THIS PLACE WE CALL HOME

NELSON'S 2024 POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESSNESS COUNT
REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS

2023 Housing Price-to-Income Ratio - Selected OECD Countries

Portugal	Canada	Luxemborg	United States	New Zealand	OECD	Germany	United Kingdom	Denmark	France	Poland	Italy	South Korea	Romania
154.4	138.7	130.4	128.6	121.3	116.8	113.9	109.8	104.8	102.3	98.6	87.5	84.9	62.6

Source: www.oecd.org

2023 Housing Price-to-Income Ratios for OECD Nations

Housing prices
Index (2015=100), 2023
170
160
150

Canada

(x-axis labels: Australia, OECD, Greece, Slovenia, Japan, Ireland, Spain, Chile, Hungary, Germany, Estonia, Norway, United Kingdom, Euro area, Slovak Rep., Euro area (17 countries), Lithuania, Denmark, Latvia, France, Sweden, Croatia, Poland, Belgium, South Africa...)

1954-1985
Canada had a strong welfare housing system wherein the federal government financed average of 20,000 units of social housing annually & housing policy supported affordable housing for various income groups.

1986-1993
The rise of neo-liberalism ushered in a shift toward promotion of home ownership and a market-oriented housing system.

#1 Cause of Most Recent Loss of Housing
"Not enough money to pay the rent"

Top 3 Barriers to Getting Housed
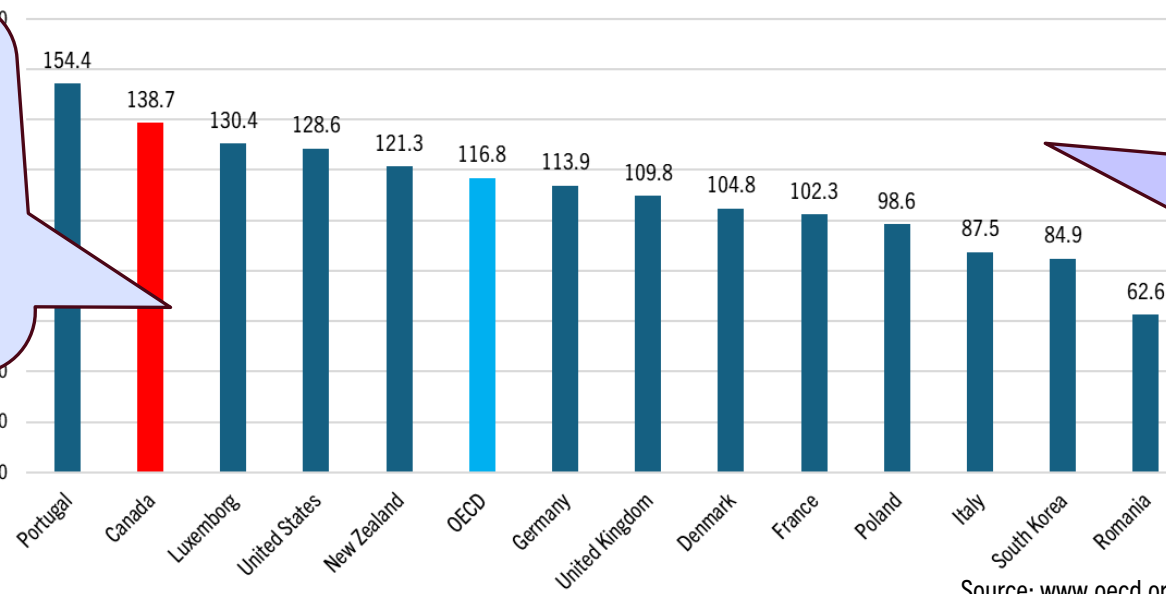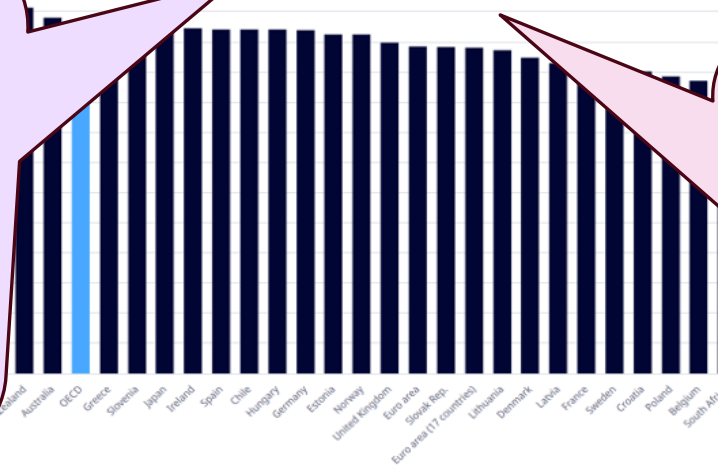"Rent's too high"
"Don't have enough money"
"Not enough affordable housing"

1993-1999
The federal government ends funding for new social housing units, discontinues its cooperative housing program and devolves management of social housing portfolios to provinces and territories.

