

January 13, 2022

Potential location selected for permanent emergency shelter

A potential location has been selected for consideration for a future permanent integrated shelter. The proposed location is 4934 54 Avenue, which was originally a City of Red Deer Parks facility and is now being used for storage.

1) Does the Provincial Government support the proposed location for the permanent shelter?

Yes. Since the announcement of provincial funding for a permanent integrated shelter in 2020, The City has worked closely with the province as we worked to find a potential suitable site in Red Deer. City Council narrowed the list of sites to one potential location and has received support from the province to move ahead with the zoning process.

2) How will the public be involved in the process?

Obtaining citizen feedback is a crucial component to any zoning and development process, this project is no exception. Now that a potential site is being considered, The City will begin the zoning process, which will include public engagement. This process will go out to the community to speak about land use that, if the location is approved, will in turn inform the design phase of the site.

If it gets to this point, once the initial designs are made, there will be further public engagement about the detailed designs and how it could integrate seamlessly into the neighbourhood.

3) Why is involving public in the process important?

A permanent shelter is required in our city, and when a location is finalized, there will need to be a mutual commitment between shelter operators and patrons with surrounding businesses, residents and property owners. This is critical to building positive neighbourhood relationships.

4) How is the Provincial Government involved in the process/project?

In November 2020, the province and The City signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that established a high-level understanding related to the provincially managed project to meet the current and future needs in Red Deer. The MOU outlines the responsibilities between the Province, The City and the operator of the future permanent emergency housing site.

The Province of Alberta and The City of Red Deer will continue to work collaboratively as the project proceeds.

5) Where is the money coming from for this project?

The Province committed \$7 million in its 2020 Capital Plan for a purpose-built integrated emergency shelter that aligns with The City's Housing First model. (Housing First approach centers on giving people experiencing homelessness access to permanent housing with no housing readiness requirements, no matter their circumstance.)

At this time, the estimated value of the City owned land at the proposed location is \$1 million. Council also approved \$200,000 in in-kind contributions per the MOU.

6) Who would run the permanent shelter once operational?

Operations for the shelter would be managed and funded through the Province of Alberta.