# 1. PROGRESS ON THE TARGETS OF THE 5-YEAR PLAN, 2020-2025

The *5-Year Plan* launched by End Homelessness Winnipeg in 2019 sets out 7 measurable targets for preventing and ending homelessness in Winnipeg by 2025. End Homelessness Winnipeg monitors and advance progress on these targets.

## 1. CREATE 1,340 additional housing units based on identified local housing needs

**Context: 1,340** is the low estimate of units needed by 2025 in End Homelessness Winnipeg's 2018 *Housing Models and Development Framework*. The 2020 *City of Winnipeg Comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment* identifies the need for **4,125** new units by 2025.

Progress:

| Type of Housing | Target | # Of Units Created, 2019-23 | # Of New Units in Development as of June 30, 2023 | # Of Additional New Units Needed by 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Transitional | 225 | 161 | 182 | -118 |
| Supportive | 200 | 139 | 83 | -22 |
| Social (RGI) | 470 | -25 | 97 | 398 |
| Private Below-Market Rent | 450 | 179 | 190 | 81 |
| **Total** | **1345** | **479** | **370** | **339** |

## 2. HOUSE 1,519 people experiencing absolute homelessness or provisionally housed

**Context: 1,519** was the number of people encountered experiencing homelessness encountered by the *2018 Winnipeg Street Census* . At least as many **1,256** people were encountered during the *2022 Winnipeg Street Census*.

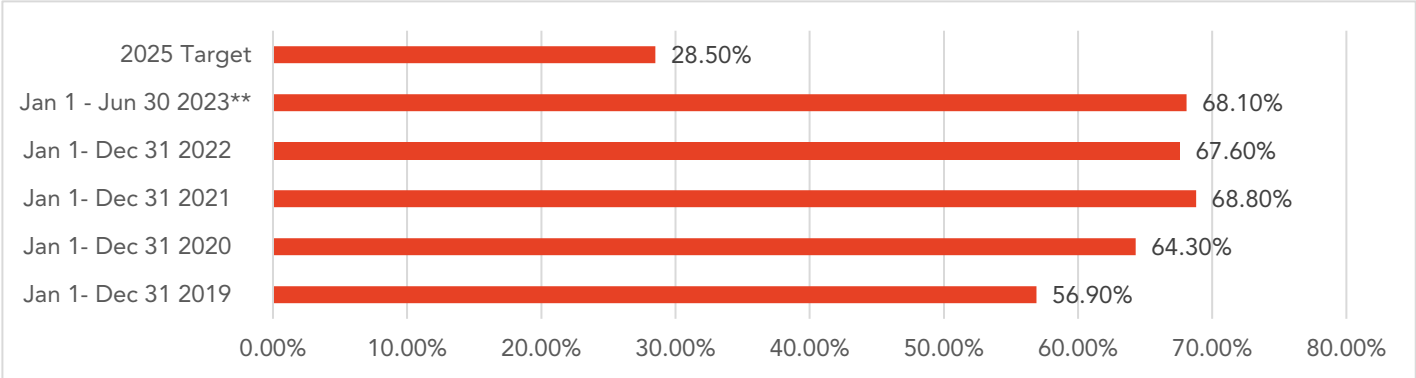
**Progress: 835** people were housed from homelessness by Reaching Home funded programs in 2022-2023, amounting to **2695** people housed since the launch of the 5-Year Plan. People housed in 2022-2023 were supported by Housing First and Non-Housing First programs at the following Reaching Home-funded agencies:

| Housing First (141) | Non-Housing First (694)<br>*These programs house women, men, gender diverse adults, youth and families who do not require intensive Housing First supports |
|---|---|
| Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre | Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre |
| Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs – EAGLE Urban Transition Centre | Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs – EAGLE Urban Transition Centre |
| Siloam Mission | Siloam Mission |
| Resource Assistance for Youth | Resource Assistance for Youth |
| The Link | The Link |
| West Central Women's Resource Centre | West Central Women's Resource Centre |
| Mount Carmel Clinic | North End Women's Centre |
| Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre | Ikwe Widdjiitiwin |
| CMHA Manitoba and Winnipeg | Wahbung Abinoonjiag |

## 3. REDUCE Indigenous overrepresentation in emergency shelters by 50%

**Context:** Indigenous people are over-represented in Winnipeg's emergency shelter system, comprising more than half of emergency shelter users but only 12% of the city's overall population.

