

RE: EFFECTS OF COMBINED TAX AND UTILITY RATE INCREASES FOR
LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS AND SMALL BUSINESSES

COUNCILLOR SEAN CHU/WARD SUTHERLAND

WHEREAS Calgary City Council passed *Action Plan 2015-18* indicative tax and utilities increases;

AND WHEREAS however, the tax increases may have a disproportionate negative socio-economic effect on low-income households and small businesses;

AND WHEREAS these groups make significant contributions to the overall functioning, economic success and vibrancy of Calgary;

AND WHEREAS these groups rely on a reasonable taxation system in order to remain in Calgary long term;

AND WHEREAS a consistent increase in combined taxes and utility rates may make it challenging, or even prohibitive, to live or conduct commercial operations in Calgary without expensive supports;

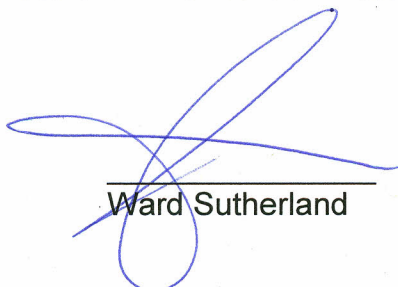
AND WHEREAS these fiscal constraints may decrease the overall competitiveness of the city of Calgary;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct Administration to:

1. Provide an inventory of existing programs that provide relief for Calgarians or Calgary businesses in respect of property taxes, business taxes and utility charges; and
2. Prepare a scope of study for a project that would evaluate the impacts of increases to municipal tax and utility rates on low income households and small businesses.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT Administration report back to Council through the Priorities and Finance Committee in 2014, Q4 on the inventory and scope of study.


Sean Chu


Ward Sutherland

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