

November 21, 2018

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



Re: Support of Increases to Affordable Housing in 2019 Budget

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

On behalf of the more than 50 members of the Community Housing Affordability Collective (CHAC), we are writing to express our wholehearted support for the increases to affordable housing recommended by City administrators in the proposed One Calgary: 2019-2022 Service Plans and Budget. This is a vital step towards improving housing affordability in Calgary.

Earlier this fall, CHAC released its common vision: adding 15,000+ new, affordable rental housing units in Calgary in the next decade. This would help bring Calgary up to the national average and combat chronic homelessness while simultaneously reducing the number of households over-spending on housing.

The recommended budget increases not only align with our common vision, but also with the will of Calgarians. In The City's Citizen Satisfaction Spring Pulse Survey, affordable housing was identified as a top priority for investment, with 93 per cent of respondents requesting continued and increased investment.

To address the urgent need and overwhelming public support, we encourage the expansion of the non-profit land transfer program. Access to affordable, appropriate land is a considerable barrier for our members; building on the successes of last year's pilot program will empower us to be part of the solution.

Bridging this significant gap will take the whole community. To this end, we encourage continued partnership with provincial and federal partners as well as the private sector. Similarly, initiatives like the Housing Incentive Program have made a positive impact. We support their continuation.

The recommended increases will help our members develop an estimated 1,900 new non-market homes between 2019 and 2022. Increased funding is critical to the successful implementation of the Corporate Affordable Housing Strategy and our shared goal of improved housing affordability. We thank you for recognizing the call from Calgarians to prioritize housing affordability. On budget day, please support the recommended increases to affordable housing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "B. Jarvis".

Beverly Jarvis
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Martina Jileckova".

Martina Jileckova
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Supported by:

