

Letter of Support from Alberta Health Services



May 1, 2017

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Mayor and Council
Standing Policy Committee - Planning and Urban Development
City of Calgary, Municipal Building, P.O. Box 2100, Stn M. #8124

Re: PUD2017-0390: Health Impact Assessment Update Report

I would like to extend my continued support on behalf of Alberta Health Services for the City of Calgary's interest in considering the health impacts of its policies and planning processes, and for aspiring to develop complete and health-promoting communities.

Through the adoption of healthy planning principles, we can prevent the risk factors for many chronic diseases, and create the conditions for people to live healthy lives. For example, there is strong evidence that community and street-scale design and land use policies can directly impact physical activity and prevent pedestrian injuries. We also know that access to green space is linked to positive mental health outcomes.

The direct healthcare costs associated with chronic disease in our province now exceed \$2 billion/year, and given that the number of Calgarians with chronic illnesses continues to grow, there will be tremendous pressures on all sectors of society, making it imperative that we act together to address this issue.

Alberta Health Services new vision of *'Healthy Albertans. Healthy Communities. Together'* is indicative of a renewed interest in, and emphasis on, working with partners to move upstream and prevent disease and injury before they occur. The *HealthYYC* initiative has the potential to be an excellent platform for such collaboration, leading to the creation of social and physical environments that promote health.

Having been engaged by Urban Strategy to contribute to the development of *HealthYYC*, I support the approach taken and look forward to continued engagement as a member of the advisory group. The opportunity to explicitly consider the determinants of health through the use flexible tools such as Health Impact Assessment and to develop/share best practices will better allow for the full range of impacts associated with City of Calgary activities to be identified and acted upon.

Thank you for endorsing and supporting this outstanding work. I look forward to continuing to partner with the City in pursuing our shared goal of a healthy and flourishing Calgary.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. B.", written over a horizontal line.