

# EVERYBODY'S STORY: PERCEPTIONS OF 'HOME' IN THE DISTRICT OF NIPISSING



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PROGRAM OF STUDY: SOCIAL SERVICE WORKER (SECOND SEMESTER)

STUDENT NUMBER: A00201404

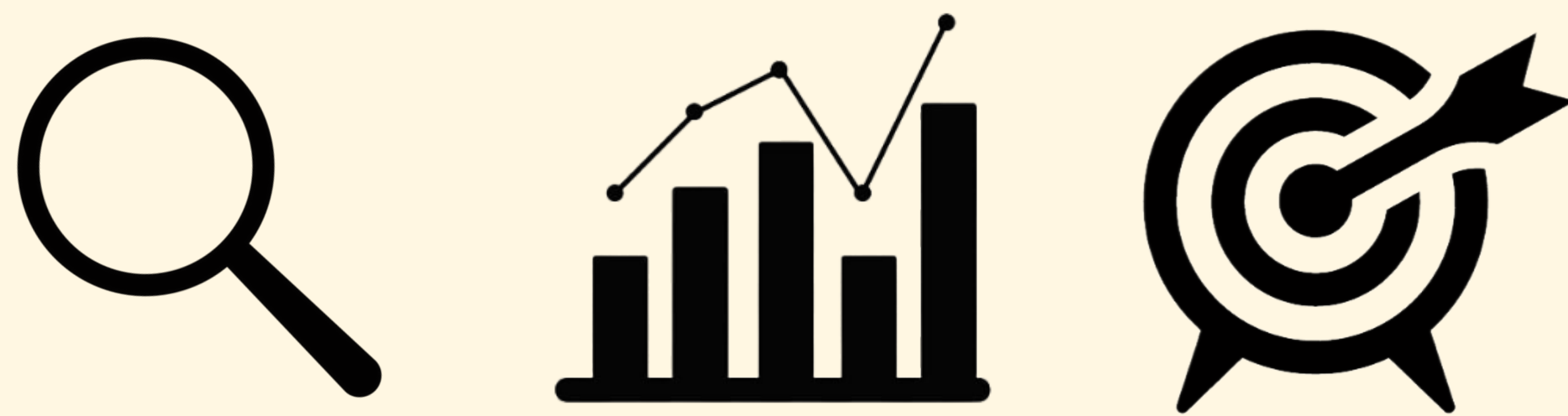
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## BACKGROUND

In January of 2023, researchers from Canadore College met with members from Nipissing First Nations True Self Debwewendizwin Program to collaboratively develop a project focusing on the population of individuals experiencing homelessness in our district. In 2021, the District of Nipissing hosted around 300 individuals experiencing homelessness (Odd & Erfani, 2023). To fight this ongoing crisis, Coordinated Access Nipissing, the district's first coordinated access system, was put in place. It was for these reasons that the research team decided to focus on the perceptions of homelessness among those with lived experience, front-line workers, and management level workers within the District of Nipissing. The 'Home' Project was brought back to the table in January of 2024 with new partnerships. The new research team modified the focus of the Project to look at perceptions of home rather than perceptions of homelessness.

## RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- i) Identify perceptions of 'Home' at various levels within the housing and homelessness sector.
- ii) Bring lived experience voices to the forefront and include them in governance structures surrounding decisions made about, and/or on behalf of the population experiencing homelessness in the District of Nipissing.



## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

### PHASE 1

- i) What is the perception of 'Home' for those with lived experience, those working front line with the homeless population, and those working at the executive (management) level?

### PHASE 2

- ii) What is the current unhoused-to-home process in the District of Nipissing?
- iii) What is the current governance structure for decision making surrounding the unhoused population in the District of Nipissing?

