



September 11, 2015

City of Calgary Councillors
800 Macleod Trail SE
Calgary, Alberta T2P 2M5

Dear Councillors,

Re: Sliding Scale Proposal for the City of Calgary Subsidy Program

On behalf of Vibrant Communities Calgary (VCC), I would like to confirm our enthusiastic support for City Administration's proposed sliding scale structure. VCC supports Administration's recommendations for a number of reasons:

- The recommendations align with the Enough for All Strategy.
- The recommendations are consistent with those in VCC's Poverty Costs 2.5, a Blue Print to Reducing Poverty in Alberta.
- The recommendations create equitable low income subsidy rates, based on the customer's ability to pay.
- Expanding the subsidy program to 130% of LICO supports individuals as they attempt to climb out of poverty and until they can reasonably meet their basic needs.

VCC is guiding the implementation of Calgary's poverty reduction plan. As part of the collective effort to end poverty in our city, VCC is committed to supporting innovative solutions to poverty. We are currently advocating for the implementation of a provincial poverty reduction plan. We will also seek opportunities to advocate with additional orders of government to fund affordable public transportation options for low or moderate income Calgarians. Lastly, we will continue to build awareness amongst our stakeholders and the community at large about the need for affordable basic needs, like public transportation.

In conclusion, we urge the Standing Policy Committee on Community and Protective Services to approve Administration's recommendations as part of our collective effort to ensure all Calgarians can easily access the right supports, services and resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Franco Savoia".

Franco Savoia
Executive Director

