

July 27, 2018

The City of Calgary  
P.O. Box 2100, Station M  
Calgary, AB, T2P 2M5

Attention: Mayor & Members of Council



**Re: Notice of Motion – Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction**

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Calgary Downtown Association (CDA) in support of Council committing funding from the Fiscal Stability Reserve for Crime Prevention and a new Mental Health and Addictions Strategy.

Downtown businesses, residents and visitors have witnessed increasing levels of social disorder and crime within the downtown. In order to ensure that Calgary's downtown remain vibrant, we see this as an important step to addressing issues that are creating adverse impacts.

The following are key items the Calgary Downtown Association would like to highlight in respect this issue;

- 1) We encourage the City of Calgary to engage the Provincial and Federal orders of government to take an equally active role in this initiative, including the provision of funding and agency support for these efforts given they also have both a role and responsibility to address these issues in tandem with the City;
- 2) It is important that funding be directed into areas that are actionable, so although the development of an overarching strategy is important, it is equally important at this juncture to direct funding into action-based activities that can result in some visible 'quick wins'. We believe Community Services and the Calgary Police Service are best positioned to recommend immediate action items that can be initiated in the short-term ahead of the strategy development work that is to come;
- 3) We encourage transparency of the reporting of outcomes related to initiatives undertaken through this funding mechanism as this is an important component of any program development and will facilitate public engagement and public trust;

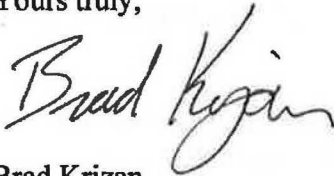


- 4) Sustained success will be the real measure of efficacy and it is important to consider addressing social disorder and crime prevention as an element of core services of the City in a way that sustained funding is in place to ensure an on-going, proactive approach. We encourage the City to consider this as it works through its Business Planning & Budgeting process.

This is an important aspect of building community resilience into issues related to social disorder and crime. We are encouraged by this important first step and look forward to being an active and engaged stakeholder in this process and contributing our perspective to shape positive outcomes for the benefit businesses, residents and visitors to downtown Calgary.

Should you require anything further, please call me directly at (403) 215-1565.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Krizan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Brad Krizan**  
Past Chair and Interim Executive Director



Office of the CEO

July 24, 2018

His Worship Naheed Nenshi  
Office of the Mayor  
The City of Calgary  
P.O. Box 2100, Station M  
Calgary, AB, T2P 2M5

Dear Mayor Nenshi,

Re: Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction

On behalf of the Calgary Public Library, I would like to offer our support for the proposed Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction initiative to develop a community-wide mental health, addiction, and crime prevention strategy.

We see these issues first-hand at the Library every day, not just at our city centre locations, but across our system. Creating awareness and destigmatizing mental health issues is critical to addressing this crisis, and ensuring that our members, some of whom are the City's most vulnerable, can access the resources and support they need to break this devastating cycle.

The Library works closely with the Calgary Police Service, the United Way, and Alberta Health Services on information sharing and training, but access to more resources and tools is a critical next step.

The Library has seen the positive impact of new solutions, such as the Supervised Consumption Services at Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre, which has contributed to a more welcoming, safe environment at the nearby Memorial Park Library.

The Library is prepared to be a part of future collaborative approaches to the issues affecting our city, such as providing space in our locations for community partners to offer mental health counselling and more connection points to resources and services.

We are a critical community hub and accessible resource for all Calgarians. Libraries must be a part of the solution and we are ready to support a strategic and integrated initiative with the goal of improving the overall health and safety of our city.

Libraries must be safe and welcoming places for all, and it is with that community promise that we support this proposed initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Ptacek".

Bill Ptacek, CEO  
Calgary Public Library



Friday, July 27, 2018

Regarding Notice of Motion: Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction:

To Your Worship Mayor Nenshi and members of City Council,

The Kensington Business Revitalization Zone (BRZ/BIA) supports this notice of motion. The BRZ has seen an increase in crimes against persons and against property. In the past year residents in the new condo buildings in Kensington have formed a security committee to try to address crime and social disorder issues where they live and invited the BRZ to be on this committee. Kensington businesses have been experiencing increased crime and social disorder as well. The BRZ organized a meeting with concerned businesses and our Community Liaison Police officer earlier this summer to discuss these very issues. The Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association has also formed a safety committee.

The funds proposed in this NOM will increase and improve the capacity for police, bylaw, social service agencies and partners like the BRZs/BIAs to address these inner City issues. Such funding represents an opportunity for all inner City stakeholders to help identify the gaps and the opportunities for improvement across the whole spectrum of mental health, addictions, crime and social disorder being experienced in inner City neighbourhoods like Kensington.

The City of Calgary's priorities are to foster a *City that moves, a prosperous City, a well-run City, a City of safe and inspiring neighbourhoods, and a healthy and green City.*

In order to be a *City that moves* pedestrians need to feel safe to walk. BRZs/BIAs are outdoor living rooms for inner city residents and people from elsewhere who come to these business districts. Cleaning sidewalks and alleys and removing graffiti promptly encourages positive behavior and helps deter negative behavior. Social disorder, obvious drug dealing, people in distress on the sidewalks and increasingly aggressive panhandling are not conducive to inner city pedestrians feeling safe. Allocating additional funds and building more capacity to keep our streets clean and graffiti free will encourage more walkers and foster positive behaviours.



We want a *prosperous City* and despite this economic downturn we remain a City that still has the financial capacity to choose to do a better job of looking after those among us who need housing, food, mental health support and addiction services.

