

FEDERATION OF
CALGARY COMMUNITIES

November 30, 2018

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



Dear Member of Council,

RE: Preserving Capital Conservation Grants (CCG) to support Community Associations and other Social Recreation Groups

As the support organization to the 150 community associations (CAs) in Calgary, the notion that councillors may be considering cuts to CCG is short-sighted.

Community associations in Calgary are a unique social infrastructure, not found in any other Canadian city. They conservatively manage more than \$350 million dollars in community amenities. These amenities are aging, with the average age of the amenities is approaching 60 years old. When they were built the provincial and federal government had generous grants and funding to build community meeting places. That funding has all but dried up!

Today, the need for "community hubs" is now more important than ever. Community Association buildings are critical to provide local offering, especially for those in their community that don't have a car or who are otherwise isolated.

The CCG is already grossly under resourced. It is critical that volunteers and the City work together to maintain, and life cycle this unique infrastructure that builds the social fabric of our communities. Without adequate funding to CCG, the risk to the City will only increase.

In order to build inspiring and strong neighbourhoods, we need to invest in places where people can connect with each other and where people can have a local place to participate with each other in activities. For CA's to operate effectively, it is essential that they are provided needed supports and resources.

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As a partner, we at the Federation can not imagine the devastating effects and catastrophic failures we would see, if CCG was cut. In fact, we believe, that if we truly want a city of strong neighbourhoods, then it is time to invest more into providing better supports and resources to the community association movement.

Thank you for your consideration and thoughtfulness in prioritizing community during your deliberations.
Sincerely,

Leslie Evans, M.M., BSc
Executive Director

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