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Chair, Council Strategic Initiatives Fund
City of Calgary
P.O. Box 2100, Stn. M Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P 2M5

Dear Sir/Madam:

RE: COUNCIL STRATEGIC INITIATIVES FUND APPLICATION FOR BRIDGES OF LOVE MINISTRY SOCIETY

I am writing regarding the application of Bridges of Love Ministry Society (BLMS) for funding from the city to conduct Table Top Exercises with faith groups in the city in cooperation with ERMIC.

I am a pastor in the city of Calgary who has benefited, along with members of my congregation, from the work of Marg Pollon and the Bridges of Love Ministry Society. Our church is a Quadrant Lead for the NE and would affirm the value of these exercises to the churches in our quadrant.

Marg's tireless work has helped our congregation look outside ourselves to see the impact we could have on the community around us. The philosophy of BLMS has prompted us to get involved in our community association to partner with them in meeting community needs. We are actively involved as a partner with Community Kitchens to help lower income families in the community plan and prepare nutritious meals at low cost. We prepare bag lunches in cooperation with Brown Bagging it for Calgary Kids. We offer a free supper once per month to meet community food insecurity and isolation needs. Marg's passion for Calgary churches to make a difference in their communities has encouraged us in these and other community initiatives.

Although there are many para-church organizations that assist churches in a wide variety of activities, I don't know of another like BLMS that continually seeks to organize and manage efforts between government, church, and health organizations. BLMS is giving leadership to Calgary churches in areas such as pandemic preparedness. No other organization I know of is doing the same.

I would encourage you to give serious consideration to Marg's application as a way of encouraging the faith community's involvement in meeting the practical needs of our neighbours.

Sincerely,

Rev. Doug Schroeder
Lead Pastor

