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the
**WOMEN'S
CENTRE**

Councillor Shane Keating
The City of Calgary
P.O. Box 2100, Station M
Calgary, AB, Canada T2P 2M5

October 8, 2014

Dear Mr. Keating:

On behalf of the Women's Centre's we would like to express our support for the recommendation of the development of a sliding fee scale for the City of Calgary's low-income subsidy programs including the Low-Income Transit pass and Seniors Low-Income Transit Pass.

The Women's Centre is a community organization that provides front line service to women in Calgary. Although the Women's Centre is open to all women, more than 80% of the women who access our services identify as living in poverty. We have been working to advocate for social and economic policies that are reflective of their realities and experiences.

Affordable public transportation is vital to low-income women living in Calgary. Access to affordable transportation supports women and their families to participate in employment, education, health care and a number of other activities that are part of the community. It is also critical for the full citizenship of people who live on a low income in Calgary. Implementation of the low-income sliding fee scale subsidy for the Low-Income Transit pass would help to ensure equal access to resources for women in Calgary.

Specifically, recommendations outlined in the Fare Fair's proposal that should be fully implemented include instating a sliding scale that is income based versus age based.

We are very pleased to see that the City of Calgary is taking steps to reduce barriers to access programs and resources including the implementation of the single ride low-income discount and the single entry application process.

If we can provide you with any information on women & poverty in regards to the Low-Income Transit pass, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Jana Lait
Chair of the Board of Directors

Susan Gillies
Executive Director

United Way
Calgary and Area

Every Woman's Place for Support, Connections and Community

fcss
family & community
support services