

October 26, 2020

The Honourable Jason Kenney
Premier of Alberta
307 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

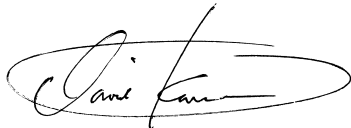
Dear Premier:

On behalf of the Alberta Hotel & Lodging Association, which represents 170 hotels in Edmonton and Calgary, I am writing to support the plans of Alberta's two largest cities to address the crisis in homelessness caused by the global pandemic and depressed global oil prices. With winter fast approaching, the Government of Canada's September 21 announcement of funding for rapid housing is an important first step in addressing this crisis.

Alberta's hotel industry has been decimated by the impacts of COVID-19 and the severe downturn in Alberta's oil and gas industry. Edmonton and Calgary's hotel sectors have been hit particularly hard, resulting in an oversupply of guest rooms for the foreseeable future. The cities' plans to repurpose surplus hotel units into housing for vulnerable Albertans is a win-win strategy that addresses the urgent need for affordable supportive housing and contributes to the recovery of the hotel sector.

We appreciate the tremendous efforts your government has made to keep Albertans safe during the pandemic and to restart the provincial economy. A strategic investment by all orders of government in permanent supportive housing will provide savings and efficiencies for health, justice and law enforcement. The AHLA is pleased to support the cities of Calgary and Edmonton in their efforts to house our province's most vulnerable individuals.

Sincerely,



Dave Kaiser, CHA
President and CEO

cc. Mayor Don Iveson, City of Edmonton
Mayor Naheed Nenshi, City of Calgary
The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister
The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister
Mr. Martin Long, Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business and Tourism
Mr. Adam Laughlin, Interim City Manager, City of Edmonton
Mr. David Duckworth, City Manager, City of Calgary
Ms. Susie Grynol, President & CEO, Hotel Association of Canada
Ms. Karen Chalmers, Executive Director, Edmonton Destination Marketing Hotels
Mr. Chris Short, Hotel Association of Greater Edmonton
Mr. Sol Zia, Executive Director, Calgary Hotel Association