



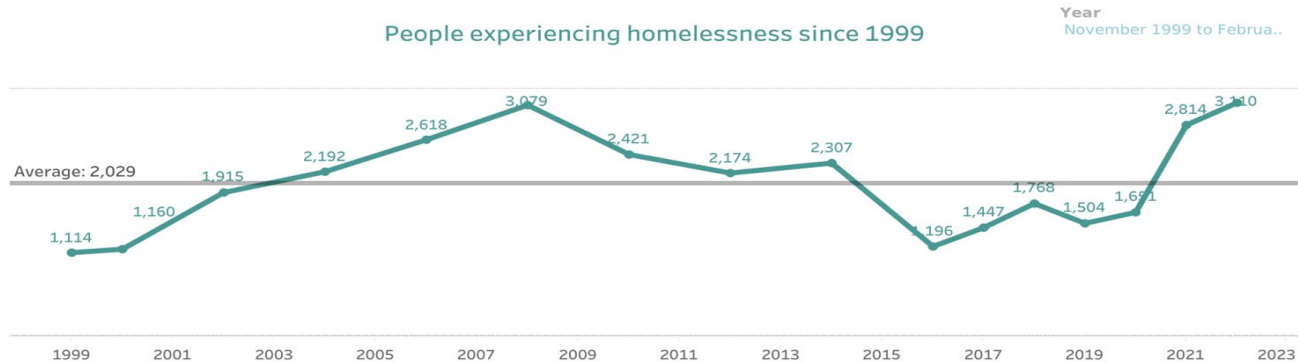
Edmonton's Coordinated Approach to Encampments



BOYLEstreet
COMMUNITY SERVICES

Unsheltered Homelessness in Edmonton

- Homelessness and unsheltered homelessness in Edmonton has increased significantly since the start of the pandemic
 - 1551 (By Name List - March 2020) vs. 2,678 ([By Name List](#) - October 2022)
 - Just under half of all people experiencing homelessness are staying in shelter or are unsheltered
 - Encampment complaints to 311:
 - 2016: 790
 - 2018: 2,171
 - 2021: 6,204



History of Encampments on Public Land

2011- The City funded BSCS Street Outreach Team

2012 - Street Outreach Advisory Council Formed

2013 - Homeless on Public Lands Approach (HoPL)

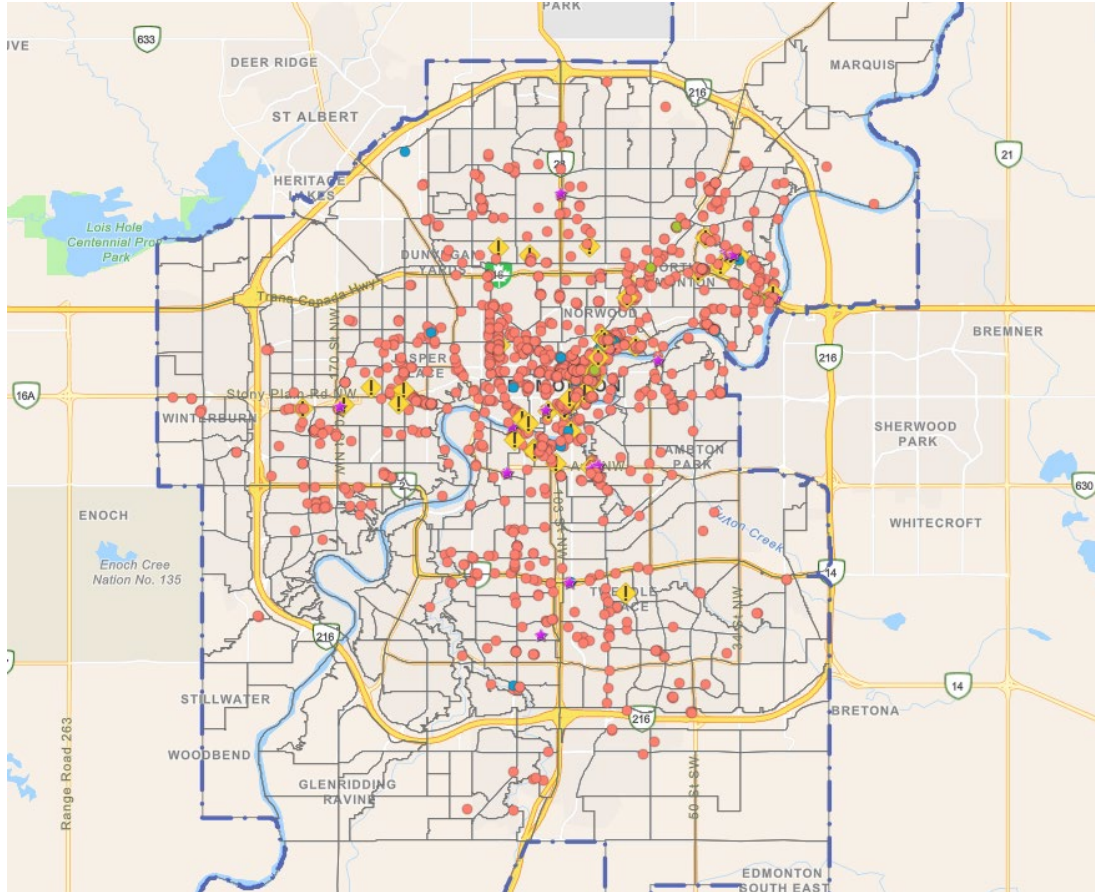
2015 - 2018 - Growing numbers of encampment complaints to 311

2018 - Council directs Administration to explore a new way of doing things

2019 (Fall) - Encampment Response Team (ERT)



2022 Encampments in Edmonton

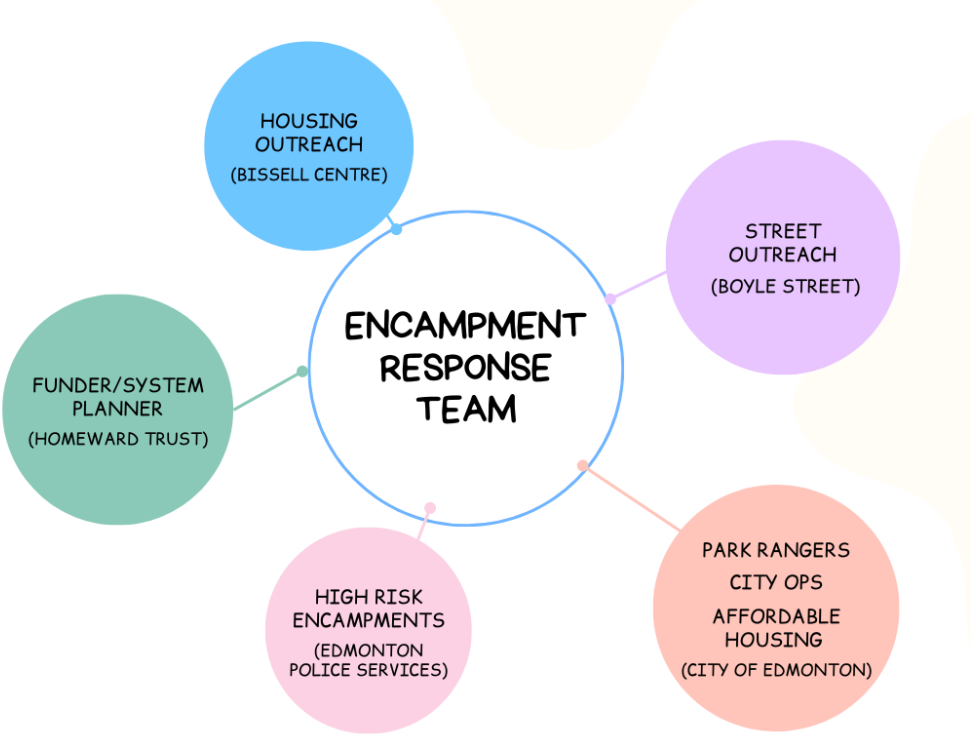


Encampment Overview in Numbers

	2019	2020	2021	2022*
311 Encampment Related Inquiries	3697	4,098	6,204	8,320
Encampments cleaned-up	1,740	1,477	1,666	1,615
Street Outreach Unique Participants	286	321	192	
Mobile Outreach Unique Participants	649	1,108	1448	

