



**Calgary**

Jyoti Gondek, Mayor

February 8, 2024

Honorable Danielle Smith  
Premier of Alberta  
Office of the Premier  
307 Legislature Building  
10800- 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Premier Smith,

**RE: Mental Health and Addictions Strategy Funding**

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The City of Calgary (The City) is strongly aligned with the province in its view that Alberta is experiencing an unprecedented and deadly mental health and addictions crisis and is pleased to see your government's prioritization and investments in the work to support Albertans experiencing its impacts. We recognize that moving the needle on a crisis of this magnitude cannot be done alone, and value the partnerships and collaborative efforts at the municipal and provincial levels.

Here in Calgary, we continue to see those devastating impacts daily, and have responded through Calgary's Mental Health and Addiction Community Strategy and Action Plan. Most recently, Calgary's City Council committed \$6 million in permanent annual funding to create long-term partnerships and help partner organizations tackle this important issue. The goal of this funding is to create hope and strengthen support for Calgarians in three outcome areas: being well, getting help, and staying safe. This program is currently severely oversubscribed, with the last call receiving 96 applications for \$17 million for only \$5 million in funding. Despite Calgary Council's ongoing funding commitment, it's clear that these limited resources cannot provide the fulsome support required to produce the outcomes both The City and province desire.

To reach these outcomes, The City is requesting funding to complement the ongoing municipal efforts underway to address the needs of those struggling with mental health and addiction issues and is eager to continue our conversations to provide more robust and coordinated services to the most vulnerable Albertans when they need it.

We look forward to continuing collaborative efforts, particularly as the new Alberta Health Services Mental Health and Addiction Organization becomes operational and opportunities to coordinate through information sharing becomes available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JG', written in a cursive style.

Jyoti Gondek  
Mayor, The City of Calgary

Cc: Honourable Minister Dan Williams, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions  
Calgary City Council  
David Duckworth, Chief Administrative Officer, The City of Calgary  
Stuart Dalglish, Chief Operating Officer, The City of Calgary  
Chris Arthurs, General Manager People, Innovation and Collaboration Services, The City of Calgary  
Katie Black, General Manager Community Services The City of Calgary