

Inner-City Coalition Survey – Barry Eldridge

1. **Affordable, Low Income Housing:** We believe the City must increase its options for solutions to the housing squeeze.

Yes, I agree with the ICC's position. I believe the implementation of non-market units in new development is essential to this issue. Whether the development is a new suburb or a condo development in the inner city, low income and affordable units must be made available. I am uncertain at this time as to what shape and form subsidies and controls could or should take. However I believe that reducing the homeless population and helping them to regain some self respect will have a positive impact on the reduction of petty crime. This issue needs to be developed in partnership with the Home Builder's Association.

2. **The Transportation Dilemma:** We believe the City must balance its plan for growth in all quadrants of the city. Additional employment centres and localised community services will help mobility systems become more efficient and effective.

Yes, I agree with the ICC's position. Yes I am willing to take a leadership role in the Go Plan implementation. However I feel we may need to revisit the issue, because from my observation, traffic has increased in both directions. It seems as though outlying communities are driving downtown and more inner city citizens are working in the suburban employment centers.

3. **Tax Fairness:** We believe the current system is unfair to a wide range of Calgarians and has negative planning implications for the City as a whole.

Yes, I agree with the ICC's position. I am uncertain as to how best to resolve these imbalances. For one, the taxation increases must be balanced out. The idea that we are helping to build a better Calgary is valid, but the perception remains that established communities are paying the cost for the newer communities. I also feel that seniors on fixed incomes must be given tax relief to ensure they can remain in the homes that they have built and nurtured all their lives.

4. **Environment and Sustainability:** We believe that better planning tools such as land use and building regulations, and new engineering standards are required for an ecologically sustainable future.

Yes, I agree with the ICC's position. The simplest and easiest thing to do is to implement garbage bag limits and introduce an effective recycling program. Whether recycling is private or city run is less important than actually getting it going. Reforestation is vital, but must be done with native habitat vegetation. The City currently subsidizes compost units and should continue with this as well as rain barrels to decrease the usage of city water. Incentives for green friendly transportation must be upgraded.

5. **Democratic Process & Policies:** We believe that the financing of election campaigns at the municipal level should be subject to the same financial scrutiny of federal and provincial elections.

Yes, I agree with the ICC's position. Full disclosure on campaign donations is essential. Citizens need to feel that the elected official represents them and not some big business or special interest group. It is my understanding that Enmax, a wholly owned subsidiary of the City of Calgary, gave a donation to each incumbent. This, to me, is wrong. We represent the citizens, not ourselves.