



## COMMUNICATION UPDATE

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members City Council
<b>DATE:</b>	November 15, 2021
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Everyone Counts 2021 – Canada’s National Point in Time Count (PiTC) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Grace Mater General Manager Healthy and Safe Communities Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

The City of Hamilton must complete a Point in Time Count in order to fulfill requirements of both the Federal government’s Reaching Home: Canada’s Homelessness Strategy and the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing prior to the end of 2021.

Locally, this initiative is referred to as the Point in Time Connection. The 2021 Point in Time Connection, is a joint planning effort with City of Hamilton’s Housing Services Division and the local Urban Indigenous community through the [Coalition of Hamilton Indigenous Leadership \(CHIL\)](#). Hamilton will complete a Point in Time Connection the week of November 15 to November 19, 2021.

This initiative helps us to better understand the nature and extent of homelessness in our community and the circumstances of the people experiencing homelessness, while providing information to help shape our ongoing system and service responses.

A Point-in-Time Count is intended to identify how many people in a community experience homelessness at any given time – it is not an exhaustive count. Through the accompanying survey, the initiative provides information on the demographics and service needs of the local population experiencing homelessness.

The voluntary survey will be conducted by agency staff at all emergency shelters, violence against women shelters, transitional housing and drop in locations, and by outreach staff amongst those sleeping rough and in encampments. All survey participants will be provided with a gift card. There will be an Indigenous led magnet

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OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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event to provide an opportunity for Indigenous community members to be surveyed by Indigenous surveyors.

Unlike in previous years, no additional volunteers will be recruited to support the surveying. The surveying will be conducted over the course of the week in order to: ease the burden on our agency staff working to complete the surveys and to provide essential services in the community; enable more time to connect with individuals; and, to avoid large gatherings to reduce the risk of infection and community spread of COVID-19.

**Sharing PiTC Findings**

We are committed to sharing back Hamilton's Point in Time Connection results with the community. The goal of the Housing Services Division and the Coalition of Hamilton Indigenous Leadership is to share key preliminary findings with Council in early December, with a report back to Council with a more comprehensive update on the influences and experiences of homelessness in our community at a later date. In keeping with the principles of Indigenous data sovereignty, such as Ownership, Control, Access and Possession®, CHIL will lead the analysis of Indigenous respondent data and the City of Hamilton will not use this data without the approval of CHIL.

Survey results from Hamilton's 2016 and 2018 Point in Time initiatives are available at [www.hamilton.ca/pointintime](http://www.hamilton.ca/pointintime)

For more information about this initiative please contact Nadia Zelisko, Program Manager, Homelessness Policy and Programs by email at [Nadia.zelisko@hamilton.ca](mailto:Nadia.zelisko@hamilton.ca) or at (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2548.

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

None