



State of Veteran Homelessness in Canada & Ending Veteran Homelessness with BFZ-C

CAEH23

November 9, 2023



THE CANADIAN ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS

The CAEH leads a national movement of individuals, organizations and communities working together to end homelessness in Canada.

caeh.ca



Advocacy

The CAEH advocates for the federal and provincial policy changes needed to end homelessness.



Data & Policy

Revolutionizing the way communities and governments use data to end homelessness.



Allied Networks

The CAEH supports several allied networks working toward our shared mission of ending homelessness.



National Conference on Ending Homelessness

Join us for the 2023 National Conference on Ending Homelessness, Nov 8-10 in Halifax.

conference.caeh.ca



Built for Zero Canada

Helping a core group of leading communities end chronic and veteran homelessness.

bfzcanada.ca



Training & Technical Assistance

Helping communities and organizations end homelessness with expert training and technical assistance.

training.caeh.ca



Built for Zero Canada is an ambitious national change effort helping a core group of leading communities **end chronic and veteran homelessness** – a first step on the path to eliminating all homelessness in Canada.

[Want to learn more? Watch this Video](#)

What We Know About Veterans

Census 2021

Number of Veterans

461,240

Total Veterans

1.5%

Canadian
Population

Veteran Demographics

16.2%

Women & Non-Binary

4.4%



Share of
population aged
17 and older who
are Indigenous

5.2%



Share of
Veterans
who are
Indigenous

41.8%

Age 65+

Location of Veterans

35%

Ontario

20%

Quebec

Highest Share
Among Population

4.5%

Belleville

4.4%

Halifax

4%

Kingston

3.8%

Fredericton

3.5%

Saint John

What We Know About Veteran Homelessness

3,000 – 5,000

Estimated # of Canadian Veterans experiencing homelessness

[State of Homelessness in Canada, 2016](#) & [Standing Committee of Veteran Affairs, 2019](#)

5%

Of people experiencing homelessness reported to be Veterans in last PiT Count

[2020-2022 Nationally Coordinated Point in Time Count](#)

Women Veterans

4 x

More likely to experience homelessness than those who did not serve in the military

[COH, 2022](#)

Estimated that **32%** face challenges transitioning to civilian life after service

[Life After Service Survey, 2016](#)

14 Years

Average # of years from leaving military service to when a Veteran experiences homelessness

[The Canadian Model for Housing and Support of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness](#)

Veteran & Veteran Homelessness Myths & Facts

Veteran and Veteran Homelessness Myths & Facts Sheet

Veteran & Veteran Homelessness Myths and Facts Sheet



1. Myth: You can identify a Veteran by the way they look and talk

Fact: While some Veterans have tattoos, have kit (equipment, clothing, gear), and/or use military jargon, many don't.

2. Myth: All Veterans know their service number and if they don't, they are likely not a Veteran

Fact: While many will know their service number, those who served for a short time and/or many years ago, those who want to forget and not stay connected to their military experience, and/or those who have had significant trauma may not remember their number (source: BFZ-C community experience).

3. Myth: It's not important to clarify Veteran status

Fact: Clarifying Veteran status ensures an accurate account of Veterans on the By-Name List (BNL) and supports access to Veteran-specific supports that can help end their experience of homelessness. The homelessness response sector should be asking every person the standard Veteran question "Have you served in the Canadian or Allied Armed Forces or participated in basic training? Are you a former member of the RCMP?". If someone self-reports as a Veteran, submit the necessary information for Veteran status verification (see the [Ending Veteran Homelessness Guide](#)).

4. Myth: All Veterans know they are Veterans and readily disclose this information

Fact: Many who have served do not consider themselves Veterans and do not realize they may be eligible for Veteran services and supports. The term "Veteran" is held in high regard and those who have not been deployed overseas or in active combat may not see themselves as a Veteran. Others who know they are Veterans may be reluctant to disclose this information as they have left the military behind, are trying to forget, it's a private matter and they don't want to be asked about it as it can be retraumatizing, or they are embarrassed about the way they left service. For all these reasons, it's important to ask the Veteran question in Myth #3 and follow the tips provided in the [Ending Veteran Homelessness Guide](#).