## METHODS

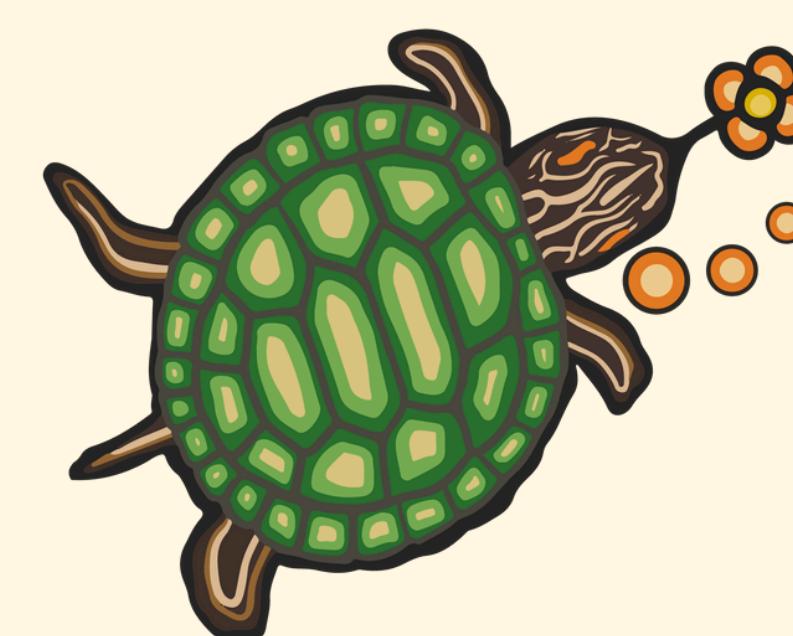
### DATA

#### PHASE 1

Intends to collect data from four (4) different samples of individuals involved with the housing and homelessness sector in the District of Nipissing: 1) Lived Experience: Unhoused, 2) Lived Experience: Housed, 3) Front-Line Staff, and 4) Executive Level Staff. The qualitative data collected in this phase will include the perceptions of what 'Home' looks like to members in each sub-group with details that may include information on areas such as benefits to housing, barriers to housing, definitions of housing/home, community integration, and sense of belonging.

#### PHASE 2

Will utilize content data surrounding the existing governance structures and processes involved with placing an individual experiencing homelessness in safe and secure housing. The data collected in this phase will include relevant journal articles that focus on sustainable housing procedures, comparable practices in different regions provincially and nationally, and national housing and homelessness mandates and guidelines.



(Native Women's Association of Canada, n.d.)

