

# THRIVING CRITICAL

## CALGARY'S **VitalSigns** 2009 CITIZENS' REPORT CARD

- LEARNING ■ SAFETY ■ HEALTH & WELLNESS
- ARTS & CULTURE ■ FINANCIAL WELL-BEING
- GETTING STARTED ■ NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
- WORK ■ HOUSING ■ BELONGING & LEADERSHIP
- SUSTAINABLE CITY ■ SPORTS & RECREATION

CALGARY'S  
**VitalSigns**<sup>®</sup>  
TAKING THE PULSE OF CALGARY

  
THE CALGARY  
FOUNDATION  
FOR CALGARY FOREVER

CALGARY'S

# VitalSigns<sup>®</sup> An annual check-up that takes the pulse of Calgary.

**Citizens are at the heart of the 2009 Calgary's Vital Signs Report which builds on a rich community engagement process. Vital Signs was launched by The Calgary Foundation in 2007 to spark discussion, encourage connections and inspire action.**

## SURVEY RESULTS

	2009	2008
LEARNING	B	B
SAFETY	B-	C-
HEALTH & WELLNESS	B-	C
ARTS & CULTURE	B	C
FINANCIAL WELL-BEING	C	C
GETTING STARTED	B-	C+
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	B-	C-
WORK	B	B
HOUSING	C	D
BELONGING & LEADERSHIP	B-	C
SUSTAINABLE CITY	C	C
SPORTS & RECREATION	B	N/A
VALUING DIVERSITY	N/A	C

The Calgary Foundation appreciates the efforts of its Board of Directors and staff for their vision and the citizens and community partners who worked in creating the 2009 Calgary's Vital Signs Report.



Donald G. Cormack, C.A.  
Chair, Board of Directors

Eva Friesen  
President & CEO

Since the release of the 2008 Report, there's been a significant shift in the global economy and in our local economy. In fact, Calgary will post its worst performance on record with real GDP falling by 2.1%.

How has this affected Calgarians' view of their city and their quality of life?

Despite the recent economic upheaval, citizens remain optimistic. They gave higher grades, this year over last, in 7 of the 12 key issue areas. No areas received lower scores. Nine of the 12 areas received a B or B-. No score lower than a C was given...but still no A's.

The Report highlights that financial well-being and affordable housing continues to challenge many citizens' quality of life, and they are concerned that we are not addressing our city's sustainability. We learned that Calgarians are more positive about the opportunities for life-long learning, the access to sports and recreation services, and the increased presence of arts and culture.

### Engaging Citizens in Inspired Action

Calgary's Vital Signs weaves together individuals, groups and sectors who share their research, opinions, skills and knowledge to present a snapshot – a big picture perspective of our city that tells it like it is. More Calgarians participated in this year's Vital Signs than ever before.

### Calgary's Vital Signs Report – A Tool for Change

New this year was a randomized phone survey that augmented the self-selected online survey. Interestingly, there was no appreciable difference in the grades between the two survey groups. Calgarians chose to "Have Their Say" and provided an astounding 1100 pages of comments viewable at [thecalgaryfoundation.org](http://thecalgaryfoundation.org).

### So what now?

After three Vital Signs Reports, how have things changed? Many new conversations and innovative collaborative efforts to improve quality of life have been inspired by Calgary's Vital Signs including the upcoming Reports **Bowness VitalSigns** (Fall, 2009) and **Youth VitalSigns** (Spring, 2010). These focused Reports can create momentum for collective change and strengthen our community's capacity to address neighbourhood and youth issues.

Calgary's Vital Signs inspires us to believe that when people work collaboratively, through inspired action and learning, they have the insight and energy to create and realize bold visions for their common future.

