

2009 May 25

Mayor Linda Bruce  
Chair, Calgary Regional Partnership  
c/o City of Airdrie  
400 Main Street SE  
Airdrie, Alberta T4B 3C3

Dear Mayor Bruce:

On behalf of Calgary City Council, I am pleased to relay our comments relative to the Calgary Regional Partnership's proposed *Calgary Metropolitan Plan (CMP)*.

Since January of 2006, when the Executive Committee agreed to undertake a regional land use plan, the Partnership has been on an eventful journey. I believe all the members should be congratulated for their commitment to address the very real issues facing the region with respect to future regional planning, growth management, servicing and sustainability. As a member of the Steering Committee overseeing the development of the *CMP*, I am proud of what the Partnership has been able to achieve and how this positions our region for the future.

It is my Council's view that the proposed *CMP* is consistent with the direction of the Government of Alberta. Its Land Use Framework, approved in 2008, specifically referenced a regional plan for the Calgary region. Earlier this month, the province brought in the over-arching legislation to support its Land Use Framework. We believe the province is anticipating a timely ratification of the proposed *CMP*. Further, as the plan is aligned with the directions of the Land Use Framework, we would expect the province to support the *CMP* with subsequent legislation.

From the outset, The City of Calgary has been committed to the Partnership's process of developing a regional land use plan. We have willingly committed staff resources to support the work that needed to be done, and in the spirit of partnership, agreed to slow the process down several times in 2008 in response to requests from some member municipalities. City Council has also been committed to the process: through my participation on the Steering Committee and our Aldermanic representatives on subcommittees and the Executive. Further, City Council has held four, all-day special strategic planning sessions this year alone to hear presentations from the Partnership and to discuss the development of the *CMP*.

At our most recent strategic planning meeting, held on 2009 May 19, City Council reviewed the proposed *CMP*. As requested by the Partnership, we wish to relay our comments about the proposed plan.

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Let me begin by reiterating The City of Calgary's perspective that there are three strategic components to managing growth in the Calgary region in an integrated fashion: comprehensive land use planning policies; an effective governance structure, and; servicing.

All three components are inextricably linked and form one complete package. I have, over the course of the past 18 months, made it clear to the Steering Committee and the Executive that it is The City of Calgary's expectation that members of the Partnership would support the entire package as an integrated approach to planning, servicing and governance.

City Council, although not gaining the Partnership's support for all of Calgary's preferred policies, is generally supportive of the land use directions of the proposed plan. It is our view that we, with our municipal partners, can continue to discuss and work through our outstanding issues and suggestions through on-going dialogue and subsequent amendments to the *CMP* post-June, once the plan is ratified and supported by provincial legislation. Further, we are in agreement with the proposed governance structure of a super majority to guide the implementation of the *CMP*. With these two components in place, Calgary will be in a position to participate fully in regional servicing solutions.

At its meeting earlier this week, City Council agreed that, with the approval by the Partnership on June 19<sup>th</sup> of the planning policies and governance structure as detailed in the proposed *CMP*, The City would be prepared to share its water license, with the further understanding that where The City of Calgary's bulk water license is used, Calgary will be the bulk water and waste water service provider. We believe that this integrated approach will strengthen the *CMP* and provide member municipalities with the surety of regional water and waste water servicing to support the plan's growth management strategies.

Mayor Bruce, in conclusion, on the basis of the proposed planning policies, governance structure and the regional servicing approach of Calgary becoming the bulk water and waste water provider, our Council wishes to relay our support for the proposed *CMP*. I would respectfully ask that this letter with City Council's comments be circulated to the members of the Partnership.

We look forward to the June 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and ratification of the proposed *Calgary Metropolitan Plan*. We believe this will mark the beginning of new era for the Partnership and our region.

Sincerely,



Dave Bronconnier  
**MAYOR**

cc: Calgary City Council  
Diana Garner, City Clerk