



# Media Release

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For Immediate Release  
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## **Disabled Parking Awareness campaign: A much needed reminder** *Parking infractions in disabled stalls forecast to increase 37 per cent over 2007*

The Calgary Parking Authority (CPA) hopes this year's Disabled Parking Awareness campaign will help curb the growing trend of parking illegally in stalls for people with disabilities.

"Our campaign is an important reminder to leave designated parking stalls for those who need them," said Dale Fraser, CPA General Manager. "However, we are seeing a marked increase in the number of people who fail to display the required disabled placard when they park in a designated stall."

The Calgary Parking Authority is predicting a 37 per cent increase for 2008 in the number of tickets that will be issued to people who park illegally in stalls designated for people with disabilities.

From January 1 to the end of October 2008, 2,663 tickets were issued for unauthorized parking in a designated stall. In 2007, a total of 2,010 tickets were issued for the entire 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.

Each year the CPA undertakes a month-long Disabled Parking Awareness campaign. Starting November 20 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. Failing to display a disabled parking placard or license may result in a \$150 fine.

"Our campaign is designed to educate people about why these parking stalls are necessary and should be used only by people with disabled placards," said Fraser. "But there are people who refuse to follow the rules and our officers will be there to seek greater compliance so that people with disabilities can enjoy equal access to facilities."

The Calgary Parking Authority asks Calgarians to leave the designated parking stalls for those who need them. Please be considerate when parking this holiday season.

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