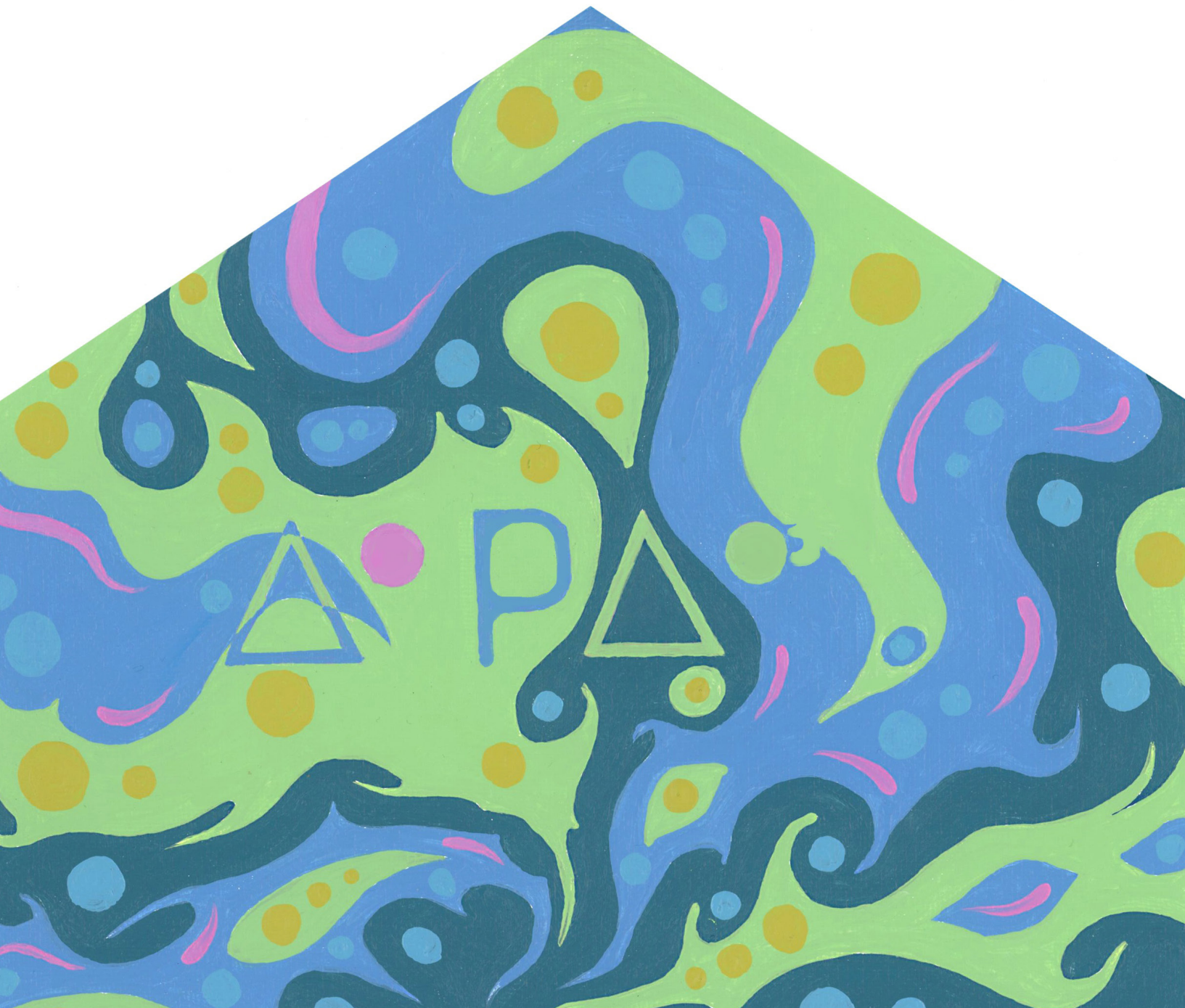


A Place to Call Home

EDMONTON'S UPDATED PLAN TO PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS




ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The development of the Edmonton Plan to End Homelessness Update (2017) was a joint endeavour led by Homeward Trust and the City of Edmonton. The Plan Update Working Group led this process and consisted of Susan McGee, Joanne Cave, Robbie Brydon, and Matthew Ward of Homeward Trust, and Daryl Kreuzer and Kofi Amoh of the City of Edmonton.

