

Outside the Cities

Aboriginal Homelessness in Saskatchewan: An Environmental Scan



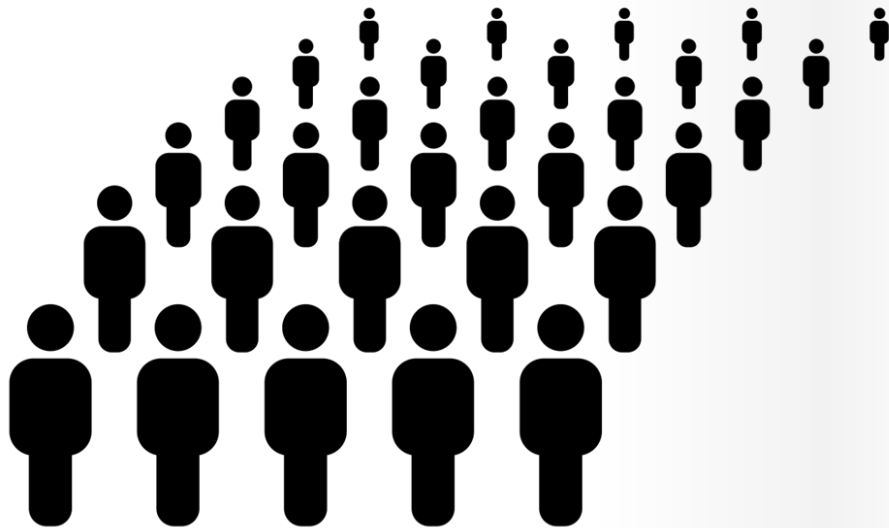
***Environmental Scan for Aboriginal Homelessness:
Off-Reserve and Outside of Saskatoon and Regina, 2015***

<http://pmhc.ca/resources/>

In Saskatchewan...

1,098,352 in 2016

1,033,381 in 2011

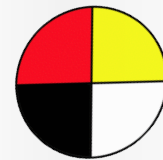


Statistics Canada, 2016 Census Profile
Statistics Canada, 2011 Census Profile

1 in 7 are Indigenous



Median Ages



20 years old



28 years old



38 years old

Statistics Canada, 2011 Census Profile

Methodology...

Information required:

1. State of Aboriginal Homelessness in Saskatchewan
 - Understanding the extent
 - Contributing factors
 - Characteristics
 - Needs of the individuals, families, organizations, communities
2. Gaps in services

Aboriginal Friendship Centres



Map generated by
Prairie Wild Consulting

Who We Spoke With...

6% (2) Unsheltered



20% (7) Emergency Sheltered



31% (11) Provisionally Accommodated



43% (15) At Risk of Homelessness



83 Organizations/Agencies



Speaking to the Stories...

voices of defined homeless

"Yes there is homelessness, but no one is on the street."

- South East

"**I stay with guys every night**, but sleep with them to spend the night. I **come to the Friendship Centre to warm up.**"

- East Central

"Mental health and additions is the number one problem."

- North East

"shelter jumping from community to community"

- West Central

"At Our House you have to be out by 7:30..."

I go to Share a Meal at 3:00, meet friends.

Go to the Friendship Centre, hang out and have coffee.

Go to Walmart, a 20 minute walk..."

- East Central

"I am an Elder and **I currently have 8 people living with me. I live in a 2 bedroom house**, and am also a foster parent. I grew up with my mother helping people in the same way. **Would I feel lonely if they all left? YES.** Many Elders take in family members."

- North East

Key Findings...



Hardworking Service Providers

Definitions can be a Barrier



Gap of Adequate and Safe Housing

Culturally Appropriate Housing



Cultural Competence /
Aboriginal-Run Organizations

Mental Health and Addictions



Difficult to Determine
the Extent

Difficult to Determine
Hidden Homelessness



Geography

Tailor Housing First



Need More Research

Jurisdictional Boundaries



Gap in Emergency
Shelters

Gap in Transitional Housing



Gap for Single People

Access and Servicing...

