



September 5, 2023

The City of Calgary
Office of the Councillors (8001)
P.O. Box 2100, Station M
Calgary, AB, T2P 2M5

Dear Calgary City Council,

Calgary, like many municipalities in Canada, is facing an affordability crisis. The cost of housing, which is typically the largest household expense, is rising. Council has a critical opportunity to lay the groundwork for a more affordable Calgary with the recommendations before you on housing affordability. As employers from one of Alberta's largest sectors, CCVO and nonprofit partners urge bold action to keep Calgary affordable.

Employees in our sector face growing vulnerability. The nonprofit sector in Alberta employs nearly 300,000 (or 1/20) Albertans, who provide essential services to communities ranging from healthcare, education, arts, sports, and environment. Our workforce is made up of 78% women, 47% immigrants, and 36% visible minorities, with salaries averaging \$51,544 - compared to the Alberta all-sector average of \$61,045. Our sector cannot afford to delay action on affordability.

Housing affordability directly affects nonprofits' capacity to perform essential work across Calgary and Alberta. We cannot have a thriving nonprofit sector, a thriving business sector, a thriving arts sector, a thriving hospitality sector, and ultimately a thriving Calgary if workers have nowhere to live. Immediate action must be taken to ensure that Calgary is an affordable place to live for decades to come to protect our local economy, support workforce retention and recruitment, and maintain the Alberta Advantage.

Current trends are concerning. Mortgages and rents in Calgary are skyrocketing as demand far outpaces supply. The average rent in our city increased a shocking 22% in the last year, while home prices are increasing the fastest in the nation.

You have the rare opportunity to support our nonprofit workforce and dramatically change the future of Calgary for the better. On September 14, please accept the recommendations from the Housing and Affordability Take Force and keep Calgary affordable for the workers who keep our sector alive and well.

Sincerely,