Dr. Alina Turner (Turner Strategies) provided expertise in system planning, modelling, and strategy development and led the Plan's writing. Vink Consulting aided the engagement process with over 3,000 Edmontonians as well. Kim Harper (Pentool Creative) developed the final designed version of the Plan and Doreen Cardinal provided important expertise on the report cover design and symbolism.

Thanks to those who participated in this process with their knowledge and passion for this issue. This Plan Update is a direct result of your input.




The City of Edmonton is committed to see that the housing needs of all Edmontonians are met. The City has taken a strong leadership role and uses a range of tools comprised of funding, land contributions, surplus school sites, zoning and regulations, partnerships through program support and policies to meet a wide range of affordable housing and homelessness needs in all areas of the city.

- City Of Edmonton

ABOUT THE REPORT COVER

The report cover was painted by Chipewyan artist Michael Fatt, whose homelessness lived experience inspired this piece; his personal journey of both migration and recovery is an apt example of the Plan's focus on Reconciliation and long-term solutions.

The gold, green, and blue colours used are inspired by the text of the Treaty 6, as enduring "as long as the sun shines, as long as the grass grows, and as long as the river flows." The purple references the Aurora Borealis element seen in the city's night sky. The painting depicts a home made up of the various dancing shapes that reference the diversity of Edmonton, combining into an inclusive whole where everyone is home and belongs. If you look closely, the Cree word for home, wikiwin, written as  is incorporated.

The painting is being gifted by the artist with for the sole purposes of supporting the work of the Plan. If you wish to know more about Michael and his work, see this link:

colouritforward.myshopify.com/collections/all/michael-fatt

Nocturnal Works, 403 903 0117.

ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHY

The black and white pictures were captured by Edmonton documentary photographer Ken Armstrong who has dedicated the last 13 years to working with and documenting Canada's homeless and Indigenous populations.

He studied at Loyalist College's School of Photojournalism and cut his photographic teeth as an intern at the Globe and Mail in Toronto. His photographic journey has taken him from Halifax to Vancouver, from Behchoko, NWT to the Crowsnest Pass, and his work has been published across the country.

Ken grew up in Winnipeg and is a member of the Sagkeeng First Nation. He currently works with Homeward Trust as the Educator, Indigenous Culture, Services and Resources. This photographic series is an excerpt from a project that began 13 years ago documenting homelessness in Canada.

If you wish to know more about Ken and his work, see this link:

www.kenarmstrongphoto.com

www.instagram.com/kenarmstrongphoto

In 2009, Edmontonians came together and committed to an ambitious goal: ending homelessness in our community. After extensive consultations with community, *A Place to Call Home: Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness* was launched. Since then, considerable progress has been made, and we've shown that this goal is within reach.

DEMONSTRATING SUCCESS

Over the last eight years, Housing First programs have housed and supported **more than 6,000 people**. With this effort, point-in-time homeless counts have fallen considerably since 2009. We've made progress by applying **proven interventions, and correcting course in real-time based on evidence**.



Today, Edmonton is **recognized nationally and internationally** for our collective achievements in this work.

The leadership and support of the **Government of Alberta, the first province to commit to ending homelessness**, has been essential to this success. The **Government of Canada** and the **City of Edmonton** have contributed key resources, expertise, and ongoing support for this work.





I love my
neighbours and the
community feel.
Our neighbours are
really supportive.

- Permanent Supportive Housing Resident

THE NEED FOR AN UPDATE

Although Edmonton has made strong progress against the targets of the original 10 Year Plan, some areas were not resourced to the level that the Plan required. For example, the original Plan called for 1,000 new units of permanent supportive housing, but only about 200 units have been added.

