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The Calgary Real Estate News



How safe do you feel?

Cindy Stephen
for the Federation of
Calgary Communities

What do you think makes a neighbourhood strong?

According to the social service agencies with the City of Calgary, a neighbourhood is healthy when; there's strong social cohesion and inclusion; housing is accessible, affordable and of good quality; the surrounding environment is natural and of good quality; when programs and services are close by and accessible; and, when there's positive economic development.

In other words, when neighbours socialize with each other, are happy in their well-maintained homes, can stroll through a nearby park or off-leash area, shopping and medical facilities are nearby and commercial areas are open for business, a neighbourhood is strong and healthy.

How neighbourhoods function, and even how they look, strongly affects the people who live there. When houses have broken windows and fences or walls are covered with graffiti, it has a negative effect on the entire community.

Some neighbourhoods already have a city-wide reputation for being run-down and riddled with crime and vandalism, but there are some weak and poverty-stricken areas in our city that are unseen.

City of Calgary Neighbourhood Services wants to make the creation of stronger neighbourhoods a funding priority and needs some feedback from residents in order to get the job done right.

In order to get a feel for how Calgarians view their neighbourhoods, the Federation of Calgary Communities (FCC) and City of Calgary Neighbour-

hood Services are urging Calgarians to complete an online survey. It takes less than five minutes to complete and will provide information about how safe Calgarians feel in their homes and how connected they feel to their neighbourhoods.

"It will help to identify those neighbourhoods we might help," said Heather White with City of Calgary Neighbourhood Services. "We're encouraging community association presidents to read it and newsletter editors to put articles in the newsletters, so that residents can think about it terms of their own neighbourhood"

White says that the City is working with the FCC to help spread the word about the survey.

"The survey itself examines how people feel about their community, especially around social cohesiveness or, putting it simply, their sense of belonging to their community," says Leslie Evans, executive director of the FCC. "It is important that people have a sense of belonging as it increases their involvement as well as their feelings of safety."

The survey can be completed anonymously, or if you want to win an iPod or passes to City facilities, you have the option to leave your name and email address. The questions are multiple choice and there are boxes to leave further commentary.

To complete the survey visit www.surveymonkey.com/s/NJRH3V8.

For further information about healthy neighbourhoods visit the City of Calgary website at www.calgary.ca/fcss.



How connected do you feel to your neighbourhood? Visit www.surveymonkey.com/s/NJRH3V8, complete the survey and let your voice be heard.

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