



The Graduate Students' Association
University of Calgary
1030 ES, 844 Campus Place NW
Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4
(403) 220-5997

Graduate Students' Association Submission

The Graduate Students' Association of the University of Calgary supports the proposed housing strategy. The recommendations will create decent, affordable, and family-friendly housing for all Calgarians, and this comes at a pivotal time.

As is common knowledge, the city is currently suffering from a housing crisis. Graduate students are particularly hard-hit, owing in large part to the unique position in society that graduate students occupy. The average age of our membership is consistently over thirty, and this means that many of our members either already have started, or are beginning to start, a family. We have spouses and partners with jobs and career commitments, and we have dependents—such as children or elderly parents—who we take care of. Their needs must be taken into consideration when we make housing decisions. Our members, by virtue of being students, also have additional costs—tuition and mandatory non-instructional fees—that do not impact other Calgarians. Given that graduate student funding and the wages earned through academic employment have been stagnant for over a decade, these additional costs make graduate students vulnerable to being priced out of the market. Expanding the range of affordable housing options is thus imperative for ensuring graduate students are welcome in Calgary.

We appreciate the work that has gone into crafting these recommendations, and hope that the City continues to have conversations around affordable housing.

Sincerely,

James Steele, GSA President.