



CITY OF BURNABY
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
DEREK R. CORRIGAN

December 7, 2009

Good evening everyone. I am very pleased to deliver this Inaugural Address on behalf of City Council to reflect on our accomplishments of the past year. Burnaby has much to be proud of, and so much to look forward to.

In 2009 we all took great pride in the announcement by McLean's Magazine that Burnaby is the 'Best-run City in Canada.' I believe that this national recognition of our City demonstrates that citizens and Council have been working towards a common vision. We have focussed our civic efforts to ensure that every service provided makes a real difference to improve the lives of Burnaby residents. We have instilled this mandate of public service excellence throughout our organization. I would like to recognize and congratulate City Manager, Bob Moncur and Deputy City Manager, Chad Turpin, and all City employees for setting this new national standard.

One of Burnaby's keys to success is our commitment to operating our City's programs and initiatives utilizing the individual talents and wisdom of citizens and Councillors through our exemplary Commissions and Committees. In addition we have created some important partnerships with community groups that advance our collective goals. This ongoing engagement by our City Council and staff with the community we serve has ensured that we never waver from a mandate to create the best City for our citizens. On behalf of Council I would like to take this opportunity to thank and recognize our citizen volunteers by highlighting some of our major accomplishments from the past year and focussing on our vision for 2010.

One of the fundamental forces that shape our City is a comprehensive community planning process. We have benefited from being a preferred location for quality development and investment that recognizes Burnaby as a great place to live and do business. Our Official Community Plan ensures that every new rezoning and building permit further builds on the vision of creating a better City with more economic opportunities and public amenities for Burnaby residents.

Burnaby is fortunate to have the wisdom offered by our citizen-led **Advisory Planning Commission and Board of Variance** that have been a tremendous asset to our Council's process of planning approvals and review. They have ensured that the interests of our City and citizens remains protected as a key aspect of our development process. Our Planning & Building Department, under the leadership of Director Basil Luksun, was recently ranked as the best civic planning office by the Metro Vancouver building and development industry. We appreciate the cooperative and civic-minded planning process that has been achieved for our community.

The **Community Development Committee** chaired by **Councillor Colleen Jordan** is also an important player in our planning policies and process. This committee ensures that we protect and promote affordable, non-market and special needs housing. Burnaby has been a national leader in advocating for our most vulnerable residents to ensure that the Provincial and Federal Governments live up to their legislated responsibilities to fund public housing and provide social programs for citizens.

Our City Council believes that every Canadian has the right to have a home. We have used every opportunity available to a local government to partner with the development community and housing advocates to create quality housing for those in need while not unfairly burdening local taxpayers. Over the years, our City has approved the development of over 5,800 social housing units. In 2009, Burnaby independently created another six high-quality homes for Burnaby families in need through our Density Bonus Program as part of the Brentwood Gate Development. Council also created the Community Benefit Housing Fund and has allocated grants totalling over \$327,000 to non-profit groups such as the South Burnaby Legion and the Marguerite Dixon Society to assist in financing their projects.

Our continuing efforts to create a caring community are further advocated by our **Social Issues Committee** led by **Councillor Pietro Calendino as Chair and Councillor Paul McDonell as Vice Chair**. This dedicated group of citizens has capably advised Council on a variety of issues affecting the needs of seniors, youth, families, ethnic groups and persons with disabilities. Among the many successful initiatives of this committee is the use of the Density Bonus Program to fund the construction of the new Cameron Children's Centre in 2009. This facility will provide a place in the Lougheed Town Centre for a high-quality day care for Burnaby families.

