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Donna Monkhouse, Executive Director  
Alberta Residential Landlord Association  
#208, 10544 106 Street  
Edmonton, AB T5H 2X6  
[donna@albertal landlord.org](mailto:donna@albertal landlord.org)

Dear Donna,

RE: Safety Issues in Edmonton

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Alberta Residential Landlord Association, Ms. Monkhouse.

We recognize the challenges you articulate in your letter: increased social disorder, negative perceptions of public spaces, and ongoing concerns around safety and security. Your concerns are significant, and it's important to identify the factors that have contributed to these challenges to better understand the current state.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of Edmontonians experiencing homelessness doubled, undoing a decade's worth of progress in reducing homelessness in Edmonton. At the same time, a drug poisoning crisis added significant strain to the health care system and homeless-serving sector across Canada, worsened by a lack of access to mental health and addictions support services.

Other factors have made this period even more challenging. The number of Edmontonians sleeping outside continues to grow, following a continent-wide trend that preceded the pandemic. Like other Canadian cities, Edmonton also faces a significant shortfall of affordable housing, an area that requires funding from all orders of government to meet demand. Based on the 2016 Census, approximately 1 in 4 renter households were unable to find housing within their budgets, particularly households with low and very low incomes. The existing stock of social or affordable housing in Edmonton is roughly 1 in 25 homes.

During the pandemic, all orders of government increased interventions to prevent this precarious situation from getting far worse. The City of Edmonton, for instance, provided property for temporary emergency shelters, funded day services, bridge housing, and overdose prevention teams. The Government of Alberta funded temporary shelter spaces, and the Government of Canada funded bridge housing and the creation of new supportive housing sites. Most recently, the City has also taken an unprecedented step and invested in a temporary shelter space, a collaboration with Jasper Place Wellness Centre and Tallcree First Nation.

The public health response to COVID-19 has wound down significantly, but the effects of these past three years remain. All orders of government are continuing to work together to address these challenges.

You note issues around crime. Examining the Edmonton Police Services Community Safety Data Portal in Ward O-Day'min, which encompasses a great deal of the downtown core, the greatest proportion of crimes are property related (45.1 per cent), slightly below the city wide rate of 55.3 per cent. Personal Violence (13.4 per cent) in this area is higher than the citywide average of 8.8 per cent, as is Mischief/Graffiti, which represents 11 per cent of all occurrences in the area but only 7.5 per cent city wide. The remaining occurrence categories such as General Disorder and Disputes/Disturbances are very close to the city wide proportions.

One of the best ways of addressing social disorder is housing and supports. The City of Edmonton is actively working to increase the amount of affordable housing, having supported the creation or rehabilitation of more than 4,000 units of housing over the past four years, with a goal of another 2,700 by 2026.

Within Community Safety, work is being done alongside stakeholders on initiatives designed to increase safety and wellbeing, this includes the [Problem Properties Initiative](#) and [Community Outreach Transit Team](#). Within this area is also the [Neighbourhood Empowerment Team](#) (NET) which works with residents, businesses and other organizations to build solutions to create safer and more vibrant communities. NET can work with various apartment/condominium managers, owners and renters to provide Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) based recommendations which, once implemented, decrease the likelihood of criminal activity. The Team can also meet collectively with tenants to discuss personal safety, how they can support the safety of their building and safety within the community.

The City of Edmonton is committed to supporting Edmontonians during the drug poisoning crisis. Administration continues to advocate to all orders of government for the need for a full spectrum of mental health and addictions supports, including education, prevention, treatment and harm reduction and broadly supports community efforts seeking to reduce drugs poisonings injuries and deaths through available harm reduction efforts.

We appreciate your concerns and welcome the advocacy you are planning for key MLA on these critical issues.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andre Corbould', written in a cursive style.

Andre Corbould, OMM, MSC, P.Eng., FCAE, ICD.D  
City Manager

c: Mayor Amarjeet Sohi