



calgary homeless foundation

Annual Report 1998



*"Homelessness is not generic, it has many forms; old homeless, young homeless
mentally ill homeless, aboriginal homeless, addicted homeless,
and women in distress to name a few."*

Arthur R. Smith, President, Calgary Homeless Foundation

MISSION STATEMENT

The Foundation will:

- I. Search for short and long term affordable housing to accommodate the homeless.
- II. Promote public understanding of the many dimensions of the homeless problem in our city.
- III. Serve as a complimentary force to the many organizations engaged in the daily work with the homeless.
- IV. Assist in the implementation of the Community Action Plan (CAP).
- V. Provide synergy amongst government, business, community interests, service providers and faith communities.
- VI. Raise such funds as may be necessary to achieve the objectives of the CAP recommendation.
- VII. In recognition that the homeless problem is not short term, to establish a Foundation in place permanently or until the problem is resolved.



calgary homeless foundation



Sponsors Honourable Ralph Klein, *Premier of Alberta*, Mayor Al Duerr, *City of Calgary*,
John Ballheim, *President, Calgary Chamber of Commerce*, Cathy Williams *Chairman, United Way of Calgary*



February 10, 1999

Board of Directors
Calgary Homeless Foundation
Main Floor, 455 - 6th Street S.W.
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 4E8

Dear Board Members:

The Calgary Homeless Foundation is a visible example of the valuable contribution made by volunteers in the charitable and non-profit sectors of this province.

Your work aimed at alleviating the homeless problem in Calgary and surrounding area is both noble and worthy.

Our government is pleased to support the Foundation in its tremendous efforts. We are confident your work will bring long-lasting benefits to the community.

Sincerely,

Patricia L. Nelson
Minister of Economic Development

Minister Responsible for the
Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission

425 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 2B6 Telephone 403/427-3162 Fax 403/422-6338

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THE CITY OF CALGARY
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

December 10, 1998



Mr. Arthur Smith, President and Chief Executive Officer
Calgary Homeless Foundation
455 - 6 Street SW
Calgary AB T2P 4E8

Dear Mr. Smith:

The purpose of this correspondence is to acknowledge to you as President of the Calgary Homeless Foundation that The City of Calgary, in conjunction with the Homeless Foundation, will expend in excess of two million dollars in terms of funds, lands and services in the period 1998 - 1999 on jointly sponsored homeless initiatives. Furthermore, The City of Calgary fully intends to continue to focus its resources and efforts on initiatives over the oncoming years so as to realize a noticeable and significant improvement in this significant social and moral challenge.

Sincerely,

Al Duerr
MAYOR

Paul A. Dawson
CHIEF COMMISSIONER

P.O. BOX 2100, STATION M, CALGARY, ALBERTA T2P 2M5 • TELEPHONE (403) 268-5622 • FAX (403) 268-8130



MESSAGE from The President & CEO

March 15, 1999

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my pleasure to submit the first Annual Report to the sponsors on behalf of the Calgary Homeless Foundation as required by our articles of incorporation.

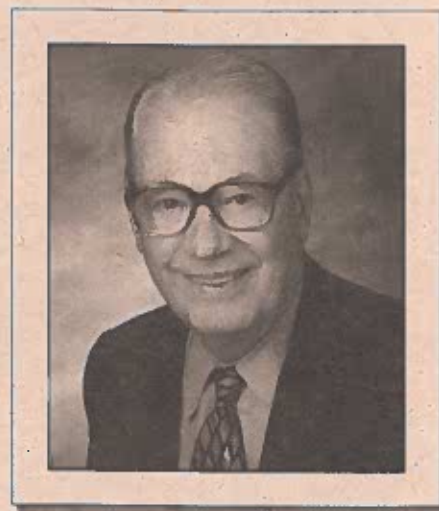
ORGANIZATION:

The inaugural meeting of the Foundation was held at McDougall Centre, Calgary on March 25th 1998, whereat an interim Board was established and the writer was elected as President. The term of our office was not to exceed one year.

From the beginning of our life, it was important to assure that we functioned with the lowest possible overhead so that any donations received could be delivered to the homeless cause without a discounted value. We therefore acknowledge with gratitude, the Provincial Government who provided us with office space, furniture and the services of our Coordinator; and the operational seed money contributed by the City of Calgary. We are also indebted to a number of private companies and the Calgary Real Estate Board Charitable Foundation for their early support.

Our first order of business was to adopt the concept of a partnership with the Provincial and Municipal governments and the private sector and at our June 9th meeting, we identified a mandate, described elsewhere in this report. On September 4th, 1998 we received our Certificate of Incorporation under the Alberta Societies Act. To complete our organization, we appointed an Advisory Council under the chairmanship of a well respected jurist, which have been commissioned to monitor the progress of the Foundation and to recommend new directions for the Board.

With the advice of Revenue Canada that it would take up to a year to receive a charitable number for receipting



donations to the Foundation, we encountered our first problem. We entered into discussions with the United Way of Calgary with the prospect of employing their charitable tax number, however this arrangement was not satisfactory to either party, so we searched for other alternatives. Fortunately, the City of Calgary offered to provide us with this important service for the interim period until we receive our own charitable number.

FINANCE

At the request of the Honorable Patricia L. Nelson, Minister Responsible for the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission, the Provincial Lottery Board has provided us with a grant of two million dollars. These funds have now been deposited to our account.

The City of Calgary has committed to the Foundation, a similar contribution of two million dollars and we expect much of this commitment will be delivered through goods and services.

