

### Highlights

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- The Community Kitchen secured stable funding until March 2022 during Q1. Work on the Community Kitchen began in July 2019, with the awarding of the City of Grande Prairie Special Projects Funding to the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre and the Salvation Army to provide warm meals to community members seven days a week. The project has reduced the costs required to operate the kitchen and allowed for the expansion of services to seven days per week. The Community Kitchen is currently engaged in a Community Funding Campaign to ensure project sustainability beyond 2022.
- The City's Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee was established during Q1. There are currently nine members representing nine different City departments. The committee provides oversight of the City's diversity initiative. The goal of the initiative is to improve internal practices for social inclusion, establish policies to eradicate racism and discrimination, and promote Human Rights and Diversity in our workplace and in the broader community.
- The Youth Action Council presented their 2021 action plan to City Council during Q1, which included ideas on how to get Youth more engaged in upcoming municipal elections. Youth continue to be involved with City and community committees – providing input when necessary.

### Response to Critical Issues

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- **COVID-19 Supported Isolation:** The program has been utilized 198 times since the beginning of the pandemic in 2020, with 75% completing their isolation period successfully. 46% of clients have tested positive for COVID-19. To date, no COVID-19 variants have been detected. Clients receive meals, basic needs supplies and support to manage substance use, mental and physical health while in isolation. In Q1, 72% of clients were referred from Rotary House or the Saint Lawrence Centre.
- **COVID-19 Bridge Housing:** This program limits COVID-19 spread by accommodating people who are near to moving into housing or residential treatment in a hotel rather than an emergency shelter. 42% of bridge housing clients have moved on to permanent housing, including market rentals and the Parkside Supportive Housing Pilot. The average length of stay was 32 days.
- **Emergency Shelter Overflow:** Rotary House continues to operate with reduced maximum capacity to limit the spread of COVID-19. The Street Outreach Centre (Saint Lawrence) location began to offer 13 night-time overflow mat spaces during Q4 of 2020. The Oasis also currently offers 21 night-time overflow cots.
- **Preventing Homelessness:** The Friendship Centre's Kiwewin program continues to support people in a wide range of situations avoid homelessness. During Q1 the program assisted people facing eviction, leaving situations of domestic violence, requiring tax assistance and more. Over 95% of participants who completed a follow-up in Q1 were still in stable housing three months after intervention.
- **Community Opioid Response:** CSD is continuing to support the Community Opioid Task Force, which includes administrative support and leading the data and awareness working groups. The Task Force compiles recent overdose data. Data indicates 70% of overdose deaths in Alberta occur in private homes. The City's digital needle collection application was demonstrated at the Q1 meeting of the Task Force. The needle mapping project is a partnership between GIS, Northreach and CSD which has increased the efficiency of data collection and reporting of needle debris in the community. The digital application is scheduled to be rolled out to additional City departments including Parks and the Mobile Outreach Team in Q2.

## Quarterly Program Statistics

Program	Indicator	Q1 (Jan-Mar)	Q2 (Apr-Jun)	Q3 (Jul-Sep)	Q4 (Oct-Dec)
<b>Housing First</b> A key program that assists people experiencing homelessness to find and maintain stable housing	# participants newly connected to Housing First or active with street outreach	85			
	# participants who moved from homelessness into housing	29			
	# participants who maintained stable housing with support	211			
<b>Eviction Prevention</b>	# individuals supported to prevent eviction	67			
<b>Home Support</b>	# client hours	2001.75			
<b>Transit Access Program</b>	# of clients accessing the program	112			
<b>Recreation Access Program</b>	# of clients accessing the program	4			
<b>Supported Isolation</b>	# of participant check-ins with the program	91			
<b>Bridge Housing</b>	# of participants active in the program	36			
<b>Street Outreach Centre</b>	Average daily visitors	45			

