

[City of Airdrie Letterhead]

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The Honourable Ric McIver Minister of Municipal Affairs
320 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton AB T5K 2B6

Dear Honourable Minister McIver,

Subject: Letter of Support - Airdrie Public Library's Application for the Minister's Award of Excellence

On behalf of the City of Airdrie and its City Council, we are writing to express our enthusiastic support for the Airdrie Public Library's application for the Minister's Award of Excellence. Their innovative and compassionate response to our city's Extreme Cold Weather Response initiative is truly commendable and worthy of recognition.

In January 2024, the City of Airdrie faced a critical challenge: providing a safe warming space for vulnerable individuals during a prolonged period of extreme cold. As we lack critical social infrastructure to respond to extreme cold weather events, the alternative was to transport these individuals to already overburdened shelters in neighbouring communities, removing them from their community. When City Administration inquired whether the Airdrie Public Library had ever considered operating as an overnight warming space, the Library's response was immediate and unequivocal.

The Library immediately opened its doors, remaining operational 24/7 for seven consecutive days. The overnight warming space also offered warm food and beverages, basic needs backpacks, if needed, and information on local social service supports for residents needing additional supports. This extraordinary effort provided a vital lifeline for our most vulnerable residents, preventing them from facing the harsh conditions outdoors or being displaced from their home community of Airdrie. The Library also provided an overnight warming space again in March of 2024.

This initiative was a collaborative success, with the City providing crucial financial support and the Library contributing essential human resources and space. The Library's proactive

approach and dedication to community well-being exemplify the spirit of public service.

Building on this success, the City of Airdrie provided advanced funding in 2025 to both the Library and Living Springs Christian Fellowship, enabling a sustainable and adaptable model for future cold weather responses. This demonstrates the program's ability to be expanded and replicated by other community agencies, further strengthening our safety net for vulnerable populations.

The Airdrie Public Library's actions not only provided critical support during a time of need but also demonstrated a commitment to efficient and effective service delivery. The extended hours allowed the Library to serve the broader community, enhancing its role as a vital hub for all residents.

We believe that the Airdrie Public Library's exceptional response to our Extreme Cold Weather Response initiative is a shining example of community leadership and dedication. We strongly urge you to consider their application for the Minister's Award of Excellence.

Sincerely,

Peter Brown
Mayor