

## Letter of Support from the University of Calgary, Haskayne School of Business

WESTMAN CENTRE FOR REAL ESTATE STUDIES



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
HASKAYNE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

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May 2, 2017

Council Standing Policy Committee Planning and Urban Development (PUD)  
700 Macleod Trail Southeast Calgary, AB T2G 2M3

**Re: PUD2017-0390: Health Impact Assessment Update Report**

Respected Members of Council:

Under the direction provided by the City of Calgary's Planning and Urban Development (PUD) Committee in January 2017, I have had the distinct pleasure of working with Joyce Tang from Urban Strategy in identifying the best manner to move forward with health impact assessment (HIA) as a desired tool within land development and community building. Together with a diverse group of internal and external stakeholders, we have brainstormed the most effective way to ensure: 1) that HIA is recognized as a valuable tool for development, and 2) best practices in HIA can be shared and encouraged.

In my official capacity as a representative member of the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Alberta, I endorse the recommended approach of having an advisory body that can provide cross-sectoral support for the concept of health as a critical planning principle. Co-chaired by the City of Calgary and ULI Alberta, this advisory group can draw upon ULI's Building Healthy Places work that has been internationally recognized as promoting less sedentary lifestyles and greater vibrancy of neighbourhoods. Having a multidisciplinary advisory group also enables sharing of best practices across organizations and sectors, a method that can generate greater buy-in based on evidence-based learnings. This is my professional assertion as the Director of the Westman Centre for Real Estate Studies. Demonstration of return on investment (ROI) can be the key variable that drives more industry partners to take up health principles in planning.

Additionally, the work of this advisory group will serve to operationalize the variable of health that is included in the municipal development plan (MDP), the overarching planning policy that guides city-building in Calgary. It is critical to ensure that "health" as a concept of planning is given a definition, and the HIA tool is offered as a tool to measure performance.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts and collaboratively moving towards becoming a city that embodies the principles of healthy planning.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jyoti Gondek'.

Jyoti Gondek

Director, Westman Centre for Real Estate Studies