

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Calgarians Ready to Jump into the Pool**

Calgary - After a successful pilot project, the City of Calgary is expanding its new carpool program and inviting all Calgary area commuters to jump into the (car) pool.

In partnership with Commuter Connections, The City is ready to begin stage two of this alternative transportation program. Commuter Connections is modifying the architecture of the carpool computer system to allow greater regional accessibility. Calgary's entire population of 900,000+ as well as commuters living in the communities that surround the city will now have instant access to free ridematching services.

The pilot program, which was launched last fall, targeted approximately 100,000 commuters and was restricted to 27 of the largest employers in the region such as the University of Calgary, SAIT, EnCana, Husky Oil, and BP Energy to name a few. More than 1,000 people took advantage of the free carpool matching service [www.carpool.ca](http://www.carpool.ca). The results were impressive:

- 143 carpools formed
- Annual savings of \$1,227 per carpooler
- Pollution reduced by 852 tonnes
- Road repair savings of \$1.8 million each year

Funding for the second portion (regional) of this program has been made available through the federal government's EcoAction (\$20,000) and Climate Change Action Fund (\$100,000) programs. The City of Calgary will be contributing \$40,000 and Alberta's Climate Change Central will be contributing \$10,000.

Although the regional program will be officially launched during The City's First Annual Rideshare Week, scheduled to take place October 20 through 24, 2003, Calgarians and regional commuters can sign up now. Commuters seeking to share the ride to work simply log on to 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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