



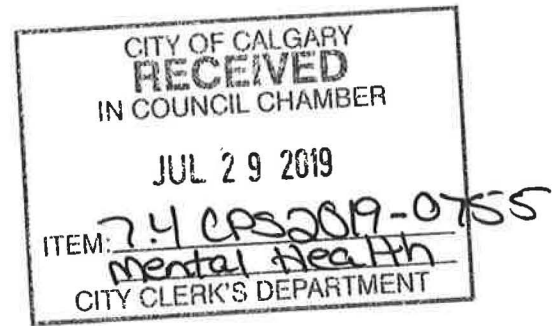
CALGARY
POLICE
SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

Vigilance
Courage
Pride

2019 July 19

City of Calgary Councillors
PO Box 2100, Station M
Calgary, AB T2M 1P5



Dear City Council members:

As you continue to explore and debate motions related to the topics of mental health and addictions, I wanted to write to highlight some considerations that are crucial for the Calgary Police Service, as these important issues have impacts on our day-to-day policing and long-term strategies.

In 2018, CPS attended 16,483 mental health related events (more than 45 per day). These are calls of desperation from neighbourhoods across our City from parents, children, friends and family members who are witnessing behaviour and actions of an individual suffering from mental health or addiction issues and are unable to manage the crisis unfolding in their living rooms and in their neighbourhoods. And for our officers and the people that called them, there is a feeling of hopelessness. And these feelings stem from the realities that the current systems designed to help these people in crisis are complicated to navigate, are at capacity or may not be available at the time when the person in crisis needs it the most.

The Calgary Police Service believes in the importance of a spectrum of services, in varying stages, to help individuals, families and communities get the programs, services and treatments they need. We are proud to have been selected and to have participated in the Bloomberg Harvard City Leaders Initiative. The work created by that group, in consultation with a wide variety of community partners, is a significant step forward towards a defined Mental Health and Addiction Strategic Framework. It complements the many partnerships that we currently support in the space of crime reduction, early intervention and treatments.

Our way forward on these complex issues must create hope and strengthen supports for individuals, families and community. We believe it has to have robust Governance to drive the work that is focused on preventing substance misuse, promoting mental health, supporting treatment options and is dedicated

..... 2

to maintaining personal and community safety – for all Calgarians. Together, I am confident that we will then be able to achieve improved access and navigation of the services currently available, build resilient people and communities, reduce stigma of these issues within society and improve community safety.

These are wicked problems facing our society. In the end, enforcement cannot criminalize the issues of addiction and mental health. Our approach to these complex social issues of substance abuse and mental health issues cannot be solved in isolation. It is a shared responsibility of many stakeholders and we will continue to work with our community partners to provide a balanced approach to prevention, harm reduction, treatment, enforcement services and supports for vulnerable persons and the community as a whole.

We remain available for questions and conversation, as may be required, as you wade through these topics in the days ahead. Thank you.

Yours truly,



Paul Cook
Acting Chief

/smb

cc: Brian Thiessen, Calgary Police Commission

July 12, 2019

Dear City Council members,

I've had some recent conversations with the Gosbee family and recognize a need to offer my public support as it relates to the Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction Strategic Framework.

Mental health is one of my personal passions and an area that I'm proud to champion as the President & CEO of ATB Financial. On any given day, about 100 ATB team members miss work because they or a friend or relative is affected by mental illness. That's no small number. For many, the barrier to getting help or reaching out is stigma and fear. At ATB, our goal is to create a psychologically safe environment where our team members are comfortable speaking about mental health struggles and we feel safe to seek help from our ATB leaders. We can only deliver remarkable customer experiences if our team members are present and ALL IN—and that means taking care of our mental health.

ATB recently made the 2019 list of *Best Workplaces™ for Mental Wellness*. This award is the result of work done by many team members in awareness, learning, action, and advocacy both internally, through our Mental Health Action Team, and externally, through our partnership with the Mental Health Commission. I am very grateful for this award and the courageous conversations we are having at ATB. I would like to encourage City Council to continue to listen, be allies for each other, and support all Albertans in understanding mental health so we can proudly play a role in reducing stigma and creating healthier communities across Alberta.

