



November 2007 Newsletter

Alderman Diane Colley-Urquhart

Big Challenges in Calgary's Future

We've come so far in the last three years ... but we have so much more to do. The incredible growth in Calgary presents new challenges every single day. It is a time when we need prudent and responsible leadership on Council. We need corporate memory and benefit from what we've already learned about potential solutions. Below are some of my top priorities for Council's next term. Some I've been working on already and some are emerging challenges. I have now been acclaimed as your Alderman in Ward 13, but as always, I continue to appreciate your advice and welcome your ongoing support.

Safer and Healthy Communities

- Develop a New Deal for Policing that sets out clear funding and accountability for policing roles and responsibilities.
- Make Calgary a safer city by effectively addressing crime and social disorder.
- Address youth crime and family violence.
- Implement a Comprehensive Calgary Drug Strategy.
- Plan, prepare, prevent and implement a city-wide plan to deal with disasters, pandemics and emergencies.

Mobility of Calgarians

- Commence construction of the SW Calgary Ring Road.
- Invest heavily into public transit including the LRT system and busing.
- Improve traffic safety.

Economic & Financial Sustainability

- Sustain a level of public front line service that meets public expectations and is affordable and cost-effective.
- Develop more efficient and streamlined models to deliver services and keep taxes low.
- Partner with the private sector to leverage public dollars for infrastructure and capital projects.
- Manage growth, inflation, the skilled worker shortage, and keep the cost of living affordable.

Environmental Stewardship

- Caring for and protecting our environment is one of my most important mandates in safeguarding the health of our citizens.

- Achieve and maintain a healthy, sustainable urban forest because parks, the urban forest and natural areas are significant to the environmental quality and recreational fabric of Calgary.
- Focus on emerging “footprint” issues such as air quality and reducing the growing volumes of waste resources that go into our landfills.

Big Challenges Face Next City Council

- Invest in the 3 C’s of:
 - Complying with applicable legislation;
 - Conserving resources and preventing pollution;
 - Continually improving the city’s environmental performance.
- Reduce the City’s corporate greenhouse gas emissions to greater than 50% below 1990 levels as soon as possible (2010).
- Accommodate growth by using the same amount water removed from the Bow River as in 2003.
- Divert waste from Calgary landfills so that 80% of the waste is diverted instead of landfilled by 2015.

Balanced Growth Management

Calgary is facing increasing pressures arising from rapid population growth. Growth is desirable because it creates economic benefits – high income, employment, and tax revenues. Growth also means that Calgary is under pressure to provide adequate housing, water, sewer, and road infrastructure as well as social services. Growth can also mean traffic congestion and the loss of open space, farmland (with annexation) and natural resources that contribute to the quality of life that our citizens enjoy.

We must maintain a balance between growth pressures on the one hand, and the protection of the environment and quality of life on the other hand.

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.’