



**Community Solutions Accelerator**  
A Better Alberta With and For Everyone

## **Community Solutions Accelerator (CSA) challenge announced: Focusing on the mental and physical well-being of first responders**

The Edmonton Police Foundation (EPF) is excited to announce the next community challenge to be analyzed under the Community Solutions Accelerator (CSA) will open for submissions on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

The challenge focuses on the mental and physical well-being of all first responders through the development of a desktop and mobile application (app). The winning selection will be awarded \$40,000 of which, \$20,000 comes from the Edmonton Police Foundation and \$20,000 from ATB Financial.

In May 2020, we announced a winner for the challenge's first stage, which sought content to form the foundation for this app. Now that the first stage is complete, we are seeking proof of concepts for new apps or an existing app that improves the mental health and fitness of our first responders, supporting employees physically and psychologically throughout their careers and into retirement. This app should provide evidence-based solutions and address recruit engagement, physical and mental wellness. We believe the global community coming together with ideas and innovation will result in a solution that not only addresses the needs of our first responders here, but around the world.

“We chose this subject for the next challenge because of the first-responder suicides we see across our country,” Chief Dale McFee explained. “The health and well-being of each team member is our top priority, so we have evaluated what the Edmonton Police Service already does to ensure our membership is taken care of physically and mentally. We want to expand these resources and supports by utilizing today's technology.”

“The need to assess and maintain mental and physical health during a first responder's career must be ingrained in the organizational culture of any first response agency, from time of application through retirement,” said Ashif Mawji, Chair of the Edmonton Police Foundation. “The app we select will cater to that broad audience to maximize its impact and to assist in efforts to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health and operational stress injuries.

Mental health and wellness effects all of us; no one should ever have to conquer that journey alone. By engaging with the city's innovative minds, we believe we can truly make a positive change to the support available for all emergency service employees.”

These challenges would not be possible without the support from our many partners, like ATB Financial.

“Reducing the stigma around mental illness and improving the resources available to those struggling is important to the overall health of our communities,” said Curtis Stange, President and CEO of ATB Financial. “As a mental health champion, ATB is proud to support innovative ways to uplift the wellness of those struggling with trauma, depression or other mental health-related issues.”

Thanks to all who participated in [the first stage](#) of the challenge. We would like to congratulate the winners, SarA Health, who presented the most robust submission that answered the challenge for overall health and well-being.

The CSA Selection Committee expects to announce the successful submission at the end of November 2020.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the challenge.

### **Background**

The [Community Solutions Accelerator \(CSA\)](#) is a ground-breaking new approach to public safety and well-being modelled on business applications that combine amalgamated data, artificial intelligence and machine learning to solve complex problems.

Using available data from a variety of sources, the CSA will focus on the interconnected challenges affecting Edmonton such as crime, addictions, homelessness, and mental health.

The data will be a roadmap for change, and while the solutions will benefit the safety and well-being of Albertans, they could potentially be applied to other communities across the country and around the world facing similar challenges.

The [first community challenge](#) focused on finding solutions to address the chronic problem of liquor store thefts in Edmonton, which is currently in the pilot project stage.