**Progress:** Representation of Indigenous clients at adult emergency shelters and safe spaces slightly decreased 2021 as in the previous year. It is possible that some of this increase is due to changes in self-reporting of Indigeneity. However, it is important to note that 2022 data does not include numbers for N'Dinawemak, an Indigenous led 24/7 safe space that opened late in 2021, as they are still not on HIFIS. Significant work remains to address Indigenous over-representation in homelessness as is still 38.99% over parity.

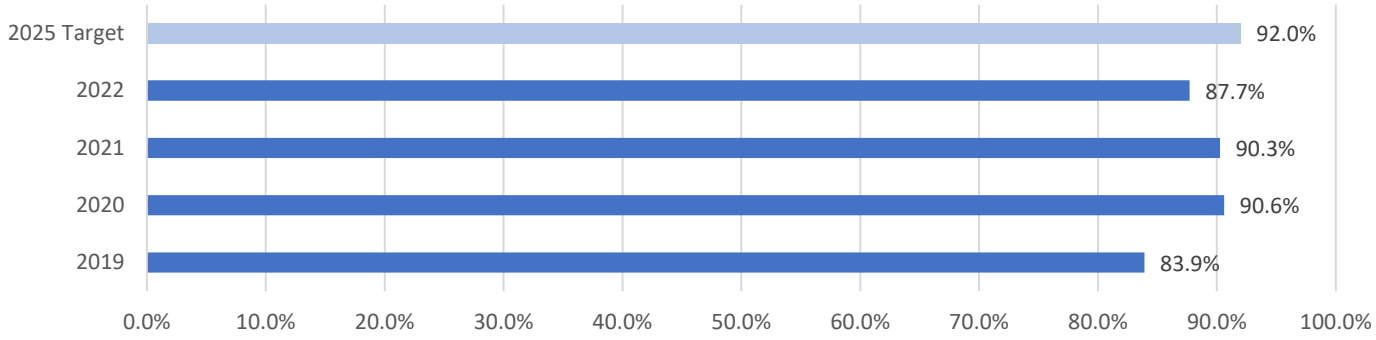



*Unique client records where Indigenous Status was recorded as "Unknown" were excluded from the Total Unique Client counts for the purposes of this calculation
*Shelters include Main Street Project, Siloam Mission and Salvation Army emergency shelters, Salvation Army family shelter and transitional housing.
** Partial year statistics are not always comparable to full year results

## 4. SHORTEN lengths of stays in emergency shelters so that 92% are less than 10 days

**Context:** Shorter Shelter Stays are associated with successful transitions into housing and briefer experiences of homelessness.

**Progress:** The percentage of emergency shelter stays that were less than 10 days has improved/increased from the baseline year but fell from 2020 and 2021. This statistic is intended to help demonstrate the degree to which shorter stays in shelter are associated with successful transitions into housing or connections to resources and other supports.




*Stays at one or more Shelters represents the number of stays with a given length, not the number of individuals with stays of that length. Shelters include Main Street Project, Siloam Mission and Salvation Army emergency shelters as well as Salvation Army family shelter and transitional housing.

## 5. ELIMINATE entries to homelessness among released inmates and youth who are in CFS care or disengaging from school

**Context:** The impact of homelessness is significantly shaped by the inflow of individuals from various institutions and systems, including the justice system and Child and Family Services (CFS). The 2022 Winnipeg Street Census provided compelling evidence linking homelessness to connections with CFS and limited educational attainment. The survey revealed that over half of the respondents had a history of involvement with CFS, and a majority experienced homelessness for the first time at age 18 when they aged out of the care system. Moreover, more than half of the respondents had not completed their high school education.

Ideally, data regarding this target population should be obtained from the relevant government institutions. However, we have yet to receive the requested data from these sources.

**Progress:** The number of adults who had stays in emergency shelters and were discharged from various institutions and systems continued to decrease, similar to the trend observed in the previous year. Although it is challenging to precisely quantify the inflows, these figures can provide some insight into the effectiveness of prevention initiatives implemented in partnership with Corrections, Employment and Income Assistance (EIA), Child and Family Services (CFS), Health, Community Living Disability Services (CLDS), and community agencies. These initiatives appear to be making a positive impact on reducing the number of individuals transitioning from systems to emergency shelters.

