

# REDUCING POVERTY

## Report to the Community



### Defining an End to Poverty

In 2018, a definition of homeless was accepted nationally. According to the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness:

*Homelessness describes the situation of an individual, family or community without **stable, permanent, appropriate** housing, or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it. It is the result of systemic or societal barriers, a lack of affordable and appropriate housing, the individual/household's financial, mental, cognitive, behavioural or physical challenges, and/or racism and discrimination. Most people do not choose to be homeless, and the experience is generally negative, unpleasant, unhealthy, unsafe, stressful and distressing.*<sup>i</sup>

Indigenous peoples are overrepresented within the Canadian Homeless population. For this reason, it is important to go beyond

the basic definition when considering Indigenous homelessness.

*Indigenous homelessness is not defined as lacking a structure of habitation; rather, it is more fully described and understood through a composite lens of Indigenous worldviews. These include: **individuals, families and communities isolated from their relationships to land, water, place, family, kin, each other, animals, cultures, languages and identities.** Importantly, Indigenous people experiencing these kinds of homelessness cannot culturally, spiritually, emotionally or physically reconnect with their Indigeneity or lost relationships.*<sup>ii</sup>



*Most people do not choose to be homeless... let's talk about poverty and help raise compassion and understanding.*



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## Lived-Experience Perspectives

According to Statistics Canada 2017, **1,280** of Stony Plain's 17,189 residents are living in poverty – 470 youth and children under 17, 140 children under five and 200 older adults (+65).<sup>iv</sup>



*260 individuals completed the Tri-Region Housing and Service Needs Estimate survey. A full report will be released early in 2019.*



*Recognize the human dignity in every person you meet.*



## Address Issues of Those Most At Risk

Stony Plain FCSS in partnership offered five legal and financial education sessions increasing individuals' capacity, ensuring their continued support, and decreasing the risk of further financial difficulty.

601 Kinsmen Christmas Hampers were distributed to Tri-Region community members in need in December.



## Food Security

Food security still remains an issue across our community. The Parkland Food Bank provided an average of 1398 hampers feeding an average of 3652 individuals per month in 2018.



*Volunteers brought together community members for the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Day dinner in Stony Plain providing community, food, and joy to those in need.*



## Access to Recreation, Social, and Community Opportunities for All

The First Five Forever coalition hosted a free family event for children ages 0-5 in celebration of Universal Children's Day. Guests shared snacks, developmental resources, and played games and activities.

Town of Stony Plain offers senior indoor walking at the Heritage Pavilion for winter months Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9-10AM.



*Special memorial to the late Russell Hakes, Stony Plain Public Library and TransAlta Tri-Leisure Centre board member, who championed expanding the FREE Tri-Leisure Family Pass Borrowing program offered in Tri-Region libraries – doubling the passes available!*

<sup>i</sup> <https://www.homelesshub.ca/resource/canadian-definition-homelessness>

<sup>ii</sup> Aboriginal Standing Committee on Housing and Homelessness, 2012, <https://www.homelesshub.ca/IndigenousHomelessness>

<sup>iii</sup> The Housing First Toolkit, 2014, Page 11,

<http://housingfirsttoolkit.ca/wp-content/uploads/Module1-Overview.pdf>

<sup>iv</sup> 2016, Stats Canada Census Profiles, based on Low-Income measure after tax statistics – a generally accepted measure of poverty within communities across Canada.



*Hand Claps = awesome actions.*



*Hand Ups = calls to action.*



*Contact us for more details. Let us know of new initiatives. Share with us your ideas.*

**Sharida Csillag,**

Community Development Coordinator

[s.csillag@stonyplain.com](mailto:s.csillag@stonyplain.com)

780-963-8023

Family and Community Support Services,  
Forest Green Plaza

#107, 4613-52 Avenue, Stony Plain, AB

[www.stonyplain.com/fcss](http://www.stonyplain.com/fcss)

