



**Presentation by the Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations to the Standing Policy  
Committee on Community and Protective Services**

**Re: Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Funding Recommendations**

September 7, 2016

Madam chair;

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee today. I'm Geoff Braun with the Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations (CCVO).

I'm here today to speak to trends we're observing in Calgary's nonprofit sector, the importance of FCSS programming, and to support Administration's recommendations for the allocation of the \$5.4 million in new FCSS funding.

CCVO exists to support Calgary nonprofits and charities and to give voice to the nonprofit sector. On an ongoing basis, we are monitoring the health and experience of Calgary's nonprofits. We do this through formal research and through the many conversations we have with Calgary's nonprofit leaders.

Our last provincial survey of nonprofits was in the field in February of this year and I'd like to highlight a few of our findings.

As we move deeper into this economic downturn, organizations are finding it increasingly difficult to sustain their corporate and individual donations, and they are seeing earned revenue diminish.

- For example, whereas in 2013, 19% of Calgary based organizations surveyed reported their corporate donations were down year-over-year, this year, the number reporting it is down has almost doubled, at 44%. Likewise, the percentage reporting decreased earned revenue has also doubled.

At the same time, organizations are faced with growing demand for service and increasingly complex needs.

- 70% of our survey respondents reported demand has increased year-over-year and of these almost half are reporting demand has increased by more than 10%. However, only 28% report their capacity to meet demand has increased.

Many are responding to increased demand by requiring even more from an already strained workforce.

- 54% are reporting that heavy workloads are among their top Human Resource challenges.

It goes without saying that the provincial increase to the FCSS Program came as welcome news to both the City of Calgary and to the organizations that deliver this programming in our communities.

As you are well aware, the Province's contribution to the FCSS program remained flat for many years. This Committee and City Council understood the value of preventative social services to the strength and resilience of our communities, and CCVO commends you for your advocacy work over the years and for contributing at above the minimum matching requirement. I can assure you this is not lost on community stakeholders. Nor is the decision to continue contributing above the provincial requirement.

Administration continues to work with CCVO to understand how the sector is faring, to connect with community stakeholders and to understand community needs. We believe their consultative approach results in recommendations that are well informed and that strike the right balance between investing in new programming and long overdue increases to funding for existing programs.

Administration also utilized CCVO's communication channels to ensure community stakeholders were informed about this year's Call for Funding Proposals.

When we've presented to this committee in the past, we've stressed that for reasons both moral and economic, Council's support for preventative social services is a wise investment. These services build individual and community resilience. They prevent issues encountered by Calgarians from worsening, and spilling over into other systems, such as policing or mental health. This continues to be a highly relevant program, and Council's continued support is both critical and appreciated as Calgarians weather some very trying economic times.

Thank you for your time today and we look forward to continuing to work with Administration to help inform their recommendations.

Thank you.