Production of social housing drops from between 20,000 units per year (around 35% of all new housing units) to below 5,000 units (less than 5% new housing units).

2000 →
The new millennium brought with it an intensified focus on homeownership, facilitated by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation-secured mortgages and federal subsidies that drove up demand and opened the door to real estate speculation and housing-based capital accumulation.

2024 Point-in-Time Homelessness Count & Survey

Enumeration: November 6-7
Survey: November 7-30

What is a Point-in-Time (PiT) Count?

A PiT Count is an estimate of the number of people experiencing homelessness within a determined geographical area during a set period of time, typically 24 hours. It also identifies the location where they spent the night: in shelters, transitional housing, or unsheltered locations. A PiT Count may or may not also include a survey that asks a set of standardized survey questions that are administered directly to individuals experiencing homelessness.

The Four Categories of Homelessness

Unsheltered or Absolute Homelessness

Tents
Makeshift shelter
Abandoned buildings
Bus shelters
Parks
Sidewalks
Back alleys

Emergency Sheltered

Stepping Stones
Aimee Beaulieu Transition House

Provisionally Accommodated

Cicada Place
North Shore Inn
Ward Street Place – Transitional Accommodation Program
Kootenay Boundary Adult Supported Recovery Program
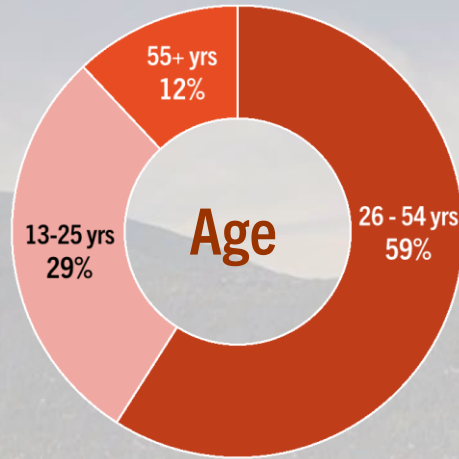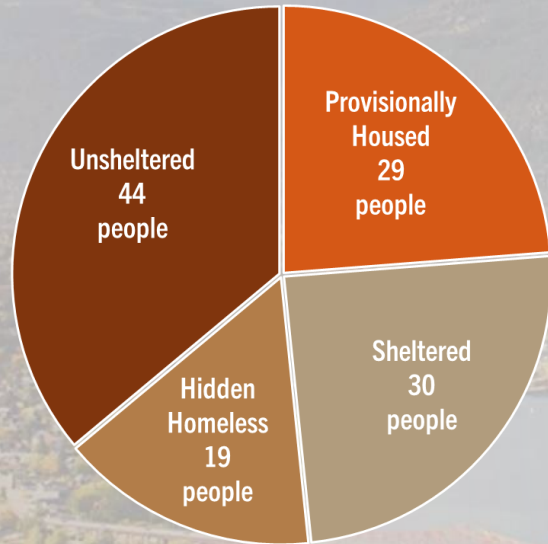
Hidden Homelessness (Youth)

L.V. Rogers Secondary/SD 8
Freedom Quest
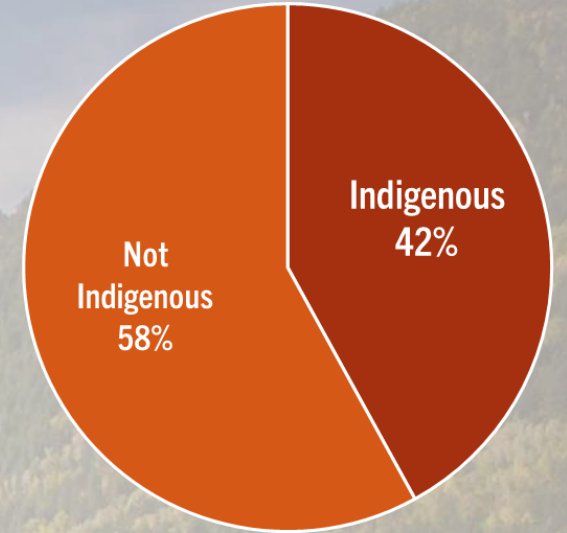Nelson Community Services/Cicada Place

