

Drug Poisoning Reduction Advocacy & Action Plan

This Drug Poisoning Reduction Advocacy & Action Plan presents recommendations developed by Administration, informed by engagement, jurisdictional review, research and data gathering and leading/best practices. The success of this Plan requires the combined efforts of local community partners and all orders of government and agencies. While the Drug Poisoning Reduction Advocacy & Action Plan relies on many collaborators, Administration has identified recommendations where municipal support and/or leadership can be provided. The recommendations are split into five focus areas:

- 1. Convening and Coordination:** bringing together diverse actors to develop and monitor solutions and to support better coordination of local supports and services.
- 2. Data Sharing and Information:** supporting better data gathering and sharing to relevant stakeholders and to promote information and knowledge about the drug poisoning crisis to diverse audiences. This should include strong Edmonton-specific data to understand and share unique local context, impact, and response opportunities.
- 3. Funding Support:** providing a range of resources for local initiatives that support Edmontonians including prevention activities through the promotion of health and wellbeing, and intervention and response based activities.
- 4. Strategic Direction and Alignment:** improving strategic approaches for addressing drug poisoning through increased internal coordination and alignment of existing strategies within the City of Edmonton in tandem with identifying opportunities to guide future work.
- 5. Advocacy and Collaboration:** advocacy to other orders of government and related government agencies who have the legislated authority to respond (e.g. requesting government actions, collaboration or other required local support needed to respond to drug poisoning).

Recommended options have been organized according to duration required for implementation. Some are ongoing in nature, recognizing that advocacy, awareness building, partnerships and collaborative efforts may need to evolve and

Attachment 4

be refined in response to emerging trends and response efforts.

- **Short-term recommendations** will ideally be developed and implemented within one year.
- **Medium-term recommendations** may require other subsequent next steps or lend support to other actions, and therefore will be implemented within one to two years.
- **Long-term recommendations** are more complex, potentially requiring broader systems level coordination, or further time to examine activation plans, or are reliant on many different interdependencies, with implementation occurring in two to five years.

Note that the recommendations are not presented in order of priority. Administration will assess which items of the Drug Poisoning Reduction Advocacy & Action Plan can be supported through existing budgets and grant programs. Items requiring a new funding source will be brought forward for Council's consideration during future supplemental budget adjustment processes.

Convening and Coordination

Bringing together diverse actors to develop and monitor solutions and to support better coordination of local supports and services.

Recommendation	Current State	City of Edmonton Action
Short Term (less than 1 year)		
1. Increase regional municipal collaboration to better support individuals as	Administration met surrounding jurisdictions as part of this engagement process; they expressed interest in discussing approaches to the drug poisoning crisis in an ongoing manner. The City of Edmonton regularly	City Administration will explore convening regular meetings with Administrations from surrounding municipalities to discuss how to better work together to respond to and prevent drug poisonings. Administration will

Attachment 4

<p>they move within the Edmonton region.</p>	<p>engages other regional municipalities.</p>	<p>provide memo updates to senior leadership and/or City Council as necessary.</p> <p>Status: Not started.</p>
<p>2. Increase engagement with key stakeholders to monitor and understand current state as well as develop evolving solutions to more effectively respond to drug poisoning.</p>	<p>Currently, the only known space for convening diverse stakeholders is through the Community Liaison Committee - Partners in Drug Poisoning Prevention. This group meets every six weeks. Committee members have expressed appreciation for the Committee as a key venue for information sharing and fostering collaboration.</p>	<p>Create a steering committee of key stakeholders in Edmonton to develop a local, overarching Substance Use Strategy, built upon the proposed recommendations within this Action Plan. The committee would also discuss best practices and possible solutions to reducing drug poisoning injuries and deaths, identify existing and future resources required, and identify other key stakeholders (including but not limited to representatives from health services, community agency, lived/living experience, policymakers, etc.)</p> <p>Continue conversations with inter-sectoral stakeholders to stay abreast of local developments and improve coordination.</p> <p>Convene a regional summit to continue the discussions initiated through previous engagement to continue validating recommendations and next</p>

