



## **COMMONWEALTH STADIUM TEMPORARY PANDEMIC ACCOMMODATION GOOD NEIGHBOUR PLAN**

Edmonton is facing unprecedented economic challenges in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and the crash of global oil prices. The public health crisis has dramatically increased the number and visibility of vulnerable people in our city, and physical distancing requirements have reduced the number of overnight shelter beds and day services for people experiencing homelessness.

In response, community agencies, with the support of the City of Edmonton, have created temporary 24/7 accommodations on the north and south side of the city for the approximately 600 people who would otherwise sleep outside on any given night.

One accommodation is located in an enclosed concession area off the concourse level of Commonwealth Stadium and is a partnership between the City of Edmonton and Hope Mission.

### **Need for temporary accommodation**

Hope Mission required overflow space for its emergency overnight shelter, where capacity has been lowered due to COVID-19. The City helped Hope Mission secure space in Commonwealth Stadium, first as an overnight shelter. It transitioned to 24/7 service on November 12, 2020 and has a maximum capacity of 180 people.

### **About Hope Mission**

The Hope Mission is a not-for-profit Christian social care agency that has been serving Edmonton's most vulnerable since 1929. The Hope Mission provides basic and emergency care to vulnerable people as well as counsel and referral services for men, women, and youth.

### **Timeline**

The temporary accommodation will operate from November 2020 to March 31, 2021, at which time the stadium will return to typical operations. The City will be working with Hope Mission on its transition plan post-March 2021.



The City and its partners are working to secure additional interim housing spaces so people can transition out of temporary accommodation and into longer term or permanent housing.

### Good Neighbour Commitment

The City of Edmonton and Hope Mission are committed to being a good neighbour and working with the surrounding community to share information, address issues and find mutually agreeable solutions whenever possible.

### Service Standards

- The City of Edmonton and Hope Mission will ensure services are provided in an effective, safe and secure manner.
- The accommodation has 24/7 staffing with trained professionals who have experience working in the homeless serving sector, including in relationship building and de-escalation techniques.
- To limit disruption to the community, clients receive on-site meals, sleeping accommodations, and social services. They also have access to washroom and shower facilities. Transportation is provided between Hope Mission's downtown location and Commonwealth Stadium.
- Clients also have access to housing information to aid their transition out of the shelter system.
- Clients who require care that cannot be provided at the Commonwealth Stadium temporary accommodation will be provided transportation to alternate services.
- All individuals will undergo a health screening for COVID-19 before entering the premises.
- During a COVID outbreak, Hope Mission will work with Alberta Health Services to ensure the safety of clients, staff and the broader community. Anyone who tests positive will receive appropriate medical care in designated isolation space. For more information, visit [alberta.ca/covid](https://alberta.ca/covid).

### Security and Cleanliness

The City of Edmonton recognizes that there are longstanding concerns in the community regarding safety and crime that pre-date the need for temporary pandemic accommodations in this community. In response to these concerns, the City and Hope Mission are committed to being as proactive as possible and implementing enhanced safety and security measures:

- **Security guards help monitor Commonwealth Stadium**, support safety, and address issues, if they arise.



- **Peace Officers have expanded their deployment to locations around the Commonwealth Stadium area**, focusing on park spaces, back alleys and transit property. Peace Officers will liaise with the Edmonton Police Service and REACH Edmonton.
- **Transit Peace Officers** have increased patrols around the Stadium LRT Station
- **Washrooms are available inside Commonwealth Stadium 24/7**
- **The Capital City Clean Up provides needle collection boxes, supply kits and personal pocket ashtrays**, as well as regular garbage collection
- **The encampment response team will continue to address camps located on nearby public property**
- **The City of Edmonton's Neighborhood Empowerment Team is available** to support business and community stakeholders who have questions or concerns about crime prevention and social disorder (Contact: [NET@Edmonton.ca](mailto:NET@Edmonton.ca))

## Donations

Community members who are interested in donating goods, such as instant coffee, bottled water or other materials can do so at Hope Mission's Bargain Shoppe located at 2403 Ellwood Drive SW. Inquiries about volunteer opportunities can be directed to [volunteer.coordinator@hopemission.com](mailto:volunteer.coordinator@hopemission.com) or (780) 422-2018 ext. 266.

## How to Report Concerns

If you have questions or concerns, please contact us. We take any concerns raised by the community, neighbours or businesses very seriously and always endeavour to find mutually agreeable solutions.

Concern	Contact Information
<b>Emergencies</b> (medical emergencies, risk/harm to life or property)	911
<b>Individuals in crisis</b>	Call 211 press 3 for the 24/7 Crisis Diversion Team

<b>Intoxication in Public</b>	Call 211 press 3 for the 24/7 Crisis Diversion Team Edmonton Police non-emergency line 780-423-4567
<b>Litter</b>	Call 311  To report your concerns on the 311 app, take a photo of the dumpster or garbage can of concern
<b>Illegal Drug Use</b>	#377 or 780-423-4567 Edmonton Police non-emergency line  1-800-222-8477 Crime Stoppers  911 Medical emergency
<b>Needles in Public Spaces</b>	Call 311 press 3
<b>Public Urination or Defecation</b>	Call 311
<b>Graffiti</b>	Call 311 or use the 311 App  #377 or 780-423-4567 Edmonton Police non-emergency line
<b>Mental Health</b>	780-342-7777 Community Urgent Services and Stabilization Team (24 hours)  1-877-303-2642 Mental Health Helpline (24 hours)  780-482-HELP (4357) Distress line (24 hours) 211 press 1 Community information and referral
<b>General questions</b>	City of Edmonton: 311 or <a href="mailto:homelessresponse@edmonton.ca">homelessresponse@edmonton.ca</a> Hope Mission: (780) 422-2018 ext. 200