Today, we have a **better understanding** than ever before about the scope of homelessness in our community, and what is required to end it. This is a result of enhanced **use of technology** as well as years of implementation experience. Our ability to access and **put data to use in decision-making** today has changed dramatically since 2009.

ENGAGING COMMUNITY

To ensure our approach was grounded in best practices and responsive to changing needs, Homeward Trust and the City of Edmonton launched a **collaborative process** to review and update the Plan in 2017.

More than 3,000 Edmontonians contributed to the Update, including community members, people with lived experience of homelessness, experts and frontline workers, orders of government and mainstream systems. Substantial evidence, experience, data and expertise were brought to bear to chart the course forward.

A LIVING DOCUMENT

This Plan Update is a “living document” that **sets priorities to 2020**, while also defining high-level strategies to guide collective work long-term. The Plan will continue to be updated on an ongoing basis to reflect changes; progress will be assessed and reported on an annual basis. Ongoing evaluation and community engagement are essential to ensuring our approach remains relevant and effective.



KEY CONCEPTS IN THE UPDATED PLAN

AN END TO HOMELESSNESS

The Plan Update emphasizes a **system planning** response that focuses on both ending homelessness and preventing future homelessness. It uses the concept of “functional zero” as the measurement for ending homelessness.

A **functional zero** end to homelessness means that

**HOMELESSNESS IS PREVENTED
WHENEVER POSSIBLE, AND THAT
EXPERIENCES OF HOMELESSNESS
ARE RARE, BRIEF, AND NON-
RECURRING.**

RENEWED LEADERSHIP & FOCUS

Ending and preventing homelessness will require renewed

**LEADERSHIP ACROSS STAKEHOLDERS
AND INVESTMENT IN WHAT WORKS.**

This Plan calls for an increase of **permanent supportive and affordable housing** supply, and a greater **focus on prevention and diversion**, including longer term supports where appropriate.

**More communities need
to open their minds
and hearts towards the
homeless in our city**

- Survey Respondent

AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

The Plan calls on our homeless-serving system to maintain focus on responding to immediate needs of vulnerable Edmontonians experiencing homelessness, and enhance integration with **affordable housing, prevention, poverty reduction supports and efforts**, particularly **EndPovertyEdmonton**.

Such integration must also be enhanced with the **health, justice, education, and child intervention systems** to increase wellbeing and **prevent homelessness risk in the first place**.

TOGETHER, OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS WILL MAKE EDMONTON THE BEST PLACE TO CALL HOME.

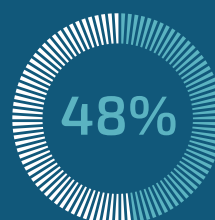


FACTS ABOUT HOMELESSNESS

The Plan estimates that approximately **1% of Edmontonians** – **11,300 people** – experienced homelessness in 2016.

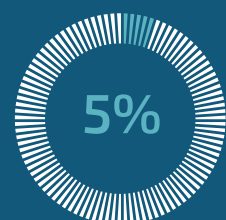
About **20,000** Edmontonian households live in **extreme Core Housing Need**. Extreme Core Housing Need is a key indicator of homelessness risk, in which an individual earns less than \$20,000 per year and is a member of a household that spends at least 50% of its income on rent.

Indigenous people are over-represented among those experiencing homelessness: 48% of the individuals surveyed in Edmonton's 2016 Homeless Count identified as Indigenous, compared to 5% of Edmonton's general population.



