



Office of the Commissioner
Community and Health Services Department

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of Committee of the Whole

From: Katherine Chislett
Commissioner of Community and Health Services

Date: September 17, 2019

Re: Provincial Update on 2020 Homeless Count

This memorandum provides Council with an update on the provincial requirement to count the number of individuals experiencing homelessness under the *Housing Services Act, 2011*.

In April 2018, the Regional Municipality of York conducted its first homeless count, *I Count*, and shared the findings in the report [I Count, I'm not just a Number: A profile of homelessness in York Region](#) with Council in [April 2019](#).

In response to Municipal discussions, the Province announced they are 'pausing' the requirement for Service Managers to conduct local homelessness enumeration

On August 21, 2019 the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing announced they would 'pause' the requirement for Service Managers to conduct local homelessness enumeration every two years (Attachment 1). The Province will be reviewing future enumeration requirements to ensure that the data collected would be used to improve programs and outcomes.

In the letter, the province indicates they recognize there are some gaps and limitations in the enumeration approach and that there are opportunities to improve the process, and to incorporate best practices already used in some communities. The province also recognizes the environment in which the enumeration approach was first conceived has changed with some communities using real time data. York Region is one of the communities using real time data to know who is homeless in our Region. This is a best practice which includes creating a quality By Name List of individuals experiencing homelessness. York Region started the Region's first

By Name List after *I Count* 2018 and maintains a current list using the federal homeless data base.

The Federal Government in 2020 still requires a Point-in-Time count

The United Way of Greater Toronto (UWGT) is the community entity for federal homelessness funding in York Region. UWGT is contractually required to do a PIT count.

In 2018, with UWGT's support, the Region fulfilled the provincial and federal requirements with *I Count*. The Region will be providing support to UWGT for the planning and implementation of their spring 2020 count.

Provincial funding reserved for the 2020 homeless count will be reallocated

The Region's allocation of provincial funding from the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) will not be impacted. Approximately \$70,000 from both the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 provincial funding for the 2020 homeless count will be reassigned to other homelessness prevention and housing stability programs and services.

Katherine Chislett
Commissioner of Community and Health Services

Bruce Macgregor
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment (1)
eDOCS#10039931