended areas of focus for the next five years based upon the research, best practices, fifteen days of local engagement by the consultant and experience in other jurisdictions and countries.

Strategic Goals & Objectives

The 2014 Housing & Homelessness Plan outlined strategic priorities that were converted into seven strategic goals and 14 objectives with measures and outcomes. The goals are a valid framework for the next five years with some additional objectives based upon the findings from this Update.

Significant progress has been made on several fronts since the original Housing & Homelessness Plan was implemented. The 2018 status of the goals and objectives from the Integrated Service Manager can be found in Appendix E. The seven strategic goals and objectives are detailed below with a review and suggestions for additional objectives and measures over the next five years:

Strategic Goal 1: Improve system access and prioritization

Objectives:

- a. Build on existing links between community partners at the executive level.
- b. Use coordinated intake and assessment to direct clients to the services they need.
- c. Make decisions that are informed by local data by improving information gathering and sharing.
- d. Maximize the impact of spending resources in order to end homelessness.

Review

As reported by the Integrated Service Manager, objectives b, c and d have been completed. Two priority populations — Indigenous Peoples and Women experiencing intimate partner or gender-based violence

— have specific goals and objectives outlined here. Youth is the third priority population that exists in all jurisdictions, of course, but identifying the sub-population of LGBTQ2S youth is more difficult in typical enumeration initiatives even though they are over-represented.⁴³

It is recommended that all three of the objectives should be reconstituted, reported on and expanded for the next five years of the Plan based upon the following refinements:

- Implement HIFIS 4 with a ‘by name list’ (BNL) across the housing and homelessness service system with all community partners trained in the use of the VI-SPDAT assessment.
- Engage the community in a discussion of a coordinated access system that will establish wait time targets for housing people experiencing homelessness with consideration for priority populations and supports required to ensure housing stability.
- Set specific targets for housing wait times.⁴⁴
- Develop and implement a homelessness to housing systems map with community partners.
- Identify households that are precariously housed — spending more than 30% on rent and utilities — and implement preventive engagement measures to ensure housing stability.
- Develop an outreach program designed specifically for youth that will include sensitivity and engagement for LGBTQ2S youth.⁴⁵
- Expand the homeless enumeration process to capture the extent of LGBTQ2S homelessness, hidden homelessness and precariously housed people in the District’s smaller and rural communities via proxy indicators such as percent of household income spent on rent and utilities.
- Improve access and response through the housing and homelessness system via the 211 telephone and online channels.⁴⁶

43 The 2017 Advisory Committee on Homelessness Report noted that homophobia and transphobia are drivers of youth homelessness that result in the over-representation of the youth homelessness population. Based on the 2018 Enumeration in Fort Frances and Atikokan, 11% (n12) of the 111 individuals experiencing homelessness were under 25 years old.

44 The 2009 Government of Alberta 10-year Plan to End Homelessness set the following target: no Albertan without a home for longer than 30 days. Kawartha Lakes-Haliburton set a 6-month target for people experiencing chronic homelessness (this jurisdiction reduced chronic homelessness by 51% in less than six months).

45 Based on the Fort Frances and Atikokan Enumeration, there is high probability that LGBTQ2S youth who are experiencing homelessness will also be Indigenous People.

46 In 2016, there were 25,870 calls to 211. There were only 129 calls (.5%) from the Rainy River District.

Strategic Goal 2: Maximization of existing housing stock

Objectives:

- a. Maintain existing social housing stock through planned renovations and rehabilitations.

Review

There has been some positive change with the announcement of Canada's first National Housing Strategy in 2019. The cost and social impacts of climate change have emphasized the need for better energy efficiency in new housing, renovations, regeneration and rehabilitation of housing stock. Additional objectives include:

- Improve the energy efficiency of housing stock to support energy conservation, tenant engagement and energy efficiency.
- Tenant engagement and education to improve energy utilization.
- Work with the community partners to mitigate exposure to flooding, wildfires and severe weather damage by co-developing prevention and response plans.

Strategic Goal 3: Close housing gaps through new development and redevelopment

Objectives:

- a. Expand the range of emergency shelter options for youth.

Review

The reliance on motels for emergency shelter can't meet the needs of youth long-term. Landlords are wary to rent to youth and access to OW funds is limited. The completion of the 8-plex bachelor units in early 2019 was a significant accomplishment and the consultant is recommending some additional objectives to focus on the unique needs of youth who are experiencing homelessness.

- Expand the diversity in Rainy River District's housing stock for youth, both in terms of housing type, tenure and supports for LGBTQ2S and Indigenous youth.
- Act as a local champion for the development of innovative funding mechanisms such private-public partnerships.
- Identify an active role for the private sector in providing a range and mix of housing based upon local needs. The housing options should include affordable rental and rent-to-own housing.
- Explore the use of available land use planning and financial tools such as CMHC funding and financial structures such as a housing development corporation.

- Work with community partners to research, scale and implement The Icelandic Model of Adolescent Substance Use Prevention.⁴⁷

Strategic Goal 4: Meeting the Current and Future Needs of Seniors and Others with Accessibility Needs

Objectives:

- a. Expand the range of assisted living options.
- b. Provide services in an accessible manner.

Review

The growing senior population will continue to strain the resources of the Rainy River District as people live longer with increasing economic pressures that threaten housing stability. The choice between living alone and long-term care is problematic for many seniors who want to maintain their independence beyond the point where that is possible. The District continues to work with the NW LHIN to embed assisted living services in current buildings and to expand services. The current objectives are valid for the next five years, but the scale of the response needs to be reviewed considering that the senior population is beginning to dominate the demographic profile.

The issues related to the wellbeing of seniors were well documented in the original Housing & Homelessness Plan and they persist. Transportation, the economics of caring for seniors in rural areas, properly scaling services to escalating needs, lack of housing options, etc. The system is already straining under the burden of the growing senior demographic in Rainy River District and a specific Seniors Housing Plan would be advisable.

- Engage community partners for the purpose of developing a Seniors Housing Plan.
- Design, develop and implement a needs assessment tool to determine present and future housing needs.

Strategic Goal 5: Enhancement of Advocacy and Education

Objectives:

- a. Request that the provincial government continue providing funding after the expiry of the IAH program.
- b. Continue to educate the community about the realities of homelessness and housing need in the Rainy River District.

⁴⁷ The Icelandic Model is a theoretically grounded, evidence-based approach to community adolescent substance use prevention that has grown out of collaboration between policy makers, behavioural scientists, field-based practitioners and community residents in Iceland. The intervention focuses on reducing known risk factors for substance use, while strengthening a broad range of parental, school and community protective factors. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/23655343_Substance_use_prevention_for_adolescents_The_Icelandic_Model

Review

The efforts to increase community awareness have been moderately successful across the District. There is an opportunity to engage people more consistently throughout the year with activities that are directly related to identifying people in need. The following objectives will enhance this goal in the next five years:

- Design, develop and implement a 3-day program in Fort Frances and Atikokan to provide wraparound services for people experiencing homelessness or precariously housed.⁴⁸
- Host an annual “CAEH-style” conference to engage the entire community with a focus on ending homelessness.

