

## **Terms of Reference**

### **Youth Homelessness Cross-Ministry Committee**

#### **Purpose**

The Purpose of the Youth Homelessness Cross-Ministry Committee (the Committee) is to support and implement a unified, integrated, and provincial response for youth who are currently homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, as outlined in *Supporting Healthy and Successful Transitions to Adulthood: A Plan to Prevent and Reduce Youth Homelessness* (the Youth Plan).

Successful implementation of the Youth Plan requires the collaboration and support of community-based organizations, service providers and all levels of government.

#### **Scope**

The Committee will:

- Develop a better understanding of youth homelessness by obtaining better information;
- Align mandates within the Government of Alberta to promote increased focus and a more integrated response to youth homelessness;
- Collaborate and support initiatives that contribute to the outcomes of the Youth Plan;
  - Increased housing stability for youth (through rehousing or family reunification).
  - Prevention of youth homelessness (through education and enhanced family supports).
  - Increased resiliency in homeless youth and youth at risk of becoming homeless.
  - Healthy transitions to adulthood.
- Strengthen the ability of existing systems to intervene in a rapid, coordinated manner before youth become entrenched in a homeless lifestyle;
- Explore long-term, stable housing options for youth and support the expansion of the youth housing continuum;
- Bring government and community stakeholders together to support and enable community-driven responses and client-centered approaches to addressing homelessness;
- Contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of the Youth Plan.

#### **Membership**

The Committee is composed of representatives from the following government ministries/agencies:

- Aboriginal Relations
- Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services
- Education
- Human Services
- Innovation and Advanced Education
- Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour
- Justice and Solicitor General
- Culture (as required)
- Seniors (as required)

The Committee is chaired by the Family Violence Prevention and Homeless Supports Division of Human Services. Membership terms will be reviewed in annually.

### **Reporting**

- Government members report to their respective Assistant Deputy Ministers.
- Progress and Cross-Ministry recommendations will be tabled at the ADM Committee on Housing and Homelessness.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

Committee members will:

- Actively participate in committee meetings or assign an informed designate to attend on member's behalf;
- Share information and act as a liaison between the committee and their respective Ministry throughout the implementation and evaluation of the Youth Plan;
- Identify gaps in policy and services related to youth homelessness and work with the committee and their own ministry to develop strategies to respond to these gaps; and
- Promote service delivery integration across ministries.

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