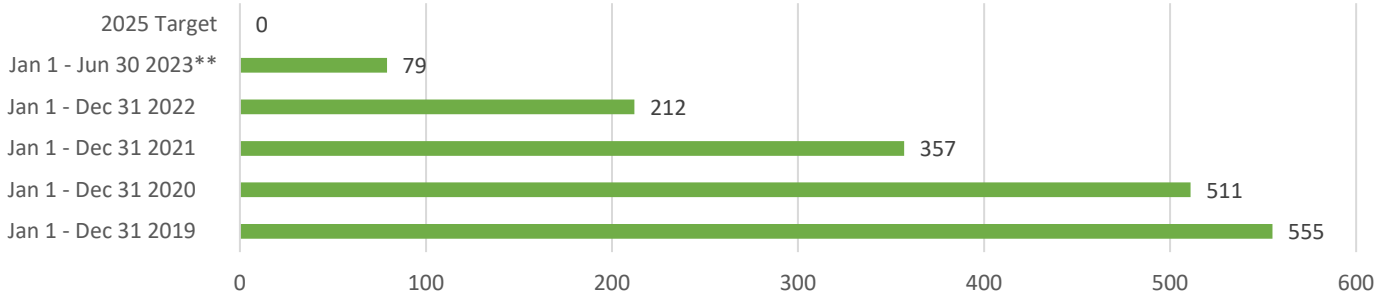
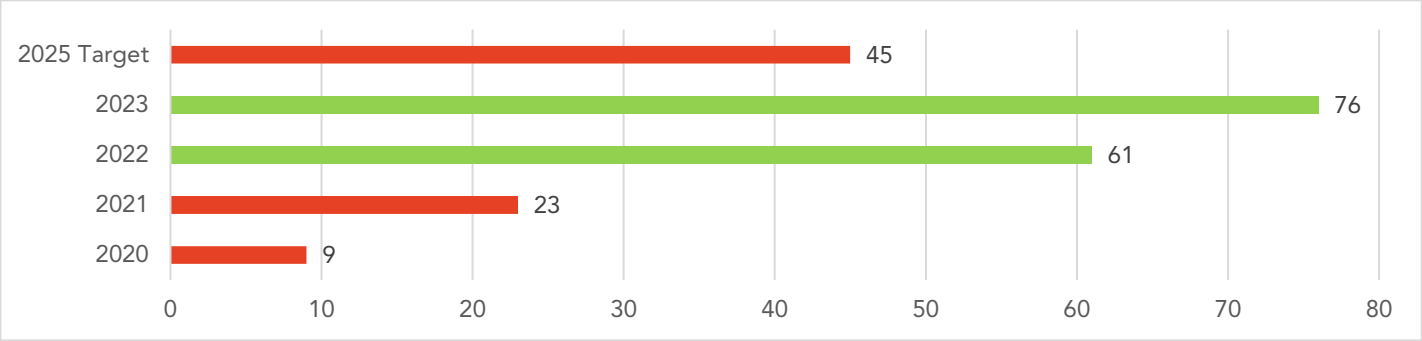



*Chart displays Total Stays at Emergency Shelters where "Reason for Service" was Release/Discharge from Corrections, Agency Placement (CFS), or Treatment (Medical, Psychiatric, Other). A Stay is defined as a minimum 4 hour overnight stay between 7pm-7am
*Limitations: People do not always disclose reason(s) for staying at a shelter; only one selection was allowed although there may be multiple reasons for service; information was not always captured when clients booked in; staff usage of this field is increasing, which could appear as an increase in the number of people discharged from institutions/systems; People whose Reason for Service was "Unknown/Did Not Ask" were not included
*Shelters include Main Street Project, Siloam Mission and Salvation Army emergency shelters, Salvation Army family shelter and transitional housing.
** Partial year statistics are not always comparable to full year results

6. EXPAND use of HIFIS to 45 homeless-serving organizations and programs as part of a coordinated access system

**Context:** A robust shared information system is key to progress on ending homelessness.

**Progress:** Total Number of programs and organizations onboarded to HIFIS exceeded the 5-Year Target in the first quarter of 2021, facilitated by the implementation of Coordinated Access and new partnerships with family violence and outreach services.




7. PREVENT 90% of those served by Coordinated Access from re-entering homelessness

**Context:** Successful transitions to housing will help measure the success of Coordinated Access.

**Progress:** *Naatamooskakowin, Winnipeg's Coordinated Access system*, launched March 31, 2022. Brandon and Thompson have been trained on the use of HIFIS.