Strategic Goal 6: Meet the Needs of Indigenous People Living Off Reserve

Objectives:

- a. Continue to include First Nations organizations in the planning of housing and homelessness services.
- b. Ensure that Indigenous people living off reserve have equal access to housing.

Review

The Fort Frances UNFC sits at the table for housing and homelessness issues and the participants have been highly supportive for the UNFC building a 10,000 square foot childcare centre. This progressive work can be enhanced with the following objectives:

- District staff training in the Progressive Aboriginal Relations Certification (PAR) through the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business.⁴⁹
- Invest new funding to create affordable and supportive housing specifically for Indigenous Peoples.
- Continue to partner with UNFC and the Atikokan Friendship Centre (ANFC) to increase a self-reliant Indigenous housing sector.
- Increase understanding among the District housing staff of the cultural aspects related to Indigenous partnerships and housing.
- Ensure that the United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action are incorporated into Indigenous partnerships and initiatives.⁵⁰

⁴⁸ Registry Weeks have been highly successful in larger jurisdictions such as London, Toronto, Helsinki and Sydney. Doctors, dentists, nurses, nutritionists, mental health professionals, etc. provide a one-stop experience for people to receive services and register for ongoing communication and supports.

⁴⁹ <https://www.bchousing.org/indigenous/progressive-aboriginal-relations-certification> Nationally recognized third-party assessment of an organization’s commitment to Indigenous relations in four areas: employment, business development, community investment and community engagement. Assessments have three levels: gold, silver and bronze. BC Housing is the only social housing provider in Canada to be certified under the PAR program.

⁵⁰ http://trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf

Strategic Goal 7: Meet the Needs of Victims of Domestic Violence

Objectives:

- a. Expand the range of emergency shelter options for female victims of domestic violence in the west end of the District;
- b. Help victims of domestic violence find stable housing after leaving emergency shelter.

Review

There is only one shelter in the Rainy River District. It is designed for Victims of Domestic Violence and located in Atikokan. There are opportunities identified through this Update process that point to the need for additional objectives during the next five years. Intimate partner and gender-based violence requires a full spectrum of supports to ensure the safety and wellbeing of women and children in these circumstances. It should be noted that women experience homelessness and housing instability differently than men so replicating responses designed for single males will likely prove ineffective or even harmful. An added consideration for developing a response for women and children is that 55% of Canadian households in core housing need are female-led.⁵¹

- Facilitate a partnership with the Attorney-General’s Partner Assault Response program and the community tables on housing and homelessness in Fort Frances and Atikokan to help stabilize households through proactive education and training for abusive partners.⁵²
- Continue to work with the NW LHIN to provide options for women experiencing intimate partner violence.
- Explore community partnerships to open a VAW shelter in Fort Frances.⁵³

The framework of goals and objectives described in this report support the goal of ending homelessness in Rainy River District. Although residents may find themselves in a housing crisis for a variety of reasons—loss of income, domestic violence, inability to care for oneself independently—the community is prepared to quickly respond. A coordinated access system will help expedite access to safe, permanent, affordable, adequate and accessible housing.

Finally, is there a need for a shelter in Fort Frances that operates all year? The answer is a definite “yes” with the following caveat. The shelter needs to be integrated into the coordinated access system with permanent housing as the primary objective while responding to the emergency housing situation.

⁵¹ Government of Canada. (2017). *Canada’s National Housing Strategy: A Place To Call Home*. page 11.

⁵² <https://www.parprogram.ca/en/>

⁵³ The National Shelter Study 2004-2015 identified 27.5 percent of shelter users as women and this statistic is an underestimation of the need. Homelessness service providers are often the point of access (and identification) for women experiencing domestic violence. Most Housing First programs are accessed by single men and are not designed for the needs of women and children.

Section 3: Planning

Ending Homelessness

The 2018 Homelessness Enumeration was a breakthrough moment for Rainy River District. The identification of 111 individuals experiencing homelessness and the analysis that accompanied the prevalence period count informed decision making. One of the outcomes from the Enumeration was the opening of an Out of the Cold shelter with funding from First Nations.³⁵

Housing First methodology is being used or is on the “radar” of most of the service providers and is being applied very well by CMHA frontline workers in Fort Frances.

The primary issue to end homelessness—as identified through the community consultations—continues to be the availability of affordable housing throughout the District. It was the top priority in both Fort Frances and Atikokan. The only solution to homelessness is housing. Strategic planning must recognize that there is a shortage of affordable housing that is accessible to people with very low incomes, particularly if they face additional barriers such as accessibility, substance use or health issues. No solutions to homelessness can exist without a focus on guaranteeing a sufficient supply of safe, permanent, adequate and affordable housing. Based on this, the strategic targets and objective provided below discuss both goals of increasing affordable housing options and ensuring that communities can responding appropriately to households who find themselves homeless or in a housing crisis.

Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous Peoples are over-represented in the general homeless populations across Canada and especially so in Northern communities such as Rainy River District as evidenced by the 2018 Homelessness Enumeration in Rainy River District. Issues range from housing affordability, inadequacy of housing, mental health and addictions. The focus of Goal #6 and the accompanying objectives and measures is for RRDSSAB to enhance working relationships and partnerships with First Nations. This can be accomplished through better understanding of the First Nations cultures and to accompany that understanding with commitments that deliver improved outcomes.

The 2014 Housing & Homelessness Plan stressed the importance of including First Nations representatives on a Housing Action Task Force. Specifically, representation from Atikokan Native Friendship Centre, the United Native Friendship Centre, Chiefs Secretariat and the Fort Frances Native Urban Wahkaihanun Corporation was suggested. This recommendation is still in effect with a bias for action considering the data from the 2018 Enumeration.

³⁵ 80% (n89) of the 111 people experiencing homelessness self-identified as First Nation, Métis or non-status First Nation.

Coordination with Other Community Services

Service providers in Rainy River District are highly collaborative. The positive nature of this cooperation was a consistent theme throughout the consultations for the original Plan and during this Update process. Opportunities for improvement were identified in Fort Frances and Atikokan through the identification of issues in both locations. The issues were prioritized using the Strategic Opportunity Grid® and the results can be found in *Appendix D*.

Cooperation among frontline staff is very high and significant improvement in communication with the executive staff has been experienced since 2014. The overall strategic direction of the housing and homelessness service system is improving, as well, but service providers are asking for faster progress in this regard.

Continued emphasis and action to develop a coordinated access system in the District is required. Consistent intake and assessment combined with the use of the online database system (HIFIS 4) and a ‘by name list’ will improve the system to the point where wait times for housing are reduced.

In an effective integrated service delivery model, households or individuals who require assistance, or are homeless or precariously housed have access to the supports and services that will assist them in attaining housing stability. In order to determine the most appropriate intervention for a resident or household, assessment of their needs begins with a screening tool such as the VI-SPDAT that is integrated in the HIFIS 4 database.

