



MAYOR DON IVESON
CITY OF EDMONTON

2nd FLOOR, CITY HALL
1 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQUARE
EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA T5J 2R7
PHONE: 780-496-8100
don.iveson@edmonton.ca

July 6, 2021

The Honourable Rajan Sawhney
Minister of Community and Social Services
224 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Sawhney:

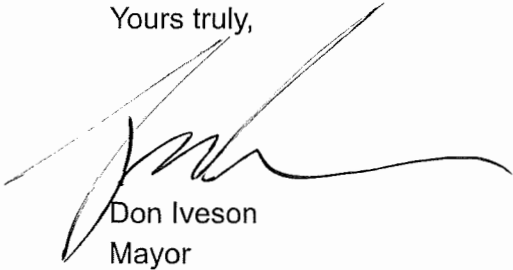
As you know, the federal government has recently announced an investment of \$14.9 million to create a minimum of 68 units of supportive housing in the city of Edmonton through the Rapid Housing Initiative. With your partnership, this new funding could play a critical role in addressing homelessness in our city, as well as reducing the negative impacts of social disorder taking place in mainstreet business districts.

We appreciate the Province's stated desire to address homelessness, as well as mental health and addictions, which are clearly interconnected. There is now a significant opportunity for us to leverage federal funds, as a commitment from your government will ensure the City can get our fair share of federally-funded social investment. The City of Edmonton is seeking an annual operating funding commitment of \$7.8 million (\$5.9 million for the first five sites and \$1.9 million for the recently announced 68 units, which will be included in the second round of the Rapid Housing Initiative). This amount is being requested from the provincial government to fund the on-site staff support for residents moving out of homelessness. This investment will ensure the funding already committed by the Government of Canada can be used immediately to help Edmontonians experiencing homelessness.

We acknowledge that these are challenging economic times, and the City has been doing its part to hold the line on taxes, reduce costs and red tape and reimagine service delivery. By taking this initiative together, we will be able to address these long-standing issues, as well as reduce overall costs to the Province in the areas of health, justice, law enforcement and more. In addition to helping the City's most vulnerable, addressing housing issues has strong support across the business community, and will play a significant role in revitalizing downtown and other business districts' competitiveness and attractiveness — all which have been affected significantly by COVID-19.

Without the support of your government, the City will be in a difficult position of leaving federal funds on the table and forgoing 68 units which would make a real, tangible difference in addressing homelessness and associated social disorder issues. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for all orders of government to collaborate in order to ensure Alberta's economic and social recovery and resiliency. This is why I am requesting your support in accessing these federal funds, which are crucial to our future success and will provide much-needed help to Edmontonians and businesses who stand to benefit from this important investment. I understand that initial discussions have taken place at the administrative level, but I am also available to address any additional questions you may have.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Iveson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Don Iveson
Mayor

c: The Honourable Kaycee Madu, Minister of Justice and Solicitor General
The Honourable Josephine Pon, Minister of Seniors and Housing
The Honourable Jason Luan, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
Edmonton City Council



ALBERTA
COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Office of the Minister

AUG - 4 2021

His Worship Don Iveson
City of Edmonton
2nd Floor, City Hall
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, AB T5J 2R7

Dear Mayor Iveson:

Thank you for letter regarding the federal government's commitment of \$14.9 million to create at least 68 units of supportive housing in Edmonton. As the newly appointed Minister of Community and Social Services (CSS), I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

The Government of Alberta is committed to making sure anyone experiencing homelessness has a safe place to stay in shelter and has access to necessary supports to find and maintain housing. This year, CSS will provide Homeward Trust Edmonton with \$28.7 million to move people experiencing homelessness into housing with supports. As fund administrator, Homeward Trust Edmonton provides funding to 14 agencies to operate 55 programs, including 199 supportive housing units, Intensive Case Management and outreach support services.

Supportive housing is key to helping individuals experiencing chronic homelessness transition into long-term housing with appropriate supports. Homeward Trust Edmonton will be reallocating existing funding to offer onsite supports to tenants moving into the 210 supportive housing units announced in the first phase of the federal government's Rapid Housing Initiative.

While the budget allocation for homelessness initiatives remained flat in Budget 2021, Ms. Cynthia Farmer, Deputy Minister, CSS, and Mr. Andre Corbould, City Manager, City of Edmonton, have already met and will continue to meet on this issue. I also understand that CSS department staff are meeting with municipal staff and Homeward Trust Edmonton to consider funding, partnerships and service delivery options in preparation for the 68 units opening next year.

Alberta's government remains committed to working closely with the City of Edmonton and other key stakeholders to explore funding options, while ensuring our programs are sustainable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Luan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jason Luan
Minister of Community and Social Services

cc: Honourable Josephine Pon
Minister of Seniors and Housing

Honourable Kaycee Madu
Minister of Justice and Solicitor General

Honourable Mike Ellis
Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions

Rashmi Malla

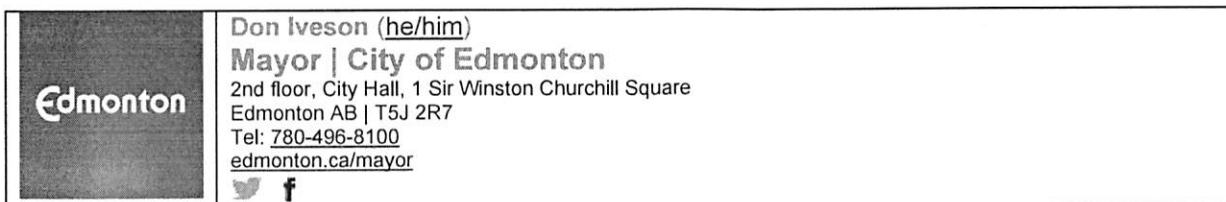
From: Don Iveson <don.iveson@edmonton.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, July 06, 2021 12:20 PM
To: CSS Minister
Cc: Ministry of Justice; seniors.minister@gov.ab.ca; Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions; Councillors*
Subject: Letter from Mayor Don Iveson RE: Partnership for supportive housing
Attachments: July 6 2021 Sawhney.pdf

CAUTION: This email has been sent from an external source. Treat hyperlinks and attachments in this email with care.

Dear Minister Sawhney:

Please see the attached letter. The original will follow in the mail.

Yours truly,



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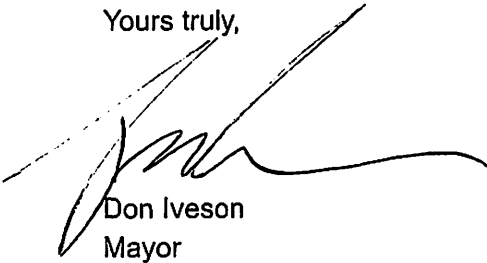
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