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Ward:	Mayor of Calgary
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### 1. What are the top three issues facing the city?

- Lack of Responsive Government to its residents. Lack of efficient and effective solutions to the real issues.
- Balanced funding and programming to promote an equality based and comfortable lifestyle for all.
- Too short term goals. Must look into proactive, preventative methods while still doing the best for the present immediate situations created by not proper planning in the past for the present growth.

### 2. Urban Sprawl and Housing

- a. Do you support the concept of extending Transit-Oriented Development throughout the city, including in established neighbourhoods generally and in your ward? What is your stance on the proposed development at Dalhousie Station (in Varsity)?

Although on the surface it looks like a pleasing solution to some of the transportation issues, as well as it gives residents in additional areas the feeling of being better serviced. However I think we need to take a close look at if this is really the best solution. In addition to the tremendous costs of these extensions, we need to look at the problems to safety, travel stress and realistic benefit of these solutions. By the time of completion are they really going to meet the population's needs and what about the additional delays in traffic due to the road based C-trains? I think we need to take a much broader view of the problem and all the issues effecting traffic. After getting realistic

figures on the broader view we then need to narrow it down and deal with all the issues to come up with several solutions to transportation and traffic that will make travel more affordable and less stressful to every one.

- b. Are we facing a housing crisis in Calgary? If so, what should be done about it? If you are an incumbent, what have you specifically done about this?

There is a housing shortage, but the available housing is increasing again, however it is the cost of housing that makes it inaccessible to many people. This is effecting higher income brackets then ever before. Homeless shelters are not the solution. These do not provide any long term help or respect. We need quality cost efficient housing. We need to encouragement for more initiative housing.

Calgary is one of the few cities in Canada that allow a damage deposit equal to the rent. High damage deposits create large problems for renters. This is one area where we can begin by legislating a lower percentage of damage deposit compared to rental amount.

- c. Do you support legalization of secondary suites in all existing neighbourhoods, subject only to reasonable safety concerns? Why or why not?

Basement suites need to be legalized and permits need to be quickly and efficiently issued for additional accommodations. Inspections need to be conducted to insure that the quality of all suites is acceptable to safety standards.

- d. Do you believe that urban sprawl is a problem for the city? If you believe it is a problem, what will you do to address it? (If you are an incumbent, what have you already specifically done?) If you don't see it as a problem, please explain why.

I do believe it is a problem due to poor planning of support systems. We always need to expand so as to keep up with current and future needs of Calgary's increasing population. We need to build with consideration for all local community needs. Planning and funding toward environmental considerations, recreational and educational programming and facilities, traffic structure and safety for all residential and commercial growth.

### 3. Transportation

- a. Has the City been doing a good job of addressing transportation needs? What, if anything, would you do differently?

**I feel that the City has spent a disproportional amount of time, effort and funding in this area. Yet the traffic situation becomes more stressful and time consuming with each new project. When will we catch up and be ahead of our time?**

**We need to take a serious look at the present plans for C-train stations and look at alternative solutions to making transportation more cost efficient and practical and to avoid traffic delays.**

- b. How often do you use public transit? Bus, C-train, or both?

**I use the C-train in the downtown area fairly frequently. The bus system I use less but have found recently it is less stressful and more comfortable to use the bus than the C-Train. Conferencing with people that use the transit system very frequently, they are also finding this to be true.**

- c. Does our current transit system meet the needs of the city? If not, how specifically would you improve it?

**One solution that I would like to implement is to offer special shuttle runs at different locations in each quadrant of the City that is easily accessible by vehicle or present transit system to all educational facilities. From each of these locations people will be transported directly to their Campus without additional stops. This will reduce the public transit congestion of bus seating.**

- d. Are you in favour of the current strategic plan for transit? Why or why not? If not, what changes would you make?

**We need to take a serious look at the present plans for C-train stations and look at alternative solutions to making transportation more cost efficient and practical and to avoid traffic delays.**

- e. The City's current plan does not envision direct C-Train service to either the airport or Mount Royal College. Would you favour amending the plan to reach these two destinations (both within close distance of planned lines)? Why or why not?

**As per above. I do not believe that the C-train system is the best or most practical solution for either destination. I have proposed shuttle buses to educational institutes from various boarding points that will go directly to the destination. I also don't believe the airport is best travelled to or from by C-train. Most travellers will either be carrying luggage or going for a business trip with limited luggage but other concerns not making C-train travel a pleasant experience pre flight. I believe shuttle buses and taxis to still be the best alternatives to and from the airport. We need to concentrate not only on the high traffic areas but also the convenience and practical use of the passenger. If we are going to continue with C-train extensions we should be looking more into areas such as Forest Lawn/Dover, Bowness and Ogden areas where it would be a greater serve for many that do not own cars.**

- f. Are there other areas of the city that are underserved by transit? How would you address this?

**Yes there are certainly many areas that are not fairly serviced with transit. Never the less for myself to give a feasible informed answer to this question I will first have to look at the numbers, lifestyles, present services, and best world wide solutions appropriate for each area. Equality and respect does not mean "identical or same" for each area. It means giving equal weight to each persons / communities needs. Once mayor I plan on taking all this into consideration.**

#### **4. Vibrant and sustainable communities**

- a. What will you do to address homelessness and urban poverty in the city? (If you are an incumbent, what have you already specifically done?) If you don't see this as a problem, please explain why.