Broad Range of Community Needs

The NW LHIN has been directly involved with community discussions and activities related to health, mental health and substance use. Providing homelessness services for people with disabilities who are also experiencing mental health and substance use is especially problematic and is a strain on resources that can jeopardize quality of care.

Non-Profit Housing & Non-Profit Cooperatives

The Private Market

Climate Change & Environmental Sustainability

Resources

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Appendix A

Housing & Homelessness Plan—5-Year Update: Requirements

REQUIREMENTS	PAGE REF
I. Assessment	
<i>Assessment of Current and Future Housing Needs</i>	
1a Assessment of current housing needs within the service manager’s area	
1b Include evidence of existing local housing needs (for example, quantitative data from Statistics Canada or CMHC)	
1c Assessment of future housing needs within the service manager’s service area	
1d Include evidence to inform future local housing needs	
II. Objectives, Targets and Achievement	
<i>Accountability and outcomes</i>	
2a Demonstrate a system of coordinated housing and homelessness services that assist households to improve their housing stability and prevent homelessness	
2b Include strategies to promote client-centred, coordinated access to housing and homelessness prevention services	
2c Be developed with public consultation and engagement with diverse local communities, including those with lived experience of homelessness	
2d Be coordinated and integrated with all municipalities in the service area	
2e Include local housing policies and short and long-term housing targets	
2f Include strategies to measure and report publicly on progress under the plan.	
2g Identify clear goals and objectives	1
2h Identify outcomes and outcome measures	
2i Summarize achievement to date	
III. Planning (Description of the measures proposed to meet the objectives and targets)	
<i>Ending homelessness</i>	
3a Be informed by the results of local homelessness enumeration	
3b Include a strategy to prevent and reduce homelessness, incorporating innovative approaches and a Housing First philosophy	

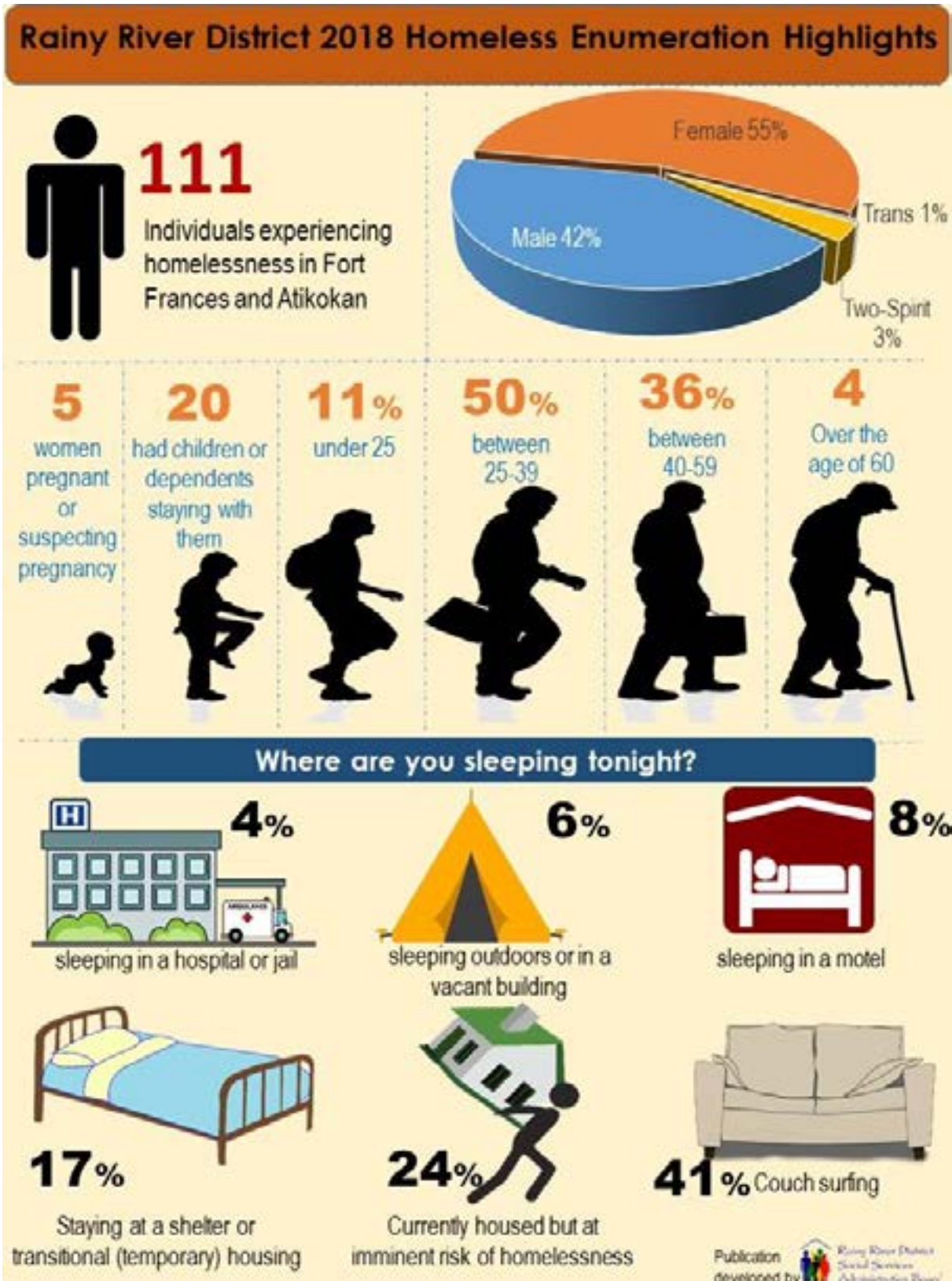
REQUIREMENTS	PAGE REF
3c Include strategies to reduce and prevent the number of people experiencing chronic homelessness and homelessness among youth and Indigenous peoples, as appropriate to the local context	
3d Address collaboration with community partners and provincial ministries to reduce and prevent homelessness amongst those transitioning from provincially funded institutions and service systems, as appropriate to the local context	
3e Identify clear goals and objectives	
3f Identify outcomes and outcome measures	
3g Summarize achievement to date	
<i>Indigenous Peoples</i>	
4a Include a strategy for engagement with Indigenous organizations and communities – including First Nation, Métis, Inuit organizations and communities, where present in the service area	
4b Demonstrate a commitment to coordination and collaboration with Indigenous housing providers and service providers to support access to culturally appropriate housing and homelessness services for Indigenous peoples	
4c Identify clear goals and objectives	
4d Identify outcomes and outcome measures	
4e Summarize achievement to date	
<i>Coordination with other community services</i>	
5a Demonstrate a commitment to working with partners across service systems to improve coordination and client access to housing, homelessness prevention services and other human services	
5b Demonstrate progress in moving toward integrated human services planning and delivery	
5c Address collaboration, where possible, with Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs), to coordinate Service Manager social and affordable housing and homelessness services with LHIN-funded services	
5d Identify clear goals and objectives	
5e Identify outcomes and outcome measures	
5f Summarize achievement to date	
<i>A broad range of community needs</i>	