5. Myth: You're only a Veteran if you have been deployed overseas or in active combat

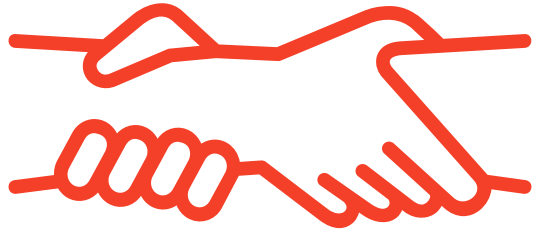
Fact: Veterans include any former member of the Canadian Armed Forces or RCMP ([VAC](#)) and include many roles (e.g., recurring domestic operations include Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response, routine domestic surveillance, multinational efforts to control driftnetting and other forms of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing in the North Pacific Ocean and more ([Military operations - Canada.ca](#))). Veterans in Canada do not need to be deployed overseas or into active combat to be eligible for services and supports.

6. Myth: You must have a Service Number to verify Veteran status

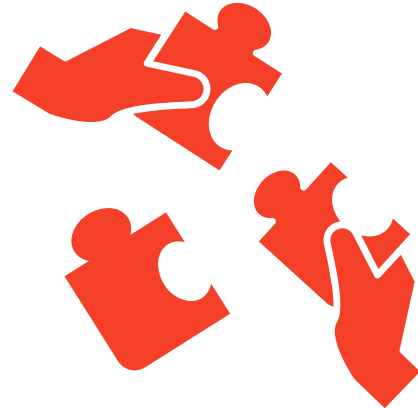
Fact: Having a person's Veteran Service number is helpful and can speed up the verification process but is not necessary. For confirming status with the help of RCL, at minimum, we ask you to include the



Why focus on solving veteran homelessness?



Our duty



Proving its possible



Building support



Setting the foundation for ending all homelessness

**We are
learning what
it takes to
end Veteran
homelessness**



BFZ-C Veteran Community Cohort (25)

- Chatham-Kent
- Cochrane District
- Durham Region
- Edmonton
- Fort McMurray
- Fredericton
- Kelowna
- Kenora District
- Kingston
- London
- Moncton
- Niagara Region
- Northumberland County
- Ottawa
- Peel Region
- Red Deer
- Saint John
- Sault Ste. Marie
- St. John's
- St. Thomas-Elgin
- Sudbury
- Waterloo Region
- Wellington-Guelph
- Whitehorse
- Windsor-Essex



Functional Zero Veteran Homelessness

London, ON

Achieved: Oct 2020
Announced: Feb 2021

[Blog & Case Study](#)

St. Thomas-Elgin, ON

Achieved: Feb 2023
Announced: April 2023

[Blog & Case Study](#)

Fort McMurray, AB

Achieved: Feb 2023
Announced: April 2023

[Blog & Case Study](#)

**Want to hear more from these communities?
Join us for the “Communities That Have Ended Veteran
Homelessness” concurrent session Friday at 10am**



Keys to Ending Veteran Homelessness



- Shared aims and definitions
- Quality real-time data on Veteran homelessness
- Coordination between homelessness response sector and Veteran service organizations
- Use data to drive improvement and target resources

Communities set an aim towards ending Veteran Homelessness



Communities form local teams that take responsibility for solving Veteran Homelessness.

Teams set longer term and short term aims. Teams work to reach milestones on the pathway to zero, beginning with a By-Name List.

Really can't say you don't have homeless Veterans or that you have ended Veteran homelessness until you have quality data and demonstrated system processes.

Small numbers still require the same data informed and coordinated response.

