

November 30, 2018

Re: Backyard Suites Design Guidelines

The Federation of Calgary Communities (the Federation) is the support organization for over 230 community based non-profit organizations, including 151 community associations. We advocate for and assist community associations in navigating Calgary's planning process. We are pleased to have been a key stakeholder in engagement throughout the creation of the Backyard Suites Design Guidelines.

Our organization partnered with Administration on two workshops addressing concerns and considerations for the Design Guidelines in Q2 2018. We then distributed Administration's survey, which was clear and had comprehensive diagrams. Finally, we worked together with Administration on offering two drop-in sessions in late November for final community input.

We recognize that it is important for communities to have a diversity of housing options. Nonetheless, design elements of backyard suites continue to be of concern for some communities. Massing and privacy issues can be reduced through disincentivizing external staircases, properly articulating balconies, and encouraging transom windows. Finally, opportunities to encourage tree retention should be explored. Nonetheless, these Design Guidelines do much to mitigate some of the issues.

The Backyard Suites Design Guidelines will be integral in ensuring high-quality design as backyard suites become more commonplace in our communities. We hope that their recommendations are strongly considered during the approvals process. Further, the 3d renderings that were produced for the design guidelines are very easy for both community and industry to visualize, and we hope to see more of this work moving forward on other related issues.



FEDERATION OF
CALGARY COMMUNITIES

Administration has done an excellent job in working with us to ensure that there is opportunity for meaningful engagement with community. Administration's willingness to conduct sessions at our location and at community associations is appreciated by the CA network, which is mainly comprised of volunteers. We hope that engagement like this continues to be seen moving forward.

Sincerely,

Ben Morin
Urban Planner

Jennifer Miller
Urban Planner