## 2. PROGRESS ON ACTIONS SUPPORTING THE 5-YEAR PLAN, 2020-2025

The *5-Year Plan* launched by End Homelessness Winnipeg in 2019 aligns the goals of the *10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Winnipeg* with the *directives of Reaching Home*, the Reaching Home *Winnipeg Community Plan*, and data gathered on homelessness in Winnipeg since the ***10-Year Plan*** was launched in 2014. Progress made during the 2022-2023 fiscal year on specific actions related to the targets of the 5-Year Plan are highlighted in the table below.

| 2025 TARGET | ACTIONS | PROGRESS | NEXT STEPS |
|---|---|---|---|
| CREATE **1,340** additional housing units based on identified local housing needs | Build fund development capacity by establishing a financing model called the Cost-Avoidance Financial Model for new housing | Government and philanthropic funders, developers and investors have been engaged on the model. Federal and City officials are receptive of the model. | Re-engage Provincial officials post 2023 election. Organize a summit with key decision makers to facilitate adoption of the model and the implication of each level of government. |
| | Develop a master plan to create 1,340 units | Assessing opportunities, needs and best practices | Updated Framework to include Master Plan and costing |
| | Leverage partnerships with developers/ funders/service providers to build housing units | Partners engaged through Housing Supply Action Committee and *Astum Api Niikinaahk* | Leverage partnerships to implement Master Plan; partner with SCO and Treaty 1 on new housing initiatives |
| | Engage governments to meet homeless needs through funding and policies for new housing. | *Kíkininaw Óma Strategy* sets recommendations for government to address housing needs; monitors progress yearly | Continue to engage governments on new low-income housing needs and to track new supply. |
| | Collaborate on Strategy implementation with City of Winnipeg | CoW has new Homelessness Advisor to the Mayor | Collaborate on new strategies with the CoW |
| | Leverage partnerships with major providers of rent-geared-to-income housing | Partnering with Manitoba Housing and MNPHA | Leverage partnerships for new Master Plan |
| HOUSE **1,519** people experiencing absolute homelessness or provisionally housed | Established a centralized inventory of comprehensive, reliable inventory of available housing units | *Coordinated Access (CA)* system has developed a centralized inventory of housing resources | Monitoring and updating CA inventory as needed to keep current. |
| | CA has developed a system that streamlines the process for people experiencing homelessness to access housing and supports | Continued monitoring, evaluation and updating. | Continued support through Community of Practice, HIFIS for measuring outcomes |

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| | Produced *24/7 Safe Spaces* report and *Kíkininaw Óma Strategy*; City, Provincial and Federal funding commitments made for 24/7 Safe Spaces | Working with providers to continue providing backbone support for 24/7 Safe Spaces, and Engagement with the CA system | Working with providers to update the 24/7 Safe Spaces and Kikininaw Oma Strategy post-Covid-19. |
| **REDUCE** Indigenous overrepresentation in emergency shelters by **50%** | Wahbung Abinoonjiag is now open. | Wahbung Abinoonjiag is now open. | Working with partners to complete other construction projects |
| | Partner with Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) and others to implement the Strategy for Ending First Nations Homelessness | AMC is a key partner in Astum Api Niikinaahk; N'Dinawemak; and the CA system, Naatamooskakowin. | Awaiting AMC release of the Strategy |
| | Collaborate with federal and provincial partners to identify and address jurisdictional gaps impacting Indigenous homelessness | Engaging Justice, CFS, CLDS and Health to address homelessness among Indigenous people exiting systems | Pilot project: School-Based, Early Family Prevention Strategies (Project – with each unique school division) |
| 2025 TARGET | ACTIONS | PROGRESS | NEXT STEPS |
| **REDUCE** Indigenous overrepresentation in emergency shelters by **50%** | *Astum Api Niikinaahk* Hoped to welcome its first tenants in Summer 2022 | *Astum Api Niikinaahk* welcomed its first tenants in November 2022 | Partner with Indigenous organizations to create a collaborative network addressing housing affordability, access, innovative housing, and funding models. |
| | Partner with Indigenous organizations to build culturally appropriate approaches, systems, and supports for people exiting homelessness | Director, Housing Supports is part of a national network developing and piloting an Indigenous pathway for intake to CA systems | Continued evaluation and monitoring from an Indigenous perspective. |

