

Housing and Homelessness: Supporting Albertans

AUMA Annual Convention

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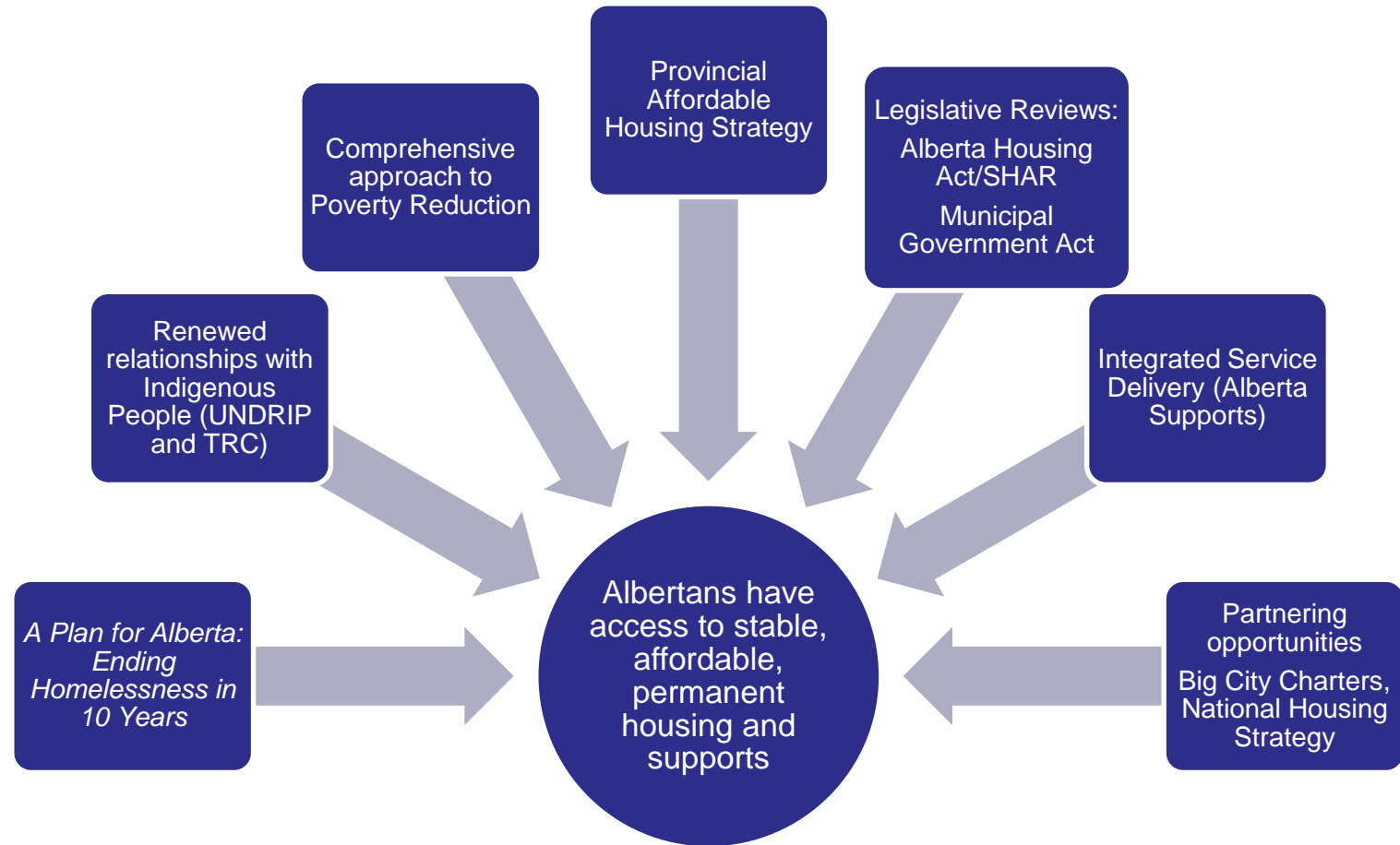
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Councillor, City of Grande Prairie
Member, AUMA Welcoming and Inclusive Communities Committee
Member, Alberta Interagency Council on Homelessness

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Housing and Homelessness: Government of Alberta Policy Approaches



Results to Date

(April 1, 2012 - June 30, 2016)

Since 2009, **13,852** homeless Albertans have been provided housing and the supports that will help them remain housed.

5,081 people have 'graduated' from Housing First programs, meaning they have achieved housing stability.

Approximately **70%** of Housing First Clients have remained housed since the beginning of the Plan.

Approximately **97%** of Housing First Clients have remained housed in the current fiscal year.

Reported changes in utilization of public systems among Housing First clients:

HEALTH

Interactions with EMS: reduced by **53.5%**

ER visits: reduced by **49.3%**

Days in hospital: reduced by **66.4%**

JUSTICE

Interactions with police: reduced by **55.0%**

Days in jail: reduced by **83.1%**

Court appearances: reduced by **45.3%**

Community-Based Programming Investments

In 2016/17:

- **\$167 million will be provided to address the needs of those experiencing homelessness, and women and children leaving family violence, including:**
 - \$77 million to seven community-based organizations (CBOs) to support Housing First programs.
 - \$49 million for women's shelters and second-stage shelters
 - \$41 million to 26 adult shelters, including 3,271 spaces.
- **\$5 million will be provided for addictions and mental health services in Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge, (Alberta Health Services).**

Capital Housing Investments

2016-2021 Capital Plan:

- \$1.2 billion in capital investments in affordable and social housing
- \$45.3 million for Human Services projects (2016/17):
 - \$13 million for new capital projects for homeless, low income, and disabled Albertans
 - \$15 million over three years to support accessible and safe housing upgrades for people with disabilities.
 - \$10 million to support new project planning over five years (shared with Seniors and Housing)
 - \$6 million for women and children leaving abuse.

Evolving Priorities

- Increased focus on specialized populations, who benefit from a tailored and specific response.
- Increased focus on addressing rural homelessness, understanding that causes and solutions may be distinct from urban homelessness.
- Strengthen prevention strategies that address root causes of homelessness.
- Strengthen systems integration so clients have access to a seamless system of care offering a range of housing options and the social supports necessary to maintain the housing; geared to clients' strengths and needs.

Alberta Interagency Council on Homelessness – Policy Enabler

Role:

- Guide systemic and transformational policy changes that are geared to ending homelessness in Alberta.

Method:

- Provide coordinated housing and homelessness strategic policy advice to the Government of Alberta, through the Minister of Human Services.

Members:

- Senior government officials, system planners, and service delivery providers.

Current mandate to December 31, 2016.

Council: Key Achievements

Strategic Advice	Government Actions
1. Apply the Housing and Supports Spectrum to define policy scope.	Using the Spectrum (shelters to non-market housing) developed by Council to inform policy.
2. New investments in affordable housing, including planning funding.	Announced 2016-2021 Capital Plan: \$1.2 billion for supportive housing, capital maintenance, renewal and planning.
3. Develop a provincial housing strategy; advocate for a national strategy.	Commitments in place for provincial and national housing strategies. (Consultations in progress.)
4. Integrate housing and supports systems, (planning, funding, delivery, monitoring).	Human Services & Seniors and Housing conducting collaborative and integrated planning for housing and supports.
5. Developed <i>A Housing and Homelessness Research Strategy</i> .	Supporting the implementation of the Strategy through a partnership with PolicyWise for Children & Families.

From Policy to Implementation

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