



Calgary

Jyoti Gondek, Mayor

March 27, 2025

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

Dear Premier Smith,

As Mayor of Calgary, it is my responsibility to prioritize the safety and well-being of our residents. Today, I must address a pressing and unresolved concern—the ongoing challenges surrounding the Sheldon Chumir Supervised Consumption Site. These issues continue to affect our community, and the lack of follow-through on promised actions by the provincial government remains a significant concern.

In 2022, your administration committed to transitioning the operations of the Sheldon Chumir site to more suitable locations that would better serve and support our vulnerable populations. This commitment included enhancing resources to address the complex needs related to addiction and mental health, so that Calgarians in need could access more than just supervised consumption services. Unfortunately, these promises have not materialized, and the delay is causing significant concern and distress for impacted individuals and communities.

To be clear, Calgary City Council was assured in 2022 that no closure would happen before an alternative and more comprehensive program was created. The existing facility would continue to offer life-saving service until replacement programs and locations were established. What is the status of those alternative and more comprehensive programs, offering more than just supervised consumption support?

Furthermore, it has been months since you announced in the Globe and Mail on November 11, 2024 a plan to consult the community about the future of this site. Yet, we are still waiting for these promises to turn into action. The time to move forward is now. We must expedite our efforts and transition to a better way, an initiative that was outlined more than two years ago. Every day we delay, the safety and well-being of Calgarians – both residents and visitors to the Beltline and Calgarians that use the site – are increasingly at risk.

It has also been suggested that Calgary City Council must provide you with a motion indicating that we wish to see an alternative program of care. Such a motion would have absolutely no standing and is simply politicking, as we lack the jurisdictional authority to direct your government. We agree that the existing supervised consumption site does not offer the more comprehensive programs that are needed. It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions to make the required changes.

Therefore, I urgently request a meeting with you to secure the formation of a working group consisting of both City and Provincial representatives. This group would be tasked with implementing the long-promised solutions and ensuring that the transition of services happens swiftly and smoothly.

Your leadership is crucial at this juncture. We need more than temporary measures or further consultations—we need concrete action and a clear timeline for implementation that reflects our shared commitment to the community.

Let us demonstrate to Calgarians that their governments can collaborate and work swiftly and decisively to resolve critical issues. I am ready to work closely with your office to initiate this essential work without further delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jyoti Gondek', written in a cursive style.

Jyoti Gondek
Mayor, The City of Calgary

CC: Dan Williams, Minister of Mental Health and Addition