

I would like to thank those of you who voted in the recent municipal election and in particular those of you who supported my re-election. I would also like to thank former Councillor Mike Nickel for the significant time, energy, and commitment he contributed, over the last three years, towards making Ward 5 and the City of Edmonton a better place to live.

As one of your Councillors for the next three years I will continue to respond to your emails, phone calls, and letters within 48 hours. It is important for your Councillor's offices to provide proper information, propose and facilitate solutions to your problems or to explain to you why there may not be a solution for your particular issue.

In addition to the annual budget, the day to day operational decisions and a variety of policy debates I would like to describe two major items that will be front and centre for this new Council.

a) The Alberta Capital Region Alliance (ACRA) operated on a consensus basis where a unanimous decision was necessary to move an item forward. Edmonton found that reform, under consensus, was almost impossible and has withdrawn from ACRA. City Council lobbied the Provincial Government to assist the region in developing a governance model which will allow motions to be made, voted on and to pass or fail. This model is to be in place by early 2008. Once a workable decision making system exists, the serious work on developing a regional growth plan can begin. This is key to making our Edmonton region part of the global marketplace and ensuring that the entire region shares in the costs and benefits of regional economic successes.

b) The Provincial Government has agreed to provide Alberta municipalities with funding to assist in dealing with infrastructure demands. This could amount to more than \$2B over the next 10 years. This Council must establish a sustainable infrastructure plan for the short, medium, and long term. Sustainability requires a dependable funding source and an ANNUAL prioritization of projects.

I look forward to working with new Councillor Don Iveson. A good working relationship has already begun.

If you have any further questions, please contact me at my office, 496-8130 or by email at bryan.anderson@edmonton.ca