

# Quarterly update on the progress of Enough for All, Calgary's community-driven poverty reduction strategy.



# REFLECTIONS

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SPRING 2019

## Embracing Enough for All 2.0

“We are there. We support and will advance Enough for All 2.0 in our work”, Carlene Donnelly noted, when Franco Savoia, Executive Director of Vibrant Communities Calgary (VCC), approached her about formally committing to aligning their work at CUPS with the strategy.

Carlene Donnelly, Executive Director of CUPS, was the first to sign a CUPS/Enough for All 2.0 shared value agreement. It outlines a commitment to publicly acknowledge the alignment of its work with the mental health lever of change and to advance policy and system changes through the Calgary Social Policy Collaborative, to share one or two of its current metrics of the impact of their programs and to over time live out the principles outlined in the strategy. In so doing, CUPS has become a champion of the strategy. The strategy invites all organizations and collaboratives to consider becoming strategy champions.

The following have become champions and signed shared value agreements: the YW Calgary, The City of Calgary, The United Way of Calgary and Area, The First Two Thousand Days Network, Calgary Learns, The Women's Centre, the Burns Memorial Fund,

Community Housing and Affordability Collective (CHAC), Momentum, Aspire (Financial Empowerment) and the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good.

Others are in the process of developing shared value agreements with Enough for All including Fiasco Gelato, The Justice Sector Constellation, Telus Spark, and the YMCA Calgary.

Becoming an Enough for All strategy champion acknowledges that the programs, services and efforts are aligned with the strategy in realizing the three goals, the 10 levers of change and living out the nine principles as the work is carried out.

The Enough for All champions will convene semi-annually to review population data from Stats Canada and their community-level data and monitor progress on the strategy.

Everyone is invited to join these early champions of Enough for All. Contact VCC at [info@vibrantcalgary.com](mailto:info@vibrantcalgary.com).



Photo: Rob McMorris Photography. Left to right: Karen Young, Cathy Williams, Councillor Shane Keating and Jeff Loomis.

## Enough for All 2.0, a refreshed strategy

Enough for All, Calgary's community-driven poverty reduction strategy has undergone a refresh and has evolved to be Enough for All 2.0. Since its inception in 2013, hundreds of Calgarians and many organizations have been a part of reducing poverty in our city. Yet, poverty is the day-to-day reality of more than 120,000 Calgarians. To reduce poverty in Calgary in a meaningful and measurable way, it will be necessary for citizens, community organizations, businesses and governments to come together and act.

The original strategy was developed through extensive community consultation in 2012-2013. It was adopted unanimously by City Council and the United Way of Calgary and Area's Board of Directors in 2013. Since then, there have been many organizations and hundreds of people actively engaged in the implementation of Enough for All. Vibrant Communities Calgary (VCC) was appointed the steward of the strategy to act as a backbone organization to guide the implementation of the strategy - with the community remaining its collective 'owner'. The City of Calgary and United Way are active partners in this work who fund the implementation

of the strategy, align their work to its goals, and collaborate closely to reduce poverty in our city.

"Since 2013 when the Enough for All strategy was developed, there have been significant changes in the social and economic landscape in our community," said Franco Savoia, Executive Director of Vibrant Communities Calgary. "For example, citizens have experienced the effects of a significant fall in the price of oil, an increase in unemployment rates, and a persistent downturn in the economy."

In the past five years, progress has also been made by many community organizations, as well as all

levels of government. For example, the provincial government has introduced the Alberta Child Benefit, increased and indexed income support programs to the cost of living, and the federal government released Canada's first national poverty reduction strategy to name a few.

A 10-member steering committee coordinated the refresh process. With the active support and input of the City, the United Way and Momentum as our Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) partners, the committee undertook a four-phase engagement process with the community that led to the creation of Enough for All 2.0. This process was completed by the end of December and we released the refreshed strategy on March 21, 2019, in the atrium outside of the chamber of City Hall.

Enough for All 2.0 is a refreshed strategy that takes into account the learning and developments since the strategy was first developed.

The vision of the strategy is 'a community where there is enough for all'. The mission of the strategy is to create opportunities to align and leverage the work of hundreds of organizations and thousands of Calgarians to reduce poverty in our city. It has an aspirational target of reducing Calgary's 2015 poverty level by 30 per cent by 2023.