A *well-run City* is a City that is fiscally responsible and that does the best job possible for the best price. Better understanding which stakeholders are doing what will help us work together more efficiently and

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OUTSIDE OF THE ORDINARY

Address 1118 Kensington Road NW Calgary, Alberta T2N 3P1 | Phone 403.283.4810 | Email [kensingtonbrz@shaw.ca](mailto:kensingtonbrz@shaw.ca) | Web [VisitKensington.com](http://VisitKensington.com)

 KensingtonCalgary  @KensingtonYYC



do a better job. Ensuring all stakeholders are working collaboratively to come up with innovative, affordable, actionable solutions to our current problems is crucial to us doing a better job with these problems.

Safe and inspiring neighbourhoods are places where everyone feels welcome, where everyone can easily go where they want to go. Feeling safe and welcome is very much a matter of perception so visual cues (like clean sidewalks and the absence of graffiti) encourage people to feel safe and welcome. Ensuring our inner City is clean and safe is a proactive way to encourage positive behaviours.

Our most fundamental understanding of what constitutes a healthy City must surely be a City that has compassion for our most vulnerable citizens (those without homes, those with mental health challenges and those experiencing the challenges of addiction). Ensuring all Calgarians have a safe place to sleep, food to eat and access to appropriate social services, in particular mental health and addictions support is surely the least we need to do.

Along with police and bylaw, many of Calgary's BRZs/BIAs are on the front lines of the increasing problems with crime, social disorder, mental health and addiction issues. We have our boots on our streets most days talking to business owners, employees, shoppers, residents and City services like police and bylaw. We are your eager partners in this first step toward a better future for all Calgarians.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Kensington BRZ,

*Annie*

Annie MacInnis  
Executive Director  
Kensington Business Revitalization Zone  
200 203 10A Street NW  
Calgary, AB, T2N 1W7  
Cell: 403-969-3216  
Email: [kensingtonbrz@shaw.ca](mailto:kensingtonbrz@shaw.ca)

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 KensingtonCalgary  @KensingtonYYC

July 23, 2019

Mayor Nenshi  
The City of Calgary

**Re: Community action on mental health and addiction**

Dear Mayor Nenshi:

Please register the support of Calgary Drop-In & Rehab Centre Society (The DI) for this initiative. We share citizen concern regarding the increase of crime and social disorder, particularly in our downtown core and recognize that even as Calgary Police Service and service providers such as The DI do their all to stem the societal outfall from drug dependency, action beyond current practice is needed.

We applaud a broad community strategy that acknowledges the complexities linking addiction, crime prevention and mental health. Approaching health through a comprehensive municipal strategy parallel to system-wide strategies on homelessness and poverty reduction would be most welcome.

The DI encourages this proposed community-wide mental health, addiction and crime prevention strategy, modeled on the systems approach taken in the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness and Enough for All and would hope to be an effective contributor among a broad base of community stakeholders moving strategy to positive outcomes.

Please feel welcome to contact me should you wish to discuss further, The DI's support of this motion.

Sincerely,



Sandra Clarkson  
Acting Executive Director



July 27, 2018

Mayor Naheed Nenshi  
Office of the Mayor  
The City of Calgary  
PO Box 2100, Station M  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 2M5



**Dear Mayor Nenshi:**

**RE: Notice of Motion - Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction**

As the President and C.E.O. of Arts Commons, I'm writing in support of your **Notice of Motion - Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction**.

According to the statistics and our own observations operating across from Olympic Plaza, there is an increasing amount of social disorder, and a sharp rise in crimes against people and property particularly in the downtown core in recent years. We are supportive of the creation of a broader community strategy on the complex links between addiction, crime prevention and mental health.

In response to the deteriorating situation, Arts Commons has had to invest significantly in an effort to ensure our 560,665 square foot facility remains a safe place for all Calgarians, visitors and staff. We have experienced a TWENTY-EIGHT PERCENT (28%) increase in the cost of providing 24/7 security services on site over the last FIVE (5) years.

In addition, Arts Commons is in a year-long process of completing the following security upgrades that will see us invest SEVEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$788,000.00):

- replace and grow the number of security cameras through the facility;
- instillation of the Milestone Security Monitoring System;
- instillation of emergency call stations throughout the parking lot;
- instillation of emergency call stations in all elevators; and
- replacement of door hardware.

Arts Commons currently attracts some 600,000 visitors annually. While most experiences are enriching and life affirming, to reiterate the importance of the Mayor's Notice of Motion, I wish to share with you two recent experiences here at Arts Commons.

On September 15, 2017, a staff member reported to our security staff that a woman was thought to be sleeping in one of our public washroom stalls. Two security officers were dispatched to investigate. When they were unsuccessful in waking the individual in the stall, the attending security staff called 911. Upon gaining access to the individual in question, one of the attending security staff started to administer CPR while the other retrieved a mobile oxygen unit. Officers from Calgary Police Service (CPS) and Responders from Emergency Medical Services (EMS) arrived and assumed responsibility for her care. Shortly thereafter, EMS took the individual to a hospital. On September 16, 2017, Arts Commons was contacted by EMS to inform us that tragically the individual in question had died due to a drug overdose and EMS wanted to offer counselling services to our attending security staff.

During the next three months, Arts Commons installed the Milestone Security Monitoring System, replaced all of its security cameras and added a number of additional cameras throughout the facility.

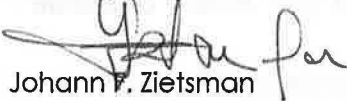
On January 20, 2018, a female was observed on camera seemingly in distress. Two security officers were dispatched and found the individual in a stairwell unconscious and unresponsive. The individual was covered in blood and her breathing was erratic. There were also a number of used syringes beside the individual. EMS was called while the attending security officers provided care.

