



Canada 

EVERYONE COUNTS 2025

POINT IN TIME ENUMERATION COUNT
BRANDON, MB



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Land Acknowledgement	3
Partner Acknowledgements	3
Point in Time Counts	4
Methodology	5
Results	6
Conclusions	9
Works Cited	11
Appendices	12



LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation is located on the unceded Treaty Two territory, the land of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Assiniboine, Dakota, and Dene Peoples, and the home of the Metis Nation. We acknowledge harms, past and present, and we dedicate our efforts to the community development that supports reconciliation and collaboration.

PARTNER ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Brandon Point-in-Time Count was led by the Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation and was supported by a number of important partners, volunteers, and survey respondents. Thank you to our community partners who contributed to the 2025 Brandon Point-in-Time Count Enumeration:

- Assiniboine College
- Brandon Police Services
- Brandon Friendship Centre
- Chez Angela
- Samaritan House Ministries
- Life's Journey Inc.
- Brandon Regional Health Centre
- Community Health and Housing Association
- Centre for Adult Psychiatry
- Westman Crisis Services



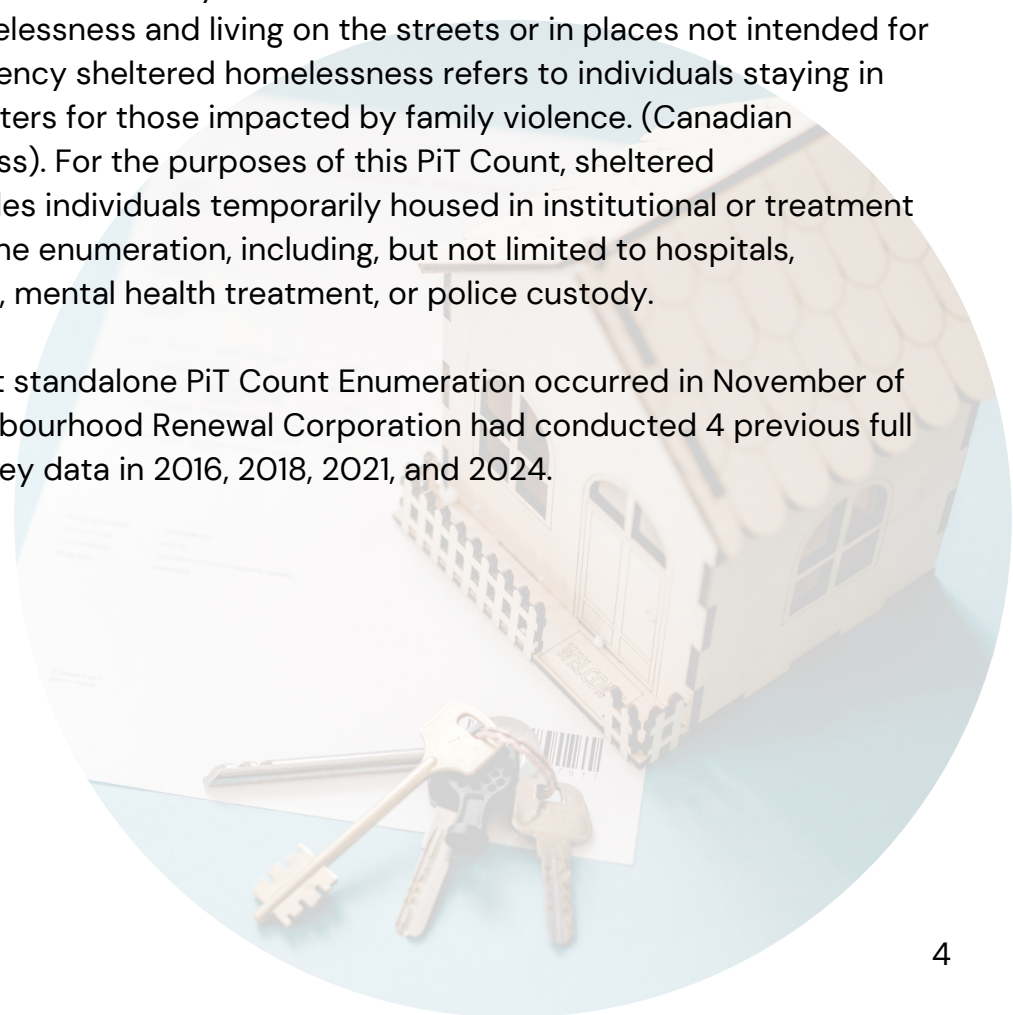
POINT IN TIME COUNTS

A Point-in-Time Count is nationally coordinated by Housing, Infrastructure, Communities Canada (HICC) to gain a better understanding of local homelessness in communities across Canada and to contribute to the larger, national picture on homelessness across the country. Full Point-in-Time (PiT) Counts take place every three years which includes volunteers conducting surveys with unhoused individuals. These surveys collect demographic and situational data to better understand how to serve individuals experiencing homelessness in Canada. (Point-in-Time Counts of Homelessness).

In years when a full PiT Count is not conducted, communities are required to participate in a PiT Count Enumeration. The PiT Enumeration is an estimate of the number of people experiencing homelessness within a specific geographic area on a pre-determined night. This estimate includes individuals experiencing both unsheltered homelessness and sheltered homelessness. An enumeration is a count of observed homelessness and is meant to be understood as the minimum number of people experiencing homelessness in a community (Everyone Counts).

According to the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, unsheltered homelessness is defined as absolute homelessness and living on the streets or in places not intended for human habitation. Emergency sheltered homelessness refers to individuals staying in overnight shelters or shelters for those impacted by family violence. (Canadian Definition of Homelessness). For the purposes of this PiT Count, sheltered homelessness also includes individuals temporarily housed in institutional or treatment settings for the night of the enumeration, including, but not limited to hospitals, substance use treatment, mental health treatment, or police custody.

The city of Brandon's first standalone PiT Count Enumeration occurred in November of 2025. The Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation had conducted 4 previous full PiT Counts including survey data in 2016, 2018, 2021, and 2024.