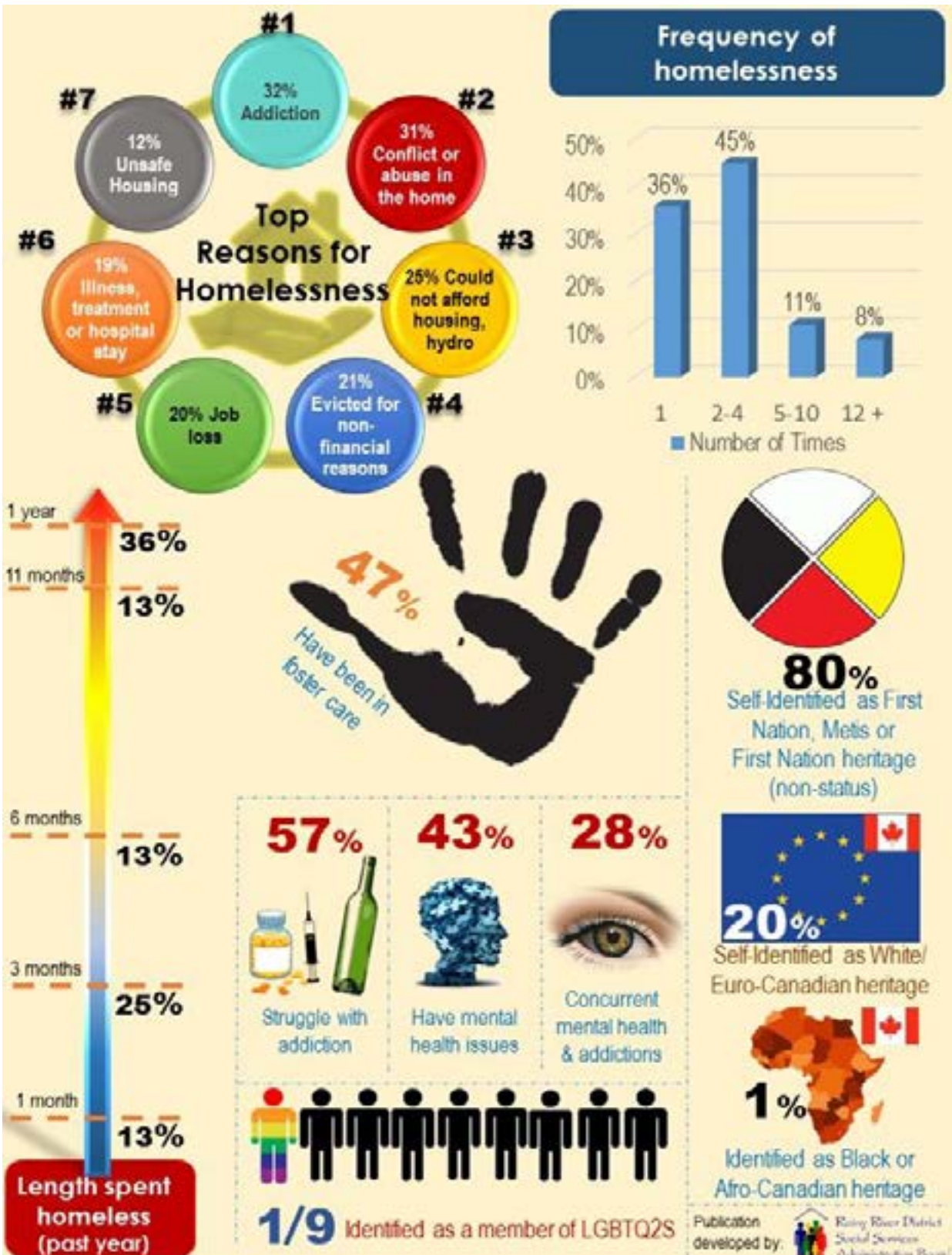
REQUIREMENTS	PAGE REF
6a Include a strategy to address accessible housing and homelessness services for people with disabilities, as well as those who have mental health needs and/or addictions	
6b Include a strategy to address the housing needs for survivors of domestic violence, in coordination with other community-based services and supports	
6c Address the needs of different demographic groups within their community. This could include: seniors, Indigenous peoples, people with developmental disabilities, children and youth, LGBTQ youth, women, immigrants and refugees, persons released from custody or under community supervision, youth transitioning from the child welfare system and Franco-Ontarians	
6d Demonstrate a commitment to service delivery that is based on inclusive and culturally appropriate responses to the broad range of community need	
6e Identify clear goals and objectives	
6f Identify outcomes and outcome measures	
6g Summarize achievement to date	
<i>Non-profit housing corporations and non-profit co-operatives</i>	
7a Include strategies to engage non-profit housing corporations and co-operatives in current and future planning	
7b Include strategies to support non-profit housing corporations and co-operatives in the delivery of affordable housing	
7c Include strategies to support capacity building and sustainability in the non-profit housing sector	
7d Identify clear goals and objectives	
7e Identify outcomes and outcome measures	
7f Summarize achievement to date	3
<i>The private market</i>	
8a Identify an active role for the private sector in providing a mix and range of housing, including affordable rental and ownership housing, to meet local needs	
8b Identify and encourage actions for municipalities and planning boards, where applicable, to support the role of the private sector, including the use of available land use planning and financial tools	
8c Reflect a coordinated approach with Ontario’s land use planning framework, including the Provincial Policy Statement and where applicable, the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe	

REQUIREMENTS	PAGE REF
8d Align with housing strategies required by the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, where applicable	
8e Identify clear goals and objectives	
8f Identify outcomes and outcome measures	
8g Summarize achievement to date	
<i>Climate change and environmental sustainability</i>	
9a Demonstrate a commitment to improve the energy efficiency of social and affordable housing stock. This can include support for energy conservation and energy efficiency, tenant engagement, and locating affordable housing near transportation. It can also include innovative investment decisions such as the installation of renewable energy and low carbon technologies	
9b Demonstrate a commitment to improve the climate resilience of social and affordable housing stock. This can include taking steps to limit vulnerability to flooding and extreme weather	
9c Identify clear goals and objectives	
9d Identify outcomes and outcome measures	
9e Summarize achievement to date	