When the individual stopped breathing the attending security officers administered CPR until EMS arrived. After administering aid, EMS took the individual to the hospital. Arts Commons was informed that the individual survived.

I'm sharing these tragic stories in order to emphasize the importance of your Notice of Motion. The prevalence of dangerous street drugs, such as fentanyl and methamphetamine, are killing our neighbours and wreaking economic hardship.

As a community we need to come together to strive to help those in need and to foster and promote a healthy and safe community for us all.

Kind regards,



Johann F. Zietsman  
President & Chief Executive Officer





**Mathison Centre for Mental Health  
Research & Education**  
TRW Building, Room 4D60  
3280 Hospital Drive NW  
Calgary, AB, Canada T2N 4Z6  
T: 403-210-6228  
F: 403-210-9812  
E: paul.arnold@ucalgary.ca

July 27, 2018

Office of the Mayor  
The City of Calgary  
700 Macleod Trail South  
Calgary  
AB T2P 2M5

Re: Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction

On behalf of the Mathison Centre for Mental Health Research & Education, I am pleased to provide a letter in support of the notice of motion for community action on mental health and addiction for the City of Calgary. In my role as Director of the Mathison Centre, I am privileged to lead a group of over fifty researchers and clinicians at the forefront of mental health research and education at the University of Calgary.

The Mathison Centre was established by the Hotchkiss Brain Institute and the Department of Psychiatry to serve as a collaborative hub for mental health research and education at the University of Calgary. Research at the Centre is geared at generating knowledge in broadening our understanding of mental health disorders including early risk factors and effective treatments, in particular among children, youth and emerging adult populations.

Mental illness affects a significant proportion of Albertans and has serious consequences in our community. According to a 2012 Canadian Community Health Survey by Statistics Canada, 38 percent of Albertans aged 15 years and over are affected by some form of mental disorder including substance abuse. The Canadian Mental Health Association identifies suicide as the leading cause of death in Alberta among males ages 10 to 49. From a local perspective, the Centre for Suicide Prevention estimates that 126 Calgarians died by suicide in 2017. Suicide affects young and old, and is the second leading cause of death in Canadians age 15 to 34.

The importance of community involvement in addressing mental health and addiction is well supported by evidence-based research. In recognition of this, our centre has developed strong partnerships with Alberta Health Services and a range of community organizations, including Calgary area school boards, and front-line community mental health agencies. We have also established a number of community linked initiatives including the Mental Health in Our Community program and the Mathison Centre Community Connections Committee to ensure community and public engagement is an integral part of our research efforts.



In line with our expert opinion from a research perspective, this notice of motion and in particular the proposal of a comprehensive municipal strategy on mental health is a step in the right direction for our city. We applaud and fully support this effort.

Thank you for your efforts in support of community action to enhance the mental health of the residents of Calgary.

Sincerely,

**Paul Arnold, MD, PhD, FRCPC**  
**Director, Mathison Centre for Mental Health Research & Education**  
**Alberta Innovates Translational Health Chair in Child and Youth Mental Health**  
**Professor, Departments of Psychiatry and Medical Genetics**  
**Hotchkiss Brain Institute, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary**



## Boys & Girls Clubs of Calgary

July 27, 2018

Mayor Naheed Nenshi  
The City of Calgary  
800 Macleod Trail SE  
Calgary, Alberta T2P2M5

Dear Mayor Nenshi,

As an organization whose mandate is to provide outlets where Calgary's children, youth, and families can feel safe and have a support network available to them, we are well aware of the need for more resources supporting mental health and addiction in our city. An increase in funding to programs working on prevention and treatment would have an incredibly positive effect on overall crime rates, homelessness, and community safety.

Positive mental health plays a critical role in promoting resiliency, social integration, and healthy behaviours. Mental illness is increasingly threatening the lives of our children – in Canada, only 1 out of 5 children who requires mental health services receives them. Addressing mental health issues early allows for our children to reach their potential and become contributors to our society.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Calgary works to meet the evolving needs of over 11,000 vulnerable children and youth in Calgary by developing programs that address mental health and addictions and remove barriers to success. The work we do brings us into close relationship with Calgary's most vulnerable children, youth, and families. The struggle of mental health challenges and addictions is a difficult reality. Enhancing programs that support social and emotional learning contributes to the development of character strengths, which, in turn, affect long-term thriving.

We look forward to serving more children, youth, and families coping with the negative impact of mental illness and addictions. In our efforts, we are confident that by investing in mental health supports, we will build a stronger community and begin to reshape the future for all Calgarians.

Sincerely,

Jeff Dyer  
CEO



731-13 Ave NE Calgary, AB T2E 1C8 Phone: 403-276-9981 Fax: 403-276-9988

Email: [info@bgcc.ab.ca](mailto:info@bgcc.ab.ca) [boysandgirlsclubsofcalgary.ca](http://boysandgirlsclubsofcalgary.ca)

Registered Charitable Organization No. 106804669RR0001





**Office of the CEO**

July 24, 2018

His Worship Naheed Nenshi  
Office of the Mayor  
The City of Calgary  
P.O. Box 2100, Station M  
Calgary, AB, T2P 2M5

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Libraries must be safe and welcoming places for all, and it is with that community promise that we support this proposed initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Ptacek".

Bill Ptacek, CEO  
Calgary Public Library



July 26, 2018

His Worship  
Mayor Naheed Nenshi &  
Calgary City Council

Your Worship and Councillors;

On behalf of SORCe (Safe Communities Opportunity and Resource Centre), we are pleased to offer this letter affirming our support for this Notice of Motion regarding COMMUNITY ACTION ON MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION.