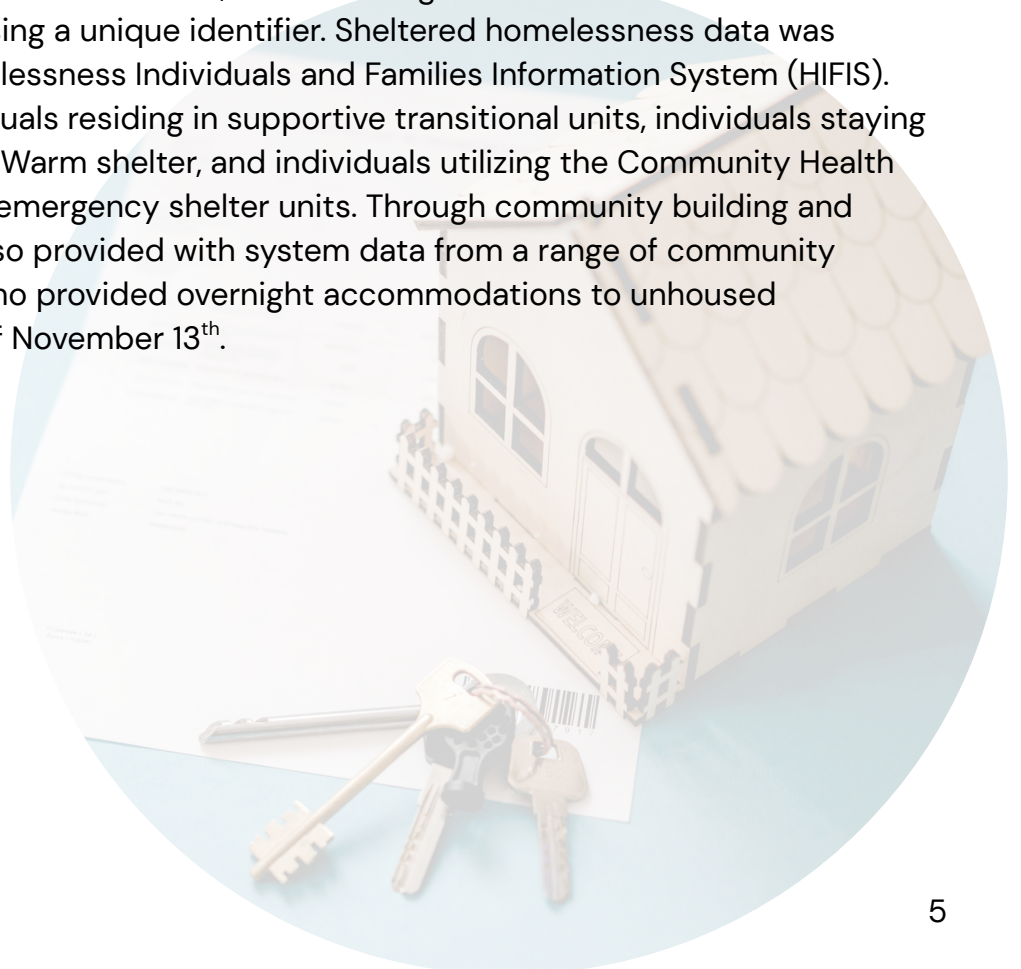


METHODOLOGY

The Point-in-Time Enumeration Count was conducted on the night of November 13th, 2025, and into the morning of November 14th. Twenty-three community members volunteered time to canvas approximately 70 city blocks in downtown Brandon (see map Appendix A) to identify individuals experiencing visible, unsheltered homelessness. Volunteers were recruited from Assiniboine College and the homelessness serving sector. Additional support was provided by the Brandon Community Cadets.

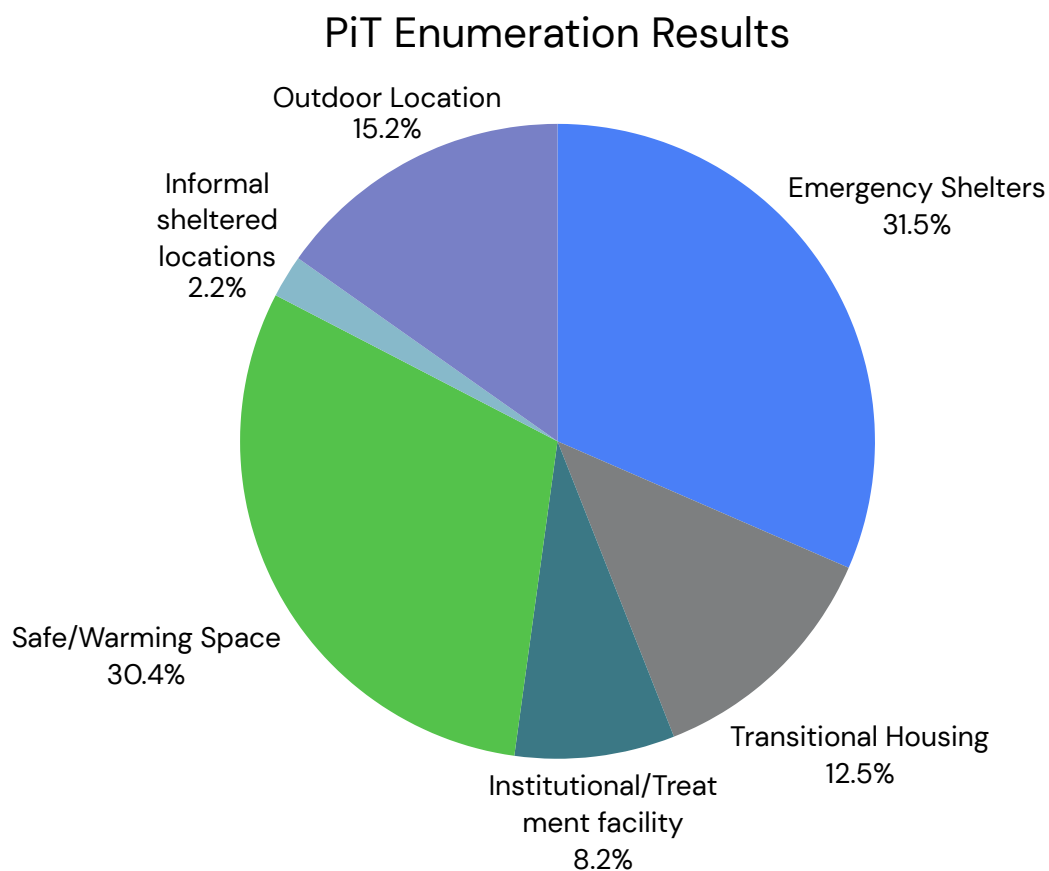
Forty-eight community members in Brandon consented to answering the question “Where did you sleep last night?” Volunteers recorded the responses on a brief screening tool. The responses ranged from sheltered locations, such as “staying at someone’s place” or “staying at a motel/hotel,” indicating invisible homelessness, to institutional locations (hospitals, treatment centres, or correctional facilities), homeless sheltered locations (Samaritan House Ministries’ Safe and Warm Shelter, Life’s Journey Inc.’s Overnight Warming Space, transitional housing/supportive housing programs), to unsheltered locations, such as encampments, vehicles, makeshift shelters, or public places like parks, bus shelters, or an abandoned building.

