



Alderman Diane with members of CPS Gang Unit after a large bust in August 2008.

October 2008 Newsletter

Alderman Diane Colley-Urquhart

Policing our City

In the past two decades, provincial funding to municipalities has decreased resulting in the Calgary Police Service becoming a reactionary police force rather than a proactive one. Suburban areas, like those found in Ward 13 are frustrated as police are bled away from these communities to deal with the violence.

Calgary is facing increasing violence on its streets. Additional officers will allow Calgary Police to spend more time investigating and working on complex homicides that are often linked to the gangs and drug trade now in our city. We need to put more police officers on the front lines – now. Being almost 20% below the national average in terms of police resources is clearly too thin to effectively address the gang, gun and drug crime in Calgary.

During the first meeting of Council in September, my colleagues and I supported additional funding to the Calgary Police Service in the amount of \$25 million over 3 years. These monies will be used for more officers on our streets. Part of the plan includes lobbying the province to match the city's contribution and hire an additional 200 officers, for a total of 400 new officers in three years.

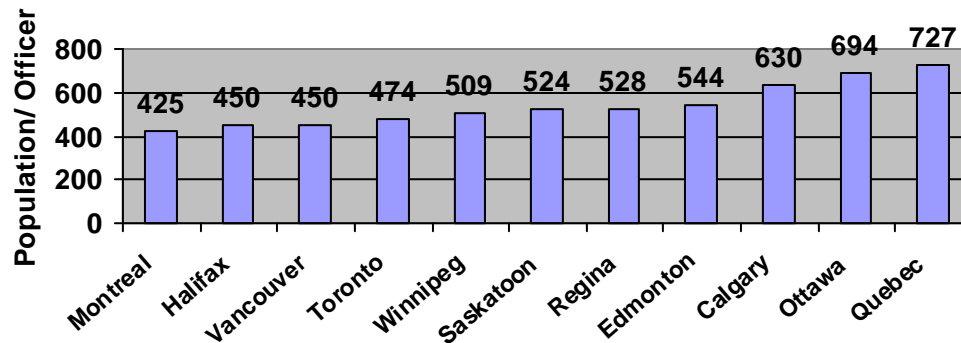
The \$25 million should result in 69 new officers on city streets by early 2009 and 200 new officers in the next three years. Approving this funding now allows Calgary Police Service to begin filling their fall recruit classes.

While Calgary Police recently announced that they had reached authorized strength, this does not mean all of those positions are on the street. Presently, 5 recruit classes remain in various stages of training. Chief Hanson has identified the need for an additional 400 officers, over and above the authorized strength. 41 additional positions have been funded by the Province of Alberta. These 400 new officers would not only get the police service to similar staffing and service levels as other major Canadian police agencies but

also get the Calgary Police Service back on par with the same levels that were seen in the mid to lat 1970s.

With limited resources, it is difficult to maintain a balance within a police service between crime prevention and community policing initiatives and law enforcement – both very crucial aspects that are a necessity for a safe city.

2007 Population per Officer: Major Canadian Cities



Source: Police Resources in Canada,
Statistics Canada, 2008 based on CMAs

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