

My name is Alex Mann. I am a Calgary resident and mother to two young children (a 3 year-old and a 3-month old). Like many Calgary residents, I have been very dismayed by the increasing severity of forest fires in the area, which have left our air thick with toxic smoke for ever longer periods of the summer. This has been especially concerning to me as a parent, and inspired me to join the Calgary Climate Hub, a grassroots group of citizens aimed at taking action against climate change. I was happy to learn that in June of this year, the City Council adopted the *Climate Resilience Strategy*. The question now is what funds will Council dedicate to implementing this plan.

Over this past week, the Climate Hub has made several presentations to Council addressing the need for Calgary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by funding and implementing the *Climate Strategy*. Our presenters drew largely on the findings of a report prepared by the University of Calgary and the University of Leeds called *The Economics of Low Carbon Development*. This report, which was commissioned by the City and is referenced heavily throughout the *Climate Strategy*, shows that Calgary can achieve the following:

- reduce its carbon emissions by 71% through actions that either save money or are financially neutral
- cut Calgary's energy bill by \$1,100 per person and
- create up to 860,000 full-time jobs by 2030
- increase energy security and economic competitiveness
- improve the health of Calgary residents.

To be able to make that happen, the City must assign and fund people directed to work specifically on climate work and not just from the "side of their desk." Environmental and Safety Management is not the only department that requires a climate team. Rather, all of the City's business units should have people dedicated to climate change work.

We understand that \$1.6 million have been assigned to the *Climate Strategy*. The Climate Hub believes that this will be insufficient, and that additional funds and staff are necessary in order to implement the Strategy.

When deciding what to prioritize in this budget, we encourage you to refer to the *The Economics of Low Carbon Development* report, which identifies a series of cost effective options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We also make the following specific requests in order to ensure that the *Climate Strategy* is a success:

- Request #1: MORE CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT. Create and fund a Low Carbon Transition and Climate Action Committee of climate scientists and organizations involved in climate change and sustainability in order to monitor and advise on implementation of the *Climate Strategy*;
- Request #2: MORE PUBLIC TRANSIT. To reduce air pollution and congestion, and for mental health (recall earlier testimony from the public on how public transit also enhances social inclusion)
 - Complete the Route Ahead strategy
 - Complete the Primary Transit Network during this budget cycle to achieve the goal of 10-minute frequency, fifteen hours per day, seven days a week (Actions 5.4 & 5.7).

CITY OF CALGARY
RECEIVED
IN COUNCIL CHAMBER

SEP 12 2018

ITEM: 7-1 UCS 2018-1020
Rec'd for Corp Record
CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT