

Address to

Community Safety & Crime Prevention Through Social Development

La Joie de Vivre (Servants Anonymous)
1008 - 14 Street SW

2003 November 06

Alderman Diane Colley-Urquhart

On behalf of City Council it is my pleasure to officially welcome our guests and out of town visitors to Calgary. Thank you all, for showing your support of this evening for this important session on Community Safety and Crime Prevention through Social Development.

- I would also like to acknowledge the support City Council has given to safety. In April of this year the City of Calgary through its affiliation with the Safer Calgary received a dual Safe Community designation from The World Health Organization and the Safe Communities Foundation of Canada. These designations are the foundation for continued action toward a safer and healthier Calgary.**
- Safer Calgary is another initiative that has the support of over 100 organizations from a cross section of the community networking to “foster community action towards the creation of a safer Calgary” Calgary’s commitment to a whole community approach to safety, requires a real commitment to address the complexities that a large urban centre presents.**
- To create a vibrant and welcoming city, we have to pay close attention to public attitudes, beliefs and behaviors. Calgarians deserve a safe city where they can participate in creating a sense of community that makes Calgary a great place to live, work and play.**

- With a population of almost one million people, Calgary's safety promotion strategies need to reflect the unique challenges that face a city of its size, diversity and magnitude. This evening and tomorrow's planning session represents another step in the right direction as we put effort into understanding safety from a community perspective. We are in a position of great privilege to learn from one another.
- We need to raise awareness of safety and its related issues but, we also need to go much further. It is time for all of us to stop accepting that violence and street crime are inevitable parts of everyday life for some Calgarians. It is my hope that Calgary will move forward in calling for increased individual and collective community safety promotion.
- Calgarians take pride in having a safe city - and opening up lines of communication between all three levels of governments and the citizens that our policies and procedures affect has to be viewed as one more step in the right direction. I look forward to our city, our community and its citizens to continue working in partnership to make safety, in all its dimensions, a sustainable priority.
- Although Calgary is still considered one of the safest cities in North America, it is important that we remain committed to safety strategy where citizen engagement continues and meaningful dialogues happen. The diversity and complexity of our communities demand it. The social intelligence derived from citizen involvement is critical to effective policy – making of today.
- As a member of one of the most forward thinking councils in Canada I will remain politically sensitive and committed to safety initiatives brought before us at the municipal level. I would like to acknowledge the members of council whose presence here this evening reflects the recognition that safety is a significant investment for Calgary's communities. (Names to be provided the evening of November 6th.)

- I would also like to acknowledge and applaud the tremendous work by our Key Note Speaker the....

Hon. Heather Forsyth (PC)

Alberta Solicitor General

- Heather, has dedicated most of her life to community service, especially in aid of children and youth. She is best known for championing the issue of child prostitution, which resulted in the enactment of ground-breaking legislation. The Children Involved in Prostitution Act is the first of its kind in Canada to recognize that children engaged in prostitution are victims of sexual abuse and require protection. She was named Readers' Digest Canadian Hero in 2002 for her work in this area.
- Mrs. Forsyth also assisted with legislation to provide the right of court-ordered access of grandparents to their grandchildren.
- After she was appointed Solicitor-General on March 16, 2001, Heather Forsyth continued to devote her considerable energies to promoting children's interests by launching the high-risk offender web site and establishing the country's first Amber Alert program, which is a partnership between police and the community to increase the chances of finding abducted children.
- Mrs. Forsyth has volunteered with community groups, the Children's Wish Foundation, the provincial Youth Justice Committee, the Alberta Social Services Appeal Advisory Board and the Calgary Board of Health.
- As well as being involved in her church and community, Heather is a qualified figure skating and power skating instructor, an avid reader and enjoys playing baseball and golf. A native of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Heather lives in Calgary with her husband Gordon. They have two sons.

Please make welcome Heather Forsyth.....