

Jordy Smith - Housing

1. The city should use its powers, within the framework set by the provincial government, to ensure adequate housing is available for all citizens. It is unfair for us to expect people without affordable housing to have the rest of their lives in order. Focusing on housing is also considered cheaper than doing nothing else because the costs of policing, medical, and other services associated with those who do not have affordable housing costs more than providing it.

2. It is impossible to make every person happy as every person has a different idea of what an ideal city and housing situation looks like. Councillors need to do what they can to understand the concerns against housing for vulnerable populations and work to bring an understanding of the situation. Council also needs to make clear the vision of Red Deer and how housing developments for the vulnerable population improve our city and help move it towards the ideal place people want it to be.

3. Emergency shelters are necessary as long as people are in these types of situations. Red Deer needs a 24-hour shelter; this is something we have lacked for too long. Without it, people in an emergency situation have no place to go, and no base from which they can rebuild their lives. The lack of a 24-hour shelter has greatly contributed to the discrimination against people in this situation, as they are seen as people who have no desire to improve their quality of life. Emergency shelters provide the most basic relief and opportunity for people to get back on their feet.

4. The next council needs to first look at the plan and determine what did and did not work in it. It seems reasonable to say the plan did not work, as homelessness has increased since the plan's implementation. The council needs to redevelop this plan with more concrete solutions. It seems the current plan was focused on giving people access to solutions, but not to taking the step to connect them with the solutions. The next council must include this in the next aspect of the plan, and they must be willing to spend more time and resources on making it happen if a solution is to be found.