

The Community Investment Fund

In the recent Federal Budget, the Government of Canada committed to refund the GST paid by Canada's municipalities. This commitment, which will be retroactive to January 2004 will provide an average annual refund of approximately \$20 million for The City of Calgary.

The Community Investment Fund proposes to invest this revenue for the next 5 years (\$20 Million X 5 years = \$100 Million) into vital facilities in our city that contribute to the quality of life for Calgarians and help maintain our city's reputation as a great city in which to live, work and visit.

Council approved the Community Investment Fund in principle on Monday April 26, 2004.

Additional details on the operation of the Fund will be brought before committee in July for public input prior to final discussion and approval at Council.

Rationale

Transportation infrastructure remains The City's **number 1** priority. The City has invested over \$600 Million in the last three years in transportation and transit projects. It is investing \$400 Million more this year and up to \$700 Million more by the end of 2008.

The GST refund provides the City with an opportunity to invest in other priorities in our community that must also be maintained without reducing our commitment to transportation priorities.

The Community Investment Fund is intended to direct needed capital dollars to City Authorities including The Science Centre (new facility), Calgary Public Library (new main branch), Heritage Park (improvements and enhancements) and the Calgary Zoo (Polar Shores exhibit).

These facilities are fundamental to the excellent, well-rounded quality of life Calgarians enjoy. They contribute to Calgary's valuable international reputation, which attracts business and visitors to our city.

Though these four Authorities were specifically identified in the proposal to share in the funds, none of the projects can be completed with the amounts allotted through this fund. The Authorities will be required to fundraise the balance of required capital through other levels of government or through philanthropic opportunities.

If any of the Authorities are unable to generate sufficient matching funds through such means, their share of the Community Investment Fund could be decreased or revoked. The Community Investment Fund will not be the sole source of funding for any of the candidate projects.

Through such means as public input at Committee, Council may consider other projects for funding under this program if funds are available. Proposals will be discussed and subject to approval of Council.