



## INDIGENOUS-LED TRANSITIONAL SPACES

### Project Background

Indigenous people in Edmonton are disproportionately affected by homelessness and housing insecurity. However, the vast majority of emergency shelter spaces offered in the city are provided by non-Indigenous, faith-based non-profit organizations. The relative lack of trauma-informed, culturally diverse and low-barrier shelter options in Edmonton is a contributing factor to the rise of homeless encampments across the city. There is a growing recognition that culturally appropriate services can increase uptake and the success of services and supports, leading to better outcomes for service users, the health and social services sectors, and the broader community.

The City of Edmonton's Community Safety and Well-being Task Force and the National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls have both called for increased access to Indigenous-led emergency shelter spaces for Indigenous people in general and Indigenous women in particular.

In 2022, Administration [engaged](#) Indigenous stakeholders regarding the provision of Indigenous-led shelters, housing and programming. Participants supported the expansion of Indigenous-led programming in the homeless-serving sector, but were not supportive of the congregate shelter spaces that make up the majority of current emergency shelter offerings. Although participants expressed a preference for long-term solutions, such as more affordable housing options, they recognized the need for emergency and transitional spaces in the short term.

### Housing-focused transitional spaces

The City is inviting the knowledge and guidance of Indigenous-led organizations and governments on how to create safe, comfortable and culturally appropriate transitional spaces for people experiencing homelessness. The City will consider a wide range of proposals, including those with a land-based component. These spaces would offer short-term accommodations and support services with a focus on cultural-based healing and pathways into stable and appropriate housing. Any potential Indigenous-led transitional spaces would have to include access to clean water, washrooms, waste services, personal storage, and transportation to support services.

### Submission Contents

Interested organizations are asked to provide the following information:

- Name of a key contact person, including telephone number and email address;
- Brief company profile; This includes name, location of office(s), length of time in business, and numbers/types of staff;

- Information on legal status
- A list of locations where your organization has offered similar services
- A vision or concept for Indigenous-led transitional spaces with an outdoor component
- Vision for how the space will transition individuals into stable housing
- Preference for total number of clients to be served and proposed intake process
- Potential sources of operating funding and any other available financial contributions in addition to the City's potential contribution
- Potential locations within City limits that could be used for this purpose, if known
- Any other information your organization would like the City to consider

Other information that would be helpful, but not required for the submission, include:

- Types of amenities to be included
- Types of programming and service offerings (including culturally appropriate services) and collaborations with Indigenous and/or non-Indigenous partners (individuals, groups, or organizations)

Submission Format

- Please provide the information in a Word, Google Doc or PDF document
- Email to [housing@edmonton.ca](mailto:housing@edmonton.ca). **Include in the subject line: "Expression of Interest: Indigenous-led transitional spaces"**
- **Please provide your information by May 19, 2023.**

Other information

- Email [housing@edmonton.ca](mailto:housing@edmonton.ca) with any questions. **Include in the subject line: "Question: Indigenous-led transitional spaces"**
- The City is open to a wide range of proposals for transitional spaces with an outdoor component. We encourage any Indigenous-led organization or government already working toward these solutions to participate in this process.
- Funding for transitional spaces is not guaranteed. Project parameters may change. More information may be required if the City is considering entering into an agreement.
- The City will only consider responses received by May 19, 2023.
- Any personal information collected as part of this outreach is for the Indigenous-led shelter and transitional spaces project and will be used to identify interested Indigenous operators and may be included in a public report for City Council. Collection is authorized under section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act and is managed and protected in accordance with the Act. In case of questions about the collection, please contact Surma Das, Social Planner, Affordable Housing and Homelessness, City of Edmonton at [surma.das@edmonton.ca](mailto:surma.das@edmonton.ca) or 780-423-4857.

The City thanks all organizations that submit a response for their time and effort.