Density: Election Edition

BY <u>CRPADMIN</u> • SEPTEMBER 13, 2013 • <u>CALGARY METROPOLITAN</u> PLAN, PARTNERSHIP/PLAN, REGIONAL SERVICING AND CMP IMPLEMENTATION

As municipal elections draw closer, we know that issues relating to the <u>Calgary Regional</u> <u>Partnership</u> (CRP) and the Partnership itself will be topics of interest. In fact, we are already the topic of conversation <u>here</u> and <u>here</u>. We expect to be in more conversations as the candidates present their platforms to voters. We definitely welcome any conversation about the Partnership, the Calgary Region and regionalism because these issues affect us all, and are not just isolated to one or two municipalities. People in the Calgary Region don't just live and work in one municipality but also shop, attend schools and participate in recreational activities in others. The uniqueness of our communities is what makes the Calgary Region one of the best places to live.

One issue that we know will come up for discussion during these elections is density. Specifically, a misconception that the Partnership dictates land development or forces density requirements on municipalities. We want to make it clear:

The Calgary Regional Partnership (nor the <u>Calgary Metropolitan Plan</u>) **DOES NOT** have any control over land use decisions in any member municipality. Neither are we involved in approving or commenting directly on ANY municipal land decisions. Density targets **ARE NOT** regulated. They are commitments made by CRP member municipalities because they want new development to occur in ways that achieve efficient use of land and infrastructure. In fact, on the topic of local autonomy, we have had some <u>positive progress</u> during our recent <u>mediation</u> process.

In a <u>previous post</u>, we already discussed density, its benefits and importance to stewarding our Region's water supply. It is vulnerable as we prepare for the expected 1.8 million people arriving in the Calgary Region in the next 60 years.



<u>As mentioned</u>, we don't advocate that all future developments be high density because that's contrary to maintaining the diversity of our Region. However, we want to highlight the benefits because increased density will help significantly decrease infrastructure costs born by the tax payers over time and better steward our land and water resources.

During this election season, It is not our intention to get involved or meddle in any municipal election. However, we will address any inaccurate information presented about the CRP or the Calgary Metropolitan Plan. We want to ensure the correct information is provided about the Partnership and if we do become an election issue, citizens have all the information to make their decision.

During this election season, If there are any municipal candidates who have any questions about the Partnership, the Metropolitan Plan or issues we are involved with, we encourage you to get in touch with the currently elected CRP members in your municipalities. We want to make sure information about us is accurate rather than preconceived assumptions or taken from third party sources.

<u>Visit our website</u>, the <u>Metropolitan Plan website</u>, check out our <u>YouTube Channel</u>, send us a<u>tweet</u>, comment on this blog, or <u>email us</u>. We'll even take <u>snail mail</u>! We would love nothing more than to have a discussion about our future, which is exactly what elections are about.