The focus of the refreshed strategy is to leverage the great work underway by many organizations and hundreds of committed staff by intentionally and publicly acknowledge their commitment to the strategy. Thus far, 11 have signed shared value agreements. They represent all sectors: funders, business, social agencies and collaboratives. We anticipate that many more will align with the strategy.

Advancing the objectives of the strategy will include three goals:

- All Calgarians live in a strong, supportive and inclusive community
- All Calgarians have sufficient income and assets to thrive
- All Indigenous People are equal participants in Calgary's future

and 10 levers of Change: Adult literacy and foundational learning, Early learning and care, Employment, Financial empowerment, Food security, Housing, Income support, Justice, Physical and mental health, and Transportation. These will serve as foci for much of the great work and energy in programs, services and policy and advocacy in our community. The synergy created by focusing on the goals and levers will move the needle in reducing poverty.

Collaboratives, organizations, and individuals are encouraged over time to deepen and strengthen their work by living and modelling nine principles: Promoting shared leadership; Engaging voices of people with lived experience of poverty; Focusing on dignity for All; Increasing multi-sectoral engagement; Employing trauma-informed approaches; Mobilizing awareness and empathy of inter-generational trauma; Reducing racism, discrimination, and promoting diversity; Offering relevant, accessible, timely supports and services; and Implementing the 94 calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

E4A 2.0 actively invites collaboratives, organizations, networks, businesses and individuals to connect with the three goals and 10 levers of change. They are encouraged to develop shared value agreements between their work and the strategy.

In each shared value agreement, a collaborative/organization/business/or an individual can:

- Publicly affirms one's commitment to end poverty and align with E4A 2.0
- Document one's work on how it aligns with the strategy's goals and levers of change and commit to sharing some of the qualitative and/or quantitative measures that are currently being collected
- Share in annual conversations to review and understand the work and to fashion a community-wide narrative on the progress in reducing poverty.

Savoia, notes, "That there are unlimited opportunities for everyone to get engaged on this continuing journey to make poverty a thing of the past in our city and province."

Visit [www.enoughforall.ca/strategy](http://www.enoughforall.ca/strategy) to download a copy of **Enough for All 2.0**.

# A renewed memorandum of agreement for Enough for All

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A three-year memorandum of agreement (MOA) between The City of Calgary, the United Way of Calgary and Area, Momentum, and Vibrant Communities Calgary was signed at a special celebration on Wednesday, May 22, 2019.

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It is a renewal of the current MOA that ends on December 31, 2019. Karen Young, President and CEO of United Way of Calgary and Area, Cathy Williams, Board Chair of Vibrant Communities Calgary, Shane Keating, City of Calgary Councillor, and Jeff Loomis, Executive Director of Momentum were present for the signing.

The MOA commits the four partners to support the Enough for All 2.0 strategy through their active engagement in the realizations of the strategy and to provide the necessary funds to Vibrant Communities Calgary to steward and guide its implementation.

Enough for All, Calgary's 10-year community-driven poverty reduction strategy was adopted unanimously by City Council and the United Way of Calgary and Area in 2013. Vibrant Communities Calgary has been guiding its implementation since January 2015. In light of the economic downturn and the social policy developments such as the Alberta Child Benefit, the strategy was refreshed in 2018. Enough for All 2.0 takes the original strategy to its conclusion in 2023.

Implementation of the strategy is in partnership with the community and jointly supported and funded by The City of Calgary and United Way of Calgary and Area. Vibrant Communities Calgary will continue its role as the backbone organization stewarding the implementation of the strategy.

The mission of the strategy is to create opportunities to align and leverage the work of hundreds of organizations and thousands of Calgarians to reduce poverty in our city.

By harnessing the collective power of Calgarians the strategy has an aspirational target of reducing Calgary's 2015 poverty level by 30 per cent by 2023.

"Poverty hurts us all. We all must fight hard, together, every single day, to meaningfully reduce poverty in Calgary," said Mayor Naheed Nenshi. "This strategy was created by the community, and now it's been refreshed by the community to address the changing world we find ourselves in. All

Calgarians have a role to play to make the Enough for All strategy a success. Today we are reaffirming our commitment to making that vision a reality."

