

Inner City Coalition Forum

- 1. Affordable housing and Low-income housing** What policy changes or practical action such as leveraging existing funding can you initiate for council to address this issue in the long term and the short term.

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, leveraged at least 30% by The City, the private sector and not for profit agencies.

- 2. The Transportation Dilemma** Are you willing to take a leadership role and implement the Calgary Transportation Plan (GoPlan) and its principles of balance growth strategy?

I have made transportation 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.

There is a proposed \$930 million for the new West LRT line and further extensions in the NE and NW and more LRV's.

3. **Tax Fairness (property taxes, user fees, and service charges)** What policy initiatives would you implement to mitigate the imbalances of Market Value Assessment and ensure taxation fairness?

Market Value Assessment is provincially legislated. It is not an option for the City, it is the law. However, there has been a program implemented to mitigate tax increases for seniors in financial need and assessing other alternatives to further mitigate MVA, particularly for seniors.

4. **Environmental and Sustainability Concerns** As a municipal leader, what types of policy have you or would you initiate to reduce our environmental impact and maintain our quality of life.

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.

5. **Democratic Process and Policies** What election financing policies would you champion to provide limits, checks and balances against actual or perceived preferential treatment?

I have always supported and will continue to support openness and transparency in campaign finance; any interested individual can go online and look up who donated and how much to a candidate for municipal office. Disclosure and access is key and it is there now.

