

To City of Calgary Clerk

This email serves as a vote AGAINST the upcoming tax levy in the community of Edgemont for the landscaping beautification program.

There are a number of concerns that I have with the proposed program, but will just present one here to keep things short.

The job market in Calgary is extremely gloomy and I am sure there are people in all professions who are wondering about their job security given the economic downturn. I think the Mayor has done his part in keeping our property tax increases to the bare minimum given the circumstances, and I think it is wrong of our community to be enforcing a tax hike on its residents at this point in time.

My own husband was laid off January 2015. While he has worked various jobs (I estimate around 15 temp jobs) over the past year to keep some income trickling in, it is nothing like what his prior professional position paid. In addition, the company where I have worked for 24 years, has announced the closure of the whole facility, resulting in 700 job losses, and once I am laid off at the end of the month, there will be even less income coming into our home.

We consider ourselves hard working individuals, however with 4 children, two of which are in university, money is extremely tight.

I am not looking for sympathy, however talking to others in the community, it is a rare family that has not been hit in some way by this economic downturn.

I do not feel enough information was presented when the PRO leafers came around to our home. They came by 4 times, each time using pressure tactics to have us sign their PRO leaf campaign, however I refused as I felt they were not prepared and able to answer the questions I had to my satisfaction. While I do agree that there are parts of Edgemont that appear tired, I think much of this is the result of renters, or other homeowners who have no pride of ownership. I do not think flowers on blvds or existing green spaces is going to do anything to make these parts of our community look better.

What I would like to see if this whole process put on hold. If after ALL THE INFORMATION is provided to homeowners, the LEAF program is implemented, then I will accept the decision, however given the reversal of fortune for many in our city, combined with people making decisions without being fully informed, I am sincerely hope that you will hold off on this levy until we can ensure a fair process has been put in place to ensure this is in the best interests of all the residents of Edgemont.

Thank you for taking my view into consideration as you decide on whether or not to move forward with this tax levy.

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