



THE CITY OF  
**CALGARY**



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Calgarians Asked to Celebrate St. Patrick's Day by 'Going Green'**

St. Patrick's Day is the perfect time to consider "greener" choices for getting around Calgary. Alternative travel choices not only have positive impacts on the environment, but also improve personal health, save money, improve travel times and reduce congestion on the roadways.

A partnership between The City of Calgary and Commuter Connections has seen over 2,000 people take advantage of the free carpool matching service [www.carpool.ca](http://www.carpool.ca) since November 2002. The results have been impressive.

During Calgary's First Annual Rideshare Week Campaign in October of 2003, over 430 Calgarians reported sharing the ride to work on a regular basis reducing distance travelled in the Calgary Region by over 3.75 million kilometres. The resulting annual cost savings for carpoolers was an average of \$1,800 per person, and the public cost savings are estimated at over \$2.55 million annually. Funding for this program has been made available through the City of Calgary, the Federal Government's EcoAction and Climate Change Action Fund programs and Alberta's Climate Change Central.

Now that a large database of potential carpoolers has been established, Commuter Connections continues to market ridesharing as a convenient, cost-effective alternative to single occupancy commuting. With an unprecedented road construction season ahead, Calgarians can expect road delays. Sharing the commute with a neighbour or co-worker can reduce trips – and congestion.

Commuters seeking to share the ride to work simply log onto the website [www.carpool.ca](http://www.carpool.ca), select "Calgary" as their destination and type in their commuting information. The system instantly generates match lists of neighbours and co-workers who are also seeking to share the morning commute. Make the best match, finalize your arrangements, and start saving time and money.

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