



'Affordable transportation for all'

Fair Calgary Community Voices Recommendation to City Council Regarding the Sliding Scale November 2019

Fair Calgary Community Voices (FCCV) is a collaborative of citizens living on low-income, community organizers, and service providers advocating for affordable, accessible transportation for all. We are part of larger initiatives that work on poverty reduction and building strong communities. We are encouraged that City Council has adopted the principle of "do the least harm" for its 2019-2022 budget adjustments.

The Sliding Scale did something that has never happened before. It mobilized more than 67,000 people who are living in poverty, allowing them to purchase a reliable, predictable pass so they could secure work and remain employed, access much needed programs and services, visit family and friends and attend places of worship.

FCCV believes that the recommended fare increases to the Sliding Scale will cause harm to people struggling to live below the poverty line. For people who qualify for Band A (living on less than \$12,000.00 per year) it will mean a 250% increase. The proposed increases to all bands will once again put a transit pass out of reach for most people living in poverty. When we shared the proposed increases to the sliding scale with the community, there was concern that they could no longer afford the pass if these increases were implemented, or that they would have to take from their already limited income so they could afford the pass at the new price.

FCCV is very pleased that the Province of Alberta has renewed its funding partnership with the City of Calgary by providing \$4.5 million for the Sliding Scale. The City of Calgary and the community advocated strongly to the Province to continue their funding for the Sliding Scale and now the community is asking the City to renew their portion of this funding.

**FCCV is Calling on the City
to Match the Province's \$4.5 million Contribution to the Sliding Scale.
Additionally, we are requesting that the City invest \$2.0 million
to make up the shortfall in the program,
in order to avoid unaffordable increases to the Sliding Scale.**

In 2017 the City and Province partnered together to create the Sliding Scale, sharing the social responsibility for this important program. We believe a continued funding partnership would be a promising step forward and could open the door to other social funding partnerships between the City and Province such as affordable housing initiatives.

Respectfully Submitted
Disability Action Hall
Fair Fares
Hilary Chapple - Client Action Committee
(Calgary Homeless Foundation)

The Alex
East Village Seniors Association
Enough for All
Vibrant Communities Calgary
Calgary Ability Network

