

## **Benefits of Affordable Housing**

### **Why is The City building affordable housing?**

In Calgary, 84,000 households are earning less than \$60,000 annually and paying more than 30% on shelter. This means nearly 1 in 5 Calgary households are struggling with shelter costs and 42,000 households are at risk of becoming homeless due to spending more than 50% of their gross income on shelter costs.

Currently, only 3.6% of all housing in Calgary is non-market housing; this is nearly half the national average in urban centres.

The City's goal is to increase the supply of affordable housing to ensure people at all income levels can live and work in our city.

### **How does affordable housing benefit the community?**

At its most fundamental level, affordable housing is about people. Access to safe and stable housing helps create inclusive communities and adds to the overall health, prosperity and safety of our city.

People in affordable housing have greater chances to find and keep jobs, to learn and build skills, and be active participants in their communities.

Affordable housing also helps boost the local economy by increasing the purchasing power of residents and by attracting employers with the promise of a stable workforce.

Keeping vulnerable residents off the streets also helps to reduce demand and pressure on emergency services, hospitals and correction facilities. Providing housing for one homeless person has been shown to save taxpayers \$34,000 annually.

### **How is the City addressing the ongoing need for affordable housing in Calgary?**

The City has developed a Corporate Affordable Housing Strategy that defines a new 10-year strategic direction for the City of Calgary and will guide us in creating safe, affordable homes.

There is widespread consensus that the primary challenge facing Calgary's affordable housing sector is a lack of housing supply and this is why increasing the supply of new units is one of The City's top priorities.

In addition to building new City affordable housing units, we are also supporting and increasing the capacity of other housing providers and developers to build new units by making City land available at below market cost, offering grants and incentive programs to get the Calgary community building and streamlining the development permit process.