*YTD October 24, 2022

Encampment Response Team



Municipal Resources Dedicated to Encampments

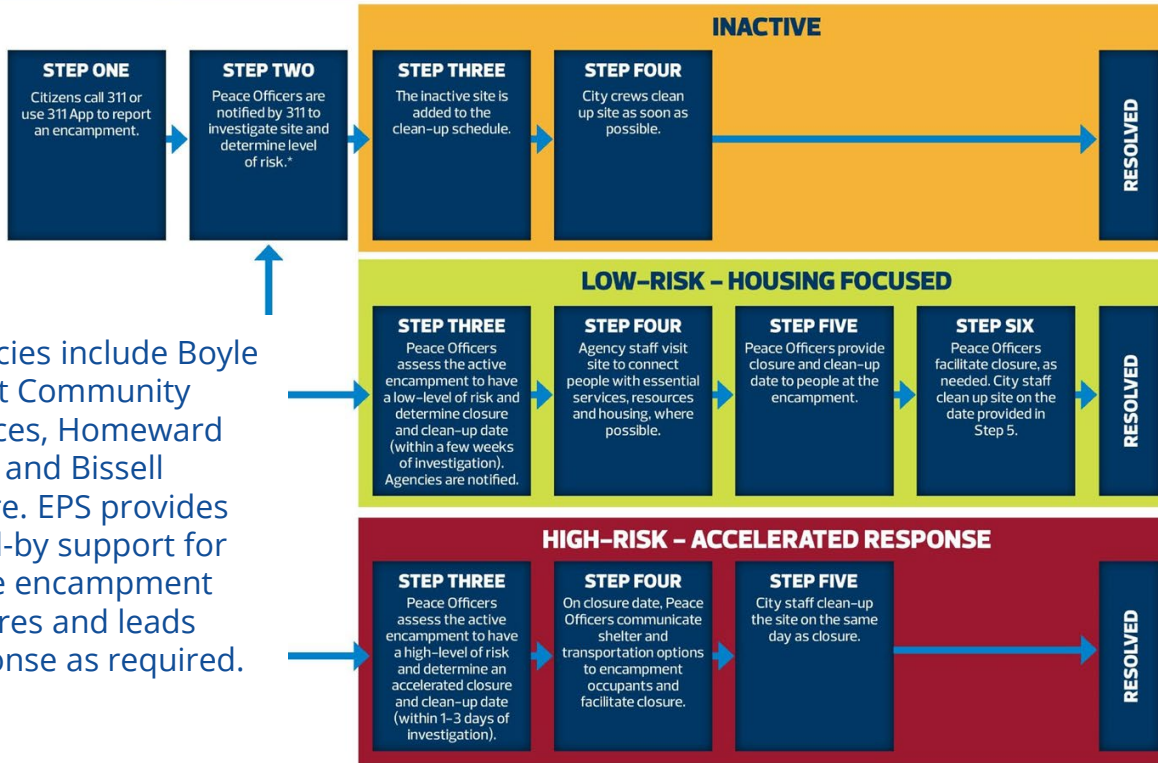
9.0	Street Outreach Workers
5.0	EPS Members, Encampment
Team	
5.0	Peace Officers, Encampment
Team	
2.0/14.0	Natural Areas, Infrastructure
Operations	
35.0	Total FTEs

Principles Guiding our Encampment Response

The approach to homeless encampments on public land includes commitments to:



How the City and its partners respond to encampments on public land



Agencies include Boyle Street Community Services, Homeward Trust and Bissell Centre. EPS provides stand-by support for active encampment closures and leads response as required.



Risk Matrix Criteria

- Size and Type
- Crime and Public Safety
- Location
- Public Health Impact
- Environmental Impacts

2022 Encampment Strategy

Housing Focused Response
(low risk sites)

Accelerated Response
(higher risk sites)

Large Scale Response
(highest risk sites)

- Encampment Response Team will work to house rough sleepers
- Faster closure
- EPS & Peace Officers will share shelter information and transportation options
- Coordinated approach, combines elements of Accelerated and Housing Focused Response

Role of Street Outreach



Evaluation and Continuous Improvement

Evaluation of the 2021 encampment response

- New response prevented encampments from becoming large-scale, but often simply displaced encampment occupants
 - ◆ Led to more small-scale encampments and higher clean-up costs
- Encampment closures could impede the goal of providing services and housing pathways while duplicating efforts of outreach workers
- Collaborative approach continues to improve, but encampment response teams are not adequately resourced
- Challenges with data management and coordination that impact assessment of strategic, operational and equity outcomes

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

SHORT TERM

Engagement with:

- encampment residents
- residents of neighbourhoods
- businesses

Improvements to Risk Matix

Data-sharing and standardizing processes

Advocacy on minimum emergency shelter standards

MEDIUM TERM

Coordinate multi-disciplinary efforts

Indigenous-led shelter, housing, and programming

LONG TERM

Increase access to safe, adequate, and affordable housing with supports in all areas of the city.

Co-creating an Indigenous-led affordable housing strategy with partner organizations.

Engagement: What We Heard

Being moved means no one knows where we are and we have to wait for services because we cannot be found. **Encampment Resident**

System of failed interactions, interdependencies, and pivots that are reactionary making it hard for continuity of supports.

Outreach Team

If we want to address compassion fatigue, frustration and polarization we have to actually decentralize areas. **Neighbours & Businesses**

Understaffed and overworked, it's not sustainable. It's not only about resourcing, it's about the impacts of what we see, what we experience.

Park Ranger and City Operations

What We Heard | Encampment Residents

- **66%** of Indigenous participants had personally experienced **residential schools, day school**, and/or the **foster care system**, almost all had relatives or friends with this experience.
- **92%** of participants experience **two or more health challenges** while only **29%** have **received treatment**
- **66%** of participants would **prefer to stay indoors**. The remaining **33%** prefer staying outdoors due **fear of safety, overcrowding and lack of privacy in shelters**

Lessons Learned

- All the partners need to have input into the process and be a part of the process.
- Importance of having consistent and balanced approach across the City.
- Educating citizens about encampment process and system barriers.
- Need to continually innovate new approaches to connecting people sleeping outside to housing that will be sustainable for them

Thank you. Questions?