Appendix B

Rainy River District 2018 Homelessness Enumeration



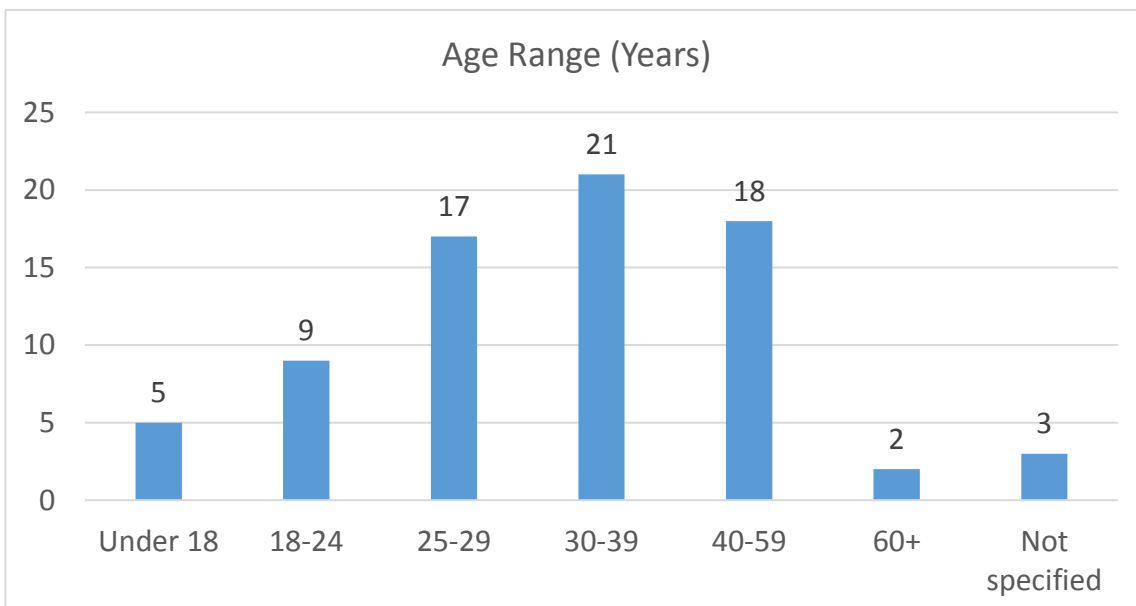
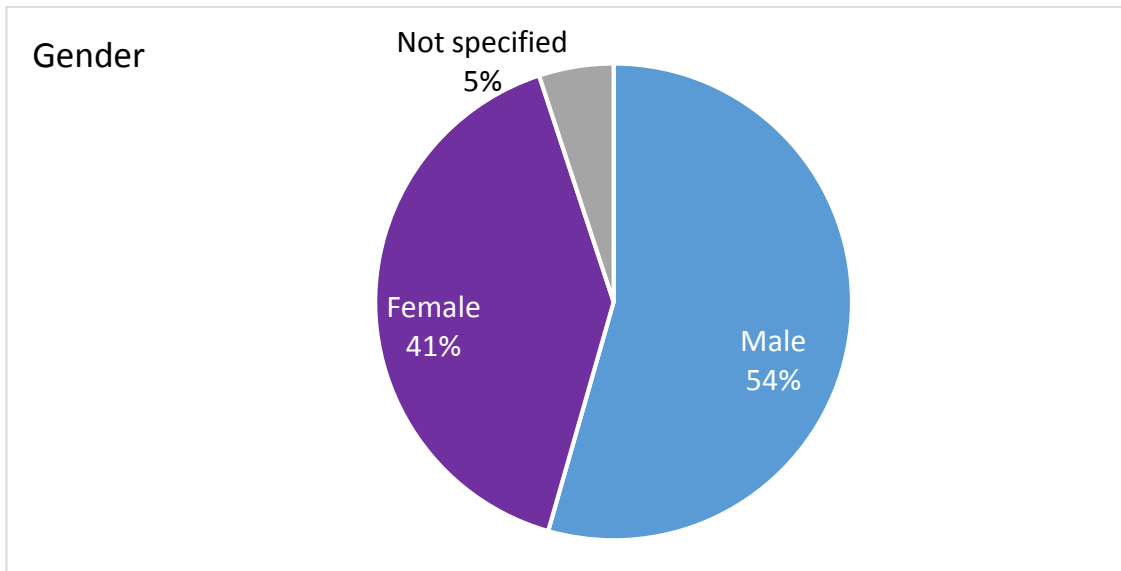


Appendix C

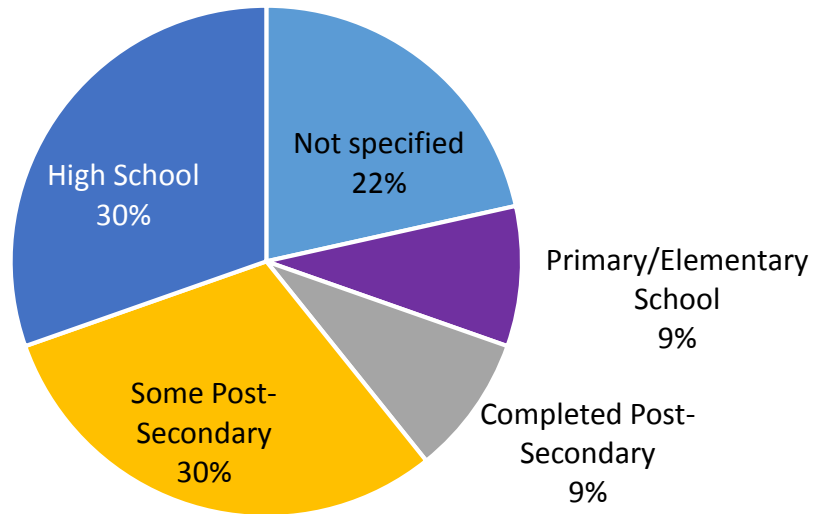
Put of the Cold Survey—Winter 2019

Out of the Cold Warming Centre Statistics (Winter 2019)

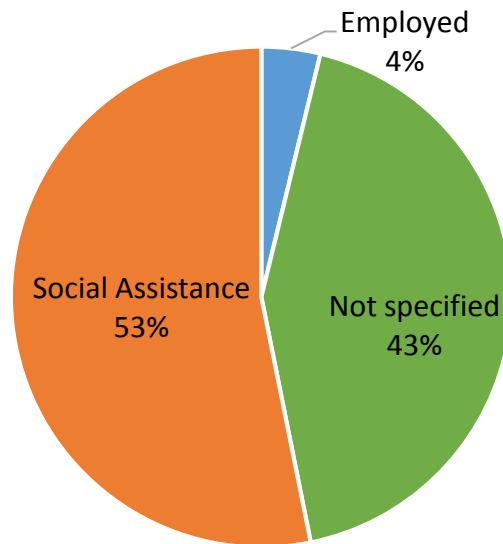
Overview:	566 Total Visits
79 individual clients accessed centre	Centre Open 60 nights (720 hours)
Average client visited 7 times over the season	Average of 9.5 visits per night open
21 individuals recently came to Ft. Frances	10 individuals have plans to leave Ft. Frances



