

DONALD H. MACKAY
MAYOR



February 16, 1956

Mrs. Jean McDonald
313 - 15 Avenue East
Calgary, Alberta

Dear Jean:

Thank you very, very much for your letter which I received after the recent stormy criticisms that were levelled at me by some of my local opposition.

It is good to know that friends are ever alert to put in the oar of goodwill once in awhile, when the current of local promoted opinion is flowing rather strongly.

However, have no fears, my dear, that any of my decisions are predicated upon criticisms and my desire to avoid the same. Like yourself, I have found that life is a series of stormy sessions, and you just have to "sail on" with the inner conviction that you know you are doing what you think is right, and you have every confidence that you will ultimately arrive safe in the harbor of success, just as long as your craft is built upon the foundations of solid and proper thinking.

The years are beginning to roll along, however, and I must face the realization that I am not getting any younger. I hope to continue in public life, because I have thrilled to all the opportunities to be of service, and share in the development of this community that I am so proud to call my own. However, I must find sometime that I can begin to drop in the odd anchor of future security. It is not for myself that I must think this way, for I feel that I will always be able to find something to do that will take care of myself. However, I have a large and growing family that is rapidly moving into its most responsible years, when both time, effort and money must be dedicated to its successful introduction to adult responsibilities. If

I were able to gain the support of the public from the Federal public life point of view, it would give me six months wherein I could start to work towards the establishment of a private business connection that would always be there regardless of public life with its pros and cons. The present position of Mayor requires all of my time, and represents a seven day a week effort, as well as most evenings. Public issues can break the string of public support, and should I one day find myself, through lack of judgment or promoted opposition, on the outside looking in, it would leave me facing the reality of starting from the bottom and working up again, in some field of effort.

I am happy and contented with the success that has been achieved in Calgary during the last few years, in developing a modern and a progressive city. I would be foolish, however, to think that others cannot come along and do equally as fine work, and probably even surpass my own efforts.

In any event, I will always work, either in the forefront as I am now, by merit of my position, or in the background, as you are, be found working for and with Calgary for a greater future. This is my City by adoption and privilege, and it will always have Number One Claim on anything and everything that I have in my power to offer, be it mental, physical, spiritual or material resources.

In the final analysis I have no intention of just stepping aside in order to leave the field wide open to men who have been severely critical of everything we have attempted to do, and who are overcome by a very strong personal desire to hold this position. Rather than see anything like that happen, I shall very strongly consider my responsibility to remain in office, the public willing.

Let me thank you sincerely for your continued expressions of interest in the work that is going on here in our City.

Sincerely,



MAYOR

DHM:jm