Sincerely,



Curtis Stange
President & CEO

ATB Financial

Corporate Offices
Suite 2100, 10020 100 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5J 0N3

780-408-7181
cstange@atb.com



MAYOR'S OFFICE

JUL 17 2019

THE CITY OF CALGARY

Mayor Naheed Nenshi
City of Calgary
P.O Box 2100, Station M
Calgary, AB T2P 2M5

July 15, 2019

Dear Mayor Nenshi,

I am writing this letter in support of The City of Calgary's leadership in advancing a mental health and addictions strategy. As you are well aware, Calgary is in the midst of an addictions crisis related to the rise of synthetic drugs including amphetamines and opiates. We absolutely need leadership to build the necessary response infrastructure to meet this new need effectively.

Alpha House has a longstanding history on delivering on public health and safety working with our most vulnerable citizens for nearly 40 years. We strive to balance our clients' needs for support in their recovery journeys, while supporting a safer, vibrant community and effective use of emergency public systems. Our Outreach (including DOAP team), intox/emergency shelter, detox and slate of supported housing across the city have proven effective to support clients by meeting them where they are at, while encouraging healthier lives.

Given the increasing complexity and velocity in drug use, we have seen changes in our client's needs in recent years. To continue to add value to our community and those we serve, we strongly urge you to continue your work in advancing innovative, evidence-led interventions to the drug crisis.

For our part, Alpha House will continue to support the City through our partnership with Calgary Police Services, Bylaw, Transit and EMS especially as a frontline response to the most challenging behaviours in our city. We look forward to being part of the City's efforts on mental health and addictions moving forward as a committed community partner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "K. Christiansen".

Kathy Christiansen
Executive Director
Alpha House Calgary

Office of the Mayor

From: Michelle Schurman <schurman.michelle@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2019 10:31 AM
To: Office of the Mayor
Subject: [EXT] Please reconsider - Community Action on Mental Health

Categories: Completed, Nancy

Hello Mayor Nenshi,

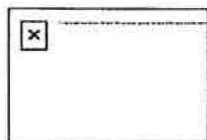
It has come to my attention that the City Council has voted against the recommendations set forth by the Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction Strategic Framework. Calgary would be remiss if the council were to not reconsider its vote on this matter. It is apparent that the city lacks community based mental health services and it is in my belief that this void can be mended if the proposed recommendations were approved by Council. The recent conversations I have had with the Gosbee family have highlighted a need for public support and thus I must offer mine.

Huddle Up for Suicide Prevention is a growing non-profit dedicated to eradicating the stigma around mental illness and suicide. For the last three years, we have hosted a charity tailgate party in conjunction with the Stampeders' Western Final. To date, the group has raised \$60,000 for suicide prevention and the money has been donated to the Canadian Mental Health Association. This year, we have added Edmonton and Regina Huddle Up events, coinciding with the CFL season. Here's a [Global News story](#) that aired about the event. We work closely with the Gosbee family on promoting community supports and awareness of mental health and suicide prevention.

Yours Truly,

Michelle Schurman

Huddle Up for Suicide Prevention



**Michelle
Schurman**

www.michelleschurman.com

Cell: 403-463-9607

Close, Nancy

From: Derek Payne <dpayne4@mac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2019 2:50 PM
To: Office of the Mayor
Subject: [EXT] Mental health and addiction

Dear Mayor Nenshi,

Although mental health and addition have become open topics of general discussion, at the most personal level, many of us still hide our struggles from one another. When the courage to confront these issues and ask for help arises, the eventual support is a reaction with the opportunity for prevention long gone. Calgary needs to be proactive rather than reactionary when it comes to services for mental health and addiction. Community-based support is a first step towards a proactive approach.

It has come to my attention that the City Council has voted against the recommendations set forth by the Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction Strategic Framework. Calgary would be remiss if the council were to not reconsider its vote on this matter. It is apparent that the city lacks community-based mental health services and it is in my belief that this void can be mended if the proposed recommendations were approved by Council. My personal experience on the Board of Hospice Calgary over the past seven years, along with recent conversations I have had with the Gosbee family have highlighted a need for public support and thus I must offer mine.

Derek Payne
649 Varsity Estates Cres NW

Office of the Mayor

From: Jill Viccars <jill.viccars@drifttech.io>
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2019 11:31 AM
To: Office of the Mayor
Cc: CLYM ATKIN
Subject: [EXT] Calgary Mental Health Services - Letter of Support

Categories: Completed, Nancy

Dear Mayor Naheed Nenshi,

I am writing to express my support for the recommendations that were set forth by the Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction Strategic Framework that City Council voted against.

