



# Media Release

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For Immediate Release  
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## **November 23 is Disabled Parking Awareness Day**

*Calgary Parking Authority reminds Calgarians to leave designated stalls for people with disabilities*

The Calgary Parking Authority (CPA) kicks off this year's Disabled Parking Awareness campaign on November 23 by reminding all Calgarians of the importance of leaving designated parking stalls for people with disabilities.

"For seven years now we've been repeating this message because we believe it's the right thing to do," said Dale Fraser, CPA General Manager. "With increasing numbers of people relocating to Calgary, we need everyone to understand that designated parking stalls are there for a reason. They provide equal access to parking for people with disabilities."

Each year the CPA undertakes a month-long Disabled Parking Awareness campaign. Starting November 23 and running through the month of December, increased emphasis is placed on patrolling parking stalls for people with disabilities. During the course of the campaign, officers check to make sure that vehicles display either a valid parking placard or designated license plate.

"With 50 new vehicles being added daily to the city's road network, Calgarians can expect to see more vehicles vying for the same number of parking stalls," said Fraser. "And it's in these instances that some people think it's okay to park in a designated stall for 'just a minute'."

Failure to display the parking placard or license may result in a \$150 fine.

From January 1 to the end of October 2006, 1,567 tickets were issued for unauthorized parking in a designated stall. In 2005, a total of 2,199 tickets were issued for the year. On average more than 200 parking tags are issued in Calgary each November and December for parking in a designated stall without the proper identification.

"With this campaign we hope to educate people about why these parking stalls are necessary and why they should be used only by people with placards," said Fraser. "Every year a substantial number of people refuse to follow the rules and our officers are there to seek compliance so that people with disabilities can enjoy equal access to facilities."

The Calgary Parking Authority asks Calgarians to give the gift of thoughtfulness this season and leave the designated parking stalls for those who need them.

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