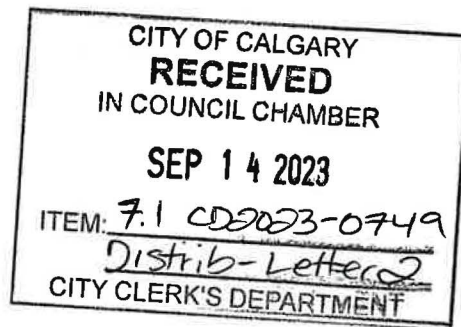




September 13, 2023

The City of Calgary
Office of the Councillors (8001)
P.O. Box 2100, Station M
Calgary, AB, T2P 2M5



Dear Calgary City Council,

Calgary, like many municipalities in Canada, is facing an affordability crisis. The cost of housing, which is typically the largest household expense, is rising. Council has a critical opportunity to lay the groundwork for a more affordable Calgary with the recommendations before you on housing affordability. As employers from one of Alberta's largest sectors, CCVO and nonprofit partners urge bold action to keep Calgary affordable.

Employees in our sector face growing vulnerability. The nonprofit sector in Alberta employs nearly 300,000 (or 1/20) Albertans, who provide essential services to communities ranging from healthcare, education, arts, sports, and environment. Our workforce is made up of 78% women, 47% immigrants, and 36% visible minorities, with salaries averaging \$51,544 - compared to the Alberta all-sector average of \$61,045. Our sector cannot afford to delay action on affordability.

Housing affordability directly affects nonprofits' capacity to perform essential work across Calgary and Alberta. We cannot have a thriving nonprofit sector, a thriving business sector, a thriving arts sector, a thriving hospitality sector, and ultimately a thriving Calgary if workers have nowhere to live. Immediate action must be taken to ensure that Calgary is an affordable place to live for decades to come to protect our local economy, support workforce retention and recruitment, and maintain the Alberta Advantage.

Current trends are concerning. Mortgages and rents in Calgary are skyrocketing as demand far outpaces supply. The average rent in our city increased a shocking 22% in the last year, while home prices are increasing the fastest in the nation.

You have the rare opportunity to support our nonprofit workforce and dramatically change the future of Calgary for the better. On September 14, please accept the recommendations from the Housing and Affordability Task Force and keep Calgary affordable for the workers who keep our sector alive and well.

Sincerely,

Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations -Karen Ball, President & CEO



Accessible Housing -Teneille Bradley, Executive Director
Action Coalition on Human Trafficking -Kate Price, Executive Director
ActionDignity -Francis Boakye, Executive Director
Africa Centre -Alima Mohamud, Manager, Enhancing Gender Equity
Alberta Association of Immigrant Serving Agencies -Laura Fryer, Manager of Engagement, Research & Policy
Alberta Ballet -Chris George, President & CEO
Alberta Community Crime Prevention Association (ACCPA) -Jean Bota, President
Alberta Council for Environmental Education (ACEE) - Kathryn Melrose, Executive Director
Alberta Food Rescue -Jaquie Duhacek, Executive Director
Alberta Media Arts Alliance Society -Sharon Stevens, Executive Director
Alberta Real Estate Foundation -Patti Morris, Executive Director
Alpha House Society -Shaundra Bruvall, Executive Director
BGC Calgary & Foothills Clubs -Nicole Van Langen, Director of Operations
Big Brothers Big Sisters Calgary -Ken Lima-Coehlo, President & CEO
Buds in Bloom/Bourgeons en Eclat -Dr. Michèle Hébert, Founder and Chair
Calgary Alliance for the Common Good -Ryan Andersen, Lead Organizer
Calgary Alternative Support Services -Kyle Maclean, Director of Operations
Calgary Arts Development -Patti Pon, President & CEO
Calgary Blues Music Association -Cindy McLeod, Producer and Artistic Director
Calgary Catholic Immigration Society -Gordana Radan,
Calgary Counselling Centre -Robbie Babbins-Wagner, CEO
Calgary Drop-In & Rehab Centre Society -Sandra Clarkson, Executive Director
Calgary Food Bank -Melissa From, President & CEO
Calgary Hotel Association -Sol Zia, Executive Director
Calgary Humane Society -Carrie Fritz, Executive Director
Calgary John Howard Society -Leslie McMechan, Executive Director
Calgary Professional Chapter of Engineers Without Borders -Aditya Chaudhuri, President
Calgary Seniors' Resource Centre - Anastasia Stevens/Joel Sinclair, Co-Executive Director
Caresce Inc -Deanna Branson, Owner
Carya -Paula Telfer, CEO
Centre for Newcomers -Jon Yee, VP Strategy
Cerebral Palsy Alberta -Cindy Turnquist, Director of Development & Communications
Cerebral Palsy Kids & Families -Sheralee Stelter, Executive Director
Confederation Park 55+ Activity Centre -Jeannette Provo, Executive Director
Discovery House -Leslie Hill, Executive Director
Enviros -Helen Bergen, CEO
ethink Festivals Association - Lanre Ajayi, Artistic & Creative Director
Family Advocacy Support Centre -Agnes Chen and Rebecca Foshole-Luke, Co-Founders and Co-EDs
Further Education Society of Alberta -Elaine Cairns, Executive Director



