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**For Immediate Release**

**Council Supports Telework Initiative**

**Calgary, AB** – City Council this week approved a motion brought by Alderman Diane Colley-Urquhart to identify and evaluate telework opportunities and impacts in Calgary. One of Council's priorities is to implement and promote programs that encourage carpooling, flexible work arrangements, walking and cycling. "The City has been actively promoting these alternatives and the promotion of telework is an important next step," stated Colley-Urquhart. "It is important to recognize that the City of Calgary cannot 'drive' this initiative. The larger employers need to embrace telework in order for this to be successful and for Calgary to be a national leader in telework." she added.

As a result, The City of Calgary will partner with the Haskayne School of Business and corporate Calgary to research and promote telework. "As the most 'wired' province in the country, we are in a prime position to formalize our support of an approach that is being increasingly adopted in the private sector. I am anxious to see our larger corporations sign-on to the Telework Initiative and assist us in achieving a sustainable solution to the mobility needs of Calgarians," added Colley-Urquhart.

Dr. Bob Schultz, a leading industry researcher and professor at the University of Calgary's Haskayne School of Business, sees this as an opportunity to secure necessary provincial and federal incentive green funds to develop, promote and identify opportunities for telework in Calgary. "It is important to develop a coordinated effort that will identify the potential benefits, barriers and impacts of promoting telework in Calgary," he said, in support of Council's decision.

Scott Flemming, Founder and CEO of Teletrips Inc., which creates, implements and manages public-private commuter reduction partnerships, is optimistic about the success of telework in our city. "Calgary's communication and technology sectors make it an ideal city in which to promote and implement telework. We're thrilled that the City of Calgary is stepping up to the plate and taking this important leadership role," he said.

Telework is defined as working away from a traditional office at least one day a week, with the assistance of telecommunication and computer technology. It can be a significant component in a strategy to reduce transportation related greenhouse gas emissions, vehicle tailpipe emissions, and pollutants by taking cars off the road. Benefits include healthier commuters, improved community liveability, improved mobility options, reduced employer and employee costs, consumer savings, and lower maintenance costs.

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