

Ending homelessness does not mean that no one will ever experience homelessness again. Rather, it means that systems are in place to ensure that any experience of homelessness is brief and permanently resolved, and rare overall.

Glossary of Terms:

HOMELESSNESS:

According to the [Canadian Definition of Homelessness](#), homelessness is “the situation of an individual, family, or community without stable, safe, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect means and ability of acquiring it.”

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS:

According to Reaching Home: Canada’s Homelessness Strategy, chronic homelessness refers to individuals who are currently experiencing homelessness AND who meet at least 1 of the following criteria:

- They have a total of at least 6 months (180 days) of homelessness over the past year.
- They have recurrent experiences of homelessness over the past 3 years, with a cumulative duration of at least 18 months (546 days).

By-Name List:

The By-Name List (BNL) is a real-time list of all people known to be experiencing homelessness in the community. Once individuals are added to the BNL they are prioritized based on their level of need and vulnerability. They will be referred to appropriate housing programs or community supports dedicated to resolving homelessness as those resources become available.

Inflow/Outflow to Homelessness

Inflow and Outflow are two of the most important measures for monitoring progress towards our goal of ending homelessness. The goal is to see outflow exceed inflow. When this happens, it means that more people are exiting from homelessness than are entering the homeless-serving system.

Inflow represents the number of individuals newly identified as homeless, returned to homelessness from housing, returned to homelessness from inactive status (meaning they have accessed the homeless-serving system within the last 60 days).

Outflow represents the number of individuals who have moved from staying in shelter or unsheltered locations to housed and those who have moved to inactive status (meaning they have not interacted with the homeless-serving system for 60+ days).

A Functional Zero end to homelessness means that communities have a systematic response in place that ensures homelessness (unsheltered homeless, sheltered homeless, provisionally accommodated, or at imminent risk of homelessness) is prevented whenever possible or is otherwise a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience.