

Current Level of Services in Chinatown

To understand the gap between self-identified community needs and current operations, the Public Space Management Framework evaluates the existing baseline of City-provided services in Chinatown, which is a part of the Centre City Optimization program.

Maintenance and Cleaning Operations

The City provides routine street and public space cleaning, as well as waste management across Edmonton, including Chinatown. Residents and businesses can report issues such as graffiti, litter, potholes, snow-related hazards and more through 311 (the City's service request system), which dispatches crews for responses.

In addition, the City currently deploys three specialized teams through the Centre City Optimization program: Clean, Green and Inspection Services. These teams handle litter, needle pickup and landscaping. Parks in the area are typically serviced every 1 to 1.5 days during the summer. Additionally, the "Chinatown Solution" partnership with the BIA and Hope Mission provides sidewalk and window washing on a bi-weekly basis.

BIA and Community Cleanliness Initiatives includes several different subsidies, the following are managed within the Capital City Clean-up program within the Community Standards Branch:

1. The Litter Reduction Funding Grant (\$325,000) provides \$25,000 to all 13 BIAs and focuses on litter and needle cleanup via social enterprises, which provide employment to marginalized groups while improving commercial district hygiene. Chinatown received about \$34,000 in funding.
2. The Social Enterprise Contract (\$100,000) is concentrated in Downtown and Chinatown for power washing and intensive cleaning. Chinatown received \$59,000 in funding.
3. The Community Clean Up Grant (\$50,000) provides between \$1,000 and \$1,300 per event for "Big Bin" disposal events hosted by Community Leagues and non-profits. This does not include any events Waste Services hosts.
4. Ashtray provision and clean-up efforts. Chinatown received another \$8,000 of funding for ashtrays and cleaning of ashtrays.
5. Needle debris mitigation program. City provided about \$2,500 in funding to Chinatown for needle boxes.

Chinatown's main streets fall within Priority 1 area for snow removal, which targets bare pavement within 24 hours after snowfall.

Safety and Enforcement Services

Current safety initiatives involve a variety of operational groups, including the Edmonton Police Service (EPS), Community Standards Peace Officers (CSPO), Transit Peace Officers, Park Rangers, Animal Control Officers and Municipal Enforcement Officers.

- Community Standards Peace Officers (CSPOs) enforce select provincial statutes and municipal bylaws, encompassing, but not limited to, the *Traffic Safety Act*, the *Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act* and the Public Spaces Bylaw. In addition to enforcement capabilities, these officers offer navigation assistance, referrals to social services, crisis intervention and support during medical emergencies.
- Transit Peace Officers enforce select provincial statutes and municipal bylaws, including, but not limited to, the *Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act*. Their focus is on Edmonton Transit System infrastructure, where they respond to safety concerns and proactively patrol transit areas within Chinatown, such as buses and bus stops.
- Animal Control Officers contribute to safety within the area through the regulation of animals, public education on animal care and enforcement of the *Animal Protection Act* and the Animal Licensing and Control Bylaw, which is being updated to the Animal Care and Control Bylaw in May 2026.
- The Complaints and Investigations Section also provides enforcement services within the area through three primary mechanisms. Municipal Enforcement Officers (MEOs) provide general enforcement regarding nuisance property conditions. The Problem Properties Team focuses on problematic occupied or unoccupied properties and is networked with the Edmonton Police Service, Edmonton Fire Rescue Services and other agencies. Finally, a joint initiative with the EPS focuses on addressing problem businesses, licensing conditions and sales practices.
- There are two City of Edmonton Community Safety Liaisons assigned to EPS Downtown division, which overlaps with the Chinatown area.

Economic and Activation Support

Prior to 2025, Edmonton allocated over \$1 million to the Chinatown Recovery Fund, which supported post-pandemic recovery projects. This fund has now been expended, but its legacy contributes to ongoing programming frameworks. Additionally, a multi-year service package (~\$1.2 million) was approved in past Council decisions to support ongoing implementation of the Chinatown Strategy through entities like the Chinatown Transformation Collaborative (CTC). Originally established in 2024 as a one-time initiative, the Chinatown Vibrancy Fund is a direct investment supporting implementation of the Chinatown Strategy, a long-term economic and cultural framework developed in collaboration with community partners. As a result of its successful reception in the community, the City continued the Chinatown Vibrancy Fund in 2025, committing \$480,000 annually for 2025 and 2026 to support community-led projects that increase vibrancy, celebrate culture and attract visitors

to Chinatown. The City's funding underpins community cohesion, cultural heritage promotion and economic activation within Chinatown by enabling grassroots and business-driven initiatives.

Additional economic support also includes free three-hour parking in designated zones to encourage local shopping versus standard two-hour EPark zones across the city, while social support is largely anchored by the recently opened King Thunderbird Centre, which provides day-time health and social services from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM and other social agencies located in Chinatown.

Overall, businesses and organizations in Chinatown could access City-wide business support grants, including programs like the Business Improvement Area (BIA) grants, which also support building renovations and streetscape improvements (benefits flowing indirectly to Chinatown businesses as part of the broader BIA ecosystem). While not exclusive to Chinatown, these grants strengthen local business capacity and can complement Chinatown-specific funding.

Summary of City Funding for the Chinatown Strategy and Service Levels in Chinatown

Initiative	Amount
2023-2026 Service Package for Chinatown Strategy Implementation to Chinatown Transformation Collaborative	\$1.224 million
2025 Vibrancy Fund	\$480,000
2026 Vibrancy Fund	\$480,000
Long-term Infrastructure Investments	
Chinatown Gate Project	\$8.7 million
McCauley Neighbourhood Renewal Work ¹	\$64.5 million
Chinatown Infrastructure Improvements ²	\$10.1 million
Litter Reduction Funding Grant	\$34,000
Social Enterprise Contract	\$59,000
Ashtray Provision and Clean-Up	\$8,000

¹ McCauley Neighbourhood Renewal work covers a large area of the McCauley neighbourhood that includes Chinatown North. Funds spent specifically on the Chinatown area will not be known until construction completion.

² Chinatown Infrastructure Improvements consists of several projects at different phases in their development, including additional streetscape improvements in Chinatown as part of the McCauley Neighbourhood Renewal work, renewal of Mary Burlie Park and renewal work planned for 97 Street and 107A Avenue.

Attachment 5

Needle Debris Mitigation Program	\$2,500
Revitalization Macro Grants ³	\$60,000
Centre City Optimization Program ⁴	\$4.4 million
Anti-racism Grant	\$30,000
Revitalization Extensive Grant ⁵	\$99,692

³ Awarded for three initiatives organized in Chinatown at \$20,000 per project.

⁴ The Centre City Optimization program focuses on a defined area of The City Plan, including: three Business Improvement Areas (Downtown, Chinatown and North Edge) and the following neighbourhoods: Wîhkwêntôwin, Queen Mary Park, Central McDougall, McCauley, Boyle Street and Downtown.

⁵ Two grants awarded to two separate community recipients.