



## **Annual Report 2022-2023**

The Navigator program had another busy year in 2022-23, and this report will highlight some of the notable programs and successes that occurred over the past 12 months.

### **Programs**

#### **Outreach**

The Navigator Street Outreach Program is primarily an outreach service. I spend the largest chunk of my time outside interacting with people on the streets and in the places where they frequent. This year has seen a few more outreach workers hired in different organizations, so this has meant that I have been able to spend more time downtown than ever before. This has also allowed me more time to coordinate with others so that we have a good idea of where people are and what they need, and we can work with government partners to get client needs met all across the city.

#### **Housing**

The hotel programs that were funded by the province at the beginning of the pandemic continued on into this fiscal year. Through those hotel programs I was able to help 39 clients move from the streets into a room. 7 clients remain in hotels, 3 moved on into permanent housing, and the rest moved back to the streets.

A long time partner agency, the North End Community Health Centre, opened up many new supportive housing units this year, and I was able to assist 6 clients from across the city move into some of their units.

As in other years, housing options in the private market were virtually non-existent. I was able to move 10 people into rooming houses, and only 1 person into a private apartment.

3 folks were assisted in moving into senior's housing.

For many other housing concerns I often refer people to Shelter Nova Scotia's housing hub which is open two days a week to help people with their housing needs.

## **Employment Support**

I was able to help 12 people find and secure employment this year. For the majority of the people I worked with, employment support consisted of getting work boots, or enrolled in a traffic safety (flagging) course. With other folks, employment support consisted of different tools they needed to start working.

## **Identification Support**

The 2022-2023 year was the first full year of the Identification Clinic and it was an enormous success. The clinic was a collaboration between the Navigator program, Access Nova Scotia, and Halifax Public Libraries. Over the year we were able to help 641 people obtain photo identification. I am very proud of the work that my former social work student, Kaylie, put into this initiative.

## **Data collection**

In April 2022 we conducted the federally mandated Point-In-Time count of the homeless population in HRM. The full report is available on the DHBC website, but overall we were able to enumerate 586 people who were homeless, and survey 440 of them. This showed a drastic increase of people homeless since the previous PIT count in 2018.

In November of 2022 we also conducted our semi annual survey of people sleeping rough in HRM, and we spoke with 85 people sleeping outside, and figured there were at least 110 people sleeping outside then.

## **Medication Support**

Many different organizations cover client meds on a one-off basis, so this year I started a discussion with community partners about the best way to fund this need in a strategic way. This discussion is in its early stages, but I hope to get more pharmacies on board so that we can help fund clients in a more sustainable way. We also got some people from NS pharmacare and income assistance involved as well. This working group shows much promise that we might be able to affect change in the system.

In the year I helped 83 people by paying for their medications.

## Demographics

From 1 April 2022, to 31 March 2023, the Navigator program has connected with 249 individuals.

Category	Number of people
Female	91
Male	154
Transgender/non-binary	4
Youth (under 25)	22
Senior (65 and over)	61

## Community Partners

In the past year, the Navigator program has continued to partner with different community organizations to ensure effective service delivery to the people we work with. These community partners include:

- Mobile Outreach Street Health (MOSH)
- Mobile Outreach Street Health Housing First
- The North End Clinic-overlook program
- St. Mary's Basilica – Our Daily Bread Outreach
- Shelter Nova Scotia
- Halifax Public Libraries
- Halifax Regional Municipality
- Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre
- Mainline Needle Exchange
- Connections Clubhouse
- Direction 180
- Department of Community Services
- Department of Justice
- Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia
- Access Nova Scotia
- Medavie
- Halifax Regional Police

- Salvation Army
- Out of the Cold Shelter
- Dalhousie Social Work Clinic
- Dalhousie Legal Aid
- Metro Works
- Safety First
- Adsum for Women & Children
- Welcome Housing
- Phoenix for Youth
- United Way
- Saint Vincent de Paul Society
- North End Downtown Dartmouth Navigator
- The Ark

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