Attachment 4

		<p>steps, identifying solutions and aligning future advocacy efforts.</p> <p>Status: Not started.</p>
<p>3. Increase engagement and relationship building with Indigenous memoranda partners.</p>	<p>The City maintains intergovernmental relationships through memoranda agreements with the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations, the Métis Nation of Alberta and Enoch Cree Nation, as well as with First Nations and Métis communities, and representative organizations with historic and cultural connections to this territory. Early engagement on this work began with the three memoranda partners in 2023, with the potential to continue or expand that work going forward.</p> <p>In addition to engagement with these Indigenous partners, the City engaged Indigenous-led organizations in urban Edmonton working in this space to inform the recommendations in this report.</p>	<p>Work with the City of Edmonton's Indigenous Relations Office to nurture relationships with Indigenous leaders from the City's Indigenous memoranda partners, and representatives from other Nations and communities with historical and cultural connections to Edmonton to ensure perspectives of Indigenous communities are included in conversations regarding drug poisoning. These efforts can ensure connection with surrounding Indigenous communities and other orders of government to explore possible needs for additional services (ex. detox services on reserve along with transportation to treatment services in Edmonton).</p> <p>Status: Not started.</p>
<p>4. Enhance relationship building and</p>	<p>In November 2022, the <i>Criminal Code</i> and the <i>Controlled Drugs and Substances Act</i> were amended so that police officers are now</p>	<p>Continue to strengthen the City of Edmonton's relationship and communication with the Edmonton Police Service to support</p>

Attachment 4

<p>communication with the Edmonton Police Service to better coordinate drug poisoning response efforts.</p>	<p>required to first consider alternatives, such as taking no actions, or warning the individual, or referring an “individual to a program or to an agency or other service provider in the community that may assist the individual with the consent of the individual” as the default position before laying charges for the simple possession of drugs.</p>	<p>their role in facilitating referrals to appropriate support services, and to ensure effective information sharing as well as continued collaboration and coordination of efforts.</p> <p>Status: Ongoing.</p>
<p>5. Increase support for first responders (including community outreach groups) through adequate mental/physical/emotional services to address the impacts of drug poisoning.</p>	<p>The City offers mental health and wellness support for employees including 24/7 emergency employee support from on-call chaplains, confidential counseling services through TELUS Health Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP), Peer Support, and other program support upon request.</p> <p>The Before Operational Stress (BOS) Program brings together clinical approaches with recognized scientific expertise to support psychological health and wellness of public safety personnel. BOS has been completed by 1,112 employees in Fire Rescue Services and continues to be offered by new recruit classes. BOS has most recently been rolled out to Peace Officers</p>	<p>The City of Edmonton will continue to coordinate sharing of resources for first responders who require mental/physical/emotional supports and services after responding to drug poisonings and to combat compassion fatigue, moral injury, etc. These learnings should be shared and applied to other community outreach groups who may benefit from similar supports.</p> <p>Status: Ongoing.</p>

Attachment 4

	<p>using a federal grant, with work underway to continue this program within the existing branch budget allocation.</p> <p>First Responders were outlined as a population at risk of suicide in the Edmonton Suicide Prevention Strategy. Since 2018, the City of Edmonton has partnered with and invested in organizations working within the service provision and peer support space (Legacy Place Society, EMS Peer Support & Wellness Solutions, Corrections peer support, Edmonton Fire and Edmonton Police) improving mental health and suicide outcomes for first responders.</p>	
Medium Term (1-2 years)		
<p>6. Enhance and strengthen engagement with Alberta Health Services.</p>	<p>Administration currently meets with Alberta Health Services representatives once per month to discuss drug poisoning response efforts; additional less formal standing meetings take place bi-weekly.</p> <p>On December 4, 2023 a joint City of Edmonton and Alberta Health Services report (CS01745) will be presented to</p>	<p>Strengthen ongoing engagement with relevant areas in Alberta Health Services.</p> <p>Status: Ongoing.</p>

