



HERITAGE CALGARY

Tudor Dinca, Ward 5 Candidate

How will you help raise awareness of Calgary's history and heritage?

I am already doing so throughout my campaign, I have pointed to the two (what I consider to be) distinct eras of our city, the Pre and post-Leduc oil discovery. During my campaign, I keep pointing to the fact that in the present our elected official keep talking about building public infrastructure (LRT, heavy rail) when we had all of this in the past (see the streetcar network until 1950). I am always comparing old neighborhoods to the newer sprawled communities and pointing to how the older communities have better layouts, better public spaces and better designed urban planning for all residents and not just those who use the automobile.

It is only through this call back to the past and this time-centric comparative lens can we bring more awareness to our history and heritage.

What importance does heritage have in attracting outside investment and business in Calgary?

5 - A great deal

How do you believe the new proposed property tax incentives will incentivize investment in our city? Will you support the proposed residential property tax credit?

I would support a residential property tax credit for those who pursue heritage designation but I would also like to see that ceiling of 50,000\$ increase to 75,000\$/100,000\$ for those who not only pursue the designation but who also renovate the heritage site. Most importantly, in order for them to qualify for this additional credit level they must also maintain the assets that give it its heritage designation, both on the outside and inside of the resources. Too often we see buildings that keep the façade but the inside is completely gutted.

What ideas would you bring forward in support of heritage in Calgary that are not included in our candidate package?

Although the package is informative and offers some good policy recommendations, I did not see any information on how Heritage Calgary and the City would address those heritage buildings that are in a very good state. Yes there are policies that help those who want to renovate or that want to make the most out of their heritage space but there is nothing in the package that addresses those owners who completely neglect their heritage building. I would like to see a policy(es) that would address these vulnerable heritage sites.

Would you like to make any other closing comments pertaining to our city's heritage matters?

My family and I immigrated to Canada when I was 13, so I've been through the Calgary education system but I do not remember there being much education on local history. I think this is essential to us improving our civic engagement in this area. If our local education boards were to better present how our city has evolved, what was done well and what was not, we could have a more involved community work that focuses on the local issues. Those concerns that have the most impact on each and everyone of us. As well, it is important to point out that the history/heritage of the place you reside in does not start when you first arrive in that place, it begins when the first rock is laid and in some cases even before that! This education on our local history will help develop a sense of loyalty to place and a desire to ensure a sustainable continuity to it and as a result, if elected, I would call on our local education boards to work with Heritage Calgary and other historic centric organizations to include more educational material on our city's legacy.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on this important topic.

Heritage Calgary recently sent you a briefing package on heritage in the city, what we do and how we work with Council. If you didn't get it please let us know.

Please take our survey and let us know what heritage means to you and what you will do as a member of Calgary City Council for Calgary's history.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Heritage Calgary wishes you the best of luck on the campaign trail.

Heritage Calgary has put together a one stop resource for you to learn about everything you need to know about heritage in Calgary. This includes how sites are added to the Inventory, how municipal heritage designation works, existing incentives and grants and proposed conservation tools and incentives work including the residential tax credit.

What do you know about current heritage matters in the City and within your ward?

Since Ward 5 is a fairly young part of the City, the oldest neighborhoods (Castleridge & Falconridge were built in the early 1980's), there are no real heritage sites to speak of since most of the neighborhood's architecture is "copy and paste" when it comes to residential buildings. However, in 20 to 30 years (maybe even earlier), this will change due to the various places of worship that have been built by the various immigrant communities that have populated the area from the late 1990's to the present. We have places of worship for the Ismaili, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh and Christian communities. This high density of theological spaces paint a picture of not only a Calgary ideal but a Canadian ideal of people of different backgrounds living together in a common area. As a result of this, we will need good, proactive policy to protect these sites down the road and could be used as an important education tool for students, locals and tourists that might want to learn more about these different communities.

In regards to the City as a whole, I know that past administrations have done little to protect our heritage buildings. From the 1950's to the 1970's the destruction of many heritage buildings downtown is incredibly upsetting and a historical stain on our City. In the past couple of decades we are seeing something similar for the inner-City neighborhoods where many, character era defining homes are not being protected and are being sacrificed for infills. For me as a candidate (and hopefully a Councilor) this needs to be addressed.

On a scale from 0-5, 0 being not at all and 5 being incredibly, how important is preserving Calgary's heritage to the Ward you hope to serve? Why?

4 - Important. This is a very easy answer for me, we need to know our City's history and how the decisions of the past have impacted our present. These decisions have left our City deprived of heritage/culture and if we don't do a good enough job maintaining what we currently have, we will be further disconnected from our pass.

What is your favourite heritage resource in the community you are hoping to represent and in the City of Calgary as a whole?

As I mentioned above, I believe that down the road, the density and variety of places of worship in the NE (Ward 5) is a great indicator of Calgary's and Canada's ability to have such a diverse multi-ethnic and multi-theological community. These buildings have their own unique architectural design not only on the outside but on the inside as well, making them spaces perfectly fit to be considered as heritage sites.

When it comes to other public places, Prairie Winds Park would also be a heritage resource that I would look to promote. It has provided essential public gathering space for all residents of Ward 5 and should be maintained and improved upon.