

### Updated Affordable Housing Strategy Development Process

#### Phase 1: Housing Needs Assessment

The City of Edmonton completed its first comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment in 2022, which was subsequently updated in 2023 with 2021 Federal Census data (Attachment 3). The findings from the Housing Needs Assessment and the accompanying lived experience studies provided context on housing type, housing pricing and Strategy performance measures.

Administration also consulted with service providers and contracted two external partners, EndPovertyEdmonton and InWithForward, to engage individuals with lived experience. These engagements helped understand how housing needs are experienced by individuals and families.

The most impactful engagement themes included affordability, accessibility and discrimination. More information on these engagement efforts and key findings can be found in the EndPovertyEdmonton and InWithForward reports (CS01088 Updated Affordable Housing Strategy, Attachments 2 and 3). The updated Affordable Housing Strategy incorporates these findings in the guiding principles, goals, and accompanying objectives. Goals 1 and 3 specifically will help the City to encourage the diversification of supply to respond to various housing needs of priority populations to address structural racism, ableism and to help raise awareness of the need to ensure everyone has access to affordable housing.

#### Phase 2: Jurisdictional Scan

A review of affordable housing strategies from other Canadian cities was completed between January and February 2022 and provided greater understanding of the scope of issues municipalities may address and the specific programs and initiatives used by other jurisdictions.<sup>1</sup>

Other key findings showed:

- Municipalities are aligning major strategic plans with budget cycles.
- Municipalities are incorporating the issues of homelessness and housing into one strategy determined mostly by the provincial jurisdictional differences and size of municipalities.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://pub-edmonton.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=162147>

### Phase 3: Internal Review on 2016-2025 Affordable Housing Strategy

This phase, which took place between March and April 2022, involved internally assessing progress made on the goals of the 2016-2025 Affordable Housing Strategy in light of ongoing work, upcoming priorities, and anticipated opportunities or challenges. Engagement with multiple internal stakeholders was conducted as part of the review.

A progress update (CS01088, Updated Affordable Housing Strategy, Attachment 5) summarized the work completed. The City made significant progress in its goals of increasing the supply of affordable housing in Edmonton through the development of the Affordable Housing Investment Program. The City continues to be active in providing eviction prevention information through the Tenant Supports team. The City needs to improve communication around affordable housing as well as ensure that City owned social housing units are sustainably maintained. This phase helped Administration gain a deeper understanding of the opportunities and challenges of strategy implementation.

### Phase 4: External Review of 2016-2025 Affordable Housing Strategy

Phase 4 focused on assessing the effectiveness of the specific approaches established in the Strategy to further the goals. Between May and June of 2022, Administration invited 35 partners and stakeholders in Edmonton's affordable housing sector to review the 2016-2025 Affordable Housing Strategy and comment on the City's progress. The engagement involved an online questionnaire and optional follow-up conversations.

Administration received responses and commentary on areas where the City had performed well and suggestions of actions missing from the 2016-2025 Strategy. This feedback is summarized in greater detail in the What We Heard report (Attachment 2).

### Phase 5: Review of the Draft Foundational Elements

In July 2022, Administration invited partners and stakeholders from Edmonton's affordable housing and social services sector to review the Strategy's draft foundational elements. Administration received suggestions for clarifying or improving language and intent of the updated guiding principles, goals, objectives, and the City's role. The What We Heard Report provides additional commentary on this phase.

### Phase 6: Strategy Development

The final draft of the updated Affordable Housing Strategy involved:

- reviewing the previous Strategy,
- synthesizing the input received through the various public, stakeholder and internal engagements, and
- incorporating the learnings from the Housing Needs Assessment and the e lived experience studies,
- aligning the Affordable Housing Investment Plan, and
- considering the housing strategies of other orders of government..

Internal City engagement asked employees to assess the feasibility of implementing actionable ideas. Their feedback informed the development of the Strategy implementation plan and monitoring and evaluation plan with timelines and metrics to track progress.

The implementation plan also accounts for the recommendations from the Indigenous Affordable Housing Strategy project, which was completed in 2022 and presented to the Community and Public Services Committee on June 27, 2022 (CS00433). These recommendations are integrated as tactics and key actions of the implementation plan.