



A Partnering Innovation of First Calgary Savings & The Calgary Foundation

What is Stepping Stones?

Stepping Stones is a unique and innovative partnership between The Calgary Foundation and First Calgary Savings designed to encourage active citizenship by supporting Calgarians undertake small and creative projects that benefit their communities.

How did Stepping Stones start? We felt that as a growing city, we need to make sure that people are connected to each other and to their communities. This is what can make the city a warm and welcoming place for everyone. In Calgary's newer neighbourhoods or those going through transition, local networks are likely not yet in place or have been diminished. Residents may have great ideas that could benefit their neighbours and the community as a whole. And we want to support them give reality to these ideas. TCF and FCS shared the same philosophy of active citizenship and mutual support.

How does Stepping Stones work?

The goals of the program are two-fold:

- Build connections among neighbours and with local organizations.
- Enable residents to experience collective action and build on their sense of community.

Who can apply for a grant?

Anyone, regardless of ability, background, age or gender can make a difference. You just need to get together with two or more people from your community and plan a project that draws others to participate.

What is the criteria for obtaining a grant?

As a guide, Stepping Stones will support resident-led initiatives that

- Build on people's interest and what they enjoy doing
- Involve new people in the community
- Be welcoming to all community members
- Benefit the neighbourhood
- Make the most of existing neighbourhood resources

Take no more than two months to complete

What are the uses of the grant?

Financial support between \$100 to \$600, can help neighbours plan, and to organize small, low-cost activities to bring people together, to test out their ideas further and even develop an action plan.

What sets Stepping Stones apart from other grants?

It is a collaborative program that brings similar philosophies together. It is very grassroots and accessible to ordinary Calgarians.

Where does the money come from?

First Calgary Savings is committing financial resources for the grants.

Why create a partnership for this program?

By working together, The Calgary Foundation and First Calgary Savings can demonstrate how cooperation can bring about positive changes.