Following the downtown Brandon canvas, the screening tool data was sorted and filtered to eliminate duplicates using a unique identifier. Sheltered homelessness data was compiled using the Homelessness Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS). This data included individuals residing in supportive transitional units, individuals staying overnight at the Safe and Warm shelter, and individuals utilizing the Community Health and Housing Association emergency shelter units. Through community building and partnership, BNRC was also provided with system data from a range of community programs and facilities who provided overnight accommodations to unhoused individuals on the night of November 13th.



RESULTS

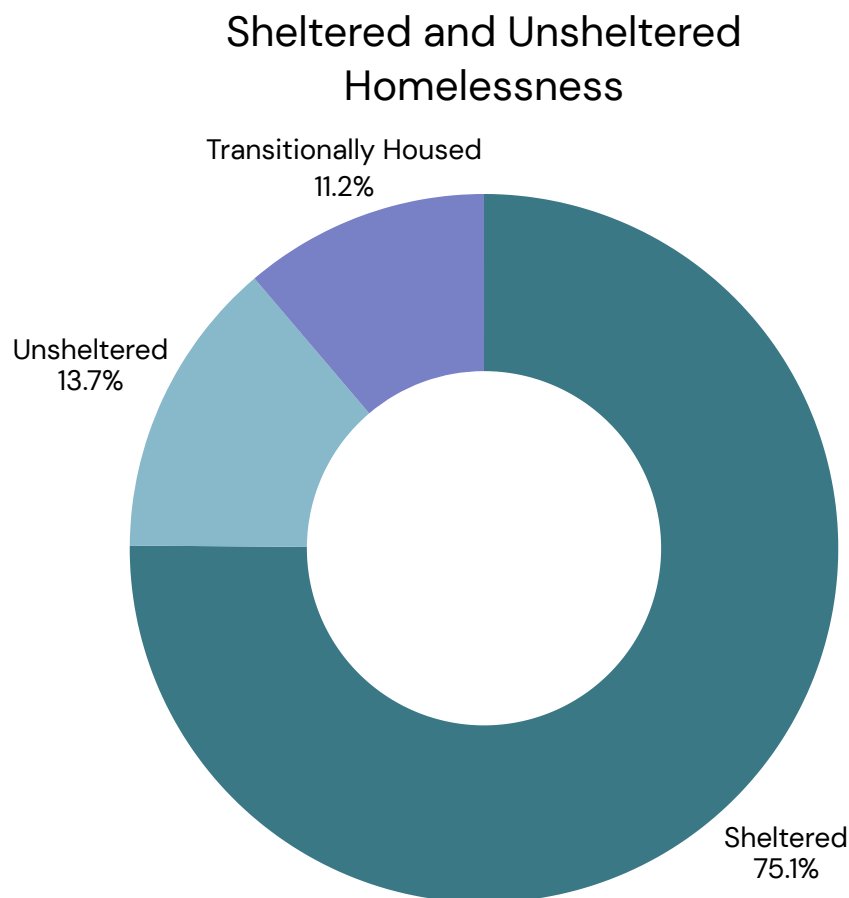
205 individuals were identified in the 2025 Brandon PiT Count Enumeration. Of those 205, 23 individuals were housed in transitional units where the supportive housing program duration lasts one year or less. In Brandon, there are many transitional housing programs that last more than one year, and often two years or more in length. These transitional units were not included in the PiT Count Enumeration as per HICC guidelines.