As you are aware, SORCe is a community collaborative of 17 social and government agencies that work together out of a central, downtown location to provide services and supports to Calgarians in need. This unique opportunity for staff from various agencies to share knowledge and a common goal is the strength of SORCe.

SORCe's clients often are survivors of early childhood or adolescent trauma, which in many cases results in mental illness. This illness can in some cases, be diagnosed but more often than not is undiagnosed. With high frequency, this population turns to alcohol or street narcotics such as Crystal Methamphetamine or opioids to treat their mental illness. They subsequently develop severe addictions, compounding the challenges they face, and which often leads to homelessness.

Engaging in criminal behavior to support this ongoing cycle is common and results in social disorder and active engagement with the criminal justice system. By dealing with their upstream issues and diverting this population away from the justice system, we are confident that we can influence the trajectory for these Calgarians.

It is reassuring that the City of Calgary has recognized the growing need for a comprehensive mental health and addiction support network and this call to action by proposing to commit \$25 million dollars over the next 5 years to support existing and develop additional capacity to the system of care will be transformative.

We at SORCe fully support the Notice of Motion regarding COMMUNITY ACTION ON MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION. Moreover, we look forward to continuing this crucial work in the community.

Frank Cattoni  
Executive Director  
CC: Karen Young Board Chair, SORCe

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316 7th Avenue SE  
Calgary, Alberta

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admin@score.ca

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Date: July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Re: Support for Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction**

To His Worship Mayor Nenshi:

Conversations around mental health and addiction are becoming more commonplace in our society. This is because Canadians, in response to many successful provincial and national mental health and addiction campaigns, are beginning to open up and speak about these issues. This is normalizing the conversation about mental health concerns and allowing people to discuss them with friends, family, healthcare professionals, and community outreach staff, which makes it easier for people to find the support and services they need.

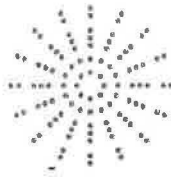
However, this increase in openness to discuss and seek treatment for mental health and addiction issues leads to increased utilization of AHS and other community resources. This, coupled with the spike in Fentanyl related addiction overdoses, is leading to a scenario in which the demand for mental health and addiction resources is exceeding Calgary's capacity to respond. It is reassuring that the City of Calgary has recognized the growing need for a comprehensive mental health and addiction support network and is proposing to commit \$25 million dollars over the next 5 years to support existing and develop additional capacity.

AHS is in complete support of the funding that is proposed in Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction. AHS has an extensive network of resources and established community partnerships and would be open to mobilizing and leveraging these resources as The City of Calgary develops short, medium and long terms actions within its community strategy.

Sincerely,



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



**vibrant**  
COMMUNITIES  
CALGARY

July 26, 2018

Dear Mayor Nenshi and Members of City Council

**Re: Notice of Motion:** Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction, C2018-0956

Vibrant Communities Calgary (VCC) supports this notice of motion and would respectfully encourage members of Council to approve it.

Literature and research has established the direct link between physical health and mental health. People living in poverty are more likely to access the health care system and to endure diverse mental health challenges. The impact of these are broad and long lasting on Calgary's most vulnerable.

Calgary has led the way with a homelessness strategy and Enough for All, its poverty reduction strategy. The development of strategies engages the community, increases understanding and awareness and, over time, helps develop a common agenda on addressing the issue throughout the community.

The development of the strategy envisaged in the notice of motion will build on the great work currently underway with the Council for Addiction and Mental Health and many committed organizations across our community.

We are in the process of refreshing the Enough for All strategy and look forward to supporting the alignment of the Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction with our work in guiding the implementation of Enough for All.

We encourage City council to adopt this notice of motion. This is an important first step.

Sincerely,

Franco Savoia, Executive Director

Copy Cathy Williams, Chair, Board of Directors



Mathison Centre for Mental Health  
Research & Education  
TRW Building, Room 4D60  
3280 Hospital Drive NW  
Calgary, AB, Canada T2N 4Z6  
T: 403-210-6228  
F: 403-210-9812  
E: paul.arnold@ucalgary.ca

July 27, 2018

Office of the Mayor  
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700 Macleod Trail South  
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In line with our expert opinion from a research perspective, this notice of motion and in particular the proposal of a comprehensive municipal strategy on mental health is a step in the right direction for our city. We applaud and fully support this effort.

Thank you for your efforts in support of community action to enhance the mental health of the residents of Calgary.

Sincerely,

Paul Arnold,



July 27, 2018

The City of Calgary  
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Attention: Mayor & Members of Council

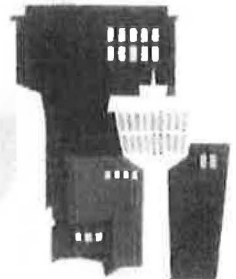
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Downtown businesses, residents and visitors have witnessed increasing levels of social disorder and crime within the downtown. In order to ensure that Calgary's downtown remain vibrant, we see this as an important step to addressing issues that are creating adverse impacts.

The following are key items the Calgary Downtown Association would like to highlight in respect this issue;

- 1) We encourage the City of Calgary to engage the Provincial and Federal orders of government to take an equally active role in this initiative, including the provision of funding and agency support for these efforts given they also have both a role and responsibility to address these issues in tandem with the City;
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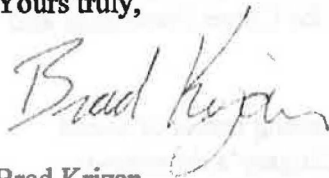


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This is an important aspect of building community resilience into issues related to social disorder and crime. We are encouraged by this important first step and look forward to being an active and engaged stakeholder in this process and contributing our perspective to shape positive outcomes for the benefit businesses, residents and visitors to downtown Calgary.

