

“Let’s take back our city.”

Alnoor Kassam

Alnoor Kassam is officially launching his campaign for mayor Monday, June 28, 2010.

So, Where Does Alnoor Stand?

We need to change politics and create a bottom up approach, where Calgarians’ voices matter. That’s why Alnoor feels a change of thinking and new ideas are so very urgent. “If Calgary is to continue becoming the great city I know it can be, we need to get away from inflexible policies and focus on issues...many of the essential services of Calgary are not under the City’s control,” he notes. “Hospitals, schools, and social services impact Calgarians every day, but we have no direct say.” Even provincial grants for infrastructure and community events draw his ire. “The Province collects taxes from the City, rather than letting them go straight to the City. Then, they dole out that money for this grant to the city for roads, this other grant for LRT cars, and that grant to a community for a swimming pool.” While the city and local organizations are glad to get the money, Alnoor noticed that “hundreds of grants later, we’ve paid a lot of money for bureaucrats and grant writers, and a lot less money for actual work.” A simpler and cheaper approach, he says, might be to give block grants to the city which are sufficient for local needs. In the meantime, all that the Province’s grant-making process does is make sure that the decisions are made in Edmonton.” Seriously,” he says, “when did Edmonton start running Calgary?”

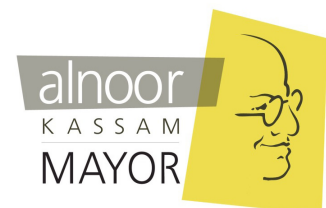
“Our Calgary,” says Alnoor, “is a world class city. It’s easy to live in, and communities matter. But if it wants to be better, it needs to reclaim its own power. If you print, tweet, comment or say only one thing about me today, ask people to help me take back Calgary.”

If at First You Don’t Succeed...

The reason for a second run can be summed up in one word...passion. “We believe Calgary is the most important city in Canada,” he says “because I have lived all over the world and Calgary is still my favourite city...” Alnoor wants to serve the community he has come to love, and help reclaim the city for the people he has come to respect and admire. “The secret to Calgary’s greatness is the communities and the people in them...it’s time they mattered again.”



“Hello, I’m Alnoor Kassam, you may remember me from all those billboards in 2007”



Once Again...Mr. Alnoor Kassam

Born in Kenya of Indian parents, Alnoor Kassam earned his Chartered Accountant designation in London England. After working as an auditor, he began a long career as an entrepreneur. He has created dozens of successful new ventures ranging from taxis in London, to matchsticks, credit cards and banks in Kenya, to hotels and executive suites in Canada. "I've lived in many great cities," he says "I live in Calgary because it's the one I like best...it really is world class"

Alnoor has lived in North America since 1993, and in Calgary since 2005. Although he was an outsider to Calgary power circles, he ran for mayor in 2007. His non-traditional campaign garnered over 35,000 votes – a remarkable accomplishment against a popular incumbent. Alnoor has since focused on consolidating his business operations across Canada, settling in Calgary. "It's easy to live here," he says, "easy to do business, and easy to get involved in our democracy."

"I've had some bad press, but it could be worse, I could be Lindsay Lohan"

Hey, Didn't I Read Somewhere...

No public figure can go without controversy in a communication age, it seems and Alnoor is no exception. As both a business owner and a candidate he has been under scrutiny, and has come out on the other side completely absolved with full transparency and a renewed sense of purpose.

Kenyan Accusations

During the 2007 campaign, several articles were printed which repeated accusations that Alnoor had absconded with money from Trade Bank in Kenya. These articles are readily available through an internet search. However, the articles are contradicted by a legal judgment rendered by Daphne Shaw-Dyck of the Immigration and Refugee Board. She notes that "the evidence against Kassam does not stand up to scrutiny" (paragraph 224). This is partly because the statements of witnesses against him were visibly "self-serving, defensive, vague, and unreliable" (224). She goes on to note that there was independent evidence that one of the principal witnesses had, in fact "given orders with respect to" the scheme of which Alnoor was accused (224). She determines that "Kassam did not obtain anything capable of being stolen" (229), and systematically refutes every related charge (p 229-233). Consequently, she concludes that it is not probable that Alnoor has committed an offense prosecutable in either Kenya or Canada (234,2). The controversy, therefore, has no basis in fact.

The judgment can be referenced as follows:

D. Shaw-Dyck, Adjudicator. "Inquiry Reasons and Decisions between the Minister of Immigration and Citizenship and Kassam, Alnoor Haiderali, File AI-00196." Immigration and Refugee Board Adjudication Division. Vancouver BC, 2002.

