

Mayor and City of Red Deer Council
Red Deer City Hall
4914 - 48 Avenue
Red Deer, AB T4N 3T3

Date: _____

citycouncil@reddeer.ca

RE: Urgent Appeal for Increased Municipal Support for the Red Deer Symphony Orchestra

Dear Mayor Johnston and Councillors,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen and supporter of the arts in Red Deer, urging City Council to reconsider and enhance its support for the Red Deer Symphony Orchestra (RDSO). For four decades, the RDSO has played a pivotal role in the cultural landscape, not only for the City of Red Deer, but for the entire region of Central Alberta, and it now faces a vulnerable future.

The Red Deer Symphony Orchestra has a long-standing tradition of delivering outstanding performances, engaging and employing arts professionals, fostering local talent, and providing educational opportunities to the people of Red Deer. However, the current lack of adequate municipal support outside the scope of project and "development" funding (CCDF) poses a significant threat to the orchestra's sustainability and its ability to continue serving the community in a way that benefits a growing, future-focused community.

Investing in the arts is an investment in the overall well-being and prosperity of our community. The RDSO not only entertains and inspires audiences but also serves as a hub for cultural engagement and enrichment. The orchestra has a positive impact on the local economy by attracting visitors to our city and creating opportunities for local businesses. Moreover, the educational programs offered by the RDSO contribute to the development of young musicians, fostering a new generation of artists who will, in turn, contribute to the cultural vitality of our community.

I understand that City Council faces numerous financial considerations when allocating funds, but I firmly believe that supporting the Red Deer Symphony Orchestra is an investment in the heart and soul of our community. A thriving arts scene enhances the overall quality of life for residents and makes Red Deer an attractive place to live, work, and visit.

I urge you to reconsider Council's policy on municipal **operational** funding for the Red Deer Symphony Orchestra and explore opportunities to enhance support for this vital cultural institution. By doing so, we can ensure that the RDSO continues to enrich the lives of Red Deer and Central Alberta residents and contribute to the cultural legacy of our city.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust that City Council will prioritize the arts and recognize the invaluable role the Red Deer Symphony Orchestra plays in our community. Without your support, the City's cultural future is at risk.

Sincerely,

[Signed] _____

[Address] _____

[Printed] _____
