



**7 cities**  
on housing  
and homelessness

## Media Advisory

June 5, 2017

### **Building a Better Tomorrow by Building Resiliency Today: 7 Cities Conference on Housing First & Homelessness**

Edmonton is the host city for the 2017 7 Cities Conference on Housing First and Homelessness, taking place June 7 to 9. This year's theme is Building a Better Tomorrow by Building Resiliency Today. The conference is our opportunity as a sector to come together and learn, share our best practices, create dialogue, and collaboratively focus our efforts on ending homelessness in our local communities and in the province of Alberta.

The 2017 conference brings lessons and information from sector leaders here in Alberta and beyond. Session topics include: the impact of Indigenous culture on Housing First, youth homelessness, landlord relations and engagement, building resilience, rural homelessness and affordable housing.

[Find the conference schedule here.](#)

#### **Keynote speakers:**

**Zac Crouse** is a recreation therapist, musician, and expedition kayaker who delivers keynote presentations and workshops focusing on mental health, recreation, and leadership. His presentations are designed to engage and entertain the audience through stories, film, and live music. Zac has worked for over 17 years as a frontline practitioner with at-risk youth and families. He specializes in working with individuals who have mental health and substance use issues, and has an extensive background in adventure therapy and eco-therapy.

**Thursday, June 8, 12:40 – 1:40 pm, Salon 8-10**

**Grand Chief Wilton Littlechild:** is the Grand Chief of Treaty 6 Nations, a Cree lawyer, PhD, residential school survivor, and former Member of Parliament. He has worked both nationally and internationally, including with the United Nations, to advance Indigenous rights and Treaties. He has also – through leadership with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission – raised awareness of former Canadian policies that decimated the livelihood and culture of Indigenous Canadians. Dr. Wilton Littlechild has a lifelong love of sports and is an accomplished athlete. He is one of the founders of the North American Indigenous Games.

**Friday, June 9, 8:30 – 9:00 am, Salon 8-10**

#### **Leadership Panel on Sustaining Impact**

**Panelists: David Shepherd, MLA Edmonton Centre; Mayor Don Iveson; David French, Director of Policy and Planning, A Way Home**

As we look at what we have learned collectively over the past several years, we are better positioned to lead the work in ending homelessness by utilizing a combination of community-based planning and evidence-based best practices. Leadership in the community and among all levels of government play a critical role in sustaining this long-term impact. Come hear from our panel guests as they share their perspectives and discuss this topic.

**Friday, June 9, 12:15 – 1:30 pm, Salon 8-10**



### **7 Cities Conference on Housing First and Homelessness**

**Dates:** Thursday, June 8 & Friday, June 9, 2017

**Time:** 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

**Location:** Shaw Conference Centre, Salon Level

Media are invited to the keynote addresses and the Leadership Panel on Sustaining Impact.

For more information about this event, please contact:

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#### ***About 7 Cities on Housing & Homelessness***

*Working together to end homelessness since 2001, Alberta's 7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness (7 Cities) is made up of the lead organizations responsible for the implementation of local Plans to End Homelessness. The 7 Cities coordinates local plans at a systems level and aligns funding resources for greater impact and progress towards ending homelessness.*

*Members of the 7 Cities of Alberta are Calgary Homeless Foundation, City of Grande Prairie, City of Lethbridge, Homeward Trust Edmonton, Medicine Hat Community Housing Society, City of Red Deer, and Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.*

*The 7 Cities provides a forum for dialogue with the federal and provincial representatives on housing and homelessness. 7 Cities have long-standing histories of delivering strategic planning and service delivery in communities, along with administering and aligning funds, with accountabilities to several provincial or federal funders, including Alberta Human Services and the federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy.*

[www.7cities.ca](http://www.7cities.ca)