



May 19, 2022

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Inner City Pastoral Ministry,

As I write this spring has fully sprung! There is new, vibrant life everywhere to be seen and Creation blossoms full of expectation and possibilities. Many people will be busy planning for their summer holidays and gardens. I wanted to reach out to you at this wonderful time of year before you embark on your summer plans.

This spring, as with every Spring during the pandemic, many supports for people who call Edmonton's Urban Core home have been discontinued. As the temperature rises the day use shelters the City of Edmonton provided over the Winter months have either closed or have greatly reduced their hours. Overnight shelter spots have also decreased significantly. There are currently about twice the number of people living outside on Edmonton's streets as there were at the beginning of the Covid pandemic. The City of Edmonton's plan for addressing this is to provide more permanent, supportive housing in the long term, but to increase the numbers of rangers and peace officers dismantling the shelters of those living on the streets now. Coupled with an increased cost of living across the board, it is a challenging time for all of us, but especially for those of our sisters and brothers who live in urban poverty. One can feel the increased anger and sense of hopelessness here in the urban core. And it is into this darkness that ICPM shines.

I am asking that you consider helping ICPM with a special financial contribution this spring. Your money will go toward ensuring that every Sunday there is inspiring, relevant and hope-filled worship with coffee, lunch and smiles at the Bissell Centre West. It will help us to provide emergency grocery aid, bus tickets, snacks, and seasonally appropriate clothing to those on the street and in shelters. It will ensure the continuation of quality and fun men's and women's groups and Indigenous programming. Most important of all, your contribution will support ICPM's ministry team as we reach out to and find those who need a hand, an ear to listen, some wise council, and a safe, non-judgemental presence to turn to. We have been doing this work on Edmonton's streets since 1978, and we rely on the help of our friends and supporters to keep this vital ministry going into the future.

You may give through Etransfer to icpmgiving@gmail.com, through [Canada Helps](#), or by mailing a check to Inner City Pastoral Ministry, 10527 – 96 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 2H6. Any donation over \$20.00 CAD will be sent a charitable tax receipt. If you have any questions or want to find out more about our exciting ministry please don't hesitate to email me at icmpastor@gmail.com or give me a call at 780-719-1548.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Quinn Strikwerda, ICPM