11 x Community Partners
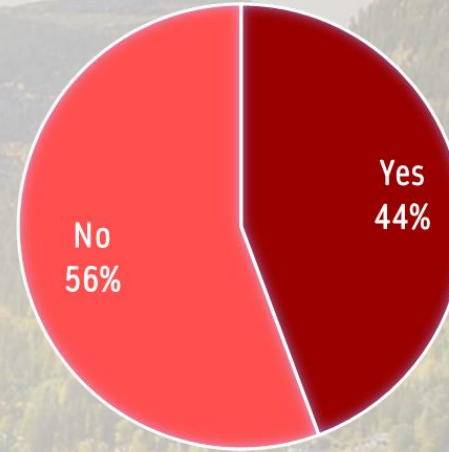
ANKORS
Nelson CARES
Our Daily Bread
School District 8
Nelson Public Library
Nelson Community Services
Circle of Indigenous Nations
Nelson Community Food Centre
Temporary Thursday Drop-In Program
Rural Empowered Drug User Network
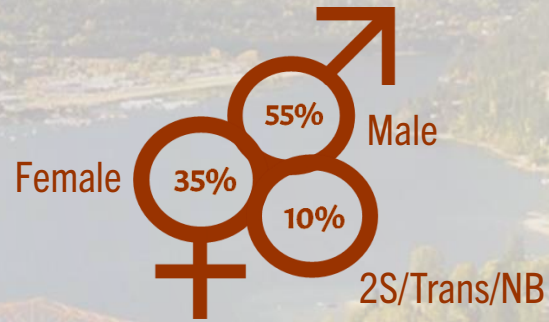Kootenay Insurrection for Safe Supply

