



LETTER OF INTENT

Made Between

TREATY 8 FIRST NATIONS
AND
THE CITY OF EDMONTON

Whereas, the City of Edmonton recognizes that it is on the traditional land of the Treaty Six Territory and homelands to the Nehiyaw (Cree), Denesuline' (Dene), Nakota, and Saulteaux peoples.

Whereas, Edmonton has always been a gathering place for Indigenous Peoples, including a significant place of trade and barter for Treaty 8 people.

Whereas, Edmonton has historically been a gathering place and sacred ceremonial location for Indigenous Peoples and the North Saskatchewan River was a key traveling route which allowed Indigenous Peoples from across territories, including Treaty 8, to interconnect, trade, and barter.

Whereas, a significant number of Treaty 8 people live and access services in Edmonton, on Treaty Six Territory.

Whereas, Treaty 8 First Nations is comprised of member First Nations, including nations of Nehiyaw (Cree), Denesuline' (Dene), and Saulteau, each of which hold inherent Treaty rights on Treaty 8 lands located north of Edmonton.

Whereas, the Treaty 8 First Nations link their members experience of homelessness and housing insecurity to the oppression, racism, and discrimination as well as government-imposed policies, practices and legislation including colonialism, Doctrine of Discovery and dispossession of land, residential schools, Sixties Scoop, and child welfare system resulting in historical trauma and injustice of Missing and Murdered First Peoples, and of which, continues to impact Indigenous health and well-being in urban settings.

Whereas, the Treaty 8 First Nations and the City of Edmonton acknowledge the disproportionate representation of First Peoples experiencing houselessness and housing insecurity in the Edmonton region, including those affected by the drug poisoning crisis.

And Whereas, the City of Edmonton is committed to working towards greater Indigenous-led housing, which includes the Treaty 8 First Nations being directly involved in decision-making and activities related to housing for its members in an urban and culturally appropriate setting.

Now therefore, the parties affirm:

- That the Treaty 8 First Nations and the City of Edmonton will continue their positive working relationship to address the immediate and long-term housing needs as well as supportive services to meet the needs of Treaty 8 First Peoples in the Edmonton region.
- That this letter is a living document, therefore the Treaty 8 First Nations and the City of Edmonton agree to revisit, review and revise this letter on an as-needed basis.
- That the commitments in this letter do not legally bind either the Treaty 8 First Nations or the City of Edmonton, and the parties may enter into subsequent agreements in the future to further formalize government-to-government relationship to address houselessness, housing and other services. Nothing in this Letter of Intent will hinder or prejudice any existing arrangements or future MOUs or protocols made with any Treaty 8 First Nation.

And commit to the following:

- Both parties agree to facilitate meetings between the Chiefs of the Treaty 8 First Nations and the Mayor to discuss housing challenges, opportunities and desired outcomes to address houselessness and housing insecurity in the Edmonton region.
- Both parties will undertake joint advocacy as well as housing proposal(s), that are inclusive of wraparound supportive service approaches, and submit them to the provincial and federal government.
- Both parties agree to share and provide updates on efforts to secure provincial and federal government funding for Indigenous housing and related wellness programs and operational funding in order to reduce housing needs of Treaty 8 People living in the city.
- Both parties agree to support formal partnerships to develop or operate affordable Indigenous housing.

For the Treaty 8 First Nations

For the City of Edmonton

(Signature)

Grand Chief Treaty 8 First Nations Trevor Mercredi

(Signature)

Mayor Amarjeet Sohi

SIGNED IN THE CITY OF EDMONTON, PROVINCE OF ALBERTA
ON _____.