My experience with mental health and addiction is vast. I grew up in Calgary. My sister suffered from depression (and every other label constructed) through-out her adolescents. She was hospitalized on and off for over 5 years - to say our family is acquainted with the system and the services is an understatement. When I was 13 my family and I would rotate turns sleeping on the floor of her bedroom to ensure she could not hurt herself - our lives revolved around trying to keep her safe between hospital stays and stop gaps in her journey. My Dad turned towards alcohol, my Mom was prescribed antidepressants, I began self-harm and ended up with an eating disorder that would impact me until I had children in my late 20's. You see her health not only impacted her - it set off a switch. Our family was shuffled from one program to another. Like many others we had no financial burden but we were still unable to navigate the complications of the system and in turn get the required supports we needed. I cannot imagine the financial burden the mental health of my sister had on the system - and this is why I am requesting you to revisit the recommendations that will be presented to you once again on July 29th.

We need a proactive approach to mental health. The situation is dire. We are losing the battle as people are giving up on their fights. We need you, our council to recognize the need to change how we discuss and take action on mental illness and suicide. We need to build the team, resources and community to support each and every one of us - so that the choice of suicide is not one that is going to be considered by the children who have lost parents, the parents who have lost children and friends who have lost friends.

It is apparent that the city lacks community based mental health services and it is in my belief that this void can be mended if the proposed recommendations were approved by Council. The recent conversations I have had with the Gosbee family have highlighted a need for public support and thus I must offer mine.

Yours Truly,

Jill Viccars, Clym Atkin and our three children Bea, Harry and Ellie

We believe in brighter days. In an Alberta where mental health is no longer an issue. In a Province famous for a record amount of sunshine, we won't give up and go quietly into the darkness.

--

Jill Viccars



t.403.826.2105 e. jill.viccars@driftech.io
<http://driftech.io/>

Office of the Mayor

From: Mark Zivot <Mark@zivotgroup.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 1:39 PM
To: Office of the Mayor
Subject: [EXT] Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction Strategic Framework
Attachments: Administration Recommendations.docx

Categories: Completed, Nancy



5920 1A Street SW, Suite 405
Calgary, AB T2H 0G3

O: 403-259-4626

July 17, 2019

Dear Your Worship Mayor Nenshi;

It has come to my attention that City Council has recently voted against the recommendations set forth by the Community Action on Mental Health and Strategic Framework.

As a retired surgeon and currently active Calgary businessman, I understand and follow “Best Practice Models” in healthcare including mental health. I also am exposed to and deal with mental health matters that face many of the several hundred people we employ in our businesses.

Sadly, in our City of Calgary the process for managing mental health is basically disheveled, reactionary and often results in overutilization of costly resources including police, ambulance, hospital beds, and the criminal justice system.

Having spent significant time with the Gosbee family and following Karen’s role as a mental health advocate, I have had the opportunity to meet several families affected by mental health. Every single person said they did not know what to do or who to call. For some it resulted in a loss of life. For others they waited to make professional contact and waited even longer for any evaluation or treatment. Some went to the hospital and were admitted to a general ward and sat there for several days before receiving a proper mental health evaluation and subsequent transfer to a psychiatric ward. Others were just sent home with no proper plan or told to see a psychologist. And some just end up jobless/homeless or in the Criminal Justice System. Basically, everyone that I spoke too felt we need to do better. We need a roadmap and best practice models in place.

The World Health Organization has determined that failure to treat just depression and anxiety costs the world one trillion dollars per year. As such, cities like New York, Baltimore and Denver have added mental health funding into their own community-based models. They are moving away from traditional mental health care which is typically confined to treatment after the emergence of symptoms. Often times this results in failure and costly consequences to society.

Please make Calgary a leader in dealing with mental health. Be a visionary on this critical issue. I ask you to support City of Calgary Administration recommendations for the Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction Strategic Framework. Follow the best practice models in mental health and not rely on the current "after the fact/reactionary" model that is still in place. Recognize that Calgarians and especially those affected and exposed to mental health are your critical partners in planning, developing and educating others.

Lets all continue working towards making Calgary the happiest, healthiest, safest and most inviting place to live.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Mark L. Zivot
Chairman & CEO
The Zivot Group of Companies
Ronmor Developers Inc.

