



THE CITY OF  
**CALGARY**  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

July 31, 2014

NAHEED K. NENSHI, MAYOR

Honourable Joe Oliver  
Minister of Finance  
Government of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

Mr. James Rajotte  
Chair, Standing Committee on Finance  
Government of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Oliver and Chairperson Rajotte,

I am pleased to present you with The City of Calgary's submission for the Government of Canada's 2015-16 Federal Budget.

The City of Calgary's budget submission focuses on two themes of the pre-budget consultations: supporting families and helping vulnerable Canadians; and ensuring prosperous and secure communities, including through support for infrastructure. Both of these themes recognize the priorities of the Government of Canada while striving to keep the Canadian economy strong and prosperous.

The City of Calgary is seeking federal funding support through the 2015-16 budget in three areas: public transit; disaster recovery, mitigation and resiliency; and affordable housing. The three projects in this submission align with Calgary's priorities and all require additional capital funding to ensure completion.

The City of Calgary's first recommendation is that the Government of Canada support the efficient movement of people, goods and services through funding for the Calgary Transit Green Line project. Public transit is infrastructure of national importance due to its significant economic, social and environmental benefits. The City has committed \$520 million over ten years to the Green Line project and asks the federal government to support this project by committing \$150 million. The Green Line will link the southeast and north central areas of the city with the downtown commercial core.

Calgary Transit has a ridership of over 100 million, and employs more than 3,000 staff. Expanding Calgary's transit system will help keep the economy strong by supporting significant employment opportunities within the city, and allowing easier access to the commercial downtown core for thousands of employees and customers. The Green Line is a priority component of The City of Calgary's

strategic long-range transit plan, *RouteAhead: A Strategic Plan for Transit in Calgary*, and is anticipated to increase annual transit ridership by 41 million. Through funding a portion of the Green Line, the Government of Canada can support Calgary in maintaining its prosperity by facilitating the efficient movement of goods and services throughout the city. Further, the Government of Canada can support families by ensuring everyone has access to fast and efficient public transit allowing them to participate fully in the workforce no matter where in Calgary they reside.

The second area that The City of Calgary is seeking funding for is in disaster recovery, mitigation and resiliency. The City of Calgary appreciates the support provided by the federal and provincial governments in response to the Southern Alberta floods in 2013. As Calgary and its regional neighbours continue to rebuild and recover, Calgary's priority is on strengthening disaster mitigation and resiliency. The City and the Government of Alberta will continue to submit expenses for reimbursement under the current disaster funding programs to the federal government. Timely processing of these expenses is necessary to aid reconstruction.

In addition, The City and the Government of Alberta are evaluating several mitigation projects of substantial scale to protect the region, and would appreciate further federal government assistance in the 2015-16 budget year to strengthen mitigation and resiliency. Collaboration amongst governments is essential to meet our collective responsibilities. The City looks forward to continuing this collaborative approach as finalization of plans occurs to mitigate the risk of future disasters and increase resiliency to such events.

One such project is The City's Community Drainage Improvement program, which will help mitigate the impact of future flooding. The City has committed \$136 million over ten years for this \$204 million program and is seeking an additional \$68 million from the Government of Canada. The program delivers storm water infrastructure upgrades in older communities built before the use of modern drainage techniques and standards. This includes sewer upgrades and storage facilities to reduce or eliminate surface flooding and associated damage to public and private property. In supporting this project, the Government of Canada can support families by helping protect their homes and can help ensure a prosperous and secure community by limiting the economic and social impact of future flooding.

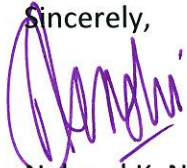
The City of Calgary's final recommendation is that the Government of Canada further demonstrate its commitment to affordable housing through the provision of \$19.5 million to support three new multifamily affordable housing projects. Calgary's growing labour force is straining the existing housing supply, especially the supply of affordable housing. A range of housing is necessary and desirable for economic and social reasons: to attract a sufficient workforce and to enhance the safety, health and welfare of residents. The availability of adequate affordable housing contributes to attracting new workers, creating jobs, meeting the needs of seniors and families, and protecting our most vulnerable citizens.

Through this investment, the Government of Canada can support three new affordable housing projects in Calgary, each valued at \$6.5 million, providing a total of 73 new units. These units will offer a mix of studio, one, two and three bedroom units, allowing the projects to bring new families into existing communities. By making these projects possible, the Government of Canada will be helping support families and the most vulnerable members of the Calgary community.

As Canada continues to enjoy one of the world's strongest economies, Canadians will be encouraging all orders of government to work together to ensure we are able to maintain and enhance our position in the global economy while maintaining the high standard of living in Canada. The City of Calgary understands the challenges faced by the Government of Canada in achieving these goals and looks forward to working with you to ensure Canada remains strong and globally competitive, with a high quality of life.

I sincerely hope that your government will consider the recommendations outlined in our submission. I firmly believe that our recommendations will help enhance the competitiveness of the Canadian economy and the quality of life in Calgary. If you have questions or require further information, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Naheed K. Nenshi  
Mayor

*Thank you for your consideration!*

cc: Calgary Caucus  
Calgary City Council