

Canadian veterans are experiencing homelessness in Ottawa and require better support

In other Canadian cities, up to

9% of people experiencing homelessness are veterans.

2018 was the first time individuals experiencing homelessness in Ottawa were asked about their military service history during a Point in Time (PiT) Count.

THE HOMELESS VETERANS PROJECT

The Homeless Veterans Project was coordinated by the Alliance to End Homelessness Ottawa, Soldiers Helping Soldiers and Veterans' House (Multifaith Housing Initiative). Veteran counts at homeless shelters were conducted by Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) volunteers.

11%

of homeless shelter clients self-identified as a Canadian veteran.



25%

of homeless shelter users are **NEVER ASKED** about history during their intake interview.



Many veterans may not have been counted if they were **staying outside** or **couch-surfing**.

Homeless veterans are typically

49

years of age.

35%

of homeless veterans are **Indigenous**.



3%

of homeless shelter clients could recall their military service number, or the 'last 3' digits.



Homeless veterans typically enlisted before the age of

18 years.

More than

90%

of homeless veterans enlisted **10 or more years ago**.

Most homeless veterans report service in the **Regular Forces (69%) and Canadian Army (60%).**

58% of homeless veterans were **not aware of benefits** from Veterans Affairs Canada. **Nearly half** asked for help to receive these benefits.

46%



of homeless veterans are living with one or more medical conditions, physical disabilities, mental health and addiction issues - all at the same time.

The type of support most frequently requested by homeless veterans is **affordable housing**.



How Can I Help?



As someone working in the community and social service sector always ask about military service history (CAF or RCMP) and connect veterans with Veterans Affairs Canada.



As a member or veteran of the CAF or RCMP volunteer with organizations that identify and support veterans experiencing homelessness.



As a Royal Canadian Legion member help homeless veterans to connect with Veterans Affairs Canada and other available supports.



As a citizen support Veterans' House and other initiatives to build affordable housing.

¹City of Toronto. (2018). Street Needs Assessment 2018. Retrieved from City of Toronto Housing & Homelessness Research & Reports: <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/99be-2018-SNA-Results-Report.pdf>

Goering, P. V. (2014). National At Home/Chez Soi Final Report. Calgary: Mental Health Commission of Canada.

Employment and Social Development Canada. (2015). The Extent and Nature of Veteran Homelessness in Canada. Ottawa: Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada.

Good Shepherd Ministries, Toronto, 2010 (unpublished)



**ALLIANCE TO END
HOMELESSNESS
OTTAWA**



**SOLDIERS
HELPING SOLDIERS**



**MULTIFAITH
HOUSING INITIATIVE**