



May 2, 2023

Dear Community Leagues,

The way we plan our city is evolving. With proposed changes to the zoning bylaw, and the new District Plans, come shifts in how Community Leagues will influence these plans. Change, naturally, creates uncertainty and we recognize those in the League system who feel their concerns about these changes are not being addressed, amplified or taken on by the EFCL. We would like to take time to highlight why we believe the EFCL is responsive to the diverse voices of Leagues and is ultimately on the right path forward.

We are in a time of change necessitated by unprecedented challenges. The City of Edmonton, like cities across Canada and around the world, understands the urgent need to take immediate action to avert the worst impacts of climate change, to make our city more fiscally sustainable and to address the many challenges of a historically sprawling city. The proposed changes to planning through the District Plans project have been made necessary by the costs and climate implications of sprawl, the affordability crisis in Canada's housing market and the lack of housing supply, most especially affordable housing. We know Leagues will thrive within this vision of more livable local communities.

The EFCL, at the direction of the Board of Directors, is working to position Community Leagues to become stronger players in the solutions to all of these problems. We explicitly support redevelopment in neighbourhoods that brings people of all ages and backgrounds into the community, and believe that the proposed Zoning Bylaw will add vibrancy, diversity and health to neighbourhoods. We support land-use planning that enables excellent public and active transit, creates affordable housing, reduces emissions, and creates a more fiscally and environmentally sustainable city.

We also believe that Leagues play a vital role in the vision of their communities. We will continue to advocate for League voices to be heard now and in the future.

We are writing to be explicit in our stances, and to detail what work we are doing to hear, address and advance League concerns through this time of change.

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**Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues**

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## Why Do We Take This Stance?

The EFCL Board recognizes cities need to evolve and change to address the multiple converging crises of our time. The EFCL Board also sees this as an opportunity to:

- make our city more accessible by active- and public-transit
- curb outward growth and preserve prime farmland and natural ecosystems
- encourage diversity and ensure homes for ageing residents and new families
- support schools, local businesses and recreation
- extend welcome to our most vulnerable
- create tight-knit communities, vibrant streets and safe neighbourhoods
- strengthen our Community Leagues

As a democratic institution, the EFCL is responsive to League direction. With support from the Membership, any League can bring forward a motion or request through their district representative. If there are specific recommendations for changes to the draft Zoning Bylaw or District Plans, the EFCL has not received them nor have the District Representatives.

## How Has the EFCL Advocated For Meaningful Engagement?

The EFCL has focused on a number of high impact tactics to ensure Leagues are engaged. Some of these include:

1. Advocating to City Council for a more robust and collaborative approach to engagement on the Zoning Bylaw Renewal Initiative
  - a. June 29, 2021- Letter and Presentation to Urban Planning Committee [LINK](#)
  - b. April 11, 2022 - Letter and Presentation to Urban Planning Committee [LINK](#)
2. Working with City administration to ensure engagement plans, policy and practice reflect the needs of Leagues and their members.
  - a. See [Engagement Report](#) for details of City-led engagement to date.
    - i. We have played a very significant role in advocating for the vast amount of community engagement seen, the type of resources delivered and even the location of engagement events that have been hosted by the City
    - ii. We championed “zone testing workshops,” which included Leagues representatives from multiple districts
    - iii. We have provided direct support to Leagues through one-on-one support, multi-channel communications and one off events





- b. EFCL hosted events (Zoning Bylaw specific)
  - i. February 24, 2022 - City Plan, Moving Forward With Focus
  - ii. March 28, 2023 – Zoning Bylaw Renewal, League Update
- c. Communications
  - i. Newsletter, direct email updates, social media
- d. Meetings with individual Leagues
  - i. Providing direct league support on ZBRI analysis and providing information and resources to civics directors and presidents
- e. Zoning Bylaw Renewal Workshops
  - i. May 31, June 1 , June 3, 2023 – locations to be determined

The EFCL works to balance the needs of Leagues from across Edmonton with issues in each area of the city. Many Leagues support the prioritization of more diverse, accessible and sustainable development in our neighbourhoods. We encourage a diversity of perspectives and recognize the autonomy of each League in advocating for their members both to the city and the EFCL.

### **What About the Planning and Development Committee?**

The Planning and Development Committee of the EFCL has been a long-standing and valuable committee of the Board. When the committee was paused in 2022 due to inadequate representation, the Board took the opportunity to broaden its values and objectives so that it could once again be responsive and provide advice on critical urban and environmental issues.

The new Community Planning and Sustainability Working Group will bring together voices from each district and leverage the diverse knowledge of incredible community leaders from all parts of the city.

