

# Inner City Coalition

*Of Calgary Society*



## **1. AFFORDABLE, LOW INCOME HOUSING,**

*We believe the City must increase its options for solutions to the housing squeeze.*

### **Issue:**

Amidst the booming city growth, large numbers of Calgarians are homeless or are unable to find adequate housing. Working poor and new immigrants cannot find adequate accommodation for themselves or for their families. Fixed income families are being squeezed out of long standing residences.

### **Background:**

Huge rent increases and condo conversions are seriously decreasing the options for affordable housing for low income households. In Calgary there is a severe shortage of affordable housing as well as inadequate social services to address this problem. The cost of housing affects everyone, but the impact is greatest on the service and support industries. There is a visible increase in the number of working poor and low income families experiencing homelessness.

Other North American cities have established various agencies, authorities, and strategies to provide housing alternatives and social services for needy citizens. San Francisco for example employs a wide range of strategies such as:

- Construction subsidies, rent controls, rent subsidies, required non-market units in each new development, public housing, loan guarantees, conservation districts, tax concessions, etc.

Calgary seems to use very few tools to address affordability and social housing issues.

There is a critical need for housing and social service facilities in Calgary. These facilities need to be located close to existing amenities in order to ensure safe and secure environments for all. The City has dedicated considerable time effort and administrative power assessing, studying, and discussing the issue of affordable housing. Yet there is an increase in the numbers of homeless on the streets, in shelters, some of whom are involved in undesirable activities.

### **QUESTION**

*What policy changes, or practical action such as leveraging existing funding can you initiate for Council to address this issue in the long term and the short term?*

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AN ON-LINE ELECTION FORUM  
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