



December 11, 2019

Members of City Council and the Mayor:

Ever Active Schools is a provincial initiative designed to create and support healthy school communities. We engage and support schools through a Comprehensive School Health approach, which addresses health and education goals to improve the social outcomes of children and youth in Alberta. Through collaborative partnerships, projects-based work, knowledge exchange and competency-based learning opportunities, Ever Active Schools spearheads meaningful collaboration between the health, education, recreation and active living sectors.

Since 2017, Ever Active Schools has supported the implementation of Active School Travel programs in Calgary schools through the School Travel Planning (STP) approach, a community-based model that systematically addresses barriers to and incentives for travelling actively to school. What started with five Calgary school-based projects in 2017 has now grown to fifteen with representation from all three Calgary school boards. In October 2020, ten new project schools will be added to this list. This growth is due mostly to the sharing of project successes and the support we receive from the City of Calgary, Calgary Police Service, and other invested community partners. The STP approach combines education, encouragement, engineering, enforcement, and evaluation tools to create active, safe travel routes to school as well as active, enthusiastic, safety-conscious travellers.

When municipalities as a whole strive to improve active travel routes for people of all ages, as is the case with Calgary, that creates added purpose and momentum for our programs. Students and families can easily connect the dots and see how their school communities are a piece of a larger picture. The proposed 5A Network is an exciting one. Purposely enhancing active travel routes by increasing visibility, accessibility, reliability, ease of use, while being cognizant of speed and the needs of those who travel actively conveys the message that there is a place for users of all travel modes in Calgary.

Sincerely,

Tracey Coutts
Active School Travel Coordinator
Ever Active Schools



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