



**EDMONTON  
CHINATOWN  
SAFETY  
COUNCIL**

# Chinatown Safety Council Community Updates August, 2022

This periodical update aims to keep broader community members and groups in Chinatown informed of recent updates of all activities impacting safety, well-being and vibrancy in the area. To contribute updates to the Chinatown Safety Council please email Brandy Basisty [brandy.basisty@reachedmonton.ca](mailto:brandy.basisty@reachedmonton.ca)

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## **ASSIST COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE**

- ASSIST is finding that streets are generally cleaner as well as more EPS presence and private security presence in Chinatown, interacting with homeless populations.
- Within a period of a few weeks, 3 reports of vandalism were made along with stolen pots on the property.
- Currently supporting REACH Edmonton with traditional Chinese translation of updated "Who to Call" resource postcard

## **BISSELL CENTRE**

- Working with EPS encampment disruption team
- Outreach rotations are 4 on 4 off with 2 teams out (2 people in each), they were busy with the heat wave, and rise in drug poisonings (responded to 52 drug poisonings in Chinatown since beginning of July, normally would see 1 or 2 within a 4 day rotation, but responded to 10-11) because people received their carbon tax money.
- Outreach team walking with legal students (team of 3 that go 2x/week) passing out legal information and support (e.g., asking folks if they have a court date) the service demand started a line up in the Quarters
- Presentation about Bissell Centre planned for the next CSC meeting in September (including upcoming projects and service barriers)

## **CHINATOWN BIA:**

- Starting to prepare for the Autumn Festival on September 11. Plan is to close 98 street, and host performances inside Ukrainian Hall if weather does not cooperate.
- BIA has confirmed pressure washing/snow removal agreement with Hope mission, Hope Mission team has started, contract is to cover entire Chinatown BIA twice a month
- BIA will go through \$300k from city for security within 6 months, went back to province for more funding, and the \$250k the province gave the province approved \$100,000 to use for security, and remainder \$150k

- Litter coordination
  - Working with Mustard seed, 3 shifts per week
  - 130 hours a month during the summer months
  - Shifts started in April
  - Cannot rely solely on volunteers
  - \$5K a month agreement
- AGM for BIA is planned for late September/early October (after Autumn festival)

### **CHINATOWN TRANSFORMATION COLLABORATIVE (CTC)**

- Quieter because many people are on summer holidays.
- Sandy Pon wants to host a rooftop patio to attract investment (existing landlords, potential landlords) and politicians near the end of August.
- CTC currently finishing several grant applications for Chinatown beautification (REACH Edmonton assisting with decorated shutter blinds and mural grants) and promotion (Chinatown Storytelling Centre Initiative)
- Collaborating with REACH Edmonton on “I love Chinatown” T-shirts to promote Chinatown. T-shirts will be designed by Emily Chu

### **CITY OF EDMONTON**

#### **Neighbourhood Revitalization:**

- Margaret Smith, will be contact for Chinatown/McCauley for 11 months (contact is [margaret.smith@edmonton.ca](mailto:margaret.smith@edmonton.ca))
- Coordinating a large item clean up in McCauley weekend of August 20, 21 (and possibly 22 if demand is there). ON SATURDAY AUGUST 20 before 8 AM: Place ONLY large items (like furniture) in the alley behind your property. They will be removed free of charge over the course of the weekend. No registration required. \*Please do not put out your smaller garbage items that should be collected weekly by Waste Management.

#### **Community Standards:**

- Deanne Patsula is the coordinator for all Community Standards-related services in Chinatown until September (contact is [deanne.patsula@edmonton.ca](mailto:deanne.patsula@edmonton.ca))
  - Supporting the coordination of an integrated response in Chinatown (developing dashboards, data)
  - Making sure that we have dashboards in place so we can summarize short term work in Chinatown to help inform budget next year (i.e., are the current resources in Chinatown enough, how are we measuring our impact for example in cleaning efforts, what is the most efficient use of city resources)
  - Deanne sees an opportunity to have more coordination/communication in Chinatown within Community Standards (enforcement and community development) branch
  - Abundant Communities Edmonton now has a 3 person team for Chinatown for summer/fall timeline (Deanne will introduce them)
- Jared Abbott (Homelessness Response Coordinator—contact for help with social service issues) 780-818-1884 [jared.abbott@edmonton.ca](mailto:jared.abbott@edmonton.ca)

- Capital City Clean up has hired HireGood (Boyle Street Community Services) to do power washing of sidewalks and windows, and increased clean-up of walkways and bus shelters

#### **Parks and Road Services:**

- Also providing power washing (alleys) and increased cleaning (roadways, alleys, and garbage bins) until the end of summer when service outcomes will be evaluated and determine continuation

