



December 1, 2021

Dear City Clerks,

Re: Winter City Strategy, Community Development Committee submission for December 8, 2021.,

Your worship Mayor Gondek, Councillors and City Administration,

It's high time we all accept we are a Winter City with the advantage of chinooks and take advantage of making our City more welcoming for all Calgarians but especially those Calgarians with mobility, accessibility, mental health, economic and other challenges as well as for new immigrants and visitors from warm weather countries.

I agree with all the recommendation put forward in the proposed Winter Strategy.

I want to speak to a number of the goals identified in our stakeholder engagement process to develop a Winter City Strategy which feel especially necessary to me.

Goals #1 and 2:

- You are providing funding support to Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) again this year. We are not for profits funded by own member businesses with, for most of us, limited funds. We are grateful for the grants last year and this but we can do more if you give us more.
- We are experienced placemakers and events organizers and can ring huge value from limited funding.
- We fifteen BIAs are your best partners to help implement a Winter Strategy in 2022 and in gthe future.

Goals #4, 5 and 8:

- Free transportation to all events. Parking and driving in snow is challenging for many people. Taking a group on the buses is expensive for many families.
- Free City buses on event routes during winter events would be a great way to support the Winter City Strategy and enable more people to attend.
- Also additional temporary bus routes connecting the smaller activations outside downtown would allow attendees to attend multiple areas and help promote the smaller activations outside the downtown core.

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- Robust wayfinding City signage at all activations and at LRT and bus stops and promotion of all the activations.

Goal #7:

- Better lighting for BIA activation areas would improve the experience at activations. Public spaces should already be prioritized for better lighting to improve accessibility for everyone but especially those with vision problems and families with young children attending night-time events.
- Additional seating for event activations would be so helpful for attendees with small children, and those with walking and fatigue issues for example.
- Public washrooms (even if only portapotties) during events!!!!

Goal #8: Fire pits and/or warming huts are necessary for all activations.

Goal #9: Snow removal from event activations areas prior to event would be very helpful and removal of windrows will definitely improve walkability and safety during activations.

In closing embracing Calgary's winter weather and supporting winter activities for all Calgarians and visitors is long overdue. The trick is going to be to make sure our embrace includes everyone, not just our affluent families and our inner city residents and our big festivals and events going groups. We need to also embrace to name just a few categories - adults or families with children who fear crowds or loud noises; people who have limited mobility, vision and/or energy; people with economic challenges; older people who are lonely but afraid of falling; people who need access to bathrooms; and everyone else who hesitates from attending such events for other reasons that we as a City can address and mitigate if we so choose.