### METHODOLOGY

#### PHASE 1

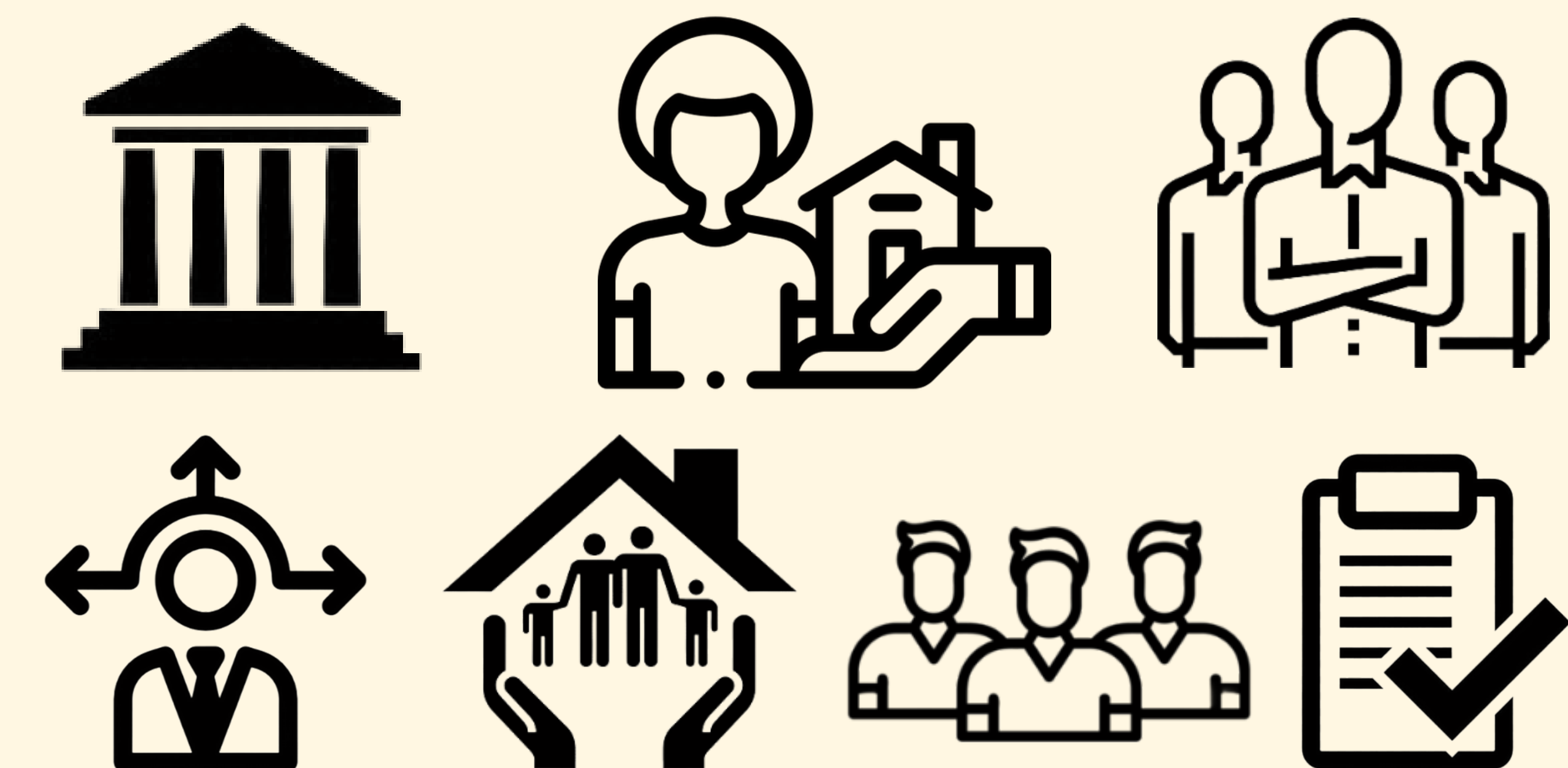
Will collect the primary data set using mixed conversational methods with a decolonized approach to incorporate Indigenous voices. With the data, thematic analysis will be conducted to determine what, if any, common and/or differing themes in each sub-groups perception of 'Home' exist. To pull the initial sample for the lived experience sub-groups, the research team will rely on available subjects due to the notion that the reality of the population experiencing homelessness is not representative of those in contact with services on a regular basis. Once the initial sample is composed, the research team will transition to purposive sampling to ensure equal variation among the groups. Purposive sampling will also be used to recruit members for the front-line and executive level sub-groups.

#### PHASE 2

Will complete a systematic review using the Phase 2 data set. Comparisons will be made to determine the strengths and limitations in the aforementioned governance structures and processes. The data will be pulled according to relevance to the project

## RESULTS

The results of "Everybody's Story: Perceptions of 'Home' in the District of Nipissing" will deepen the understanding of 'Home' across unhoused individuals, housed individuals with lived experience, front-line staff, and executive level staff by revealing common and/or differing themes that will ultimately help inform tailored housing interventions. The results will also identify strengths and limitations in the unhoused-to-home process by comparing the District of Nipissing to other regions, making evidence-based improvements a possibility. Overall, the results of this research project will advocate for including lived experience voices in decision making surrounding governance structures in the homeless community.



## REFERENECES

- Native Women's Association of Canada. (n.d.). Untitled illustration of Indigenous women and gender-diverse people. [Illustration]. Kci-Niwesq. <https://shiningthespotlight.nwac.ca/issue06/article-08.html>
- Odd, M., & Erfani, A. (2023). Homelessness in the district of Nipissing of Ontario, Canada before, at the onset and during the COVID-19 Pandemic: a trend analysis (2018-2021). BMC Public Health, 23(1), 1388.