Gateway Association -Samantha Grabinsky, Senior Manager
Hands lifting hearts -Clare Jagunna, Executive Director
HomeSpace Society -Bernadette Majdell, CEO
Independent Living Resource Centre - Diane Kreuger, Interim Executive Director
Inn from the Cold -Heather Morely, Executive Director
INPAVI Integration for Life -Wilson Cartagena, Head Director
Institute for Community Prosperity -James Stauch, Executive Director
Kindred -Jessica Cope Williams, CEO
Leftovers Foundation -Cory Rianson, Executive Director
McMan Calgary -Soraya Saliba, Executive Director
Meals on Wheels -Esther Elder, CEO
Miskanawah Community Services Association -Kirby Redwood, Lead Oskâpêwis (CEO)
Momentum -Jeff Loomis, Executive Director
New Age Services Inc. -Norma Wisbling, Executive Director
Norfolk Housing Association -Maya Kambeitz/Bryan Slauko, Executive Director/Board Chair
North East Family Connections -Sue Holt, Executive Director
Ogden 50+ Activity Centre -Renata Michalski, Executive Director
PAL Calgary - Johanne Deleeuw, Officer, Board of Directors
Pembina Institute -Chris Severson-Baker, Executive Director
Perlin Foundation for Wellbeing -Stacey Perlin, Chairperson
Providing Avenues to Hope Society -Irene Carter, Coordinator
RESET Society of Calgary -Theresa Jenkins, Executive Director
Rise Calgary -Salimah Kassam, Leader
Rowan House Society -Linette Sodan, Executive Director
Rozsa Foundation -Simon Mallett, Executive Director
SafeLink Alberta -Katie Ayres, Executive Director
Sagesse -Andrea Silverstone, CEO
Shelter Movers Calgary -Elsa Perry, Chapter Director
Simon House -John Rook, President & CEO
Sinneave Family Foundation -Tanya McLeod, President
Skipping Stone -Lindsay Peace, Executive Director
Sled Island Music & Arts Festival -Maud Salvi, Executive Director
Sober Friends Society -Barry Deighan, Treasurer & Secretary
Students' Association of Mount Royal University Representation Executive Council -Joseph Nguyen, President
Swallow-a-Bicycle Theatre -Mark Hopkins, Co-Artistic Director
The Alberta Seventh Step Society -Jason Beck, Executive Director
The Alex Community Health Centre -Joy Bowen-Eyre, CEO
The Arusha Centre -Gerald Wheatley -On behalf of Board of Directors and Collective
The Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth (CBFY) -Frank Cattoni, CEO



The Children's Cottage -Danielle Ladouceur & Lisa Garrisen, CEO/Director of Programs
The Distress Centre -Robyn Romano, Executive Director
Trellis Society -Angela Clarke, Chief Strategy Officer
Umoja Community Mosaic -Jean Claude Munyezamu, Executive Director
Unison/Kerby Centre -Larry Mathieson, President & CEO
Universal Rehabilitation Service Agency -Pam McGladdery, CEO
Vecova -Kelly Holmes-Binns, CEO
Vibrant Communities Calgary -Meaghon Reid, Executive Director
Vitreo Fundraising Group -Tricia Voll, Executive Assistant
Volunteer Connector -Doug Watson, President & CEO
Wellspring Alberta -Natalie Noble, CEO
Women in Need Society -Karen Ramchuk, President & CEO
Women's Centre of Calgary -Bo Masterson, Executive Director
Wood's Homes -Bjorn Johansson, CEO
YW Calgary -Sue Tomney, CEO

Candice Giammarino
Carolyn Gordon
Cat Hesketh
Catherine Francis
Chrissy Mach
Evelyn Tait
Gail Staffa
Heidi Walter
Janice Champagne
Janine Cote
Linda Collins
Marlene Yanchula
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Tiffany Hauff
Trevor Axworthy
Vincent St Pierre