122

individuals in Nelson experiencing some form of homelessness

Unsheltered 44 people

Provisionally Housed 29 people

Hidden Homeless 19 people

Sheltered 30 people

Age

55+ yrs 12%

13-25 yrs 29%

26 - 54 yrs 59%

Male 55%

Female 35%

2S/Trans/NB 10%

Youth Care Experience

No 56%

Yes 44%

Not Indigenous 58%
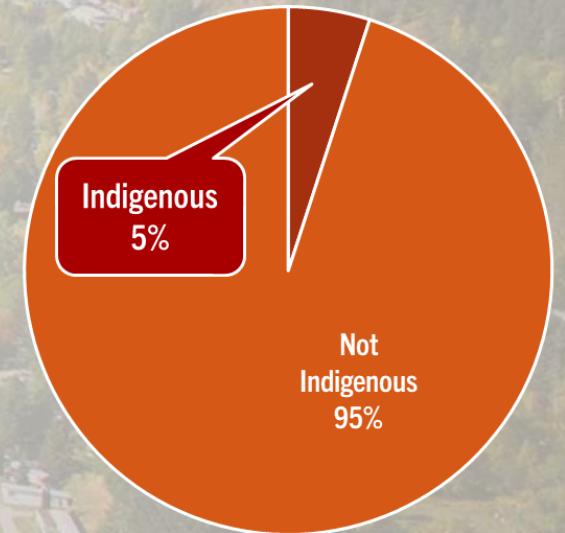
Indigenous 42%

Indigenous Identity

Indigenous 5%

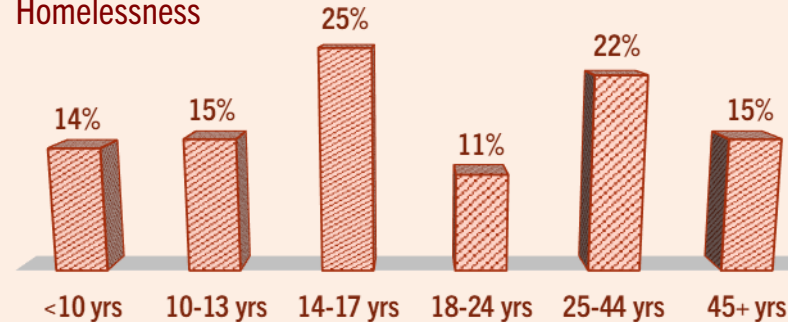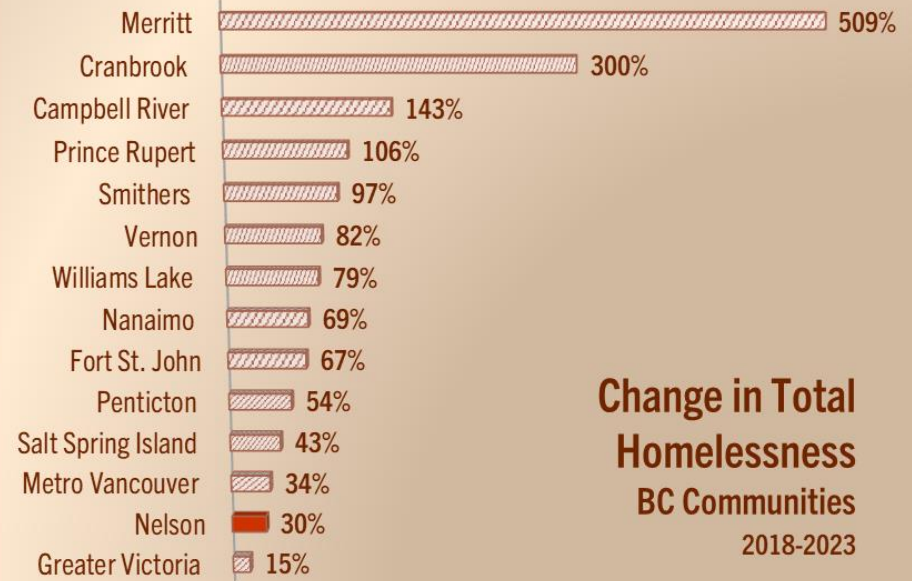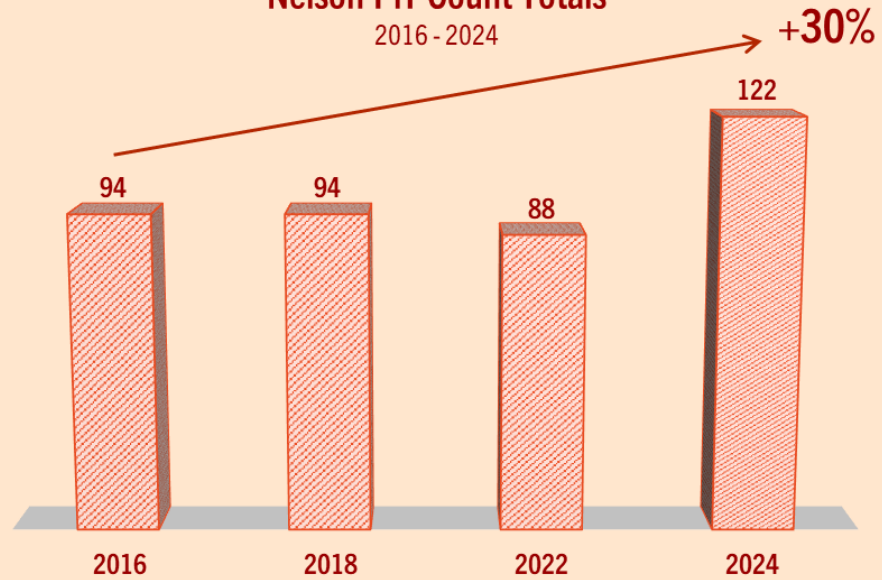Not Indigenous 95%

102

surveys completed with unhoused & provisionally housed Nelson residents
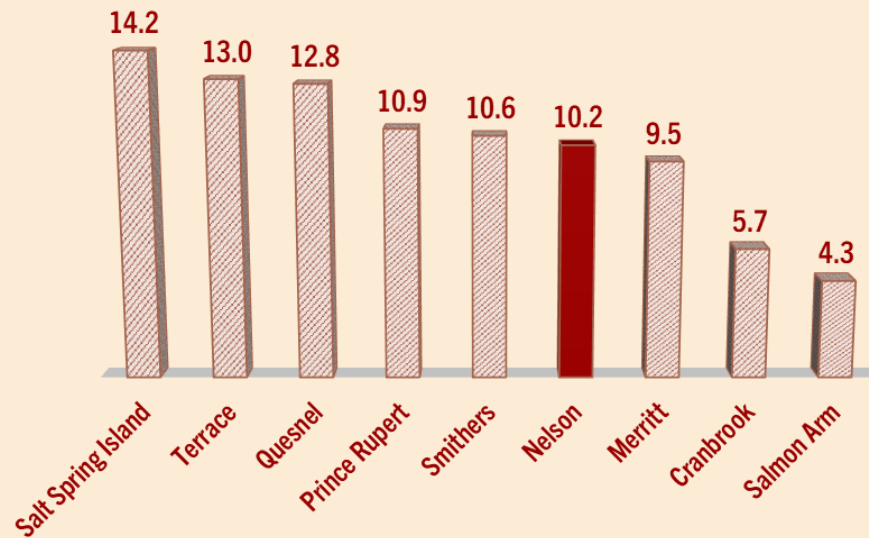
Age First Time Experiencing Homelessness

