

Organizational Meeting
November 3, 2008

Good Evening Everyone!

Today, I want to inform you of my views of the City of Medicine Hat. The spring census clearly indicated how we have grown to a total of 60,500 citizens. With our steady growth, we have maintained the lowest unemployment rate in Alberta, and we still see signs everywhere identifying a need for help to their businesses.

Several new businesses have, or are about to open their doors in the City. The new Canadian Tire store and the planned Wal-Mart opening are but a few indications that our resale shops are doing good.

On the activity front, many events were extremely successful in 2008. One only has to look at JazzFest, Spectrum, the Alberta Summer Games and the Chili Cook-Off to note that community support is there and the enthusiasm is thriving. These events, like so many others surface the quality of volunteers in Medicine Hat. This Council is very proud of our citizens.

Having said this, we also know that some of our citizens need help. While we have a lead step on affordable housing, we know that more is needed. We also celebrate the great contribution of so many agencies that are helping people in need on a daily basis. Thank you for this community work, and we appreciate it!

Over the past year, your Council has worked diligently to address issues as they surfaced. We are all a lot more knowledgeable than we were last year at this time. We are striving to build a partnership with our citizens. In that light, we are conducting surveys / programs to see where we can improve your City Centre, your Airport, and your investment in Natural Gas and all Utilities. This gained knowledge can only be useful if our Council remain open and on course with their respective committees.

Personally, I thought Medicine Hat was a very good city last year. Now, I have witnessed how great it is, because of its people, the contributing clubs and agencies, and more importantly, at this time, because of the spirit of teamwork and dedication to success.

Thank you for your support!