

EDMONTON



Growth

STATE OF THE CITY REPORT

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

May 2007

7,400_{ha}
North Saskatchewan
RIVER VALLEY

730_k
Edmonton
POPULATION

2007
Cultural Capital
CANADA



Top row: Ron Hayter, Ed Gibbons, Terry Cavanagh, Dave Thiele, Kim Krushell, Karen Leibovici, Bryan Anderson. **Bottom Row:** Linda Sloan, Janice Melnychuk, Mayor Stephen Mandel, Jane Batty, Michael Phair, Mike Nickel.



Message from

mayor mandel

It's an incredible time to be an Edmontonian. At the centre of Canada's hottest economy and leading in so many fields nationally and around the world, Edmonton has earned the right to be proud.

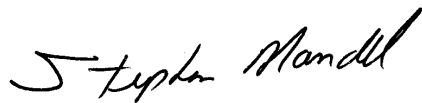
Edmontonians can look forward to our city increasingly being in the spotlight, as leaders in medicine, research, education, culture and the environment, from cities around the world, seek our expertise and advice.

We were named Canada's Cultural Capital this year and our reputation as a fantastic place to live, work and raise a family, is growing. These are all things we can, and should, boast about.

But confidence can't lead to complacency. With every new opportunity comes new challenge. Even the current boom of our fully-charged economy presents challenges in keeping pace with infrastructure, attracting new workers and maintaining the great quality of life that is so valued by all Edmontonians.

We have to meet these challenges through creative planning, aggressive marketing and a much more cohesive plan that includes all our regional partners. Our economy may put us on the world stage, but only our performance will keep us there.

It's our turn, Edmonton. We're the proud and successful capital of Alberta. We're an economic powerhouse with a great quality of life – a combination unequalled in this country. It's OK to be confident. It's OK to brag a little. We've earned the right.

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

Mayor Stephen Mandel

\$383.9M

Shaw and Northlands
CONFERENCE IMPACT

30

annual
FESTIVALS

\$60M

historic downtown
REVITALIZATION



**EDMONTON
2007**



CULTURAL CAPITALE
CAPITAL CULTURELLE
of CANADA du CANADA

Edmonton has been named 2007 Cultural Capital of Canada for its demonstration of leadership and ongoing commitment to the arts and culture.



Edmonton snapshot

Edmonton, Alberta's Capital City, is experiencing unprecedented growth and capturing international attention. Our powerhouse economy, innovative cultural community and environmental leadership combine to produce an incredible quality of life, making us one of the best cities in Canada in which to live, learn, work and play.

The Edmonton region's population swelled to 1.04 million, in a province Statistics Canada reports as enjoying the strongest period of economic growth ever experienced by a Canadian province. Projections anticipate a 230,000 or greater population increase over the next decade.

Edmonton is an energetic city with five professional sports teams, 22 annual, internationally recognized festivals, North America's largest shopping mall and Fort Edmonton, North America's largest interactive historic park. The City of Edmonton also has the largest stretch of urban parkland in North America – the 7,400 hectare North Saskatchewan River Valley home to 22 major parks and over 150 kilometres of recreational trails.

Edmonton has a wealth of diverse and talented poets, singers, dancers, musicians, visual artists, playwrights and actors offering Edmontonians a choice of entertainment and activity throughout the year. It has been named 2007 Cultural Capital of Canada for its demonstration of leadership and ongoing commitment to the arts and culture.

In a city already well known for its acoustically excellent concert hall, the Francis Winspear Centre for Music, and its nationally recognized Citadel Theatre, Edmonton is looking to add another artistic jewel on Sir Winston Churchill Square (Edmonton's main central square) when the stunning reconstruction of the Art Gallery of Alberta opens its doors in 2009.

Edmonton's Shaw Conference Centre opened its new Hall D, a 2499-square meter room that comfortably accommodates 2,000 people in a theatre setting and offers a spectacular view of the Saskatchewan River. The new addition is the first of many new buildings to emerge in Edmonton's Downtown East as the City leads a \$60-million revitalization of its historic downtown area.