14% <10 yrs
15% 10-13 yrs
25% 14-17 yrs
11% 18-24 yrs
22% 25-44 yrs
15% 45+ yrs

Nelson PiT Count Totals
2016 - 2024

+30%

- 2016: 94
- 2018: 94
- 2022: 88
- 2024: 122

Change in Total Homelessness
BC Communities
2018-2023

- Merritt: 509%
- Cranbrook: 300%
- Campbell River: 143%
- Prince Rupert: 106%
- Smithers: 97%
- Vernon: 82%
- Williams Lake: 79%
- Nanaimo: 69%
- Fort St. John: 67%
- Penticton: 54%
- Salt Spring Island: 43%
- Metro Vancouver: 34%
- Nelson: 30%
- Greater Victoria: 15%

Homelessess in BC Towns pop. < 25,000
(rate per 1000 ppl)

- Salt Spring Island: 14.2
- Terrace: 13.0
- Quesnel: 12.8
- Prince Rupert: 10.9
- Smithers: 10.6
- Nelson: 10.2
- Merritt: 9.5
- Cranbrook: 5.7
- Salmon Arm: 4.3

Change in Total Homelessess
2017-2024*

- Germany: 153%
- Spain: 74%
- Ontario: 51%
- Ireland: 50%
- USA: 40%
- GVRD: 34%
- Nelson: 30%
- Canada: 20%
- Finland: -30%

Months of Homelessness in Past Year

2016: 56% (> 12 mos), 9%
2018: 24%
2022: 33%
2024: 56%

Legend: < 3 mos, 3-6 mos, 6-12 mos, > 12 mos

Avg # of Days Homeless in Past Year +97%

2016: 145
2018: 162
2022: 233
2024: 285
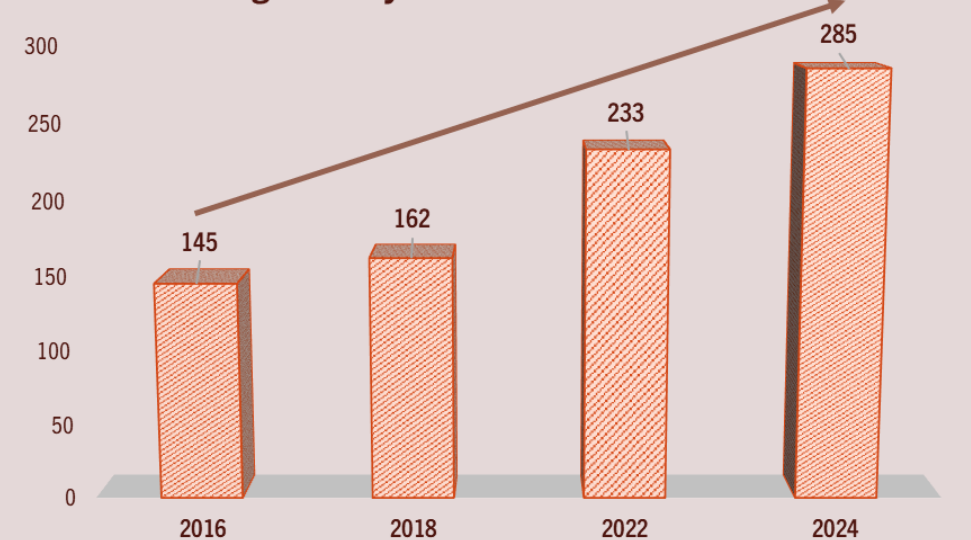
Months of Homelessness in Past Year
British Columbia