Veteran Organization Partners



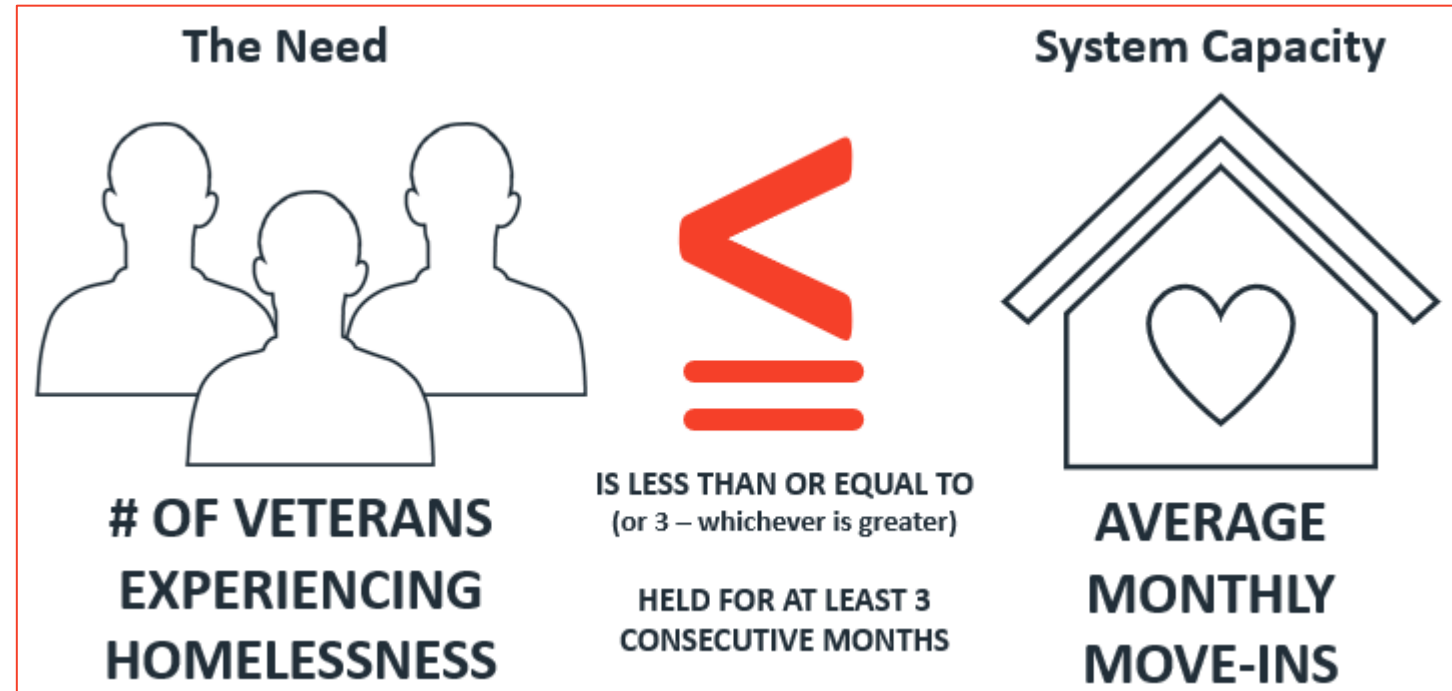


Who is considered a Veteran

Any former member of the **Canadian Armed Forces** along with former members of an **Allied Force** (e.g., U.S./U.K veteran), **former members of the RCMP, former Reservists, Veteran Civilians, and former Canadian Rangers**

Measuring Functional Zero Veteran Homelessness

- When the number of veterans experiencing homelessness is less than or equal to the number of veterans a community has proven it can house in a month.
- The number of veterans experiencing homelessness must be held at or below this functional zero threshold for at least three consecutive months.
- 16/16 on the Functional Zero Veteran Homelessness Confirmation Checklist



[Functional Zero Veteran Homelessness Video](#)

[Functional Zero Veteran Homelessness Confirmation Overview](#)

Real Time By-Name Data



Homelessness is constantly changing. Start by building a comprehensive, real-time, by-name list of all known people experiencing Veteran homelessness across your community.