Should you require anything further, please call me directly at (403) 215-1565.

Yours truly,



Brad Krizan  
Past Chair and Interim Executive Director



1300 Zoo Road NE Calgary, AB T2E 7V6 | calgaryzoo.com

July 24, 2018,

His Worship Naheed Nenshi  
Mayor of Calgary  
P.O. Box 2100, Station M  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 2M5

Emailed to: [themayor@calgary.ca](mailto:themayor@calgary.ca)

cc: [lori.kerr@calgary.ca](mailto:lori.kerr@calgary.ca)

***Re: Notice of Motion - COMMUNITY ACTION ON MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION***

Your Worship,

We are writing in support of the above Notice of Motion and the comprehensive approach it suggests to addressing pressing needs in our growing community.

The Calgary Zoo is our city's most visited year-round, accessible destination for families and individuals with over 650,000 Calgarians attending each year. Through the Calgary Recreation's Fee Assistance Program over 18,000 low income Calgarians visit the zoo annually at a 75% discount.

The zoo shares a main entrance and tunnel with the Calgary Transit Zoo Station, which in winter has increasingly become a warm place for people, particularly those who are severely alcohol or drug-impaired, or without a home to go to, to come in out of the weather. While we are very reluctant to see these folks turned out when they have no other place to go, their presences does impact, and can deter visitors from coming to the zoo. So far in 2018 alone zoo security has responded to 20 incidents in the tunnel connected to the C-Train station. These incidents range from trespass and vagrancy to vandalism and an assault. There may be further incidents at are responded to by transit security. These statistics do not include after hours loitering or attempts to penetrate perimeter fencing by at risk populations seeking possible shelter in the relative safety of zoo grounds.

We would be happy to provide any further information you may require.

Warm regards,

*Allan Pedden, Chief Financial Officer on behalf of*  
**Dr. Clément Lanthier**  
President and CEO, Calgary Zoological Society

WE'RE USING REINTRODUCTION SCIENCE TO CONSERVE THE  
ICONIC NORTHERN LEOPARD FROG, A SPECIES SENSITIVE TO  
ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE.





July 27, 2018

His Worship Naheed Nenshi  
Office of the Mayor  
The City of Calgary  
P.O. Box 2100, Station M  
Calgary, AB T2P 2M5

RE: Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction

Dear Mayor Nenshi,

On behalf of CMLC, I enthusiastically voice our support for the proposed Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction initiative to develop a community-wide mental health, addiction and crime prevention strategy.

Since we set out on our mission to revitalize Calgary's Rivers District in 2007, we've had to deal head-on with the social and mental health issues that affect so many, especially here at our city's centre.

While our redevelopment efforts in the Rivers District and especially East Village have gone a long way toward reducing the highly visible criminal behavior and signs of addiction on our inner-city streets, there remains much to be done.

In June 2017, CMLC engaged Mount Royal University Department of Criminology to study levels and perceptions of safety in East Village. The research team concluded that while residents feel safe, they have concerns about drug use and drug paraphernalia storage in several hotspots within the neighbourhood. To address these concerns, CMLC has been actively pursuing several initiatives including design improvements at C-Square, East Village Junction, Simmons and Riverfront Lane to mitigate the storage of drug paraphernalia, a public awareness campaign that encourages residents and business owners to report criminal activity, workshops and surveys about community safety and security for residents and businesses in the East Village, and more open dialog with the DI and other social support organizations.

In addition, CMLC has been meeting recently with Councillor Farrell to discuss our concerns about a seeming resurgence of drug use and storage, belligerent behavior, effects of overdoses on community residents (and CMLC staff), potential impacts of marijuana consumption in East Village and more. To be blunt, with respect to seeing active drug use and its many undesirable effects, this summer has been noticeably worse than any other in the past 10 years. We have discussed the possibility of re-activating the CLEAN TO THE CORE, and CMLC is behind that idea 100 percent.

We are highly motivated to work with The City, the Calgary Police Service, other community organizations, business owners and residents to collaboratively explore and endeavor to solve the issues affecting so many Calgary's our citizens and the communities in which they live.

Sincerely,

-s.

Susan Veres, SVP  
Calgary Municipal Land Corporation

# Experience Art And Culture Glenbow

July 25, 2018

His Worship Naheed Nenshi  
Mayor, City of Calgary  
City Hall,  
Calgary, Alberta

Glenbow  
133 9 Avenue SE  
Calgary, Alberta  
Canada T2G 0P3  
T 403 268 4100  
glenbow.org

Dear Mayor Nenshi,

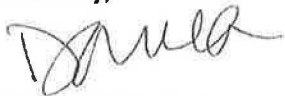
We were delighted and grateful to learn about the City's proposed community action on mental health and addiction. As an active cultural centre in the heart of the downtown, Glenbow recognizes the increased need for thoughtful measures to mitigate social challenges in the inner city.

These measures can be transformative. We have seen the eloquent difference it makes when people have access to interesting programs and inclusive experiences. Our Free First Thursday evenings have been embraced by over 20,000 Calgarians who thank us poignantly every year for the opportunity to visit in an informal way with their families and friends. Groups such as The Mustard Seed, Inn from the Cold, ESL language programs, and immigrant aid societies have spoken movingly of what it means for their clients to have a safe, interesting place to visit. They return again and again.

We have seen the same response to our Adopt a Classroom and public access programs which provide free admission to Calgary's under-served populations. We worked closely with Indigenous youth in the Power in Pictures project which engaged young people with graphic artists in exploring their personal narratives. Our school programs around Truth and Reconciliation and residential schools are invaluable for teachers reaching for understanding around difficult topics. We are also delighted that members of the Calgary Police have embraced our Blackfoot Language program as a means of connecting with urban Indigenous people.