2018: 52%
2020: 62%
2023: 70%

Legend: < 3 mos, 3-6 mos, 6-12 mos, 12+ mos

Unsheltered +91%

2018: 23
2024: 44

Unsheltered

BC: 33%, 40%
Nelson: 24%, 36%
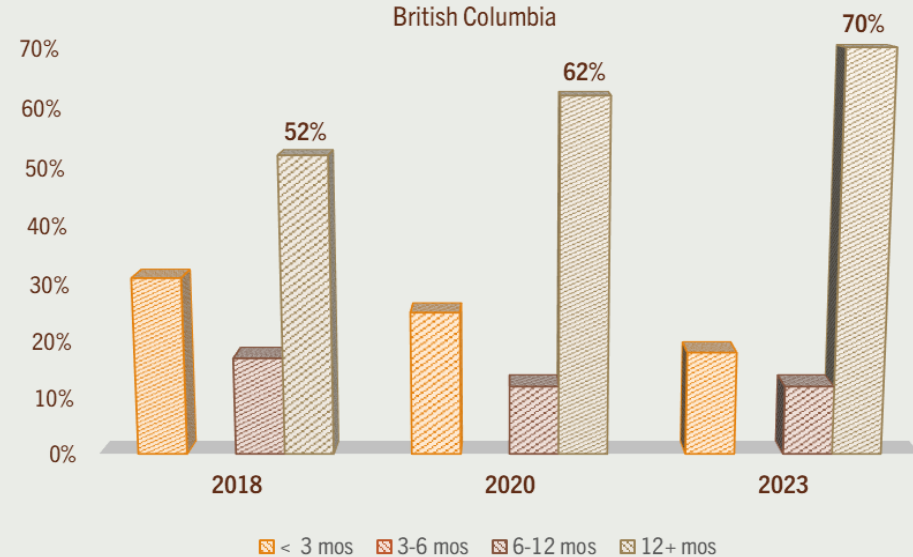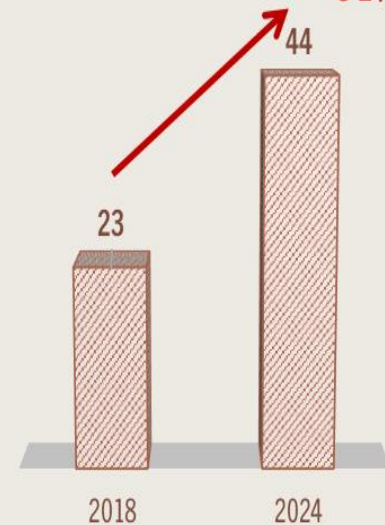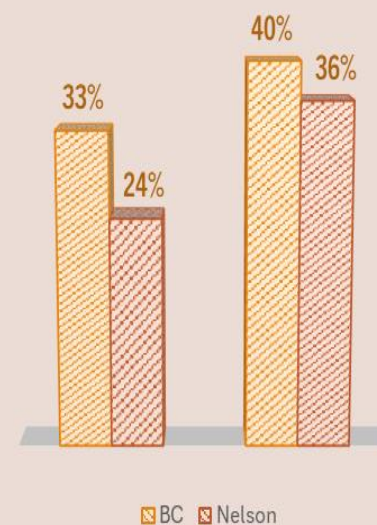
Legend: BC, Nelson

Years Living in Nelson

- Less than 1 yr 16%
- 1-2 yrs 11%
- 2-5 yrs 10%
- 5-10 yrs 12%
- 10 or more yrs 51%
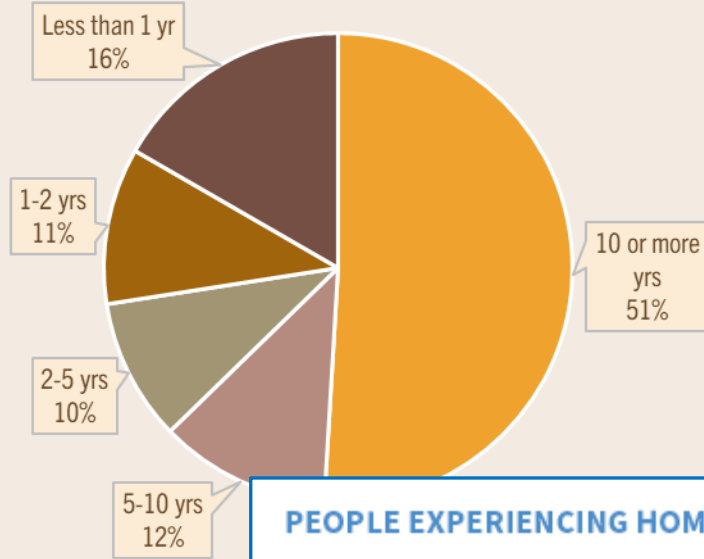
Years Living in Nelson
(< 5 yrs in Nelson)

33% | 13% | 18% | 10% | 26%
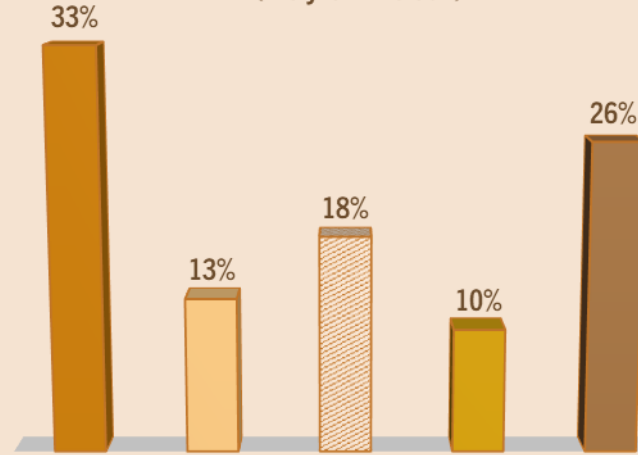
Where did you move to Nelson from?
(< 5 yrs in Nelson)