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| | Partner with Indigenous organizations to build housing and increase access to housing | Partnered with Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, Wahbung Abinoonjiaag, Shawenim Abinoojii, AMC, AHWC, and other Indigenous organizations on housing development and housing supports | Sustain and build partnerships to develop transitional housing for women, Two-Spirit and nonbinary adults and families fleeing violence and future initiatives |
| SHORTEN lengths of stays in emergency shelters so that 92% are less than 10 days | Support a continuum of housing types and services: supportive, cultural, transitional, community etc. | Engaging Housing Supply Action Committee to explore diverse models and supports | Diversify Reaching Home investments in housing services and capital projects |
| | Work with emergency shelters to become more housing focussed | Supporting engagement with the *Shelter Transformation Network* | Increase housing supply and housing services at shelters |
| | Transfer provincial homeless programs and subsidies serving Winnipeg to End Homelessness Winnipeg | Implementing Canada-Manitoba Housing Benefit (CMHB) homelessness stream and Building Services | Over 800 tenants are supported by the CMHB, with plans to build capacity to increase this number in 2022-23. |
| | Educate the public on issues related to homelessness: reduce stigma, mobilize support for inclusion/integration | Monthly newsletter reached over 2000 subscribers; staff were featured in more than 40 news media stories and a reach of over 5000 per post. | Continue implementing Communications Strategy and raising public awareness |
| | Finalize long-term plan to prevent discharge from provincial corrections into homelessness | Since 2020 demonstration project at Headingly Women's, EIA intake is being streamlined. | Shift to focus on preventing exits from CLDS services to homelessness. |
| ELIMINATE Entries to homelessness among released inmates and youth who are in CFS | Work with Winnipeg School Division and youth on strategies to prevent homelessness among students disengaging from school | Discussions initiated with WSD, CFS, EIA, CLDS, Inclusion Winnipeg, Abilities Manitoba and youth on prevention strategies | Engaging youth and disability services sectors on prevention strategies and models |
| | Determine numbers and demographics of those being discharged from institutional settings into absolute homelessness | Survey at Headingly Women's revealed more than 80% of respondents had no housing when released | Working on programs preventing exits from CLDS services to homelessness. |

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| care or disengaging from school | Responsive evaluation of Agreements with Young Adults (AYAs) | The intent of this project is to better understand the needs of complex, high-risk Indigenous youth receiving provincial child and family services, for the purpose of improving youth outcomes, including attachment to housing, resources and community. | Currently in the designing phase. Next steps are approvals and implementation phase. |
| 2025 TARGET | ACTIONS | PROGRESS | NEXT STEPS |
| EXPAND<br>Use of HIFIS to **45** homeless-serving organizations and programs as part of a coordinated access system | Integrate shelter, Housing First HIFIS systems | Systems integrated in 2019-2020; onboarded new agencies; exceeded target to expand HIFIS | Continue to onboard priority services, working toward provincewide system |
| | Develop a plan/budget for CA system | Budget and plan developed in 2019-20; updated in 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 | Finalize budget for CA system operations, 2023-2024 |
| | Implement CA using standardized intake, assessment tools | CA system has been implemented using the VI-SPDAT standardized intake and assessment tool | Winnipeg CA staff are partnering with other Indigenous organizations to develop and pilot an Indigenous pathway for intake to CA systems |
| | Implemented by-name list in HIFIS in 2022. | CA Council consulted with stakeholders on list criteria and protocols | Continual updating and revising the By-name-list |
| PREVENT<br>**90%** of those served by coordinated access from re-entering homelessness | Evaluate practices, policies contributing to people returning to homelessness | Working with Justice, CFS, CLDS, Education and Health to identify policies and practices | Implementing and evaluating new process to reconnect CLDS clients with their supports when they enter shelters |
| | Community Coordinated Response Process and eviction prevention (Process) | The intent of this process development is to better understand tenant rights and the processes involved when buildings are at risk of closure, and to mobilize and coordinate resources when tenants in low- | Currently meeting with stakeholders and collaborators. |

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| | | barrier housing are at risk of being displaced. | |
| | RentSmart Pilot Program with Manitoba Corrections (Pilot Program) | The intent of this project is to equip people, prior to release from provincial corrections, with the knowledge and resources to secure and maintain sustainable housing. | Currently in the designing phase. Next steps are approvals and implementation phase. |

## 3. NARRATIVE SUMMARY

In addition to progress on the Targets of the 5-Year Plan listed above, including the launch of Winnipeg's Coordinated Access system Naatamooskakowin, End Homelessness Winnipeg undertook a range of critical initiatives in the 2022-2023 fiscal year to support individuals experiencing homelessness as well as community collaborations to end homelessness.