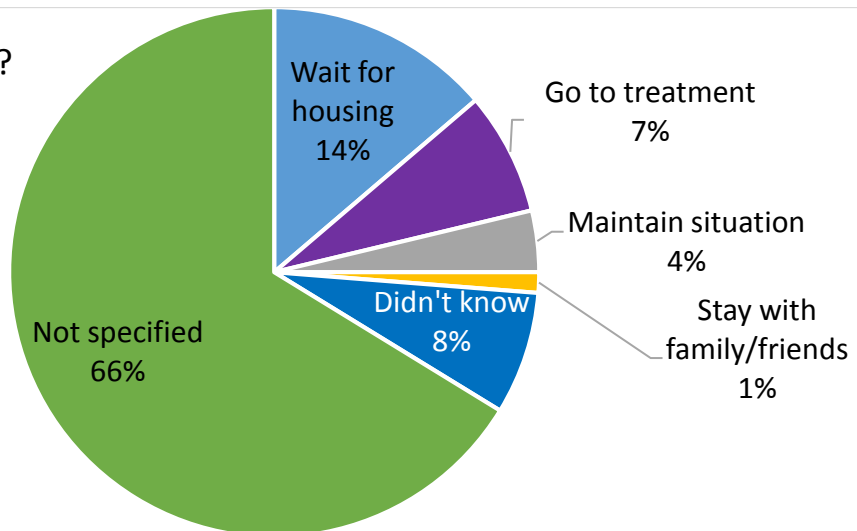
Highest Completed Level of Education

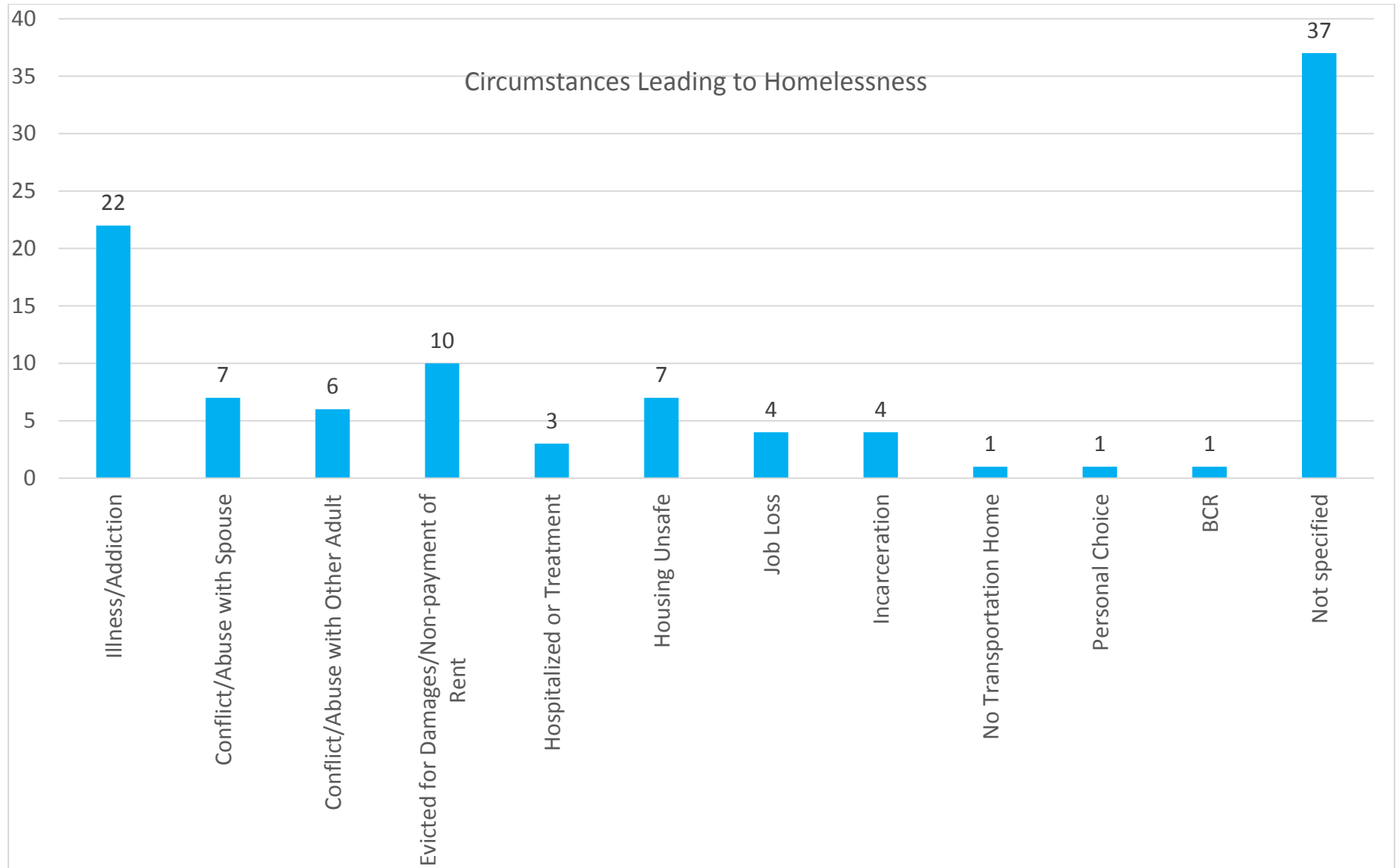


Income Source



What will you do next?





Appendix D

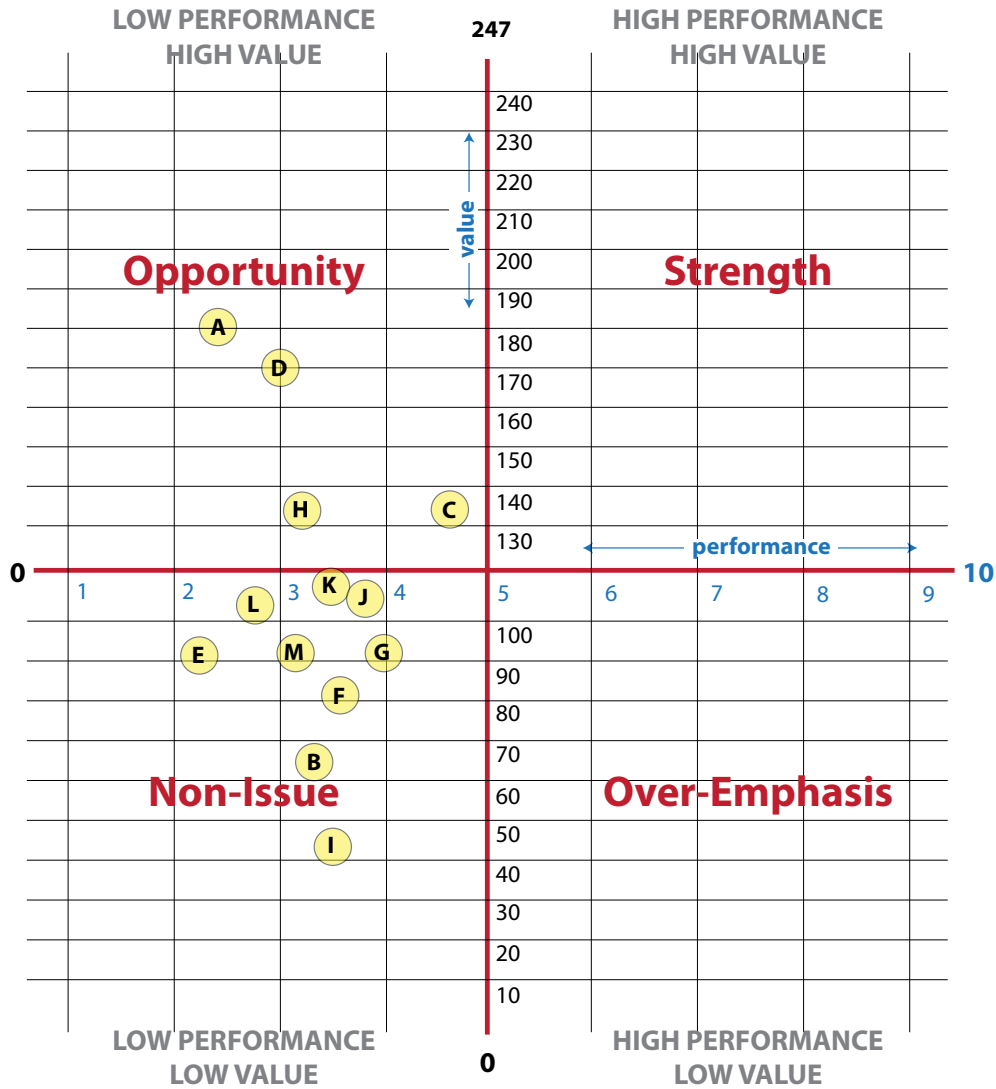
Strategic Opportunity Grids—Fort Frances & Atikokan