Thank you for recognizing this important challenge that impacts the vibrancy of our amazing city. Glenbow is pleased to support this initiative in any way we can.

Sincerely,



Donna Livingstone  
President and CEO



July 25, 2018

His Worship Naheed Nenshi  
Mayor, City of Calgary  
Office of the Mayor  
The City of Calgary  
Historic City Hall  
700 Macleod Trail South Calgary, AB T2P 2M5

*Re: NOM Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction*

Dear Mayor Nenshi:

On behalf of the Calgary Foundation, I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the *Notice of Motion: Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction* of July 20, 2018.

Encouraging Mental Health became one of the Calgary Foundation's Vital Priorities in 2015 as a result of a broad and multi-staged community consultation that marked our sixtieth anniversary. Across many community tables, Calgarians told us of the urgent need to destigmatize mental health concerns and to collaboratively develop and sustain a coordinated community-based continuum of care for all ages. Since then, the upswing of fentanyl usage and accidental overdosing in our community has further heightened this urgency.

We share the NOM's central thesis that "Calgary is a place of opportunity where we must strive for everyone to be safe and feel welcome." The complex and interlacing phenomena of addiction, mental health, and crime prevention cannot be addressed by any one sector on their own. Nor in our era of diversity, inclusion, and Reconciliation should they be. As a community foundation, we understand that it will take the concerted will and effort of a broad range of players to meaningfully improve the lives of individuals, families, and communities affected by this contemporary crisis. Fortunately, Calgarians can draw on the skills, approaches, and relationships we strengthened through our recent shared experiences of developing and implementing the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness and the Enough for All poverty reduction strategy.

In short, we endorse the call for the collaborative development of a community-wide mental health, addiction and crime prevention strategy, modeled on the systems approach, and involving a broad base of community stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Eva Friesen  
President and CEO  
Calgary Foundation



July 27, 2018

Mayor Naheed Nenshi  
The City of Calgary  
Office of the Mayor  
P.O. Box 2100, Station "M"  
Calgary, AB T2P 2M5

**Re: Support for Notice of Motion on Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction**

Dear Mayor Nenshi,

The Community Housing Affordability Collective (CHAC) is a network focused on improving housing affordability in Calgary through collaboration and community-based advocacy. Our members include more than 50 organizations who represent the full spectrum of for profit and non-profit affordable housing providers, as well as social service providers, public agencies and government.

At CHAC we have seen firsthand the value of using a systems lens to tackle complex social issues. Meaningful change is possible when all the players are working together on common goals. We therefore applaud the proposal to create and fund a comprehensive, community-wide mental health, addiction and crime prevention strategy.

We encourage you to draw on the expertise of CHAC members. As proponents of the "housing first" approach, we know that stable housing is a critical first step to addressing addiction and mental health issues. The "housing first" approach is a proven method for creating long-term stability. It allows people to transition from instability to being part of the community. It also reduces the use of costly public services.

As a key community stakeholder, we look forward to participating in the development of the Prevention Investment Framework and community strategy. Thank you for working to ensure Calgary remains a place of opportunity where everyone feels safe and welcome.

Sincerely,

Beverly Jarvis  
Director of Policy, Projects and Government Relations  
BILD Calgary  
Co-Chair, CHAC  
403-730-4266  
[beverly.jarvis@bildcr.com](mailto:beverly.jarvis@bildcr.com)

Martina Jileckova  
Chief Executive Officer  
Horizon Housing Society  
Co-Chair, CHAC  
403-297-1705  
[martinaj@horizonhousing.ab.ca](mailto:martinaj@horizonhousing.ab.ca)

27 July 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

**RE: Support for the City of Calgary's Notice of Motion for Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction**

Calgary Homeless Foundation (CHF) is pleased to provide this letter in support of the *Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction* Notice of Motion that will be presented to City Council on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Through CHF's local systems level leadership and a collective impact approach, Calgary has built an internationally recognized, coordinated, Homeless-Serving System of Care (HSSC). 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 strongly supports a community-wide mental health, addiction and crime prevention strategy for our city.

We know, through our experience over the past 10 years, that homelessness is a highly complex issue with an array of social and economic variables that contribute to its occurrence, but we also know that addictions, mental health and homelessness are linked. In the 2018 Alberta Point-in-Time Count, the most commonly cited reason for loss of housing among the survey respondents was addiction, with 25 per cent of those surveyed indicating that addiction or substance abuse was a contributing factor. Mental health was also identified by 8 per cent as a reason for their loss of housing. Time has shown that the ability for us to connect these vulnerable individuals to the appropriate addiction and mental health services has a positive impact both socially and economically. Accordingly, given the pressing need to address mental illness and addiction amongst people experiencing homelessness and/or at risk of homelessness, we believe this critical investment would have a substantial impact on Calgary's most vulnerable people.

CHF is also of the view that there is an opportunity for this strategy to work in concert with other initiatives the City of Calgary has sponsored and / or are already underway to address the social disorder resulting from mental health and addictions. One such initiative is the Calgary Community Justice Collaborative's work on a client-centered therapeutic approach to justice. This approach is targeted towards vulnerable Calgarians whose criminal activity is related to issues of marginalization, addiction, mental health and/or homelessness. This initiative will promote greater coordination and collaboration among the court, police, health systems, and social service agencies and offer alternatives to imprisonment in the sentencing process.

A coordinated systems approach to a community-wide mental health, addiction and crime prevention strategy will better equip us to collectively identify and address systems failures, leverage existing services, and better connect vulnerable Calgarians with the supports and services they need to thrive. Accordingly, CHF strongly supports the notice of motion to commit funding toward a coordinated effort on mental health and addictions, as a key pillar in supporting individuals experiencing, or at risk of homelessness.

