

# STREET NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## Terms and Phrases Used in Survey

You don't need to be an expert at understanding all of the terms and phrases used in the survey. All the same, here is a quick list to assist with your understanding of some of the terms and phrases used in the survey or in responses from participants.

**Staying 'Outdoors'** – Includes sidewalk, street, park, bus shelter, forest, encampment, vehicle, ravine, abandoned/vacant building.

**Transitional Housing** – Social housing provided for four years or less to people who need some structure, support and skill building as they move from homelessness to permanent housing.

**Emergency Shelter Program** – A homeless shelter program that can be accessed by any individual or family experiencing homelessness with or without a referral.

**Transitional Shelter Program** – A homeless shelter program that provides required, specialized programming and can be accessed by eligible individuals and families experiencing homelessness by referral only.

**Motel/Hotel Shelter Program** – Provides shelter beds through contracts with hotel and motel operators, which enables the City to expand and contract emergency shelter capacity in response to demand for services.

**Violence Against Women (VAW) Shelter** – A emergency shelter and 24/7 crisis support service for women and their dependents who have experienced violence and /or abuse. Services and supports may include temporary safe and secure shelter residence.

**24-Hour Respite Site** – Provides essential services to individuals experiencing homelessness in an environment that prioritizes ease of access to safe indoor space. Services provided include resting spaces, meals and service referrals. An **allied shelter service** that operates on a 24/7 basis.

**24-Hour Women's Drop-In** – A type of 24-Hour Respite Site that provides services to women and transgender or gender-non-binary people who are experiencing homelessness. There are two 24-hour women's drop-ins – one operated by Fred Victor at the Adelaide Resource Centre for Women and Sistering.

**Warming Centre** – Provides immediate safe indoor space for people during cold weather alerts. Facilities vary, but often include City of Toronto buildings or community recreation centres. Services vary, depending on the facility, and may include at a minimum resting spaces, snacks and referrals to emergency shelter. An **allied shelter service** that operates on a 24/7 basis for the duration of an extreme cold weather alert.

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**Out of the Cold (OOTC) Program** – Provides a place to sleep overnight and a meal program that is delivered by volunteers in a network of inter-denominational faith-based organizations during the winter season (November to April). Services vary, depending on the location, and may include showers, laundry, clothing, and service referrals. A City-funded community agency coordinates the services and provides staffing, cleaning services, housing supports and other supports as needed. An **allied shelter service** that is open every night during winter, on a rotating basis by location.

**Allied Shelter Service** – Emergency overnight spaces that offer a safe, warm indoor space and connections to other supports to meet the immediate needs of people experiencing homelessness. Provided to respond to increased demand for homeless shelters and/or operate from a low-barrier approach to serve people who may otherwise not access homeless shelters.

**Jail, Prison, or Remand Centre** – Correctional facilities, which cover a variety of institutions in Canada, are used to incarcerate people who have committed a crime. Jails, commonly called detention or remand centres, are used to incarcerate persons awaiting trial or those sentenced for short terms.

**Hospital/Health or Treatment Centre** – Institutions or facilities providing medical treatment and nursing care for sick or injured people. Services range from acute care, short term treatment to chronic care, or longer term care. Treatment centres, are typically residential providing services and supports for substance abuse, mental illness, or other behavioral problems.

**Immigrant** – A person who has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities.

**Refugee** – A person forced to flee their home country to escape persecution, war, or violence and has been recognized as a refugee by the Canadian government.

**Refugee Claimant** – A person who has applied for a refugee protection status while in Canada and is waiting for a decision on their claim for the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada.

**Temporary Resident** – A foreign national who is legally authorized to enter Canada for temporary purposes. The person has been found to meet the requirements to enter and/or remain in Canada as a visitor, student, worker or temporary resident permit holder.

**First Nations** – A general term for people and their ancestors and descendants who are indigenous to what is now called Canada; excluding the Metis and Inuit.

**Inuit** – Indigenous people in northern Canada, living mainly in Nunavut, Northwest Territories, northern Quebec and Labrador. Ontario has a very small Inuit population. Inuit are not covered by the Indian Act.

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**Métis** – Peoples are people of mixed Indigenous and European ancestry. The Métis National Council adopted the following definition of “Métis” in 2002: “‘Métis’ means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry and who is accepted by the Métis Nation.” Métis are now covered by the Indian Act.