The Canadian Finals Rodeo enjoyed another record-breaking year in 2006 and the Grand Prix of Edmonton chalked up a thrilling second year. Edmonton rebranded Klondike Days to Capital Ex, a move that reinvigorated the city's largest annual event.

Edmonton is a hotbed of research and innovation. Our National Institute for Nanotechnology makes us the Canadian centre for cutting-edge micro- and nanotechnology research. The Mazankowski Heart Institute, opening in October 2007, will make Edmonton the undisputed heart transplant capital of Canada.

\$2.1_B
Economic
GROWTH

3.5%
Unemployment in
EDMONTON

\$3.6_B
Edmonton area
CONSTRUCTION



Seven Edmonton-area companies were recognized as members of the prestigious Canada's 50 Best Managed Companies having demonstrated long-term superior performance in every aspect of business. They are:

- PCL Construction Group of Companies (Construction)
- Design Group Staffing Inc. (Human Resources)
- Fountain Tire (Retail)
- Commercial Solutions Inc. (Industrial Distribution)
- CCI Thermal Technologies Inc. (Manufacturing)
- Waiward Steel Fabricators Ltd. (Manufacturing)
- IFS Voyages Inc. (Travel & Tourism)



Economic climate

The City of Edmonton, which serves as a global port to more than \$100 billion of oil sands investment, has benefited from the economic spin offs from energy investments, strong population growth and consumer spending.

In 2006, crude oil rose to an average price of \$68 per barrel. Higher oil prices increased the viability of oil sands projects in Northern Alberta and also spurred increased activity in the area of refining. As many as 10 proposed upgrading sites are planned for just north of Edmonton.

Greater Edmonton's economic growth rate reached 5.5 per cent or \$2.1 billion in 2006. Edmonton's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) climbed to \$42 billion – one of the largest increases in history, with projections of an additional 4.5 per cent, or a \$1.9 billion jump in economic growth in 2007.

Even with a low unemployment rate of 3.5 per cent, Edmonton's construction industry has boomed in the Greater Edmonton area with a record breaking 15,000 new housing starts recorded for the year. More than \$2.3 billion worth of building permits were issued in the City of Edmonton alone. Housing prices increased 40 per cent in 2006 over 2005.

Edmonton International Airport became the country's fastest growing airport in 2006, handling more than five million passengers - a 15.5 per cent increase over 2005. A \$200 million, five-year expansion of the airport has been announced, to include a new terminal concourse, a larger enhanced transborder area, additional parking stalls and a hotel.

The Northern Alberta Institute of Technology announced a \$750 million expansion plan that will make it the largest technical school in Canada and one of the largest in North America. Across the Saskatchewan River, the University of Alberta is being transformed by \$1.7 billion of construction.

Forty-six per cent of Greater Edmonton residents have earned a post-secondary degree, diploma or certificate, making Edmonton one of the most educated workforces in North America. With eleven post secondary institutions, 157,000 students and an annual budget of \$1.5 billion, the region's post secondary education sector generates a major economic influence that continues to grow.

City Council ratified a joint venture in 2006 between the University of Alberta and Edmonton Economic Development Corporation (EEDC), TEC Edmonton - Technology, Entrepreneur & Company Development. The unique partnership aims to capture economic and social benefit by helping local innovators transfer their research break-throughs into commercial successes.

150+

Edmonton Community
LEAGUES

96%

Edmontonians' rating
QUALITY OF LIFE

2,300+

annual hours
SUNSHINE



POPULATION

- EDMONTON: 730,372*
- METROPOLITAN: 1,034,945*

LAND AREA

- EDMONTON: 700 SQUARE KILOMETRES (69,980 HECTARES)
- METROPOLITAN: 9,537 SQUARE KILOMETRES

* based on 2006 Canada Census

Welcoming newcomers

The City of Edmonton is working with the provincial and federal governments to increase the number of immigrants who settle and stay in the Capital City. The University of Alberta, seat of the Prairie Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Integration, is also helping the City and the Government of Canada attract and retain immigrants.