Fort Frances

Strategic Opportunity Grid

November 6-8, 2018



- A—Affordable Housing
- B—Difficulty Attracting Youth and Professionals
- C—Fort Frances Homelessness Shelters
- D—Accessibility to Services
- E—Lack of Transportation
- F—Government Barriers to Frontline Services
- G—Precarious Housing
- H—Coordinated Response
- I—Landlord Relations
- J—Indigenous Population
- K—Aging Population
- L—Transitioning Youth
- M—Political Influence/Impact

Fort Frances Issues — November 8, 2018

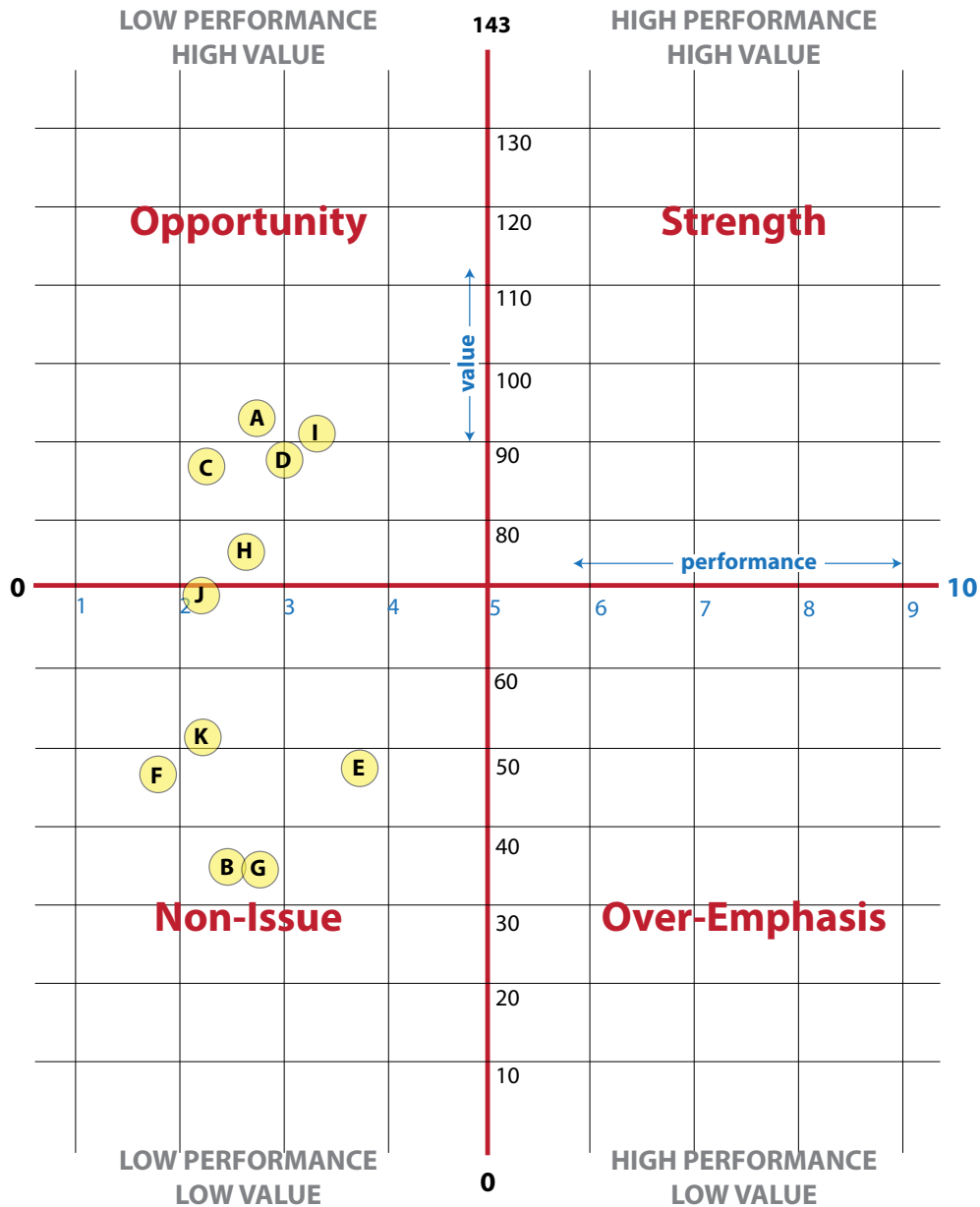
- A. Affordable Housing
 - i. Increased housing costs
 - ii. OW, ODSP, poverty
 - iii. Availability of housing, especially for specific needs
 - iv. Lack of non-senior, singles housing
 - v. Waitlists
- B. Difficulty of attracting young people & professionals to the District
- C. Fort Frances Homelessness Shelter
- D. Accessibility to Services
 - i. Psychiatric services in Kenora
 - ii. Only (1) crisis service
 - iii. Intensive case management (ICM)
 - iv. Mental Health & Addictions
- E. Lack of transportation
 - i. No public transportation
 - ii. Traveling distance and geography
- F. Government Barriers to frontline services
 - i. Housing Services Act
 - ii. Justice (PAR)
- G. Precarious Housing
 - i. Heat, water, maintenance, food & other overhead costs to maintain housing
- H. Coordinated response
 - i. \$ - over-worked and under-resourced
- I. Landlord relations
 - i. Management of contacts, stigma, inventory
- J. Indigenous population
 - i. 80% representation in 2018 Point-in-Time Count
 - ii. Trauma, CAS, Justice factors
- K. Aging Population
 - i. Accessibility
- L. Transitioning Youth
- M. Political Influence / Impact
 - i. Funding the District appropriately based on housing & homelessness needs



