

## Recommendations Summary

**Recommendation #1:** The BC Coroners Service should amend its definition of homelessness to include vulnerably housed individuals who were recently homeless or at risk of homelessness to better capture the true state of homelessness in British Columbia.

**Recommendation #2:** The BC Coroners Service should track the deaths of women in violent relationships. Examining whether a woman has vacillated in and out of a dangerous living arrangement, while depending on her partner financially for housing, should be considered in determining whether she is effectively homeless and whether a death at the hands of a violent domestic partner should be assessed as a homeless death.

**Recommendation #3:** The BC Coroners Service should return to reporting Aboriginal homeless deaths so it can gain a better understanding of how homeless deaths impact the province's Aboriginal population, a group disproportionately represented in British Columbia's overall homeless population.

**Recommendation #4:** The Province of British Columbia should develop and implement a poverty reduction strategy.

**Recommendation #5:** The Government of Canada should develop and implement a national housing plan.

**Recommendation #6:** The provincial government should work with municipal governments to ensure there are enough emergency and winter shelter beds available to reduce the number of people living on the street.

**Recommendation #7:** All levels of government should commit to building shelters, social housing, and supports equally across the province, not just in urban centres like Metro Vancouver, so homeless individuals can receive the necessary housing and health supports in their communities.

**Recommendation #8:** All municipalities across the province should conduct street and sheltered homeless counts so they can get a better sense of the totality of the homeless population in their communities. Those numbers can be analyzed in conjunction with homeless deaths data.

**Recommendation #9:** Municipalities should repeal anti-harm reduction and anti-camping bylaws as they increase the risks to homeless individuals and exacerbate displacement.

**Recommendation #10:** The Province of British Columbia should fund the BC Coroners Service to create an annual report that offers deeper analysis and data about homeless deaths across the province.

**Recommendation #11:** Each provincial and territorial government across Canada should gather data on homeless deaths and create yearly reports with detailed analysis and information on how homeless deaths can be prevented.