Recruitment is open until May 26, 2023 and information is available on our [website](#). Members must be League members and endorsed by their Community League.

Understanding the importance of bottom-up leadership and the democratic process, the EFCL has not independently requested changes to the Draft Zoning Bylaw. We have instead worked hard to ensure that Community Leagues and their members are given the opportunity to be meaningfully engaged in the decision making process.

Community Leagues have an integral part in making the City of Edmonton a vibrant place to live. As you have discussions with your board and community, we urge you to bring any



concerns about the Zoning Bylaw Renewal or District Planning to your District Representative, or to the EFCL ([leaguesupport@efcl.org](mailto:leaguesupport@efcl.org)).

Signed,

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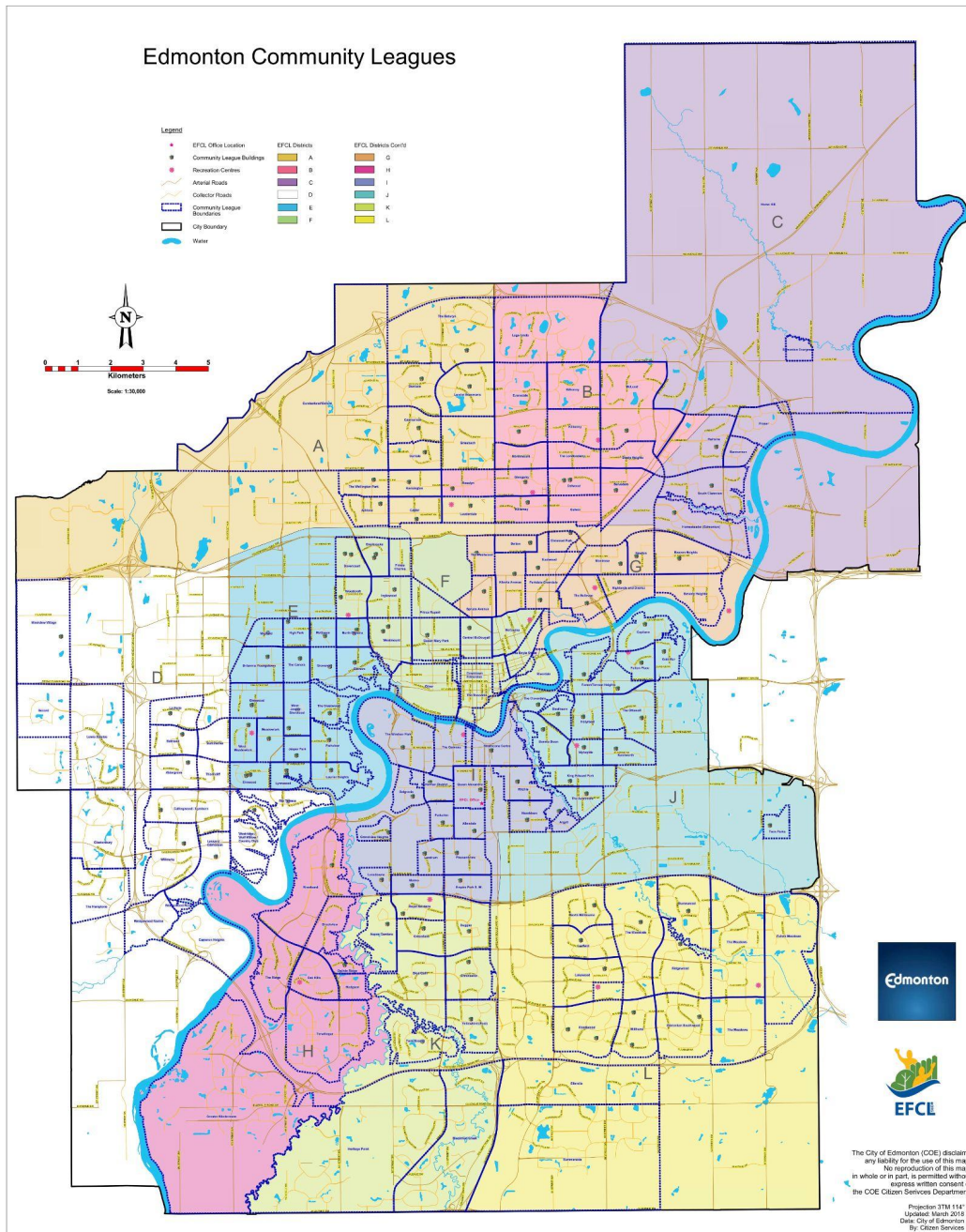
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EFCL district map