Attachment 4

	Community and Public Services Committee on mental health and addictions in Edmonton.	
7. Maintain relationship building and communication with the Government of Alberta to create Edmonton-based solutions focused on a continuum of care for substance use.	<p>Administration holds various productive relationships with representatives from Ministries across the provincial government.</p> <p>Administration and City Council maintain representation on the Edmonton Public Safety and Community Response Taskforce, led by the provincial government to address the issues of addiction, homelessness and public safety, and build on the province's recovery oriented system of addiction and mental healthcare.</p>	<p>Continue to work with Government of Alberta counterparts (e.g. Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and the Ministry of Public Safety) to develop Edmonton-based solutions that span the continuum of care to address the full continuum of substance use (recovery treatment, harm reduction supports, etc.)</p> <p>Status: Ongoing.</p>

Data Sharing and Information

Supporting better data gathering and sharing to relevant stakeholders and to promote information and knowledge about the drug poisoning crisis to diverse audiences. This should include strong Edmonton-specific data to understand and share unique local context, impact, and response opportunities.

Recommendation	Current State	City of Edmonton Action
Short Term (less than 1 year)		
<p>8. Increase data collection with people who use drugs.</p>	<p>Administration has begun exploring ways to gather information from people who use drugs to inform solutions moving forward (based on existing relationships with community agencies, organizations, and community members).</p>	<p>Work with local community agencies and organizations to conduct further engagement (such as a survey) with people who use drugs to understand needs and further inform a local strategy.</p> <p>Status: Not started.</p>
<p>9. Increase awareness of prevention, harm reduction, treatment and other support services among people who use substances.</p>	<p>The City of Edmonton has participated in multi-partner projects such as the Addictions Don't Discriminate exhibit to combat stigma around substance use as well as a project funded by Health Canada's Substance Use and Addictions Program to increase awareness of resources (including a video entitled "it's okay to ask for help").</p>	<p>Increase education and awareness among people who use drugs and their networks of resources for prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and other supports to reduce barriers for accessing services (e.g. information on safer use, drug checking services, services such as the Edmonton Opioid and Enhanced Addiction Clinic, etc.)</p>

Attachment 4

	<p>The City of Edmonton’s website often serves as an important source of information for community members.</p>	<p>Further information on resources, and links to additional supports could be expanded on the City of Edmonton’s website and social media presence to support ease of access to information.</p> <p>Status: Ongoing</p>
<p>10. Improve community-wide data collection, monitoring, and real-time information sharing to enhance coordination among service providers.</p>	<p>The City’s Drug Poisoning Deployment Dashboard currently provides some data for tracking drug poisoning-related calls.</p> <p>Community agencies already collect their own comprehensive data collection practices for operational purposes.</p> <p>The City of Edmonton hosts the Drug Poisoning Deployment Dashboard and has supported an Analyst position since 2022 (housed at Boyle Street Community Services) to disseminate information gathered from the dashboard to a range of stakeholders including community agencies and outreach workers.</p>	<p>Use existing data to evaluate current drug poisoning response and prevention efforts in Edmonton to present a baseline before moving forward with additional interventions.</p> <p>Status: Initiated</p> <p>Work with community/agencies, Alberta Health Services, and the Government of Alberta to identify existing data collected and how this can be coordinated to better understand the Edmonton context and track the impact of interventions.</p> <p>Status: Not started</p> <p>Work with community/agencies, Alberta Health Services and the Government of</p>

Attachment 4

		<p>Alberta to explore other data mechanisms to better inform responses.</p> <p>Status: Not started</p> <p>Support continued development and sustainment of a data sharing system for community organizations and agencies to provide real-time updates to staff to better respond to emergencies and track longer-term trends. This should include the exploration of sustainable funding and support of the dashboard analysis to inform community deployment.</p> <p>Status: Initiated.</p>
<p>11. Increase knowledge on lessons learned from the service provision model used during COVID-19 for continuous improvement purposes.</p>	<p>Administration is aware of academic research conducted on the overdose prevention site which operated at a temporary emergency shelter during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	<p>Compile learnings from the service provision model during COVID-19 pandemic mto apply to business cases for future similar initiatives.</p> <p>Status: Initiated.</p>