**Homeless shelters are not the solution. These do not provide any long term help or respect. We need quality cost efficient housing. We need to encouragement for more initiative housing. I would like to establish a city department to provide a roommate registry, which matches people looking for accommodation with others of similar lifestyles for families or singles to share rent or even purchase a residence together to lower cost or qualify for loans for shared ownership.**

- b. What is your stance on arts funding? Do you support the recent recommendations of the Calgary Arts Development Authority?

**The arts are a very important element of culture and I think the recommendations will fit in well with the positive over all future and facility policies I will help to put in place as Mayor. As for the funding required this will have to be looked at once in the Mayors office, but by combining Arts with sports and other present and future issues will be a definite asset.**

- c. What is your stance on the city's curbside recycling plan? Would you extend the plan to include recycling of organics and plastics? Why or why not?

**I support the existing plan for a newly approved curbside recycling program, for implementation in 2009. Extensions of the plan will have to be considered along with the cost and practicability once in City Hall Office. I do not have all the figures or details at this time and will not make promises I may not be able to keep.**

- d. What other environmental initiatives, if any, would you favour?

**As Mayor of Calgary, I will endeavor to find the most effective policy mix to reduce green house gases. To be effective, however, we need to pay special attention to identifying and removing barriers to innovation. These can include market prices that do not incorporate externalities such as pollution, misplaced incentives, vested interests, lack of effective regulatory agencies and imperfect information. I will work together with Council to identify and attempt to remove such barriers.**

**Because no one sector or technology can address the entire mitigation challenge, my plans are to adopt a diversified portfolio of policies and to address all major sectors. Some of the cheapest options for reducing emissions involve electricity savings in buildings, fuel savings in vehicles and increased soil carbon content in agriculture. We will consult the experts in this area as to our options.**

**I will endeavour to improve quality of life by positively impacting the environment in establishing a Residential Tree Ordinance, which requires developers to plant 1 tree to every 3 residences in every residential development and to establishment of a Sidewalk Policy that requires sidewalks in every new subdivision and provides funding for sidewalks in neighborhoods without, and I will work to integrate New Bike paths in the City's transportation policy in addition to the existing ones.**

**I am planning to work with the communities and industries in establishing a green belt for the City of Calgary.**

- e. What will you do to address crime and safety issues in Calgary? (If you are an incumbent, what have you already specifically done?) If you don't see this as a problem, please explain why. **We need to take a firm present and proactive stance on crime. I am hearing too much complacency that crime is an unavoidable condition brought on by increase in population. I feel as long as we accept this it will be. We need to work on solving all the problems that lead to crime. We need to establish strong programs for our youth in drug and alcohol; prevention, self protection and defence, life skills incorporated with sports and art facilities close to each community.**

**We also need support and life skill training within our police force to deal with the dangers and stresses of their job. They also need to be held accountable for their own behaviours when it come to abuse, alcohol and drug use and other problems affecting them. We must face the truth, not try to hide it and find solutions not punishments for the problems. We need increased resources and employment in the area of policing.**

**We also need well lit streets and C-train stations, public help buttons in many areas, with cameras and strong penalties for misuse. Security Guards on duty at all transit areas as well as proper facilities for the patrons.**

**Legislated security features for taxi and public transit vehicles.**

**These are some of what needs to occur.**

## 5. Taxes and Revenues

- a. Does the current system of funding municipal government largely through property taxes work well? If not, what changes would you recommend? **Taxes is an accepted form of municipal funding, however we also need to look at new and different ideas as well. We also may want to look at the Tax system itself and how it can be increased through a new formula creating a more equitable division.**
- b. Is there enough money in the system currently to fund your priorities? If now, how will you fund them?

**Firstly we will budget according to what we have, looking at reducing cast through effective and efficient processes and procedures. We will look at long term planning so as to reduce constant rework and catching up costs. We will constantly strive to improve our systems.**

**By encouraging the benefits of working together we will work on engaging Industry, business, education and public to provide support, input and ideas to the best change solutions.**

## 6. Political reform.

- a. Does the current system of campaign financing work well? If not, what changes would you favour? **The current funding is not an equitable system. The municipal funding is less equitable than Provincial and Federal systems as there are no tax deductions to the donator, nor party support. This leads to commitments and obligations to contributors, although illegal it does occur. As badly as I myself need more funding to get my message to all of Calgary, I have refused donations from those that feel I should do them personal favours should I be elected. In my opinion campaigns need not cost millions of wasted dollars that could be better spent improving our city. If media was required to give equal time to each candidate and each city held population appropriate number of forums that it was mandatory for each candidate to attend. The city could be responsible for making sure the residents of such Cities and towns were informed as to the time and place of such forums and each citizen would be able to attend one event to listen to the candidate. This would give the public the advantage of seeing what each candidate plans for and how they are able to perform on equal footing with each other. This would not only save money but also benefit the environment by unnecessary forest and chemical use of campaign signs, energy etc.**
  
- b. In the absence of rules around disbursement of campaign surpluses, what will you do with any leftover funds? **I will not have any left over funds. Most of my campaign is being funded through my current earnings. I am still working fulltime through to the end of my campaign. I do not think it fair to answer this since I am not in the position to do what I say should be done.**
  
- c. Are there any other structural reforms you would favour?

**I plan on making some revised policies within the municipality to help city representatives become more responsive to their constituents needs.**

- 7. FOR INCUMBENTS ONLY:** What are your three major accomplishments this term? Of what are you most proud?