

Chairman Doug

Reverend Sandy Scott and members of the clergy

Elected Officials and special guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good afternoon, Welcome to the Mayor's State of the City Address. This is my 6th Report to the people of Prince Albert. I am pleased to confirm that Prince Albert experienced another record year. By every form of measurement our City showed itself to be robust, strong and healthy while delivering exceptional services and programs to its citizens.

Let's set the stage with our Annual Report Card, a list of all the economic indicators. These are the stats that show how Prince Albert is performing:

First – The Prince Albert and District Association of Realtors:

- Congratulations Realtors. You've just completed the biggest year in your history. Actually two all time records: Biggest December Ever and Biggest Year Ever.
- City Growth: Congratulations Developers and Builders! Another record year in a trend line of five consecutive years of record statistics. Residential up 7%; Commercial, Industrial and Institutional up 17%; and new business licences up 31%. In fact, in the past two years we have grown by 530 new businesses.
- What about 2012? Even at this early stage, a new bank, major addition to the Women's Jail, the \$20 million dollar new, 60 bed Pineview Terrace, a Family Treatment Centre, new residential

apartments and condos at 15th & 15 Ave East and further permits for Prince Albert Pulp Incorporated's multimillion dollar conversion.

In 2011, we have also seen a number of our local First Nations Groups achieve record business results, win awards, invest more capital in Prince Albert and expand their businesses.

Vice Chief of the Prince Albert Grand Council, Don Deranger is a member of the Board of Police Commissioners, is a Director of Cameco and is also the President of a business called Points Athabasca Contracting Limited Partnership which was recently awarded the 2011 ABEX award for Aboriginal Business.

- Western First Nations Hospitality Limited Partnership, whose head office is located on Central Avenue in Prince Albert, acquired its fifth Super 8 hotel this year.
- First Nations capital investments added over \$15 million in new construction in Prince Albert for 2011:
 - The Northern Lights Casino: 5,000 square foot addition.
 - The Peter Ballantyne Developments Partnership: second full-service Petro-Canada station on 6th Avenue East.
 - The Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation: new offices for its Child & Family Services Branch.
- The Innovation Place 2011 economic impact study model suggests the Forest Centre generated approximately \$16.81 million in the city economy and approximately \$26.72 million in the provincial economy in 2011. Approximately 280 jobs in the City and 322

jobs in the province are attributable to the presence of the Forest Centre.

It was August 28th, 2011, when Dr. Randy Friesen was canoeing on the North Saskatchewan. He spotted a crack in a girder under the southbound lane of the Diefenbaker Bridge and reported it to the City. Dr. Friesen is here today and it gives me the opportunity to thank him for that action but more than that I want to thank Dr. Randy Friesen for his distinguished career as a surgeon in Prince Albert. He has served as the Chief of Surgery for the Prince Albert Parkland Health Region, leading the department and participating in the health region's practionary advisory council. He has been a leader in looking at ways to improve both access (reducing wait times) and quality of care for patients. Thank you Dr. Friesen.

On August 30th, the City closed the southbound lanes of the Diefenbaker Bridge and imposed a 15 tonne or 30,000 pound weight restriction. The City acted promptly and, in my view, wisely in establishing these limits but the reality is that these restrictions cost our business community millions of dollars in losses or added expenses. We must never let this happen again. We do not need another example of how devastating a similar event would be. That is why it will be my mission in 2012, to personally work with all communities in central and northern Saskatchewan and First Nations leadership to present the strongest case for a second bridge to the Provincial and Federal Government and to get a decision, once and for all, on a second bridge and, preferably, a timeline for construction.

Praise must be given to City Manager Robert Cotterill and Public Works Director Colin Innes for their work with the Minister of Highways in negotiating total repair responsibility for the Diefenbaker Bridge to the Province as part of Urban Highway Connector Program. This was done prior to the discovery of the damaged girder.

If the Diefenbaker Bridge was the most significant event, then the announcement of the purchase of the Prince Albert Pulp Mill was easily the most important. Without a doubt, this announcement will have generational impact strengthening Prince Albert's economy.

For the past five years in my State of the City Address I have spoken of the potential of the Prince Albert Pulp Mill and the unique opportunity it would present as Canada's great forest was here in Saskatchewan. As we speak, Prince Albert Pulp Incorporated is spending over 200 million dollars in refurbishing and building a new Dissolving Pulp operation scheduled to open in mid-2013. The cogenerating plant will commence supplying power to the grid in May of this year adding 21 employees. There is also the possibility that a chemical company may locate on the site to utilize by-products created in the dissolving pulp process. The future of Prince Albert is inevitably linked to Northern Saskatchewan – its people, forests, minerals and waters.

Over the next twenty years over 50 Billion, correct, over 50 billion dollars of investment will be made in Saskatchewan for mining, and related infrastructure.

