

## Cash windfall still not enough

Calgary will see close to \$50 million in provincial funding for affordable housing this year, but that won't come close to meeting the city's goal of ending homelessness in 10 years, says a local alderman.

Ald. Joe Ceci said, while he's pleased to see any money go towards dealing with Calgary's affordable housing funding crunch, with the city needing \$3.3 billion to make its 10-year plan to end homelessness work, more will be needed from both the provincial and federal governments.

"I'm pleased there is continuing funding that focuses on the needs of Albertans towards affordable housing and recognizing that one-third of them live in this city," he said.



**CECI**  
Need \$3.3 billion

"But the 10-year plan we put together will need \$3.3 billion and this comes far short of what the city requires."

Calgary

is in line for \$47.9 million in 2008, out of \$254 million to be doled out to build 2,200 affordable housing units across the province.

The funding is \$42 million more than in 2007 and is part of a five-year plan by the province to build 11,000 units to help curb the housing crisis.

Housing Minister Yvonne Fritz said it's too early to say if the province will get on board to help fund the city's homeless plan, but this cash is already a major contribution.

"That's hypothetical — right now what we do have is a 10-year plan ... and we've established a secretariat for action on homelessness," she said.

"It's significant — we're the only province in Canada that has made this kind of commitment to housing."

Fritz added the city will also receive a portion of \$100 million in block funding this year, along with \$12.4 million in rent supplements to ensure people can stay in their homes.

The province will now seek proposals from municipalities, non-profit groups and private industry to tap into the funds to build affordable housing projects.

— Shawn Logan



STUART DRYDEN/SUN MEDIA

Cardel Homes President Ryan Ockey, left, and Remington Development Corporations President Randy Remington have offered the city \$10 million if council chooses the Quarry Park location for a planned new recreation facility, estimated at \$70 million.

# City offered \$10M to build in Quarry

**MARKUS ERMISCH**  
Sun Media

A local developer is offering the City of Calgary \$10 million towards the construction of a major recreational facility in the southeast, provided council decides to build the complex in Quarry Park.

Preliminary plans for the rec centre include two hockey rinks, indoor and outdoor soccer fields, two gymnasiums, an exercise gym and a pool.

City hall is considering three alternatives — Seton, Quarry Park and Shepherd — for the recreation centre that's expected to cost more than \$70 million.

But only Quarry Park developers Remington Development Corp. and Cardel Homes are offering to cover a signifi-

cant portion of the cost.

Although a decision on the location will only be made later this year, Ald. Ric McIver said he doubts a decision in favour of Quarry Park would sow seeds of discontent between neighbourhoods.

"It's all one area. I think the citizens down there will be happy with a facility in either location," he said, noting areas east of the Bow River don't have any major recreational facilities.

"People are desperate for it," he said.

The important thing, McIver said, is to get a facility built, the sooner the better.

And that, he pointed out, depends on which areas are best served by city infrastructure, such as water and sewer systems.

Quarry Park already has all of that, but Seton's city infrastructure won't be in place for about two years.

"It's in a position where it would move ahead faster than Seton," he said about Quarry Park.

Cody Clayton, Remington's vice-president of leasing and development, said his company has been in talks with the city for the past six months.

"It's really the city that drives the decision," he said.

Clayton said he's not sure whether Remington and Cardel will go ahead and build their own recreational facility, on a smaller scale, should the city decide against Quarry Park.

"If the city says no, then we respect that decision. We're

hopeful that they don't, but ultimately it's their decision," he said.

Quarry Park, a commercial-residential development worth more than \$1 billion, will eventually be home to about 5,000 people.

A survey of existing and future Quarry Park office tenants shows strong support for a rec facility, says Remington.

Cardel also proposes to purchase or lease adjoining land to construct a new facility for the relocation of the Tanbridge Academy, a non-profit sports academy.

Remington also announced yesterday Cardel Homes will be the exclusive builder of single-family and townhomes in Quarry Park.

markus.ermisch@sunmedia.ca

## Holmes on the range

**PABLO FERNANDEZ**  
Sun Media

Okotoks has been chosen by an iconic Canadian home improvement expert as the site for a new, green and sustainable housing project.

Mike Holmes, star of HGTV's *Holmes on Homes*, met with Okotoks community members yesterday to gain input about a cutting-edge development in the thriving town just south of Calgary.

The no non-sense contractor, renowned for his limited patience for inept or irresponsible construction professionals, is focusing that intensity on building a community that's sustainable and eco friendly.

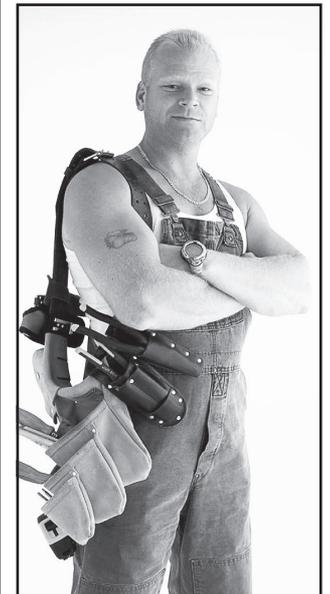
"We want the community's input in the design process and we want to let the public decide what kind of housing they'd like to have," he said.

"I love Okotoks and hope we will be able to build the first Holmes Homes development here."

What sets Holmes' project apart from the countless others currently taking shape in and around Calgary, said the celebrity carpenter, is the concept's heavy emphasis on environmental responsibility.

Every home will be sustainable in design and contain green features including living (vegetated) roofs, grey-water recapture systems, solar assist domestic hot water pre-heat and radiant floor heating, say proponents.

pablo.fernandez@sunmedia.ca



**MIKE HOLMES**

Breaking new ground in Alberta