

# The Tri-Cities Homelessness Landscape

## How many homeless persons are there in the Tri-Cities?

It is difficult to get an exact number of people who are homeless in the Tri-Cities at any given time, as the number fluctuates. As some persons are finding alternatives to life on the street, others are becoming homeless. But, it is clear that the number of homeless persons in the Tri-Cities has increased since 2014.

Fifty five homeless persons were enumerated during the formal 24 hour regional homeless count conducted in March 2014. This number was a slight increase from the 48 homeless persons enumerated during the March 2011 regional count, which is conducted every 3 years. However, it is recognized that this is an undercount of the actual numbers. First, it is difficult to enumerate homeless persons who are “couch-surfing” with a friend or relative, and second, some homeless persons avoid being counted.

The outreach work performed by the Hope For Freedom Society has provided a more accurate estimate of the number of homeless in the Tri-Cities as it is based on day-to-day contact with homeless persons. In the fall of 2014, outreach workers estimated there were 64 homeless persons in the Tri-Cities, by the late fall of 2015 this number had increased to over 100 persons.

## Are there any emergency shelter spaces in the Tri-Cities for homeless persons?

Emergency shelter and housing for persons homeless in the Tri-Cities is available at the Coquitlam shelter & transitional housing facility at 3030 Gordon Ave., Coquitlam. The facility, operated by RainCity Housing, includes 30 emergency shelter beds, 30 transitional housing suites and 30 extreme weather beds in a dormitory setting during periods of severe winter weather. For more information, visit [www.tricityshomelessness.ca/services/shelter](http://www.tricityshomelessness.ca/services/shelter).

## What is being done to meet the needs of homeless persons in the Tri-Cities?

### Shelter

Emergency shelter is available at the Coquitlam shelter & transitional housing facility, 3030 Gordon Ave, Coquitlam. The shelter program provides an opportunity for homeless persons to be connected with services and resources currently available in the Tri-Cities and beyond.

### Outreach Services

The [Hope For Freedom Society](#) (HFFS) operates a program of outreach to persons homeless or at risk of homelessness in the Tri-Cities under contract to BC Housing. Two outreach workers seek out homeless persons where they live, establishing contact, developing rapport and connecting them with available resources and services when they are ready. HFFS also operates a Homeless Resource Centre with shower facilities, counselling and job search support. Contact: Lisa Batista at 604-830-1528.

The [SHARE Food Bank](#) depot at Trinity United Church, 2211 Prairie Ave, Port Coquitlam which operates Wednesdays from 12 – 2 PM provides assistance to homeless persons who attend the food bank. Contact: Joyce Lissimore, 604-612-0778 or [lissimore@telus.net](mailto:lissimore@telus.net)

### Other Services

For information on food, clothing, laundry and shower services available to homeless persons in the Tri-Cities, visit [www.tricityshomelessness.ca/services](http://www.tricityshomelessness.ca/services)

For information on making a financial donation:

Visit [www.tricityshomelessness.ca/making-a-financial-donation](http://www.tricityshomelessness.ca/making-a-financial-donation)