

## MANAGEMENT REPORT

**Date:** January 10, 2023  
**To:** Social Services Sub-committee  
**From:** John Ritz, Supervisor of Homelessness and Housing Stability  
Kim McElroy, Director of Social Services  
**Report #:** SOC23-002  
**Attachments:** None

---

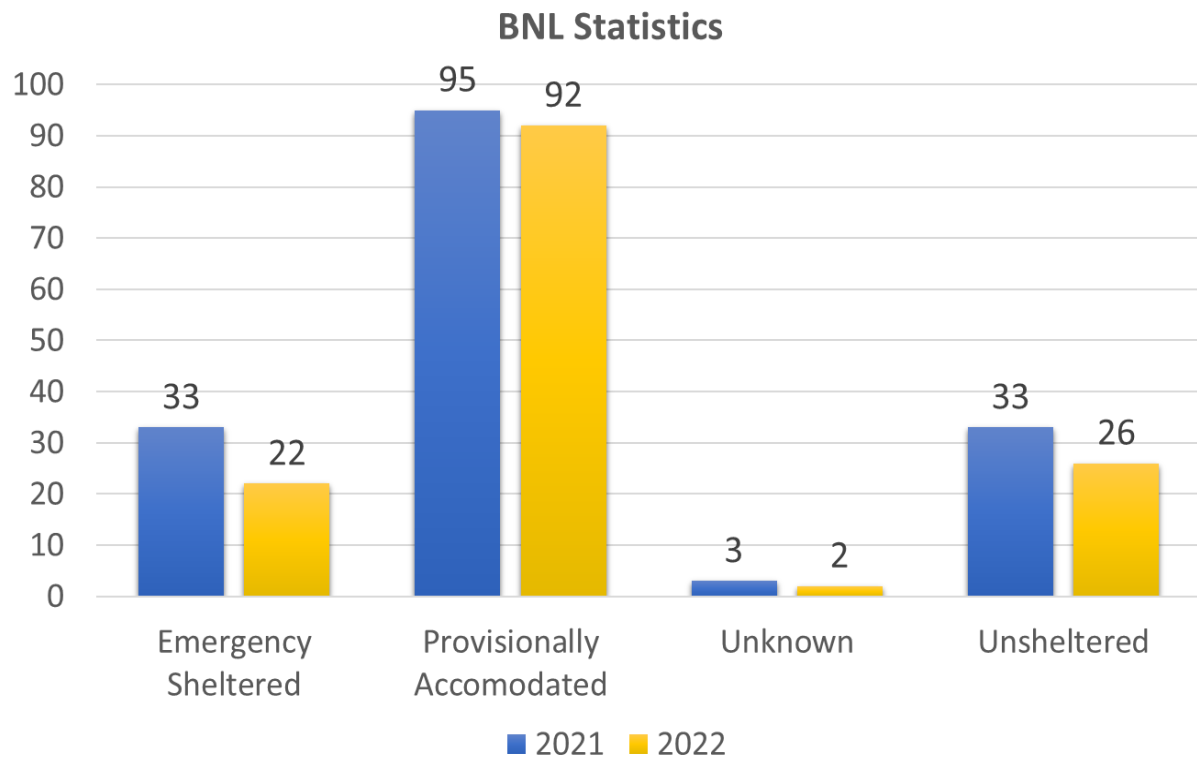
**Title:** Homelessness Division Update

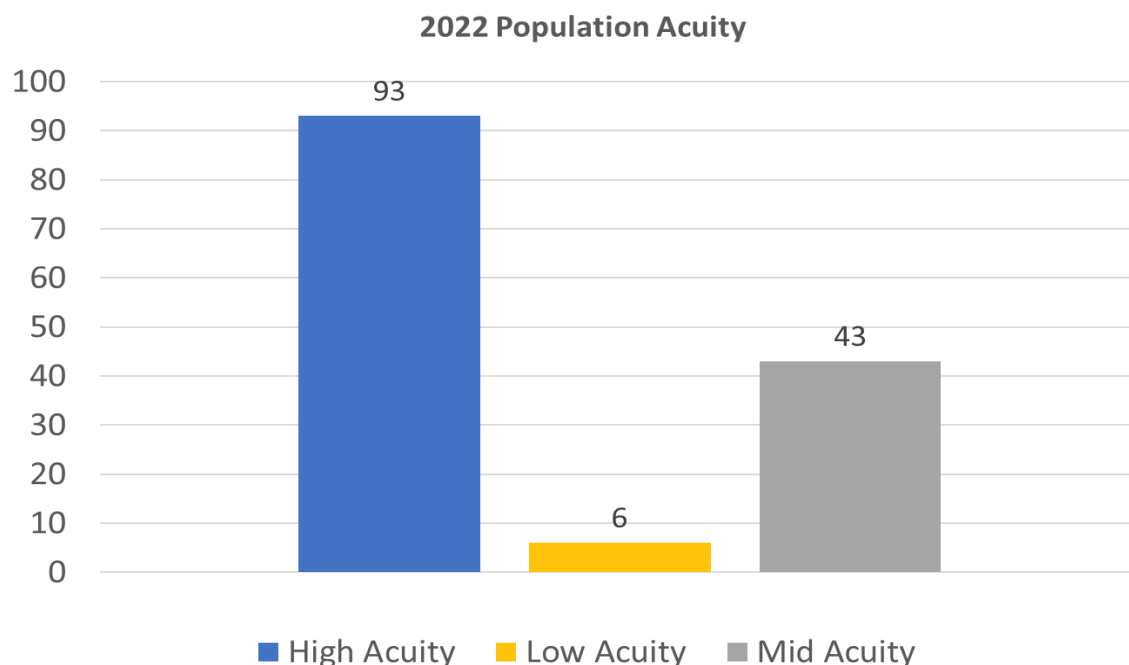
**Objective:** To provide an overview of the current state of homelessness in the City of Stratford, Town of St. Marys, and the County of Perth and review the impact made in reducing homelessness as the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM).

**Background:** The City of Stratford's Social Services Department and our community partners remain committed to supporting individuals experiencing homelessness through a variety of locally responsive strategies. The strategies are outlined further in this report and have been detailed in previous reports, SOC22-003 and SOC22-012. These options include temporary accommodations through emergency motel stays, supporting participants in locating permanent housing, street outreach and intensive case management services. To better understand our current demographic, the CMSM operates a real time list of everyone experiencing homelessness in our service area through our local By-Name List (BNL). This report will highlight the current levels of homelessness and highlight the different types of homelessness.

**Analysis:** The City of Stratford is committed to ending chronic homelessness by 2025, keeping in line with the Government of Ontario's target. There has been a reduction in homelessness over the past year, totalling 13.4% according to data captured on our local By-Name List. Currently there are a total of 22 individuals accessing emergency shelter through the local motel system. The individuals receive bi-weekly check-ins from the City of Stratford's Outreach team, and receive further assistance through the Connections Centre drop-in space and outreach team. Services being provided include not only the provision of emergency shelter, but also includes provision of food and clothing supports, support with achieving document readiness, assistance completing housing searches and applications, as well as connection to financial supports through the local Ontario Works office. According to our By-Name List, there are currently 142 individuals and families experiencing homelessness across our Stratford, St Marys, and