OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF EDMONTON

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Reference No.: 682611718-001

The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree
Minister of Public Safety
Email: gary.anand@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Sean Fraser
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
Email: Sean.Fraser@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Anandasangaree and Minister Fraser,

I am writing regarding the urgent need to address post-release oversight and reintegration protocols for individuals transitioning from correctional facilities in Edmonton to the community. Just recently, on September 4, 2026, I wrote to Secretary of State Ruby Sahota regarding a violent incident at the Nanaksar Gurdwara involving a repeat offender who had been released from a federal correctional facility just a day prior. These are not isolated events, they represent a compounding, daily crisis on our streets that requires immediate, systemic federal partnership.

With eight correctional facilities including four federal institutions, the Edmonton region holds the highest concentration of correctional spaces in Canada, and our urban core absorbs a disproportionate share of those discharges. Federal reintegration is frequently undermined by factors such as early release approvals and limited access to housing, employment, and immediate support services. As Edmonton's Chief of Police and I have noted publicly, discharging vulnerable people into our urban core without coordinated hand-off and wrap-around support creates significant challenges for the individuals released, local businesses, and the surrounding community.

To achieve shared goals for public safety and reintegration, we must bridge the gap between federal institutional planning and local community capacity. Relying on municipalities to absorb the social and emergency response costs of federal discharges is unsustainable. Building on the priorities outlined in the City of Edmonton's July 2, 2026, federal pre-budget submission, we propose the following collaborative actions to establish a safer, more structured release process:

- **Fund Robust Integration Plans and Culturally Appropriate Supports:** As requested in our pre-budget submission, we ask that your government allocate targeted funding to ensure all individuals being released from federal correctional facilities to the Edmonton area are directly connected to system navigators and robust integration plans. Crucially, this must include culturally appropriate support for Indigenous people transitioning back into the community.

- **Invest in Local Community Safety and Intervention Strategies:** To manage the disproportionate strain on Edmonton's local services, we urge the federal government to fully fund the $13.5 million community safety strategy originally outlined in our December 2025 grant proposal. This funding could deliver integrated support for those who struggle to secure stable housing or employment upon release.
- **Expand Supportive and Transitional Housing Capacity:** A structured federal release plan cannot succeed without coordinated housing placements for those who need it. Edmonton continues to demonstrate strong local leadership by committing municipal land and capital to affordable housing projects. To scale these outcomes, we urge approval of the City's full portfolio of projects submitted to Build Canada Homes to deliver over 4,000 new affordable, transitional, and supportive units. Additionally, as your government prepares to renew the National Housing Strategy, we ask that federal funding streams be structured to provide predictable operating dollars for health and addiction care ensuring justice-involved individuals have much needed wraparound support.

Our City and community partners stand ready to partner with you and your respective ministries to implement these necessary solutions. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Andrew Knack

Mayor Andrew Knack
City of Edmonton

cc: The Honourable Ruby Sahota, Secretary of State, Combatting Crime
Ben Henderson, Chair Edmonton Police Commission
Warren Driechel, Chief of Police
Edmonton City Council
Eddie Robar, Edmonton City Manager
City of Edmonton Intergovernmental & Regional Affairs