Sincerely,



Diana Kretsy

**President and CEO, Calgary Homeless Foundation**





United Way of Calgary and Area  
600 – 105 12 Ave SE  
Calgary, AB T2G 1A1  
T: 403 231 6265  
F: 403 355 3135  
www.calgaryunitedway.org  
Reg. Charity Number: 13022 9750 RR0001

July 27, 2018

Mayor Naheed Nenshi  
Office of the Mayor  
The City of Calgary  
P.O. Box 2100, Station M  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 2M5

Delivered via email

Dear Mayor Nenshi:

United Way of Calgary and Area works to mobilize communities for lasting social change. Every day, people across our community struggle to build better lives for themselves and their families. These challenges are fueled by serious social and economic barriers, which make getting ahead difficult and threaten the strong social fabric that is vital to individual, family and community well-being.

To that end, United Way is pleased to support your Notice of Motion to Council regarding the development of a community-wide mental health, addiction and crime prevention strategy. The recommended systems approach for the strategy aligns with United Way's current work in this area, which involves working collaboratively with stakeholders in the health, justice and community services sector.

For example, the strategy would build upon the Calgary Symposium on Substance Misuse that we convened with Alberta Health Services, the Calgary Police Service and our community partners in June of this year. We heard from stakeholders during this symposium that it will require a systemic, community and intergovernmental approach to address these issues that face our citizens.

Additionally, the strategy would support the work of the Calgary Community Court, which was supported by members of the Priorities and Finance Committee on July 27<sup>th</sup> with a \$250,000 innovation grant. United Way is a member of the Community Justice Collaborative Calgary (CJCC), a multi-disciplinary group of leaders from the justice system, health system, community, and social sector, which launched and advanced the development of the community court concept in our city. The CJCC is similarly taking a systems level approach to better support vulnerable Calgarians who have been charged with social disorder offences related to marginalization, addiction, mental health, and homelessness.

United Way of Calgary and Area is pleased to support your efforts to build a resilient caring community where everyone thrives. We look forward to collaborating and moving the needle together on this complex social issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Young", written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

Karen Young  
President and CEO



Canadian Mental  
Health Association

*Mental health for all*

July 26, 2018

Office of the Mayor of the City of Calgary  
And Calgary City Council  
P.O. Box 2100, Station M  
Calgary, AB, T2P 2M5

Dear Mayor Nenshi:

I am very pleased to see that a Notice of Motion with respect to formation of a **community-wide mental health, addiction and crime prevention strategy** will be put before Council at the upcoming Council meeting July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

On behalf of the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA)– Calgary Region ([cmha.calgary.ab.ca](http://cmha.calgary.ab.ca)) and in our role as backbone support to the Calgary Council for Addiction and Mental Health ([www.calgaryaddictionandmentalhealth.ca](http://www.calgaryaddictionandmentalhealth.ca)) we are prepared to provide support and leadership to your Administration in achieving the goals and deliverables outlined in this motion.

We further support the participation of those with lived experience of a mental health and addiction challenge and other interested community stakeholders who are key to helping us reduce the stigma and will ensure that we build a comprehensive municipal strategy that supports resiliency, hope and mental health for all Calgarians.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned if further information is required.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Laureen MacNeil', is written over a light grey horizontal line.

Laureen MacNeil  
Executive Director  
CMHA Calgary Region



Palix Foundation  
#540, 1100 1 Street SE  
Calgary, AB T2G  
181 403 215 4490  
palixfoundation.org  
albertafamilywellness.org

July 26, 2018

Re: Letter of Support, Notice of Motion: Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction

Dear Mayor Nenshi and City Council:

I am very pleased to provide a letter of support from the Palix Foundation for the Notice of Motion for the proposed City of Calgary crime prevention and new mental health and addiction strategy.

As you are aware, the Palix Foundation, through its program called the Alberta Family Wellness Initiative (AFWI), now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year, strongly supports efforts focused on prevention, intervention and treatment of mental health and addiction issues across the life span and across generations of families, communities and populations. Sharing and facilitating the use of a common knowledge base and framework of understanding among all stakeholders - from health, social services, education, justice, government, academia, community and business - is the foundation of our work and impact. This framework helps bring people together around a collective mindset grounded in what we know about mental health and addiction issues from science and research, what contributes to these outcomes, both positively and negatively, and the role of the brain and experienced based brain and child development in these processes.

Over the last ten years, AFWI, in collaboration with an ever-increasing network of thousands of change agents and leaders (many in Calgary), has been mobilizing this knowledge base in the form of a story - the Brain Story<sup>1</sup>. As a fundamental first step in preventing stigma, this story is shifting public beliefs to align with this knowledge and away from those that are inaccurate or uninformed. Building on new beliefs and understandings the knowledge is also leading to changes in policy and practice. The Brain Story, in concert with change agent leadership and action, is the key ingredient to effective and successful addiction and mental health initiatives.

Accelerating our efforts to share this story far and wide, about 18 months ago AFWI created an on-line, freely accessible course, the Brain Story Certification Course. Almost 18,000 people are now enrolled, the majority in Alberta with Calgary leading the way.

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<sup>1</sup> The National Scientific Council on the Developing Child synthesized decades of research relevant to neurodevelopment processes and translated it with help from the FrameWorks Institute into the core story of brain development (i.e. the Brain Story). <http://developingchild.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/A-Decade-of-Science-Informing-Policy.pdf>

Building on this significant momentum, and also on our involvement in the City of Calgary's resilient cities work, we welcome and are very enthusiastic about the opportunity to be part of the new initiative proposed in this Notice of Motion. We foresee, however, that a gap in knowledge competencies related to brain development and the link to mental health and addiction outcomes on the front line may prevent the strategy from being as successful as it could be. We therefore recommend that taking the brain story certification course be required for people working on the strategy and for those who receive funding from it. This could make the strategy's success even more likely. We would be pleased to work with you and the entire community stakeholder group to help ensure this requirement can be met.

