

Better Calgary Campaign

September 2007

Thank you for sending my campaign your questions. The questionnaire seems geared toward aldermanic candidates; however, I am happy to provide you with an overview of my record and platform as Mayor in the subject areas.

Transportation has been a major priority with 2 billion being spent in the last six years with the majority going towards transit related projects. There has been the purchase of 65 Light Rail Vehicles (LRV), increased Light-Rail Transit (LRT) length by 50% and added hundreds of busses and community shuttles. With a proposed \$930 million for the new LRT line and further extensions to other lines, Calgarians will see improvements of the number of both trains and stations.

For Calgary to effectively address the housing shortages it requires partnerships between governments, not-for-profit agencies, and the private sector. I have proposed a comprehensive plan, and if approved by the new City Council, would see the purchase of new affordable housing and transitional housing units; a new rental supplement program in partnership with the Calgary Apartment Association; integration of secondary suites into new communities, and; an incentive program for development of legal secondary suites throughout the city. The housing strategy is possible due to a new agreement with the Province of Alberta. The agreement will see a provincial grant to The City of \$63 Million for housing this year, and a commitment for another \$60 million over the next two years. This will be leveraged by at least 30% by The City, private sector and not for profit organizations. That means over the next 3 years alone, our community will be investing at least 160 Million dollars into affordable housing.

Calgary has become a leader in environmental stewardship where the city won the 2006 World Leadership Award. There is sustainable planning for our upgrading to our water-treatment plants, a "First in Canada" wetlands protection program and a new curbside recycling program for implementation in 2009. Furthermore, The City's Legacy Parks Program has developed one of the most innovative parks programs in North America to protect watersheds and increase the number of regional parks in our city. Calgary is one the first cities in Canada to implement a District Energy system for the downtown and has made a plan to reduce operation emissions to 50% of 1990 levels by 2012 called the "Minus 50" plan.

A Core Renewal Re-development plan is being implemented now. The beltlines are some of the fastest growing communities with over 4000 units under construction right now and the revitalization of Eau Claire. Furthermore, there is the Rivers District in the east side of downtown which requires serious attention. City Council is committed to transforming the Rivers District into a vibrant mixed use community home to 11 000 residents in mixed use

It is estimated that Calgary will require more than 120 new 30 story towers (residential and commercial) within the next 20 years so City Council is supporting community development with forward-thinking initiatives. These initiatives include building complete communities which are less dependent on cars; more residential development of the inner city, downtown and beltline communities; Levying developers to pay for transportation infrastructure required for new development; Negotiating with developers for community infrastructure, like police, fire and EMS stations, recreation centres and libraries; and supporting arts, culture and facilities that help Calgarians learn and stay healthy.

Another long-term plan for urban renewal in the city's core is the "Clean to the Core" which was initiated to ensure a vibrant downtown where we feel safe, at all hours. The program has resulted in the doubling of police personnel and more security on transit platforms; faster graffiti removal and improved cleanliness; and enhanced public spaces. In addition, in the 2008 civic budget, I have proposed adding additional 10 police officers and 25 by-law officers specifically to patrol the downtown core and surrounding communities. I've also proposed supporting law enforcement efforts through using portable "closed-circuit cameras" for crime hotspots.

Calgary's future is looking bright with a 10 year 3.3 billion dollar deal with the Provincial Government that will allow for our city to allocate funding to sustainable development and infrastructure needs.

Once again, thank you for allowing me to answer your questions. I appreciate your interest and dedication to our upcoming election.

Sincerely,

Mayor Dave Bronconnier