

Council passes suicide prevention strategy

September 20, 2016

Edmonton City Council has passed a [suicide prevention strategy](#) - part of the City's Urban Isolation/Mental Health Initiative - to help coordinate efforts to address the suicide problem in the city.

"Suicide is preventable. The Edmonton Suicide Prevention Strategy adopts a comprehensive and preventative approach to suicide that involves the whole community," said Councillor Scott McKeen. "The impact of suicide has devastating consequences for individuals, friends, families, and the entire community. This strategy will allow for a coordinated approach to prioritize suicide as a public health issue."

The goals of the strategy are to:

- provide awareness and education that promotes positive mental health and reduce the stigma of suicide;
- ensure the whole continuum of services — positive mental health promotion, prevention, intervention, postvention — is fully accessible;
- address the needs of higher risk populations.

The development of the strategy was a collaborative process that incorporated the unique and diverse experiences of members of the Edmonton Suicide Prevention Advisory Committee. The committee is composed of a cross-section of representatives from government and community-based organizations.

The Edmonton Suicide Prevention Advisory Committee came together in January 2015 to explore how to prevent suicide in the city after discussions in City Hall around the [High Level Bridge safety barriers](#).

Diverse stakeholders were invited to consider the prevalence of suicide, to examine the causes and to develop recommendations that would ultimately reduce suicides in Edmonton.

The development of this strategy has taken place at an opportune moment. There is a growing recognition across the country that suicide prevention needs to be a priority. The committee will now work on an implementation plan in order to achieve the goals of the strategy.

Media contact:

[Shani Gwin](#)
Communications Advisor
780-495-0658

Share:     

3rd Floor, City Hall
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square NW
Edmonton, AB
T5J 2R7
www.edmonton.ca

[Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Printer Friendly Version](#)

This email was created and delivered through [Mailout](#)