



An open letter to the community

Re: CBC News Calgary – “*Airdrie approves zoning for affordable housing*” – Story comments

As I read through the comments on this page I see many passionate citizens taking the time to share their views and feelings regarding a very important issue.

One of the things that is missing in our communities is community engagement. Every day organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and elected officials such as those in Airdrie make decisions that affect the lives of tens of thousands of people. In most cases very few residents ever take the time to be aware of the rationale behind these decisions and even fewer ever show up to express their points of view.

Habitat for Humanity is blessed with having a very strong following – domestically and internationally. Locally we mobilize well over 4,000 volunteers annually. These are committed and passionate people who believe in our mission and in community.

I want to thank every person who took the time to write letters; call their alderman; sign petitions and show up to our open houses and the public hearings to express their point of view! For and Against!

Without this enthusiasm and this feedback, Habitat for Humanity would not be able to respond to the concerns and adapt their plans to better reflect the needs of the community.

It appears that based on some of the comments posted on the CBC.ca forum, that we should provide additional information to clarify any misinformation regarding the development. It is our intention to work with the community in an open and transparent manner so the Monklands development can be something that everyone is proud of.

I urge everyone to take the time to visit our website – <http://habitatcalgary.ca/> frequently over the next weeks and months or to send me any questions you may have at airdrie@habitatcalgary.ca so I can help to clarify exactly what is happening.

It has been my observation that, contrary to some of the points of view expressed on this blog, the residents of Airdrie are committed to helping create a complete community. City administration has done an exceptional job stewarding this issue through a complicated process and City Council has the best interests of all of its constituents at heart.

We look forward to building homes in Airdrie – A City of opportunity and community.

Kindest regards,

CALGARY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SOCIETY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew C. MacLachlan".

Andrew C. MacLachlan
President & CEO

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