

**From:** Leslie Evans <leslie.evans@calgarycommunities.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 21, 2025 5:28 PM  
**To:** Wong, Terry K.; Spencer, Evan P.; McLean, Dan; Dhaliwal, Raj; WARD11; Wyness, Jennifer; Mian, Jasmine; Mayor; Walcott, Courtney; Chabot, Andre; Chu, Sean; Demong, Peter; Carra, Gian-Carlo S.; Sharp, Sonya  
**Cc:** Saunders, Hayley; Mowrey, Tim; Tooth, Carolyn; Black, Katie; Johnson, Heather R.  
**Subject:** [External] GAME Plan: Letter for Consideration  
**Attachments:** GamePlan -FEDYYC Input.pdf

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Good Afternoon,

The *GamePLAN: Reimagining Public Recreation in Calgary*, is a forward-thinking strategy that will be essential in shaping the future of recreation services in our city. This plan, with its focus on inclusivity, sustainability, and collaboration, is a good step towards ensuring that Calgary's recreation system evolves to meet the needs of our growing and increasingly diverse population.

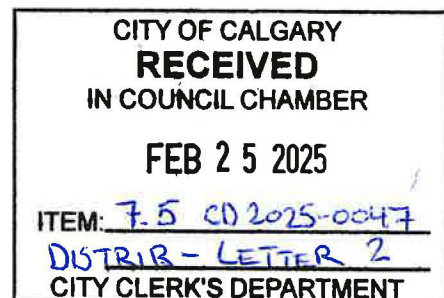
However, as the City considers its next steps, The Federation would highlight an important area that appears to have been overlooked in the report, that is community associations and other smaller neighbourhood based social recreation groups, which play an invaluable role in delivering recreation services and providing affordable and walkable neighbourly spaces, at the grassroots level. While GamePLAN outlines a comprehensive vision for the future, it is crucial that the City recognizes the critical contributions of community associations and strengthens partnerships with these local organizations.

The details of our concerns are in the attached letter. I have, this afternoon, had a very productive conversation with Heather Johnson, Director of Recreation & Social Programs in regards to my concerns.

Thank you for your time and consideration—I look forward to seeing how the City strengthens its collaboration with community associations as the GamePLAN moves forward.

Sincerely,

Leslie





**Leslie Evans**

**Executive Director**

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Federation of Calgary Communities

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[Book](#) a one-on-one meeting



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The Federation of Calgary Communities acknowledges Mohkínsstsisí [mohk-KIN-stiss] and the traditional Treaty 7 territory and oral practices of the Blackfoot Confederacy comprised of the Siksiká [six-ih-GAH], the Káínai [GUY-nah], and the Piikáni [bee-GAH-nee] First Nations; the Tsúut'ínà [soot-IN-uh] First Nation; and the Stoney Nakoda [nuh-KOH-duh] including the Chiniki [CHIN-ih-kee], Bearspaw [BEARS paw], and Goodstoney First Nations. We acknowledge that this territory is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta, Districts 5 and 6, within the historical Northwest Métis homeland.

We have respect for and deep gratitude to Indigenous peoples whose traditional territories we are honoured to operate within.





February 21, 2025

The City of Calgary,  
6th Floor, 800 MacLeod Tr SE  
Calgary, AB T2P 2M5

Mayor Gondek and Councillors,

**RE: GamePlan: Reimagining Public Recreation in Calgary**

The *Gameplan: Reimagining Public Recreation in Calgary*, is a good forward-thinking strategy that will be essential in shaping the future of recreation services in our city. This plan, with its focus on inclusivity, sustainability, and collaboration, is a good step towards ensuring that Calgary's recreation system evolves to meet the needs of our growing and increasingly diverse population.

However, as the City considers its next steps, The Federation wishes highlight an important area that appears to be overlooked in the report, that is community associations and other smaller neighbourhood based social recreation groups, which play an invaluable role in delivering recreation services and providing affordable and walkable neighbourly spaces, at the grassroots level. While GamePLAN claims to outline a comprehensive vision for the future, it is crucial that the City recognizes the critical contributions of community associations, and strengthens partnerships with these local organizations.

**Good Planning Infrastructure:**

Bigger recreation centers are not always better, they are a part of the solution, but they are only one piece of accessible recreation for all. Community associations are essential to Calgary's vision of complete communities and the 10-minute city, providing accessible programming, events, and affordable rental space that foster social cohesion, recreation, and local economic activity. As walkable, mixed-use neighbourhoods grow, these associations serve as vital hubs where residents can connect, stay active, and access services without relying on cars. With support they could offer additional low-cost, inclusive programs for all ages, support cultural and grassroots initiatives, and help bridge service gaps for underserved populations. Integrating and strengthening community associations within Calgary's recreation strategy is crucial to ensuring equitable, vibrant, and sustainable neighbourhoods for the future.

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#### **Partnership Opportunities:**

GamePLAN places a strong emphasis on collaboration, recognizing that community organizations are essential partners in delivering services. However, the report does not sufficiently outline how community associations could be more directly integrated into the City's collaborative efforts. These associations are already connectors between the City and residents, and empowering them further will enhance the impact of GamePLAN, ensuring that programs are accessible and tailored to the needs of each unique neighbourhood.

#### **Facility Upgrades & Development:**

As outlined in GamePLAN, aging infrastructure and the demand for new facilities in rapidly growing areas are pressing issues. Community associations, which often operate local facilities, are also part of the aging infrastructure dilemma and they themselves will need significant investment or replacement, with perhaps a multi-use complex but not in the form of a regional center. Whether through partnering with the City for the construction of new spaces or advocating for renovations in established facilities, community associations are key stakeholders who can bring a local perspective to decisions about infrastructure investments. Engage them early so they can help envision the future and be part of the solutions.

In conclusion, while *GamePLAN: Reimagining Public Recreation in Calgary* represents an important step forward, The Federation urges City Council to ensure that community associations are more explicitly recognized and integrated into the ongoing discussions, planning and decision-making around recreation in Calgary. These local organizations are integral to the success of public recreation in Calgary, and their involvement in the process will ensure that our recreation infrastructure is truly reflective of the needs of Calgarians.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to seeing how the city continues to prioritize collaboration with community associations.

With respect,

Leslie Evans, BSc., M.M  
Executive Director

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