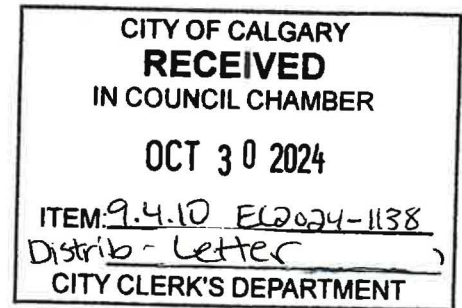




Calgary Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee (CAUAC)

Cristi Adams
Chair, Calgary Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee
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29 October 2024

Re: **Notice of Motion in Report EC2024-1138**

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

This letter is written on behalf of the Calgary Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee, the Anti-Racism Action Committee, and the Social Wellbeing Advisory Committee in support of the Notice of Motion in Report EC2024-1138.

Two events have recently been in the news that fall under the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Call to Action #30: *eliminate over-representation of Indigenous people in the justice system*:

- The death of John Wells in Calgary Police custody.
- The disproportionality shown in the Calgary Police Service’s recently released race-based data.

These are two new but unsurprising examples of the ongoing injustices faced by Indigenous peoples and racialized individuals in Canada. It is critical to address the deep-seated inequalities and systemic racism that continue to harm Indigenous communities and families. Collectively we need to create a future where Indigenous peoples are treated with dignity, respect, and fairness, both by the police and the broader society, while also addressing the legacies of colonialism and promoting self-determination.

The White Goose Flying Report states that “the Calgary Police Service has been working diligently to address relationship-building and trust-building with Indigenous Calgarians entering the justice system.” The race-based data and the death of John Wells make that promise feel hollow.

The remedies proposed in the Notice of Motion connect the dots between a lack of budgetary oversight to the outcome of unequal lethal force by police. We support the idea of closer Council oversight and accountability over police spending to ensure that budgets approved by Council are spent on the correct items. The idea that funds allocated to the police service for community investment (a preventive measure) could instead be spent on a shooting range (a reactive measure) is unconscionable.



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We therefore express full support for the Notice of Motion and look forward to working with City Council, Administration, and the Calgary Police Service on future progress to shape a safer, more just approach to policing and fulfilling the promises of Truth and Reconciliation and Calgary's commitment to anti-racism.

Sincerely,

Cristi Adams

Cristi Adams
Chair, Calgary Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee

Rinad Al Adani

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Co-Chair, Anti-Racism Action Committee

Joy Bowen-Eyre

Joy Bowen-Eyre
Vice-Chair, Social Wellbeing Advisory Committee