

**MAYOR DON IVESON
2018 YEAR END STATEMENT
DECEMBER 13, 2018**

****Check against delivery****

As I reflect on 2018, I'm struck by the outstanding amount of influence this year has had on our world, country, province and city. By no means was this an easy year. We faced economic challenges that have forced us to shift the way we approach economic development, we've seen social and cultural upheaval from an increase in hate crime to the rise of movements like #MeToo... and we've been reminded by environmental crises like the smoke from BC wildfires that we must take action before things get worse.

It was not an easy year, but at the end of it, I'm incredibly proud of our work. Put simply, I believe this was the year we made a shift to building Edmonton for the next generation. Our investments in infrastructure, roads and transit will keep you moving. Successful negotiations with the Province have made us a true partner in Alberta's prosperity. And we committed to leadership on climate change and creating a safer city that will make it easier for our kids to stay and build their lives in Edmonton.

I'm grateful for the kind, open minds of Edmontonians and remain honoured to serve as your Mayor. Our achievements this year will have lasting positive effects for Edmonton **AND** our region for years to come.

So, what were the highlights - from my perspective?

After a long journey of negotiation and collaboration, I was able to secure a long-term funding deal for Edmonton with the Provincial Government. This deal reflects the province's economic reality now and well into the future. And while it allows us to plan for long-term infrastructure investments, it also gives Edmonton a real stake in growing employment, increasing our productivity and building the kind of infrastructure to drive growth for Alberta. When the Province prospers, the City will get its share - and vice versa.

We also marked a *historic* and transformational transit commitment that will build a more prosperous, productive and lower-carbon city. Last month, Premier Rachel Notley announced \$1 Billion in funding for the Valley Line West LRT.

When fully built, the Valley Line will be a 27 KM line that will finally link Millwoods to Downtown and on to West Edmonton.

I said then, and I'll say again, that I'm grateful for the provincial government's leadership on climate change and courage on pollution pricing which allowed for this kind of announcement to happen. This is the right public policy now, and for our future.

The eyes of the world were on Edmonton this year and our city did not disappoint. We hosted the first ever Cities and Climate Change Science Conference with the IPCC. Mayors and local government networks from around the world met with leaders of the scientific community to unpack the critical issue of climate change at the local level – and together, we committed to standardizing the climate data we collect, identifying the research we need to make science-based decisions, and working together to innovate and implement practical solutions from the bottom up. The Edmonton Declaration, which codified many of the learnings and aspirations from the event, was ultimately endorsed by organizations representing over 4700 municipalities around the world – and signed directly by cities from from Pittsburgh to Dhakar.

In 2018 we also:

Will have completed a very difficult four-year City Budget in which we have succeeded in bending the tax and utility rates down into the realm of inflation through a continuing commitment to innovation and efficiency. There's more to come in our Program and Service review, but our council is clearly committed to keeping taxes reasonable while maintaining key services to Edmontonians. I'll have more to say on this when budget officially wraps up tomorrow.

We also reached an agreement to form a Regional Transit Services Commission with all 13 of our metropolitan neighbours. This agreement will provide more seamless and reliable transportation between nearby communities.

We opened the Funicular, allowing universal accessibility to our river valley and creating an instant tourist draw.

And in 2018 we forged ahead with zoning changes to allow more affordable infill housing options in many more areas of the city, and we committed to seeing new social housing more evenly distributed throughout all parts of our city.

My office launched a lobbyist registry to provide more transparency and accountability to Edmontonians, and Council adopted my proposal for an Ethics advisor and an Integrity Commissioner to assist in our decision-making.

We made it easier for families to move around our city by providing free transit to youth 12 and under, and enhanced our Ride Transit program with a sliding scale of eligibility starting in January.

This fall we welcomed the United Nations to our city and set our sights on making Edmonton safer for women and girls, and made landmark investments in transit safety

After much anticipation, we opened the trails and pedestrian portion of the Walterdale Bridge.... **and, we secured all the funding necessary to separate the trains from traffic at 50th Street.**

As I said in this year's State of the City address, in the face of rapid and unpredictable change, we must continue to rally for our city. To push for a city that boldly embraces change with innovation, rather than getting stuck in the past or in resistance to change. To strive for a city with the confidence to think big rather than settling for second best — an Edmonton that will only grow stronger in the years ahead, a city built for the next generation.

Happy Holidays. I hope everyone here and at home enjoys their time with family and friends, and welcomes 2019 relaxed, recharged and ready to keep building.

I'm happy to take your questions.