Asking about veteran identity



We've learned that Veterans may be hesitant to indicate they've served for many reasons. You can't just ask, "Are you a Veteran?"

Instead ask...

"Have you served in the Canadian or Allied Armed Forces or participated in basic training? Are you a former member of the RCMP?"

Confirming Veteran Status

Required as part of a Quality Veteran By-Name List

Clarifying Veteran status supports:

- an accurate account of Veterans on the By-Name List (BNL); and
- access to Veteran-specific supports that can help end their experience of homelessness.



Key Considerations In Providing Service to Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

1. Homeless Veterans have unique needs within the broader homeless population.
2. Structure, routine and leisure are important.
3. Peer-support requires knowledge of the military service and homelessness-related issues.
4. Collaboration includes an integrated and shared response with both homeless and Veteran services.
5. Permanent long-term housing is preferred over transitional housing.
6. Housing First and harm-reduction must be programming philosophies.
7. Choice of housing and living arrangement is important.
8. Programs need to be outcome-focused with housing stability as a primary goal.

(From The Canadian Model for Housing and Support for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness)
(See next slide for further information)

More on Supporting Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

The Canadian Model for Housing and Support for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness – a two-year evaluation project from 2012-2014 to test housing-with-support strategies for addressing homelessness among Canadian Veterans in four Canadian cities (Calgary, London, Toronto and Victoria).

- [Evaluation Final Report](#)
- [Vignette](#)
- [Executive Summary](#)
- [Practice Manual](#)
- [Peer Program Practice Guide](#)

Unpacking the Learning from the Canadian Model for Housing and Support for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness – BFZ-C Pre-Recorded Mini Webinars:

- An Overview of Research and Recommendations from A Canadian Model for Housing and Support of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness – [Recording](#) (25 mins)
- Housing Stability – Part 1 of 2 – [Recording](#) (15 mins)
- Housing Stability – Part 2 of 2 – [Recording](#) (15 mins)

BFZ-C Veteran Website Page



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CHRONIC/VETERAN PORTAL

FOUNDATIONS PORTAL

Getting to Zero

Track Our Progress

Resources

Get Involved

About

<https://bfzcanada.ca/veterans/>

VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

The information and resources here are intended to support your efforts to end veteran homelessness.

Defining an End to Veteran Homelessness



Ending Veteran Homelessness Isn't Just Possible. Its Already Happening!



Key Veteran Service Organizations and their Homelessness Response



Veteran and Veteran Homelessness in Canada Information



Training, Tools, and Resources to End Veteran Homelessness



Guide to Ending Veteran Homelessness

[Ending Veteran Homelessness
Community Guide](#)