On behalf of the Palix Foundation, I would like to sincerely thank you for the opportunity to provide this letter of support. We applaud your significant leadership in focusing attention on crime prevention, mental health and addiction. We are honored to be part of this process and contribute our significant experience and expertise in catalyzing change in Calgary based on the Brain Story.

Kind regards,



Michelle Gagnon, MBA, PhD  
President and CEO  
Palix Foundation  
Alberta Family Wellness Initiative

**Attachments:**

AFWI Brief Summary, July 2018  
AFWI 10 Year Progress Report  
Brain Story Certification Course Feedback Report



2225 Macleod Trail South  
Calgary, Alberta T2G 5B8  
Mail 403.263.2993  
Fax 403.262.1001

July 27, 2018

Repsol Sport Centre (RSC) is in support of the Notice of Motion **'Community Action on Mental Health and Addition.'**

Over the past three years, RSC has seen a dramatic increase in the amount of incidents involving individuals who present as having mental health illness and addiction. The behaviours of those entering the building are concerning to our employees, members and facility.

Individuals with mental health illness and addiction often demonstrate the following behaviours at RSC:

- Violence towards staff and members
- Verbal and physical threats
- Loitering and/or sleeping in our facility

As well, other factors which impact our facility include but are not limited to:

- Property damage
- Inappropriate use of our public spaces as cleaning stations for personal hygiene reasons
- Theft

RSC has also seen an increase in needles, knives and other weapons in and around the facility, which has resulted in RSC having to incur additional costs to implement preventive measures to protect our staff and members. Consequently, RSC has adopted new policies, has invested in education and has provided personal protective equipment for public and staff safety. As a result of these unsafe behaviours, RSC has increased the number of phone calls to the Calgary Police Service and Emergency Medical Services.

Overall, the increased number of incidents involving individuals with mental illness have reduced staff productivity and increased safety concerns for both members and staff. As an employer, our staff are faced with distractions and the potential threat of violence.

The Calgary Police Service has been helpful in removing dangerous individuals from our facility however, those suffering from mental health illness and addiction often return to the RSC many times before they finally stop coming to the Centre.

Safety is our number one value at RSC and RSC needs the proper tools, support, and policies to do our jobs effectively; therefore, we support the Notice of Motion **'Community Action on Mental Health and Addition.'**

Repsol Sport Centre Management

**repsol**  
**sport**  
**centre**  
.com

**MAKE IT  
HAPPEN AT  
THE CENTRE  
OF ENERGY**



120 9th Avenue SE  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2G 0P3  
main 403.261.8500 fax 403.261.8520

calgary-convention.com  
1 800.822.2697

July 27, 2018

Office of the Mayor  
The City of Calgary  
P.O. Box 2100, Station M  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2P 2M5

Attention: His Worship Mayor Nenshi

Re: Support Letter on Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction

Dear Mayor Nenshi,

The Calgary TELUS Convention Centre (CTCC) fully supports City Council committing \$25 million towards a new community-wide mental health, addiction and crime prevention strategy for the City of Calgary.

The CTCC has experienced its own security concerns with 23 occurrences involving citizens who face drug addiction and/or mental illness in and around the Convention Centre in 2018, representing an increase of 65% over 2017.

The CTCC hosts delegates from the province, country and around the world who extend their visit our city either before or after their conventions and meetings. It is critical that we keep our delegates safe and secure during their visit in Calgary and Alberta.

Increasing the community's mental health awareness needs to be a focus for Calgary so that the whole community is empowered to take action for better mental health strategies including homelessness and poverty reduction.

Yours truly,

Calgary TELUS Convention Centre

Clark Grue  
President & CEO

CG/es

Calgary Economic Development's  
collaborative energy makes us a  
conduit, connector, catalyst and  
storyteller for Calgary.

July 30, 2018

Dear City Council,

On behalf of Calgary Economic Development, we are pleased to support community action on mental health and addiction. Economic development is about people and it is why a vibrant, safe and healthy community is a key element of the updated economic strategy, *Calgary in the New Economy*. This is an important initiative for our organization.

One of our greatest competitive advantages for business and talent attraction is our history of being a welcoming community. Research and case studies conducted for the economic strategy reinforced that maintaining a safe community and our exceptional quality of life is critical to ensuring our competitive advantage.

In *Calgary in the New Economy*, "Place" is identified as one of four elements that drive prosperity and its goal is to establish Calgary as the world's most livable city. We are starting from a good point with an exceptional quality of life. The Economist Intelligence has ranked Calgary among the Top Five most liveable cities in the world every year for a decade and in 2017, the Conference Board of Canada rated Calgary as the healthiest city in Canada.

However, the recent economic downturn has coincided with a rise in both mental health and addictions issues and an increase in social disorder and crime. Calgary Economic Development is a supporter of *Enough for All: Calgary's Poverty Reduction Strategy* and we applaud creation of a strategy on mental health similar to strategies to homelessness and poverty.

It is critical to the health of our community and our city's prosperity that we be proactive reducing the stigma of mental illness and addressing the social and economic issues it creates. We commend the Mayor and City Council for their leadership and support the notice of motion for a community-wide mental health, addiction and crime prevention strategy.

Thank you,



Mary Moran  
President & CEO  
Calgary Economic Development



Steve Allan  
Chair of the Board  
Calgary Economic Development