



The Honourable  
Amarjeet Sohi  
Mayor of Edmonton

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March 21, 2024

The Honourable Jason Nixon  
Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services  
227 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue,  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Nixon,

As you are aware, Edmonton is in a housing and houselessness emergency. Since 2018, the number of unhoused Edmontonians has doubled, reaching an all time high of 3,100 people in August 2024. Almost 60% of unhoused Edmontonians are Indigenous.

In response to this crisis, since 2021 the City of Edmonton City Council has already spent more than \$160 million in affordable housing, houseless services and supports for vulnerable Edmontonians that would be typically considered outside of municipal jurisdiction. One such initiative was to temporarily fund Day Services provided by Bissell Centre and Boyle Street Community services. Since November 2020, the City of Edmonton has provided a total of \$43.4 million in funding to these two organizations to provide these critical services, including \$16.21 million dedicated to day services. The contracts for these services will expire in April and May respectively, and the City of Edmonton does not have the resources to continue to fund these services.

I know your government is deeply concerned about the houselessness emergency Edmonton is facing. City Council is greatly appreciative of the investments you have already made to address this emergency in our city, including increasing funding to emergency shelters to provide 24/7 services, the Navigation Centre, increasing the number of emergency shelter beds and transitional spaces available in Edmonton to more than 1,800, providing specialized emergency shelters for Indigenous people and women, and increasing investments in Budget 2024 in the Affordable Housing Partnership Program.



I believe these strong investments would be complemented by funding Day Shelter programming with Bissell Centre and Boyle Street Community services. These programs serve 6,770 unique individuals annually. The total operating funding required for these day service programs is \$6.52 million annually. Not only do these programs provide critical supports for vulnerable community members, but we have heard from members of the Business community how crucial these programs are to restoring vibrancy to our downtown core.

Thank you for your ongoing collaboration and support for the City of Edmonton. I hope you will respond to this urgent request and help to maintain critical services for Edmonton's most vulnerable residents.

Sincerely,



Amarjeet Sohi  
Mayor, City of Edmonton

CC:

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