
Subject: independent survey
Attachments: Prince George Homeless-Displaced Persons Survey.pdf

From: Will Lewis Redacted
Sent: Saturday, June 12, 2021 2:19 PM
To: mayorandcouncil <mayorandcouncil@princegeorge.ca>
Subject: independent survey

Hi,

I recently ran a survey in PG to ask people about civic issues primarily related to homelessness. It was at best crude and amateurish, but I believe that there's information and/or insight that may be of some value. I've attached the results for those who are interested. Hopefully the 'baby doesn't get thrown out with the bath water'. 😊

Thank you for your efforts,

Will Lewis

**Prince George
Homeless / Displaced
Person Survey
May 29 - June 11, 2021**

Created and conducted by Will Lewis

This independently created and conducted survey was done by myself, Will Lewis, a citizen of Prince George, in order to find out what other people in the community thought about certain civic issues. It allowed people to anonymously share their feelings, and helped me to gain a wide and honest overview of public opinion. For the purposes of this survey, homeless and displaced persons are used interchangeably.

The survey was neither professional, nor scientific. Justifiably, it drew intense criticism, but it also received expressed gratitude. My apologies for unconscious biases and questions that could have (and should have) been worded in a much better manner. Especially questions 7, 8, 25 and 27. Hopefully my mistakes will inspire more professional efforts.

The survey ran for 14 days, from May 29th until June 11th, 2021, and was distributed only through social media, It contained a total of thirty six questions. No personal information was collected. Questions about sex and age were for statistical purposes only.

The survey received a total of 530 participants.

Age Ranges - 525 responses:

0-17 - 0.6%
18-25 - 8.6%
26- 35 - 21.9%
36-55 - 49.3%
56-70 - 17.9%
71 or older - 1.7%

Gender - 523 responses:

Female - 72.3%
Male - 26%
LGBTQ+ - 1.7%

THE RESULTS

Question 1 - 524 responses:

Do you believe that homeless/displaced persons in Prince George are a problem?

Yes - 93.5%
No - 6.5%

Question 2 - 514 responses:

If you believe homeless/displaced persons are a problem, using a scale of one to ten, with ten being the largest, how large of a problem do you feel that they are?

0 - 2.3%
1 - 0.6%
2 - 0.4%
3 - 1%
4 - 0.8%
5 - 2.9%
6 - 5.3%
7 - 14.6%
8 - 27%
9 - 9.5%
10 - 35.6%

Question 2 - 514 responses:

If you believe homeless/displaced persons are a problem, using a scale of one to ten, with ten being the largest, how large of a problem do you feel that they are?

0 - 2.3%
1 - 0.6%
2 - 0.4%
3 - 1%
4 - 0.8
5 - 2.9
6 - 5.3%
7 - 14.6%
8 - 27%
9 - 9.5%
10 - 35.6%

Question 3 - 521 responses:

Who do you believe homeless/displaced people are?

Addicts - 11.3%
Mentally ill/injured - 5%
Criminals - 0.6%
People with no money - 1%
The working poor - 0.6%
Bums/Freeloaders - 2.7%
Persons with multiple issues - 53.9 %
All of the above - 24.9%

Question 4 - 526 responses:

Which issue do you feel is the 'major cause' of homeless/displaced persons?

Lack of affordable housing - 7%
Lack of appropriate housing 3.6%
Economic conditions - 0.4%
Mental issues - 7.2%
Addiction -12%
Bad choices - 5.5%
Laziness - 1.1%
Lifestyle choice - 5.9%
Multiple issues 43.5%
All of the above - 13.8%

Question 5 - 525 responses:

Who do you feel is responsible for resolving the homeless/displaced person issue?

The city of Prince George - 5.3%
The regional district of Fraser-Fort George - 0.4%
The government of British Columbia - 4.4%
The government of Canada - 4.2%
All of the above - 85.7%

Question 6 - 519 responses:

Who do you feel is responsible for paying to resolve the homeless/displaced person issue?

- The city of Prince George - 2.9%
- The regional district of Fraser-Fort George - 0.1%
- The government of British Columbia - 8.5%
- The government of Canada - 11%
- All of the above - 77.5%

Question 7 - 520 responses:

What should be done to resolve the homeless/displaced persons issue? (choose all that apply)

- Nothing - 1.2%
- Run them out of town - 10.2%
- Put them in jail - 12.1%
- Provide temporary housing - 38.5%
- Provide permanent housing - 52.1%
- Establish a tent city - 17.7%
- Convert a park/school/business to provide housing - 34.8%
- Force them to live in provided housing - 20.2%
- Give them their own community outside of town - 24.4%

Question 8 - 518 responses:

Where do you feel homeless/displaced persons should live? (choose all that apply)

- Wherever they can - 18.1%
- In tents - 9.3%
- In old RVs and trailers with toilets and showers - 15.6%
- In new tiny homes - 27.4%
- In motels - 12.9%
- In low cost public housing - 62.7%
- In apartment buildings - 19.7%
- In shared homes - 25.3%
- In converted business locations and/or unused schools - 38.2%
- Wherever they want - 16.2%
- In their own community - 34.4%

Question 9 - 522 responses:

Should homeless/displaced persons be forcibly relocated?

- Yes - 48.3%
- No - 51.7%

Question 10 - 284 responses:

If you believe homeless/displaced persons should be forcibly relocated,
where should homeless/displaced persons be relocated to?

