



Report Number: EC2025-0861

Meeting: Executive Committee

Meeting Date: 2025 September 08

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Youth Fellowship Program - City of Calgary, EC2025-0861.docx

Sponsoring Member(s) of Council: Rajdeep Dhaliwal

WHEREAS

1. The Council's guiding principles and priorities emphasize strengthening relationships with Calgarians by building trust and confidence through consultation, open and honest communication, and providing meaningful opportunities for Calgarians to participate in their government.¹
2. The City of Calgary recognizes the importance of youth civic engagement as essential to developing the next generation of future leaders, responsible residents, and voters.
3. Many youths often face barriers to civic engagement, including limited awareness of politics, lack of confidence, and financial barriers, with many having also limited awareness and access to engagement opportunities, often disproportionately affecting equity-deserving communities.²
4. Canadian youth aged 15–24 are facing some of the highest unemployment rates in decades, with unemployment reaching over 14% in May 2025, highlighting the urgent need for paid opportunities like civic fellowships.³
5. Council is committed to reducing inequity and addressing systemic barriers so all Calgarians can succeed as outlined in Council's 2023-2026 Strategic Plan.
6. Youth are often an overlooked population in governance conversations, yet meaningful engagement with young people can encourage early leadership development, interest in municipal and public services careers, civic pride, and a sense of belonging in their communities.⁴

¹ City of Calgary. (2023). *Resilient Calgary*. <https://www.calgary.ca/council/resilient-calgary.html>

² Rideau Hall Foundation. (2023). *RHF executive summary* (Version 2, Chap. 6). https://forum.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/RHF_Executive-Summary.En_v2.pdf

³ Desjardins Group. (2025, August 1). *Labour market – August 1 2025: Graduating into uncertainty: A cruel summer for Canadian youth*. <https://www.desjardins.com/qc/en/savings-investment/economic-studies/labor-market-august-1-2025.html>

⁴ Statistics Canada. (2022, July 19). *Portrait of youth in Canada: Political participation, civic engagement and caregiving among youth* (Chap. 6). <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/42-28-0001/2021001/article/00006-eng.htm>

7. 89% of Canadian young people express interest in at least one form of civic engagement; however, when asked more generally about civic participation, interest drops to just 69%, with 42% of youth not knowing what “civic engagement” even means.⁵
8. There is an existing Councillors Work Experience Policy (PAC015); however, it is limited to post-secondary students, aged 18 and over, participating in a formal work experience assignment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

1. Prepare a scoping report that assesses the feasibility, including any risks, costs, and other relevant considerations, of:
 - a. Making amendments to the existing Office of the Councillors Work Experience Policy (PAC015) as follows:
 - i. Decreasing the existing age requirement to include youth 16 + enrolled in Calgary Board of Education, Calgary Catholic School District, as well as Calgary private and charter schools.
 - ii. Removing the existing requirement that students be enrolled in a formal co-op, practicum, or work-experience program.
Removing the existing requirement of obtaining Alberta Workers' Compensation and liability coverage. Removing the existing requirement of obtaining Alberta Workers Compensation and liability coverage.
 - b. Developing a Councilors' Youth Fellowship Program in the future, which would include:
 - iii. Paid youth placements in Councilor offices with mentorship and support from Councilor offices and Administration partners.
 - iv. Prioritization of youth from equity-deserving neighborhoods, supporting themes of inclusion, belonging, and leadership cultivation.
 - v. Possible collaboration with community partners in creating a formal advisory council to support the design and implementation of the pilot program.

Attachment:

1. Notice of Motion Checklist

⁵ Rideau Hall Foundation. (n.d.). *Understanding youth and child civic engagement in Canada*. <https://rhf-frh.ca/media-releases/understanding-youth-and-child-civic-engagement-in-canada/>