

Message from Alderman Helene Larocque, Ward 3

As I reflect on my last few days as your elected official I want to share with you the excellent work that has been done in the last three years of my term. I want to express my gratitude to Ward 3 for allowing me to be your Alderman and share with you some of the accomplishments that have been achieved.

There were many gains on the transportation front:

- Ward 3 received 35 % of the City's total transportation budget in 2006 and 29 % in 2007. These amounts are unprecedented for public transportation and will deliver projects like the extension of the McKnight-Westwinds LRT Station (six years ahead of schedule) and Métis Trail moving north of 64 Ave to the new ring road. This extension was approved by Council during my term and will be built within five years.
- I worked to expedite the 96 Ave Connector to Deerfoot Trail and was involved in the Shaganappi, Beddington, Country Hills Blvd. improvements.
- I supported the purchase of 30 new busses, 40 new C-trains and an additional 15, 000 transit hours so the people of NE Calgary will have improved service and less wait time.
- During my term dangerous goods routes were reviewed and Deerfoot Trail underwent a safety audit that caused collision barriers to be installed. Those barriers have already saved lives in traffic accidents.

We have seen significant progress in Ward 3 in emergency services development. I am proud that a temporary Fire and EMS Station was built and a permanent Tri-services station will break ground this fall. The Tri-services facility will include a police station for the community. As emergency response times have improved our families are now better protected.

A new NE Recreation Centre with library will be built. Two million dollars was provided by City Council to prepare the facility plans. City Council supported my request for the land to be set aside.

On the environmental front Calgary is becoming a leader. Wetlands in NE Calgary are set aside and a 20 acre Regional Park north of 80th Ave with world class playing fields will be developed.

Being your alderman was a wonderful experience. I was pleased to bring the diverse voice of NE Calgary to City Council and was happy to be a strong advocate that delivered results for our community. Providing the leadership that set the ground work for many good future projects has been a highlight of my career