

State of the City Address

Mayor Predicts Strong Year Ahead - Municipal Sustainability and Protective Services Top Priority

January 17, 2006

(Calgary) - "2006 will be a strong year for Calgary" declared Mayor Dave Bronconnier today as he discussed the remarkable economic performance fuelling growth in our city. In his annual State of the City address to the Downtown Rotary Club, the Mayor stated that municipal sustainability and a need to invest in protective services are two key priorities in coming year.

This was the 5th Anniversary of Mayor Bronconnier's annual speech to Rotarians, and took the opportunity to discuss some key accomplishments during his term as Mayor. He reviewed significant improvements to Calgary's transportation system including interchange projects, upgrades to Calgary's Light Rail System, and success in pressing other orders of government to provide funding for infrastructure. The Mayor also covered major initiatives for community development, protecting Calgary's environment and improving accountability at City Hall.

Bronconnier cautioned that Calgary's prosperity does not come "unencumbered", and that The City faces challenges in the future.

The Mayor explained that more resources are required by the protective services to keep pace with Calgary's growth. "Calgarians have a right to be safe in their community. We need to find more resources to staff Fire, EMS, By-law Services and the Police Service, which is part of our larger discussion about financial sustainability with the Province." Bronconnier has been pressing the Provincial Government for the past year to enter into discussions about revenue sharing and vacating provincial property tax, and he told the lunchtime audience that he his optimistic based on recent talks with the Premier and Municipal Affairs Minister Rob Renner.