Attachment 4

<p>12. Increase awareness of drug poisoning prevention and safe consumption related to public washroom spaces.</p>	<p>Administration is currently exploring a project using Brave Sensors, which detects occupancy, absence of movement, or depressed breathing.</p>	<p>Implement a pilot project based on the Safer Bathroom Toolkit using Brave Sensors. Include an evaluation and metrics to track progress.</p> <p>Status: Initiated.</p>
<p>Medium Term (1-2 years)</p>		
<p>13. Increase use of research and data on drug checking services.</p>	<p>Administration has relationships with the City of Calgary Administration and organizations such as Alberta Alliance who Educate and Advocate Responsibly (AAWEAR), which is leading a drug checking pilot project in Calgary.</p> <p>Through research and engagement on drug checking services (CS01220REV), Administration leverages relationships with other agencies and jurisdictions exploring or piloting such services.</p>	<p>Develop knowledge and understanding of research on drug checking by continuing to monitor emerging data and research in collaboration with the participation of people who use drugs.</p> <p>Status: Ongoing.</p>
<p>Long Term (2-5 years)</p>		
<p>14. Increase knowledge about best practices</p>	<p>The City of Edmonton currently collaborates with other municipalities across Canada on topics of mental health and addiction</p>	<p>The City of Edmonton will continue collaborating with other major urban centres across Canada to gain insights on any</p>

Attachment 4

<p>from other municipal jurisdictions on their mental health response and prevention efforts.</p>	<p>through a variety of ongoing and emerging forums.</p>	<p>emerging trends and planned initiatives relating to mental health and drug poisoning response and prevention. This includes gathering learnings from Vancouver and its reduction of Vancouver Police Department attending callouts. Keeping abreast of tools for measuring progress in other jurisdictions (Global Drug Policy Index).</p> <p>Status: Ongoing.</p>
--	--	--

Funding Support

Providing a range of resources for local initiatives that support Edmontonians; including prevention activities through the promotion of health and wellbeing, and intervention and response based activities.

Recommendation	Current State	City of Edmonton Action
Short Term (less than 1 year)		
<p>15. Identify local funding opportunities for community-based</p>	<p>The drug checking program currently operating in Edmonton is funded by Health Canada's Substance Use and Addictions Program.</p>	<p>Explore grant opportunities and/or the development of an investment framework for local organizations to pursue drug checking programs. Funding must provide</p>

Attachment 4

<p>drug checking programs</p> <p>(Cross referenced with recommendation #30)</p>		<p>sustainable longer-term resources or iterative funding to allow for programs to establish themselves before meaningfully measuring outcomes.</p> <p>Status: Not started.</p>
<p>16. Identify funding opportunities for social navigator support in Edmonton Public Libraries</p>	<p>Edmonton Public Libraries' mandate is the provision of library services, including making referrals to agencies that are best positioned to meet an individual's needs.</p> <p>Based on findings from previous pilots within various library branches, some form of social navigation has shown to be helpful in making referrals to community agencies best situated to respond to community members' needs.</p>	<p>Support advocacy efforts to get social navigator positions at Edmonton Public Libraries.</p> <p>Status: Not started.</p>
<p>Medium Term (1-2 years)</p>		
<p>17. Increase grant application support for community agencies active in addressing drug</p>	<p>Throughout engagement, a number of organizations expressed the need for support on applying for grants. They indicated they have a lack of resources to develop and complete grant applications and welcomed the idea of the City of Edmonton</p>	<p>Explore opportunities to support community agencies and organizations in grant application development for initiatives across the continuum of care that address drug poisoning.</p>

Attachment 4

poisoning.	offering support.	Status: Not started.
18. Increase funding opportunities for collaboratives to address the social determinants of health as it relates to drug poisoning.	<p>The City of Edmonton currently funds a number of initiatives that address social determinants of health, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Healthy Streets Operation Centre (HSOC) ● Overdose Response and Prevention Teams ● Community Outreach Transit Teams ● REACH's 24/7 Crisis Diversion Team <p>This is aligned with the Community Safety and Wellbeing Strategy in supporting opportunities for collaboration.</p> <p>A recent Council Report (CS01453 - Multi-Disciplinary and Outreach Ecosystem) highlighted the dynamic and collaborative relationship between collaboratives and community organizations to provide supports in Edmonton; this is crucial to consider for work moving forward.</p>	<p>Advocate to the Government of Alberta and explore opportunities for long-term funding for collaboratives addressing social determinants of health and the drug poisoning crisis, including the Overdose Response and Prevention Teams.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Multi-year funding for HSOC, Streetworks outreach Van, Overdose Response and Prevention Teams and other programs to offset “contract funding fatigue”. ● Funding to support development and implementation of pro-social activities. ● Explore City of Edmonton employment placements for youth (especially Indigenous youth) as a way of promoting drug poisoning prevention efforts. <p>Status: Ongoing.</p>
19. Increase	A recurring theme in engagement expressed	Explore with partners the development of

Attachment 4

<p>availability of diverse drop-in spaces.</p>	<p>the lack of options for drop-in spaces throughout Edmonton.</p>	<p>spaces for people to use as drop-in spaces in different circumstances, such as following release from Emergency Departments.</p> <p>Ensuring that there are different types of spaces available to meet the needs of a diverse population is important. e.g. sober spaces as well as youth-specific and Indigenous-specific spaces where ceremony may take place and connection to culture is promoted (e.g. access to elders, ability to smudge). This is especially relevant regarding winter planning.</p> <p>Status: Not started.</p>
<p>Long Term (2-5 years)</p>		
<p>20. Increase funding of temporary supervised consumption services/overdose prevention sites during the winter months.</p>	<p>During the COVID-19 pandemic, an emergency shelter site included an Overdose Prevention Site.</p>	<p>Advocate to the Government of Alberta and explore with Alberta Health Services the creation of temporary supervised consumption services/overdose prevention sites (consider inhalation options) at warming centres throughout winter months.</p> <p>Status: Ongoing.</p>

Attachment 4

<p>21. Identify sources of sustainable funding for local community agencies and groups leading response and prevention activities.</p>	<p>As identified through the drug checking engagement (CS01220REV), groups expressed the need for long-term, sustainable funding rather than short-term pilot project funding in order to develop services and be able to better track impact.</p>	<p>Advocate to the Government of Alberta to explore options for long-term financial support to local community organizations/agencies carrying out health response and prevention activities.</p> <p>Status: Not started.</p>
---	--	--

Strategic Direction & Alignment

Improving strategic approaches for addressing drug poisoning through increased internal coordination and alignment of existing strategies within the City of Edmonton in tandem with identifying opportunities to guide future work.

Recommendation	Current State	City of Edmonton Action
Short Term (less than 1 year)		
<p>22. Ensure City policies include adequate training and resources to support City of Edmonton staff</p>	<p>City Administration released the new Opioid Hazard Assessment and Naloxone Implementation Guidance for Leaders in December 2022, which identified two categories of employees who may be approved to carry and use naloxone at work.</p>	<p>As this is an updated policy, continue to work with the City of Edmonton Workforce Safety and Employee Health Branch to review the implementation process of the Opioid Hazard Assessment and Naloxone Implementation Guidance for Leaders, to</p>

Attachment 4

<p>carrying and administering naloxone.</p>	<p>Due to legislative requirements, this only covers certain City employees.</p>	<p>understand any potential gaps or opportunities moving forward. Continue working to educate both internal employees and the broader community on the policy, and the legislative requirements that govern the City of Edmonton approach to naloxone use by employees.</p> <p>Status: Ongoing.</p>
<p>23. Increase integration and collaboration among employees across the City of Edmonton doing work responding to drug poisoning.</p>	<p>Engagement for this report demonstrated a need for improved coordination and communication within the City to ensure effective collaboration across different areas of the City.</p> <p>Given the City has many areas that have touch points with people who use drugs, it is important to ensure that resources and best practices in responding to drug poisonings are shared across departments.</p>	<p>Convene internal City of Edmonton meetings to ensure alignment and coordination across the corporation in responding to drug poisoning.</p> <p>Status: Not started.</p>
<p>24. Increase awareness among City staff and the general public about City</p>	<p>Engagement for this report revealed confusion amongst stakeholders as well as City staff regarding authorities, regulations and expectations for drug use and distribution of harm reduction supplies in</p>	<p>Clarify internal City regulations/expectations around drug use in public/distribution of harm reduction supplies, etc. and release clear messaging to City staff and general public about these policies.</p>

