

Massive Bus Purchase Looms in Edmonton

January 9, 2007

EDMONTON: Edmonton's booming public transit system is poised to leap into the 21st century by replacing more than 200 General Motors buses which are over a quarter century old. During the next two years, more than one-quarter of the city's 798 diesel buses will be retired after council decided last month to fast-track one of the transit system's largest equipment purchases, city transportation general manager Rich Ducharme said Monday.

On any given day, 20 to 25 per cent of the GM machines are out of service for maintenance or repairs, so only about 190 low-floor New Flyer buses from Winnipeg will be needed to replace them. Another 30 buses are being added to handle extra routes and increased service.

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