

The LEAF Petition has fractured our community. It has pit Neighbor Against Neighbor. Our Edgemont Community Association President has resigned and there are rumblings of a sub-committee that wants to take control of the \$2.4M of Special Levy funds. Wrong Process, Wrong Plan, Wrong Time.

Democracy is defined as a state of society characterized by formal equality of rights and privileges.

The whole Community did not have equal opportunity to vote.

Complete information, including a budget detailing how \$84 was arrived at and how it would be spent was never provided. It is a random, arbitrary number for all intents and purposes.

The Petition question was so vague, presented on a doorstep with no supporting budget or information, that had all the fact been presented people would not have signed. *→ and contrary to theory hundreds*

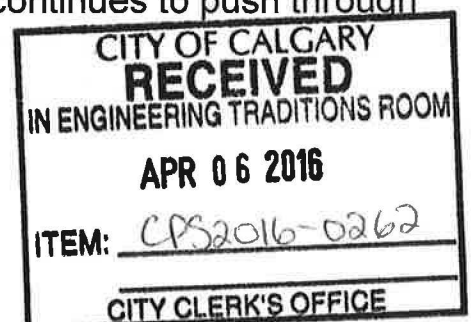
Would you sign a legally binding document stating, "I approve an annual special levy of \$84 per property to provide enhanced landscape maintenance to community entrance ways, boulevards, parks and green spaces as identified by the Edgemont Community Association."

Annually for how long? What Goods & Services are included? Do I have to have a paid ECA membership to have a vote? The question raises so many other questions just because of its vagueness. Common sense tells me you wouldn't sign anything on your doorstep.

Not all residents have the equal mental capacity or equal circumstances to sign a legally binding document on their doorstep. Nor should they be asked to by their neighbor.

This is NOT "Democracy at its Best" when ~~hundreds~~ <sup>thousands</sup> of citizens do not feel equal.

The downturn in the economy has only served to highlight the serious flaws in the petition and the program. The discussions today could have been avoided with some flexibility and a hint of compassion. As Mayor Nenshi froze various user fees to support Calgarians as the economy began to collapse, the Edgemont Community Association and Councillor Chu had the opportunity to cancel or even pause the Special Levy Tax. Instead it continues to push through knowing that thousands in Edgemont are struggling.



This is NOT "Democracy at its Best" when <sup>thousands</sup> hundreds of citizen do not feel they are equally represented.

In November 2015, 6 months before the tax was officially passed, our Newsletter announced Edgemont was already assigned a Horticulturist, Ugly cement pots were being picked out, and we were being slotted into the cookie cutter maintenance schedule. Edgemont was already listed under the Special Levy Tax page on the City of Calgary website. Thousands of community dollars had been spent to "sell" the idea. It was already being declared a "Done Deal".

This is NOT "Democracy at its Best" when <sup>thousands</sup> hundreds of citizens feel they have no voice.

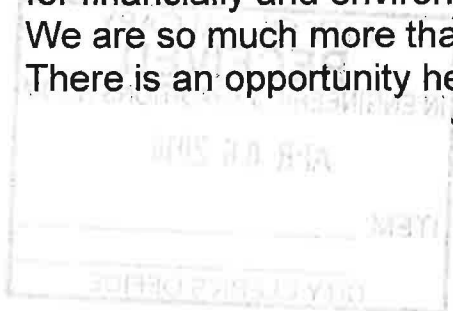
As the program stands, the damage in Edgemont is done. The second those pots go into the boulevard they will be a concrete reminder of what could and should have been. I can just about guarantee the City will do its absolute best for the 4 month growing season this year. They will probably do okay next year too. But eventually, as those pots sit empty for 8 months, and people struggle to pay bills, resentment will grow and it won't just be about \$7, its gone far past that.

It will be about the fact that the ECA President and Board started talking about LEAF in the 2014 Newsletter and instead of lobbying the City over the excessive neglect of our public spaces and the fact that Edgemont pays well over \$9M/yr. in property taxes and yet only \$200k (according to LEAF organizer Mr. Atwal) is spent on our Community maintenance. Instead of engaging the community for new and creative ideas on how to make Edgemont more beautiful the first and only option presented was to force neighbors to open their wallets.

And this is why we are here, the flagrant disregard for the well-being of our neighbors and lack of willingness to openly communicate.

And that, does not promote "Democracy at its Best."

Edgemont is a vibrant community full of dedicated residents as witnessed here today by the large attendance. Edgemont has the potential to be the new model for financially and environmentally responsible and sustainable Urban Planning. We are so much more than Ugly, Empty cement pots on brown turf boulevards. There is an opportunity here.

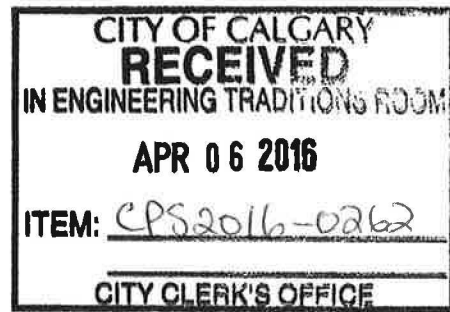
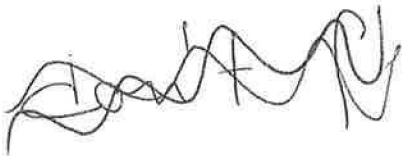


Every resident in Edgemont has 1 common goal, an investment to see our Community be the best it can be. We love our Homes. Edgemont is more than where we live. It's where we retreat from the insanity of this crazy moving world. It's where our Children learn and grow, where our Family and Friends come together.

I thank you for your time and ask for your genuine consideration to cancel the Edgemont LEAF Program and support new, creative, mutually beneficial financial and environmental programs. The disparity and damage that programs like LEAF can do to our City by creating Tiered, User-Pay Communities and resentment between Neighbors goes against everything that Calgary stands for.

*A community is democratic only when the humblest and weakest person can enjoy the highest civil, economic and social rights that the biggest and most powerful possess* –A. Philip Randolph

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The LEAF committee represents  
LESS than 1% of Edgemont Residents.  
Hundreds of letters, emails, calls  
have been sent/received that  
TRY to express they did  
not understand or receive ALL  
this information