



ALBERTA
PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary-West*

AR 54931

April 28, 2023

Ms. Donna Monkhouse
Executive Director
Alberta Residential Landlord Association
donna@albertal landlord.org

Dear Ms. Monkhouse:

Thank you for your letter of January 17, 2023, to the Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta. You described a number of concerns involving safety and security within Edmonton, and how this has impacted your tenants' quality of life. Premier Smith forwarded your correspondence to me and has asked that I respond on behalf of the Government of Alberta. I appreciate the opportunity to provide the following information.

I recognize your organization's concerns about community safety. Although the city of Edmonton (the City) is the body responsible for policing at the local level, one of the goals of the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services (PSES) is to ensure adequate and effective policing is maintained throughout the province.

I encourage you to report any crimes you witness to the Edmonton Police Service (EPS), calling 911 for emergencies or crimes in progress. For non-emergencies, call 780-423-4567.

While increasing the presence of policing services is necessary to ensure the safety of our communities, it is also necessary to ensure meaningful action is taken to address the root causes of crime. The Government of Alberta is actively working to enhance a recovery oriented system of care that provides person-centred services for individuals with mental health and addictions and those without housing, including those who have repeated contact with the justice system.

As the Minister of PSES, I recognize the significant increase in mental health issues, overdoses, and substance use challenges impacting downtown Edmonton. This has generated safety concerns and created fear across the community. Further, I have reviewed a proposal put forward by the EPS to work collaboratively with our ministry to effectively manage the challenges facing the City. With efforts to mitigate the many challenges, I am pleased to advise that I have supported Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the proposal put forward as follows:

- access 24/7 mental health therapists;
- mental health therapists embedded in 911 dispatch;
- divisional HELP teams;
- diversion and desistance – social service navigators; and
- downtown safe site – primary intake.

The Government of Alberta, through the Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction, will provide two grants: the first will be a three-year grant for the mental health and support components and the second in the form of a one time, one year grant to support the piloting initiatives of the police/community peace officer component. Following that period the City will be expected to find funds to support the police/community peace officer component.

Thank you for taking the time to write and share your concerns. I hope this information will be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Ellis', with a stylized, scribbled end.

Honourable Mike Ellis
Minister

cc: Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta
Honourable Kaycee Madu, Deputy Premier of Alberta
Honourable Tyler Shandro, Minister of Justice and Solicitor General
Honourable Dale Nally, Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction