

4. City Charter

a/ Issue Statement:

Calgary has a population of over 1 million people, close to 30% of Alberta's total population. Being the largest city in Alberta creates new and complex challenges. Alberta municipalities of all sizes are governed by the Municipal Government Act (MGA). Other large cities in Canada that are in the same league as Calgary have their own city charter. These charters provide specific powers to help those large cities deal more effectively and more independently with their unique large city challenges.

We believe that The City of Calgary should approach the Province of Alberta to explore creating a city charter for Calgary.

b/ Background:

St John's Newfoundland, Saint John, New Brunswick, Montreal, Quebec City, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver all have city charters. Some of these charters responded to rapid growth, not unlike what Calgary has experienced and will experience in the future.

The most recent charter enacted was for the City of Toronto. Part of the rationale for this charter was to give Toronto powers and responsibilities that match that City's stature as the largest city in Canada and it being a significant economic centre. Certainly Calgary's growth and it becoming a significant economic centre in recent years promotes Calgary to be in the same league as Toronto in many respects.

City charters also help make the cities that have these charters more of an equal partner with their provincial government when it comes to matters impacting those cities.

c/ Questions for the Candidate:

Do you support exploring the concept of a city charter for Calgary?

Would you please expand on the rationale for you answer to the above question?

Do you believe that Calgary would be better served by having increased jurisdiction on matters facing a large city?