The last few months have tested our community, along with others around the globe, in ways we never could have expected. The elapsed time has also seen us come together like never before, supporting one another and working toward a Jewish Calgary for tomorrow built on how we address the challenges of today. While the work is tiring and never ending, I am so incredibly proud of the volunteer and professional leaders with whom I continue to have the privilege to partner with.

It so happens that I am writing this message as Shabbat Lech Lecha approaches. Besides being my Bar Mitzvah Torah portion thirty-six years ago, it is an incredibly important story of direction, faith, and blessings. We learn of Avram, soon to become Avraham, who was told by G-d to “Go Forth,” to have faith, and as reward he and his ancestors will be made a great nation. Avraham is also told he will be a blessing and his ancestors will be blessings to the world.

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Avraham was given an opportunity that was presented as a commandment – “Go Forth”, an instruction to persevere and follow through is quite another. Leaving on a new path for the unknown instead of staying in the comfortable familiarity of one’s current situation is scary at best and terrifying at worst. Avraham ventured out on a bold new path without any certainty of success other than his will to make the trip and his faith in his ability to navigate the journey.

His reward, in part, is that he and his ancestors would be blessings. Not that they would receive blessings, but that they would be them. That is, blessings aren’t simply received. We experience blessings so we can pay them forward, so we can share them. We find positive energy and reward in blessings, but they are only worth something if others can also experience them with us.

The themes of Lech Lecha connect very well to our current reality of living through the COVID-19 pandemic. Our community and our families have had to be bold and “Go Forth,” we’ve had to have faith and dedication to stewarding through some very challenging days. At the same time, we have been fortunate to experience some blessings – increased time with family and friends, a slowing of our daily pace, and the above-and-beyond efforts of many amazing people. A kind look, a text or call to see how we are doing, a package of food dropped on our front porch – these days have drawn out the very best in many people in our community.

Throughout all of this, we are only better if we work together. Together, WE CAN get through this. Together, WE CAN be caring. Together, WE CAN ensure tomorrow is even better than today!

B’Shalom,

Adam Silver, CEO, Calgary Jewish Federation
Together WE CAN

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Your gift helps us effectively respond to crises that confront us and our neighbours.

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We are a caring community that gives back. You ensure Jewish identity is fostered for future generations.

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HOW TO DONATE:

ONLINE jewishcalgary.org
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WHAT WILL YOUR JEWISH LEGACY BE?

IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, YOUR LIFE IS ROOTED IN EXPERIENCES CONNECTING YOU TO JEWISH COMMUNITY. CHANCES ARE YOU ALREADY SUPPORT LOCAL JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS BUT HAVE YOU INCLUDED THEM IN YOUR WILL OR ESTATE PLAN? BY LEAVING A LEGACY GIFT, YOUR CHERISHED JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS WILL BE PART OF OUR COMMUNITY FOR GENERATIONS. NOW IS THE TIME TO SIGN YOUR LETTER OF INTENT TO ENSURE THE FUTURE OF JEWISH CALGARY.

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