Diamond mining to Prince Albert is like snow to snowmobilers – everybody wants to know when it's going to happen. But, let's get some perspective by remembering it is customary for diamond mining projects to take 20-years from discovery to development. The first

intercept of diamonds on the Star Kimberlite site was in the fall of 1996 – so we're on schedule. And remember our existing potash and uranium mines also took decades to develop.

One of the many milestones achieved by Shore Gold last year – the developer of the diamond project – was the publishing of a positive final feasibility study. Confirming that diamond mining east of Prince Albert would be economical and profitable.

Before development can occur, Environmental Approval by the provincial government must be given. This process is well underway and almost complete. Things are positive on all fronts.

And finally, unlike other projects, this one can't be moved – if it's going to be done, it must be done here.

On the Uranium front - It may come as a surprise that 25% of Cameco's work force comes from Prince Albert and area. Cameco alone is forecasting a 30-percent increase in northern employment over the next 5-years. We are already benefiting from the Uranium Industry and the recent purchase by Rio Tinto, the World's 3rd Largest Mining Company, for 49% of Hathor Exploration for almost $\frac{3}{4}$'s of a billion dollars gives a pretty good indication of the future growth of this resource.

As a side note, on February 15th, we will hear directly from Cameco's CEO, Tim Gitzel, a Prince Albert boy, when he speaks at one of our Chamber lunches.

Adding to all of this, for the first time in over a decade, Saskatchewan's gold belt – stretching north from La Ronge – is fully claimed. This will only lead to more gold exploration and then further developments.

The Prince Albert Police Service under the leadership of Chief Dale McFee raised eyebrows two years ago when a team of agencies, including Educators, Mental Health Specialists, Social Workers, RCMP and Police travelled to Glasgow Scotland to see firsthand how that community was dealing with rising crime rates particularly among marginalized youth. Upon return they created Community Mobilization Prince Albert (CMPA). This exciting initiative is a 'first of its kind' crime reduction approach in Saskatchewan and Canada that is being closely examined as a model for advancing community safety and wellness in Canada. The CMPA is a multi-layered and multi-partner strategy and it operates primarily through two distinct but complementary teams that have been established by these partners: the HUB and the COR.

The COR was established November 1st and has a full-time staff in support of the HUB working on longer term systemic issues.

The HUB/COR along with other police and community initiatives are all responsible for showing some promising overall crime reduction numbers for 2011.

Crimes against person	down	4.9%
Crimes against property	down	7.9%
Overall crime stats	down	11.3%

Prince Albert is proud of its Police Service and its Chief, Dale McFee. Dale is the Canadian President of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police – Canada’s top cop - and was recently chosen as Prince Albert’s Citizen of the Year. That event will take place here on February 4th.

This past year The Prince Albert Fire Service under the direction of Fire Chief Les Karpluk held a Mock Disaster, code named “Operation Mayhem” in conjunction with Prince Albert Emergency Planning Committee. The scenario was a tornado hitting Carlton High School and the Exhibition. The Team learned a great deal from that event. A tornado strike is not out of the realm of possibility as Carlton was actually struck by a plough wind on July 2, 2010.

Within a few days the Prince Albert Fire Service will take delivery of a new, million dollar platform ladder truck. This unit will allow our firefighters to address fires from all levels in addition to reaching a height of 101 feet.

As our City grows, our Fire Service will require a sub-station to meet the ideal response time. Council will be approving the location of our first Fire Substation later this year.

Prince Albert’s downtown will be in the spotlight for the next three years as a result of our city being chosen for the Province’s Main Street pilot project. Funding of \$125,000 a year for three years will see capital projects and initiatives make downtown a new, exciting, retail, service and incubator place.

Through this program, the Province of Saskatchewan is recognizing the importance that downtowns have for the economic health of a community. They want to see communities re-invest, re-invigorate and

revitalize their historic main streets. Prince Albert is a retail hub for the region. By reinvesting in areas like the downtown, we only strengthen the retail offerings and in turn draw more and more shoppers to our City. In a room full of entrepreneurs I would invite you to give thought to how you might participate. Downtown BID CEO James Banman and Project Manager Bob Gill would like to speak with you about your ideas and plans.

Prince Albert Tourism Inc. and the Prince Albert Destination Marketing Fund have joined forces to promote Prince Albert as a unique Destination in 2012 as planning continues to celebrate 100 years of Aviation and other heritage events throughout the year. We have declared 2012 as a Homecoming Year. Looking to the future, in 2013 Muskoday First Nations, the City of Prince Albert and the Town of Birch Hills will host the Saskatchewan First Nations Summer Games and in February 2014, Prince Albert will host the Provinces Winter Games.

