
MEMORANDUM

COM-C 25-2021

Subject: Niagara Joins Built for Zero Veteran Cohort

Date: July 13, 2021

To: Public Health & Social Services Committee

From: Adrienne Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services

It is with pleasure I can announce that in May 2021, Niagara was chosen to participate in the Built for Zero Canada (BFZ-C) Veterans cohort. Niagara now joins a core group of leading Canadian communities working to end veteran homelessness.

Niagara first joined BFZ-C in July of 2019. Built for Zero is a Canadian movement, led by the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness, which supports participating communities to work toward an end to chronic and/or veteran homelessness. Communities are coached in the adoption of proven practices and strategies, targeted to their local context. When Niagara was first accepted into BFZ-C it was to advance its work on ending chronic homelessness. By joining the Veterans cohort, Niagara will now expand the use of BFZ-C's structured, data-driven approach and proven practices to drive continuous improvement to end veteran homelessness.

In 2020 Niagara's homeless serving system supported 26 people who identified as a veteran. In March 2021 there were ten individuals who identified as a veteran on Niagara's By Name List (BNL), with five of these individuals experiencing chronic homelessness. Participation in the BFZ-C Veterans cohort will provide an opportunity to further increase collaboration between Niagara's homeless serving system and key veteran service organizations, including the Royal Canadian Legion and Veterans Affairs Canada to better support this population.

For more information visit the [Built for Zero Canada website](https://bfzcanada.ca/) (<https://bfzcanada.ca/>).

Respectfully submitted and signed by,

Adrienne Jugley, MSW, RSW, CHE
Commissioner