



Subject: Urgent Appeal to Maintain Emergency Shelter Services in Leduc

Members of City Council
City of Leduc
1 Alexandra Park
Leduc, AB T9E 4C4

Dear Members of the Leduc City Council,

I am writing to emphasize the critical importance of maintaining emergency shelter services in the City of Leduc and implore the council to develop and consider any motions to ensure the Leduc HUB can continue operating in our city.

Nearly 100 people are experiencing homelessness in Leduc. The Leduc Hub Association has collected and documented this data, corroborated by similar data from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The need for year-round emergency shelter spaces and the essential services offered by the Leduc Hub are well-known by City Council and the administration.

- **In 2021, the City of Leduc documented the extent of the need for shelters in our city** in the [City of Leduc Homelessness Prevention and Poverty Framework](#). The framework identifies municipal goals to improve access to social services, eliminate barriers to social services for low-income residents, provide temporary housing to people who are homeless, and ensure the existing temporary housing at the HUB is available all year. The framework also states that “there is a need for shelter spaces all year,” recommends additional spaces, and suggests options to maintain shelter service in Leduc.
- **In 2022, the mayor of the City of Leduc publicly endorsed the objectives of the framework** in media commentary and positioned the City to continue leading efforts to eliminate homelessness by committing to “put words into actions” and to “start looking at these challenges through a new lens and recognize the opportunities, not hurdles, to give people and hand up instead of a handout.” I commend the mayor for his leadership on this issue and implore all of council to recognize that actions to maintain emergency shelter services in our community offer vulnerable people an opportunity to rise out of poverty safely.
- **In 2023, the City of Leduc invested in the taxpayer-funded “Not the Plan” campaign**, which has been essential in raising public awareness about the incidence of homelessness and the solutions required to end it in our community. During the campaign's launch, City

representatives said, “We hope our ‘Not the Plan’ campaign will help the community understand and support the kinds of changes that can improve the situation.”

Through these years and for much longer, City Council has allocated valuable provincial government funding to the Leduc HUB through the Family and Community Support Services grant. The City of Leduc should be proud of its leadership on this issue and its consistent precedent of supporting social services and emergency shelters in Leduc.

Equally concerning is the fact that the absence of such measures may threaten the City’s ability to access new federal funding for housing initiatives, which our community needs.

- **In the spring of 2024, the federal government is expected to release its revised National Housing Strategy**, which will likely include new partnership funding opportunities for municipalities to pursue housing initiatives. To qualify for this valuable funding and to be competitive with other municipalities, the City of Leduc should demonstrate its continued commitment to leadership on the issue of homelessness by eliminating restrictive zoning regulations, and ensure shelter spaces remain an available entry point to more permanent and supportive options on the housing spectrum for vulnerable people.

And so it is with some confusion and frustration that I, and other concerned citizens, have learned the Leduc HUB is in danger of closure. This must not be allowed to occur.

Given the documented need, the City’s history of leadership on this issue, high-value investments made over consecutive years, the track record of success at the Leduc HUB, and City Council’s public commitments to address homelessness in our community, any measures that do not result in the ongoing ability of the Leduc HUB to operate with the full support, permissions and requisite permits of the City would constitute a failure of leadership.

The absence of action on this issue will undermine years of public commitments this city and Council have made to address homelessness in Leduc. Equally concerning, it would likely result in the rise of unsafe encampments and a costly, inefficient increased demands on the RCMP and other civic services.

I implore all members of City Council not to squander the valuable commitments our city has made in recent years to address the issue of homelessness. I urge you to prioritize the continuation and improvement of emergency shelter services in our community and take the necessary steps to ensure the ongoing operations of the Leduc HUB.

[To learn more about the Save the HUB campaign, please visit leduchub.ca.](https://leduchub.ca)

Sincerely,

[Your Name and contact information]