

ESTIMATING RURAL, REMOTE, AND INDIGENOUS HOMELESSNESS:

COLLECTING AND USING DATA FOR MEANINGFUL CHANGE

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

RURAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

MISSION: A strong sustainable network that **empowers rural communities** by facilitating and **providing access** to trusted **rural development expertise**, information and services



RDN'S KEY INITIATIVES



IMMIGRATION



HOUSING



RURAL
REVITALIZATION



HOMELESSNESS



ESTIMATIONS



SHELTER PULSE



TRANSPORTATION



HEALTH &
WELLNESS



COALITIONS



WORK-INTEGRATED
LEARNING



AGRI-FOOD



INDIGENOUS
ENGAGEMENT

REACHING HOME

- RDN is the **Rural & Remote Community Entity for Alberta**
- Funding supports organizations and communities **located outside of the 7 major cities in Alberta** and **Indigenous communities** including First Nations, Métis Settlements and Nations
- **100 + projects funded** in the past few years

RURAL, REMOTE, AND INDIGENOUS HOMELESSNESS

News / Local News

Rural homelessness in Alberta a 'hidden crisis': new study

Jason Herring

2 days ago • 2 minute read



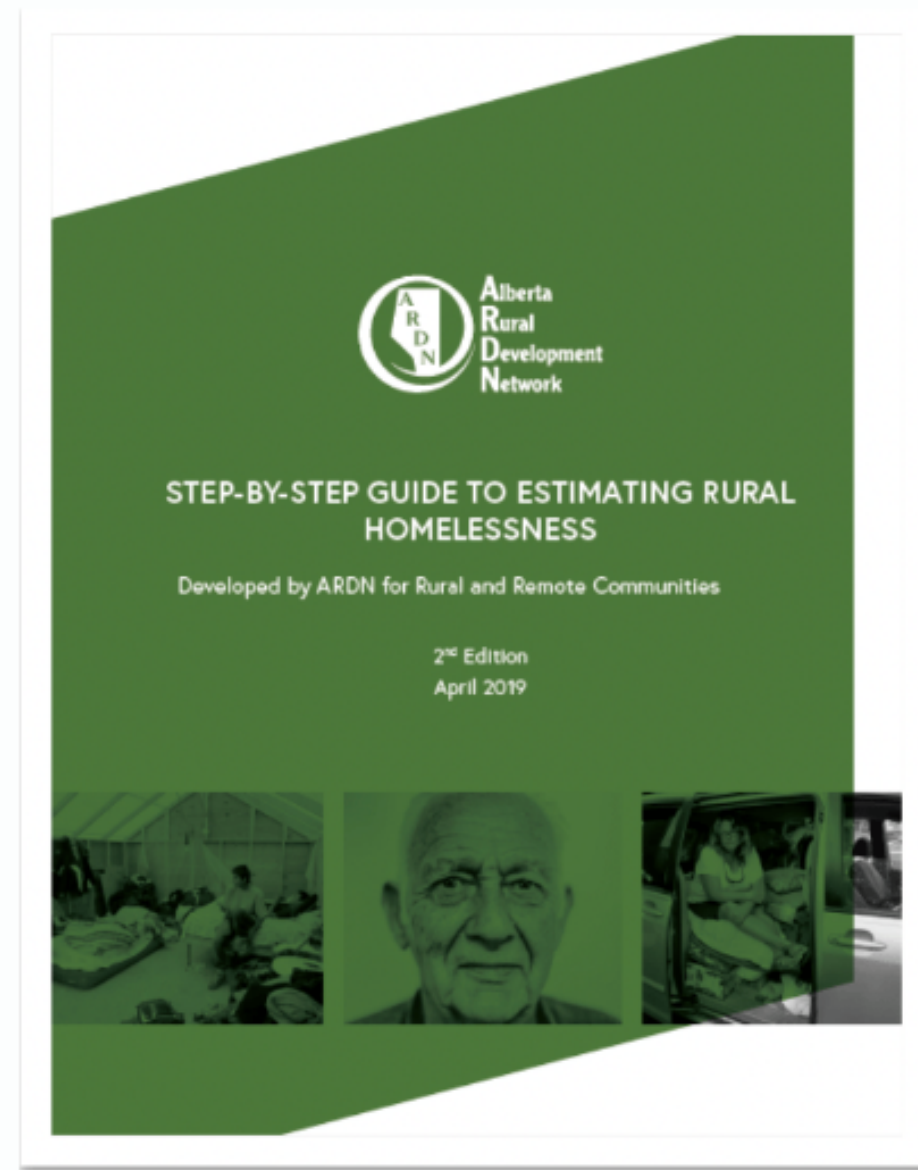
Homelessness and home insecurity is a problem in rural Alberta too, although it's often not as visible as it is in urban areas, a new study has found. AL CHAREST / Postmedia

Homelessness is pervasive even outside of Alberta's urban centres, according to a new study into the scope of the problem in the province's rural communities.

The report is touted by the Alberta Rural Development Network (ARDN) as the largest co-ordinated count of homelessness and housing instability ever completed in rural Alberta, and was completed in co-ordination with local service agencies operating in 20 communities.

- Sleeping rough or camping
- Living in vehicles or abandoned buildings
- Sleeping in emergency shelters
- Couch surfing
- Staying in inadequate and unsafe housing
- Indigenous Homelessness (Thistle, 2017)

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO ESTIMATING RURAL HOMELESSNESS



Developed for anyone in Canada!

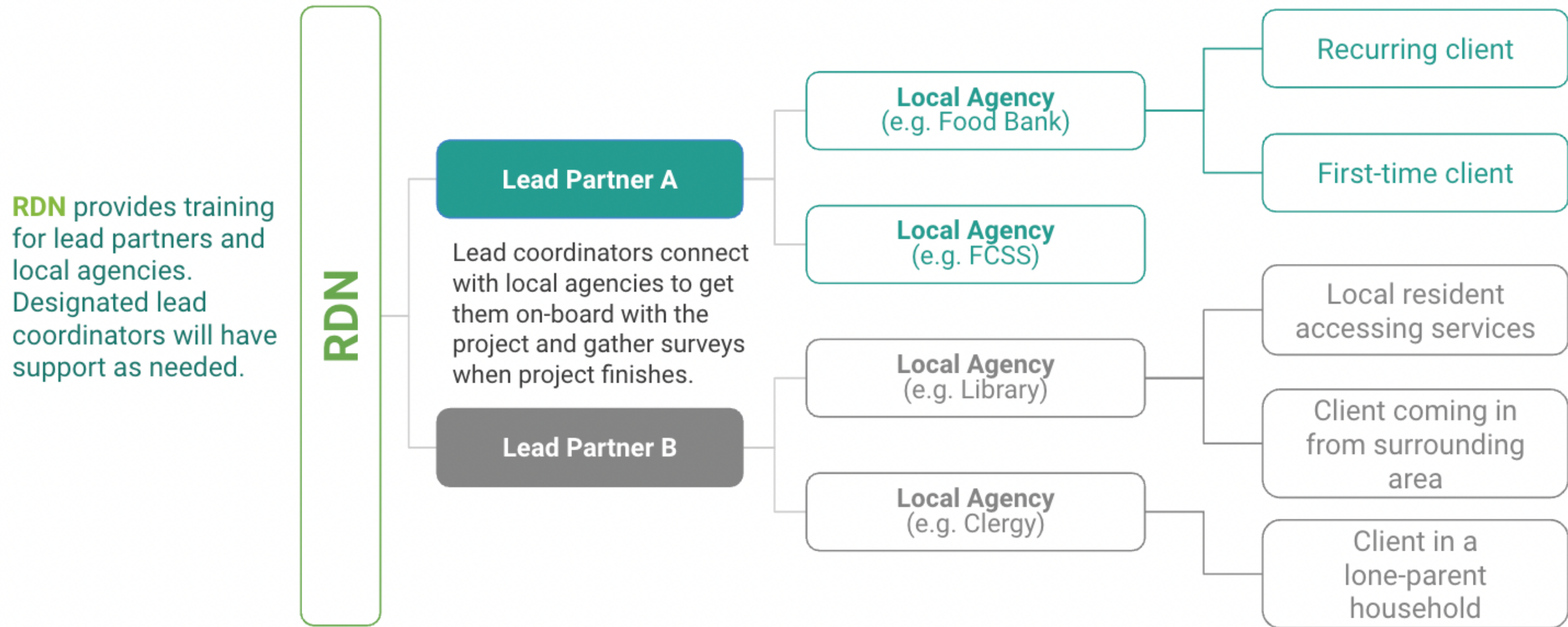
Request your free copy at

ruraldevelopment.ca

Since its launch in 2017

- 50+ community estimations
- Recipient of **CMHC's Gold Roof Award** for Knowledge to Action

HOW DO WE ESTIMATE RURAL, REMOTE, AND INDIGENOUS HOMELESSNESS?



WHY DO WE ESTIMATE RURAL, REMOTE, AND INDIGENOUS HOMELESSNESS?



A GENDERED APPROACH TO ESTIMATING RURAL, REMOTE, AND INDIGENOUS HOMELESSNESS

**Violence is the leading cause of
Women's Homelessness in Canada.**



Rural Women's Shelters face challenges such as:

- Larger service areas
- Less staff and higher turnover
- Less access to court protection
- Higher staff burnout
- Smaller budgets
- Competitive funding
- More reporting



What is Shelter *Pulse*?




www.shelterpulse.ca/

Q14. Thinking about your living situation this past month, which of these statements apply to you? (Check all that apply.)

- ☐ I live in accommodations provided by my employer
- ☐ I live in a home that is owned by/rented out by an Indigenous government
- ☐ I find it difficult to pay rent
- ☐ I spend more than 30% of my monthly income on housing
