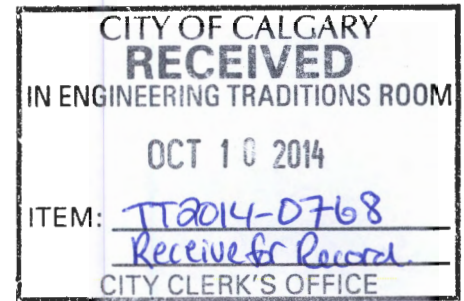


Good Day

To the Standing Policy Committee Members,

My name is Holly DeSimone,



I am a member of the Steering Committee for POVERTY Talks, our membership would like to offer support to the sliding fee for the City of Calgary's low-income subsidy programs including the Low-Income Transit pass and Seniors Low-Income Transit Pass.

Poverty Talks is a collaborative initiative to support people who live in poverty. We encourage membership to become involved in the political process and raise public awareness about poverty issues.

We received organizational and administrative support though Vibrant Communities Calgary.

What is a sliding fee scale?

A 'Sliding Fee Scale' allows people with lower incomes to pay less for City programs such as transit. The subsidy for transit and other City programs would be based on a person's ability to pay.

How much would people pay?

Fair Fares is proposing the scale start at \$54.00 per year for people at or below 100% of Stats Canada 2014 'Low-Income Cut Off' (LICO) and increase incrementally up to 125% of LICO as it is recognized that many people with incomes slightly above LICO still live in poverty and struggle to afford City services.

Why Poverty Talks supports a sliding scale,

- A sliding scale would treat all individuals living on low-income the same regardless of age. Poverty Talks would also like to recommend that the City combine the Low-Income Transit pass and the seniors' Low-Income Transit pass into one program using a sliding scale.
- Poverty Talks membership acknowledges and agrees a sliding scale will assist more people living in poverty.
- Our membership feels the sliding fee scale would help in preventing low income individuals from falling deeper into poverty. The subsidy will benefit people with incomes between 0 – \$2400.00 per month.
- A sliding scale creates a fairer way to provide City subsidies and ensures that all Calgarians are able to use public transit.

Poverty Talks membership would like to see affordable fares and accessible transportation. We do feel the sliding scale would be aligned with the City of Calgary Fare Calgary Policy.