

CITY CENTRE AIRPORT



Edmonton City Council recently rejected a proposed new referendum on the future of the City Centre Airport because of the vast number of inadmissible names, out-of town entities, and the fact it exceeded the legal deadline by many months.

Ed Gibbon's successful motion earlier this year to retain one City Centre runway until eventual redevelopment of the airport property can proceed was a well-considered compromise, allowing the downtown airport to temporarily remain open to general aviation.

That being said, Ed knows that meaningful passenger service at the downtown airport cannot be reinstated without overcoming costly and time consuming legal battles as well as reversing local building development that has taken place over the last few years.

He also knows that the Edmonton International Airport owes much of its success to the consolidation of passenger traffic there since the 1995 referendum. Any attempt to "turn back the clock" will severely undermine the future of both the International Airport and the city of Edmonton as an active and participating global entity.

Thus, the City Centre Airport is necessarily restricted to corporate aircraft, pilot training companies, and air ambulance services, to which, in all three instances, affordable flight service alternatives are readily available.

Given these considerations, it is our opinion that a vibrant new residential development close to downtown would be of much greater benefit to the people of Edmonton than will the well-being of, primarily, a small number of convenience-seeking corporate interests.

AIRPORT PETITION



The City of Edmonton operates under the "Municipal Government Act " which, among other things, allows citizens 60-days to introduce a petition that might reverse a decision made by their elected municipal representatives.

This provision is necessary to ensure that legal and financial commitments made by municipal councils can be trusted and relied upon by all citizens, institutions and stakeholders. Otherwise, how would they know how to conduct themselves?

Not only was the City Centre Airport petition not introduced within the required 60-day limit, it was nearly a year late.

Ed Gibbons considers the credibility of council's decisions vital to its integrity. Ed takes this issue so much to heart that, regardless of the election campaign, he believes the well being of his constituents far exceeds that of his own personal interests.

That is a tremendous credit to Ed's strong dedication to both his constituents and the community.

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