

How Community Associations Create a **VIBRANT CITY**

Community Associations in Calgary play a crucial role in fostering vibrant, complete communities and supporting the concept of the 15-minute city—where residents can access essential services, recreation, and social opportunities within a short walk or bike ride from home. Their infrastructure and programming are vital for several reasons:

STRENGTHEN SOCIAL COHESION & COMMUNITY IDENTITY

- Community associations provide gathering spaces where residents can connect, reducing social isolation and strengthening neighborhood bonds.
- Local events, such as farmers' markets, cultural festivals, and seasonal celebrations, help build a sense of identity and belonging.

SUPPORTING AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE RECREATION

- Many community associations offer low-cost or free programs, such as fitness classes, kids' camps, and seniors' activities, making recreation accessible to all income levels.
- As Calgary grows, access to affordable recreational spaces ensures equity in who can participate in healthy, active living.

ENHANCING WALKABILITY & REDUCING TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS

- In a 15-minute city, residents should not need to drive to access essential services, including recreation.
- Well-utilized community hubs allow people to walk or bike to programs rather than relying on cars or long transit commutes.

PROVIDING AFFORDABLE RENTAL SPACES FOR LOCAL GROUPS & BUSINESSES

- Community halls serve as affordable venues for local businesses, support groups, and cultural organizations.
- They provide space for childcare, educational workshops, and local entrepreneurs, which enhances neighborhood vibrancy.

ALIGNING WITH THE GOALS OF "COMPLETE COMMUNITIES"

- The City of Calgary's planning framework emphasizes the need for mixed-use, walkable neighborhoods where people can live, work, and play in close proximity.
- Community Associations are natural anchors in this vision, providing both physical spaces and essential programming that contribute to a well-rounded, resilient urban environment.

SUPPORTING EQUITY & INCLUSION

- Many community associations cater to diverse populations, including newcomers, seniors, and marginalized groups.
- They often fill service gaps by providing culturally relevant programming that might not be available through city-run facilities.

Be Part of It! Join your community association today!