"The refreshed Enough for All strategy, and our combined commitment to this, presents a greater opportunity to align as partners with the community on issues that affect us all," said Jeff Loomis, Executive Director of Momentum.

"The signing of this refreshed Memorandum of Agreement represents our ongoing commitment to reducing poverty across our city," said Karen Young, President & CEO of United Way of Calgary and Area. "With 1 in 10 Calgarians currently living in poverty, we are working together to positively impact the lives of those who are unable to meet their basic needs. Poverty limits peoples' abilities to fully participate in the economic, social, and political life of our communities. It not only affects the people touched by it; it represents lost potential and opportunity for our entire community."

"Collectively as a city we have come to understand the impact of collaboration, said Franco Savoia, Executive Director of Vibrant Communities Calgary. "Many leaders and stakeholders have identified the need to work differently. We are at an exciting moment to collaborate and deepen our work and effectiveness in making poverty a thing of the past in our community."

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for all

## Partnership Commitment

"This strategy is a call to action to join together to meaningfully impact the lives of Calgarians who cannot meet their basic needs."  
- Enough for All research consultation participant

On this day, we celebrate the continued commitment to the Enough for All poverty reduction strategy.  
We the undersigned hereby agree to uphold our commitment to the citizens of Calgary to work collaboratively across the community to reduce poverty. The Enough for All strategy will continue to guide us as we seek to leverage our combined leadership to tackle poverty in Calgary.

  
Naheed Nenshi  
Mayor of Calgary




  
Karen Young  
President CEO  
University of Calgary



  
Jeff Looney  
Executive Director  
Momentum



  
Cathy Williams  
Board Chair  
Vibrant Communities Calgary



### About The City of Calgary

The City of Calgary works to make life better every day and help ensure that Calgary is a great place to make a living, and a great place to make a life. This only works if Calgary is great for everyone. When some members of our communities don't have the support and resources they need to thrive, the impact and loss are born by the whole community. The City of Calgary supports a variety of initiatives that allow people experiencing vulnerabilities to access improved support and resources and is proud to be a key partner and funder of the Enough for All poverty reduction strategy. Visit [Calgary.ca](http://Calgary.ca) to learn more about the work of The City.

### About Momentum

Momentum is a change-making organization that combines social and economic strategies to reduce poverty. We use a holistic approach that covers everything from financial literacy, entrepreneurship and skills training, to developing communication skills, and building self-confidence. At Momentum, everything we do is grounded in a community economic development model, which means we work with individuals, businesses and systems to build a more inclusive local economy. For more information, please visit [www.momentum.org](http://www.momentum.org).

### About United Way of Calgary and Area

United Way of Calgary and Area brings together donors, corporations, agencies, and government to solve complex issues and improve the lives of more than 150,000 people every year. Since 1940, United Way has supported agencies that assist vulnerable Calgarians. Today, United Way invests in programs and collaborations with common outcomes, brings people together to coordinate systems change, and designs solutions that address root causes to create lasting social change. Collectively, this work deepens community impact. For more information, please visit [www.calgaryunitedway.org](http://www.calgaryunitedway.org).

### About Vibrant Communities Calgary

Vibrant Communities Calgary (VCC) is a non-profit organization seeking to engage Calgarians to advocate for long-term strategies that address the root causes of poverty in Calgary. VCC is also the steward of Enough for All, Calgary's poverty reduction strategy. For more information, please visit [www.vibrantcalgary.com](http://www.vibrantcalgary.com) and [www.enoughforall.ca](http://www.enoughforall.ca).

# Make it B.I.G., a conference about Basic Income Guarantee

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On May 30 and 31, 2019, the Make It B.I.G. Public Forum and Conference took place at the New Central Library in downtown Calgary and brought together community groups from across the province together as part of a movement to advocate for a basic income guarantee in Alberta.

Hosted by Basic Income Calgary and the Cumming School of Medicine's O'Brien Institute for Public Health at the University of Calgary, the event was the first of its kind in Calgary.

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## The Basic Income Banquet at The Alex Community Food Centre

The Basic Income Banquet was a pre-conference event that took place at The Alex Community Food Centre (4920 17 Ave SE). The Alex Community Food Centre (CFC) offers food access, food skills and education and engagement programs in a dignified and welcoming space for people to come together to grow, cook, share and advocate for good food for all.

