



7 cities

on housing  
and homelessness

# A Collaborative Effort in Alberta

Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness  
2017

# The 7 Cities.

## Municipalities

### **Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo**

- Pop. 61,374 /Region 71,589

### **City of Grande Prairie**

- Pop. 63,166

### **City of Lethbridge**

- Pop. 92,729

### **City of Red Deer**

- Pop. 100,418

## Non-Profit Community Organizations

### **Calgary Homeless Foundation**

- Pop. 1,239,220/ CMA 1,392,609

### **Homeward Trust Edmonton**

- Pop. 932,546/CMA 1,321,426

### **Medicine Hat Community Housing Society**

- Pop. 63,230



# Representatives

**Diana Krecsy**, Calgary Homeless Foundation

**Susan McGee**, Homeward Trust Edmonton

**Katherine Sheppard**, City of Grande Prairie

**Shauna Cox**, City of Lethbridge

**Jaime Rogers**, Medicine Hat Community Housing Society

**Roxana Nielsen Stewart**, City of Red Deer

**Kimberly Snow**, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

# 7 Cities Background

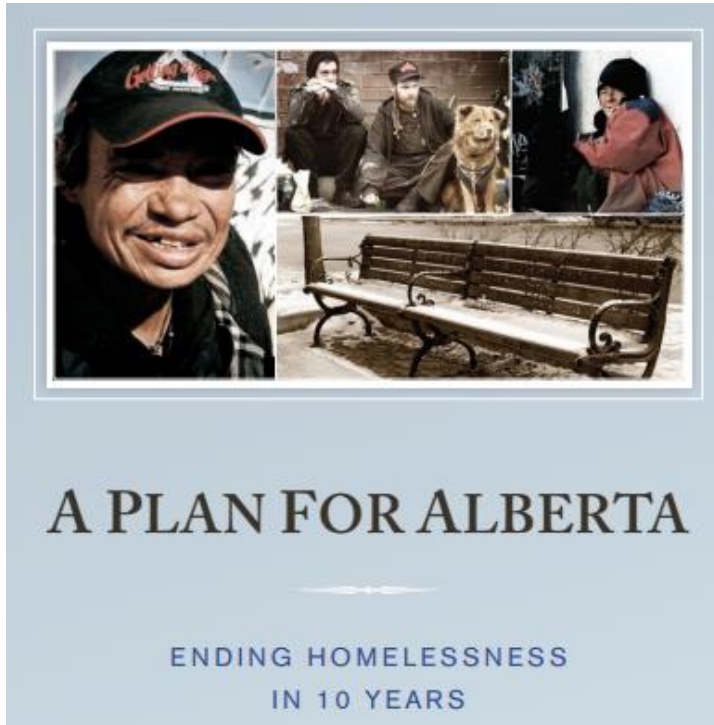


- Began meeting when all seven were **'designated' communities under SCPI**
- Met mostly to **support** each other, clarify contract and implementation issues and share information
- **Informal meeting schedule**, rotating chair
- **Government participation** varied
- Individual participation in external work and community level planning began to greatly **enhance capacity** of group

# A Shift

- **August 2006** – Presentation to Standing Policy Committee on Health and Community Living
- **Fall 2006** Announcement of \$16 Million for Innovative Outreach Pilot Projects
- Seven Cities were consulted on funding allocation and guidelines
- Seven Cities coordinated evaluation of all 2 year pilots, concluding summer 2009
- Formalized role, reporting and need for greater accountability

# And then this happened...



- Communities commenced work on plans to end homelessness
- Premier Ed Stelmach was elected with a platform strongly stating housing issues would be addressed in the province
- Government of Alberta unanimously adopted a **10 Year Plan to End Homelessness**
- CBOs were clearly identified in their leadership role in implementing the plan

# Getting Started...



# Joint Initiatives

- Coordination and leadership of HMIS data requirements
- 2014 and 2016 coordinated Homeless Counts
- Annual conferences (June 12-13, 2018!) and periodic joint events
- Analysis and presentation of programs, challenges, and strategies. (rental assistance, sustainability)
- Policy review and collective feedback to governments
- Shared training opportunities
- Planning coordination (shared content, vetting)



# The Impact.



# Values, Learnings & Challenges

- Respect, honesty, trust and ultimate focus on the work and people we are here to serve.
- Seek to understand, empathize and support.
- Continuity and 'on-boarding' – What does that mean for us?
- We are built different and are different sizes – when does that matter?
- Managing expectations inside and outside of the group.
- Resourcing work – who pays how much?

**Community-level implementation**  
led by  
**Community Based Organizations**  
is key to  
**Ending Homelessness.**



# THANK YOU!



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