Service Centres Limited to Larger Urban Areas

- Rural
- Remote

Transportation to Services (Not Always From)

- Health Care
- Justice and Criminal System

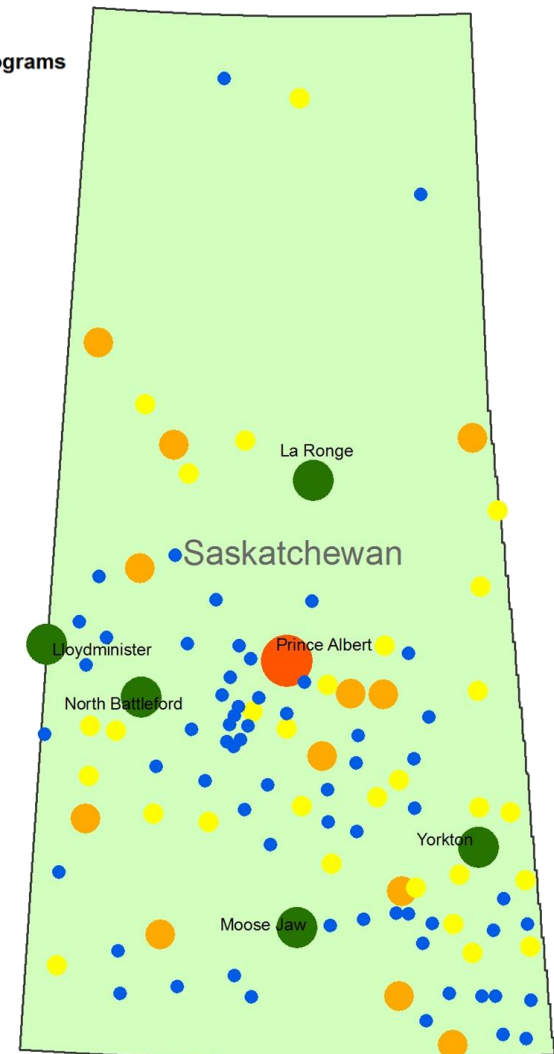


Provincial Distribution of Agencies Providing Services for Homelessness, Saskatchewan

Legend

Number of Agencies Providing Programs and Services for Homelessness

- 1 - 2
- 3 - 6
- 7 - 12
- 13 - 28
- 29 - 44



Map generated by
Prairie Wild Consulting



Can't be done in Isolation...

lessons learned from service providers

“Aboriginal people need their own place that is **culturally appropriate.**”

- South West

“Best practice is to **remove jurisdictional barriers – don't care where you are from**, we will still help. It is a constant battle if you mandate means you can't help some people.”

- North East



“... **strong beliefs, rooted in culture, about family and taking care of others**; someone will always open their doors to a homeless person in dire need, and indeed, **families often see it as their responsibility to house relations** who might otherwise not have a home.”

