

Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness makes progress

Edmonton's Homeless Commission, today, released its Five Year Update to the city's Plan to End Homelessness. The results show steady progress towards achieving its goal of ending chronic homelessness by 2019:

- Permanent homes have been secured for 2,909 people who had been living on the streets – the vast majority are in private rental market buildings across the city
- 84 per cent of the people housed successfully stayed in their new home
- Government of Alberta funding for homeless supports was frozen for Year 5, but an increase is planned for Year 6



"Edmonton's Plan to End Homelessness has established our city as a leader in Canada in realizing social change, and the results show it," said Mayor Don Iveson. He also acknowledged the important role of front-line agencies in implementing the plan.

There are several obstacles that need to be overcome if Edmonton is to achieve its goal of ending homelessness:

- Lack of affordable housing and high rents mean that too many Edmontonians are living on the edge. More needs to be done to catch people before they fall into homelessness. Edmonton shelters provided accommodation for a record number of people this past winter.
- Edmonton needs more permanent supportive housing in order to successfully house and support those who are most vulnerable, with multiple complex needs.

"We have a collective responsibility here," said Hal Danchilla, Chair of the Edmonton Homeless Commission. "We are all invested in improving the lives of the most vulnerable Edmontonians. We know that housing and supporting those with the greatest needs improves lives, avoids costs and saves the taxpayer dollars."

For details on the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, please visit the Homeless Commission's website, homelesscommission.org or contact:

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