

The Hong Kong Business Association

**CELEBRATION OF CHINESE NEW YEAR
THE YEAR OF THE ROOSTER**

Regency Palace

Greetings from Deputy Mayor Diane Colley-Urquhart

2005 February 25

Good Evening, Everyone.

It is a great pleasure for me to be here today bringing you New Year's greetings from His Worship the Mayor and the City of Calgary. – as we welcome this, the Year of the Rooster.

It is an honour to share in a tradition that has been celebrated for so long. It's clear that this celebration must embody something very significant and worthwhile. Symbolically, the Chinese New Year is more than a time to look back on past achievements. It's a recognition that all of us, no matter what hardships we have been through, have the power and capacity to re-examine and re-order our lives.

The Rooster is an epitome of self-assurance and aggression. However, at heart he can be conservative and old-fashioned. The same can be said of Calgary, and for that matter Alberta. From our humble beginnings as an RCMP fort, to our current status as one of the most prosperous cities in the western hemisphere - it speaks not only to our origins but to our future as a community.

In Calgary, we do not resist change, we embrace it. Yet at the same time we honour our traditions and guard our heritage. As the Rooster shines when he is at the centre of attention, so does Calgary. We can appreciate the international attention, as proven during our success in hosting the 88 Winter Olympics.

Calgary, like the Rooster, is predetermined to be in the public eye in the most positive light.

The parallels to your own organization are obvious. Each of you is here because of your success as an individual. But, together, you are a community capable of remarkable accomplishments. You have successfully preserved the very best elements of Chinese culture – through your pride in your language, your love of the arts, and your participation in Calgary events.

And you continue to set an example for others in our cultural mosaic through your respect for the aged, your acknowledgment of those past, and your concern for future generations.

It is my hope that you will continue to enrich our city through this unselfish philosophy – and to share your energy with all Calgarians as we look ahead to an exciting future.

As we enter the Year of the Rooster, there is one characteristic that – above all others – defines that traditional symbol. And that is enthusiasm.

Let's look at the world we inhabit, and the country we share, and the city we live in – with all the noisy, brash enthusiasm of that colourful bird. Let's approach each day as a new possibility – an opportunity to get things done, to enjoy each other's company, and to make a better life.

On behalf of all Calgarians, I wish you a very happy New Year and many, many more to come.