

Complex Needs Emergency Shelter

Information Sheet

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to ensuring the safety, health and well-being of all residents across our province. As part of this commitment, we are introducing a Complex Needs Emergency Shelter (CNES) in Prince Albert to better support individuals with complex challenges.

Unlike traditional shelters, individuals do not self-refer. A CNES provides an alternate safe and secure location where police may bring individuals who are intoxicated and exhibiting behavior that presents a danger to themselves or a danger or disturbance to the public. A CNES will better support individuals in crisis and enhance community safety. Facilities have been established in Regina and Saskatoon, where there has been a positive impact from these services.

The proposed location for the CNES in Prince Albert is 99 – 9th Street East in the downtown area. The Government of Saskatchewan is working with the City of Prince Albert on the necessary zoning amendments to support the operation of a CNES facility at this site. This location has been selected due to its proximity to support services, which are a crucial component of the discharge plan for individuals transitioning out of crisis care.

Discharge planning ensures that individuals are connected and transported to appropriate community supports upon discharge. Being near these services increases the effectiveness of the CNES program and helps individuals access resources for ongoing care and stability.

The facility will include nurses and support staff experienced in withdrawal management, along with security personnel trained to handle individuals in distress to ensure the safety of patients, staff and the facility. The facility will be equipped with 10 to 15 beds for patients to receive up to 24 hours of care.

By providing a secure and monitored location for individuals in crisis, we aim to reduce risks to public safety and pressure on police, hospital and emergency services.

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to keeping the community informed throughout this process and will continue to share updates as they become available.

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Common Questions and Answers

Q. Why is this location suitable for long-term use?

A. The site already has a mix of zoning, making it an appropriate location for the facility.

Q. Who can access the facility?

A. Only police can bring individuals to the facility; it will not be open to the public.

Q. What services does the facility provide?

A. The facility will provide short-term stabilization, medical support, and referrals to longer term supports and care.

Q. How long can individuals stay?

A. Up to 24 hours, depending on their needs.

Q. Is this a traditional shelter?

A. No, it will be a secure stabilization facility with onsite health professionals and security personnel. It will not be a walk-in shelter.

Q. Will people gather outside the facility?

A. No, the site will be closely monitored, and loitering will not be permitted.

Q. How does the facility affect public safety?

A. The facility improves safety by providing an alternate, secure location where police can bring an individual who is intoxicated and exhibiting behaviours that present a danger to themselves or a danger or disturbance to the public. CNES patients have not been charged with criminal offences.

Q. Who will run the facility?

A. A service procurement process will occur to find an appropriate organization to operate the facility.

Q. Who funds the facility?

A. The Government of Saskatchewan will provide funding to operate the facility.

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Common Questions and Answers

Q. When will the Prince Albert Complex Needs Emergency Shelter open?

A. There are several steps needed before the facility can open, including building renovations and finding an appropriate organization to operate the facility. There is a targeted opening date of spring 2026.

Q. Is this part of a broader government strategy?

A. CNES facilities are part of the provincial government's plan to provide safe, secure spaces for individuals in crisis and enhance community safety.

Q. Will the government consult with the community?

A. The Government of Saskatchewan will follow the City of Prince Albert municipal process for community engagement.

Q. How can residents provide feedback?

A. Questions about the operation of the CNES facility may be emailed to the Mental Health and Addictions Branch in the Ministry of Health at MHAB@health.gov.sk.ca.

Questions about the zoning application and the City's role may be emailed to solutions@citypa.com.