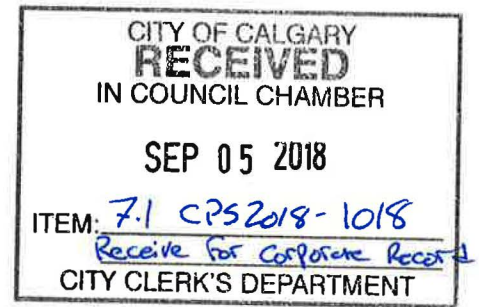


September 5, 2018

Mayor Nenshi and Members of Council  
City of Calgary  
P.O. Box 2100 Station M  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2P 2M5



**RE: Investing in Affordable Rentals**

Dear Your Worship, Mayor Naheed Nenshi and Members of City Council,

We are pleased that the 2018 Citizen Satisfaction Spring Pulse Survey indicated affordable housing was Calgarians' top priority. Calgary needs 15,000 new units of affordable rental housing. To bridge a gap that large, The City will need partners. This fall, Council has an opportunity to address the pressing need, with relatively modest investment, by partnering with non-profit housing providers to leverage dollars available from other orders of government.

Since the adoption in 2016 of the Corporate Affordable Housing Strategy, CHAC members have seen a marked improvement in their ability to develop new housing units. Assistance with pre-development processes and costs through the Affordable Housing Planning Coordinator and Housing Incentive Program have been welcome. However, if there is one place The City can truly help non-profit housing providers, it is with affordable, appropriate land transfers.

Investing in affordable housing aligns with the top priority of the citizens of Calgary. Housing citizens reduces costly use of social services and is a critical cornerstone for treating mental health and addiction. Moreover, by investing in affordable housing, The City can be a catalyst, tapping into a powerful multiplier effect by leveraging available funds from other orders of government.

The window of opportunity to tap into provincial and federal funding will close quickly as other municipalities take advantage. As you enter budget deliberations this fall we encourage you to increase investment in affordable housing--particularly in appropriate, affordable land transfers to non-profits--to ensure Calgary remains a prosperous city where there is opportunity for everyone.

Sincerely,



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