

Analysis of Inter-governmental Context

Traditionally, municipalities have been limited partners in the provision of affordable housing, with the provincial and federal governments providing the bulk of the resources required to maintain and grow the inventory of affordable housing. More recently, and like other major municipalities across Canada, the City of Edmonton has taken on a leadership role when it comes to articulating the needs of our City and working to attract investment from other orders of government. Nonetheless, increasing the supply of affordable housing and providing all the necessary homelessness supports cannot be sustained by any single order of government or organization, dedicated and increased funding must be provided by all orders of government and their partners. This attachment provides an overview of the recent efforts of other orders of government in relation to affordable housing.

Government of Canada

In 2017, the Government of Canada unveiled a new *National Housing Strategy: A Place to Call Home*, marking the federal government's return to providing direct funding and commitment to improve housing affordability and end homelessness in Canada. This 10-year, \$72 billion plan will help municipalities create new supply as well as modernize existing housing. The strategy focuses on 6 priority areas including; housing for those in greatest need, community housing sustainability, indigenous housing, northern housing, sustainable housing and communities, and balanced supply of housing.

We will also closely monitor other National Housing Strategy Initiatives committed to by the federal government, such as the National Housing Co-Investment Fund - Housing Repair and Renewal Stream and the Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy, to explore how we can support Edmonton's affordable housing developers to leverage them to modernize existing affordable housing and create new supply.

- Federal Budget 2018 announced \$1.5 billion for Indigenous housing strategies that would be delivered by Indigenous Services Canada: \$600 million over three years to support co-development of a First Nations Housing Strategy along with First Nations; \$400 million over 10 years to support an Inuit-led housing plan in the Inuit regions of Nunavik, Nunatsiavut, and Inuvialuit; and \$500 million over 10 years to support the Metis Nation's housing strategy
- In fall 2021, the Federal Government through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation announced \$724.1 million to expand supports for Indigenous women, children and 2SLGBTQIA+ people escaping

- gender-based violence, as well as transitional homes (in addition to emergency shelters) across Canada. As part of this, Indigenous Services Canada will invest \$304.1 million over five years and \$96.6 million annually to support the operational costs of new shelters and transitional homes, and will expand funding for culturally-relevant violence prevention activities.
- Federal Budget 2021 announced a \$1.5 billion expansion of the Rapid Housing Initiative that would be used to build 6,000 affordable homes starting in 2022-23 (Phase 1 announced \$1 billion in 2020 for RHI funding; nearly 40 per cent of the approved Phase 1 Rapid Housing Initiative projects are for Indigenous projects).
 - Budget 2022 announced \$300 million over five years to co-develop and launch an Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy.

What it means for Edmonton

City of Edmonton's engagement with the Government of Canada influenced the creation of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)'s Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI), which specifically focused on housing for people experiencing homelessness. Funding through the Rapid Housing Initiative contributed to improving the supply of supportive housing units in Edmonton. We are encouraged by continued commitments made by the Government of Canada in Budget 2022, especially the Rapid Housing Initiative 3.0 and the Housing Accelerator Fund. These investments will provide additional opportunities for continued collaboration to expand the supply of supportive and affordable housing in Edmonton.

The City of Edmonton is also closely engaging with the CMHC regarding progress on its Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous housing strategy to explore how it can bolster the efforts of our own Indigenous-led AH strategy.

Government of Alberta

In 2021, the Government of Alberta launched *Stronger Foundations: Alberta's 10-year Strategy to Improve and Expand Affordable Housing*. We are encouraged by the Government of Alberta's intention to encourage municipalities to conduct systematic needs assessments. In 2022, the City completed its first-ever housing needs assessment. We look forward to sharing the results with the provincial government and identifying opportunities to collaborate. A number of commitments made by the Government of Alberta in the *Stronger Foundations* - such as 1) increasing transitional and supportive housing, 2) working with new operators, 3) encouraging mixed income housing through existing assets, 4) providing redevelopment grants, and 5) maximizing federal funding to expand the supply of affordable units - are closely aligned with the foundational elements of the Updated Affordable Housing Strategy the City has created and can provide opportunities to work together.

More investment is needed for the cost-effective health and support services required to help those with complex needs get housing and stay housed, with a goal of a visible reduction in homelessness and a drastic savings in health, justice, and law enforcement costs.

- The Government of Alberta has committed to invest \$322.6 million for 2021-2022 and \$296.1 million for 2022-2023 to build, renew, maintain and operate ~58,250 affordable housing units (including community housing, seniors housing, special needs housing and rent supplement programs).
- The Government of Alberta has committed a total of \$40.7 million over three years to their Indigenous Housing Capital Program that is focused on increasing the supply of affordable housing units for Indigenous peoples in need through construction (including additions/extensions), purchase and repurpose.
- The Government of Alberta established the Coordinated Community Response to Homelessness Task Force in late 2021 to pursue innovative long term solutions to ending homelessness in Alberta. Results of the Task Force's work are expected to be released in 2022.

What it means for Edmonton

The City will continue to leverage its excellent relationships with CMHC and the federal government to secure funding for shovel ready affordable housing projects while working closely with housing providers to build their capacity to enable access to resources from all orders of government for affordable housing development.

The City's close relationships with multiple provincial government ministries will provide opportunities to work collaboratively on strategic and evidence-based investments that can address the unmet needs in Edmonton. Examples of strategic investment areas include Edmonton's emergency shelter system, affordable housing tax exemption programs, alignment of new and existing capital funding programs, Indigenous affordable housing funding programs and projects, alignment of municipal and provincial actions resulting from the work of the Coordinated Community Response to Homelessness Task Force, alignment and integration of mental health, addictions, and other support services funding and programs that help people stay housed, and of course alignment on housing needs assessment efforts to support evidence-based decision making and prioritization of affordable housing investments.