THANK YOU to the  
**1700 CALGARIANS**  
who added their voice by:

- attending the 'Vital Conversations' community forum
- completing the citizen online survey
- sharing research as issue area experts
- answering the citizen phone survey
- providing input as a community leader



THE CALGARY  
FOUNDATION

Call 403 802 7700 or  
email [info@thecalgaryfoundation.org](mailto:info@thecalgaryfoundation.org) to:

- receive copies of the Report
- discuss the Report

Visit [thecalgaryfoundation.org](http://thecalgaryfoundation.org) to:

- read more research
- seek out data sources
- discover what Calgarians have to say

# 2009 SUMMARY

KEY ISSUE AREA	GRADE	CITIZENS' SAY: WHAT'S WORKING	CITIZENS' SAY: WHAT'S NOT	KEY ISSUE AREA RESEARCH
<b>LEARNING</b>	<b>B</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Culture of life-long learning</li> <li>• Availability of adult learning programs</li> <li>• Variety of post-secondary options</li> <li>• Calgary Public Libraries</li> <li>• Availability of French immersion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class sizes</li> <li>• High tuition</li> <li>• High school drop-out rate</li> <li>• Opportunities for special needs students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvement in high school completions</li> <li>• High proportion with post secondary education</li> <li>• High life-long learning</li> <li>• High library usage</li> </ul>
<b>SAFETY</b>	<b>B-</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Block watch</li> <li>• Visible police presence</li> <li>• Safe streets</li> <li>• Extra LRT patrols</li> <li>• Programs targeting youth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gang control</li> <li>• Need stricter judicial system</li> <li>• Safety on LRT</li> <li>• Traffic safety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low violent crime rate</li> <li>• High safe and livable city ranking</li> <li>• Domestic violence calls increase</li> <li>• Gang-related homicides increase</li> </ul>
<b>HEALTH &amp; WELLNESS</b>	<b>B-</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public awareness concerning obesity</li> <li>• Great fitness facilities</li> <li>• Pathways for walking and biking</li> <li>• Quality care in hospitals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better access to family physicians</li> <li>• Need for shorter wait times, especially emergency care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long waits for long-term care</li> <li>• ER wait times rise</li> <li>• More Calgarians lack a regular medical doctor</li> <li>• Smoking rates up</li> </ul>
<b>ARTS &amp; CULTURE</b>	<b>B</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vibrant festivals</li> <li>• Lots of entertainment options</li> <li>• Local/Community theatre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordability of events</li> <li>• Need better publicity</li> <li>• More celebrations of other cultures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highest household spending on arts and culture</li> <li>• Creative &amp; active arts community</li> <li>• Most cultured city on <i>Maclean's</i> list</li> </ul>
<b>FINANCIAL WELL-BEING</b>	<b>C</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordable housing initiatives</li> <li>• Job opportunities</li> <li>• Programs for low income families</li> <li>• Charitable organizations helping homeless</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transit is expensive</li> <li>• Cost of living is high</li> <li>• High housing costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food Bank usage increases</li> <li>• Cost of nutritious food increasing</li> <li>• Personal bankruptcies rise</li> <li>• Economy down, demand for community services up</li> </ul>
<b>GETTING STARTED</b>	<b>B-</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many agencies serving new Canadians</li> <li>• Access to health care</li> <li>• Job opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition of immigrant skills</li> <li>• Acceptance of new cultures</li> <li>• Lack of diversity in neighbourhoods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural diversity increases</li> <li>• English as a Second Language need grows</li> <li>• Immigrant child care needs increase</li> </ul>
<b>NATURAL ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>B-</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recycling program</li> <li>• Maintenance of parks</li> <li>• Clean air and water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High use of individual vehicles</li> <li>• High water usage</li> <li>• Need compost service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blue cart program doubles amount recycled</li> <li>• Consumer water demand decreases</li> <li>• Community gardens flourishing</li> </ul>
<b>WORK</b>	<b>B</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low unemployment rate</li> <li>• Diversity of opportunities</li> <li>• Robust economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to diversify for boom / bust cycles</li> <li>• Wages not aligned with cost of living</li> <li>• Need less dependency on oil</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unemployment rate doubles</li> <li>• EI claims rise dramatically</li> <li>• Employment by industry shifts</li> </ul>
<b>HOUSING</b>	<b>C</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good quality housing</li> <li>• Many new buildings</li> <li>• Some subsidized housing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban sprawl</li> <li>• Price of housing</li> <li>• Homelessness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding target for affordable housing units exceeded</li> <li>• Home prices drop</li> <li>• Homelessness up</li> <li>• