



September 2007 Newsletter

Alderman Diane Colley-Urquhart

With my current term of office coming to an end, I want to thank the residents of Ward 13 for the opportunity to serve our community as a member of City Council for the past 7 years. Our quadrant of the City is one of the most rapidly growing areas in Calgary, and we need to have prudent and responsible leadership to balance the increasing pressures from rapid population growth. This is why I am seeking re-election on October 15, 2007.

While growth is desirable because it creates economic benefits – high income, employment, and tax revenues, it also means that we are under pressure to provide adequate housing, water, sewer, and road infrastructure as well as social services. Sprawl also means traffic congestion and the loss of open space, farmland (with annexation) and natural resources that contribute to our quality of life – that can never be converted back.

A good example of this is the new area of Providence in Ward 13 that is comprised of 3500 acres to the west. Should this development proceed without all the infrastructure including public transit and road infrastructure in place first, it will have a significant negative impact on our community. All residents must engage in debating the future of this growth corridor to define how we want our community to develop. 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. We must walk the talk.

Building effective and positive working relationships with the province is essential to having long-term predictable sources of revenue to support growth. We have the highest rate of inflation in the country along with the highest cost of living. Prudent and responsible leadership means that we can't continue to increase taxes, spend, borrow and construct everything at once which costs us 20-40% more. We must be careful to not compromise our quality of life and competitiveness.

Mobility of Calgarians

We must commence construction of the SW Calgary Ring Road.
We must invest heavily into public transit including busing & LRT expansion.
We must improve traffic safety.

Safer and Healthy Communities

We must also have more police officers on the beat in Ward 13.
We must make a Calgary safer city by effectively reducing crime and social disorder.
We must address youth crime and family violence.
We must implement a Comprehensive Calgary Drug Strategy.

We must plan, prepare, prevent and implement a city-wide plan to deal with disasters, pandemics and emergencies.

Economic & Financial Sustainability

We must sustain a level of public frontline service that meets public expectations while being affordable and cost-effective.

We must develop alternative service delivery models.

We must partner with the private sector to leverage public dollars for infrastructure and capital projects.

Environmental Stewardship

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

We must achieve and maintain a healthy sustainable urban forest as natural areas are significant to the environmental quality and recreational fabric of Calgary.

We need to focus on emerging “footprint” issues such as air quality and reducing the growing volumes of waste resources that go into our landfills.

We need to invest in the 3 C’s of:

- Complying with applicable legislation
- Conserve resources and prevent pollution
- Continually improve the city’s environmental performance.

We need to reduce the City’s corporate greenhouse gas emissions to greater than 50% below 1990 levels as soon as possible (2010)

We need to accommodate growth by using the same amount water we removed from the Bow River in 2003.

We need to divert waste from Calgary landfills so that 80% of the waste is diverted and recycled, instead of landfilled by 2015.

I want to again thank you for your support and I ask for your support in the coming fall election.