

Fall 2015

### Message from Councillor Keating



*It has been my sincere pleasure to represent the residents of Ward 12. During my time on Council, Ward 12 has seen considerable funding dedicated to important infrastructure projects while providing citizens with value for their tax payer dollars. Your input is very important to me. In an effort to strengthen the line of communication between my office and the residents of Ward 12, I will be issuing a quarterly electronic newsletter. This newsletter will give you some insight into what my office is working on and will give you a snapshot of what is coming up for Ward 12. I look forward to your feedback!*

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shane Keating". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*Councillor Shane Keating, Ward 12*

## Green Line Moves Forward

There are a times when an elected official cannot be a politician. A politician would focus on what would get them more votes in the next election when considering a decision. A politician would avoid controversy and avoid contentious decisions for fear of the public backlash. An elected official must focus on doing what is right and must consider the broader context of a decision.

In November of 2013 Council made the decision to dedicate \$52 million over 10 years to the Green Line. The vote narrowly passed 8-7. When I reflect on this vote, I can say with great confidence that it is the best decision I have made in my time on council. Instead of taking the easy route, I took a risk on the \$52 million and was labelled by many as a flip-flopper, a traitor and even turncoat because of my decision. Simply put, an elected official must see the bigger picture. By dedicating \$520 million of local funding to the Green Line, the City of Calgary sent a message to the other orders of government that this project is a priority.

On July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 the Government of Canada announced that the City of Calgary will receive \$1.53 billion for the Green Line LRT project. The funding will be officially approved when the City of Calgary makes a formal application to the Public Transit Fund (PTF) that meets all of the criteria. This announcement is an absolute game changer for the Green Line and could allow for Calgary Transit to dramatically accelerate construction. Without the dedication of \$52 million over 10 years from the City of Calgary, this would never have happened.



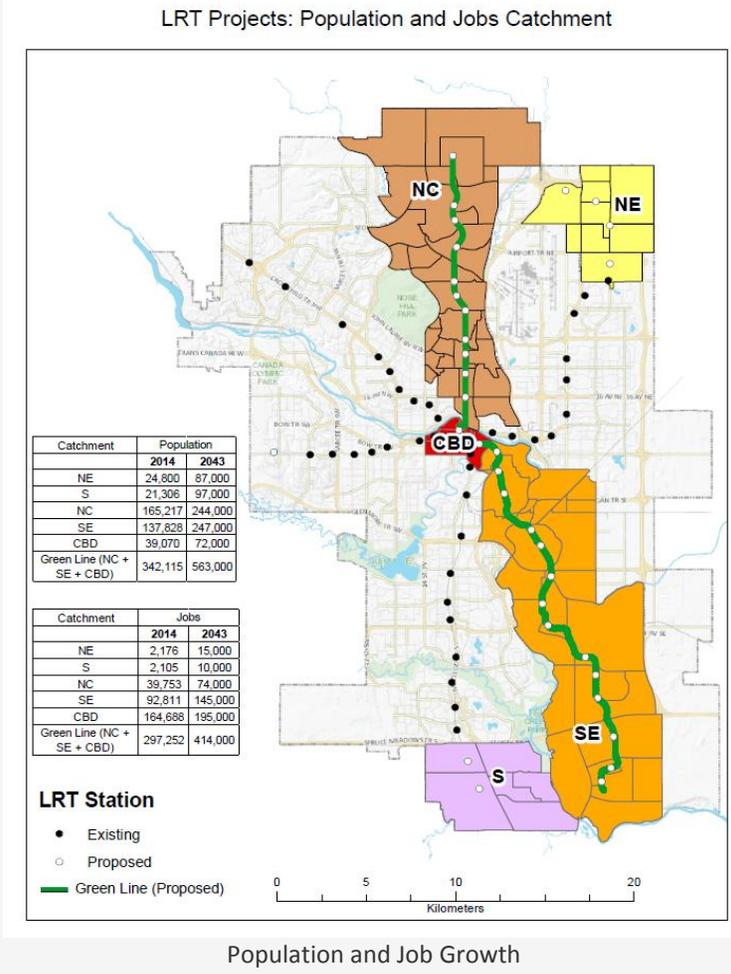
During Stampede this year I had an opportunity to speak with a number of Members of Parliament here in Calgary. I had a very productive discussion with Calgary – Centre MP Joan Crockatt to discuss the benefits of the Green Line project and highlight the importance for partnering with the federal government. I also had conversations with Ministers Jason Kenney and Michelle Rempel that proved both informative and productive. We were able to share ideas and identify a way forward to take this project to the next level.