Registered conference attendees arrived at the CFC by way of public transit to share a meal and get to know other attendees while participating in a world café. The banquet was intended to inspire thought about the connections between food insecurity and income insecurity.

Chef Bethel Tesfay of The Alex CFC and Chef Andrew Hewson of SAIT designed a three-course meal. When the appetizers came out, a lucky few participants received a salmon carpaccio, some received salads, many received tinned soup and boxed pasta, and a few were given a high-calorie energy drink and a granola bar. As people at tables decided what to do with their appetizer – some happily ate what they got, some shared, others were frustrated that their food sensitivities were not being respected – Chef Hewson explained that the menu items were selected to represent what a person might eat based on their income levels. A lack of income means a limited selection of what a person can afford at the grocery store, even if people are informed about nutrition and have the skills to cook nutritious meals.

A main course representative of Canada's Healthy Food Guide followed the income disparity appetizer. Every participant's dietary needs were respected, and the equitable plate was comprised of fresh, nutrient-dense ingredients. As participants continued to eat, they reflected on the necessity of a basic income in ensuring that all Albertans have fair access to good food. The afternoon finished off with a delicious dessert of poached pear with almond butter and chocolate drizzle, and participants left feeling nourished and ready to learn from the keynote speakers.

## About the Alex Community Food Centre (CFC)

The CFC provides three drop-in meals a week; community members enjoy a meal with their neighbours, served restaurant style. They host an affordable produce market on Monday evenings, during dinner.

CFC also offers food and garden skills programs. People learn hands-on cooking and gardening skills and get a chance to get their hands dirty in the garden and in the kitchen in ways that expand their taste buds as well as help them make healthier food choices.

Their focus on education and engagement supports learning, civic engagement and encourages connection. Community members can take action on the issues that affect them and find friends and support. Additional programs include Community Action Training, Youth Social Justice Hub, Peer Advocacy, resident-led events and initiatives.

- More than 12,000 meals are served per year - 88% of participants surveyed said the CFC meals included important sources of nutritious food
- Over 200 food skills sessions delivered - 86% of participants surveyed said they learned new skills
- Over 200 community members gained support from Peer Advocates - 75% found the help they needed
- 93% said they feel they belong to the community
- Over half of their program participants become volunteers

For more information, visit [www.thealexafc.ca](http://www.thealexafc.ca).

### Make It B.I.G. Public Forum

Thursday evening's Public Forum started with a keynote address by Dr. Evelyn Forget, PhD, followed by a fireside chat with Dr. Forget and Dr. Lynn McIntyre, MD.

Dr. Evelyn Forget is an economist and professor in Community Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba. She is best known for her work on Basic Income, which includes a re-analysis of the "Mincome Basic Income Experiment" that took place in Manitoba during the 1970s. She has published widely and often advises governments, international bodies, and First Nations on health policy. Her most recent book is "Basic Income for Canadians: the key to a healthier, happier, more secure life for all".

In her address Forget pointed out, many people are finding themselves in situations where they are working multiple jobs, but still struggle to make ends meet. Basic income, she says, will help fill that gap.

"Basic income will address the deep pockets of poverty that still persist in Canada," says Forget. "It will also offer economic security for all of us who work in a rapidly changing economy, in which even jobs that used to be considered stable are vulnerable to off-shoring or technological change."

Dr. Lynn McIntyre is Professor Emerita of Community Health Sciences in the Department of Community Health Sciences, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary. She retired from her active faculty position in November 2015, however she continues to be involved in research and in population health advancement.

Dr. McIntyre holds both a medical degree and a master's degree in Community Health and Epidemiology from the University of Toronto. She is also a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada in Public Health and Preventive Medicine, and a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.

Her research is focused on policies that reduce household food insecurity - inadequate access to food due to financial constraint. This has led her to evaluate the role of seniors' pensions as a model of Basic Income and its effects on health, mental health, and food insecurity. She also serves as a member of the Advisory Council of the Basic Income Canada Network.

"We have to address poverty differently and providing people with a sufficient income would significantly improve the condition of Alberta's most vulnerable," says McIntyre.

"There has been tremendous progress in reducing child and senior poverty in Canada through various income support programs," says McIntyre. "However, we are still seeing high rates of poverty among 18 to 64-year-olds. This is the last chink in the armor of persistent poverty in Canada."