- Down the street - 0.5%
- Dispersed throughout town - 12%
- Outside of town - 14.4%
- In their own assigned part of town - 40.8%
- In another town - 4.2%
- In their own town - 20.4%
- In jail - 7.7%

Question 11 - 524 responses:

Should homeless/displaced persons be offered help?

Yes - 95.2%

No - 4.8%

Question 12 - 521 responses:

Should displaced persons be forced to accept help?

Yes - 39.7%

No - 60.3%

Question 13 - 516 responses:

If you believe homeless/displaced persons should be helped, on a scale of one to ten, with ten being whatever they need, how much help should they get?

0 - 2.5%

1 - 0.8%

2 - 1.9%

3 - 2.9%

4 - 2.3%

5 - 12.8%

6 - 9.3%

7 - 11.6%

8 - 17.6%

9 - 4.8%

10 - 33.3%

Question 14 - 526 responses:

How soon should homeless/displaced persons receive help?

Immediately - 58.4%

When ready to be helped - 29.5%

Within one week - 2.3%

Within one month - 3.2%

Within six months - 2.7%

Within one year - 2.1

Never - 1.9%

Question 15 - 517 responses:

How long should help continue?

One day - 1.7%

One week - 0.4%

One month - 2.7%

Six months - 9.9%

One year - 12.8%

Five years - 4.8%

Ten years - 0.4%

Indefinitely - 31.5%

Until they get a job/sober - 35.8%

Question 16 - 512 responses:

What should be done with homeless/displaced persons who refuse help and still create problems?

Nothing - 16%

Forced intervention - 40.8%

Jail - 22.7%

Banned from city - 20.5%

Question 17 - 516 responses:

Should there be public spaces provided for daytime use by displaced persons?

Yes - 64.9%

No - 35.1%

Question 18 - 524 responses:

Should the city install public washrooms throughout the downtown core?

Yes - 60.7%

No - 39.3%

Question 19 - 513 responses:

Should loitering be illegal?

Yes - 63.9%

No - 36.1%

Question 20 - 520 responses:

Should police take greater action against public nuisances?

Yes - 78.7%

No - 21.3%

Question 21 - 524 responses:

Should police take greater action against vandalism?

Yes - 90.8%

No - 9.2%

Question 22 - 521 responses:

Should penalties for vandalism be harsher?

Yes - 82.1%

No - 17.9%

Question 23 - 523 responses:

Should property crime violations be harsher?

Yes - 88.7%

No - 11.3%

Question 24 - 514 responses:

Are police doing enough about crime?

Yes - 24.1%

No - 75.9%

Question 25 - 526 responses:

What do you think should be done with the homeless/displaced by addiction?

(choose all that apply)

- Nothing - 2.5%
- Counselling - 71.9%
- Medical treatment - 73.6%
- Voluntary rehabilitation - 64.3%
- Forced rehabilitation - 47%
- Jail - 18.6%
- Give them free drugs - 16.9%

Question 26 - 510 responses:

What do you think is the best solution to crime being committed to acquire drugs?

- Stronger retail and residential security measures - 5.7%
- Greater police presence - 14.3%
- Stricter enforcement of drug laws - 10.8%
- Harsher laws - 16.1%
- Mandatory medical treatment - 23.1%
- Longer jail sentences - 12.4%
- Provide them with free drugs - 17.6%

Question 27 - 522 responses:

What should be done with 'prolific' petty criminals? (choose all that apply)

- Nothing - 1%
- Harsher laws - 46%
- Longer penalties - 63.4%
- Public broadcast of identity - 33.1%
- Counselling and assistance - 61.5%

Question 28 - 523 responses:

Have you ever been a homeless/displaced person?

- Yes - 16.3%
- No - 83.1%
- I am currently homeless - 0.6%

Question 29 - 525 responses:

Do you personally know a homeless/displaced person?

- Yes - 51%
- No - 49%

Question 30 - 524 responses:

Have you personally tried to help a homeless/displaced person?

- Yes - 66.2%
- No - 33.8%

Question 31 - 414 responses:

If you have personally tried to help a homeless/displaced person, were you successful?

- Yes - 11.6%
- No - 48.1%
- Somewhat - 40.3%

Question 32 - 523 responses:

Using a scale of one to ten, with ten being very willing, how willing would you be to share your home with a homeless/displaced person?

0 - 65.8%
1 - 4.8%
2 - 5.2%
3 - 4.2%
4 - 2.7%
5 - 6.7%
6 - 1.7%
7 - 3.1%
8 - 1.9%
9 - 0.6%
10 - 3.4%

Question 33 - 527 responses:

Using a scale of one to ten, with 10 being very willing, how willing would you be to have homeless/displaced persons living in your neighbourhood?

0 - 32.4%
1 - 4.4%
2 - 3.2%
3 - 4%
4 - 3%
5 - 16.3%
6 - 4%
7 - 5.5%
8 - 6.6%
9 - 2.3%
10 - 18.2%

Question 34 - 522 responses:

On a scale of one to ten, with ten being the greatest, what priority should resolving the homeless/displaced persons issue be?

0 - 1.1%
1 - 1%
2 - 0.2%
3 - 1.1%
4 - 0.8%
5 - 6.5%
6 - 4%
7 - 12.3%
8 - 18.2%
9 - 8.6%
10 - 46.2%

And that concluded the survey.