

Dear Inner City Coalition:

I am pleased to offer the following answers to the questions in your survey:

1. Housing

- I agree with the ICC position.
 - The City should continue to do all it can to facilitate the development of new supply, including building and acquiring new units of non-market housing targeted to those who have the fewest choices in the marketplace. The City needs to advocate to Federal and Provincial governments for the funding, the housing programs, the support programs and the planning tools to solve this problem. Don't expect the City to solve this problem with its own resources.
 - Specifically, I have supported the City setting a target of acquiring at least 200 new units/ year for rent geared to income tenants. This meant investing \$17M of City resources to leverage \$70M from other orders of government and the private sector.
 - I support the work of the Committee to End Homelessness in Calgary.

2. Transpiration

- I agree with the ICC position
 - The GoPlan is currently being updated and will be a major policy decision for the Council that is elected on October 15. I will be advocating for a balanced transportation plan that helps us build a long term environmentally sustainable city.

3. Tax Fairness

- I disagree with the ICC position
 - I believe that Market Value Assessment is a good way to determine the relative value of properties in the marketplace and therefore contributes to tax fairness. I support policy initiatives to continually update regulated assessments so that distortions in the tax assessment system throughout Alberta are fixed.

4. Environment and Sustainability

- I agree with the ICC position
 - I was one of the 8 members of City Council that voted to proceed with the curbside recycling program. I support eventually extending the plan to include organics and plastics. I am a strong supporter of the City's strategic goal of diverting 80% of the waste going to our landfills by 2020. We will not meet this goal without a comprehensive recycling program.
 - I was one of 9 members of City Council that voted to enter into a 20 year contract with Enmax to purchase electricity from renewable sources. It was a risk that paid off with cost savings as well as greenhouse gas emissions reductions. City Council decisions have established Calgary as a world environmental leader.
 - I brought a Notice of Motion to City Council in 2000 to investigate a District Energy system in downtown Calgary. This project is finally underway and will save customers energy costs as well as significantly reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

- The City of Calgary needs to investigate waste to energy systems and to extract more energy from our waste water treatment plants.
- I was one of the members of City Council to bring forward the date for Calgary to be universally metered for water consumption by 2010.
- I would favour the City of Calgary doing more to encourage food production, such as green house operations within City limits.

5. Democratic Process and Policies

- I agree with financial scrutiny but do not believe the party system at the federal and provincial levels of government is necessary at City Hall.
 - The current system has transparency in the reporting of campaign donations. I voted against a proposal to raise the dollar amount before donors had to be named. Fortunately this proposal failed.

The current bylaw may not fully capture “in kind” donations as well as it should.

- I would be willing to support some sort of reasonable cap on spending and placing limits on the amount that can be collected from any one donor.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the ICC's On Line Forum. If you have any questions about any of my responses, please feel free to contact me at 988-0032.

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