RESULTS

Twenty-eight individuals were identified as experiencing unsheltered homelessness on the night of the PiT Count. 135 individuals spent the night at an emergency shelter, a shelter for those impacted by family violence, or an overnight warming space. 4 individuals reported staying temporarily with friends or family, or temporarily residing at a hotel, and 15 individuals were reported to be accommodated at institutional facilities, or treatment facilities for the night of November 13th, but had no fixed or permanent address.

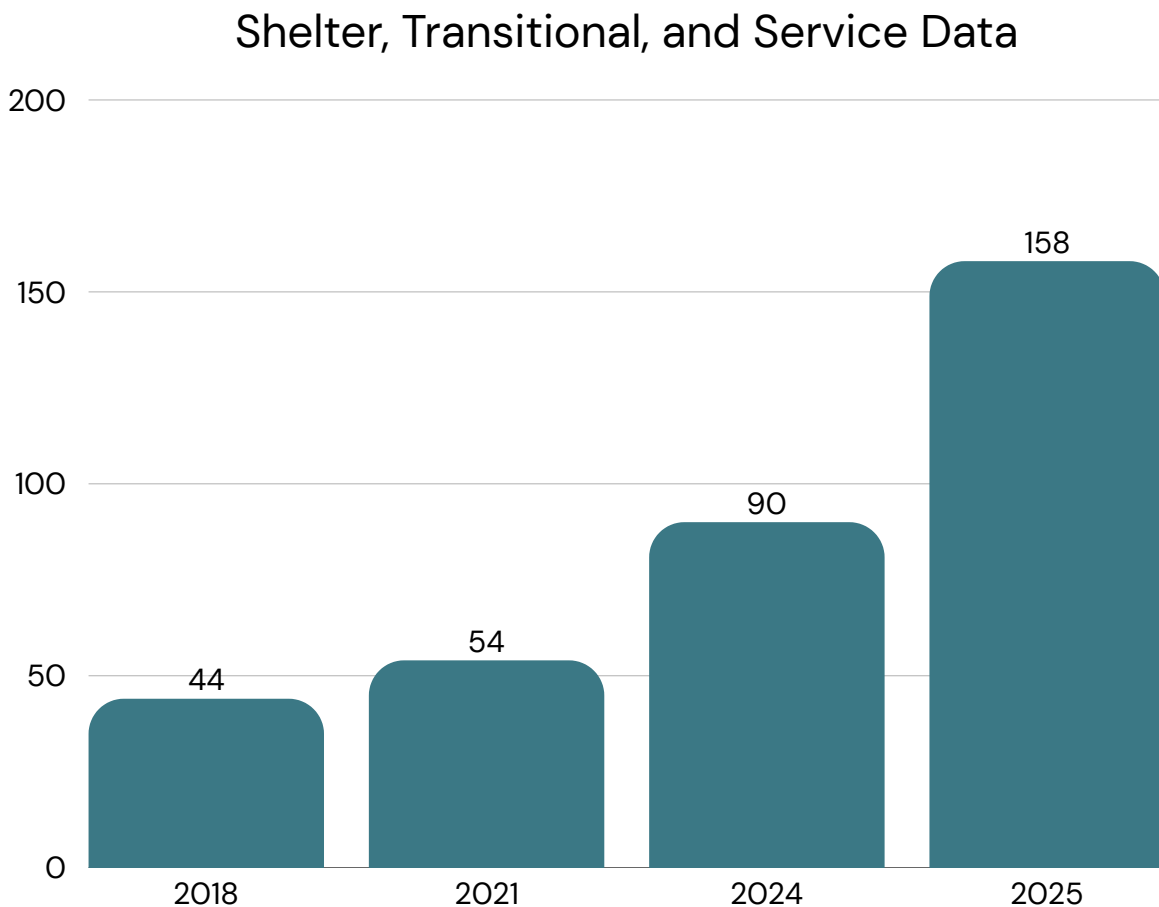
Of the individuals identified on the night of the PiT Count Enumeration, 75% relied on a shelter, warming space, or family and friends for to keep them out of the elements. On November 13th, the temperature in Brandon reached a low of -8 degrees Celsius.



