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MEDIA RELEASE  
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## Homelessness in Nanaimo remains high in 2025 Point-in-Time Count

*United Way BC and partners identify hidden homelessness*

**Nanaimo, B.C.** - Homelessness remains high in Nanaimo during the 2025 Point-in-Time Count, which found 577 residents without stable housing on a single night.

United Way British Columbia (United Way BC) released the results from the December 3, 2025, count today. This year's snapshot continues to reveal the depths of 'hidden homelessness' with those living in an RV, a land-based setup, or other informal arrangements that look like stable housing on paper, but remain largely invisible and precarious day to day.

"In BC, hidden homelessness is widespread, because people don't see themselves as 'homeless,'" said Deb Hollins, Executive Director, Nanaimo Family Life Association (NFLA) and Co-Chair, Nanaimo Community Advisory Board (CAB). "This count tells us who our teams could find and confirm within one 24-hour window in December, it does not tell us how many people moved in and out of housing over the course of the year, and it does not include people who are experiencing 'hidden homelessness.' 577 is a minimum, not a complete picture."

The 2025 count, funded by the Government of Canada through Reaching Home, confirmed that both sheltered and unsheltered homelessness are present across Nanaimo. Encampments and vehicle habitation made up a significant portion of where unsheltered people were staying, while Indigenous homelessness also continues to require serious attention. The 2024 count, the latest snapshot of demographic breakdown, found Indigenous people made up approximately 35 percent of those counted while representing roughly eight per cent of Nanaimo's general population. It also revealed 48% of Indigenous respondents and 28% of non-Indigenous respondents indicated that they had experienced homelessness for the first time as a youth.

"Many BC communities still lack access to the national system for tracking homelessness, Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS), so we rely heavily on Point-in-Time Counts," said Naomi Woodland, Director, Housing Initiatives, United Way BC. "The new Tri-Lateral Alignment Project aims to change that by bringing all levels of government and the social sector together to build a more coordinated access system."

The 2025 Nanaimo Point-in-Time Homelessness Count was conducted on December 3, 2025, in alignment with the Federal Everyone Counts Point-in-Time Guide, 4th Edition. The count was led by United Way BC and Snuneymuxw First Nation Health Department and carried out through a working group that included the City of Nanaimo, Nanaimo Family Life Association (NFLA), Island Crisis Care Society (ICCS), and Nanaimo and Area Resource Services for Families (NARSF). The count took place within Snuneymuxw First Nation territory.

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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Additional information can be found at: [United Way British Columbia](https://www.uwbc.ca)

### About United Way British Columbia

United Way BC helps build healthy, caring, and inclusive communities across our province. We strengthen vital connections that support people in need with a focus on emergency response, kids and youth, seniors, mental health, food security, and housing.

[uwbc.ca](https://www.uwbc.ca)

**About Reaching Home**

The Nanaimo and Cowichan regions receive funding through the [Government of Canada's Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy](#), a community-based program, funded by the Government of Canada. Reaching Home aims to prevent and reduce homelessness across Canada. This program provides funding to urban, Indigenous, rural, and remote communities across the Nanaimo region to address homelessness.

**Interviews are available. Please contact:**

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