

**Secondary Suites Policy**  
*Students' Legislative Council (72.18)*

Approved: November 4, 2014 (72.31)  
Amended: September 26, 2017 (75.26)



## Definitions

*Secondary Suite* refers to a self-contained accessory living space, consisting of a bedroom, bathroom and kitchen, developed within a single-family home. Secondary suites are also known as basement suites<sup>1</sup>, mother-in-law suites, or granny suites.

## Authority

- 1 (1) Section 93(3) of the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* legislates that the students' association of a public post-secondary institution shall provide for the administration of student affairs at the public post-secondary institution, including the promotion of the general welfare of the students consistent with the purposes of the public post-secondary institution.
- (2) Section 95(4) of the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* legislates that the Students' Legislative Council (SLC) is the official channel of communication between students at the University of Calgary and the University of Calgary Board of Governors.
- 2 (1) Article VI, Section B of the Constitution establishes SLC as the policy-making body of the Students' Union.
- (2) The SU's Policy Development and Review Policy establishes Advocacy Policy as a means for the SU to represent the interests of Active Members to external groups, including government, media, and other organizations.

## Purpose

- 3 (1) The purpose of this Advocacy Policy shall be to establish the SU's position on the issue of secondary suites in the City of Calgary, and provide direction for SU elected officials delegated authority to advocate to government on behalf of undergraduate students at the University of Calgary.

## Policy Statement

- 4 (1) In accordance with the SU's commitment to the quality of student life and affordability and accessibility established in its mission, vision, and values, the SU supports making secondary suites a city-wide permitted use by the City of Calgary for the following reasons:

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<sup>1</sup> City of Calgary Secondary Suites Brochure,  
[http://www.calgary.ca/PDA/pd/Documents/brochures/secondary\\_suites\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.calgary.ca/PDA/pd/Documents/brochures/secondary_suites_brochure.pdf)

- (a) To ensure that undergraduate students have access to safe and affordable housing that:
  - (i) Complies with land use; and
  - (ii) Is built in accordance with the *Alberta Building Code* and *Alberta Fire Code*;
- (b) To protect the legal rights of undergraduate students living in secondary suites, ensuring that land use compliance does not trump safety concerns in enforcement of secondary suites; and
- (c) To recognize that living expenses are part of the total cost of education, affecting the accessibility of post-secondary education.