Known for its culturally diverse communities, Edmonton has experienced a significant shift from European immigration to immigration from the Middle East, Africa, and South and East Asia. The city is also welcoming thousands who have migrated to the Capital City from other provinces.

The City wants to ensure immigrants, initially attracted by Edmonton's thriving economy, settle in a supportive and receptive community and recommend Edmonton to their family and friends. In 2006, Edmonton established an immigration and settlement program to financially assist Edmonton organizations working with immigrants to ensure their successful integration into city life.

Key to that integration is availability of safe, affordable housing, reliable public transportation, and community organizations offering connection and social supports. The City of Edmonton is collaborating with community groups to develop these supports.

Immigrants to Edmonton report the City's quality of life, abundant recreational and entertainment choices, educational and economic opportunities, and the presence of family and friends are major factors in their decision to stay in the city.

The City also launched a new website www.movetoedmonton.com, to help encourage individuals thinking of immigrating or migrating to Edmonton. The site showcases Greater Edmonton's competitive advantages and the region's variety of ethnic communities.

1,000+
sporting & recreation
FACILITIES

\$12.5M
Low Level Bridge
REHAB

70%
Household waste
RECYCLED



In a spring 2006 survey, Edmontonians gave a 96 per cent rating to our quality of life and a nine out of ten overall satisfaction rating with civic services. City recycling and waste services, the extensive park and trail systems, police services and recreation and cultural facilities/programs received high ratings. Infrastructure, roads, a safe environment and public transit were cited as the citizen's four most important issues.



Responsive and Responsible growth management

The Edmonton region is poised for incredible growth over the next several years. The City of Edmonton recognizes that growth and change must be carefully managed to ensure future residents will enjoy our city's strengths. More people means more demand for transportation, housing and all city services.

The City of Edmonton Infrastructure Strategy was unanimously approved by Council to address the need for re-investment in existing infrastructure in an environment of robust economic growth, stringent environmental requirements and increasing expectations from citizens. Edmonton is working with the provincial and federal governments to understand and address the municipal infrastructure challenge.

In 2006, Edmonton began revising its ten-year Municipal Development Plan to establish direction for future land development and redevelopment decisions (Focus Edmonton). The Transportation Master Plan is also being revised to address the efficient movement of people and goods throughout the city in an environmentally sensitive manner.

Beyond the demand of our own population growth, Edmonton is extremely concerned about the impact to the city from the explosive growth of the communities immediately outside of our city limits. In 2007, the City of Edmonton will strongly advocate for the creation of a new regional growth strategy with a renewed governance, cost, and revenue sharing formula that acknowledges this impact.

Canada's greenest city

The City is a world leader in developing an environmentally sustainable community that functions in harmony with the natural environment.

Edmonton diverts an impressive 60 per cent of residential solid waste through reuse, recycling and composting – one of the few major Canadian cities to achieve more than 50 per cent.

The City is a world leader in wastewater recycling – the Gold Bar Wastewater Treatment Plant can supply up to 40 million litres a day of high-quality treated water to industry, reducing the need to draw water from the North Saskatchewan River.

Through the Aggregate Recycling program, the City has recycled more than four million tonnes of road construction rubble (asphalt and concrete), extending the life of our landfill by about five years and saving the City more than \$5 million in 2006 alone.

Among the City's many other environmental initiatives are the CO2RE (Carbon Dioxide Reduction Edmonton) program, a new and more efficient Enviso Spill Reporting Centre and the only operation in Alberta turning landfill gas into electricity. Soon, the City and its partners, the Alberta Energy Research Institute and EPCOR, will build a gasification facility to convert municipal waste into electricity.

