

News Release

Oct.16, 2007

Edmonton's top-10 discussion topics for October

— *Municipal election forum attracts hundreds of new members*

A special 'Edmonton Election 2007' forum has helped attract over 400 new members and 7,000 new postings to Connect2Edmonton.ca (C2E). C2E now has nearly 2,500 registered members in 27 countries and 65,000 online postings. Moreover, the popular interactive website continues to attract 23,000-plus monthly visitors.

The unique-in-Canada election forum was launched by C2E on Sept. 18 to offer citizens unprecedented access to all city council and school trustee candidates running in Edmonton's Oct. 15 municipal election. The goal of this pilot project was to stimulate local leaders with a new agenda of grassroots ideas to help shape Edmonton's future while providing a no-cost vehicle for all candidates to communicate directly with constituents.

The election forum – available online until Oct. 19, 2007 to accommodate post-election discussions – has generated many of this month's C2E's top-10 discussion topics:

1. Concerns over new downtown tower

C2E members continue to discuss the new 41-floor "Edmontonian" residential downtown tower including apprehension about the proposed location and above-ground parkade.

<http://www.connect2edmonton.ca/forum/viewtopic.php?t=4744>

2. Design appeal

Plans for a new office tower on the southeast corner of Jasper Avenue and 101 Street have C2E members engaged in a lively discussion about the aesthetic design appeal of this new building slated as the new home for EPCOR. <http://www.connect2edmonton.ca/forum/viewtopic.php?t=4791>

3. Candidate Dave Dowling

C2E members actively respond to mayoral candidate Dave Dowling's negative response to participating in Connect2Edmonton's election forum.

<http://www.connect2edmonton.ca/forum/viewtopic.php?t=4983>

4. Snap Edmonton's winning photo

A fun and passionate discussion about the challenges in choosing the best overall photo for C2E's successful, inaugural photo contest. <http://www.connect2edmonton.ca/forum/viewtopic.php?t=4844>

5. Edmonton short-changed?

Strong opinions are shared about the province's announcement on funding for municipalities, particularly how it will affect Edmonton's infrastructure.

<http://www.connect2edmonton.ca/forum/viewtopic.php?t=4915>

6. Candidate Peter T. Lefaiivre

C2E member question the mayoral candidate regarding his platform on downtown revitalization, LRT expansion and the 23rd Avenue interchange.

<http://www.connect2edmonton.ca/forum/viewtopic.php?t=4984>

7. Mayor Stephen Mandel

A lively discussion enables Mayor Mandel to hear constituent's concerns including the downtown core, infrastructure and the municipal airport.

<http://www.connect2edmonton.ca/forum/viewtopic.php?t=4987>

8. New Oilers uniform

Oilers' fans weigh-in on the team's new jerseys in this popular forum featuring many photos.

<http://www.connect2edmonton.ca/forum/viewtopic.php?t=4755>

9. Edmonton's trolley buses

This interesting discussion regarding Edmonton's new trolley buses covers everything from slick aesthetic looks and economic feasibility, to environmental and traffic concerns.

<http://www.connect2edmonton.ca/forum/viewtopic.php?t=4802>

10. Snap Edmonton – city landscapes

This popular forum of photos submitted by C2E members displays what makes Edmonton such a unique and beautiful city to live, work and play.

<http://www.connect2edmonton.ca/forum/viewtopic.php?t=4835>

C2E was conceived and funded by Edmonton Economic Development Corp. with promotional support from Edmonton Airports, Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) and the City of Edmonton. It is an autonomous, non-political, member-led organization supported by a cadre of pro-Edmonton volunteers and representatives from partner organizations. Membership is free for everyone.

Visit www.connect2edmonton.ca to join Edmonton's global revolution. Watch for *Snap Edmonton 2*, C2E's next photo contest featuring Edmonton winter images ... coming soon.

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Media contact:

Richard Skermer

C2E Volunteer Co-chair

E-mail: C2E@edmonton.com