



July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010,

Mayor Stephen Mandel  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor City Hall  
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2R7

Dear Mayor Stephen Mandel:

**Ref: Edmonton Downtown Arena and Entertainment District**

As a business leader, business operator and resident in Ward 4 district, I would like express my strong support for the proposed development of the Edmonton Downtown Arena and Entertainment District.

The decision you will render over the next few weeks, and especially on Wednesday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010, will have a profound impact on the downtown core and the City of Edmonton as a whole. It is important for you to know that I am in full support of a downtown arena and will support all initiatives aligned with making this project a reality.

In a recent ONEdmonton session hosted by EEDC, 46% of the attendees wanted to see a more vibrant downtown core. Additionally, there seems to be a definite consensus building within the community along the same lines – one which clearly indicates that Edmonton has the potential to become one of the world's leading mid-sized cities. A busy, safe and active downtown core will be a vital ingredient in achieving that potential.

As Edmonton prepares to welcome the world to our city for the 2017 World Expo, the timing for a downtown arena and entertainment district is well aligned. In addition, I believe that the downtown arena and entertainment will give Edmonton the competitive edge as we compete for conventions, tradeshow and a host of other world-class events.

I am fully aware that the downtown arena alone will not ensure our City's prosperity, but I am convinced it is an important first step. I count on your support in this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard Wong  
General Manager  
Sutton Place Hotel, Edmonton

Cc: Edmonton City Councillors