

March 22, 2021

**Guidebook for Great Communities  
Public Hearing and Combined Council Meeting**

Dear Honourable Council Members:

The call to take an active stance of anti-racism within the City of Calgary is one that takes aims to recognize and address the forms by which inclusion is felt and seen by racialized Calgarians. The “Guidebook for Great Communities” seeks to implement a sustained vision for social equity and inclusion for communities as Calgary continues to grow in population and diversity.

The members of the Anti-Racism Action Committee (ARAC) stand in support with the proposed Guidebook for Great Communities, as it paves a clearer path to how social inclusion and anti-racism exists as a legitimate standing in the planning of our communities in the City of Calgary. Our mandate, as outlined in our Terms of Reference, is to advise Council on the development and lead the implementation of a community-based anti-racism strategy. The Guidebook for Great Communities is an opportunity to work with community partners to address structural racism and exclusion that has impacted the lives and livelihoods of Calgarians.

The messaging of this initiative is a platform by which everyone – from race, age, religion, culture/ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation, can see themselves reflected as being deserving of an opportunity to choose and thrive in the community of their choice in the districts and neighborhoods of our City. It is an important first step into the recognition that our diverse demographics of Calgary is an opportunity for current and future generations to thrive as members of a growing urban landscape.

Please know that ARAC is willing and able to support the ongoing dialogue, implementation and transparency of this initiative.

Thank you for your time and acknowledgement of this letter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sonia Aujla-Bhullar and Nyal DaBreo  
Co-Chairs Anti-Racism Action Committee