

February 24, 2021

Memorandum of Understanding signed between City of Red Deer and Provincial Government for a permanent Integrated Emergency Shelter

1. When did the Provincial Government announce that there would be an integrated shelter in Red Deer?

On February 7, 2020, the Province committed to \$7 million in its 2020 Capital Plan for a purpose-built Integrated Emergency Shelter in Red Deer.

2. What type of shelter will this be?

Specifics about location, timing and operational details have not yet been determined by the Provincial Government. The facility will provide shelter amenities and services such as, but not limited to, sober and intoxication emergency shelter beds and spaces, food preparation and services, showers, washrooms, laundry and storage facilities, as well as housing, counselling, health and detox supports.

3. What is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and why was one signed between the Provincial Government and The City of Red Deer?

The purpose of a MOU is to establish a general high-level understanding related to the provision of this Provincially managed project to meet the current and future needs in Red Deer. Through the signing of a MOU, the Province and The City acknowledge their mutual objective is for Red Deerians to have access to a safe, accessible overnight shelter throughout the provision of a quality purpose-built Integrated Emergency Shelter, and the Province and The City recognize that shelter comprises one component of the housing continuum.

4. What does the MOU mean for The City of Red Deer?

The MOU allows The City and the Province to work together to achieve public interest outcomes, and put processes in place for City input and review for the Provincial project. Although shelter operations will be exclusively determined by the Provincial Government, the Province will consult with The City as the project progresses on details such as construction and transition planning.

5. Why do we need this service in our city?

The City and community have advocated for many years to the Province for additional overnight shelter spaces in Red Deer, and for a permanent integrated 24/7 emergency shelter that can provide year-round wrap-around integrated homeless services. Over the past several years, Red Deer shelters have been at capacity, at times overflow beds were full, and daytime warming was full.

The impact that this lack of shelter space has had on our entire community is significant. It has resulted in rough sleeper camps in our parks system and impacts in our downtown, with people seeking shelter in business vestibules because of a lack of sufficient storage, washrooms, and daytime supports. This shelter will work to address the long-standing critical healthcare and community concerns surrounding shelter services and support in our city and region.

6. What is the timeline for the shelter?

The Province and The City will continue to work together to collectively achieve public interest outcomes for Red Deer and the community, noting shelter infrastructure and operations are within Provincial jurisdiction. The Province of Alberta will act as the project manager, designing the service

delivery model and coordinate the building of the shelter, and the timing for design construction will be determined by the Province.

7. Where will the shelter be located?

The Provincial Government has not yet determined final details of the location, but it is The City's understanding that the Government of Alberta is working with local service providers to determine service delivery.

8. What is the cost of the shelter?

The MOU states that the Province will fund primary capital infrastructure for the project. The City will contribute value in kind to the project through potential one-time waivers or reductions of fees like utility connections, landscaping and sidewalk development. The City will not provide ongoing capital maintenance, capital for future expansion or operational funding.