

Letter of Support – Federation of Calgary Communities



August 20, 2019

Standing Policy Committee -Planning and Urban Development
PO Box 2100, Station M
Calgary, AB T2P 2M5

Re: PUD2019-0744: Community Outreach on Planning and Development Toolkit

The Federation of Calgary Communities (the Federation) is the support organization for over 230 community based non-profit organizations, including 151 community associations. The Federation has acted as a key stakeholder on the Baseline Engagement for Community Planning project led by Emma Maclsaac and Claire Owens since the project's inception.

The Federation worked alongside representatives from administration, industry, community members and other stakeholders throughout the course of this project. The Federation hosted a workshop with administration on "Building Community Participation through Engagement" for community members in October 2018. We also circulated the toolkit to Planning and Development Committee members and asked for feedback. We appreciate all the effort and work it took to create this toolkit and would like to thank The City of Calgary staff for their dedication and time. The toolkit provides an in-depth list of resources and assessment tools for applicants and communities and has the potential to be a great instrument for anyone involved with planning and development in the City.

While we are supportive of this project, some members of our Community Associations have expressed concerns on the role and responsibilities of the Applicant for development applications. According to the toolkit, "the lead determines if/when community outreach will take place connected to their project and, if so, decides about what, with who, where, how etc". The Federation believes this may create challenges in the engagement process with communities – despite the fact that administration has provided the necessary tools for applicants – there are no mandated requirements or additional checks to ensure the applicant has completed sufficient engagement relative to the complexity of their project. We understand that the decision makers will review and consider the outreach strategy and feedback, but at that point it may be too late in the process to make any substantial changes.

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We recommend that administration play a stronger support role by confirming that applicants have conducted meaningful outreach before the file is sent to decision makers.

The Federation appreciates being involved in this process as a partner and we look forward to more opportunities for future collaboration on this project.

Sincerely,



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