Let's now turn to the challenges of Prince Albert –Infrastructure – streets, sidewalks, pipes, recreation facilities, water, pools, parks, graders, fire trucks, etc. Last year the water main from 2nd Avenue to 4th Avenue West failed. The cost to replace it – a half million dollars. Much of our water, waste water and storm water system is beyond its lifespan. We can expect more failures as time moves on. I serve as Chair of the Saskatchewan City Mayors Caucus and each of our cities face these challenges. Kudos must go to the Province's Municipal Operating Grant which is now tied to 1% of Saskatchewan's Provincial Sales Tax. Prince Albert's share is 6.990 million dollars.

If infrastructure is going to be addressed properly, it is imperative that we have the support of the Federal Government every year and not just as “an economic stimulus”. I feel we are making progress and I am encouraged by MP Hoback’s understanding of our challenge. Cities cannot address infrastructure alone. Each level of government needs to remember there is only one taxpayer and our tax system delivers just about 8 cents of each tax dollar to Cities. Our goal is similar to that of our Municipal Operating Grant – stable, long-term, predictable federal and provincial Infrastructure funding. There is no more important issue for our communities. These are not distant problems – they are here – and they are here now. The Diefenbaker Bridge and Saskatoon Traffic Bridge are examples we know all too well.

It is widely held that `City Hall` is responsible for assuring the future of its residents. That our City be ready for opportunity and to respond to the needs of its Citizens. Make no mistake, Prince Albert competes for growth. In recent years, we have added to the value and appeal of Prince Albert by investing in growth and investing in attraction. We have created the way for future expansion of the massive West Hill area – storm water control with a wide serviced street replacing the trail which was once the route to the Victoria Hospital. Today we are seeing the benefits of that infrastructure investment through new growth with developments like the Lake Estates on 28th Street in the West Hill. If there was a visual indication of future growth it would be the huge excavation work being done throughout this winter in Crescent Acres by Diversity Enterprises - Dymtetrko, GRW Contracting and Jovin Homes. With the support of the RM of Prince Albert we have filed for annexation South of Marquis Road from 6th Avenue to 15th

Avenue East. This summer the new Green Industrial Park will come on stream and a six million dollar runway replacement will take place at the Prince Albert Airport. The City has over \$300,000 dollars in a Passenger Airport Fee which is earmarked for a new Terminal – ideal timing for attracting WestJet to the Prince Albert market.

In regards to attraction, Prince Albert's new Alfred Jenkins Field House, the E.A. Rawlinson Centre for the Arts, The Mann Art Gallery, Art Hauser Centre combined with an outstanding education system makes Prince Albert a very desirable city. Did you know that the Physician Recruiting Team from the Prince Albert Parkland Health Region interviews potential candidates at the Alfred Jenkins Field House – because many of the physicians want their children to play soccer. Most here today would agree that Prince Albert is the very best city to raise a family. Great schools, where every kid can play their sport, study music, dance and learn their culture - all this plus great neighbours and outstanding recreation and cultural facilities.

I wish to acknowledge the great working relationship we have with the Prince Albert and District Chamber of Commerce, the North Central Enterprise Region and Community Futures. Their leadership contributes greatly to our City's and Region's economic growth and attraction. Very clearly what's good for the Region is good for Prince Albert.

I know that many of the people who are in this room today are responsible for our growth and success as a City. Many here have invested in their businesses, taken risks and worked harder than most would know, to be successful.

This Christmas I received a wonderful card from EMBEE Diamonds – Mike and Evert Botha. It contained a quote from Albert Einstein which stated:

“I feel that you are justified in looking into the future with true assurance, because you have a mode of living in which we find the joy of life and the joy of work harmoniously combined. Added to this is the spirit of ambition which pervades your very being and seems to make the days work like a happy child at play”.

Each day I am reminded that Prince Albert’s spirit and confidence resides within the people who call it home. Mike Botha chose to call Prince Albert home in 2008. He saw an opportunity to grow his dream here at the start of diamond exploration. It took several years to lay the groundwork of an Educational Facility teaching the craft of diamond cutting which is now operational.

At the heart of it all was this enormously skilled man committed to the Diamond Industry who had a vision to create the World’s Brightest Diamond and he did – it is called SIRIUS STAR.

I want recognize Mike Botha for his commitment to Prince Albert. Not only is his remarkable ability reflected in the SIRIUS STAR but also it reflects our belief that we will have a world class diamond industry in our Province and Prince Albert. I want to recognize his achievement with the highest honour our City can provide. Please welcome Mr. Mike Botha to the podium as I read the Award being presented to him.

(Presentation)

Thanks to you, the State of Our City is strong and yes, we can be justified in looking to the future with true assurance.

On behalf of the Council of the City of Prince and its Administration, thank you for all you do for our City. You are the people who get it done.

It is not the size of a City that is important . It is the size of its ambition, its positive attitude and its confidence that truly matters.

2012 awaits - together - let's make it another truly great year for our amazing city.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you as Mayor of the Great City of Prince Albert.