

## **Fair Fares – Sliding Scale Fare Strategy Proposal**

### **One Low-Income Transit Pass for all Calgarians Living on Low-Income Regardless of Age**

*Fair Fares is a community action group that is composed of citizens living on low-income, community organizers and service providers who work together to address the affordable transportation needs of people living on low incomes.*

On October 10 Calgary Transit will recommend to City Council's Standing Policy Committee on Transportation and Transit that they work with Fair Fares Calgary, other low income and senior citizen advocacy groups to develop a sliding fee scale for low income Calgarians that would apply to City of Calgary low-income subsidy programs

Fair Fares does not support Calgary Transit's previous recommendation to eliminate the current Senior's Low Income Transit Pass (\$15 per year) for those turning 65 and only offer a \$44 per month pass for all low income persons. We believe a better alternative would be to combine the Seniors Low-Income Transit Pass and the Low-Income Transit pass into one program using a sliding scale

#### **Why Fair Fares supports a sliding scale?**

- A sliding scale treats all people living on low income the same regardless of age. Fair Fares is recommending that the City combine the Low-Income Transit pass and the Seniors' Low-Income Transit pass into one program using a sliding scale.
- A sliding scale will make the Low-Income Transit pass more affordable for the people who need it. Fair Fares is proposing that the scale start at \$54.00 annually for anyone at 100% of LICO or below and increase incrementally up to 123% of LICO as it is recognized that many people with incomes slightly above LICO still live in poverty and struggle to afford City services.
- A sliding scale will assist more people living in poverty and could prevent them from falling deeper into poverty. The subsidy will benefit people with incomes between 0 – \$2400.00 per month.
- A sliding scale simplifies the administration by consolidating two low-income subsidy programs into one.
- A sliding scale creates a fairer way to provide City subsidies and ensures that all Calgarians are able to use public transit.
- A sliding scale aligns with the principles of the Fair Calgary Policy, Action Plan 2014-2018 and Sustainability Direction 2020.

#### **Fair Fares Calgary**

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