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Residential and Commercial Growth Strong in 2010

AIRDRIE, ALBERTA – The City of Airdrie saw \$258 million in construction value in 2010, up from \$201 million in 2009, and continues to be a leader in Alberta for new home starts.

“We were very pleased with the amount of construction we saw in Airdrie in 2010,” says Darryl Poburan, Manager of Building Inspections, City of Airdrie. “Values exceeded our forecasts and we continue to be at the top of the pack for housing construction in Alberta.”

Airdrie saw 993 new housing starts last year, compared with 710 in Lethbridge, 534 in Red Deer, 471 in Grande Prairie, and 424 in Cochrane. Residential construction amounted to \$187 million and included 814 houses, 18 duplexes and 161 townhomes.

The City also experienced an increase in non-residential construction with more than 280 building permits filed in 2010. Commercial and industrial construction values totaled \$56,300,838, up from \$38,205,547 the previous year. Major projects included:

- TransCanada Turbines building, Highland Park
- City of Airdrie Fire Hall, King’s Heights
- Shopper’s Drug Mart, Kingsview Market
- Concrete Batch Plant in East Lake Industrial
- Retail strips malls in Creekside Crossing, Sierra Springs, and Kingsview Market
- Car washes in Gateway Commerce Centre, Sierra Springs and Edmonton Trail
- Swiss Chalet, Sierra Springs

“Businesses continue to choose Airdrie as a place to open or expand their operations,” says Kent Rupert, Economic Development Team Leader, City of Airdrie. “2010 was another great year for business, evident by the construction in all quadrants of Airdrie and in the number of new business licenses in the city.”

In 2010, the total number of business licenses issued by the City of Airdrie was 2564, a 7.5% increase over licenses issued in 2009. Of those, 1595 (62%) were Airdrie-based and the remaining 969 (38%) were out-of-town. Airdrie continues to be a popular place for home-based businesses, with 948 entrepreneurs working from home.

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Background Information

New Home Starts – Alberta Comparisons, Jan. 1 – Nov. 30, 2010

	Single Family	Duplex Dwelling	Row Housing	Apartment	Total
Airdrie	782	10	153	0	945
Calgary	5449	1276	1150	1333	8776
Grande Prairie	453	10	8	0	471
Lethbridge	515	68	79	48	710
Medicine Hat	226	8	23	54	311
Red Deer	341	22	58	113	534
Cochrane	-	-	-	-	424
Rockyview	-	-	-	-	252

Source: Statistics Canada

Residential Building Permit Totals, 2008-2010

	2010	2009	2008
Houses	814	650	526
Apartments	0	67	0
Townhomes	161	99	28
Duplexes	18	0	14
Total	993	816	568

Commercial/Industrial Activity, 2008-2010

	Building Permits #	Construction Value
2010	280	\$56,300,838
2009	132	\$38,305,547
2008	107	\$57,157,855

Business License Totals, 2009-2010

	2010	2009
Home-Based Entrepreneurs	948	878
Commercial/Industrial	647	602
Out of Town	969	903
Total	2564	2383