



# Extreme Weather Protocol (D. Iveson)

Edmonton

Community and Public Services Committee  
March 24, 2021

## Winter Emergency Response

- City Policy *C620 Supporting Vulnerable People During Extreme Weather Conditions* sets out the role the City has in planning emergency responses to extreme weather events in collaboration with Homeward Trust and homeless serving agencies.
- Administration most recently activated the extreme weather response from February 4 to February 17, 2021
- Notification of the activation was provided through multiple channels: emails to relevant COE departments and external partners, verbally at regular stakeholder and sector meetings, public service announcements via news releases and social media, and website updates

# Winter Emergency Response

February 2021

- Shelters added approximately 160 additional spaces
- Dedicated overnight ETS bus service provided 1337 trips
- Bylaw tickets not issued to those who were using transit without paid fares in order to stay warm
- Encampment enforcement paused - focus on wellness checks and referrals
- Tipinawaw reported 58 new unique users during the extreme weather response with many reporting they previously slept outside

## Encampment Enforcement

- City of Edmonton has an Encampment Response Team (ERT) that prioritizes and plans the removals of encampments
- When an extreme weather response is activated, the closure of encampments by ERT is postponed and park rangers prioritize wellness checks on individuals in coordination with outreach workers
- On February 13th an encampment was removed outside of Hope Mission outside of the formal Encampment Response Team process.
- Administration and EPS have made adjustments to improve coordination in responding to complaints of encampments on public land.

## Transit Stations During Response

- LRT stations no longer being used for overnight winter emergency shelter
- Peace Officers conduct wellness checks on individuals, refer them to shelters and coordinate with the overnight bus service and 24/7 Crisis Diversion
- Individuals are asked to leave the premises at scheduled closure times and, as the last step, if they are creating a disturbance or disorder
- The event on February 14th where individuals were removed from an LRT station for public health violations is currently under investigation by Edmonton Police Service.

## Communication Procedures

- Communication with partners and stakeholders is a key part of any extreme weather activation
- Continuous improvement on communication and coordination procedures happens with every activation to ensure that there is optimal alignment with each agencies respective procedures
- Administration and Edmonton Police Service have developed and implemented new procedures to align encampment responses by both parties
- Ongoing evaluation, coordination, and integration efforts will be made to ensure that there is no confusion about how extreme weather response is provided

**Thank you.  
Questions?**