- Other 20%
- Alberta 10%
- Lower Mainland 13%
- East Kootenays 13%
- West Kootenays 36%
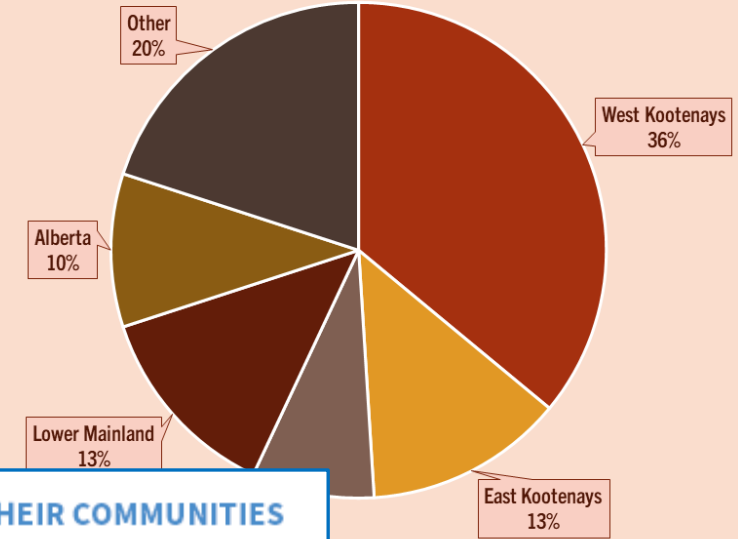
PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS ACROSS B.C. ARE OFTEN LONG-TERM RESIDENTS OF THEIR COMMUNITIES

Sixty-seven percent (67%) of respondents had been in the community they were counted in for more than five years, and 23% of respondents reported that they have always lived in that community.

Average # o

- 2018: 6.5
- 2022: 8.4
- 2024: 9.4

- Family/Friends
- Fleeing Unsafe Situation
- Treatment/Recovery
- Just Passing Through
- School/Work
- To Find Housing
- Emergency Shelter
- Access Services
- Use to Live Here
- Other

0% 2% 4% 6% 8% 10% 12% 14% 16% 18% 20%
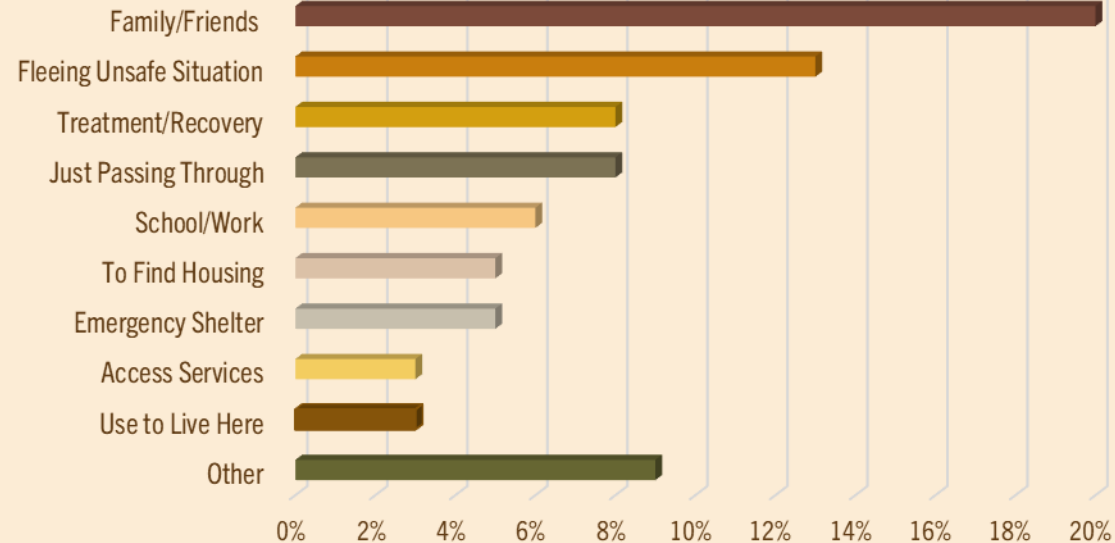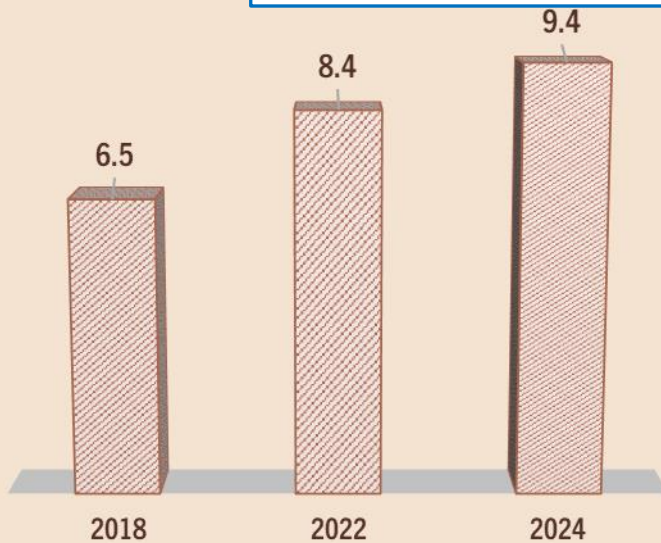
REPORT ON HOMELESS COUNTS IN BC
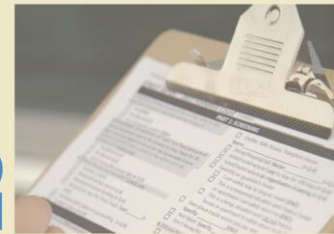
2023

