

Your Worship Mayor Nenshi, the Social Advisory Committee and Members of City Council, I am sorry that I was unable to present this in person. Unfortunately I have become a victim to the recent illness that is going through this city.

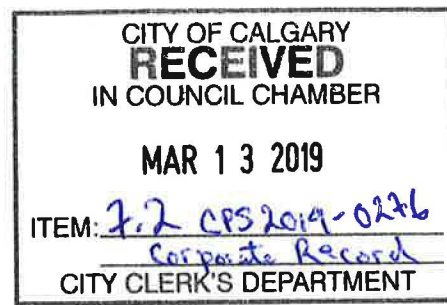
Please accept my poem as an alternative. If you need further information I am willing .

Thank you, Anne Cartledge

Oh Calgary you are glorious  
If you are hale, hearty and fit  
But what if you be disabled  
As I am, one of so many.

Barriers, gaps, social isolation  
Invisible homelessness, some ways  
That have made my life difficult for me  
To be a part of this friendly city.

Housing was indeed a challenge  
Been fortunate to have it...  
But the inequality is in my  
At times being so afraid...



Can I keep it, how do I do it...rent, meds or food

The Food Bank and such, oh I know you

The shame of it all...the must of it all

The fact a Senior has to beg to eat.

When you use a walker..as I do

Getting around is not fun..it is a must

Meant to be.. when things are clear

But multiple barriers can get in the way

Some are natural- -the weather

Some manmade, curbs, wind rows, not cleared walks

Some are people, taxi , bus drivers and others

Who see us as an imposition, a nuisance

Many ways abound for the fit ,to shop, we also must eat

But as many agencies find , the helpers are few.

For without a volunteer, simply isolation is the price

Doing it alone.. pain the order of days ahead,

Handi bus...oh so many drawbacks and demands

That give no freedom to chose , so the taxi price is paid

For volunteers to help are so few, many agencies are seeking

A possible solution ,the Special needs cab a fit

But I have found and so been told "Not disabled enough"

The applying is so hard, and to prove the need ,

Differing opinions leave many, like me, in the cold

Drawing the line is inequality...another judges me..

I support SWAC, as a low-income senior that I be

I have experienced inequality..in many ways

Some that could and should be avoided....

Let us work together to make it so.

