

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.

Rowe, Timothy S.

From: Elsbeth Mehrer <emehrer@bgcc.ab.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 11:53 AM
To: Rowe, Timothy S.
Subject: [EXT] Speaking notes on Social Wellbeing

Social Well Being Policy - SPC on CPS - Wednesday, March 13

- Members of Council, thank you for this opportunity. My name is Elsbeth Mehrer and I'm a volunteer member of the new Social Wellbeing Advisory Committee. Our committee has met three times since we were appointed late last year and has been working with City staff to review drafts of the policy before you this morning.
- Our committee includes members of various other Boards, Committees and Commissions as well as citizens at large. We each bring the best of ourselves to the table and seek to question and learn from the perspectives of others. At the core, our mandate is to illuminate blind spots.
- This past Sunday, my son and I had opportunity to spend part of the afternoon in the spectacular New Central Library. It was packed with a cross section of people: some were practicing dance with their club in the atrium, some were working on resumes at computer terminals, others were chasing toddlers through the kids zone.
- The library on this afternoon -- indeed each time I've had opportunity to visit -- was bustling with people of all walks of life enjoying beautiful, dignified space. None of us were asked to demonstrate our income, or our ancestry, or our age or our ability on the way in the door. This motley assembly of people did not and does not happen by accident.
- In the performance hall, Mayor Nenshi was speaking Sunday afternoon to a group of young people who came together to ask him about transportation, civic participation and issues of mental health and addiction. Youth developed and asked the questions and, in the time I was there, most focused at their core on questions of fairness and access.
- In his remarks Mayor Nenshi referenced snow clearing as an example of a way in which the details make a difference. He described watching four older women leaving a theatrical performance: three stomping on a snow bank in an effort to pack it down and make it passable for their friend who used a mobility aid.
- This Social Well Being Policy is about the details. It's about applying a systematic approach to ensuring civic volunteers, employees and elected officials actively ask the question "who is missing" from their planning and deliberation.
- This policy may cause discomfort and push well intentioned folks to think differently about everything from the time of their meeting to the angle of the ramp on their bus. Or, as we heard this morning, the accessibility of a artists application or the availability of benches along the pathways. - It will require more thoughtful approaches to data collection and analysis such that we can effectively measure how differences in gender, age, ability and income have an impact
- Taken together with the commitment of people to building an ever more workable city for all Calgarians, this policy will lay the foundation for more intentional work to improve equitable access to City services, address our shared commitment to settler-indigenous Reconciliation, support and grow culture and address social issues before they begin.
- Members of Committee, the Social Wellbeing Committee supports this policy. We encourage you to vote in favour of it today and we look forward to partnering with you to ensure its implementation and activation across the corporation.
- Thank you

Elsbeth Mehrer
Boys & Girls Clubs of Calgary
c 403-809-4168

Sent from my iPhone - please excuse errors



My name is Karla Danan and I am here today as a citizen at large member of the Social Well-being Advisory Committee.

Although I was born at Rockyview Hospital and raised in the Beltline/Mission community, I have been conscious of my positionality as "other" for my entire life. Calgary has always been home, but as a brown young woman, a daughter of a single immigrant mother, an exclusive transit user, a lifelong inner-city resident, as a member of the working class, I find myself to be a minority in most spaces I enter, including this one.

But I am still here in front of you today despite of living in a society where systems and space have historically been built without my community's voices and often without anyone who looks like me on those decision-making bodies.

I am serving on this committee and excited about this new committee and the proposed policy before you because it is a meaningful opportunity to seek ways that the City of Calgary can better alleviate that sense of "othering" that I experienced growing up. I think about how alleviating that "othering" means rendering visible the diversity of our communities. When people are able to see themselves represented, they are better able to understand and grasp their identities, and this creates an important shift in the social consciousness to feel that sense of belonging for people from a range of different backgrounds.

This principles-based policy creates room for an intersectional feminist approach with a critical race lens, intentionally looking at how gender identity, race and ethnicity come into play in community programming, essential city services, and the very make-up of this room today. These are just two examples of the diversity lenses that this policy will employ. Prioritizing the voices of people with lived experience and employing an approach rooted in cultural humility, I am hopeful that adopting this policy will create space to amplify the voices of the multiple equity seeking communities in Calgary and foster a more confident sense of belonging and inclusion for diverse Calgarians.



