

# FCSS Sustainability Forum

## Terms of Reference

March 2014

### Background

- The not-for-profit sector in general and the FCSS Program in particular, are facing unprecedented challenges in meeting our community's growing and complex social issues. The rapid population growth, economic downturn, and increased demand for service have all added significant stress to an already under-resourced sector.
- A group of FCSS funded agencies presented their collective challenges to the FCSS Calgary Board on March 5, 2007. Following that presentation, Administration was directed to analyze and bring forward options to address these challenges.
- One of Administration's options was the formation of the FCSS Sustainability Forum, which was endorsed on November 7, 2007.

### Purpose

The purpose of the FCSS Sustainability Forum is to provide an opportunity for FCSS Board members, FCSS funded agencies and other stakeholders to work together in the development and implementation of on-going strategies that will:

- Address the financial and systemic issues affecting the FCSS program locally and contribute to similar efforts provincially;
- Raise the profile of the FCSS program and the preventive social service sector in the community;
- Continue to increase awareness of the value of FCSS-funded programs with all Alberta MLAs with the support of members from the SPC on C&PS.

### Scope

- Document and disseminate the magnitude of the current funding shortfall, as well as systemic issues affecting the preventive social service sector in general and the FCSS program in particular;
- Recommend sustainable funding models that will strengthen the preventive social service sector;
- Continue to work closely with the FCSSAA to support their initiatives.

### Membership

- Members of the FCSS Calgary Board, one of whom is Calgary's representative to the FCSSAA;
- Representatives from FCSS funded agencies, both Board members and senior management; one of whom is a member of the FCSS Calgary Advisory Committee;
- Two members from administration, both management and front-line level, as resource and administrative support;
- A representative from the United Way of Calgary and Area;
- A representative from the Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations;

### Term

- The term of the *FCSS Sustainability Forum* is for two years, for monthly Forum meetings. As needed additional working group meetings will be held.

### Expected Outcomes

- Increased viability and financial stability of the FCSS program and its funded agencies;
- Increased ability of FCSS funded agencies to effectively respond to the growing and diverse needs of Calgarians;
- Increased capacity of the FCSS Board and FCSS funded agencies to respond to challenges and opportunities in the preventive social services sector;
- Increased visibility and stature of the FCSS program and the preventive social service sector in the community;
- FCSS provincially is well supported by all Alberta elected provincial government representatives.