

# BACKGROUNDER

## **Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI)**

Today's cheque for \$90 million is the first payment under the 10-year Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI). This new, long-term, stable revenue-sharing agreement was signed on September 14, 2007, on what Mayor Bronconnier hailed as "a historic day" for Alberta municipalities.

Over the next four years, these annual grants will ramp up to \$1.4 billion per year. Over the 10-year life of the program, approximately \$3.3 billion in new funding will come to Calgary, to support infrastructure and facility needs in our growing community. Within days of taking office, the new City Council approved investing the MSI funds in major priority areas such as transit, recreation centres and affordable housing.

A breakdown of these priorities include:

### **Transit (\$930 million)**

Council approved investment and application for multi-year MSI funding towards LRT Expansion Program.

- N.E. Line Extension to Saddleridge: \$110M total
  - \$86M + 6 LRVs (24M)
- N.W. Line Extension to Rocky Ridge/Tuscany: \$120M total
  - \$92 + 7 LRVs (\$28M)
- West line as next new line
  - A. Initial Appropriations:
    - 21 LRVs (\$84M)
    - Final design and strategic land purchase (\$50M)
  - B. Report to 2007 Nov 21 Strategic Planning Session of Council on West leg of LRT
    - Functional design, budget and design/build implementation strategy
    - Include servicing options: MRC, Tsu'u Tina, Westhills
- 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue Tunnel Design Study : \$6M
- Request Mayor to make application for multi-year MSI funding for LRT Expansion Program

### **Recreation Centres (\$301.5 million)**

Council approved investing more than \$300 million of the MSI funds into sports and recreation facilities. The City is planning three more recreation centres, one in each of the northeast, southeast and northwest quadrants with the facilities to include libraries.

- Regional Recreation Centres in N.E., S.E., and N.W.: \$210M
  - 3 at 70 million, City contribution
- Calgary Olympic Development Association (CODA) Partnership, Quad Ice 2 City ice surfaces: \$20M
- South Fish Creek Recreation Association (2 ice surfaces): \$14M
- Family Leisure Centre Society Partnership (1 ice surface): \$9.5M
- New Brighton Athletic Park (4 tournament standard multi-use fields): \$8M
- Existing Facility Upgrade and Retrofitting: \$40M (\$10 million/quadrant)
  - Implementation reports to Council on SPC on CPS
- Request Mayor to make application for multi-year MSI funding for Recreation and Sports Infrastructure Growth Program

## **Affordable Housing**

The Province has made a strong commitment to support affordable housing initiatives in a way that addresses municipal priorities. For Calgary this means providing \$63 million for affordable housing within the 2007 budget year. These funds come from both the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) and the Capital Enhancement Program, which is a one-time funding initiative.

From this:

- City Council has adopted a 'shared responsibility' strategy for creating more affordable housing in Calgary. The Enterprise Housing Program, approved in principle by Council on November 26, 2007, is intended to be a long-term, sustainable partnership between the public, private, and not-for-profit sectors. Over the next five years, the intent of the program is to encourage the development within the community of 400 units per year (200 from City-initiated projects and 200 from community-initiated projects) of affordable housing.
- Calgary's current housing strategy is enabled to embrace a mix of initiatives. These include building new affordable housing projects, either directly or through partnerships with the private and non-profit sectors; buying and renovating existing/new rental units to ensure their affordability; providing financial assistance to homeowners to build secondary suites for low income rental, or to bring existing 'non-conforming' suites up to code and planning requirements; contributing to opportunities to provide transitional housing; and addressing current needs through rent supplements.
- Affordable housing projects currently underway include: partnerships with senior governments such as: the Crestwood Housing Project (Grand Opening—Jan. 18, 2008); Vista Grande Housing Project (Opening-Spring 2008); Inglewood Residence—partnership with senior governments and non-profit organizations (2009); and partnerships through the announced provincial government funding such as Louise Station, which is a partnership with the private sector (2010); and purchase of existing rental units such as a condo-converted apartment building in the Beltline.