

**The Department of Economics**  
**Visiting Speaker Series**  
**Patterns of Homelessness in Calgary**

***Dr. Ron Kneebone***  
***(University of Calgary)***

***Friday September 19, 2014 3:00pm to 4:30pm***  
***Arts and Administration Building Room A2071***

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**Patterns of Homelessness in Calgary**

By any economic measure, Calgary is a rich city in a rich province. And yet Alberta provides more homeless shelter beds per 100,000 people than any other province. Twenty-five years ago there were relatively few people who were homeless in Calgary but today two-thirds of all shelter users in the province live in that city. This presentation will examine, and offer some possible explanations for, the rise of homelessness in Calgary since the early 1990s. The presentation will also look more closely at data showing how the business cycle is a major driver of homelessness in Calgary, the effects of weather conditions on shelter use and, finally, the characteristics of shelter users. All of this research is aimed at furthering our understanding of homelessness so that it might eventually be eliminated. The research presented stems from a useful coordination of effort between academic researchers at the School of Public Policy, the Government of Alberta, and the Calgary Homeless Foundation whose mandate is to end homelessness in Calgary by early 2018. Although the focus of this research is on Calgary and Alberta, possible lessons for other jurisdictions will be highlighted.

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