



Alderman Diane and Mayor Bronconnier receive Certificate of Recognition from Canadian Forces Liaison Council for the City's new Military Leave Policy

May 2008 Newsletter

Alderman Diane Colley-Urquhart

Federal Funding for Calgary Police Service

Alberta is receiving \$42.4 million over five years from the federal government, which is doling out \$400 million total to recruit 2,500 new police officers across Canada. Alberta's share of the money will be distributed on a per capita basis.

I commend Fred Lindsay, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General of Alberta, for wanting to meet with the Police Chiefs from across Alberta to discuss priorities for these funds. Meeting and discussing each municipality's needs and wants is a great way to balance the spending of the federal funds.

With Calgary's population reaching and exceeding the million persons mark, more officers are needed. Bad things sometimes happen in large cities like Calgary and we need a strong police service to ensure community safety and security for all Calgarians.

Calgary's Police Service reached full strength for the first time in more than two years, meaning it has enough officers for all its 1,600 positions. The City of Calgary has been one of the more aggressive recruiters in Canada, scouring for new officers across Canada and overseas. However, Calgary is lagging behind other major Canadian cities in the number of officers we have per capita.

I fully support Chief Hanson's recommendations that this funding go towards creating new positions, recruiting and training more officers for the City of Calgary.

These additional funds will be hugely beneficial to the City of Calgary and our police service. It will allow our police service to increase their presence in the downtown core and elsewhere in Calgary, which will allow them to do a better job of addressing issues before they develop into bigger problems.

Ensure that the streets and communities of Calgary are safe and protected is a priority.

Transit Safety Audit Update

In the past few months, the Audit Committee approved a Public Safety Audit of Calgary's transit system. This audit will be overseen by a sub-committee which I will serve as the Vice-Chair.

The Audit will review a wide range of public safety issues related to Calgary Transit, including an assessment of incident and crime analysis, safety perceptions, existing response capabilities and environmental design and facilities maintenance factors that contribute to public safety.

The Audit is designed to address concerns that have been expressed by citizens in recent months related to Calgary Transit safety and is a high priority for City Council and its Audit Committee. The Audit will make appropriate recommendations to address public safety improvements that should be made as a result of this comprehensive review process.

Calgary Police Recruit from the United Kingdom

A new version of the British invasion is sweeping Calgary.

Since the Calgary Police Service launched its recruitment drive, dubbed "U.K. experienced officer campaign," a total of 48 British Bobbies have joined the ranks of the Calgary Police Service. In October 2006, four Calgary officers travelled to the U.K. to start the recruitment campaign. The results paid off, and now, Britons are set to make up close to 10% of the entire Calgary police force by the end of this year.

British officers are smitten with the quality of life in Calgary. This influx of new officers has even grabbed the attention of the British newspaper, The Guardian, who sent a reporter to Calgary to investigate the invasion.

Many of the former British Bobbies are impressed by the comparatively amiable relations between the police and Calgarians.

Welcome to Calgary!

City Pilots Instant Travel Updates

To help Calgarians navigate traffic, the city has launched a 5-month pilot project to test a customized email and text messaging service. This service is a new part of The City's Advanced Traveller Information System (ATIS).

Calgarians who subscribe to this service receive instant traffic updates on daily detours, road closures and traffic incidents on their cell phones, PDAs or computers.

You can sign up for the instant updates at www.calgarytraffic.com and specify the routes you want monitored and to be notified about. Sign up takes less than 5 minutes!

Other useful commuter information can be found on the City's website at www.calgary.ca/trafficinfo including real time video of major routes and intersections.

As always, you can contact my office regarding this or any other civic matter at 268-1624, by email at dcolley@calgary.ca, or through my website, www.aldermandiane.ca. Alternatively, you can contact '311.'