

Happy Chanukah

From the Board and Staff of Calgary Jewish Federation

NEWS, VIEWS AND SCHMOOZE WITH THE CALGARY JEWISH COMMUNITY

jewishcalgary.org

A MESSAGE FROM ROB NAGUS

As I approach my one-year anniversary with Calgary Jewish Federation and look forward to a *Chanukah* filled with light, pride, and Jewish joy, I find myself feeling deeply grateful.

First and foremost, I am grateful for all of you.

Katie and I have been welcomed with extraordinary kindness. We have met so many passionate, generous, and dedicated members of this community, and we are continually inspired by the strength and potential of Jewish Calgary. We certainly face challenges—some shared with Jewish communities around the world, and others unique to our city. And yet, I remain convinced that the future of Jewish Calgary is bright. Ours is a community with remarkable opportunities, a strong foundation, and the will to move forward.

This does not diminish the serious and systemic issues we must confront. Rising costs make Jewish

life and Jewish education increasingly difficult to access. Antisemitism in Canada continues to escalate and normalize. Security concerns here at home are very real. But we are not passive in the face of these challenges. Thanks to a dedicated professional team and a committed Board of Directors, we are focused on our core mission: meeting the needs of an evolving—and growing—Jewish community.

Our annual UJA Campaign has been very successful so far, driven by your generosity and care. If you have not yet made your gift this year, please consider doing so. Your support directly strengthens Jewish life in Calgary and ensures a vibrant Jewish future for generations to come.

I am also pleased to share that we have officially launched our community-wide Strategic Planning process. Working closely with our dynamic Strategic

Planning Committee, we have engaged Finley & Associates—a highly respected local firm with deep experience in the not-for-profit sector. Together, we will undertake a thoughtful, forward-looking process focused on renewal, clarity of purpose, and measurable impact. We look forward to keeping you informed as this work unfolds.

As the days grow shorter, it becomes even more important that we continue to cast our light—boldly, proudly, and joyfully.

Wishing you and your family a very happy *Chanukah*.

Warmly,

Rob Nagus, CEO, Calgary Jewish Federation

Building an inclusive community is a priority. Contact us and we will make every effort to meet your needs.

INTRODUCING MOMentum

AN INCREDIBLE YEAR-LONG JOURNEY OF GROWTH FOR JEWISH MOTHERS

MOMENTUM KICK OFF EVENT ON JANUARY 17!

After a highly successful pilot program in 2025, Calgary Jewish Federation is proud to bring the Momentum Program to our community!

Experience deep connection, lifelong friendships, and meaningful Jewish growth that will transform you, your family, and our community. This year-long program includes monthly gatherings and an **eight-day journey to Israel**, offering inspiration, learning, and connection every step of the way.

Scan QR for more information about eligibility, costs, to stay updated, and **EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST** in this program!

Applications will open at the kick off event.

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST!

Stay up-to-date on action alerts, events, programming, and services offered through Calgary Jewish Federation and around our community.

Join our email list by scanning the QR code or go to jewishcalgary.org

We're thrilled to celebrate an incredible milestone for Jewish communities across North America.

Calgary Jewish Federation and Jewish Community Foundation of Calgary are proud to be partners in Life & Legacy, a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, that helps Jewish organizations in the US and Canada secure their long-term future. **Together, Life & Legacy communities have now surpassed an astounding \$2 billion in legacy commitments!**

Calgary donors are part of this remarkable achievement. Through their legacy gifts, they're helping to build lasting endowments that will keep Jewish Calgary's future strong, resilient, and full of promise.

Mazal tov to our incredible Calgary donors for helping ensure Jewish life continues to thrive — here at home and across North America!

CELEBRATE CHANUKAH AT OUR ANNUAL DOWNTOWN LATKE LUNCH

MON. DECEMBER 15 • 11:30AM - 1:00PM

2400, 525 8 AVENUE SW

JOIN US FOR A LATKE (OR TWO), NOSH, AND SCHMOOZE!

FOOD PROVIDED BY KAREN'S CAFE AND CATERING

REGISTRATION REQUIRED AT QR OR GO TO: JEWISHCALGARY.CROWDCHANGE.CO/54005

GIVE TODAY. STRENGTHEN TOMORROW. TOGETHER WE CAN



Diana Kalef, Director of Development

The 2025 UJA Campaign is well underway, and our community is counting on all of us.

As security needs grow, more families turn to IBP (Integrated Bursary Program), and our voice in advocacy becomes ever more essential, your support provides comfort, dignity, and strength. Every gift—every act of generosity—touches real people and sustains the institutions that hold our community together. Please give today and help us stand together in this critical moment. **Give Today. Strengthen Tomorrow. Together We Can.**

RAISED TO DATE

\$1,642,951

We were honoured to welcome **Jonny Daniels** back to Calgary at the end of November, giving our community—and especially our treasured Holocaust survivors—a meaningful opportunity to take part in his Torah Project. For Jonny, this initiative is a personal mission: to visit every living survivor he can, ensuring their voices, their names, and their legacy are woven directly into the eternal words of Torah.

Here in Calgary, that mission came to life in the most moving way. Survivors added their inscriptions surrounded by family, friends, and community members who cherish them. The visits to both The Calgary Jewish Academy and the Bertha Gold Jewish Seniors Residence created unforgettable intergenerational moments—children, seniors, parents, and educators standing together in honour, memory, and resilience. It was a living bridge between past and future... a testament to Jewish strength and continuity.

These encounters reminded us once again that our survivors are pillars of courage, and that it is our responsibility to ensure their lessons endure.



Our 24-hour **Mitzvah Match-athon** on November 26 was incredible! The community showed up with heart, generosity, and a full commitment to Jewish Calgary. From early morning to late evening, there were beautiful acts of giving, inspiring stories of impact, and a shared sense of purpose that really brought our community together.

Every donation, every phone call, and every conversation reflected the values we hold dear—kindness, responsibility, and the power of community. Together, we are not just raising funds; we are strengthening the fabric of Jewish life in Calgary and beyond, supporting programs that nurture youth, seniors, families, and those in need. The energy and the spirit of giving we witnessed remind us of what we can achieve when we come together. *Todah rabah* to everyone who participated!



NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE YOUR UJA GIFT

Support Jewish Calgary today—your gift to the 2025 UJA Campaign helps everyone from babies to seniors thrive in our community. Give now and be part of something meaningful that changes lives. **Give Today. Strengthen Tomorrow. Together We Can.**



jewishcalgary.org
403.444.3157
lwolf@jewishcalgary.org
1607 90 Avenue SW

