

Report to Citizens

Report to Citizens on Mayor's Town Hall meetings and discussions with Calgarians

November 30, 2006 - Thousands of Calgarians attended the Mayor's Town Hall meetings, visited the website, phoned and emailed in their comments, answered surveys and directly spoke with Mayor Dave Bronconnier in the weeks between October 18 and November 15, 2006.

Interest was high and the messages were clear:

- Keep after the Provincial Government to give up more of the property taxes it takes out of Calgary and leave the money here for local needs.
- When the money from the Province's shares of property taxes becomes available, use it on the top municipal priorities of transportation, emergency and protective services and affordable housing.
- Act now - Calgarians do not want the Province to slow down construction until the economy cools off.

"Calgarians clearly understood the message that the pressures of growth and the everyday needs of a burgeoning population must be managed, and must be funded through long-term, sustainable and predictable sources so that The City can plan appropriately," said Mayor Bronconnier. "And they understand the Province, with its huge surplus, has a responsibility and an opportunity here."

Ninety-three per cent of Calgarians thought the Town Halls were a good idea, and seven out of ten agreed with the proposal to leave more of the property tax here in Calgary for municipal infrastructure and schools.

There were five thousand visits to the Mayor's website, 1,000 attended public meetings, more than 200 people provided written comments and 504 responded to a telephone survey.