



November 22, 2019

The City of Calgary Council Innovation Fund

Dear Project Review Committee:

Re: Letter of Support for Project: Greater Forest Lawn Governance and Communication Models

On behalf of Action Dignity society (formerly Ethno-Cultural Council of Calgary), I am writing in support of the application sponsored by Councillor Gian Carlo Carra under the project title: "Greater Forest Lawn Governance and Communication Models".

As a community-based organization that facilitates the collective voice of Calgary's ethno-cultural communities on issues, programs, and policies that impact them, including but not limited to, neighbourhoods and community cohesion, ActionDignity's mandate to assure equitable representation from ethno-cultural community aligns well with this project. Our Greater Forest Lawn Community Connector Initiative (GFLCCI) works with residents and community groups, community associations, not-for-profits and public institutions to strengthen natural support networks, build resident leadership capacity through community brokers, leadership training and resident-led actions. GFLCCI also promotes a community culture of kindness and caring through community conversations and Pay-It-Forward events led by our partner Sunrise Community Link Resource Centre. We support and promote learning about community development.

We believe the proposed project will help address residents' expressed concerns, especially those of ethnocultural and racialized communities. Residents need more voice in the design of programs and services, need more access to information about community resources and processes as well as addressing issues of low civic engagement and participation. This project will also help leverage resources that are, at present, scattered in the GFL area with various Community Associations and not-for-profits, public institutions and private businesses. Those resources could be shared wider and more efficiently with ethnocultural communities and other equity-seeking groups. To the end we believe the proposed project will offer best-practices to better governance and communication, first to GFL residents and communities, then to other quadrants of the city, contributing positively and more efficiently to all communities and to Calgary at large.

We look forward to your support. If you require further information, please feel free to contact me at marichu.antonio@actiondignity.org or 403-263-9900 ext. 2724.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marichu Antonio', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Marichu Antonio
Executive Director

