

2017 Summit for Solving Homelessness: REPORT

The 2017 Summit for Solving Homelessness was held on September 27th and 28th at Northern College in Timmins. Over two days there was a unique opportunity to hear diverse perspectives and experiences from 140 individuals: those who deliver programs and services to support homeless populations, those with lived experience, those who volunteer, and those concerned about homelessness in the north. There were insightful presentations followed by small group discussion where participants of the Summit had a chance to voice their thoughts and recommendations. The following is a summary of the recommendations put forth by participants.

Hopes and Wishes for the Summit were explored. Summit participants recommended the Summit provide an opportunity to:

1. Gain knowledge and understanding of homelessness in Timmins.
2. Explore a Plan of Action to improve coordination of efforts and services.
3. Experience an approach that is collaborative so participants are part of the solution.

Enumeration and Point Prevalence presentation. Summit participants recommended:

4. A collaborative approach for facilitating survey completion and sharing of data.
5. An inclusive approach for encouraging participation of homeless people.
6. Committing to a consistent approach throughout the community.

End Homelessness St. John's, Homelessness Prevention & Coalition London, and Homelessness Sudbury presentations. Summit participants used the Pieces for a Coordinated Entry System (Built for Zero): By-Name, Management, Access, Assessment, Prioritization, and Referral to organize their perspectives. Summit participants recommended:

7. **By-Name List & Data:** Develop an accessible centralized by-name list that is accessible to all pertinent agencies.
8. **Management/Leadership:** Work in collaboration with a common vision and mission to decrease duplication of services and be fiscally responsible.
9. **Access:** One access point with multiple agencies and one crisis line.
10. **Assessment:** One common assessment tool utilized by trained assessors.
11. **Prioritization:** Utilize screening to prioritize need.
12. **Referral:** Mapping of services for good communication and collaboration.

People experiencing homelessness presented through the lens of lived experiences. The Summit participants recommended that people experiencing homelessness need:

13. A worker that is compassionate and non-judgmental.
14. To feel safe and secure, warm, and nourished.
15. To know where to go for help.

The Gathering Place/Warming Centre of North Bay presented. Summit participants recommended that a warming centre must::

16. Provide basic needs including nutrition and warmth (clothing and blankets).
17. Welcome everyone with smiles into a safe, compassionate, non-judgmental space.

Community volunteer programs presented (Community Mobilization, HOPE, Project Love, and YoMobile). In addition, there was a presentation by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Summit participants recommended:

18. Invite and include volunteers in the plan to end homelessness.
19. Have volunteers on planning committees.
20. Keep volunteers informed.

Living Space presented. Summit participants recommended:

21. Living Space remain open.
22. Living Space work collaboratively with partners.
23. Living Space act as a coordinator for the many service providers.

The Summit participants recommended that providers and volunteers could help Living Space by:

24. Providing services and supports on site.
25. Volunteering and becoming part of the Living Space team.
26. Promoting Living Space and referring clients.

The Summit participants recommended that Living Space could assist other community providers by:

27. Sharing, collaborating and accepting feedback.
28. Providing shelter and intermittent housing.
29. Ensuring referrals are made to community supports.

Quick Wins. Summit participants identified “quick wins” for addressing homelessness in Timmins. Using a dotmocracy voting process, the following priorities were identified:

1. Establish an overnight warming shelter (63 votes).
2. Choose a standardized vulnerability assessment/vulnerability tool (44 votes).
3. Develop a basic unified system map (42 votes).

For a detailed overview of the recommendations and raw data, click [here](#).

For an overview of the data analysis process, click [here](#).