RESULTS

Although that is still considered relatively mild for a November night in Manitoba, it is still difficult to withstand for an entire night with no shelter and no relief.

Although the 2025 PiT Enumeration represents approximately a 10% decrease of minimum number of unhoused individuals from the full PiT Count data in 2024, it is important to note that individuals utilizing shelter and warming spaces rose considerably from 46 individuals utilizing shelter and warming spaces in 2024 to 135 in 2025. Overall, the number of individuals accessing shelter, transitional, and homeless services increased by 75.6% in 2025.



CONCLUSIONS

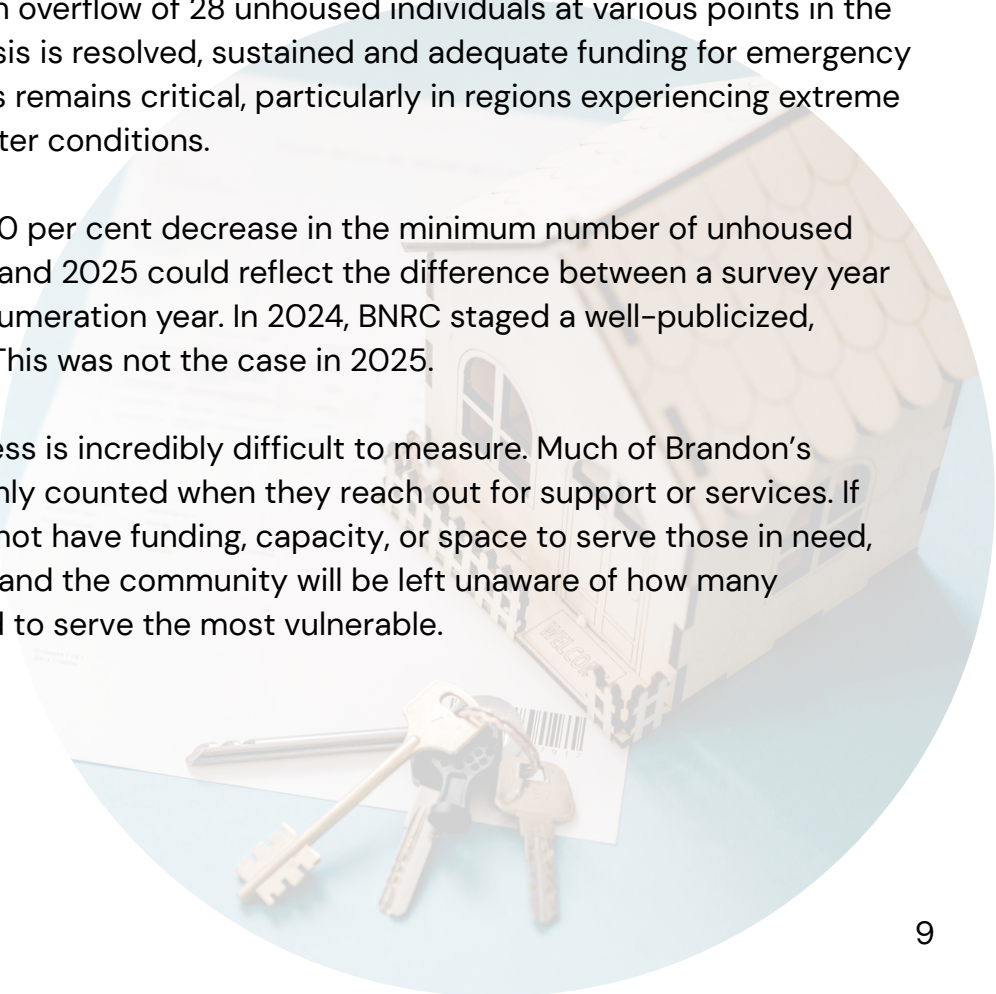
A noted limitation of the data collected for the 2025 PiT Count Enumeration is the relatively small number of encampments counted. Several encampment sites were decommissioned by the City of Brandon immediately prior to the scheduled PiT Count Enumeration, despite being aware of the planned count. These actions displaced unhoused individuals farther from the canvass area and farther from needed services and supports. As a result, the accuracy of the data collected was negatively impacted.