Ending Veteran Homelessness Community Guide

September 29, 2023

Track Community Progress

<https://bfzcanada.ca/community-progress/>



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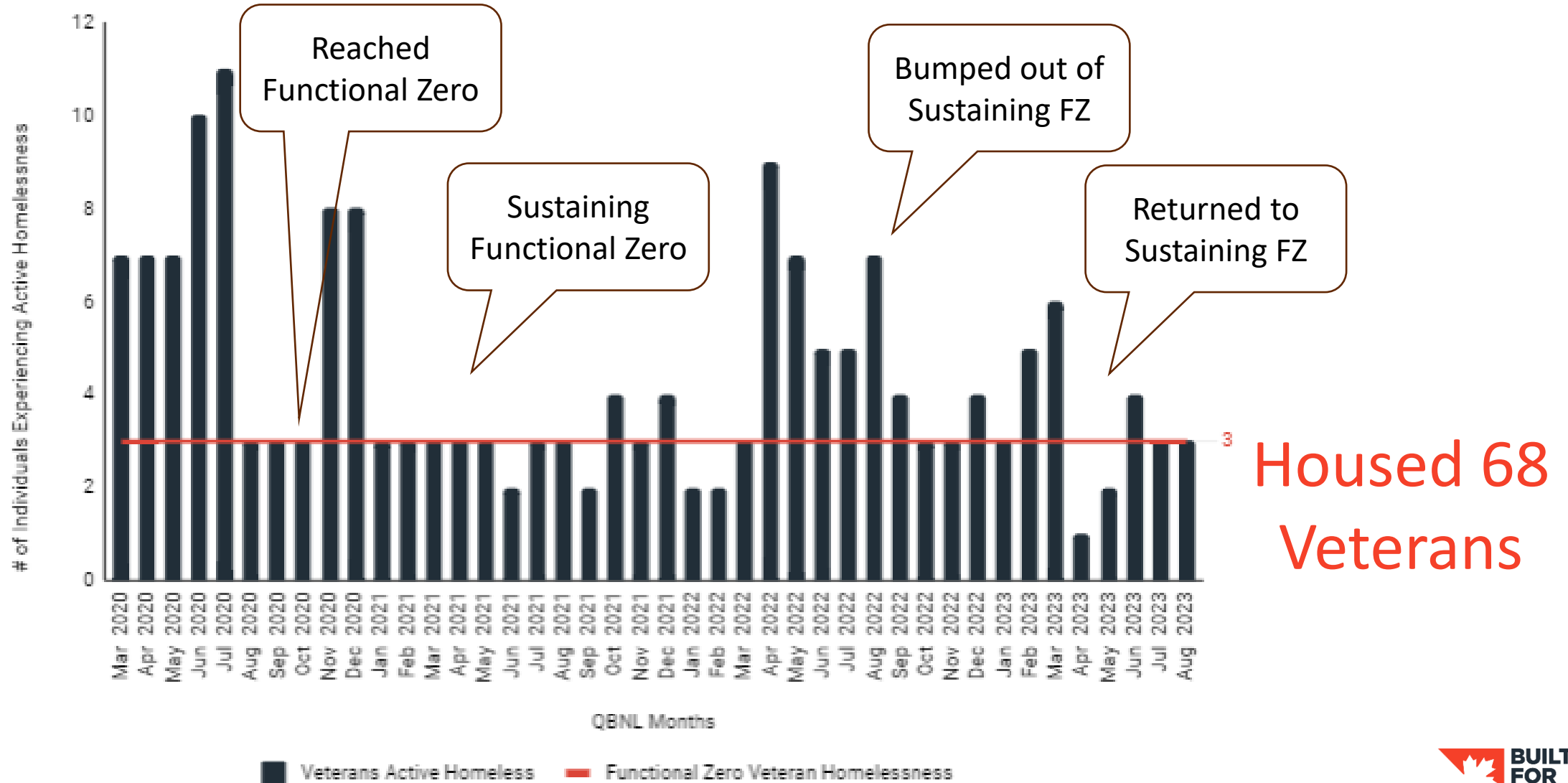
FOUNDATIONS PORTAL

VETERAN DASHBOARDS BY PROVINCE

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Alberta | ⌵ |
| British Columbia | ⌵ |
| New Brunswick | ⌵ |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | ⌵ |
| Ontario | ⌵ |
| Yukon Territory | ⌵ |



London's Veteran BNL Data




What we have learned about ending and sustaining an end to Veteran homelessness

- Homelessness is a dynamic problem that is constantly changing
- What it took to reach functional zero is different than what it takes to sustain it - community teams need to continue to focus and solve for homelessness each month
- Numbers may increase above the functional zero threshold from time to time
- What is important is that communities continue to collect and monitor quality data on Veteran homelessness in real-time and act on that data - continuously improving to ensure Veteran homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring while working towards absolute zero Veteran homelessness

London Reaching and Sustaining Functional Zero Veteran Homelessness Webinar (Jan 2023) – [Recording](#) and [PDF](#)

Thank You

Marie Morrison, Director

 (226) 749-0531

 marie@caeh.ca

bfzcanada.ca

[#bfzcanada](https://twitter.com/bfzcanada)



@endinghomelessness



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Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness

