In taking on this new job, I hope to build on the solid value respect, dignity, partnership, and community of executive leadership roles. I thrive on collaboration, and I have served in frontline service delivery, as well as career, have worked with all ages from children to seniors, communal and social service organizations for most of my life. Hannah, Lilah, and Benjamin. I have worked in Jewish wonderful wife, Deborah, and three amazing children, for those who are unfamiliar with my personal and amazing to me. just two weeks ago, the accuracy of those descriptions is committed, talented, warm, friendly, engaged, committed, talented, and generous. Since arriving in Calgary just two weeks ago, the accuracy of those descriptions is amazing to me.

For those who are unfamiliar with my personal and professional background, I will share that I am a native Torontonian, and the eldest of five siblings. I have a wonderful wife, Deborah, and three amazing children, Hannah, Lilah, and Benjamin. I have worked in Jewish communal and social service organizations for most of my career, have worked with all ages from children to seniors, and have served in frontline service delivery, as well as executive leadership roles. I thrive on collaboration, and I value respect, dignity, partnership, and community.

In taking on this new job, I hope to build on the solid foundation that Drew Stafford, current CEO, and the Calgary Jewish Federation staff and lay leadership teams have established to date.

To share some of my first impressions: We are doing many things very well. Across Canada, colleagues in other communities note the generosity and creativity of Calgary’s Jewish community, and praise our efforts in supporting local, regional, national, and global initiatives. Compared to all the Canadian Jewish communities, per capita, Calgarians are the second most generous donors to UJA. In addition, I have developed many interesting, creative programs to address community needs.

As I begin my tenure as CEO, I intend to focus on three areas: energy, engagement, and leadership.

Energy. To achieve great things, much energy is required. Not only that, but energy must be sustained for long periods of time in order to build and maintain momentum. It is my hope to inject additional energy into our annual campaign, our campus development efforts, our community initiatives, and our outreach strategies. Bringing additional energy to an already energetic community is sure to yield positive results.

Engagement. All Jewish communities are experiencing challenges in engaging unaffiliated individuals, and in cementing or increasing engagement levels of those who are already involved. It is my hope that the Calgary Jewish Federation, and Calgary’s Jewish community at large, will continue to create appropriate and attractive entry points for people, through which they will choose to become part of, and/or enhance their role in, the community as a whole. I am committed to supporting our staff team, volunteer leadership, funded agencies, and community partners in working collaboratively to offer engaging programs, services, and environments that encourage involvement and will strengthen Calgary’s Jewish community.

Leadership. Leadership manifests in many forms, all of which are equally important. I am committed to ensuring that Calgary’s Jewish community continues to build strong volunteer, staff, and organizational leadership. The Calgary Jewish Federation and its community partners must work hand in hand, and collaborative leadership will go a long way toward securing a bright future. I am inspired by what I have seen in the community so far, and I have lofty aspirations for us. We must continue to respect the history and successes of past efforts, but I envision us charting some new, bold adventures together, as well. Our Sage, Hillel, teaches "If I am not for me, who will be? If I am only for me, what am I? If not now, when?" We must build for the future, maintain and enhance our Jewish and non-Jewish communal relationships, and maintain a positive urgency in our efforts.

Together, we will make sure that Jewish Calgary is strong, vital, and as vibrant as ever. I thank you for your partnership and support to date, and equally as much for the open arms and warmth with which you have embraced my family and me. Todah Rabah. The future is bright, and together we will accomplish a great deal!

Shalom,

Adam Silver
CEO, Calgary Jewish Federation