INDIGENOUS

VS



GENERAL POPULATION

GOALS, ACTIONS & TARGETS

The updated Plan calls for a renewed emphasis on coordination across Edmonton's homeless-serving system and enhanced integration with other services and supports to achieve the following goals, actions and targets. This Plan Update is founded on three goals and their associated targets and strategies. These goals are interrelated and mutually reinforcing, working together to achieve an end to homelessness. The goals, targets, and actions are as follows:

>> 01 END CHRONIC AND EPISODIC HOMELESSNESS

ACTIONS

- 1.1 Enhance the focus of crisis response services and facilities on permanent housing outcomes;
- 1.2 Continue to evolve Housing First programs for maximum impact;
- 1.3 Develop permanent supportive housing and affordable housing across neighbourhoods.

TARGETS

- By 2018, all rough sleepers will be engaged through assertive outreach and Coordinated Access to appropriate housing and supports.
- By 2020, no one staying in shelter or sleeping rough will experience chronic homelessness.
- Between April 2017 and March 2020, an additional 4,000 people experiencing homelessness will be housed through Housing First programs.
- By 2022, 100% of those entering homeless-serving system will be connected to housing and supports within 21 days.

>> 02 PREVENT FUTURE HOMELESSNESS

ACTIONS

- 2.1 Enhance homelessness prevention and diversion measures;
- 2.2 Increase access to mental health, addiction, trauma and wellness supports;
- 2.3 Increase coordination between systems to mitigate homelessness risk;
- 2.4 Increase public education and awareness about homelessness.

TARGETS

- By 2019, people will be diverted from entering the homeless-serving system with an immediate link to community-based prevention supports within five days wherever possible and appropriate.
- By 2018, corrections, health and child intervention will report on the number of people discharged into homelessness from public systems on a biennial basis at minimum. Based on figures reported, annual targets will be introduced to achieve zero discharge into homelessness by 2023.

>> 03 DEVELOP AN INTEGRATED SYSTEMS RESPONSE

ACTIONS

- 3.1 Continue to integrate lived-experience voices in Plan implementation;
- 3.2 Enhance policy, funding and resource alignment, and accountabilities;
- 3.3 Expand Coordinated Access across the Homeless-serving system;
- 3.4 Integrate information and performance management at the system level;

TARGETS

- By 2018, complete the shared Plan Accountability Framework, which identifies resource and funding coordination processes, roles and accountabilities to support Plan strategies.
- By 2020, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) coverage and Coordinated Access participation will include 75% of all beds in emergency shelters, interim and short-term supportive and permanent supportive housing. Full HMIS coverage and Coordinated Access participation of all Homeless-serving system components is achieved by 2027.



PLAN COSTS & SAVINGS

The updated Plan includes revised projections of resources required to achieve our shared goals.

Approximately

\$30 million per year

in new operational funds will be needed to ramp up the system.

This will expand homeless interventions funded in the community from

\$35 million per year

to about

\$65 million.

A further

\$230 million required

for capital over the next six years.

The Plan measures will yield an estimated

cost savings of \$230 million

over 10 years in reduced usage of healthcare, emergency services, police and justice resources, and other systems.



This approach will eliminate chronic and episodic homelessness by 2022,

allowing resources to shift over time towards homelessness prevention, and to longer-term supports for those who need them.

NEXT STEPS

Since 2009, we have gained tremendous knowledge about what works, and what is still required for our community to achieve an end to homelessness. To move the Plan Update into implementation, [Homeward Trust](#) and the City of Edmonton will work with stakeholders to define the commitments, accountabilities, and actions required to succeed.

This Plan Update affirms our community's commitment to end homelessness in Edmonton by building a [homeless-serving system that is integrated, responsive, and nimble](#). Ongoing system planning efforts will be integral to ensure the Plan continues to reflect Edmonton's current needs and capacity.

**TOGETHER, WE CAN
ENSURE EVERYONE
HAS A PLACE TO CALL
HOME.**

A Place to Call Home

endhomelessnessyeg.ca

edmonton.ca

homewardtrust.ca

The Plan is needed and keeps us moving forward as a community. We need to continue the collaboration and investment in housing programs. We need to listen to those who have experienced homelessness and precarious housing if we are going to truly end homelessness in Edmonton.

- Roundtable Participant

