

Through Mayor Gondek, good day City Council. My name is Hilary Chapple and most of you know me. I am speaking not on behalf of a group but as an individual. However, I do belong to several committees which includes Fair Fares Calgary Community Voices, the Womens National Housing and Homelessness Network, Aging in the Right Place and until recently the Client Action Committee with the Calgary Homeless Foundation.

I am here today to speak in favour of the Calgary Transit Low Income Bus Pass. As a former homeless woman, I know how beneficial the pass is to our city's homeless, folks living in Poverty, refugees and young families, including single parents.

It allows for people to get interviews, get a job and go to work. The pass enables them to go to the Doctor, the Library and maybe most important, allows for social connection which is vital to maintain good mental health.

Now unfortunately I am unable to be with you today as I am disabled and travelling in the snow is a little treacherous when you use a Walker. I also cannot sit that long and need to take pain medication, which enables to walk. Waiting for 12 hours to speak on this issue does not work for me.

When I was homeless and moved back to Calgary after living in Edmonton for awhile and yes homeless, I wanted to see my sister who I had not seen for quite some time I had to get free bus tickets from the shelter where I was living.

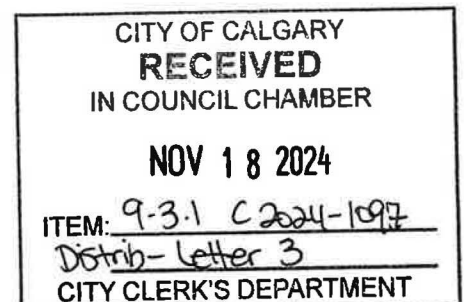
When I was in the YWCA shelter in downtown Calgary, I heard of Vibrant Communities Calgary who operated a committee called Poverty Talks and I was invited to join that committee. After several meetings and a few guest members we were told of an initiative to plan and send a submission to Council to get a low-income bus pass for the most vulnerable in our city. We were asked to speak to City Council at that time to share stories and make further recommendations.

The debate was long, and many amendments were made to the submission but with the Support of former Mayor Nenshi, Druh Farrell, Brian Pincott and several other Councillors the motion passed with Band A, B and C and the income was based on LICO, the Low Income Cut Off table.

We all very excited they we were successful.

After a lot of advertising the Fair Fares Department was set up a City Hall.

I know the province will not supplement this anymore, but this initiative MUST continue for the sake of our most vulnerable and that includes me as I will be on CPP next year and will not have a lot of income.



Thank you for your time and by the way great job in passing the Homeless Strategy under many objections from the Community.

Yours sincerely,

Hilary L. Chapple