After the fireside chat, a panel discussion took place with Dr. Forget, Dr. McIntyre and Mary Salvani.

Mary Salvani graduated from St. Mary University's Humanities 101 program in Calgary, a program designed to help adults living in poverty who have experienced barriers to education gain university-level education. Two years ago, she transferred into the Bachelor of Liberal Studies program with a minor in history as a part-time student. This Fall, Mary Salvani will be transferring into the Bachelor of Arts in Social Justice and Catholic studies at St. Mary's University.

Salvani defines herself as a human rights advocate and has firsthand experience with Assured Income For The Severely Handicap (AISH). As part of her educational journey, she has been exploring various social justice issues and has both written and presented on the topic of Basic Income.

"Social assistance programs such as Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) or Alberta Works, while somewhat helpful, also hinder people from feeling included as full citizens in society because benefit levels aren't enough to live on," says Salvani, herself an AISH recipient.

Basic income is an opportunity to provide not just money, but dignity, to those on the receiving end according to Salvani.

Most importantly, a basic income would allow everyone to participate fully in society, which offsets some of the deep divisions created by increasing income inequality.

When asked why she wanted to participate in the panel discussion, her response was, “I think it’s important for people to learn about what basic income is so they can talk about it with their family, friends and colleagues. I also think it’s important to break the stigmas and myths related to what society thinks of people with disabilities and people living in poverty”.

### Make It B.I.G. Conference

On Friday, May 31, 2019, the conference started with a Keynote address by Sheila Regehr.

Sheila Regehr is a founding member of the Basic Income Canada Network and its Chairperson since 2014. She is also a former Executive Director of the National Council of Welfare, an independent advisory body to the federal government that published comparative reports on Canada’s provincial and territorial social assistance systems, comprehensive poverty profiles, and analytic reports focused on solutions. It consulted across the country with governments and civil society from 2006 to 2012 as provinces, territories and municipalities were undertaking poverty reduction strategies. Its last and most in-demand report was “The Dollars and Sense of Solving Poverty”.

Sheila’s 29-year career in the federal public service also spanned front-line work, policy analysis and development and senior management. She was a Canadian negotiator at several United Nations world conferences on gender equality and social development, and chaired UN negotiations on poverty and on unpaid work. Her areas of policy expertise include income security and taxation, such as child tax benefits, the tax treatment of child

support, the development of Economic Gender Equality Indicators in collaboration with Statistics Canada, maternity/parental benefits and pensions. Sheila’s insight also comes from experiencing poverty herself as a young parent.

In the afternoon, breakout sessions and workshops took place with topics including:

- Health and income – exploring the connections
- The future of work
- System Mapping (Mapping Alberta’s Basic Income Ecosystem)
- Building a policy strategy and policy ask towards a basic income approach for Alberta
- Tools for creating your local basic income Alberta network

The conference concluded with closing remarks from Yvonne Stanford and Brian Dodd, Co-chairs of Basic Income Calgary with the invitation to join the follow-up conference call on June 20th to start an Alberta wide movement.



*Basic Income Calgary is an action group of the Basic Income Canada Network and an Enough for All stakeholder. Basic Income Calgary’s goals align with Enough for All, Calgary’s poverty reduction strategy, and the growing national movement for a basic income guarantee.*

*The Cumming School of Medicine’s O’Brien Institute for Public Health at the University of Calgary supports excellence in population health and health services research, while realizing the benefits of such research by using that knowledge to inform community, policy and health practice stakeholders. The Institute’s membership includes more than 500 multidisciplinary researchers from 13 Cumming School of Medicine departments, nine additional University of Calgary faculties, including Nursing, Veterinary Medicine, Kinesiology and Arts; health professionals in Alberta Health Services; and, research users and policymakers from municipal and provincial institutions.*

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#### About Enough for All:

Calgary’s community-driven poverty reduction strategy was adopted unanimously by City Council and the United Way of Calgary and Area’s Board of Directors in 2013. In 2014, Vibrant Communities Calgary was appointed as the steward of the strategy.

Enough for All needs all of us, from every sector, working together to succeed! Organizations and individuals are welcome to contact us to get involved. For more information, visit [enoughforall.ca](http://enoughforall.ca) or contacting [info@vibrantcalgary.com](mailto:info@vibrantcalgary.com)