

Address to

**Aboriginal Resource Centre
3rd Annual Honouring the Elders & Veterans Dinner
Gathering of Nations**

2005 June 24

Deputy Mayor Diane Colley-Urquhart

Good evening Elders of the Treaty 7 area and other traditional territories; a special welcome from the City of Calgary to Arvol Lookinghorse all the way from Greengrass South Dakota; and Peter Ochiese of the Sunchild 1st Nation and veterans. Also welcome to all the chiefs and council members of their traditional territories as well as the leadership of the Metis Nation, representatives of the provincial and federal government, ladies and gentlemen, young people.

On behalf of City of Calgary Mayor and Council I bring warm greetings. This 3rd Annual Elders dinner during the 17th Annual Aboriginal Awareness Week certainly is a highlight of the week's activities. I am especially moved by the honoring of both the Elders and Aboriginal Veterans.

I have come to understand that it is the wisdom of the Elders stories that give the young ones a sense of their history and therefore helps to create a strong and healthy sense of self. The young deserve to have the gifts to ensure that they are able to grow and dream like any other child.

The sacrifices made by the Elders and the Veterans during very difficult periods for Aboriginal people in Canada must not be forgotten. These role models teach us how to remain strong in times of adversity while also reminding us that everyday of life is a gift to be treasured.

It is timely that this celebration occurs during our centennial and year of the veteran as it helps us to capture the spirit of and celebrate those who have come before us so that we may move onto a bright future.

In closing I would like to acknowledge and thank the Aboriginal Resource Center for hosting this event. It must truly be a privilege and honor for your organization to be of service to the Elders and Veterans.