

# Shifting Gears for a new Calgary



The 2nd Annual Calgary Urban Summit

Wednesday, October 9, 2002 | Roundup Centre, Calgary

## OVERVIEW

- ❖ **What is *Canada25*?**
- ❖ **Calgary has a choice**
- ❖ **Our vision for a great city**
- ❖ **How to achieve this vision**
- ❖ **Priorities for Calgary**

## **CANADA25 SEEKS TO PROMOTE A NEW DEFINITION OF THE ROLE OF YOUNG CANADIANS IN PUBLIC LIFE**

### ***Canada25's Mission***

**To engage the perspectives of young Canadians living around the world in Canada's public policy debates**

In doing so, *Canada25* will

- ✦ Work to develop and implement creative and constructive policy positions and initiatives
- ✦ Act as a resource for senior decision makers looking to involve young people
- ✦ Build a network of young Canadians living in Canada and around the world to encourage ongoing engagement in Canadian policy issues

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- To fulfill this mission we will
    - Develop ongoing policy thinking in areas of focus. For 2002, these are:
      - Cities
      - Innovation
      - Canada and the World
    - Execute national initiatives along individual local initiatives

## Calgary: Then and now

	1994	2001
<b>Population:</b>	738,184	876,519
Time to drive downtown from Naheed's parents' house, non-rush hour:	12 minutes	12 minutes
Rush hour:	20 minutes	45 minutes
C-train stations:	31	31
Status of East Village development:	Great ideas on the table; construction to start soon	Great ideas on the table; construction to start soon.
Homeless people in annual count:	447	1737

# CALGARY HAS A CHOICE... A TALE OF TWO CITIES

## Los Angeles, USA

- ✿ **Began building freeways in the 1940s**
- ✿ **Removed transit rail lines in 1950s**
- ✿ **Commuters by Car, truck, or van in 2000: 3,452,192 or 85%**



## Curitiba, Brazil

- ✿ **Chose universal access over the private auto in 1970s**
- ✿ **Redesigned streets to accommodate high volume buses**
- ✿ **Commuters by transit in late 1990s: 1,900,000 or 75%**



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## OUR VISION FOR A GREAT CITY

### Density

- We reject urban sprawl
- Smart cities will build up rather than out, reclaiming space to create safe, environmentally friendly neighbourhoods that minimize the cost of transport and infrastructure

### Diversity

- We want to live in diverse neighbourhoods in cities that are intersections of the world
- We care deeply and passionately about social inclusion and the alleviation of poverty

### Discovery

- Discovery that comes from innovation, both in education and in industry, fuels economic development and ensures a flow of young talent to the city
- Great cities have an element of *human discovery*—that celebration of the human spirit that comes from the arts, culture, inspiring public spaces, and infrastructure that facilitates human interaction.

*Cities matter because they are the primary unit for economic and social development, and also the key magnets for attracting and retaining young talent in Canada.*

# HOW TO ACHIEVE

## Density

- Density is high; public transit is a preferred choice

**Fighting urban sprawl**

and play; young people can afford to live in the city

- Classes and socio-economic

**Creating a new national transportation strategy**

- Environmental sustainability factor in design of built space and infrastructure

- Public spaces are vibrant and attractive – in all senses

## Diversity

**Improving human potential & social inclusion**

**Maximizing the benefits of immigration**

importance of their relationships with one another

engagement and

**Fostering creativity and culture**

- Social capital is strong: citizens are actively building civil society

## Discovery

where it is an indisputable

**Tuning up the economic development engine**

tolerance—supporting

**Building great city universities**

- Promotion of life-long personal improvement

**Solidifying and sending our message**

**Increasing civic engagement**

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## ACTIONS FOR CALGARY

### Our vision

*A great city is one that embraces diversity, has a vibrant urban culture and allows the majority of its residents to travel to school and work without having to get into a car.*

- from *Shifting Gears*, Calgary Chapter of Canada25 report

### Three Priorities

- 1. Calgary must build up instead of out**
- 2. Calgary must reduce the number of private vehicles on city streets**
- 3. We have to enhance Calgary's urban culture and environment.**

## CONCLUSION

*The country with the strongest cities wins.*

*-Glenn Murray, Mayor of Winnipeg*

- ✳ Young talent matters. Calgary's civic leaders must recognize that retaining its talented young workforce is vital to the city's future economic prosperity.**
- ✳ We believe that Calgary can become a great city only if there is a fundamental shift in thinking by our civic and community leaders.**
- ✳ We look forward to working with Calgary's leaders in our quest to make Calgary a great place to live.**