

Letters of Support



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May 27, 2019

Mayor and Council
Standing Policy Committee – Planning and Urban Development
City of Calgary, Municipal Building, P.O. Box 2100, Stn M. #8124

Re: PUD2019-0744: Health Impact Assessment Update Report

I would like to express my continued support on behalf of Alberta Health Services for the City of Calgary's interest in considering the health impacts of its policies and planning processes, and for aspiring to develop complete and health-promoting communities.

Through the adoption of healthy planning principles, we can prevent the risk factors for many chronic diseases and create the conditions for people to live healthy lives. For example, there is strong evidence that community and street-scale design and land use policies can directly impact physical activity and prevent pedestrian injuries. We also know that access to green space is linked to positive mental health outcomes.

The direct healthcare costs associated with chronic disease in our province now exceed \$2 billion/year and given that the number of Calgarians with chronic illnesses continues to grow, there will be tremendous pressures on all sectors of society, making it imperative that we act together to address this issue. A continued focus on developing health-promoting environments has the potential to reduce chronic disease and injury, improve air quality, and positively impact mental health.

Having been engaged by Urban Strategy during the development and early work of *HealthYYC*, I've found the initiative to have already demonstrated value through information sharing and capacity building activities. Several key relationships have been developed/strengthened, nationally impactful collaborative research has been carried out, and staff in several organizations have further developed key competencies.

Municipalities have a key role in creating the conditions that promote health and prevent disease. Although progress has been modest due to resourcing challenges, *HealthYYC* continues to have the potential to be an important mechanism for collaboration related to the built environment-related health issues, and there would be value in continuing the initiative with additional support. We look forward to continuing to partner with the City in pursuing our shared goal of a healthy and thriving City of Calgary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. R.", written over a horizontal line.

May 27, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Vivo is a charity on a mission to raise healthier generations in Calgary and beyond. Our roots are in north-central Calgary where we operate a leading regional recreation facility to co-create, measure and scale innovative experiences and services to empower individuals and communities be more healthier, happier and connected.

We are proud to be a part of the Advisory Board Committee and the renewal and evolution of the Health YYC Initiative. This multi-sector driven initiative is critical to advancing, building, measuring, scaling and sustaining Healthy Communities for Calgary in the future.

Vivo's involvement with Health YYC has enabled us to create new relationships, share our research and models and make shifts in thinking and decision making in other institutions including:

Vivo Expansion Project- Testing the value of the eight healthy planning principles with our community and the development of our new environments and surrounding connections to community spaces.

Creating Coventry- Presented a twenty-year plan to re-imagine fifteen outdoor parks with the City of Calgary as a 'pilot' project. The City is now using this as a model to work with other communities.

Brookfield Residential-10Y Longitudinal Study on whether or not co-creating with a community about its' built environments will have an impact on behaviors and decision-making processes to increase health and a sense of belonging.

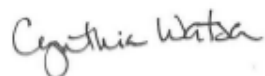
Vivo Gen H Play Project- Working with the Public Health Agency on a \$3.5M, four-year project to co-create, measure and scale play solutions with community and partners to shift the needle on chronic disease and influence the design of typical suburban neighborhoods.

Tamarack Institute- Co- wrote and published a case study for evaluating neighbourhood work. We had over thousand online views and conducted webinars with thirty organizations across Canada.

Conference Board of Canada- Vivo is sharing research learnings over the last five years through a webinar series- translating knowledge into actionable, measurable solutions with individuals, communities and multi-sector collaboration.

We strongly support the Health YYC Initiative and trust that you will seriously consider it for renewal and funding. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you required any further information regarding our support.

Sincerely,



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