Perth County, with 93 high acuity individuals amongst this population of whom would

meet the criteria for permanent supportive housing. Through collaboration with local service providers involved with our Coordinated Access Leadership and Frontline Outreach working groups, as well as the development and implementation of internal policies and procedures that support clients experiencing homelessness, we continue to work towards the goal of reducing our Local By-Name List and achieving functional zero in our community.





Low Acuity: No housing intervention required

Mid Acuity: Assess for rapid rehousing

High Acuity: Assess for permanent supportive housing/ housing first<sup>1</sup>

**Financial Impact to Current Year Operating Budget:** The homelessness prevention strategies are funded using both Ministry and Municipal funding which has been included in the 2023 Draft Budget. Prior to 2023, homelessness response initiatives were reflected in both the Housing and Ontario Works budgets. In 2023 these amounts were centralized into a newly created budget specific to Homelessness Prevention.

**Financial impact on future year operating budget:** There may be future financial implications depending on levels of provincial funding available.

### **Alignment with Strategic Priorities:**

#### **Strengthening our Plans, Strategies and Partnerships**

Partnering with the community to make plans for our collective priorities in arts, culture, heritage and more. Communicating clearly with the public around our plans and activities.

#### **Widening our Economic Opportunities**

<sup>1</sup> *OrgCode Consulting Inc.* 2015 *VI-SPDAT*. Retrieved from <https://pehqc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/VI-SPDAT-v2.01-Single-US-Fillable.pdf>

Strengthening Stratford's economy by developing, attracting and retaining a diversity of businesses and talent.

**Alignment with One Planet Principles:**

**Health and Happiness**

Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing.

**Equity and Local Economy**

Creating safe, equitable places to live and work which support local prosperity and international fair trade.

**Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Homelessness Division Update" (SOC23-002), be received for information.**

<b>Prepared by:</b>	John Ritz, Supervisor of Homelessness and Housing Stability
<b>Recommended by:</b>	Kim McElroy, Director of Social Services
	Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer