

24/7 Integrated Response Hub Coming to Wetaskiwin November 2020

For immediate release

September 16, 2020

(Wetaskiwin, Alberta) — Wetaskiwin will be home to a 24/7 Integrated Response Hub as of November 2020.

Wetaskiwin City Council received a presentation from [The Open Door](#) at their regular September 14, 2020 meeting regarding the provision of an Integrated Response Hub in Wetaskiwin. This includes an 18+ shelter service that will provide 24/7 supports, as well as a daytime drop-in centre. Following the presentation, Wetaskiwin City Council approved up to \$90,000 for The Open Door to mobilize, operate, and manage a 24/7 support site as of November 1, 2020 in Wetaskiwin.

“The City of Wetaskiwin and City Council are committed to helping our vulnerable population,” said City of Wetaskiwin Mayor Tyler Gandam. “We will continue to work with our partners and outside agencies to ensure that anyone who needs help can access supports.”

The Open Door has not yet finalized the location of the shelter, however, both they and the City understand that the community was not in favor of having a shelter located in the downtown core due to past disruption of regular business and overall public safety concerns.

“We are confident that a long-term and sustainable response is viable within the City of Wetaskiwin to support individuals who are vulnerable, at risk, or are experiencing homelessness, mental health concerns or addictions,” said Jessica Hutton, Executive Director of the Camrose Open Door Association.

Additional information will be published as it becomes available at www.wetaskiwin.ca.

Quick facts

- The City of Wetaskiwin first opened an emergency shelter at the Wetaskiwin Civic Building in February 2018 when temperatures plummeted below -40 degrees Celsius. The shelter ran until April 2018 and was largely staffed by community volunteers—including City employees (unpaid) and members of City Council.
- In November of 2019, [Lighthouse Church was awarded the emergency shelter contract](#) and managed the provision of shelter services at the Wetaskiwin Civic Building from November 2019 until March 2019. [The shelter was closed earlier than planned](#) due to community safety concerns in the downtown core.
- [The Open Door](#) is a regional non-profit organization that offers integrated shelter services using a harm reduction method with a holistic wraparound approach. They have been in operation since 1998 and provide service to Camrose and East Central Alberta.

About the City of Wetaskiwin

Wetaskiwin is a secure, connected, and inclusive community home to a diverse population of 12,655 people. Located only 30 minutes south of the Edmonton International Airport, the City of Wetaskiwin provides a high quality of life through ample recreation opportunities, diverse cultural activities, and a modernized, business-friendly downtown.

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