

Current and Ongoing Actions Related to Homelessness

The City is leading actions in the following:

Access to Water:

- Identifying locations for installation of water stations and coordinating water bottle distribution among community partners.

Public Washrooms:

- Coordinated site, funding and operational logistics with operating partners for public washroom access in Pleasant Hill/Riversdale.
- Providing secured monitoring at North Kiwanis washroom during operating hours.
- Investigating further partnerships and funding opportunities to support additional access to washroom facilities.

Homelessness Point-in-Time (PiT) Count:

- Coordination of annual PiT Counts in conjunction with community partners.

Encampments:

- Continuing to work directly with residents of encampments to connect them to services through the Saskatoon Fire Department's (SFD) Community Risk Reduction Team.
- Providing clean-up services in parks, roadways and other public spaces to ensure public spaces are maintained and safe for everyone.

Overnight Warming Centres and Navigation Centres:

- Coordinated locations, partners, and funding for 2024/25 overnight warming needs and working towards 2025/2026 facilities.
- Providing ongoing project management and financial monitoring assistance.
- Working with Province of Saskatchewan to pursue a drop-in centre (or centres) to provide day-to-day services.

Coordinated Public Safety Response:

- Coordinating public safety responses with SFD and Saskatoon Police Service in hotspots and corridors throughout the city.

Housing:

- Completion of the new Affordable Housing Strategy to align the City's role in housing with identified strategic priorities, current trends, local housing needs and Provincial and Federal programs and responsibilities.
- Completion of the Housing Needs Assessment to better understand housing requirements of Saskatoon's most vulnerable residents and the entire housing spectrum.

- Administering incentive programs to support the creation of new affordable housing units across the city.
- Identifying strategic city-owned land parcels for the development of affordable housing and projects aimed at social community impact.

Community Encampment Response Plan:

- Coordinating and implementing the development of new supportive housing units and community space that can be used for warming/cooling.
- Completing a feasibility study to advance options for community navigation hubs.

Communications Related to Homelessness:

- Developing and providing information to residents and stakeholders on various activities related to the City's response to homelessness.
- Responding to concerns and requests related to public space, loitering, etc.

The City collaborates and supports others through the following:

Shelters:

- Ongoing work with the Province of Saskatchewan in addressing operational and security issues at the temporary Pacific Avenue shelter.
- Leading the identification and analysis of potential site location(s) for a new Provincial permanent shelter.
- Coordinating public safety responses to shelter locations among agencies including Saskatoon Police Service, SFD Inspectors and Community Support, and Commissionaires.

Community Partnerships:

- Participating at the Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Board of Directors and Community Advisory Board to support community action on supportive housing and social serving agencies. SHIP is the Community Entity for the Government of Canada's Reaching Home program in Saskatoon.
- Participating on the Executive Council of the Saskatoon Homelessness Action Plan, overseeing the governance and development of an updated Action Plan for the community.
- Participating at the governance table for Coordinated Access, led by Métis Nation Saskatchewan, which is working towards a coordinated and consistent intake process for accessing housing-related supports in the community.
- Advancing work with community partners, Indigenous, Federal and Provincial governments to respond to the housing and support needs of people experiencing homelessness.

Housing:

- Working with applicants to advance new proposals for community facilities and supportive housing.

Extreme Weather Strategy:

- Collaborating with community-based agencies to develop operational plans for hot and cold weather.

Provincial Emergency Operations Centre:

- Supporting data sharing among municipalities and Provincial departments.

Advocacy:

- Advocating to Provincial and Federal governments for additional funding and supports for homelessness and housing solutions.
- Advocating to the Province for operational funding for a 24/7 drop-in centre and public washroom facilities.