



Municipal Declaration on Access to Housing
Adopted on September 17, 2024

WHEREAS a significant shortage of affordable housing affects the entire municipality of Edmundston, as it does elsewhere in the country;

WHEREAS Edmundston is struggling with an occupancy rate higher than the market equilibrium point. The difficulty that a large part of the population faces in accessing home ownership, affordable rental housing or social housing hinders the achievement of municipal orientations and objectives in terms of diversity, cohesion and economic development;

WHEREAS the population of Edmundston is faced with a growing gap between its income, on the one hand, and the price of rents and houses, on the other. As a result, despite tax assistance and government benefits, nearly a quarter of Edmundston households live in unsuitable housing, particularly if it is of unsuitable size, requires repairs or if more than 30% of the household income is spent on housing costs;

WHEREAS as a result, a large proportion of households have difficulty accessing home ownership, affordable housing, housing that meets their needs, and making ends meet;

WHEREAS the municipality of Edmundston has decided to act in matters of housing within the scope of its land use planning and development powers by ensuring the sharing of the municipal contribution to the federal and provincial housing programs;

WHEREAS the municipality of Edmundston believes that :

- access to affordable, quality housing is an essential component of the quality of life of everyone and the social cohesion of the municipality;

- to be able to contribute fully to economic, social and cultural life, everyone must be able to count on a roof over their heads;

- local governments are in the best position to identify needs on the ground and target concrete and effective solutions to meet them effectively;

- by virtue of their powers over land-use planning, municipalities can take action on housing issues, but only within the limits of their resources;

- housing is first and foremost a responsibility of the provincial and federal governments. Funding programs must continue to be improved to meet the pressing needs of a large part of the population;

- investing in housing means investing in an infrastructure that shapes our living environments and makes our economy more dynamic. Our actions must contribute to the development of quality living environments for everyone and promote intelligent densification, active transportation, public transit and community development;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Edmundston City Council take a stand in favour of access to housing for everyone, regardless of their status;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT the Edmundston City Council declares that:

1. in collaboration with the provincial and federal governments, we must continue to improve and develop the municipal incentive program for the creation of social, affordable and suitable housing, especially since Edmundston needs a minimum of 2,500 housing units over the next 20 years;

2. Adding housing is everyone's business. Collaboration with the private sector, community partners, non-profit organizations (NPOs) and housing cooperatives is essential for the construction of new housing units, while ensuring that programs promote the construction and rehabilitation of quality buildings by integrating high energy efficiency performance standards to minimize their ecological impact and operating costs in the medium and long term;

3. The Municipality of Edmundston must have priority when the time comes to acquire public land to carry out social and affordable housing projects;

4. The Municipality of Edmundston will ensure the inclusion of social, affordable and family housing to ensure social diversity throughout the territory and, in particular, along public transit corridors and near services;

5. The Municipality of Edmundston makes housing construction a priority by setting up a dedicated team to ensure the success of initiatives in line with the overall objectives of its strategic plan.

**Eric Marquis, Mayor
And the members of City Council**

MUNICIPAL DECLARATION ON ACCESS TO HOUSING

WHEREAS a major shortage of affordable housing is affecting the entire Municipality of Edmundston, as it is elsewhere in the country.;

WHEREAS Edmundston is struggling with an occupancy rate that is higher than the market's equilibrium point. The difficulty that a large part of the population faces in accessing home ownership, affordable rental housing or social housing hinders the achievement of municipal orientations and objectives in terms of diversity, cohesion, and economic development;

WHEREAS The population of Edmundston is faced with a growing gap between its income, on the one hand, and the price of rents and houses, on the other. As a result, despite tax assistance and government benefits, nearly a quarter of Edmundston households live in unsuitable housing, particularly if it is of an inadequate size, requires repairs, or spends more than 30% of household income on housing costs;

WHEREAS as a result, a large proportion of households have difficulty accessing home ownership, affordable housing, housing that meets their needs, and making ends meet;

WHEREAS The Municipality of Edmundston has therefore decided to act in the area of housing as part of its land use planning and development responsibilities by adding a municipal contribution to the federal and provincial housing programs;

WHEREAS the Municipality of Edmundston believes that:

- access to affordable, quality housing is an essential component of the quality of life of everyone and of the municipality's social cohesion;
- to be able to contribute fully to economic, social, and cultural life, everyone must be able to count on a roof over their heads;
- local governments are in the best position to identify needs on the ground and target concrete and effective solutions to meet them effectively;
- by virtue of their powers over land use planning, municipalities can act on housing issues, but only within their means;
- housing is first and foremost a responsibility of the provincial and federal governments. Funding programs must continue to be improved to meet the pressing needs of a large part of the population;
- investing in housing means investing in an infrastructure that organizes our living environments and makes our economy more dynamic. Our actions must contribute to the development of quality living environments for everyone and encourage intelligent densification, active travel, public transport, and community development;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Edmundston Municipal Council take a stand in favour of access to housing for all, regardless of status;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT the Edmundston City Council declares that:

1. in collaboration with the provincial and federal governments, we must continue to improve and develop the municipal incentive programs for the creation of social, affordable, and suitable housing, especially since Edmundston needs a minimum of 2,500 housing units over the next 20 years.;

- 2. Adding housing is everyone's business. Collaboration with the private sector, community partners, non-profit organizations and housing cooperatives is essential for the construction of new housing units, while ensuring that programs promote the construction and rehabilitation of quality buildings by integrating high energy efficiency performance standards to minimize their ecological impact and operating costs in the medium and long term;**
- 3. the Municipality of Edmundston must be a priority when the time comes to acquire public land for social and affordable housing projects;**
- 4. the Municipality of Edmundston will see to the inclusion of social, affordable, and family housing to ensure social diversity within our boundaries, particularly along public transit corridors and near services;**
- 5. the Municipality of Edmundston has made the construction of housing a priority by setting up a dedicated team to ensure the success of initiatives in line with the overall objectives of its strategic plan.**