



ALBERTA

SENIORS, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

*Office of the Minister*

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Tyler Gandam  
President  
Alberta Municipalities  
300, 8616-51 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, AB T6E 6E6

Dear Tyler Gandam:

Thank you for your letter regarding Alberta Municipalities' resolutions B6, B11, B12 and B13, which were adopted at your fall convention. As Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services, I am pleased to provide the following response.

### **1) Resolution B6 – Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Funding Increase**

*Excerpt from Resolution: "IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to immediately increase provincial funding for Family and Community Support Services commensurate to population growth and annual inflation rates to adequately and sustainably fund necessary prevention."*

FCSS programs are critical to helping ensure preventive social services meet local needs and address pressing social problems. FCSS programs are supporting Albertans with increasingly complex needs.

Budget 2024 maintained FCSS funding at \$105 million to ensure services remain available for people in need of assistance. The Government of Alberta will continue to work with municipalities and Metis Settlements to help meet the changing needs of vulnerable Albertans and support the well-being of our province's diverse communities. We are interested in learning more about how local FCSS programs are introducing efficiencies and working collaboratively to develop innovative approaches to providing cost effective programming.

### **2) Resolution B11 – Provincial Emergency Shelter Strategy**

*Excerpt from Resolution: "IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta and the Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services to create a comprehensive emergency shelter strategy for the entire province. This detailed strategy will provide a vision, guiding principles, objectives, definitions, project management governance, and role clarity for provincial and municipal governments and applicable community stakeholders."*

Alberta is committed to supporting people experiencing homelessness and is following the guidance of the Coordinated Community Response to Homelessness Task force to support a housing-focused, recovery-oriented homeless system of care in Alberta's major centres. This includes ensuring shelters across the province have sufficient capacity to meet the need for shelter services. In 2024-25, Alberta's government is supporting homeless shelters with over \$116 million in funding. This includes funding to maintain shelter spaces that were opened in 2023-24 to meet increased demand and additional initiatives for this winter for a total of about 4,800 year-round spaces in 34 shelters to operate 24/7. Task force guidance resulted in many year-round shelters adjusting their service delivery to provide faster access to appropriate housing with supports, as well as access to treatment and recovery services in support of Alberta's recovery model.

While the Government of Alberta provides funding to shelter operators, local municipalities play the primary role in determining shelter locations and ensuring sites meet municipal zoning and building requirements to operate a shelter. Alberta's government continues to work with municipal partners to coordinate shelter responses to meet community needs and to support a robust housing-focused, recovery-oriented system of care.

Alberta has also established Navigation and Support Centres in Edmonton and Calgary as a new and efficient way to connect vulnerable people with critical services and supports. To date, over 6,600 unique individuals have accessed services in Calgary or Edmonton and been connected to shelter and housing supports, financial benefits, mental health and addiction supports, health and identification services.

In addition to shelter accommodation, Alberta's fulsome response to homelessness includes \$101.5 million for housing and supports programs by funding Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in seven cities (Calgary, Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and Red Deer). CBOs allocate this funding to local service providers to support individuals experiencing homelessness, to find and maintain stable and affordable housing.

<b>Community-based Organization</b>	<b>SCSS Funding</b>
Calgary Homeless Foundation	\$41.5M
Homeward Trust Edmonton	\$41M
City of Red Deer	\$3.5M
Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo	\$3.5
City of Grande Prairie	\$4M
Lethbridge Housing Authority	\$4M
Medicine Hat Community Housing Society	\$3M

### **3) Resolution B12 – Permanent Supportive Housing Capital and Operational Funding**

*Excerpt from Resolution: "IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada to increase capital and operational funding for hub municipalities in Alberta for permanent supportive housing to ensure appropriate housing options are available for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness."*

Alberta's government is committed to improving and expanding the affordable housing system. Part of our long-term strategy to address affordable housing is through the implementation of

*Stronger Foundations: Alberta's 10-year strategy to improve and expand affordable housing.* This strategy aims to smooth transitions across the housing continuum. Access to emergency shelters, long-term supportive housing, affordable housing and ample market housing supply is critical to ensuring Albertans can find housing options that meet their needs.

Together with our partners, Alberta is supporting \$9 billion in housing investments to provide affordable housing for 25,000 more households by 2031. Budget 2024 maintains annual funding of \$101.5 million to support local programs designed to move people out of homelessness and into stable housing.

A key action area under Stronger Foundations is the use of partnerships with the private and non-profit sectors to increase the supply of affordable housing. Our current and new partners offer innovative approaches and give housing providers more flexibility to meet the unique needs of the communities they serve.

The Affordable Housing Partnership Program provides capital funding to support innovative and sustainable affordable housing solutions for Albertans in need. This partnership of the public, non-profit and private sectors working together can deliver affordable housing solutions that are customized for communities to meet local needs. Through the program to date, we have invested approximately \$189 million to support over 1,500 housing units and over 300 shelter spaces in 15 communities.

Alberta's government recognizes housing with supports is an integral part of the overall response to homelessness. Permanent supportive housing projects are eligible for capital grant funding through Affordable Housing Partnership Program. In fact, 12 projects providing 412 units in four communities have been funded through the program so far.

Budget 2024 will allow us to support about 7,000 more households over three years by funding rent assistance and the construction of more housing units. Maintaining this funding reaffirms the commitment to support a variety of permanent supportive housing programs. Alberta's government will work with our partners to leverage capital funding and address fiscal challenges and continue to provide Albertans with the critical supports they require.

#### **4) Resolution B13 – Full-Time 24-Hour Home Care Support in Lodges/Supportive Living Accommodations**

*Excerpt from Resolution: "IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to provide funding for full-time, 24-hour, 7 days a week home care services in lodges and supportive living environments."*

Alberta's government is refocusing the health care system to make health care better for Albertans and the front-line workers who work tirelessly every day to serve their patients. As a part of government's plan to refocus the health care system, I will assume the role of the sector minister, including oversight of all aspects of continuing care.

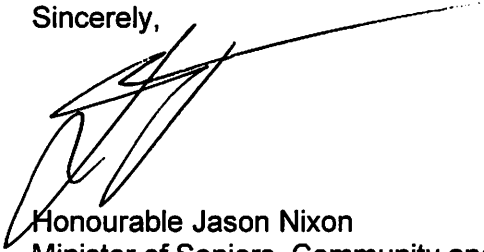
This change will not interrupt service delivery in any way and will allow government to place a unique social service lens on continuing care and deliver care more effectively and consistently throughout the province. Combining the medical and non-medical services of continuing care, will provide seniors, people with disabilities and vulnerable Albertans with expanded supports and services to access the care that they need and maintain their quality of life. It will ensure the full continuum of care, from continuing care, home care and community care systems, to

housing and social supports and wraparound services are available for Albertans who need care.

One of the reasons I am passionate about this work is that it will allow us an opportunity to explore how we can bring together the full continuum of health and housing care for seniors. We want to ensure those living in their chosen community, whether in their own homes or in seniors lodges, have the supports they need to continue to do so for as long as possible.

Thank you again for writing. I appreciate your organization's ongoing commitment to working together to serve Albertans, their families and communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jason Nixon', written over a horizontal line.

Honourable Jason Nixon  
Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services