



DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY SAFETY AND RESPONSE INITIATIVES

August 17, 2026
City of Lloydminster

Downtown Community Safety and Response Initiatives

Update for Downtown Businesses and Property Owners
City of Lloydminster | August 2026

Introduction

The City of Lloydminster recognizes that many downtown businesses have expressed concerns regarding community safety, social disorder, public intoxication, encampments, and other impacts associated with homelessness, addictions, and mental health challenges. This report provides an overview of the initiatives, investments, partnerships, and operational responses currently in place to address these concerns while supporting a safe, welcoming, and vibrant downtown.

The City's approach combines enforcement, outreach, prevention, community partnerships, downtown revitalization initiatives, and ongoing communication with the business community. These efforts are intended to balance public safety requirements with compassionate responses to vulnerable individuals experiencing significant social challenges.

Current Public Safety Response

The City, in partnership with the RCMP and various community stakeholders, has implemented several public safety initiatives designed to reduce disruptive behaviour, improve visibility in the downtown core, and respond to emerging concerns. These initiatives include:

- RCMP regular patrols
- Enhanced proactive patrols, including bike patrols and foot patrols
- RCMP Crime Reduction Unit initiatives
- Enforcement and Navigation Unit operations
- Encampment Management Program
- Clean City Team operations
- AGENT program
- Emergency Services support and response initiatives

RCMP Activity and Enforcement

RCMP resources continue to represent one of the largest public safety investments in the downtown core. During the summer months, RCMP members attended approximately 1,200

calls in the downtown area. Additional proactive patrols, including foot patrols, bike patrols, and overtime shifts (240 hours), provided enhanced visibility and engagement. Crime reduction initiatives also included targeted enforcement campaigns during the summer season.

Recent enforcement and response statistics associated with downtown social disruption include:

- Approximately 1,200 files linked to downtown and unhoused populations over a four-month period.
- 258 well-being checks involving individuals believed to be unconscious or requiring assistance.
- 215 Trespass Act warnings, tickets, or charges.
- 378 disturbance and mischief-related incidents.
- 557 individuals detained in Lloydminster cells over a 2.5-month period.
- 273 criminal charges related to offences including controlled substances, assaults, and break-and-enter occurrences.

Enforcement and Navigation Unit

The Enforcement and Navigation Unit provides a unique balance of enforcement and social support. Beyond responding to public safety concerns, the unit assists vulnerable individuals by making referrals and facilitating connections to community supports and recovery services.

Year-to-date (July 1st – August 10th) activities include:

- 6 transfers to recovery centres.
- 25 public intoxication arrests.
- 40 overdose responses and Narcan administrations.
- 136 trespass notices issued.
- 34 individuals provided with referral services.

The City has invested approximately \$246,000 in operational funding and \$100,000 for fleet acquisition to support this initiative.

Clean City Team and Encampment Management

The Clean City Team was established in June 2026 with four seasonal staff dedicated to maintaining public spaces and supporting community cleanliness initiatives. The team assists with:

- Needle collection.
- Cleaning of public and private properties.
- Minor encampment cleanups.
- General beautification and maintenance activities.

The Encampment Management Program has completed three major cleanups, relocated approximately 15 to 20 individuals to alternative locations, and removed approximately 40 tonnes of waste from encampment sites.

AGENT Program

The newly introduced AGENT program has worked directly with 119 businesses, resulting in 236 trespass notices, and contributed to 12 trespass-related tickets or charges.

Prevention and Support Initiatives

Recognizing that enforcement alone cannot address the root causes of social disruption, the City has invested in a range of prevention and information-based initiatives focused on housing, social services, and community supports.

Key initiatives include:

Housing and Homelessness Supports

- Housing Working Group: Development of housing-related resources including a housing symposium, shelter standards, and tenant guides.
- Housing Action Plan: Currently under development to advance housing projects and support long-term housing solutions.
- Housing Needs Assessment: Review of housing inventory and future housing requirements to guide planning and investment decisions.
- Point-in-Time Count: Collection of homelessness data used to support grant applications and community planning activities.

Community Support Programs

- Mobile Warming Shelter: Operates during extreme winter weather conditions from November through March when temperatures reach activation thresholds.
- Homebase Grant Program: Supports an intervention worker operating under a Housing First model to assist vulnerable community members in obtaining stable housing and supports.
- Social Policy Framework: Provides a long-term roadmap for addressing community social needs through collaboration and partnership development.

Investment in a Vibrant Downtown

The City continues to invest significantly in creating an attractive, economically competitive, and welcoming downtown environment.

Recent investments and initiatives include:

- More than \$532,000 invested through the Façade and Building Improvement Program to support downtown property and business improvements.
- Annual support for Downtown Event Grants to encourage community-based programming.
- Approximately \$9.81 million in downtown infrastructure improvements through the Central Business District replacement and streetscape program.
- Annual funding for Downtown Lloydminster marketing and promotion activities.
- Continued support for Downtown Streetfest and other community events.
- More than 300 business check-ins conducted by Economic Development, Public Safety, and other City departments.

Additional initiatives include seasonal beautification projects, redevelopment planning, parklet development, and parking-related studies aimed at enhancing the downtown experience for residents, visitors, and businesses.

Future Improvements and Ongoing Work

The City recognizes that challenges remain. Key issues include limitations in available provincial support services, access to recovery and mental health resources, court and prosecution processes, shelter availability, and ongoing public perceptions regarding safety and disorder.

To continue improving downtown conditions, the City is exploring and advancing several measures, including:

- Bench management and greenspace management practices.
- Updates to bylaws and legislation where appropriate.
- Advocacy to provincial governments for additional supports and services.
- Discussions regarding prosecution standards and enforcement effectiveness.
- Enhanced collaboration with neighbouring partners and stakeholders.
- Continued business engagement through committees, retention programs, and public safety outreach.

The City also continues to utilize available legislative tools, including the Criminal Code, Trespass to Premises Act, alcohol and public intoxication legislation, controlled substances legislation, and municipal bylaws addressing matters such as loitering, graffiti, public conduct, and related concerns.

Commitment to the Business Community

Downtown businesses are valued partners in creating a safe and vibrant community. The City remains committed to:

- Maintaining regular communication with downtown stakeholders.
- Conducting business visits and check-ins.
- Providing updates through newsletters and other communication channels.
- Coordinating responses between City departments, the RCMP, and community organizations.
- Identifying long-term strategies that address the root causes of social disruption while improving public safety outcomes.

While many challenges associated with homelessness, addictions, and mental health are complex and require support from multiple levels of government and community partners, the City continues to invest significant resources into enforcement, prevention, community supports, and downtown revitalization efforts. These initiatives are intended to improve safety,

support businesses, and enhance the overall experience of those who live, work, and visit downtown Lloydminster.