



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Honourable Joe Ceci, E.C.A  
MLA for Calgary-Buffalo  
1173 11 Ave SW  
Calgary, AB T2R1K9

1 April 2026

Re: Notice of Motion – Agent of Change Policy Framework for Music, Arts, and Cultural Venues being brought forward by Councillor Clark

To Mayor and Members of Council,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed Notice of Motion to explore and implement an Agent of Change policy framework for music, arts, and cultural venues in Calgary.

As the MLA for Calgary-Buffalo and Alberta's Shadow Minister for Arts and Culture, I recognize the vital role that live music venues, performance spaces, and cultural operators play in Calgary's economic vitality, tourism sector, and community life. These spaces support artists and creative workers, contribute to local economies, and help define the identity and character of our neighbourhoods.

Many of Calgary's cultural venues are long established and have operated successfully for years, often decades, within their communities. As the city continues to grow, new residential and mixed-use developments are increasingly locating near these existing venues. While urban growth is essential, it can also create avoidable challenges related to noise, operating expectations, and land-use compatibility.

Without a proactive policy framework, these issues are too often resolved through complaint-driven enforcement, creating uncertainty for venue operators, residents, and developers, and placing longstanding cultural spaces at risk.

An Agent of Change approach provides a practical and balanced solution. By placing responsibility on the party introducing change, typically new development, to anticipate and

mitigate potential impacts through thoughtful design, construction, and disclosure, Calgary can support growth while respecting existing cultural infrastructure.

I support this Notice of Motion because it will:

- Help sustain Calgary's existing music and cultural ecosystem
- Align Calgary with proven approaches used in other Canadian cities
- Promote proactive planning and design
- Provide clarity for venues, residents, and developers
- Reduce reactive, complaint based conflict

I am particularly encouraged by the intent to better recognize long-standing cultural venues within planning frameworks as contributors to local identity and place-making. This recognition is essential to ensuring these spaces remain part of Calgary's future.

I respectfully urge Council to support this Notice of Motion and direct Administration to move this work forward.

Thank you for your continued leadership in supporting Calgary's arts and culture sector.

Sincerely,



---

Hon. Joe Ceci, E.C.A.  
MLA for Calgary-Buffalo  
[joe.ceci@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:joe.ceci@assembly.ab.ca)  
(403) 990-4202



March 27, 2026

Re: Notice of Motion – Agent of Change Policy Framework for Music, Arts, and Cultural Venues being brought forward by Councillor Clark

To Mayor and Council,

*As On behalf of Calgary's live music venues and cultural community*

The Calgary Folk Music Festival is a central representative of Calgary's live music venues and cultural community. We produce the annual Calgary Folk Music Festival, whose 47<sup>th</sup> edition is this July 23 – 26 at Prince's Island Park, the winter festival Block Heater (11<sup>th</sup> year) and programming at our own Festival Hall (which is also a key rental venue for the community and multi-disciplinary artists and organizations. We hire over 170 artists annually at all our events. Over the decades, we've produced shows at many other Calgary venues and have long supported the venues that keep music alive.

From this experienced vantage point, I'm writing to express our strong support for the proposed Notice of Motion to explore and implement an **Agent of Change policy framework** for music, arts and cultural venues.

Calgary's music and cultural venues are essential contributors to the city's economic development, tourism and community well-being. We are proud to be part of a sector that activates neighbourhoods, supports local artists, and creates vibrant, inclusive spaces for residents and visitors alike.

Many of our venues have operated for decades within established communities. As Calgary continues to grow and intensify, we increasingly find ourselves neighbouring new residential and mixed-use developments. While growth is vital to a thriving city, it has also introduced challenges, particularly related to noise, operating hours, and land-use compatibility.

In the absence of a proactive policy framework, these challenges are too often addressed through reactive, complaint-driven processes. This creates uncertainty for venue operators, residents, and developers alike, and can place long-standing cultural spaces at risk despite their established presence and contributions to the community.

An Agent of Change approach offers a thoughtful and balanced solution. By placing responsibility on the party introducing change, typically new development, to consider and mitigate potential impacts through design, construction, and disclosure, Calgary can better support compatibility between uses while reducing future conflict.

**Calgary Folk Music Festival**

1215 10 Ave. SE Calgary, AB T2G 0W6

Calgaryfolkfest.com



We support this Notice of Motion because it will:

- Encourage proactive planning and design solutions at the development stage
- Provide greater clarity and predictability for venues, residents, and developers
- Reduce reliance on reactive enforcement and complaints
- Help protect and sustain Calgary's existing music and cultural infrastructure
- Align Calgary with best practices already adopted in other Canadian cities

We are particularly encouraged by the direction to explore how long-standing venues can be better recognized within planning frameworks as contributors to community identity and place-making. This recognition is critical in ensuring that cultural spaces are not only protected, but meaningfully integrated into the city's future growth.