**Trans Female/Trans Woman** – A person who was assigned male at birth, but identifies as female. Also known as MTF, which is an acronym for Male-to-Female.

**Trans Male/Trans Man** – A person who was assigned female at birth, but identifies as male. Also referred to as FTM, which is the acronym for Female-to-Male.

**Two-Spirit** – A term used by some Indigenous people. One of the most commonly cited understandings of the term is a person who possesses both masculine and feminine spirits; two-spirit is a gender identity, while others use it to describe their sexual orientation, and still others as a spiritual identity (and some a combination of these elements). Although two-spirit is sometimes used as an umbrella term for LGBTQ Indigenous people, it is important to note that not every Indigenous person who identifies as LGBTQ will identify as two-spirit, and not everyone who identifies as two-spirit will identify as LGBTQ.

**Non-Binary (Genderqueer)** – A self-identity category/term used to describe individuals who do not subscribe or conform to the gender binary, but identify as neither, both, or a combination of male and female.

**Asexual** – A term used to describe a person who does not experience sexual attraction to others, regardless of gender identity.

**Bisexual** – A term used to describe a person who is sexually and romantically attracted to both men and women.

**Pansexual** – When a person is sexually, romantically, and emotionally attracted to people of all gender identities and sexes.

**Questioning** – A term used to describe people who are in the process of exploring or discovering their sexual orientation or gender identity.

**Queer** – A term that has been reclaimed by LGBTQ2S people as a self-identity for a person who does not identify with binary terms that describe sexual, gender, and political identities.

**Informal Employment** – May refer to odd jobs, under the table work or working for cash. Generally, is considered to be work that is not taxed.

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**Ontario Works (OW)** – Is the acronym for Ontario Works. It is also commonly referred to as "welfare". People in Ontario who are not seniors and do not qualify for ODSP but require financial assistance are most frequently receiving Ontario Works. May sometimes also be referred to as Basic Needs Allowance or Street Allowance.

**Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)** – Is the acronym for Ontario Disability Supports Program. It is a Government of Ontario benefit that entitles people with one or more disabilities to financial assistance every month.

**Canadian Pension Plan (CPP)** – Is a Government of Canada lifetime retirement benefit for people 60 years of age and older. It replaces income when the person retires. To qualify, the person must have made at least one valid contribution to the CPP. Valid contributions include work in Canada or credits from former spouse.

**Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)** – Is a Government of Canada income assistance program that provides additional money to top up Old Age Security for low-income seniors.

**Old Age Security (OAS)** – A Government of Canada monthly income assistance program for people 65 years of age and older who have lived in Canada for at least 10 years.

**Veteran/VAC Benefits** – A Government of Canada program that includes financial assistance, health, disability and death benefits for current or former Canadian Forces members and their families.

**Canada Child Benefit (CCB)** – A Government of Canada benefit for eligible families to help them with the cost of raising children under 18 years of age.

**Subsidized Housing** – Typically, non-profit or co-operative housing where the rents are subsidized according to a qualifying household's income, also called rent-geared-to-income (RGI). Households pay about 30% of gross income on housing.

**Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) Assistance** – Financial assistance given to a housing provider so that a qualified household can pay rent based on their income.

**Housing Allowance** – Housing allowance programs provide a fixed monthly amount to qualifying households to help cover part of the cost of their rent. These programs are often time limited.

**Literacy Services** – A program that aims to help adult Canadians improve their literacy and essential skills to better prepare for, get and keep a job, and adapt and succeed at work.

**Brain Injury** – People who identify as having an acquired brain injury that happened after birth (e.g., from injury related to an accident, violence, overdose, a stroke or brain tumor).

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**Detox Services** – Also known as withdrawal management programs, refers to interventions provided to address a person's physical dependence on drugs or alcohol. Does not usually refer to other factors that impact the addiction, just the physical dependence.

**Harm Reduction Supports** – Services that assist people who have addictions. The purpose of these programs is not necessarily to stop a person from using drugs or alcohol, but to reduce the harm associated with that substance use. More common harm reduction programs include safer crack use kits, needle exchanges, condom access, and methadone.

**Reintegration Services** – Programs and supports provided to individuals exiting correctional facilities who struggle to find stable housing, employment and/or educational opportunities, and access necessary social, physical and mental health services.