\$106M
arterial road
IMPROVEMENTS

4TH
Canadian Major Cities
LOWEST TAX RATE

57.5M
ridership (trips)
EDMONTON TRANSIT



Responsive and Responsible

growth management

continued

Transportation

The effective movement of people, goods and emergency services is key to managing, and benefiting from, the growth of the Edmonton region. Several transportation projects were completed in 2006 to increase traffic flow and safety.

A \$64 million interchange at Yellowhead Trail and 156 Street opened in October and has significantly increased traffic flow from the west of the city. The City also completed a major \$12.5 million rehabilitation to the City's Low Level Bridge, one of the bridges responsible for moving people across the river and in and out of the downtown area. The completion, by the Province, of the \$310 million Anthony Henday Drive Southwest, has helped alleviate traffic congestion to the city's high growth southwest residential areas.

Edmonton's public transit system got a significant boost with approval to further extend the Light Rail Transit (LRT) system three additional stops to southwest Edmonton by 2009. This South LRT extension is expected to relieve the pressure on the major arterial roads from south Edmonton and will connect people from several of the city's new residential developments. The LRT will run 20.3 kms. from north to south Edmonton and will be a major factor in managing the city's transportation system.

Edmonton was one of six Canadian cities to receive federal funding to increase security on its public transit system. Edmonton invested a portion of its \$2.2 million federal grant in increasing the number of closed circuit televisions and providing increased lighting. This investment adds to Council's earlier initiative of introducing Transit Special Constables in 2006 to help ensure security and safety of transit users and operators.

Housing

Edmonton committed \$5 million to our Cornerstones Affordable Housing Program to increase the number of rental units available to lower income households and help meet Edmonton's growing need for affordable and social housing.

As part of the program, the developer of a 750-unit project will meet City Council's objective of including five per cent social housing in all new major developments.

A unique, made-in-Edmonton program will also introduce up to 1,000 new homes to the market to help ease Edmonton's new home crunch. Edmonton's First-time Homebuyers Program will transform up to 20 unused school sites in city neighbourhoods into potential locations for affordable new homes. Proceeds from the eventual sale of the land will be split equally between the City of Edmonton and the school boards.

120
Edmonton Police
RECRUITS

5.4M
visits to Edmonton Public
LIBRARIES

145
hours per Edmonton
VOLUNTEER



Edmonton's future what's ahead

In 2006, Edmonton had one of the fastest growing economies in the country. Though we are indeed fortunate to be in the midst of such prosperity, rapid growth has its challenges.

With economic indicators pointing to a continuing bright future for Edmonton, the City will need to focus once again in 2007 on identifying revenue streams that help us address our growing infrastructure gap. To help accomplish this, Edmonton is urging greater participation from the provincial and federal governments in funding the much needed infrastructure investments created by the current economic boom.

Projections that Edmonton will experience a 10-year population increase in just five years will result in the need to balance demand for City services to new residential developments with a program of longer term, sustainable investment in the aging infrastructure of our older communities.

Edmonton's rapidly expanding population is attracting people from other countries, adding a much-needed boost to the city's tight labour market. The City of Edmonton is working with the provincial and federal governments to help ensure all newcomers feel welcome in our city and continue to live and work here. The City's Office of Diversity and Inclusion is working to ensure our own City workforce broadly represents the communities we serve.

Municipal government is often said to be closest to those it serves. Through 2006, the City of Edmonton reached out to the community, listening to citizens, asking for input on transportation and land use issues, community facilities and more. The conversation will continue in 2007 as the City works with Edmontonians to face the challenges and changes presented by growth, and create a vision of our community's future.

Information on The City of Edmonton
is available through the internet

www.edmonton.ca

Inquiries may also be directed:

Citizen Action Centre
Main Floor, City Hall
#1 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2R7
Phone: (780) 496-8200
Fax: (780) 496-8210
e-mail: cacentre@edmonton.ca

