



NAHEED K. NENSHI, MAYOR

November 8, 2016

Honourable Irfan Sabir
Minister of Human Services
224 Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Sabir, *Irfan!*

RE: The Sustainability of the Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Program

On behalf of the citizens of Calgary, thank you for the recent funding increase to the Family and Community Support Services Program ("FCSS"). Your support is particularly timely, given the recent economic downturn, the resulting hardships people are experiencing and the increase in demand for services.

While we greatly appreciate the increase to FCSS funding, without sustained growth and a funding formula that indexes FCSS funding to inflation, the capacity gained as a result of the recent funding increase will erode quickly. Ensuring that the FCSS legislation includes a requirement to index funding, will help avoid the trying circumstances that arose when the budget was flat over many years.

The recent increase in funding allowed us to increase the budget of currently funded FCSS partners, and launch a call for funding proposals for new programs. Not surprisingly in these difficult economic times, this call for funding proposals revealed that the need for preventive social program is much greater than the available resources. A total of 190 applications were received from the call, asking for a total of \$24 million, leaving a funding gap of \$19 million.

The City of Calgary is a committed partner in FCSS, evidenced by our contribution that exceeds the legislated minimum and our ongoing collaboration with the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association and the FCSS Association of Alberta in advocacy for the sustainability of the program into the future.

The Government of Alberta's commitment to preventive social programs through FCSS means that more vulnerable people will get help to address problems as early as possible, before they develop into more serious issues, such as family breakdown, neighbourhood deterioration, mental illness or crime.

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1/2

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support of the FCSS program, and for your consideration of indexing the FCSS funding formula. I look forward to continuing to work together to improve the lives of Albertans.

Sincerely,



Naheed K. Nenshi
MAYOR

Thank you for your support on this vital initiative.

cc: Members of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA)
Members of the FCSS Association of Alberta
Members of Calgary City Council