Atikokan

Strategic Opportunity Grid

November 6-8, 2018



- A—Affordable Housing
- B—Red Tapes
- C—Lack of Funds
- D—Lack of Mental Health & Addiction Services
- E—Collaboration of Excellent Services that Already Exist
- F—Private Investors

- G—Stigma
- H—Individual/Families need to be heard/part of the conversation
- I—Homelessness Prevention of Youth
- J—Develop a Coalition for Housing
- K—Shortage of Medical Services Locally

Atikokan Issues — November 6, 2018

- A. Affordable Housing
 - i. Mandate for existing stock - what sub-population is being housed in units
 - ii. Accessible, adequate, supportive
- B. Red Tape
 - i. Contractors, contracts, liability
 - ii. Union
 - iii. Consistency and clarity between province & DSSAB
 - iv. Privacy, consent
 - v. Stop "passing the buck" on decision making
- C. Lack of Funds
 - i. Never enough money for housing and supports in Atikokan
- D. Lack of Mental Health & Addiction Services
 - i. No detox facilities
 - ii. Beyond "harm reduction"
- E. Collaboration of EXCELLENT Services That Already Exist
 - i. Inventory, directory of services
 - ii. Administration of the directory to stay current
 - iii. Facebook as online platform
- F. Private Investors
 - i. Attract housing development
- G. Stigma
 - i. Racism, ignorance, prejudice
 - ii. Homelessness, addictions and mental health
 - iii. Judgement and NIMBY attitude
- H. Individuals and families need to have their voices heard and be part of the conversation & decision making
 - i. Inclusiveness across the whole community
- I. Homeless Prevention for Youth
 - i. Youth at risk
 - ii. Generational issues, bullying, trauma
 - iii. Proactive: life skills, food choices/preparation
- J. Develop a coalition for Housing
 - i. Intentional, leadership and well funded
- K. Shortage of Medical Services Locally
 - i. Mental Health & Addictions
 - ii. No maternity services
 - iii. Serious illness - transported to Thunder Bay

Appendix E

10-Year Housing & Homelessness Plan Priorities—2018 Update Report



**2014 10-Year Housing & Homelessness Plan Priorities
 2018 Update Report**

Prepared by: Sandra Weir, Integrated Services Manager

GOAL	Objective	Measures	Outcome	Status
1) Improve System Access and prioritization	a) Build on existing links between community partners at the executive level	i) Bring together community partners	1) Completed in 2015	1) Homelessness Committee started - Variety of Com. Agencies 2) Continue mtg. with LHIN
	b) Use coordinated intake and assessment to direct clients to the services they need	i) Develop a standardized, decentralized intake and assessment process	1) One application form used by partners 2) Research SPDAT tool kit	Done 2016
	c) Make decisions that are informed by local data by improving information gathering and sharing	i) Adopt a Homelessness Management Information system (HMIS) ii) Establish a common set of system metrics for measuring system activity & performance	1) Shared system for information sharing a) 2014 - No IT resources b) 2015 – re- visiting options c) Implemented a common data spreadsheet	Done. Need to review and improve annually.
	d) Maximize the impact of spending resources in order to end homelessness	i) Ensure that prevention funds have the greatest impact, direct funds to house with the highest and most immediate needs.	1) Food bank funding discontinued 2) Funding priorities are prioritized according to H & H Plan	Completed. Reviewed annually for any necessary changes.



**2014 10-Year Housing & Homelessness Plan Priorities
 2018 Update Report**

Prepared by: Sandra Weir, Integrated Services Manager

GOAL	Objective	Measures	Outcome	Status
2) Maximization of existing housing stock	a) Maintain existing social housing stock through planned renovations and rehabilitation.	i) Development of an asset management plan that will direct repairs, renovations and rehabilitations over the next ten years. ii) Integrate features to improve energy efficiencies iii) Improve vacancy rate	1) 2016 BCA were updated by HSC. Complete data info. Entry with AMS. 2) Viability study approved in 2016 budget (HSC) & Study near completion. 3) Committed to improve vacancy rate	Ongoing
3) Close Housing gaps through new development and redevelopment	a) Expand the range of emergency shelter options for youth	i) Develop Affordable Housing for singles	1) Use IAH-E allocation	New Build - 8 plex bachelor units. Occupancy spring of 2019.
4) Meeting the current and future needs of seniors and others with accessibility needs	a) Expand the range of assisted living options	i) Work with the NWLHIN to facilitate the expansion of assisted living in the District	a) Assisted Living approved and started in March 2015 for Fort Frances. b) Emo was not approved by the LHIN. c) Supportive Housing & Homelessness Prevention Advisory Committee (SHHPAC) was formed between the LHIN & the 3 DSSAB's.	Continue to look for funding, and working with the LHIN on benefits of assisted living services offered in Housing Buildings.



**2014 10-Year Housing & Homelessness Plan Priorities
 2018 Update Report**

Prepared by: Sandra Weir, Integrated Services Manager

GOAL	Objective	Measures	Outcome	Status
		ii) Ensure that the coordinated intake and assessment process is well integrated with the local CCAC and other services that provide assistance to those with disabilities.	1) Attend meetings (RHCF/CCAC/RRDSSAB)	Ongoing
		iii) Take a lead role in advocating for enhanced senior services from the NW LHIN and provincial government	1) Attend SHHPAC meetings (LHIN/MMAH)	Ongoing
	b) Provide services in an accessible manner	i) Follow accessibility compliance	1) HR follows up as required 2) Take part in training	Ongoing
5) Enhancement of Advocacy and Education	a) Request that the provincial government continue providing funding after the expiry of IAH program	i) RRDSSAB supported IAH extension	Provincially announced approval	Done. Continue to support
	a) Continue to educate the community about the realities of homelessness and housing need in the RR District.	i) Advertise ii) Educate at meeting (interagency/homelessness mtg./FF & EMO ALG/SALT)	Completed	New Homelessness Committee started. A lot of PR and media releases focusing on Homelessness awareness



**2014 10-Year Housing & Homelessness Plan Priorities
 2018 Update Report**

Prepared by: Sandra Weir, Integrated Services Manager

GOAL	Objective	Measures	Outcome	Status
6) Meet the needs of aboriginal people living off reserve	a) Continue to include First Nations organizations in the planning of housing and homelessness services b) Ensure Aboriginal people living off reserve have equal access to housing.	i) Ensure inclusion	FFUNFC sits at the table for Housing & Homelessness issues	Ongoing
7) Meet the Needs of Victims of Domestic Violence	a) Expand the range of emergency shelter options for female victims of domestic violence in the west end of the District b) Help victims of domestic violence find stable housing after leaving emergency shelter.	i) Bring community members to the table to discuss	Develop a community plan that addresses emergency shelter issues	Committee formed. Priorities identified. Exploring funding options and issues