Councillors Calendino and McDonell also serve as chair and vice chair of the **Community Policing Committee** with **Councillor Richard Chang** as an active member. This Committee collaborates with the Burnaby RCMP Detachment to implement and promote our community-based policing program and provide input into policing priorities. Under the able stewardship of Officer in Charge, Rick Taylor, RCMP Burnaby Detachment has provided excellent service. In 2009 Burnaby added six police officers and five support staff to ensure that the detachment has the necessary resources to promote and enhance public safety. Resources have been focussed on increasing the number of police officers on road patrol to protect residents, business owners and property. Our City also reviewed and reorganized our resources in the past year to ensure that the Community Police Offices continue to be an effective program that connects with and serves citizens.

Under the direction of the Community Policing Committee our successful youth crime reduction programs have been enhanced and expanded. One program aimed at targeting property crime and vandalism by youth has been implemented through my **Task Force on Graffiti** chaired by **Councillor Colleen Jordan**. Throughout our City this hands-on citizens group has effectively ensured that City staff, property owners and residents have the tools to prevent graffiti crime and reduce its impact on our neighbourhoods. In 2010 the Task Force will be implementing a number of programs including new urban murals that will make Burnaby an even more beautiful place.

Burnaby's success in creating a liveable City has been established in large measure through our investment in parkland which has distinguished us as

one of the greenest urban places in Canada. Our parks provide tremendous opportunities for the **Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission** chaired by **Councillor Sav Dhaliwal**. In 2009, Burnaby staff under the leadership of Director Dave Ellenwood continued to deliver a comprehensive program and services to our community. In every neighbourhood our facilities enrich the lives of our citizens and contribute to the liveability and economic vitality of our City.

Deer Lake Park has become one of our city's most important natural and cultural assets. Our City's investment in this spectacular park with its special heritage and arts precinct has created significant positive economic benefits for tourism and local businesses. Our vision is to create one of the region's must-see attractions. In 2009 the new Spirit Square at the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts will be completed to improve this public space for our community festivals and concerts.

The Community Heritage Commission chaired by **Councillor Colleen Jordan with Councillor Kang** as Vice Chair continues to ensure that our community never forgets its fascinating past. This dedicated commission has pursued many projects to restore the City's beautiful heritage buildings and landmarks. The Commission is especially proud of its award-winning Heritage Burnaby website and the ever expanding City Archives program which is making thousands of historic photographs of the City available to the public.

Our recreational facilities were put to the test in 2009 during our sponsorship of the World Police and Fire Games which welcomed more than 10,500 athletes. We are especially proud of this event, one of the most successful in the history of this international organization. We are also proud of the tremendous support and dedication from both our Fire Department and the Burnaby RCMP which was instrumental to the success of the Games. Burnaby is quickly becoming known as the Province's center for amateur sports. We have recently won the bid for the 2012 B.C. Senior Games that will bring over 3,500 athletes to compete in 26 sports at venues throughout the City and will result in a positive economic impact for our community.

The City will be moving ahead in 2010 to begin construction of the new Edmonds Community Centre. We will be proceeding to complete this \$52

million dollar recreation and aquatic centre as soon as possible. Our intention has always been to ensure that new civic amenities built for Edmonds will be high-quality architecture and will functionally add to the excellent recreational and community facilities for South Burnaby. Our City's vision for a revitalized Town Centre will culminate in a new community plan for Edmonds Street, forged in partnership with area residents, businesses and property owners.

A major civic initiative for Edmonds Town Centre, and one of the highlights of 2009, was the opening of the Tommy Douglas Library. This beautiful building is an achievement we can all celebrate. Our citizen-led **Public Library Board** with **Councillor Anne Kang** as our liaison has continued to excel in providing an outstanding service to our community. We are especially proud of the Board's education programs for children and new immigrants. These efforts are important services for these families and an important part of our goal of increasing literacy rates. We are proud of all the contributions that Chief Librarian Edel Toner-Rogala and her staff have achieved to ensure that the Burnaby Public Library continues to be a vibrant and active institution in our City.