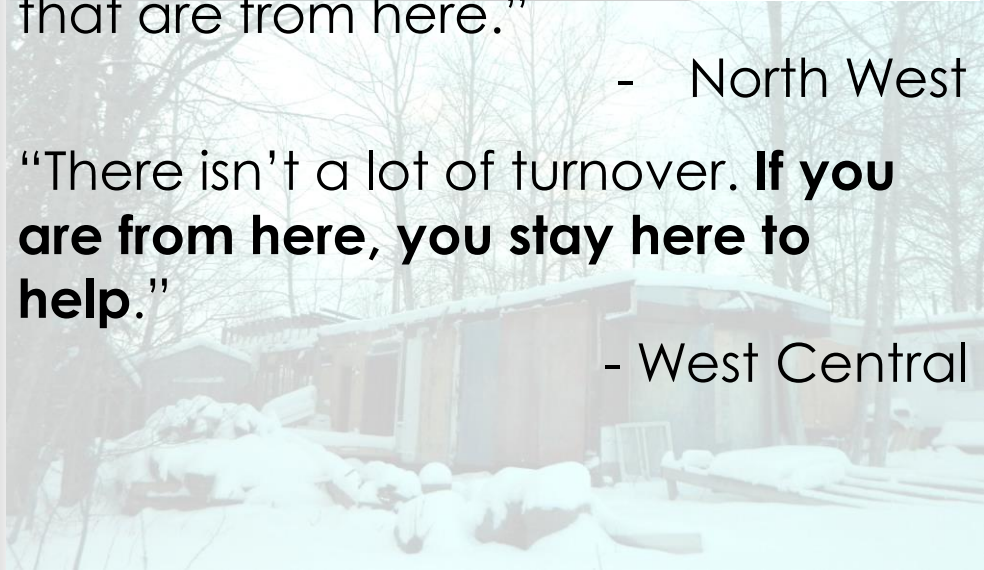
- North West

“High turnover rate, except those that are from here.”

- North West

“There isn't a lot of turnover. **If you are from here, you stay here to help.**”

- West Central



Implementation...



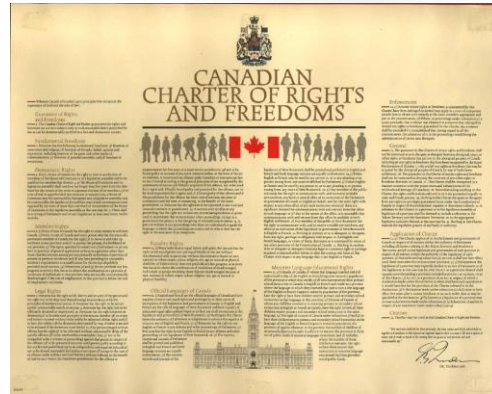
Looking to a Housing and Healing First Model

- Provides Holistic Wellness Supports
- Fosters Collaborative Partnerships
- Builds Local Capacity



Hitting Home...

Housing as a right?



More Research!!

Food Bank Usage:
Increased 51% in 6 years

64% & 67% of users
are Indigenous



Centre for Equality Rights and Conservation 2002, Porter 2004,
Eggleton 2009, Tester 2009
Food Bank Canada, 2014

“Nobody will freeze... we won't allow it... the community will take people in, families take people in...”
- North West Service Provider



“One woman was paying up to 50% of her income for rental housing.”
- West Central Community Member

“People can't afford to pay first month's rent and then damage deposit on top of that.”

- South East Community Member

Thank you!

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prairiewildconsulting@sasktel.net
www.prairiewildconsulting.ca

Office Location:
233 Avenue C South
Saskatoon, SK S7M 1N3

Alicia Buckley
Community and Social
Planning Consultant

Direct Line: 306 281.9162
alicia.buckley@prairiewildconsulting.ca

Mailing Address:
610 Walmer Road
Saskatoon, SK S7L 0E2
Tel: 306 653.2385
Cell: 306 222.8481

Preparing Communities for the Future

#15-901 1st. Ave. North
Saskatoon, SK., S7K 1Y4

Provincial Metis Housing Corporation



Tenille Thomson
HPS Coordinator

Telephone: 306 343 8240
Fax: 306 343 1700
E-mail: metishousing@sasktel.net
Cell: 306 380 2107



prairiewildconsulting@sasktel.net
www.prairiewildconsulting.ca

Office Location:
233 Avenue C South
Saskatoon, SK S7M 1N3

Samantha Mark, MCIP, RPP
Senior Manager of Regional and Community Planning

Direct Line: 306 371.7719
samantha.mark@prairiewildconsulting.ca

Mailing Address:
610 Walmer Road
Saskatoon, SK S7L 0E2

Tel: 306 653.2385
Cell: 306 222.8481
Fax: 306 244.5759

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