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ITEM: 7.2 CPS2019-0276
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CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

Social Wellbeing Advisory Committee (SWAC)

March 13, 2019

Dr. Victoria Burns, PhD, RSW

Assistant Professor, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary

Volunteer member, Age-Friendly Cities and SWAC

Victoria.burns@ucalgary.ca

Introduction

- Madame Chair and members of City Council. Thank you for this opportunity. My name is Victoria Burns. I am a social worker, assistant professor at the University of Calgary, and volunteer member of Age-Friendly Calgary and SWAC. As a community member with over 15 years experiencing working with older, marginalized people, including individuals experiencing homelessness, I can attest to the urgency of the adoption of the SWAC principles (i.e., equity, prevention, culture and Truth and Reconciliation). If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me: Victoria.burns@ucalgary.ca

Why do the SWAC principles matter? Inequity and lack of prevention leads to homelessness and costs the city \$\$\$

↑ homelessness aged 50+y
Canadian urban centers

50% shelter users aged 50+



Older homelessness - unique vulnerabilities Gaps in policies and practices

↑ Health issues/premature death compared to non-homeless older adults (McDonald et al., 2007)

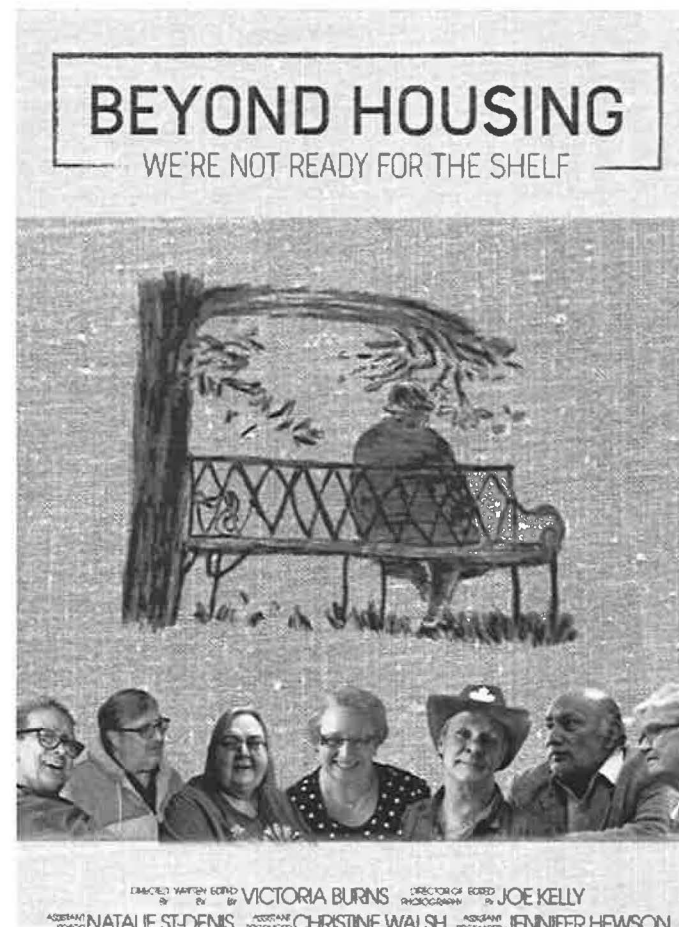
↑ Social isolation and loneliness than younger homeless (Crane & Warne, 2007)

Housing First PSH (mostly scattered site) (Padgett et al., 2015)

Aging in place: assumes stable housing

Few supportive housing models meet complex health & social needs including addiction

Inequality, a poem by Anne Cartledge, age 68
lived experience of homelessness, founder AISH to Pension



Gibb, Linda A.

From: Rowe, Timothy S.
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 3:45 PM
To: Gibb, Linda A.
Subject: FW: SWAC Committee - 10 min video Older Homelessness in Calgary

From: Victoria Burns [mailto:victoria.burns@ucalgary.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 12:05 PM
To: Rowe, Timothy S. <Timothy.Rowe@calgary.ca>
Subject: [EXT] SWAC Committee - 10 min video Older Homelessness in Calgary

Hi Tim,
Here you go:

<https://www.storyhive.com/project/show/id/3601>

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