Attachment 4

<p>regulations and expectations on drug use and distribution of harm reduction supplies in public spaces.</p>	<p>public spaces. It is important that expectations are made clear not only for City staff but for other stakeholders such as outreach groups, the general public, etc.</p>	<p>Status: Not started.</p>
<p>Medium Term (1-2 years)</p>		
<p>25. Increase strategic focus on addressing upstream factors and root causes of addiction among City of Edmonton strategies.</p>	<p>This report serves as a strong starting point for improving alignment across City of Edmonton strategies. There is a need for improved alignment and coordination within City strategies.</p>	<p>Continue to strengthen and support alignment with City of Edmonton strategies to address upstream factors and root cause of addiction, such as Community and Safety Wellbeing Strategy, Encampment Response Strategy, Indigenous Affordable Housing Strategy, Affordable Housing Strategy, Public Washroom Strategy, etc.</p> <p>Status: Ongoing.</p>
<p>26. Increase support for the development of mental health and addictions sites within the City of</p>	<p>The renewed Zoning Bylaw initiative, which is anticipated to come before City Council in fall 2023, could enable more mental health and addictions supports in more areas across the City than what the current Zoning Bylaw allows.</p>	<p>Monitor application approvals and timelines to determine efficacy of the new Zoning Bylaw around overdose prevention and supervised consumption sites.</p> <p>Status: Ongoing.</p>

Attachment 4

<p>Edmonton's municipal zoning bylaw approval process.</p>	<p>The federal government has signaled an intent to increase the rate of approvals for supervised consumption services. Notably, the Government of Alberta has set its own regulations governing these services which may impact processing times.</p>	
<p>27. Improve efficiency of response to drug poisoning-related calls.</p>	<p>Currently, Edmonton Fire Rescue Services and other Emergency Service providers respond to a high number of medical calls which is costly and reduces the capacity to respond to other calls. Through engagement and review of data, Administration heard a need for innovative, collaborative services that simplify the response.</p> <p>The City and partners are currently exploring the Integrated Call Evaluation and Dispatch Model, which should tentatively open a fully operational Dispatch Centre by Fall 2025. This model is a service delivery framework that is designed to ensure that the right resources are dispatched at the right time to make sure that individuals in crisis receive both the immediate and longer term care and support required to reduce their</p>	<p>Continue to support and explore partnership opportunities, such as between First Responders and community agencies (social workers, outreach workers, peer liaisons), to provide a more focused drug poisoning response while also proactively connecting individuals to resources such as harm reduction support or treatment.</p> <p>Status: Not started.</p>

Attachment 4

	dependency on the public safety, health, and social ecosystem.	
Long-Term (2-5 years)		
<p>28. Develop and implement a local substance use strategy.</p> <p>(Cross referenced with recommendation #2)</p>	<p>Edmonton does not have a substance use strategy. A jurisdictional scan showed that other municipalities in Canada who are addressing the drug poisoning crisis have comprehensive strategies in place (e.g. Calgary¹, Vancouver², Hamilton³ Toronto⁴</p> <p>Engagement for this report set the groundwork for development of a strategy, as Administration built new and deepened existing relationships.</p>	<p>Administration may reconvene community and systems-level stakeholders engaged throughout broader engagement to begin the development of a local substance use strategy. This strategy would be developed with a public health approach that is grounded in social determinants of health and equity.</p> <p>This should include a youth-specific strategy and ensure appropriate alignment with leading practices from the Community Mental Health Strategy and Living Hope: A Community Plan to Prevent Suicide in Edmonton.</p>

¹ <https://pub-calgary.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=158810>

² <https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/four-pillars-drug-strategy.aspx>

