



Northwest Community Legal Clinic  
206 Scott Street  
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September 18, 2018

Town of Fort Frances Mayor and Council  
320 Portage Ave  
Fort Frances, ON P9A 3P9



Greetings,

I am writing to you on behalf of a collective of agencies that service the Rainy River district's most vulnerable population: individuals and families experiencing homelessness. A committee dedicated to finding solutions to homelessness in our district has been working toward strengthening social supports as well as looking for immediate and preventative solutions.

Is homelessness in Fort Frances?

In short, yes. The results of the 2018 Homeless Enumeration tell us that this April, there were 82 homeless individuals living in our community and 111 living in the Rainy River District in total. This summer, our community has seen homelessness move from a largely hidden issue to a more visible one.

What can be done about it?

We challenge you to join us for "The Longest Night of the Year." We want you to be one of 82 community members, leaders and business owners to be part of this event, which will take place overnight on the 200 block of Scott St. sidewalk (near the Northwest Community Legal Clinic) on October 12<sup>th</sup> from 9pm-6am.

More than just an awareness event, we will be fundraising to make a shelter in our community a reality. Our committee has secured a space for a temporary shelter, but it is in need of some modifications to accommodate a shelter and staff to oversee shelter occupants. Those in attendance will have the opportunity to assist in fundraising efforts by asking their network to pledge them.

For you, spending the night on Scott Street might be the "Longest Night of the Year," but for 82 people in Fort Frances, this is just one of 365.

To confirm your attendance or for more information, please call (807) 274-5327 ext. 29 or email me at [noblet@lao.on.ca](mailto:noblet@lao.on.ca).

I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Tammy Noble, Community Legal Worker

*on behalf of the homelessness committee which includes representatives from:*

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| • RRDSSAB                                    | • Metis Nation of Ontario             |
| • Fort Frances Jail                          | • Northwestern Health Unit            |
| • Community Living                           | • Northwest Community Legal Clinic    |
| • NCDS                                       | • Salvation Army                      |
| • Rainy River District Victim Services       | • Probation and Parole                |
| • United Native Friendship Centre            | • Riverside Health Care Facilities    |
| • Canadian Mental Health Association         | • Women's Shelter of Hope             |
| • Kenora-Rainy River Child & Family Services | • Representatives from local churches |