Honorary Clinical Assistant Professor
Department of Surgery
The University of Calgary Cummings School of Medicine

Attachment



Mark Zivot
Chairman & CEO
405, 5920 1A Street SW | Calgary, Alberta T2H 0G3
Work: (403) 259-4626 | Mobile: (403) 397-4626
Fax: (403) 258-1030



**Canadian Mental
Health Association**
Calgary
Mental health for all

July 18, 2019

Office of the Mayor of the City of Calgary
And Calgary City Council
P.O. Box 2100, Station M
Calgary, AB, T2P 2M5

Dear Mayor Nenshi and Members of Calgary City Council:

On behalf of the **Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA)– Calgary Region** (cmha.calgary.ab.ca) and in our role as the backbone agency to the **Calgary Council for Addition and Mental Health** (www.calgaryaddictionandmentalhealth.ca) we are prepared to support and provide leadership in developing and achieving the goals and deliverables associated with a community action strategy and plan for mental health and addiction.

According to the World Health Organization, urban environments are associated with higher rates of most mental health and addiction problems. Without a strategy and action plan, Calgarians can expect to be challenged with rising rates of insufficiency of mental health and addiction supports, unemployment, homelessness, loneliness, crime and loss of hope.

CMHA Calgary is well positioned to support positive action as we have developed a successful and scalable mental health and addiction prevention and early intervention model (Recovery College and Peer Support) that has received local, provincial and national recognition. We have a proven record in building networks with other interested community stakeholders to support a comprehensive municipal strategy that increases access, resiliency, hope and improved mental health for all Calgarians.

We continue to advocate for the participation of community leaders with lived experience of a mental health and addiction as their expertise can guide our work in building the right supports in the right place that can be accessed at the right time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lauren MacNeil', written in a cursive style.

Lauren MacNeil
Executive Director
CMHA Calgary Region

Office of the Mayor

From: Robert W. Thompson <rthompson@codehunterllp.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 10:24 AM
To: Office of the Mayor
Subject: [EXT] Mental Health and Addiction Strategic Framework

Categories: Completed

It has come to my attention that the City Council has voted against the recommendations set forth by the Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction Strategic Framework. Calgary would be remiss if the council were to not reconsider its vote on this matter. It is apparent that the city lacks community based mental health services and it is in my belief that this void can be mended if the proposed recommendations were approved by Council. The recent conversations I have had with the Gosbee family have highlighted a need for public support and thus I must offer mine.

Robert W. Thompson, Q.C. | Counsel | Code Hunter LLP, Barristers | www.codehunterllp.com
direct 403.716.2381 | fax 403.261.2054 | 850, 440 – 2nd Avenue SW | Calgary AB T2P 5E9

This email communication is CONFIDENTIAL AND LEGALLY PRIVILEGED. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify me at the telephone number shown above or by return email and delete this communication and any copy immediately. Thank you.

Office of the Mayor

From: afwilson@shaw.ca
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 10:36 PM
To: Office of the Mayor
Subject: [EXT] The Community Action On Mental Health And Addiction Strategic Framework.
Categories: Adam

To: Your Worship Mayor Nenshi and Calgary City Council Members.

Re: The Community Action On Mental Health And Addiction Strategic Framework.

In my opinion the Calgary city Council has been remiss in voting against the recommendations by the The Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction Strategic Framework.

Calgary lacks adequate community-based mental health services. I have recently spoken to a Calgary psychiatrist who has observed a significant increase in toxic psychosis induced by the use of cannabis. The use of cannabis or other substances are a significant community problem for which there are insufficient programs or mechanisms to help the unfortunate citizens with those problems. The problem of drug overdose deaths are a significant manifestation of the problem.

As citizens or counsellors it is our duty to provide help and be empathetic to assist those who are impaired by mental health or addiction problems. Help is lacking when you vote against The Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction Strategic Framework proposal.

Thank you for your consideration

A. F. Wilson MD. (Retired)

Office of the Mayor

From: Kelly Streit <kelly@modemodels.com>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 2:07 AM
To: Office of the Mayor; Ward8 - Michael Mooney
Subject: [EXT] Fwd: Mental Health / City Council

Categories: Adam

cc: Mayor Naheed Nenshi

Kelly Streit
(403) 402-7735
Sent from my iPhone.iTypos.iApologize

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kelly Streit <kelly@modemodels.com>
Date: July 19, 2019 at 2:01:38 AM MDT
To: ward08@calgary.ca
Subject: Mental Health / City Council

19 July 2019

Calgary, AB

Dear Council Member, Evan Wooley & the entire Calgary City Council,

Dear Evan et al,

I hope this letter finds you well.

It has come to my attention that the City Council has voted against the recommendations set forth by the Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction Strategic Framework. Calgary

would be remiss if the council were to not reconsider its vote on this matter. It is apparent that the city lacks community based mental health services and it is in my belief that this void can be mended if the proposed recommendations were approved by Council. The recent conversations I have had with the Gosbee family have highlighted a need for public support and thus I must offer mine.

I personally went through a period of depression and self isolation that lasted many years. This has been reported publicly (see link below). I allowed this to go public to give hope to others who have suffered or are suffering the same way. I will keep it simple and say I will be thoroughly disappointed if this initiative isn't reconsidered. It could not only save lives but make life so much better for us all. I have a voice and I'm very prepared to use it for such an important initiative.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mr. Kelly W. Streit

President

Mode Models International Inc.

(403) 402 7735

<https://www.google.ca/amp/s/calgaryherald.com/life/fashion-beauty/kelly-streit-looks-back-on-30-years-of-mode-models-shares-battle-with-deep-depression/amp>

Kelly Streit

(403) 402-7735

Sent from my iPhone.iTypos.iApologize

Sunday, July 21, 2019

**TO: His Worship Naheed Nenshi
Councillors, City of Calgary**

RE: Community Action on Mental Health and Addictions Strategy Endorsement

I am writing in my position as an academic and researcher with expertise in mental health, addiction, and drug policy to provide my endorsement of the Community Action on Mental Health and Addictions Strategy. Since my arrival in Calgary in 2016 I have been highly impressed with the City of Calgary's commitment to consultation with research experts in substance use, mental health and public health and I am confident that the work of the Strategy will be informed by evidence of best practice in research and policy.

Mental health and addiction issues require a coordinated, collaborative, and community-based approach to action that the City of Calgary is well positioned to lead. I believe that the proposed Strategy and Stewardship Committee will be successful in bringing partners from across sectors, agencies, and levels of government to the table and will enable them to work together to develop shared solutions to the challenges we continue to face in our city. Make no mistake, these issues are beyond the domain of provincial health services and health policy and are rightfully the purview of municipal government and its focus on strengthening communities, ensuring neighborhood safety, and building a resilient, inclusive and welcoming city where everyone has the capacity to thrive and lead a meaningful life.

The crisis in opioid overdose deaths continues to have a devastating impact on Calgary and demands urgent attention and collaborative solutions. It is utterly unacceptable that our citizens are dying of overdose in and nearby agencies, on our streets, and in their homes. Overdose deaths should be treated as a community issue and as a family issue; the magnitude of the human loss and the impact of these deaths demands that we work together to end the stigma of addiction and deploy all the resources at our disposal to respond to this public health emergency.

To close, I support the Strategy and will be committed to marshalling the resources of the research and policy communities that I am member of at the University of Calgary, as well as provincially and nationally, to ensure that its work is informed by robust research evidence, as well as insights from leading Canadian mental health and addiction academic and policy experts.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Haines-Saah, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of Community Health Sciences
Co-Lead, Population Health and Prevention Research Interest Group, O'Brien Institute for Public Health
Member, Mathison Centre for Mental Health Research and Education

#Keep Calgary Strong
July 22, 2019

Your Worship and Members of City Council,

I, Anna Greenwood-Lee, am honored to serve as the Chair of the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good. A broad-based alliance of faith, labour, and community groups representing over 30 000 Calgarians. I met some of you at an assembly we held earlier this year where several of you made public promise to support us in our work. I am here today speaking not only for the Calgary Alliance but for, Keep Calgary Strong, a growing community coalition representing in excess of 50 000 people in our city.

We appreciate the difficult position City Council finds itself in. We applaud the principles that you have established for review of these cuts. Our coalition's specific focus is your first principal: doing the least harm to Calgary's poor and vulnerable. There is such a large group of people here today because we want you to remember that principle throughout your deliberations.

We are in the midst of an opioid crisis in our city. There are, on average, a heart breaking six deaths per week. I am here today because of a phone call I got not so long ago from a parishioner who teaches at Mt. Royal University. She was sobbing as one of her students from died over the weekend from an opioid overdose. This was a young man who had his whole life in front of him.

