

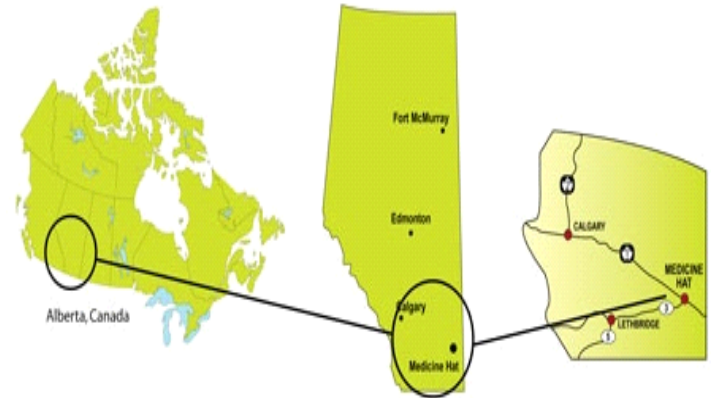
# Plans to End Homelessness: Perspective and Progress



June 3, 2019

# Medicine Hat Community Description

- Population (2016)  
63,230 people
- 5.8% of residents identify as Indigenous
- Homeless population  
(2018 Enumeration) 68



# Medicine Hat Community Housing Society

NFP, charitable organization with 2 mutually supporting core business functions:

1. ***Housing Programs***

MHCHS has been established as a “Housing Management Body” (HMB) by Ministerial Order; a HMB is established for the purpose of administering social housing programs for the government under the Alberta Housing Act.

2. ***Homelessness Initiatives***

MHCHS has been established as the Community Based Organization (CBO) and Community Entity (CE) for Medicine Hat, charged with leading and implementing the local Plan to End Homelessness. A CBO (provincial) and CE (federal) is established for the purposes of system planner and administering funding from these respective jurisdictions, targeted to initiatives aimed at ending homelessness.

# Medicine Hat System Context/History

- The pilot years 2007-2009
- 5 Year Plan to End Homelessness developed 2009/10
- Implemented HMIS 2009, CAS 2010
- Developed by-name shelter list with CAS in 2011
- Formalized HF P&Ps in community 2011
- Diversion first introduced with CAS in 2013
- Refocused Plan to End Homelessness in 2014
- System Planning & Coordination 2015
- Diversion formalized with CAS in 2016
- Transition & Discharge Planning formalized with CAS in 2016
- Downsizing of Housing First Programs in community 2016/17
- 15 units of PSH added 2017
- Re-thinking options & the opioid crisis 2018
- 15 units of PSH added in 2019
- Re-thinking systems and delivery – Service Elements

# Critical Perspectives in Progress

- People. Programs. Policy. Politics.
- What community wants versus what community needs
- The problem of prioritizing
- Staying the course & knowing when to eat crow
- Nimble decision making in the absence of action is...
- Lived Experience
- The point at which people get to stop being referred to as “homeless”
- The responsibility of facilitating choice versus making one
- System fatigue
- Rethinking sustainability, programs, and systems

# System Planning in Brief

1. Cross-sectoral **leadership & engagement** across stakeholders
2. **Highly coordinated** homeless-serving system planning
3. Clarity on governance model & lead **System Planner Organization** for Plan
4. **Coordinated funding** to advance common Plan objectives
5. **Information system & performance management** across homeless-serving system
6. **Research, evaluation and data** embedded in & refine efforts in real time.
7. **Housing First program** responses to address chronic & episodic homelessness
8. Housing-focused **outreach** for rough sleeping
9. **Diverse housing options**, including Permanent Supportive Housing, Affordable Housing, Rent Subsidies, Short-term Supportive Housing.
10. Tailored intervention to **priority groups**, inc. Indigenous people, youth, families, most vulnerable, etc.
11. **Targeted prevention** intervention for those at highest risk of homelessness.

# Medicine Hat Homeless Serving System of Care

- 3 Emergency Shelters
  - Youth (1 community bed)
  - Adult (30 beds)
  - Family Violence (30 beds)

## Coordinated Access (Central Intake)

HF Program

RRH Program

PSH Program

Graduate Rental Assistance Program

Youth Hub Outreach Program

Counselling Program

Financial Administrator Program

Community-Based Addictions Crisis Worker

Drop-In Program

Systems Navigators (prevention focused)

Community Capacity Building

Capital Allocation for Renovations

## Legal & Psychiatric Access

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Landlord Relations

Lived Experience/Hear My Words

Recovery/Stabilization Program

# The End. Or the Beginning.

*If you want to be innovative, you have to be prepared to fail.*