A strong and sustainable music ecosystem depends on both vibrant cultural spaces and thoughtful urban development. This policy framework represents an important step toward achieving that balance.

We respectfully urge Council to support this Notice of Motion and to direct administration to advance this work.

Thank you for your leadership and continued commitment to Calgary's arts and culture sector.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kerry Clarke".

Kerry Clarke, Artistic and Marketing Director

**Calgary Folk Music Festival**  
1215 10 Ave. SE Calgary, AB T2G 0W6  
Calgaryfolkfest.com

**Letter of Support from Calgary Music Venues & Cultural Spaces and from the Industry that creates events in partnership.**

**Re: Notice of Motion** Agent of Change Policy Framework for Music, Arts, and Cultural Venues

[READ NOTICE HERE](#)

To Mayor and Members of Council,

We, the undersigned music venues, performance spaces, and cultural operators across Calgary, we are writing to express our strong support for the Notice of Motion brought forward by Councillor Clark to explore and implement an Agent of Change policy framework for music, arts, and cultural venues.

Calgary's music and cultural venues are vital contributors to the city's economic, social, and cultural life. Our spaces support local artists, create jobs, animate neighbourhoods, and provide gathering places that foster connection, identity, and belonging. From small independent venues to established cultural hubs, we are proud to be part of a sector that makes Calgary a more vibrant and dynamic place to live.

As Calgary continues to grow and intensify, many of our venues now operate alongside new residential and mixed-use developments. While this growth is important, it has introduced increasing challenges, particularly related to noise, operating hours, and land-use compatibility. In the absence of a clear and proactive policy framework, these challenges are often addressed through reactive, complaint-driven processes. This creates uncertainty for venue operators, residents, and developers alike, and can place long-standing cultural spaces at risk despite their established presence in the community.

An Agent of Change framework offers a practical and balanced solution. By placing responsibility on the party introducing change, typically new development, to anticipate and mitigate potential impacts through building design, construction practices, and clear disclosure to future residents, Calgary can better support compatibility between uses while reducing conflict.

**We support this Notice of Motion because it will:**


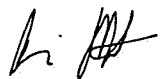
- Encourage proactive planning and better design outcomes
- Provide clarity and predictability for venues, residents, and developers
- Reduce reliance on enforcement and complaint-based systems
- Protect and sustain Calgary's existing cultural infrastructure
- Align Calgary with best practices adopted in other leading cities

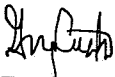

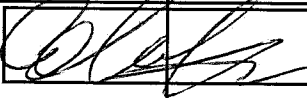
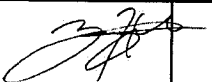
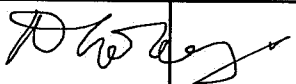

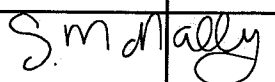
A strong and sustainable city depends on preserving the spaces that contribute to its cultural identity while thoughtfully integrating new growth. This policy framework is an important step toward achieving that balance.

We respectfully urge Council to support this Notice of Motion and to work collaboratively with Calgary's music and cultural community is advancing this initiative.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to a vibrant and creative Calgary.

**Signatories**

Venue / Organization Name	Representative Name	Role/Title	Email	Phone (optional)	Signature	Date
Ship & Anchor	Darren Ollinger	Entertainment Manager	bookings@shipandanchor.com	4036195750	 4/6/2026	
Dickens	Chris Hewitt	Owner	n	4037015783	 '8/2026/8/202	

Tooth Blackner Presents	Greg Curtis	Impresario	greg@toothblackner.com		 4/7/2026
Tamarack Records	Liam Prost	Director	liam@tamarackrecords.com	403-651-1923	 4/7/2026
Music Calgary	Colleen Krueger	Director	hello@musiccalgary.ca	403 850 9636	 4/13/2026
Modo Live	Zach Herbert	Partner	zach.herbert@modo-live.com		 4/7/2026
Ship & Anchor	Nicola Trolez	Director Of Operations	nicola@shipandanchor.com	4036810883	 4/7/2026
					
Freedom of Expression Events	Shannon McNally	Event Producer	sh.mcnally@gmail.com	403-383-4508	 4/6/2026