

Letters of Support

20 October 2017

His Worship Mayor Nenshi and Council
The City of Calgary
Calgary City Hall
800 Macleod Trail SE,
Calgary, AB T2P 2M5

Re: CalgaryEATS & The Economic Cluster - Alberta Urban Farming

Your Worship Mayor Nenshi and Council

I am writing on behalf of The Economic Cluster - Alberta Urban Farming, a Calgary-based organization of volunteers and community leaders working to make Calgary an urban agriculture centre of expertise, innovation, and best practices.

We are made up of residential and commercial developers and agri-business enthusiasts who believe in a healthy, local and economically viable food system that embraces innovative food production models in the urban environment.

This letter is in support of the ongoing work resulting from the CalgaryEATS food strategy. In particular the recent amendments to the Land Use Bylaw needed to make urban food production a viable sector in our city. Changes to legislation and providing information resources to small businesses has facilitated the development of new urban agriculture ventures and enable growth in the sector.

Our group is very supportive of the Initiative, the City and City Staff as we continue working on this important economic and community initiative and to create opportunities for community-based and commercial urban agriculture and support economic growth in urban food production.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



Steven D Armstrong,
Principal, PARATUS Group & Spokesperson, Economic Cluster – Alberta Urban Farming
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On Behalf Of and For:

Dr PJ Forest, Professor
University of Calgary

Adrian Begley, VP
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Catherine Brownlee, CEO
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Ric Jocson, Managing Partner
TYDE Ventures Inc.

Randy Ferguson, COO
Strategic Group Inc.

Sean Fillion, VP
Blackstone Commercial

Richard Gibson, CEO
NQVERTO Inc.

Kim McConnell, CEO
Ad Farm Online



November 3, 2017

His Worship Mayor Nenshi
And City Council
City of Calgary

Re: Support for implementation of CalgaryEATS Food Strategy

This letter is in support of proposed City actions implementing the city's food strategy CalgaryEATS that was endorsed by Council in 2012.

New Urban Farm Partnerships (NUFP) is a grass roots organization that aims to support urban agriculture by catalyzing partnerships between urban farmers, land holders and community based interests. We believe that there is tremendous opportunity to activate transitioning and underutilized lands within the city for sustainable small-scale fruit and vegetable production. The experience of other urban centers demonstrates that local food production and associated entrepreneurial opportunities can make a valuable contribution to the wellbeing of citizens. We have seen evidence of social, educational, health and economic benefits arising from these projects through community engagement in better eating and better nutrient rich local food, through job training and through job creation. City support for urban agriculture has also resulted in cities with stronger restaurant sectors with a tourism draw. Food centered projects such as gardens and markets create community cohesion and activate leadership with multiple benefits to health and safety in communities.

Implementation of the aspirations set out in CalgaryEATS including the expansion and clarification of land use policies and provisions related to food production, processing and distribution will be instrumental in moving toward a resilient food system. Innovations in urban agriculture and associated benefits are evolving quickly. It is timely for the City to create an environment that can integrate these advances to the City's best advantage. Calgary has the capacity to be a leading city with an enviable resilient food system. We have the resources and this effort to make resources available through policy change is key to development we can be proud of.

New Urban Farm Partnerships encourages City Council to approve the recommendations of Administration that will support a sustainable and resilient food system and benefit the citizens of the City.

Yours truly,

Audrey Smith, Founder
New Urban Farm Partnerships

New Urban Farm Partnerships