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Letter sent by email.

July 22, 2026

Councillor Stevenson and Edmonton City Council
2nd Floor, City Hall
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2R7

Subject: Thank you for supporting business-friendly construction

Dear Councillor Stevenson, Mayor Knack, and Council,

As you know, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) is a non-partisan, non-profit organization representing the interests of 103,000 small- and medium-sized businesses across Canada with 11,000 members in Alberta and 2,000 in the City of Edmonton. We are writing to thank you for the unanimous vote in favour of directing administration to explore a “Business Friendly Construction Policy” at the July 8th meeting of Council.

As you know, Edmonton’s small businesses rank the impact from public construction projects as the 4th largest municipal issue next to property taxes, crime and safety, and red tape. The average Canadian small business reported a 40% decline in sales during construction projects. While each construction project is unique in its duration, scale and disruptiveness, the most common issues affecting over half (58%) of businesses are traffic congestion, dust, debris, and noise. Customers and staff having trouble accessing their business or finding parking (49%), significant stress (23%) and lack of notice (33%) also impact small businesses in construction zones.

That’s why we’re very supportive of Council’s decision to explore a Business-Friendly Construction Policy. Construction is necessary to maintain and improve critical infrastructure, but it should be delivered in a way that minimizes avoidable harm to the small businesses that help drive Edmonton’s economy. We are encouraged that Council has recognized the need for a more proactive and consistent approach to mitigating construction impacts, maintaining customer access, improving communication with affected businesses, and ensuring business continuity throughout major projects.

A well-designed policy will help strengthen Edmonton’s reputation as a great place to start, operate, and grow a business, while ensuring that future infrastructure investments can proceed with greater support from the local business community. We believe there is an opportunity for Edmonton to become a leader in this area by adopting practical measures that balance the needs of construction projects with the realities faced by small business owners.

Councillor Stevenson, thank you for your work to advance this motion and for championing Edmonton’s downtown businesses. We also thank Mayor Knack and all members of Council for their unanimous

support. Your leadership sends a strong message that Edmonton values its small business community and is committed to reducing unnecessary barriers to success.

We look forward to sharing our recommendations with City administration on best practices for the policy, and offering our support at the Infrastructure Committee meeting in November.

Should anyone at the City wish to discuss CFIB's recommendations on construction mitigation further, please do not hesitate to contact us at 403-489-7595 or kayode.southwood@cfib.ca.

Sincerely,



Keyli Loeppky
Senior Director, Alberta & Interprovincial Affairs



Kayode Southwood
Senior Policy Analyst, Alberta

CC: Eddie Robar, City Manager, City of Edmonton