PREPARED BY
HOMELESSNESS SERVICES ASSOCIATION OF BC
MARCH 2024

BC HOUSING
HSABC Homelessness Services Association of BC
BRITISH COLUMBIA

#1 Cause of Most Recent Loss of Housing

"Not enough money to pay the rent"

Top 3 Causes for Loss of Housing
(Youth)

1. Conflict with parent/guardian
2. Abuse by parent/guardian
3. Not enough money to pay rent

Top 3 Causes of Loss of Housing

1. Not enough money to pay the rent
2. Conflict with landlord
3. Unsafe/unsuitable housing

Top 3 Causes for Loss of Housing
(Seniors)

1. Conflict with landlord
2. Unsafe/unsuitable housing
3. Physical/mental health

Top 3 Causes for Loss of Housing
(Indigenous Respondents)

1. Conflict with landlord
2. Conflict with parent/guardian
3. Unsafe/unsuitable housing

Top 3 Causes for Loss of Housing
(Women)

1. Conflict with landlord
2. Abuse by partner/spouse
3. Not enough money to pay rent

Alignment Project: Overview

What: Federal and provincial partners have endorsed a **Vision** and **Goals** that confirm a shared commitment to "**more integrated local governance and broader coordination of services, as well as improved data management and use of HIFIS data".** To achieve this vision, a path forward has been set for federal, provincial and community partners, who will **"work together to align, build upon and improve the existing, local response to homelessness".**

How: The Alignment Project is a **five-phase initiative** that seeks to integrate and align governance, strategic direction and day-to-day operations related to the homelessness response in BC. Through this Project, roles, responsibilities, use of technology and shared tools will be integrated and aligned across existing and new homelessness programs and processes.

Who: Currently, work is underway to achieve early project deliverables with the following partners:
- **The Ministry of Housing:** Staff representing Belonging in BC
- **BC Housing:** Provincial and regional staff representing the Coordinated Access and Assessment program
- **Reaching Home Community Entities:** Staff representing Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Cowichan Valley, Kamloops, Kelowna, Nanaimo, Nelson, Prince George and Victoria
- **Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada (HICC):** Staff from the Reaching Home program
- **CAEH:** Staff contracted by the Ministry and HICC to provide coaching support to project partners

HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE ALIGNMENT?

- **Phase 1:** Preparation for Partnership

- **Phase 2:** Partnership Launch – June 2024

- **Phase 3:** Sharing Current State & Exploring Integration Opportunities – Summer/Fall 2024

- **Phase 4:** Confirming Alignment Roadmap - Jan-March 2025

- **Phase 5:** Implementation by BC Housing and CEs at Provincial and Community Levels - beginning April 2025 – multi-year

Draft Local Governance Structure

Local Homelessness Response Leadership Table *(meets quarterly)*

Has decision-making authority & clears barriers

SHARED AIMS

Local/Provincial Programs Support Local Response

System Improvement Table *(meets monthly)*

Improvement structure & reduction targets

Common barriers brought forward by Case Conferencing and Working Groups

Local Case Conferencing Table(s) *(meets weekly)*

Vacancy Matching (CASH)

Community Coordination (CHAT)

Local Backbone Team (CE and BC Housing staff support local governance and system implementation)

Local Working Groups

- May be time-limited or ongoing - add to as needed
- Backbone supported
- Connected to above groups

Nelson Committee on Homelessness (NCOH) (also CAB WG) (meets monthly)

HIFIS *(new group to form)*

Coordinated Response to Emerging Issues (as needed)

Other Groups As Needed

Other Related Groups In Community (most sit at NCOH)

Note: The proposed structure would include Indigenous representation and lived experience voice throughout.