The board of directors commissioned a stakeholder engagement report. The insights gathered from staff, stakeholders, sector leaders, and the community would serve as a valuable resource for the board, enabling them to make informed decisions, set strategic goals, and drive positive change within the organization. The results will be coming in 2023.

During the year, we made a significant stride in our prevention pillar efforts by appointing a Manager of Prevention. This individual has taken the reins of several pivotal projects aimed at combating homelessness from its roots.

The Responsive evaluation of Agreements with Young Adults project aims to understand the needs of high-risk Indigenous youth receiving provincial child and family services to improve their outcomes, including housing attachment, access to resources, and community support. The objectives of the project focus on identifying solutions to prevent youth homelessness and exploring different aspects of the child welfare system and support programs for youth transitioning out of care.

The RentSmart Pilot Program with Manitoba Corrections aims to provide individuals being released from provincial corrections with the necessary knowledge and resources to secure and sustain stable housing. The objectives of the program include administering certification training through an Indigenous perspective, empowering participants to understand their tenant rights and responsibilities, enhance communication skills with landlords and roommates, develop effective budgeting strategies for long-term residency success, and facilitate access to benefits such as EIA and rent top-up programs like the Canadian Manitoba Housing Benefit (CMHB) prior to release.

Acquired Brain Injury Research Café project aims Improve supports and quality of life for all Manitobans with brain injury, including access to supportive and affordable housing. It will foster meaningful networking and

collaboration among key stakeholders in Manitoba to enhance services, support, and lives of diverse Manitobans with brain injury. Share knowledge, identify gaps and challenges in brain injury services and supports.

Winnipeg Street Census took place in May 2022. Twenty-three organizations of which seven were Indigenous, worked together to implement the census. A 21-question survey was delivered to people experiencing homelessness at 53 locations throughout Winnipeg over the course of May 24 and 25. These included interviews at shelters where people had stayed the night, at service locations such as food banks, bottle depots and drop-in centres or other locations people experiencing homelessness spend time such as libraries, churches or malls. Other volunteers conducted surveys with people they encountered along walking routes throughout the inner city. Outreach teams also conducted surveys at locations outside the inner city.

End Homelessness Winnipeg has contracted Cibinel Architecture to proceed with a land use assessment of the area surrounding Thunderbird House in the inner city, currently titled the Neeginan Project. Following confirmation of the project, it was learned that several other organizations were beginning similar projects within the community, including Winnipeg Foundation's C.A.R.E. investment area, Main Street Project's service scan, and the City of Winnipeg's update to the Downtown Neighbourhood Plan. Prior to beginning the formal engagement process, it was determined that up front community engagement would be required to ensure this project would not significantly overlap with these other plans. Several informal discussions with the community have taken place, to provide information on the project and answer any questions. The community has expressed a keen interest in this project, has determined that this project is complimentary to other work being done in the area, and so we are optimistic that we will receive a high rate of uptake in the engagement. As such, the community will begin to be engaged formally through a land use and operations survey, which will inform next steps of the project.

## 4. CONCLUSION

As we pass the mid-way point of the *5-Year Plan*, it is evident that remarkable progress has been made to house people experiencing homelessness; we are currently preparing the next strategic phase

As in 2021-22, the key challenges for 2022-23 remain:

- Creating adequate housing supply to end homelessness and reduce core housing need; as well as
- Addressing the over-representation of Indigenous people among those experiencing homelessness

While it is promising that the Winnipeg *Poverty Reduction Strategy* Life Poles of Affordable Housing and Indigenous Children, Youth and Families directly reflect these critical priorities, the lack of targeted investment and support for evidence based, Indigenous led housing solutions remains a concern at the municipal as well as provincial and federal levels.

It is important to highlight that in early 2023, the Province of Manitoba introduced their comprehensive homelessness strategy titled "A Place for Everyone; A Collaborative Homelessness Strategy for Manitoba." This strategy encompasses five pillars, four of which align closely with the pillars of EHW, indicating a shared focus and commitment towards common objectives. Notably, the Province's fifth pillar emphasizes building capacity in rural and northern Manitoba, which falls beyond the scope of our organization's mandate. This convergence of efforts among the City, the Province, and EHW is highly encouraging, as it signifies a collective dedication to directing valuable resources towards shared goals.