

RED DEER'S

PERMANENT
SHELTER
PROJECT

APRIL 11, 2022



SUMMARY



In this report, you will find information, presentations and recommendations provided to Council since the province announced \$7 million in funding for a permanent integrated shelter in 2020.

During the process so far, most of the conversations were held in closed meetings (In Camera), supported by the FOIP Act:

- Protect government to government relationships – although this is a project led by the province, there are components that The City is responsible for and involved in, ensuring the success of the process and final service.
- Advice from officials – conversations held throughout the process included specific advice from officials relating to site options and direct impact to the community. Holding these conversations in a closed meeting allowed for candid conversations that led to public decisions being made.
- Protect the recommendations and advice that could be expected to result in financial loss, prejudice the competitive advantage, or interfere with contractual or other negotiations. Through the site search process, a majority of the locations identified were not City-owned meaning that acquiring the site may have been required. To protect The City's ability to properly negotiate land purchase, the sites considered were not released, and will not be released to the public at this time.

In an effort to be more transparent on the permanent shelter process, on Monday, April 11 2022, Council voted in favour of making a portion of all information, communications and presentations from In Camera meetings throughout the project process public.

- As the final site has not been determined, there is certain information that has been redacted to protect the integrity of the In Camera process and economic interests if a non-City owned site is selected.
- The redactions throughout the report include site specific information, contractual obligations, legal advice and third-party business information.

RED DEER'S FUTURE PERMANENT SHELTER

The purpose-built permanent integrated emergency shelter will be designed to respond to the long-term social needs of our vulnerable population. Council has advocated for a housing-focused shelter model where a move to permanent accommodations is prioritized, helping to ensure shelter stays are brief, rare, and non-reoccurring. Over the past decade, temporary emergency shelter solutions have been implemented but these have not been designed spaces to support service delivery to those who are facing homelessness and addictions. People in the social service sector have worked tirelessly to support those in need, but they need our support to advocate and implement long-term strategies that will be mutually beneficial.



BREAKING IT DOWN

What does purpose-built mean?

Purpose-built, in reference to the permanent shelter, refers to the design of the building and the spaces and amenities that are included. The design and build should meet the needs of those who will access the services offered, as well as supporting the surrounding neighbourhood and the community. The City and the province will work with the community to identify the necessary components of the build, ensuring its success as part of a continuum of social support services offered in Red Deer.

What does integrated mean?

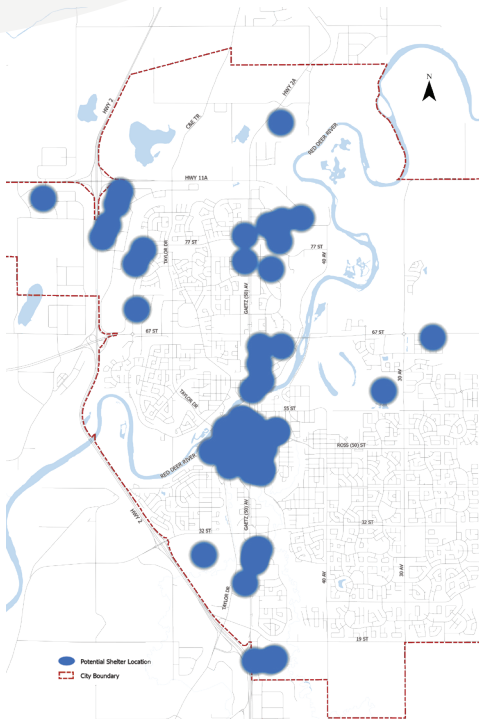
When we refer to the future permanent shelter as being “integrated”, it means that the facility will include a variety of services to help the immediate needs of our vulnerable population, including a primary focus on their journey to obtaining and retaining permanent housing. Services that support an individual’s immediate needs can include items like food, laundry, a safe place to sleep, and medical services. Other services that may be considered in the permanent shelter include services like addiction and mental health support, help in obtaining identification, support in obtaining income, among other services. Some services may be permanent fixtures in the shelter, while others may be temporary or satellite offices.



BACKGROUND



The following is the progress made in the permanent shelter process so far:



Map displays approximate area of 40 sites considered during the site identification process.

February 2020

The province committed \$7 million towards the purpose-built integrated permanent shelter in Red Deer.

November 2020

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the province and The City was finalized, outlining high level responsibilities.

November 15, 2021

City Council released their In Camera recommendation for a Housing-Focused Shelter service delivery model. This requests that operations focus on outcome-based, low-barrier, integrated service delivery using a housing focused model that strives to end chronic homelessness. The Government of Alberta confirmed its support of this direction in a letter to The City dated January 6, 2022.

April 2021 – January 2022

Council held 13 closed meetings to determine an appropriate site and service model delivery recommendation.

January 22, 2022

A potential location was released for the permanent shelter following administration conducting a search of potential sites with the support of a commercial realtor. Nearly 40 sites in Red Deer were explored during the process.

February 16-23, 2022

The City conducted several targeted community conversations to develop a better understanding of the community's thoughts on the shelter, its location, and the process thus far, in advance of zoning requirements for the proposed location.

March 7, 2022

Administration and third-party engagement specialist presented the What We Heard report during the Special Council Meeting. Council gave administration direction to develop an engagement strategy to host additional community conversations about the permanent shelter in Red Deer.

PHASES & ROLES



The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in November 2020 between the Province and The City outlined high level responsibilities for each.

The following is the general outline of anticipated phases of the project and roles within:

WE ARE HERE



PHASES	WHERE IT WILL GO	HOW IT WILL BE BUILT	HOW IT WILL BE RUN
<p>Components of each phase, who is responsible</p>	<p>PREFERRED SITE While the province is working collaboratively with The City, the province will make the final decision on site.</p>	<p>LAND OWNERSHIP To be determined once a site has been selected</p> <p>BUILDING OWNERSHIP To be determined once a site has been selected</p> <p>DESIGN While the City will be involved through legislated processes (e.g. zoning and development permits which give high level direction to overall site design), the design phase will be led by the property owner and operator and will need to incorporate the components needed for the services being offered.</p>	<p>SERVICE MODEL Red Deer City Council passed a resolution to encourage a Housing Focused Shelter Model but ultimately, the province and the service provider will determine the service model.</p>