

Media Release  
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For Immediate Release

## **Poll Shows Edmontonians Want Zoning Bylaw to Require Environmental Standards; Want Council to Pause**

A poll conducted October 3 and 4 by Pollara Research shows Edmontonians want city council to take a strong stand for the environment in its proposed zoning bylaw and want council to take the time to get the bylaw right. The poll, commissioned by the Coalition for Better Infill, is based on a representative sample of 754 Edmontonians and has a margin of error of 3.6%, 19 times out of 20. Discussions on the proposed zoning bylaw begin at city council Monday, October 16, and a vote is expected later that week.

“Two things jump out from the results,” said Marie Gordon, who sits on the steering committee for the Coalition for Better Infill. “First, a solid majority of Edmontonians want a zoning bylaw that addresses environmental issues by, for example, requiring new buildings to be more energy efficient, and to have capacity that makes it easier for owners to install solar panels.”

Gordon noted the bylaw has no requirements for developers to address environmental issues. She pointed to an analysis of the bylaw by the Environmental Law Centre providing ways to embed environmental standards into the bylaw. “Edmontonians are looking ahead - they want new housing stock to be built ready-to-adapt to climate change. They want city council to lead.”

“Second,” continued Gordon, “Edmontonians by a margin of almost four-to-one want the bylaw paused for a year, to make sure it is done properly. Only 15% oppose a pause. Even most supporters of the bylaw support a pause. There is no need to rush.”

Kevin Taft, also on the Coalition for Better Infill steering committee, says city councillors have a chance to make this bylaw better. “At a bare minimum, city council should amend the bylaw before they pass it, so it addresses environmental concerns. Council has an opportunity to do the right thing and rebuild some trust with Edmontonians.” If councillors push the bylaw through without significant improvements, Taft thinks they risk losing support of a majority of voters.

Complete polling results are attached.