



Media Release

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10 Year Plan Agencies End Homelessness For More Than 1,200 Men, Women and Children

Calgary Homeless Foundation offers progress report on 10 Year Plan

January 28, 2010 – Marking two years since the release of Calgary's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, the Calgary Homeless Foundation reports solid progress.

"Thanks to a great effort of 10 Year Plan agencies in Calgary, more than 1,200 people experiencing homelessness have been housed," said Tim Richter, president and CEO of the Calgary Homeless Foundation. "This is especially admirable given the current economic context – where high unemployment rates are coupled with high housing costs."

As well, more affordable housing has been created in Calgary in the past two years than in the past decade. Last year, funding was secured and projects were under development for 891 units system-wide, and there will be more in the second year.

While making solid progress, the community is behind in achieving two targets in the Plan.

The Plan targeted stopping the growth of homelessness and stabilizing the homeless count at 2006 levels by May 2010. While short of this target, there are early signs of progress. Since last August, year-over-year shelter use has declined between 3% and 13% on a monthly basis.

The Plan also targeted ending family homelessness in two years. Thanks to the hard work of 10 Year Plan agencies, about 220 families have been re-housed in two years, against a target of 200. Unfortunately, initial data for 2010 indicates there are more people accessing family shelters compared with 2009.

"We are getting a better understanding of family homelessness and are refocusing our efforts," said Richter. "This year we will invest \$6.5 million into family re-housing and prevention projects, in addition to new investment into affordable family housing."

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Calgary was the first major city in Canada to adopt a 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness. The Government of Alberta was the first province in Canada to develop its own 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness.

“This progress could not have happened without the leadership of the Government of Alberta,” said Richter.

Calgary’s 10 Year Plan set out to:

- retire 50% of Calgary’s emergency shelter capacity within five years
- decrease the chronic homeless population 85% from current levels within five years
- eliminate family homelessness in two years
- stop the growth of homelessness and stabilize the overall homeless count at 2006 levels by May 1, 2010
- deliver a 12.5% annual decrease in total homeless population starting in 2010
- reduce the economic cost of homelessness and
- reduce the maximum average stay in emergency shelters to less than seven days by December 31, 2018.

- 30 -

Calgary Homeless Foundation

The Calgary Homeless Foundation leads the implementation of Calgary’s 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness. Issued in January 2008, Calgary’s 10 Year Plan was created by the Calgary Committee to End Homelessness, a community-based, multi-stakeholder, leadership group who issued the Plan and selected the Foundation to implement the Plan. The Foundation is moving forward on Calgary’s 10 Year Plan in partnership with the many homeless serving agencies, the private sector, our government partners, the faith community, other foundations and all Calgarians to end homelessness in Calgary once and for all.

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For more information on the Calgary Homeless Foundation or the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, please visit www.calgaryhomeless.com.