Too many people get these same terrible phone calls. According to a recent study more than half of those who have died from opioids worked in the trades or as transport and equipment operators. The high level of injuries they suffer building our roads, our houses, our city, should not lead to death. Too many of our neighbours, friends, children, coworkers are dying. The city has done excellent work with coming up with a Mental Health and Addiction strategy. \$4 million has been earmarked for this in 2019. Any cuts you make should not be in the area of mental health and addiction as this is a matter of life and death for so many in our city.

We are also requesting that you maintain the current service level and fare structure in our transit system. 330,000 Calgarians use transit every day. I like so many used it to get here this morning. But for me, it was helping a single mother and her daughter where I really came to understand the importance of transit and especially the low-income pass .

When I first met Rebekah and Olivia, they were experiencing homelessness. Our church worked with CUPS to get them housed and for years Rebekah faithfully used her low-income transit pass to get her daughter to daycare, to get herself to work, to buy groceries, to get to doctor appointments, swim lessons and play dates. Without that low-income bus pass Rebekah and Olivia would not enjoy the full and productive life they have today. Transit was a lifeline for them as they lived, for many years, on something like

\$800 a month. Today they are flourishing. Rebekah and Olivia and so many others are a reminder that that low-income transit pass is not a cost but an investment. We know that this program relies on both city and provincial dollars and we look forward to working with you to ensure that province also continues to support this investment.

As you deliberate today, we ask you to keep the most vulnerable in our city top of mind and not to cut mental health and addiction and not to cut transit, especially the sliding-scale transit pass. I thank all the members of the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good and Keep Calgary Strong who are here today and as you, our elected representatives, look out at this full chamber, we ask you to keep all Calgarians, especially the most vulnerable, top of mind.

Rev. Anna Greenwood-Lee

ALEXANDER G. MacWILLIAM
403-268-7090
alex.macwilliam@dentons.com
15th Floor, Banker's Court
850 - 2nd Street SW
Calgary, AB T2P 0R8

July 26, 2019

Themayor@calgary.ca

The City of Calgary
Office of the Mayor
700 Macleod Trail S.E.
Calgary, AB T2G 2M3

Dear Mayor Naheed Nenshi,

As a longstanding member of the Calgary business and volunteer communities, I am writing to you on a matter of utmost concern. I am a partner with Dentons Canada LLP and a member of the Boards of Alberta Theatre Projects, Arts Commons and the Bridgeland Riverside Community Association. In my professional, volunteer and personal capacities, I have seen the impacts mental health issues have had on individuals in Calgary. I have also been impressed with the initiative shown by the City of Calgary to address these issues.

However, it has come to my attention that City Council has voted against the recommendations set forth by the Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction Strategic Framework. Calgary would be remiss if Council were to not reconsider its vote on this matter. It is apparent that the city lacks community based mental health services and it is in my belief that this void can be mended if the proposed recommendations were approved by Council. The recent conversations I have had with the Gosbee family have highlighted a need for public support and thus I must offer mine.

Yours very truly,



Alex MacWilliam



*Office of the Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addiction
MLA, Calgary - Footprints*

July 26, 2019

His Worship Naheed Nenshi
Office of the Mayor
The City of Calgary
P.O. Box 2100, Station M
Calgary, AB T2P 2M5

Dear Mayor Nenshi:

Thank you for your email regarding the Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction Leaders Forum and proposed Terms of Reference.

On behalf of the Government of Alberta, I appreciate the action the City of Calgary has taken to improve mental health and addictions supports and services for its citizens. Communities across our province have unique needs related to mental health and addictions, and through initiatives such as this Forum, the City of Calgary can be seen as a leader in this important area.

While I sincerely appreciate the invitation to participate as Co-Chair, unfortunately I must respectfully decline as our government is currently undertaking the development of a mental health and addictions strategy that will occupy my time and attention. That said, I am pleased that the City of Calgary is also making mental health and addictions a priority at the municipal level and I look forward to working together to achieve alignment and mutual reinforcement in the development of our respective strategies. I know that we both agree that good mental health is essential to the well-being of all Albertans, and our government has identified both mental health and addictions as key areas of focus. As we move forward, our government will build on a number of initiatives that are already in place to address these issues, including in Calgary, in addition to investing \$100 million over four years to implement a Mental Health and Addictions Strategy to strengthen supports and services for all Albertans.