Burnaby's innovative **Environment Committee** is chaired by **Councillor Dan Johnston**. It has studied and advised Council on conserving and enhancing Burnaby's natural landscape and the reduction of waste and pollution. A key project initiated this year was the automated garbage and yard waste collection program. Over 60,000 new receptacles were delivered to every single and two-family household in the City. The efficient completion of this program and the wide acceptance and satisfaction of residents demonstrated our City's dedication to detailed planning and serving the public's needs. Much credit for this success is due to the Director of Engineering, Lambert Chu and all administrative and operations staff in the Engineering Department.

Our Transportation Committee chaired by **Councillor Nick Volkow** and the **Traffic Safety Committee** chaired by **Councillor Sav Dhaliwal** have been instrumental in improving Burnaby's roads and public safety. Major road improvements have included paving, intersection upgrades and the implementation of the Integrated Traffic Signal System. The Transportation Committee also ensured the successful completion of the Central Valley Greenway in 2009 and the award-winning Winston Street overpass.

These committees have also been instrumental in advising Council of the Provincial Government's Gateway project and the widening of the Trans-Canada Highway. Burnaby has continued to oppose the principles of this project and its negative impact on Metro Vancouver's liveability and planning. However, Council will continue in its efforts to minimize the highway's impact on Burnaby. We will insist that the Province deliver the required noise fencing for adjoining residential areas and environmental mitigation for our natural ecosystem and parklands.

Despite the difficult economy that the world has been facing, Burnaby has successfully weathered the recent recession without any reductions of services or civic projects. Much credit is due to our **Finance and Civic Development Committee** chaired by **Councillor Dan Johnston**. This committee has been able to tap the experience of Burnaby's Director Finance, Rick Earle and his very capable staff. Council's strong fiscal management has delivered increased investment income at an annual rate of return of 5.24% which in today's economic downturn is excellent. This is reflective of sound cash management and investment practices. Our City's investments have contributed \$6.3 million per year towards lower property tax rates and a \$22.6 million annual contribution to our Capital Reserves.

Burnaby's financial success has provided the opportunity for the Finance and Civic Development Committee to continue to initiate and oversee the implementation of many major capital building projects. In 2009 we completed and opened Fire Station Number Seven on Gilmore Avenue to serve the growing Brentwood Town Centre and business park areas of central Burnaby. This new fire station completes a series of capital improvements to ensure that the Burnaby Fire Department under Fire Chief Bob Cook continues with its excellent service and protection of our citizens.

In addition to the Edmonds Community Centre our City will proceed with the construction of the Riverway Golf Clubhouse in 2010. In all of these projects we will build with quality to extend the life of these civic investments and provide sustainable "green" buildings that will reduce our operating costs and increase revenues. In partnership with the Burnaby School District we are hoping to plan and design a major office building within the City Hall complex.

This project will assist us integrating our shared services and minimize costs to taxpayers.

Burnaby's commitment to our community's economic development partners has never been stronger. The City's economic prosperity is well-served by the Burnaby Board of Trade and Tourism Burnaby. Industry leaders in our community are providing excellent direction to ensure that we are creating and supporting economic development programs and initiatives that work for local businesses. This year I was privileged to travel to Asia to further promote our City with China with the Board of Trade. As part of the Asia-Pacific Initiative, Burnaby formalized a new sister-city agreement with Chang Shu, China in 2009. This agreement will continue to give Burnaby an ongoing opportunity to demonstrate civic business advantages and the cultural ties to Asia as we continue to build our local economy.

Our City's progress and confidence has made 2009 a year of tremendous achievement. We were selected as the "Best Run City in Canada" simply because we have focussed on serving our citizens and community with excellence. However, we must never be satisfied with our achievements, however well recognized. It is my hope that we continue to strive towards becoming an even more liveable, vibrant and sustainable Burnaby – a place that facilitates a healthy economy, the well-being of all citizens, strong respect and stewardship of our natural environment and the establishment of high-quality services and facilities to meet the needs of our remarkable and progressive community.

I am truly honoured to be the Mayor of this City.

Thank you.