## Community Indicator Table

Indicator	Most Recent Status	Previous Status	Comment
<b>Quarterly Homelessness Estimate</b> City Homeless Initiative participants active in outreach and access-phase programs during the quarter	Jan 1 – Mar 31, 2021  213 unique individuals	Oct 1 - Dec 31, 2020  220 unique individuals	This estimate is likely an under-representation of homelessness in Grande Prairie. Work is planned to establish new data partnerships that will increase the accuracy of this estimate.
<b>Quarterly Adult Emergency Shelter Usage</b> Rotary House, Street Outreach Centre, Oasis	Jan 1 – Mar 31, 2021  Average 79 clients per night	Oct 1 - Dec 31, 2020  Average 81 clients per night	Rotary House, the Street Outreach Centre and Oasis are the primary adult emergency shelters in Grande Prairie.  The Q1 average occupancy rate across these shelters was 77%.  The Rotary House Intox Mat program consistently saw the highest usage in Q1, with 99% average occupancy overall and 100% on 56% of nights.
<b>Social Housing Waitlist</b> Grande Spirit Foundation	Jan 1 – Mar 31, 2021  163 households	N/A	Social housing refers to housing that is subsidized by a level of government to ensure that no more than 30% of household income is allocated to the cost of rent.  The average income of households on the GSF social housing waitlist is \$15,502.
<b>Affordable Housing Waitlist</b> Grande Spirit Foundation	Jan 1 – Mar 31, 2021  40 households	N/A	Affordable housing is 10-20% below market value and not based on income. Affordable housing includes housing provided by the private, public, and non-profit sectors. The average number of children per household on the GSF affordable housing waitlist is 4.3.
<b>Drug Poisoning Deaths</b> Alberta Substance Use Surveillance System	Jan 1 – Feb 28, 2021  7 deaths (partial data)	Oct 1 - Dec 31, 2020  14 deaths	Q1 2021 drug poisoning data remains incomplete as March mortality figures have yet to be released. Q4 2020 is the most recent quarter with complete mortality information.  The rate of opioid-related deaths in January and February stands at 55/100,000. This is higher than the provincial rate of death which stands at 31.6/100,000. Grande Prairie's rate of death is also higher than the North Zone which stands at 22/100,000.

Indicator	Most Recent Status	Previous Status	Comment
<b>EMS Calls Prevented by Safe Consumption Services</b> Northreach	Jan 1 – Mar 31, 2021  14 EMS calls prevented	Oct 1 - Dec 31, 2020  12 EMS calls prevented	17% increase
<b>Emergency Shelter Overdose Events</b> Rotary House	Jan 1 – Mar 31, 2021  89 Overdose Events	Oct 1 - Dec 31, 2020  54 Overdose Events	64.8% increase  Emergency Shelter overdose events increased in Q1 with the highest levels recorded in March with 49 events. See Appendix 3 for further details.  Emergency shelter overdose events do not show a comprehensive picture of drug overdoses in the community. Rather, this figure provides an early indication of toxicity in the local illicit drug supply.
<b>Safe Consumption Site Visits</b> Northreach	Jan 1 – Mar 31, 2021  1987 total visits by 127 unique clients	Oct 1 - Dec 31, 2020  1746 total visits by 116 unique clients	14% increase in total visits  9.5% increase in unique client visits
<b>Opioid Agonist Therapy Deliveries</b> Northreach	Jan 1 – Mar 31, 2021  1044 deliveries	N/A	Opioid agonist therapy is an effective treatment for addiction to opioids. The medication prevents withdrawal and reduces craving for opioids.
<b>Naloxone Kits Distributed</b> Northreach	Jan 1 – Mar 31, 2021  828 total kits distributed	Oct 1 - Dec 31, 2020  746 total kits distributed	11% increase  Naloxone is a medication used to block the effects of opioids. It is commonly used to counter decreased breathing during an overdose event.
<b>Alberta Supports and AISH Caseload</b> Specific to Grande Prairie	AB Supports: 741 AISH: 1083	AB Supports: 715 AISH: 1087	Alberta Supports and AISH are key government income sources. Many Housing First participants depend on these income sources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AB Supports core benefit for a single adult who <u>is</u> expected to work is \$535-\$745 per month.</li> <li>• AB Supports core benefit for a single adult who is <u>not</u> expected to work is \$656-\$866 per month.</li> <li>• AISH living allowance for a single adult is \$1685 per month.</li> </ul>

## Department Manager's Contact Information

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