³ <https://www.hamilton.ca/city-council/plans-strategies/strategies/hamilton-drug-strategy>

⁴

<https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/health-wellness-care/health-programs-advice/alcohol-and-other-drugs/toronto-drug-strategy-2/>

Attachment 4

		Status: Not started.
29. Continue to investigate the conditions and supports/social infrastructure necessary for decriminalization to be successful in Edmonton.	<p>While there is currently some research done on decriminalization, it is crucial to ensure Edmonton pursues a solution tailored to its own specific needs and assets.</p> <p>A great deal of impactful work is already taking place in Edmonton but this range of initiatives is not adequately captured.</p>	<p>Recommendations throughout this Action Plan contribute to required steps to further enhance the infrastructure and collective response to addressing drug poisonings in Edmonton.</p> <p>Continue to monitor emerging research, data, and evaluation on the efficacy of British Columbia's three year exemption pilot from portions of the <i>Controlled Drugs and Substances Act</i>.</p> <p>Status: Ongoing.</p>

Advocacy and Collaboration

Advocacy to other orders of government and related government agencies who have the legislated authority to respond.

Recommendation	Current State	City of Edmonton Action
Short Term (less than 1 year)		

Attachment 4

<p>30. Support community-based organizations in developing and implementing drug checking options in Edmonton.</p> <p>(Cross referenced with recommendation #15)</p>	<p>Within Edmonton, there is currently one organization actively offering drug checking services (with an FT-IR machine). There are a small number of groups distributing drug testing strips.</p> <p>The Government of Canada has previously provided funding through their Substance Use and Addictions grant program, to support community organizations to implement various harm reduction related initiatives, including funding new drug checking service pilots.</p>	<p>Support interested community partners by raising awareness of available federal grant programs for community-based drug checking options, and support them with their potential application processes where appropriate and applicable. This includes exploring tapping into the Federal Government's Substance Use and Addictions grant program which received \$144 million for over 5 years in the 2023/24 federal Budget, through their national call for funding proposals launched on September 29, 2023 with a November 22, 2023 deadline for submissions.</p> <p>Status: Not started.</p>
<p>31. Leverage evidence-based data from other orders of government and established government agencies to help inform local</p>	<p>The City of Edmonton maintains a Drug Poisoning Deployment Dashboard that shares aggregate drug poisoning data with key community partners based on available information.</p> <p>The Government of Alberta shares data on drug overdoses and deaths through their <i>Alberta Substance Use Surveillance System</i>.</p>	<p>The City of Edmonton will urge various orders of government and associated government agencies to improve the accessibility and timeliness of their data streams.</p> <p>In pursuit of this recommendation, the City of Edmonton may work towards renewing or establishing new data-sharing agreements to ensure ongoing access to aggregate-level</p>

Attachment 4

<p>community based efforts.</p> <p>(Cross referenced with recommendations #10, 11, and 14)</p>	<p>The Public Health Agency of Canada, the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research is undertaking ongoing research and trends monitoring on opioids and other substances.</p>	<p>neighbourhood data, in addition to accessing other available non-confidential data from Alberta Health Services, Alberta Health and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.</p> <p>Status: Ongoing.</p>
<p>Medium Term (1-2 years)</p>		
<p>32. Advocate for an increased number of permanent supportive housing and transitional/bridge housing units in Edmonton.</p> <p>(Cross referenced with recommendations #11, 20, and 25)</p>	<p>The City of Edmonton has a long history of partnering with local housing providers, and has allocated significant City funding to support individuals struggling with the intersecting issues of homelessness, mental health and substance use as part of its broader affordable and supportive housing investment plans. The City is also exploring how it can further advance more Indigenous-led supportive housing units.</p>	<p>The City of Edmonton will support efforts to develop an integrated strategy with the provincial and federal government to develop and operationalize supportive housing and transitional/bridge housing spaces to support unhoused individuals who have complex mental health and/or addictions-related challenges with required wraparound services.</p> <p>Status: Ongoing.</p>
<p>33. Advocate for additional supervised consumption</p>	<p>Currently, there are two public supervised consumption sites in Edmonton (George Spady Society and Radius Health Community Health & Healing) and one in-patient site at</p>	<p>The City of Edmonton will continue to highlight with other orders of government its support for the ongoing funding of current supervised consumption and overdose</p>

