

March 21st, 2023

Jordan Reiniger, Executive Director
Boyle Street Community Services
10116-105 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5H 0K2

SENT VIA EMAIL

RE: King Thunderbird Centre

Dear Jordan,

The Downtown Recovery Coalition is a group of both for-profit and not-for-profit business and community leaders dedicated to ensuring our downtown sees sustained economic recovery post-pandemic. We're focused on advocating for: safety and security, infrastructure and cleanliness, and transformative projects that impact our downtown positively and create vibrancy. Over the last year, we've been urgently advocating to all orders of government to address the growing mental health, addiction and houseless crisis unfolding in our downtown core.

It's with this in mind that we write to express our support for Boyle Street Community Services and the creation of *okimaw peyesew kamik* (King Thunderbird Centre), an interdisciplinary health and healing hub for people experiencing homelessness in Edmonton. As 75% of people served at Boyle Street are Indigenous, it is critically important to provide holistic and culturally responsive care to underserved populations, particularly those who have experienced systemic discrimination and marginalization.

Homelessness is a significant issue impacting the core of our city. An issue that exacerbates health problems and can further isolate individuals from their communities and support networks. King Thunderbird Centre would provide a much-needed resource for peoples experiencing homelessness, offering a range of health and wellness services in a safe, supportive, and culturally responsive environment.

The interdisciplinary nature of the hub is particularly exciting. It acknowledges the complex and interconnected factors that contribute to overall health and well-being, including social, cultural, and environmental factors. By bringing together a range of health professionals, community supports, and Indigenous knowledge keepers, the hub can provide a holistic approach to care that is responsive to the unique needs of the individual. This is a distinctive and much needed service in Edmonton's core.

By prioritizing culturally responsive care and addressing the root causes of homelessness, King Thunderbird Centre has the potential to transform the lives of peoples who have experienced homelessness, supporting their health and wellness, and strengthening their connections to their community. At completion, this project has the potential to be a **transformative project** that will serve a critical need in our downtown's recovery.

Sincerely,

Signatures carried to page 2/2.

Alex Hryciw
Chair, Downtown Recovery Coalition
Edmonton Chamber of Commerce

Anand Pye
Vice Chair, Downtown Recovery Coalition NAIOP,
Commercial Real Estate Development Association

Cheryll Watson
Secretary-Treasurer, DRC
STEM Collegiate

Annemarie Petrov
Winspear Centre

Aziz Bootwala
Kasian Architecture

Bill Blais
McLab Development Group

Chad Helm
The Helm

Chris Buyze
Downtown Edmonton Community League

Chris Lavin
MNP LLP

Dan Hugo
ATB

Dan St. Pierre
Explore Edmonton

Dave Young
CBRE Edmonton

Devin Pope
The Gather Co.

Henry Edgar
EDGAR Development

Jackie Nelson
NorQuest College

Jan Fox
REACH Edmonton

Jenny Adams
The Adams Agency

Jim Brown
Sherrick Management

Kalen Anderson
Urban Development Institute – Edmonton Metro

Kevin McKee
Pangman Development Corp.

Lisa Baroldi
BOMA Edmonton

Parm Raeewal
Canadian Bankers Association

Mike Saunders
Qualico Properties

Mike Sacha
TrioInvest

Pilar Martinez
Edmonton Public Library

Puneeta McBryan
Downtown Business Association

Robert Seidel
DLA Piper (Canada) LLP

Sean Kirk
Edmonton City Centre

Theresa Vladicka
MacEwan University