

May 23, 2019

City Council
The City of Calgary
PO Box 2100, Station M
Calgary, AB T2P 2M5
(Delivered via email)



Dear Mayor Nenshi and Council Members,

On behalf of the more than 900 vulnerable Calgarians who call Horizon Housing home, I encourage you to support the **Non-Market Housing Land Disposition Policy (UCS2019-0505)** that is scheduled to go before Council on Monday, May 27, 2019.

Calgary needs an additional 15,000 affordable rental units to get to the national average. The City cannot do this alone. To bridge the gap, we need everyone--non-profits, the private sector and other orders of government--to be part of the solution.

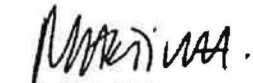
Land transfers are a smart investment strategy. They empower experienced non-profits to tap into funds from philanthropists and other orders of government. To put this powerful multiplier effect into perspective: in the pilot, **the investment of just \$6.4 million in City land value garnered an additional \$30 million in provincial, federal and private resources**, and created 370 jobs.

Improving housing affordability will also increase our attractiveness to new businesses and workers, while reducing financial stress on our health care, judicial, policing and social services. Providing housing to one homeless person yields an annual savings of \$34,000 to taxpayers.

Transferring the land to non-profits at book value ensures The City recoups its costs and it allows non-profit housing providers to offer deeply subsidized rents that are so needed by vulnerable populations in our community. Our charitable mandates ensure those units remain affordable in perpetuity.

Without these land dispositions, The City will remain the primary provider of affordable housing in Calgary and miss out on millions of external funding. On Monday, please support administration's recommendations to adopt this policy. Thank you for ensuring everyone in our city has an affordable place to call home.

Respectfully,



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