If anyone wishes to pursue a story on the topic, a copy of the judgement can be made available in PDF format.

Ontario Hotels

As Kim Guttormson reported on June 2, Alnoor owned three hotels in Ontario that have recently gone into receivership. Due to the recession, "the values have come down," and the properties need to be sold. "I agreed with the bank that we would appoint a receiver and list the properties for sale," said Kassam. "Instead of me managing the sale process, the receiver and the bank are going to manage the sale process."

(Guttormson, Receivers to Sell 3 Ontario hotels owned by Exmayoral candidate Alnoor Kassam, Calgary Herald, June 2, 2010). This story has received wide media coverage, and the full text can be found at:

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/Receivers+sell+hotels+owned+mayoral+candidate+Alnoor+Kassam/3101324/story.html>

Here we go...

It's going to be a great race, and Alnoor Kassam is looking forward to every square inch of it. Consider this the starters gun, and a fresh start for Calgary.

Media Invite

Press Conference:

Date: June 28, 2010

Time: 10:30 am

Location: Palliser Hotel - Oval Room, Calgary

Contact Information

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**“If you print,
tweet, comment
or say only one
thing about
me today, ask
people to help
me take
back Calgary”**

Alnoor Kassam...There's an App for That

Alnoor is always happy to shake your hand, but there's lots of other ways to get in touch with him as well. If you have a question or something you'd like to talk to him about, why not go right to the source? After all, he is a big proponent of cutting out the middleman. You can tweet, friend, blog, or send a video to the social media sites below. We live in an age of new communication possibilities, the Town Hall meeting is right on your phone, so log on, say hello and let your voice be heard!

www.flickr.com/photos/alnoorkassam

www.youtube.com/user/alnoorformayor

www.facebook.com/JointheConversation

www.AlnoorKassam.com

ca.linkedin.com/in/alnoorkassam

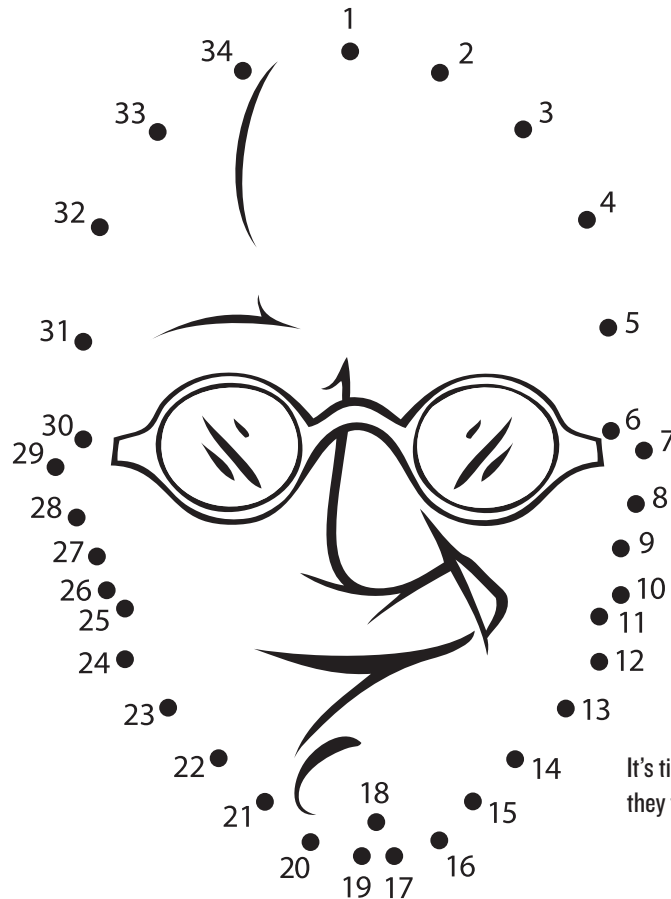
www.twitter.com/alnoorkassam



Hey Kids! It's the Alnoor Activity Page!

Okay, we admit it, municipal politics can be...a little dry. Here are a few things to keep you occupied if your mind starts to wander during the conference. Don't be afraid to colour outside the lines. Alnoor isn't!

**Please note:
The Alnoor
Kassam Activity
Page does not
include the "Pin
the Blame on
The Other Guy"
game...that
was the LAST
administration.**



It's time to Connect the Dots to see where they truly lead...

Cut along the dotted line, remove and place on your face for a whole new look at the political landscape...

