



## The City of Calgary's Innovation Fund approval for the Calgary's Community Addictions Strategy

Calgary's Community Addictions Strategy (CCAS) is part of a healthy community approach to the issue of addictions. Addictions are one of a number of social issues faced in establishing the health of our communities and must be considered alongside the issues of housing, poverty, social inclusion, education and employment.

The purpose of CCAS is to:

- Develop a collaborative, coordinated and comprehensive effort to reduce the impact of addictions in order to improve the quality of life for Calgarians
- Increase awareness of existing resources and enable new, collaborative addictions related work
- Create a strategic plan and policy to reduce addictions related issues citywide for Calgary

The Calgary Community Addictions Strategy is for all Calgarians who are impacted directly or indirectly by addictions.

The application towards council to use the Innovation Fund for the CCAS was put forward at (Personal & Accountability Committee) PAC on June 15<sup>th</sup>. After moving it forward past PAC, City Council has finally approved for the CCAS to receive funding on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011. This will allow the CCAS to continue functioning into the future and progress to past just the planning and early implementation stages. Hopefully, the strategies that the CCAS will bring forth will begin curbing the ever going problem with addictions that all communities have.

City Council's innovation fund was created to allow new and innovative ideas to receive funding, separate from the permanent budget. By allowing a term of funding, City Council can determine which strategies are the most effective, while at the same time, offering ideas which would normally not be able to achieve funding a chance.