#### **Funding:**

- 1 Million fund from City has been presented to Chinatown, with an approval panel of 14 members (2 from Chinatown BIA, 3 from City of Edmonton administration, 8 are other Chinatown partners)
- The approval panel is looking at spending some of the money on roll shutter blinds and surveillance cameras

#### **Healthy Streets Operations Centre in Chinatown:**

- The centre was proposed as part of the Downtown Core and Transit Safety Plan <https://www.edmonton.ca/sites/default/files/public-files/Downtown-Core-and-Transit-Safety-Plan.pdf?cb=1659630620>
- On July 6, Council asked the Mayor to write a letter to the province about funding, and Councillor Hamilton introduced a motion for ongoing funding for the Centre.
- Administration will provide an update, and the motion on the floor will be back for discussion on August 15: <https://pub-edmonton.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=a827c48b-b79b-4198-8a9c-a548ebc3bdd9&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English&Item=25&Tab=attachments>

#### **MAYOR'S OFFICE**

Since Edmonton's Downtown Core and Transit System Safety Plan was introduced on June 9, the City has:

- met with Chinatown community partners;
- assigned specific staff as points of contact for the community to immediately address and/or triage social and security issues;
- recruited community members to a committee overseeing the allocation of \$1 million in recovery funding, and supported the committee's first meeting on July 21;
- welcomed ten new peace officer graduates into the City workforce;
- clarified powers, authorities and procedures for bylaw officers, private security and police so community members know what to expect;
- introduced free parking at outdoor on-street e-park locations and committed to extend this program until the end of 2022 in response to community requests;
- Between July 2, when the program launched, and July 27th we saw a jump in occupancy from 6% to 13%
- increased the frequency of needle pickup and cleanup of public spaces; and
- supported a block party in Chinatown on July 21, at which community members volunteered to take on leadership roles, neighbours provided bouncy castles, face

painting, music and activities and people built relationships with their neighbours to keep each other safe.

Several grant opportunities have been shared with the Chinatown BIA and Chinese Transformation Collaborative. Grants include the [Anti-Racism Community Safety Funding Grant](#), the [Community Safety and Well-being grant](#), and the [Downtown Vibrancy Funding Program](#)

### **GREEN VIOLIN**

- Working with Capital City Clean ups on POPs (Privately Owned Properties); installation of MOLOKs (semi-underground waste bin); lots of advantages such as odor containment and visually appealing. Working with the City of Edmonton on public washroom prototypes.
- East Meets West for next summer; Chinatown and Little Italy inviting Edmontonians. The event will also have a Reconciliation purpose. Bringing 4 different artists together; Italian, Art, Chinese, and Indigenous performers.
- Behind Italian Centre; Community Learning Garden (different from community garden; nursery with teaching components, harvesting berries) Hoping to involve Chinese vegetables; bridging Chinatown and McCauley neighbourhoods.
- Met with Hon and with Boyle Street Community Services; discussing ground work; brainstorming collaborative ideas such as BSCS dining in Chinatown restaurants and coupons for homeless populations.
- Quarters/BIA/CBA: brainstorming ideas as well; changing LRT names, removal of 97 street Bridge

### **MUSTARD SEED**

- 96th St church drop-in is permanently closed - it functions primarily as a satellite Food Bank depot
- Working with Chinatown BIA and providing needle/litter clean up in 97 street and 107 ave area (3 days per week until the end of September).
- Rachel from Mustard is working with EPS HELP unit, Mustard Seed navigators (Austin and Josh) are joining the EPS disruption unit to assist with relationship building and social service support

### **HOPE MISSION**

- Hope Mission has been providing pressure washing daily around the All Happy Restaurant building and confirmed service agreement with and initiated services in Chinatown BIA (entirety of BIA twice a month)
- Outreach and cleaning focus has been increased, in the process of writing grants (new donors are interested). Important to take action now to show the community that we're stepping up
- Shelters are busier than normal. Many folks are wanting housing, but not successful because there is not enough supportive housing; many just go on the waiting list.
- Lots of work with REACH Edmonton around the 24/7 Crisis Diversion program

- Re: encampments project connection with EPS has pushed the encampments around, so there's less tents right now, but they'll come back. When Hope Mission teams have been doing outreach (self-funding it and it's been helpful), there's lots of acuity, mental health, addictions, trauma.
- Outreach teams do come across the same people, but they'll often be in different locations moved around by project connections (EPS), the problem with camp entrenchment is gang activity and drug trade really moves in
- Re: Task Force on Homelessness (Provincial), report is being drafted