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2022 Year in Review - A Message from Branch Manager Kim Petrin

As the holiday season approaches, I wanted to take the time to reflect on this past year and highlight some of the great work we've done together. But first, I want to say thank you - thank you for your investment in our city and thank you to the Development Services team for providing excellent customer service.

Land development, permits and licences are all an important part of guiding development and achieving the safe, inclusive, vibrant and walkable city envisioned by [The City Plan](#). The City is advancing a number of initiatives to streamline its permitting, licensing and regulatory processes to ensure that we have the correct regulations, processes and support services in place for homeowners, developers and businesses. These initiatives include, but are not limited to, the Permit and Licensing Improvement Initiative, Business Licence Bylaw Renewal, Zoning Bylaw Renewal and the [Business Friendly Edmonton](#) Initiative.

At the beginning of the year we implemented our new [Business Licence Bylaw](#), which provides more consistent regulations to help reduce barriers for businesses. Some of the key benefits for businesses included a one or two-year licence option, a discounted fee for businesses that renew their licence on time, and updated licence categories with clearer descriptions and licensing requirements.

Our work towards creating a better system for our clients resulted in the City's [Permit and Licensing Improvement \(PLI\) Initiative](#) being named the winner of the Red Tape Reduction category in the Government of Alberta's [2022 Municipal Excellence Awards](#). Service improvements and timeline reductions from the PLI Initiative will save applicants \$5.3 million and 67,600 days collectively each year. This work will continue into 2023.

To support Edmonton's growth, change and competitiveness, the City's policies and regulatory tools need to evolve and align with Edmonton's long-term city-building needs as outlined in The City Plan. The [Zoning Bylaw Renewal Initiative](#) is an integral part of this work. This is its first

comprehensive overhaul in over 60 years, rethinking how, what and why the City regulates in terms of land and development. We look forward to the draft bylaw being further refined in the new year and then advancing to a City Council Public Hearing in Q4 2023.

An efficient land development, permitting, licensing and regulatory process helps reduce barriers and encourage investment in our city. We demonstrated collaboration and shared success for projects launched this year such as **Setting Service Levels, Building on Unregistered Land, New Home Construction Occupancy Permit Changes** and really appreciated the feedback from our **Red Tape Roundtables**.

The City is committed to ongoing improvement of the City's land development, permitting and licensing services, which helps improve quality of life and economic vibrancy for Edmontonians by making it easier to build homes and attract, support and grow businesses. I am really looking forward to our work together in 2023!



Kim Petrin
Branch Manager
Development Services

Last Chance! Draft Zoning Bylaw Feedback

December 18th is the last day to share feedback on the draft Zoning Bylaw. To make things easy, below are quick links to provide direct feedback on the:

- [Entire Draft Zoning Bylaw](#). Review the entire draft bylaw in detail and provide feedback on specific regulations. Use the table of contents as a jumping point to quickly access sections of interest.
- [Zoning Bylaw Overview](#). Looking for a shorter, simplified version? Provide feedback on a condensed overview of proposed new zones, sections and the overall intent of the project—complete with illustrations.

If you experience any issues, please review [this feedback guide](#). The project's [Engaged Edmonton](#) website is also full of additional zoning-related tools and resources, including videos, FAQs and more.

Building Blocks Sessions

There will be no Building Blocks session in December. Sessions will continue in 2023. Happy holidays!

Red Tape Reduction and Service Improvements

Manage Home Improvement Permit Revisions Can Online

The City of Edmonton has expanded its online permit services to support permit revision requests for home improvements projects. The online permit revision is currently available for Commercial Permits and House Permits. The expanded digital service will make it easier to manage permit revisions online for home improvement projects. [Read more.](#)

Planning and Development Fees 2023-2026

Planning and Development fees for 2023-2026, which include land development and subdivision applications as well as development, building and trade permits, are part of Council's budget discussions. The proposed fee schedule has been simplified with the consolidation of 105 fee items, saving applicants and the City time spent on applications. The revised schedule will be posted on the City of Edmonton's [fee listing website](#) by mid-December.

Safety Codes & Permit Updates

Gender-Inclusive Washroom Guide

Building and business owners who recognize the diversity of gender identity and expression of their employees and clients may desire to construct gender-inclusive washroom facilities with rooms each containing a single water closet (WC) for use by any person. [Read more.](#)

Read the City of Edmonton [3.7 and Gender-Inclusive Washroom Guide](#).

Construction Site Safety

As we welcome winter and the accessibility challenges that come with it, we would like to take this opportunity to refresh the requirements for safe access and guard rails on construction sites. Sites require a safe method of entry with handrails or ramps meeting OH&S standards. Throughout the sites we require handrails on stairs over 5 risers, handrails or walls on both

sides of stairs and all openings to be properly blocked with a guardrail. Keep everyone safe this holiday season! [Read more to see examples.](#)

Temporary Heat Rules and Requirements

As this is the time of year where heat is often needed for construction projects, the City wants to remind all building partners that permits and inspections are required for these installations. This is an update to the information released in October that provides more clarity on both gas and electric temporary heating options and the steps required to obtain these services. [Read more.](#)

Construction Site Addressing

The building industry presents many challenges, addressing on job sites shouldn't be one of those challenges. The City of Edmonton requires that all job addresses be posted clearly for both safety and accuracy. In the residential sector while the site is in the footing stage a sandwich-board style sign is acceptable with the caveat being as soon as you have a wall built you will attach a sign for the duration of the project. In the commercial sector this may be more of a challenge prior to windows being installed but we will accept any method that clearly marks the address and eliminates confusion and aligns with the safety requirements. [Read the guidelines.](#)

Career Opportunities!

Have you signed up to the job alert list to receive notifications about career opportunities at the City of Edmonton? The Safety Codes section hires plans examiners, field inspectors, administration staff and project specialists to engage with the needs of our growing industry. To stay current log into the [City's job page](#) and create your job profile to receive real-time job alerts within your industry.

Check the [Alberta Municipal Affairs website](#) for updates to codes and standards and [sign-up to be notified](#) when new **Standata or other information is posted.**

Economic Action Plan Grant

Do you have a project that would create new jobs, attract investment or diversify the economy? We want to help fund it! The Economic Action Plan Grant is a matching reimbursement grant of up to \$25,000 for eligible projects or programs.

Review the [program guide](#) to find out if your project qualifies and apply today! Visit edmonton.ca/economicactionplangrant for more information.

Building Edmonton Newsletter Past Issues

Looking for information from a previous Building Edmonton Newsletter? Read our back issues on the [Industry Communications](#) page.