Attachment 4

<p>services or overdose prevention sites.</p> <p>(Cross referenced with recommendations #11, 12, 20, 26)</p>	<p>the Royal Alexandra Hospital. A new Community Health Hub and accompanying overdose prevention site is currently being pursued to help serve an unmet need south of the North Saskatchewan River.</p> <p>The Community Liaison Committee - Partners in Drug Poisoning Prevention allows the City of Edmonton to proactively monitor the community impact of the drug poisoning crisis and receive updates from the supervised consumption sites in Edmonton.</p>	<p>prevention sites, and potential addition of new sites - specifically with an inhalation option. This includes supporting Overdose Prevention Sites at emergency shelters/warming centres during the winter months.</p> <p>The City of Edmonton will review the impact of developments to the surrounding community to help determine if additional resources and supports are needed to enable successful integration into the community.</p> <p>The City of Edmonton will encourage the Government of Canada to move forward with its plans to help streamline federal authorizations for supervised consumption sites and drug checking services as identified in the 2023 Federal Budget.</p> <p>Status: Ongoing.</p>
<p>Long Term (2-5 years)</p>		
<p>34. Increase federal and provincial</p>	<p>In the summer of 2022, the Government of Canada released their Federal Framework to</p>	<p>The City of Edmonton will continue to advocate for ongoing supports from other</p>

Attachment 4

<p>support to reintegrate individuals with complex mental health and substance use challenges released from government-run correctional and health facilities.</p> <p>(Cross referenced with recommendations #18 and 32)</p>	<p>Reduce Recidivism and is expected to release their accompanying implementation plan in the coming months which will outline new federal initiatives.</p> <p>In January 2023, Alberta Health Services announced annual operating funding (as part of a pilot project) to support 36 transitional beds in partnership with the Jasper Place Wellness Centre. This pilot supports unhoused clients discharged from an emergency department transition to appropriate community support. The City of Edmonton committed funding in 2022 to support the initial launch of this pilot project.</p>	<p>orders of government to ensure that individuals with complex mental health and substance use challenges have an integrated release plan and the resources necessary to support their successful reintegration from government-run correctional and healthcare facilities, and will actively monitor as new provincial and federal interventions emerge and explore new opportunities to align shared interests.</p> <p>Status: Ongoing.</p>
<p>35. Enhance the equitable distribution of required support services so individuals can access services where they live.</p> <p>(Cross referenced with recommendations #3 and 9)</p>	<p>The City of Edmonton is currently undertaking analysis to understand the geographical distribution of social services located in Edmonton and options to further enhance the equitable distribution of support services. Findings will be shared with Edmonton City Council in December 2023, which may help inform future response efforts in collaboration with partner agencies and other orders of government.</p>	<p>The City of Edmonton will continue to advocate to other orders of government on the importance of developing a longer-term plan for supporting a more equitable distribution of social services across the greater metropolitan region so Albertans can access services where they live.</p> <p>Status: Ongoing.</p>

Attachment 4

<p>36. Advocate for increased addiction support targeted for youth.</p> <p>(Cross referenced with recommendations #18 and 19)</p>	<p>Alberta Health Services offers a number of children and adolescent addiction programs, treatment options, and crisis line supports for youth in Edmonton.</p> <p>The Government of Alberta has signaled plans to implement new recovery community centres for youth in major centres throughout the province, as well as constructing new 30-bed youth mental wellness centres (one planned for Edmonton) that would provide inpatient mental health and addiction treatment to youth. Further details on implementation plans for these facilities are expected in the future.</p>	<p>The City of Edmonton will continue leveraging all its communication and collaborative forums with Alberta Health Services and other provincial ministries to gain further clarity on emerging government efforts that will offer expanded youth-specific addiction supports within Edmonton, and support continued advocacy where required. The City may also advocate for the inclusion of prevention efforts for youth.</p> <p>Status: Not started.</p>
--	--	---