



Co-operative Housing
Federation of Canada

September 14, 2023

The City of Calgary
800 Macleod Trail S.E.
Calgary, AB
T2G 2M3

Dear Mayor Gondek, Councillors, and members of the Community Development Committee,

On behalf of the Southern Alberta Co-operative Housing Association (SACHA) and the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada (CHF Canada), we would like to express our support for **Item 7.1. – Home is Here: The City of Calgary’s Housing Strategy 2024-2030ⁱ**.

The City of Calgary notes that over 84,600 households are unable to afford their housing. However, Calgary also only has 3.5% of non-market housing in the city, compared to the national average of 6 %ⁱⁱ. It is critical to address the lack of adequate and diverse housing supply – and we must grow the non-market housing availability by building more co-op and non-profit homes. CHF Canada and SACHA are well positioned to collaborate with the City to implement the Housing Strategy’s objectives and achieve the intended five outcomes. For over 50 years, the co-op housing sector has worked with all orders of government and communities across the country to build and maintain vibrant, affordable non-profit housing co-operatives.

For low- and moderate-income Calgarians most impacted by the housing crisis, housing co-ops are an important part of the solution. Co-ops offer an alternative to renting or buying for families, seniors, newcomers, students, young adults, people with disabilities, and others caught in our housing crisis. Co-op housing offers the security of ownership. The co-op model does not allow for an outside landlord who might sell, move in or has an incentive to renovict. That is why we are encouraged to see **Action 1.C.9: “Support co-op housing, co-housing and other alternative housing forms that create cooperative living options to be included in the City of Calgary’s existing programs to support non-market housing”** under *Outcome 1: Increase the supply of housing to meet demand and increase affordability*. With this action, we appreciate that co-ops would then be eligible for existing programs to support non-market housing and future actions under *Objective 1A: Make more City-owned*



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land available for affordable housing in all communities. We look forward to working with the City to see what opportunities may be available for the development of non-market, co-op homes.

As existing housing providers, with some co-op members accessing subsidies, we appreciate Outcome 2's focus on supporting affordable housing providers. In addition, we are happy to echo our support for Outcomes 4 and 5 to ensure a diversity of housing options for Indigenous and equity-deserving populations.

There are currently 16 housing co-ops in the City of Calgary. SACHA has proudly served housing co-operatives in Calgary and Southern Alberta since 1985. The co-op housing sector is ready to be a partner to work with the City to implement this Housing Strategy and to add more affordable housing stock to Calgary. Thank you for including co-ops in the Calgary Housing Strategy and we look forward to future discussions.

Sincerely,

Brenda Davies
Executive Director,
Southern Alberta Co-operative Housing
Association (SACHA)

Maria Vaiaso
Regional Manager, Prairies
Co-operative Housing Federation of
Canada (CHF Canada)

ⁱ [Home is Here: The City of Calgary's Housing Strategy 2024-2030](#)

ⁱⁱ Ibid.