



Calgary

Naheed K. Nenshi, Mayor

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A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR NENSHI

I am so excited for Calgary to host the Mind Works Summit, and am honoured to serve as the chair.

Cities and communities around the globe are struggling with the effects of this very real crisis, and that includes our city. And that's exactly why The City of Calgary is the perfect spot to have this summit. We've convened a group of community partners and service providers from across our city's various agencies. Together, that group is building a strategy for Mental Health and Addictions issues that will create a model that can serve as the starting blocks for cities across our country that want to make a difference in their homes.

This action-oriented, collaborative, person-centred group is going to be collectively accountable, break barriers and, most of all, be evidence-informed in its approach. The City of Calgary has provided \$25 million in funding, and through that, will be leveraging even more investment, aimed at creating fast pilot projects to address gaps and barriers in existing services.

The economic burden of mental illness in Canada is estimated at \$51 billion per year. This includes health care costs, lost productivity, and reductions in health-related quality of life. These are significant costs, and worse than that, these very-real effects are doing damage to those in our city and limiting their ability to live lives of dignity, service, and inclusion.

Calgary is a city of innovators. It's a place where people have gathered for millennia in order to achieve common goals and take care of one another. This Summit will be the first of its kind in Western Canada and aims to bring delegates from across disciplines together to share best practices for workplace psychological safety, urban design opportunities to mitigate public mental health and addiction risk factors, and other critical issues. This will be a natural next step with our burgeoning strategy, augmenting our work here even further, and in turn, helping more Canadians than any of us had even thought possible.

Throughout the Mind Works Summit, I hope to connect with you and for you to connect with these leaders from Calgary doing this great work. Together, we can do more to take care of those in our community who need our help.

Sincerely,

Naheed K. Nenshi
MAYOR