- ☐ I live in housing that needs major repairs (heating or plumbing problems, mould, leaky roof, etc)
- ☐ There are not enough bedrooms for the number of people in the home I'm in
- ☐ I live in a different community from where I work due to housing shortage
- ☐ I live in supported or transitional housing (e.g. Housing First)
- ☐ I stayed in a medical/detox facility
- ☐ I slept in a family's/friends home because I had no where else to stay
- ☐ I stayed in a jail/prison/remand centre
- ☐ I stayed at a women's/domestic violence shelter
- ☐ I stayed with someone I didn't know because I had no other place to go
- ☐ I stayed in a home where I experienced violence/abuse because I had no other place to go
- ☐ I stayed in a home with unsafe conditions (e.g. exposed wiring, no railing on banisters, physical construction hazards, etc.)
- ☐ I endured unwanted sexual activity to have a place to stay
- ☐ I stayed in living situation unwillingly because I had no other choice (e.g. with parents due to lack of rental options)
- ☐ I slept in a shelter
- ☐ I slept in a makeshift shelter, vehicle, tent, or shack

EMBEDDING A GENDERED LENS INTO THE ESTIMATIONS PROCESS

DECOLONIZING HOMELESSNESS DATA COLLECTION



MÉTIS NATION REGION 1 HOUSING AND SERVICE NEEDS ESTIMATION SURVEY

This survey is a partnership between MNA Region 1 and the Rural Development Network to assess the extent of homelessness, housing instability, and service needs in our region.

We invite you to take 15 minutes of your time and fill out this survey to help us get a better picture of the needs in our region.



DECOLONIZING HOMELESSNESS DATA COLLECTION PROJECT

OUTCOME: To provide rural and remote Indigenous communities across Canada with the tools necessary to collect and use homelessness data in a decolonized way



IN CLOSING...

THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?

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