

26 June 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

**RE: Support for the Community Justice Collaborative Calgary Community Court Project**

The Calgary Community Justice Collaborative (CJCC) is a multi-disciplinary group of leaders from the justice system and social services who came together to advance the integration of a community justice model in Calgary. The goal of this group is to research, understand and address the revolving door of vulnerable Calgarians charged with social disorder offences whose criminal activity is related to issues of marginalization, addiction, mental health and/or homelessness; explore the efficacy of community justice models as alternatives to incarceration; and investigate the possibility of establishing a community court.

Calgary is the epicentre of homelessness in Alberta. While Calgary only has 29% of the province's total population, we host 60% of the provincial homeless population. Homelessness is a highly complex issue with an array of social and economic variables that contribute to homelessness, including health problems, addictions, trauma, poverty and system failures. Calgary Homeless Foundation (CHF) mobilizes collective impact through systems level leadership. Through this local community leadership and a collective impact approach, Calgary has built an internationally recognized, coordinated, Homeless-Serving System of Care (HSSC) that is designed to better meet the needs of vulnerable Calgarians. As the system planner, CHF focuses on improving the system of care to better meet the needs of our city's most vulnerable. In this capacity, CHF continues to see systems failures that impact this population and is seeking to advance the Calgary Community Court (CCC) project in our city as a result.

CCC is a client-centered therapeutic approach to justice, targeted towards vulnerable Calgarians whose criminal activity is related to issues of marginalization, addiction, mental health and/or homelessness. With Calgary holding over half of the province's homeless population and a significant portion of that vulnerable population cycling through the system with repeat social disorder offences, the CCC would reduce recidivism and incarceration costs associated with policing; promote shorter case administration time; and offer alternatives to imprisonment in the sentencing process. In sum, CCC provides an opportunity to transform the justice system and allow stakeholders to leverage existing services to better address systems failures and promote greater coordination and collaboration among the court, police, and health systems and social service agencies.

CHF strongly supports this unique and progressive project as it illustrates the importance improving outcomes for court users, by supporting them with a range of social service needs. CHF believes the benefits of diverting these populations to specialized care, and away from jail sentences, is the best solution for them, as well as our community and Calgary's justice system.

Sincerely,

Diana Krecsy  
President and CEO, Calgary Homeless Foundation



# CALGARY POLICE COMMISSION

June 6, 2018

To whom it may concern,

It is our pleasure to write a letter in support of funding to continue the work begun by the Community Justice Collaborative: Calgary (CJCC).

CJCC is a multi-disciplinary group of leaders from the justice system and social services who came together to advance the integration of a community justice model in Calgary. The goal of this group is to address the revolving door of vulnerable Calgarians charged with social disorder offences whose criminal activity is related to issues of marginalization, addiction, mental health and/or homelessness; explore the efficacy of community justice models as alternatives to incarceration; and investigate the possibility of establishing a community court.

As a CJCC partner, Calgary Police Service has worked for the past two years on developing this project because we believe the benefits of diverting these populations to specialized care, and away from jail sentences, is the best solution for them, as well as our community.

- 1. Calgary Community Court will transform the criminal justice system.**
  - Community solution that promotes greater coordination and collaboration among court system, police, health system and social service agencies.
  - Promotes shorter case administration time through alternatives to imprisonment in the sentencing process.
  - Reduces recidivism and incarceration costs associated with policing.
- 2. Calgary Community Court is a client-centered therapeutic approach to justice.**
  - Targeted towards vulnerable Calgarians charged with non-violent social disorder offences whose criminal activity is related to issues of marginalization, addiction, mental health and/or homelessness.
  - Accountable, holistic and multi-faceted system of supports to improve well-being for these individuals.
- 3. Calgary Community Court is intentional and intersectional.**
  - Built on existing physical infrastructure, resources and services to keep costs low.
  - Streamlines referral processes for those who need them and improving communication between systems.
- 4. Calgary Community Court will improve public confidence in the judicial system.**
  - Improves community safety through reducing recidivism of a highly vulnerable population.
  - Supports the aims of new case law and legislation that promotes shorter case administration time and alternatives to imprisonment in the sentencing process.

In conclusion, we fully support the efforts of the CJCC to seek external funding to begin implementing this project.

Yours truly,

Handwritten signature of Brian Thiessen.

Brian Thiessen  
Chair – Calgary Police Commission

and

Handwritten signature of Chief Constable Roger Ghaffin.

Chief Constable Roger Ghaffin  
Calgary Police Service

Healthy Albertans.  
Healthy Communities.  
**Together.**

June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Re: Support for the Community Justice Collaborative: Calgary and the Calgary Community Court**

To Whom It May Concern:

Alberta Health Services (AHS) is dedicated to improving the health outcomes of Albertans through access to world class health services. However, current research indicates that having access to quality health services is only one of a multitude of determinants that contribute to an individual's health status. To develop the capacity needed within Alberta to address the expanded scope of health determinants, AHS is actively building networks of support through community partnerships. One such collaborative effort about which we are very excited is the Community Justice Collaborative: Calgary (CJCC).

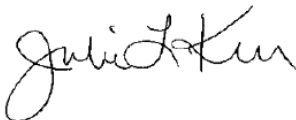
The work performed by the CJCC is informed by the Center for Court Innovation and has led to the development of the proposed Calgary Community Court (CCC). This court will serve as an alternative to the traditional judicial system for minor offences and will focus on judgements that are restorative in nature, rather than punitive. In many cases, for marginalized and vulnerable populations, traditional punitive judgements have negative repercussions that serve to exacerbate the core issues that have brought an individual into contact with the justice system. The alternative approach of the CCC is one that we believe will have a positive benefit for the marginalized, high-risk populations within Calgary that will come into contact with this system, and will serve as a model for future community courts within Alberta.

Through restorative justice verdicts by the CCC, we hope that vulnerable and marginalized populations will be equipped with the necessary tools to improve their future health outcomes and, as an ancillary benefit, expect that a reduction in the reliance on public systems by these populations will be observed.

Sincerely,



Brenda Huband  
Vice President & Chief Health Operations Officer, Central & Southern Alberta  
Correctional Health Services & Population, Public and Indigenous Health



Julie Kerr  
Senior Operating Officer  
Community, Rural and Mental Health, Calgary Zone





July 7, 2018

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Langevin Block  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A2

*\*delivered in person 07.07.18 in Calgary, AB*

Dear Prime Minister:

Just a quick note to say how proud I am to have been in your presence and I am inspired to see your commitment to create a better quality of life for all Canadians.

I am attempting to assist a number of very credible Albertans to establish a Community Court here in Calgary. I believe this aligns with "Transforming Canada's Criminal Justice System – January 2018" and when implemented, the by-product will be evidence of an intervention and a true giant step toward reconciliation. We save \$.60 in justice and redirect \$.60 to health care.

A significant proportion of those who are incarcerated suffer from mental health, addiction and/or homelessness. Once reintroduced to society, they return to the problem. Roughly, 28% of those incarcerated are First Nation peoples.

We will transform scenarios requiring tax dollars and investing in people who will ultimately become taxpayers.

This initiative needs Federal collaboration.

Please join us to save lives...

Peace and love,

Dr. Tom Jackson, O.C., LL.D.  
[tdjackso@tomali.com](mailto:tdjackso@tomali.com)  
403 807 2835 c|