It is very clear to me that the Federal Government understands the importance of this project. I am especially grateful for the hard work from Minister Rempel and Minister Kenney for the role they played in making this announcement a reality.

Publicly funded projects like the Green Line are typically funded one-third by the federal government, one-third by the provincial government and one-third from the municipal government. With a price-tag of \$4.6 billion, this project will still require additional funding commitments from the City of Calgary and the Government of Alberta. Discussions will need to continue with the provincial government to identify what funding might become available. Some of these conversations have already started, but today's announcement obviously adds a new dynamic.

The spotlight will also shift back to City Council. Our commitment of \$520 million started this process, but we will need to find an additional \$1 billion to make up our contribution to this project. Council must find a way to accomplish this without putting Calgarians through new taxations or increases to existing tax. The best way forward is extending the \$52 million from 10 years to 30 years which would give the City of Calgary \$1.56 billion for this project.

This project will grow as quickly as the funding will allow. Along Calgary's LRT network, the areas along the Green Line are among the fastest growing in the entire City.



Waiting for an additional 20 years for this project to be completed simply is not a reasonable option. Calgarians need more transportation options. We need to take pressure off of Deerfoot Trail and reduce city wide congestion on our major roadways. The figure below shows the dramatic growth in communities south of Glenmore Trail and east of the Bow River:

I am so excited about how far we have come on this project. Continued job and population growth along the Green Line corridor will be among the largest growth rates in the entire city. It has often been referenced at Council that planning for the Green Line is fine, but we could not take next steps until bags of money fell from the sky. I am pleased to say that we are on the verge of realizing an amazing opportunity for a huge number of Calgarians, and I cannot wait for construction to begin. Green certainly does mean go!

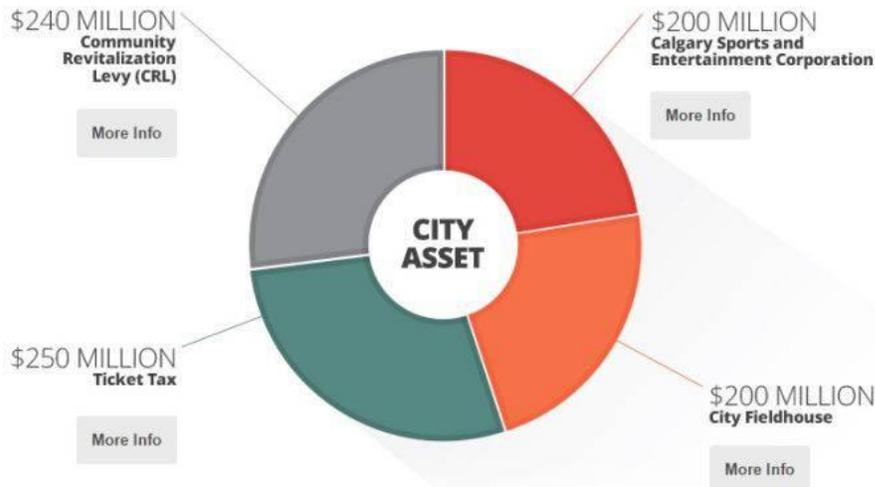
## CalgaryNEXT...What's Next?

On Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup> Calgary Sports and Entertainment Corporation (CSEC) unveiled a proposal for a new state of the art multi use facility. This facility would incorporate an arena, a field house and a football field.

