



Office of the Mayor

Amarjeet Sohi
Mayor

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The Honourable Jason Luan
Minister of Community and Social Services
227 Legislature Building
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Luan:

Thank you for your government's continued financial support towards funding critical shelter spaces, community organizations and other housing and preventive support programs that assist people who are at risk of domestic violence.

We know that the pandemic has challenged agencies working in this area to meet the growing needs of our community. Edmonton has observed a 15 per cent year-over-year increase in calls for police assistance in response to domestic violence, as well as an increased number of third party callers seeking help for others. Recently, City Council also heard from the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters and shelter providers in Edmonton. They emphasized the urgent need for additional funding support to address an increasing demand for their violence prevention programs and services in the face of increasing costs, ongoing impacts of the pandemic and other fundraising challenges.

While we recognize the funding of shelters is a provincial matter, we also know that all orders of government must support a solution. Recently, Edmonton's City Council approved \$880,000 on a one-time basis to relieve some financial pressure on Edmonton women's shelters and will be exploring other ways our City can incorporate the housing needs of people fleeing domestic violence as part of our future affordable housing strategies. We know our one-time recent funding contribution will not sustainably address the needs of these critical community partners, and that is why on April 19, 2022, Edmonton City Council unanimously approved a motion to seek your Ministry's support in providing increased ongoing financial resources to support shelters in meeting the needs of women and their children, and other persons fleeing domestic violence in Edmonton.

We appreciate the ongoing collaboration we have with both your Ministry and the Ministry of Culture and Status of Women as we continue to partner on our City's gender based violence and sexual assault initiatives. We look forward to your leadership in providing additional urgent funding relief along with supporting a more permanent increase in future provincial budgets.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'A. Sohi'.

Amarjeet Sohi
Mayor

c: The Honourable Whitney Issik, Associate Minister of Status of Women
Jan Reimer, Alberta Council of Women's Shelters
Members of Edmonton City Council
Andre Corbould, City Manager