I wish you success and look forward to learning about the accomplishments of the Leaders Forum. Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Jason Luan
Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions

cc: Honourable Tyler Shandro, Minister of Health

Office of the Mayor

From: Martina Jileckova <martinaj@horizonhousing.ab.ca>
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2019 1:13 PM
To: Office of the Mayor; Ward1 - Christine Louie; EAWard10 - Lesley Stasiuk; Farkas, Jeromy A.; Keating, Shane; Colley-Urquhart, Diane; Ward14 - Blair Cunningham; Ward2 - Gregory Hartzler; Gondek, Jyoti; Chu, Sean; Chahal, George; Davison, Jeffrey R.; Farrell, Druh; Woolley, Evan V.; Carra, Gian-Carlo S.
Subject: [EXT] Community-Based Action Plan on Mental Health and Addiction
Categories: Nancy

Dear Councillors and Mayor,

I understand that you will be discussing the Community-Based Action Plan on Mental Health and Addiction on Monday, and wanted to send a note to share my support for The City acting as a convener for this important collaborative work.

Our mission at Horizon Housing is to provide appropriate homes in an integrated environment to persons with mental health challenges or other special needs. We see firsthand how these challenges can make it especially difficult for Calgarians to find affordable housing that helps them address their challenges and thrive.

There is no denying the urgency and relevancy of this work. These issues touch the lives of Calgarians every day, whether they are directly experiencing mental health challenges or addiction, supporting loved ones, or seeing the impact in their communities.

City services support and interact with people struggling with mental health and addiction every day, including the police, the fire department, transit, social services and affordable housing.

Given these varied and complex roles, having The City take a leadership role in an action plan is vital. A coordinated strategy would make more efficient use of the resources of your front-line services, and ultimately improve the lives of individuals and families touched by mental health issues and addiction.

Respectfully,

Martina

Martina Jileckova
Chief Executive Officer

Horizon Housing Society
885, 105 – 12th Avenue SE Calgary, Alberta T2G 1A1
t: 403.297.1705 | c: 403.399.8575
martinaj@horizonhousing.ab.ca
horizonhousing.ab.ca | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#)

Providing homes for people in need. You can help by donating on our website.

Viewpoint Foundation

Re: Community Action Plan for Mental Health and Addiction

To Mayor Nenshi and City Councillors

Dear all,

This letter is to encourage Mayor Nenshi and our City Councillors to continue to support and develop the Community Action Plan for Mental Health and Addiction, which will be debated in the July 29 meeting.

Firstly, I want to say that I do appreciate the tremendous pressure on the whole team at City Hall to cut spending significantly, and clearly this is an extremely difficult task for all of you, as it would be for anyone. We know there will be a large impact no matter where the cuts are, so I humbly submit my request with that in mind. Even so, I do wish to put in a word, based on my own experience, to continue support for the work already begun on this Action Plan.

Educating the team through the Bloomberg/Harvard program was a significant investment in creating real change in the escalating problem of mental health and addiction – the early results highlighting the impact that this initiative can have were promising and showed that the City of Calgary was committed to tackling this painful problem. There is a significant amount of knowledge, experience and support already in place in Calgary but there are also gaps in services. We feel strongly that there could be tremendous benefit in continuing this dialogue and looking for ways to improve communication and collaboration amongst the various programs and organizations in Calgary already supporting mental health. The City has a tremendous opportunity to leverage all of this and to act as a conduit to bring it all together!

I help run a private family foundation here in Calgary and we are currently undergoing a process to determine how we will fund mental health initiatives. The family that I work closely with lost a son over 2 years ago and have agonized over whether the outcome could have been different if more comprehensive supports had been in place for young adults living with mental health challenges. We know from speaking with other family foundations that there is great motivation to support the City in this endeavor, as this topic touches nearly every family in some way.

The financial commitment by the City seems relatively small compared to the costs of some other projects, and I truly hope, if Calgary can spearhead this plan, that we can stretch and augment the work through the philanthropic community. Further, although I do not have the research to support this, I believe that there are cost savings to be had in police, medical and social services if we can find a way to fund prevention. We are committed to get involved and feel confident that there are many other private funders who would support this initiative as well.

Thank you for considering our request.

Kind regards,

Karen Macdonald, CPA, CA
COO, Viewpoint Foundation