We commenced a fund raising campaign in late November, 1998 and received donations of approximately one hundred thousand dollars from private sector sources. We have now embarked on an aggressive campaign in 1999 and expect to raise one million dollars from the private sector during the current year.

OPERATIONS

During the formation of the Foundation, we recognized that the homeless designation was not a generic description and that this unfortunate group of people could be identified in many diverse categories. In order to address the problem immediately, we

established a program which would lend money to well screened applicants so that they had relief from the initial financial burden of entering the rental market. By loaning funds to pay the security deposit required by landlords, we have been able to assist fifty families to become tenants and thus remove them from the homeless designation. We believe this plan is the first of its kind in Canada and while its application is limited to the working poor, it does much to restore hope to the people who qualify.

Our program considered transitional housing for the homeless our next priority. Transitional housing is short-term accommodation which a family might access before they are able to move into permanent or longer term housing. In this category we have funded two projects in the sum of \$330,000 which will provide thirty-one transitional units including two units for larger families.

A sizeable number of the homeless population in Calgary is young people who sometimes become forgotten in the milieu of our social environment. To assist these young people, we successfully brokered a building provided by the Alberta Department of Public Works to Woods Homes, a Calgary agency that desperately required a location for a shelter for runaway and homeless teens.

As a further support to young people, we have committed \$50,000 in matching funds to the Boys and Girls Club of Calgary to assist them in building a home for young women at risk, and will continue our search playing some role in helping our young homeless.

Our major project assistance is now in the final stage of approval before a sizeable monetary grant will be awarded; a \$500,000 commitment to the Salvation Army, which will allow the construction of a further floor to their recently approved facility, providing seventy additional units.

Aside from these accommodation projects, we have been of some assistance to agencies and others in the field who have experienced difficulties with government bureaucracy. We continue to remind ourselves that we were formed to assist these energetic people who have been engaged in helping the homeless for years and not to replace or become a substitute for them.

CONCLUSION:

It has been said by others that the Foundation's accomplishments over a few months represent a credible performance. However to those of us engaged in this work, we realize that we have only just begun. To put into perspective how big the challenge remains,

we can illustrate the dimension of this human tragedy by quoting a few numbers.

The City of Calgary's estimate of 3,800 homeless in 1997/1998 has increased by 10% this year according to the principle agencies that care for them. With an expected net migration into Calgary by the year 2001 of 74,000 people, the homeless total will only become larger.

It is a distress to the Foundation that in spite of our success in finding solutions for some homeless people, we are actually losing ground to the number of people who are hurting.

What the public must understand is that the absence of a roof, let alone a home for these people is that any hope for social recovery for them is completely destroyed, with the result that over forty deaths of homeless persons were recorded last year.

The Foundation has had small successes, but in the coming years, we must devote more attention to emergency shelter and the plight of many of our First Nation peoples. Added to these priorities, is the inescapable need to provide affordable housing for the poor, many of whom are homeless or survive just above the poverty line. The task is too large for the Foundation, but we can serve as a catalyst with all governments in addressing this problem.

We must also continue in our endeavor to persuade our citizens that the homeless for the most part, are people who have just been left behind in our prosperity and that regarding them as second class citizens will only serve to diminish their hope to achieve a future.

Perhaps the most important accomplishment of the Foundation is its very existence. It will be in business tomorrow, next year, and I suspect we will require its services for generations yet to come. To that end, we will take pride in watching it's list of accomplishments grow.

It is with considerable gratitude that I thank all the Directors, Advisory Council members and members of Standing Committees for their contribution to the homeless cause, and a special thanks to our Coordinator, Ms. Sharyn Brown for keeping us all moving in the same direction.

Respectfully submitted

Arthur R. Smith, C.M. D.F.C.
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Members of the Board

Mr Arthur Smith, C.M., DFC
President and Chief Executive Officer
Calgary Homeless Foundation
Senior Consultant to the Management,
SNC-Lavalin

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President, Currie Consulting Ltd.

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Chief Commissioner
City of Calgary

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Former Chair
United Way of Calgary

Mr Bob Hawkesworth
Alderman
City of Calgary

"I see the downside of the boom: It is drawing people here and we're
not in a position to deal with it."

Carole Oliver, Director,
Calgary Salvation Army Regional Services,
from The Globe and Mail, August 4, 1998

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Joynt Communications

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University of Calgary

Ms Kay Wong
Social Planner
Community and Social Development
Department
City of Calgary



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Judge
Provincial Court of Alberta

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Calgary Drop-In Center

Dr Karen Blasé
Executive Director
Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter

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Bow Valley College

Mr Randy Diddams
Executive Director
Exit Community Outreach

Mr Michael Going
Director
Calgary Downtown Association

Deputy Chief Rick Hanson
Bureau of Community Policing
Calgary Police Service

Mr Ralph Hubele, Leader
Specialized Housing
Community Health Resources
Calgary Regional Health Authority

Mr Myron Kanik
President, Canadian Energy Pipeline
association

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Calgary Board of Education

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The Mustard Seed Street Ministry

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Calgary Real Estate Board, Charitable
Foundation

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President
Calgary United Way

Mr John Robson
Executive Director
Inn From the Cold

Mr David Watson
President
Equity Real Estate Consulting Ltd.

"The responsibility for this problem lies at all levels - the individual,
the organizations, the municipality, the province and the nation."

Homeless Voices, Toronto Healthy City Office, 1997

Fund Raisers

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Former Chair
United Way of Calgary

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Scotcam Enterprises

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General Manager
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calgary homeless foundation

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