The sharp increase of nearly 200 per cent in the use of shelter and warming spaces between 2024 and 2025 can be directly attributed to BNRC's decision to delay the PiT Count Enumeration to ensure it captured the potential operation of a seasonal warming centre for an additional year. Funding was subsequently confirmed for the winter of 2025–2026. However, it must be noted that the warming space available during this period was insufficient to meet the community's needs during an extreme cold weather event in late January 2026.

In response to dangerously low temperatures forecasted to reach life-threatening levels of -53°C , BNRC opened its own facilities to operate a one-night temporary warming shelter, accommodating an overflow of 28 unhoused individuals at various points in the night. Until the housing crisis is resolved, sustained and adequate funding for emergency and longer-term responses remains critical, particularly in regions experiencing extreme and potentially deadly winter conditions.

Additionally, the seeming 10 per cent decrease in the minimum number of unhoused individuals between 2024 and 2025 could reflect the difference between a survey year (triennial) and a strictly enumeration year. In 2024, BNRC staged a well-publicized, downtown magnet event. This was not the case in 2025.

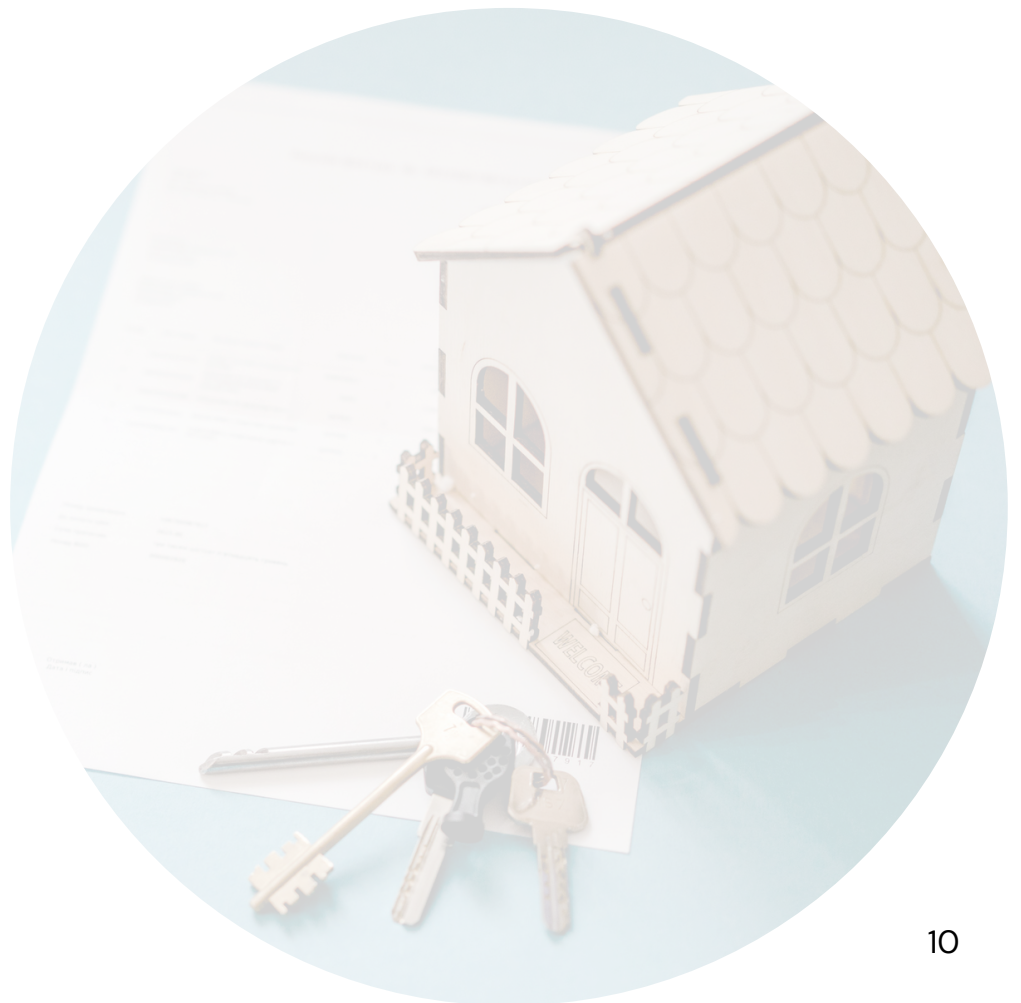
Finally, hidden homelessness is incredibly difficult to measure. Much of Brandon's unhoused community is only counted when they reach out for support or services. If resources or supports do not have funding, capacity, or space to serve those in need, many will go without help, and the community will be left unaware of how many resources are still required to serve the most vulnerable.



CONCLUSIONS

The PiT Count Enumeration is designed to be a snapshot estimate of homelessness in Brandon. But homelessness does not exist only in Brandon's downtown area. It exists throughout the entire city. The PiT Count can identify a rise in visible homelessness and unsheltered homelessness in a concentrated area, but it is limited in identifying everyone who is experiencing a housing crisis.

Following Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada's (HICC) shift from a triennial PiT Count to an annual model, the BNRC continues to refine and improve its methodology. Beginning in 2026, BNRC will employ a full-time PiT Count Coordinator responsible for conducting counts in Brandon, as well as in Portage la Prairie, Steinbach, Selkirk, Morden/Winkler, and Dauphin/Swan River. This enhancement is made possible through additional funding provided by Reaching Home and the Province of Manitoba.



WORKS CITED

"Canadian Definition of Homelessness" Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, <https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/COHhomelessdefinition-1pager.pdf>)

"Everyone Counts. A guide to Point-in-Time Counts in Canada First edition" Government of Canada, 2025, p. 5

"Point-in-Time Counts of Homelessness" Government of Canada, 2025, <https://housing-infrastructure.canada.ca/homelessness-sans-abri/resources-ressources/point-in-time-denombrement-ponctuel-eng.html>



APPENDIX A: MAP OF AREA CANVASSED