The proposal estimates that the new facilities would cost roughly \$900 million if built as one complex, and \$1.2 billion if built separately. Here is the funding proposal that was broken down by Ken King from CSEC:

- \$200 million from the ownership group
- \$250 million from a ticket user fee
- \$240 million from a Community Revitalization Levy (CRL)
- \$200 million from the City of Calgary to pay for a multi-sport fieldhouse

### FINANCING PLAN



CalgaryNEXT would be located on the west end of downtown Calgary, an area commonly referred to as the West Village. This is an area that is currently in desperate need of redevelopment. The area has a long standing creosote contamination that has yet to be addressed. Clean up of this contamination could be anywhere from \$50M-\$300M. CalgaryNEXT may provide an impetus that may lead to the remediation and development of this land that would otherwise sit unutilized for decades to follow.



Currently the Calgary Flames play at the Scotiabank Saddledome and the Calgary Stampeders play at McMahon Stadium. Neither of these buildings are property of CSEC as the Saddledome is property of the City of Calgary and McMahon Stadium is property of the University of Calgary. CSEC currently pays roughly \$5 million in lease and maintenance for the two facilities. This same arrangement would be in place with CalgaryNEXT. The City of Calgary would retain ownership of the land and own the facility while collecting a lease from CSEC.

The City of Calgary has already identified a multi-sport fieldhouse as an infrastructure priority. It is estimated that this project would cost \$200 million. At the time of this blog the fieldhouse project is unfunded. The fieldhouse would offer substantial public benefit, but the funding commitment could prove challenging with tightening City budgets and other infrastructure priorities. Regardless if the fieldhouse is built on the proposed CalgaryNEXT site or elsewhere, the price tag has been estimated at \$200 million.

There are numerous questions that remained unanswered with the CalgaryNEXT proposal:

- What will become of the existing facilities that the City of Calgary already owns?
- If CSEC is no longer the sole tenant of the Saddledome, what is the future of that facility?
- What will the cost be for the City of Calgary to take over the maintenance duties of the Saddledome and surrounding land?
- What is the future of McMahon Stadium?
- If McMahon Stadium is demolished, who will be responsible for those costs?
- What transportation improvements might be required around the West Village site, and who will bear the burden of these costs?
- CalgaryNEXT will likely borrow against the \$250 million future ticket tax. Who will take on the burden of borrowing the proposed \$250 million?
- Remediation of the West Village site could cost between \$50M-\$300M. Who will be paying for that?

A project of this scope will require buy in from a large group of stakeholders, and tax payers are very much at the centre of that mix. If this project is going to be formally presented to Calgarians it is important that they are given a clear picture of ALL public costs associated with this project, direct or otherwise.

I turn the question over to you, what do you think of this proposal?

### Meet the Ward 12 Team

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**Shane Keating, Councillor**

Councillor Keating was first elected to represent Ward 12 in 2010. He is now in his second term on City Council. Shane was born in Regina and move to Alberta in 1991. He received a Bachelor of Education at the University of Regina and his Masters of Education Administration from the University of Calgary. Prior to becoming the Councillor for Ward 12 Shane spent 31 years in education; 17 as a school teacher and 14 as a school administrator/principal.



**Jordan Pinkster, Chief of Staff**

Jordan graduated from Mount Royal University with a degree in Policy Studies. Prior to joining Councillor Keating's team in December of 2014 Jordan was the Media and Public Affairs Officer at the British Consulate-General here in Calgary. As Chief of Staff Jordan manages the Ward 12 office, provides valuable advice to Councillor Keating and develops the communication strategies for the Ward 12 team.



**Joylynn Matheson, Community Liason**

Prior to joining Councillor Keating's team in March of 2015 Joylynn was serving as the Office Manager for the Marquis de Lorne Community Association. As Community Liason, Joylynn works closely with our Community Associations and provides support to concerned residents that contact the Ward 12 office. Joylynn and her family have lived in Copperfield since 2008.



**Karen Spiers, Executive Assistant**

Outside of working for the Ward 12 team, Karen owns First Serve Tennis with her husband here in Calgary. As Executive Assistant, Karen manages Councillor Keating's calendar and appointments and also manages the administrative needs of the Ward 12 office. Karen and her family lived in McKenzie Towne for 8 years.