

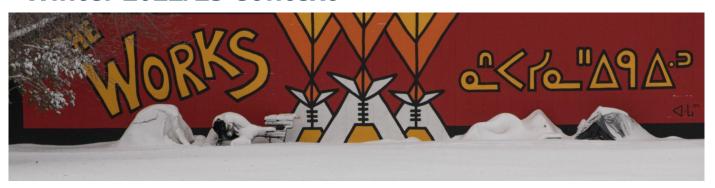
CS01762

Edmonton's Approach (2023/24) - Supporting Those Experiencing Homelessness

Community and Public Services
Committee
May 1, 2023

**Edmonton** 

#### Winter 2022/23 Context



- Between **2,650 and 2,800** Edmontonians were experiencing homelessness
  - **1,250 1,350** self-identified as primarily sleeping in emergency shelters or outdoors
- Up to **1,427 overnight** emergency shelter spaces
  - Government of Alberta funded 1,202 spaces
  - Al Rashid Mosque provided up to 75 additional spaces (only during extreme weather activations)
  - West End Shelter provided up to 150 additional spaces
- **997 daytime** spaces
  - 280 day shelter spaces
  - o 627 24/7 shelter spaces
  - 90 temporarily funded 24/7 shelter spaces



#### Winter 2022/23 Activities

#### **Extreme Weather Activations**

- ETS Extreme Weather Buses and Boyle Street Warming Bus
- 75 emergency shelter spaces at Al Rashid Mosque
- Encampment response teams support
- City facilities open for warming purposes

### Connecting People Experiencing Homelessness in ETS Facilities to Supports

- Winter response bus
- Well being checks of vulnerable Edmontonians in ETS facilities
- Support connections during ETS station nightly lock ups

#### West End Shelter

 Shelter and transition housing spaces

#### **GoA Shelter Supports**

 Permitting and logistical support

#### **Other Supports**

- Day Shelter supports
- Shigella response

## Winter 2022/23 Findings

- Winter 2022/23 has seen **45 days** of extreme weather activations
- While the total number of beds has expanded to meet demands, there is some evidence the shelter system is still not meeting the needs of many individuals experiencing homelessness.
  - An average of 225 individuals were asked to leave ETS facilities during nightly lock-ups, with an average of 106 of those 225 individuals refusing transportation to shelter
  - o Consistent presence of encampments through the winter
- Agency, ETS and TPO staff shortages was a significant operational concern.
  - Out of 117 requested shifts for outreach workers on the extreme weather buses, only 23 were filled
  - On 15 nights in December, three nights in January and six nights in February there were not enough TPO staff to fully staff the shelter shuttle using overtime resources.



# Winter 2022/23 Findings



The City is developing a strategic plan and mandate to clarify its corporate role in addressing homelessness. The new Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness (October 30/23) and the Corporate Homelessness Plan (Jan 2024) will provide this clarity. However, planning for supports through the summer and next winter needs to begin now.

**Edmonton** 

### **Expiration of Agreements**

- West End Shelter (former Bedfort Inn)
  - Agreement expires December 31, 2023
    - Unspent funds are forecast to support operations until September 30, 2023
- Day Shelter Services Spaces
  - Winter 2022/23 funding provided expanded day services programming and increased operational hours
  - Boyle Street Community Services funding expires April 30, 2023
  - Bissell Centre funding expires May 31, 2023
  - Both organizations have requested ongoing City funding, which is outlined as a potential option



### Winter 2023/2024 Base Level Activities

Base budget funding of **\$1.25 million** is available for winter 2023/24 activities:

- 1. Extreme and cold weather activations
  - Transportation during Extreme and Cold Weather activations
  - Winter Warming Bus
  - Al Rashid Mosque CoE support for shelter spaces
  - Encampment response teams support
  - Open some city facilities for warming purposes
- 2. Support for GoA funded shelters
  - Logistical support and permitting assistance
- 3. Other supports
  - Ongoing shigella response



### Winter 2023/2024 Additional Options

- Augmenting day shelter spaces \$3.79 million
  - Bissell Centre (June 1, 2023 April 30, 2024)
  - Boyle Street Community Services (November 1, 2023 April 30, 2024)
- Additional Shelter or Housing Spaces \$11 \$13 million per year
  - An additional 200 continuous stay shelter or bridge housing spaces
- Supplemental transportation services \$TBD
  - Increased shuttle buses, additional transit Peace Officer staff to support operations and transit centre lock-ups for people experiencing homelessness in ETS facilities
  - Costs identified once evaluation and planning work complete



## Winter 2023/2024 Additional Options

Funding any of these additional options will be a challenge.

Potential funding sources for additional options include:

- Community Safety Well-being funds held within Financial Strategies
  - Not recommended as community-informed recommendations will come forward for Fall SOBA
- New funding requests through the 2023 Fall Supplemental Operating Budget Adjustment process
  - Would be too late to implement options for the full winter 2023/24 season



# **Next Steps**

1. Council guidance on the potential further activities for the winter 2023/24 season.



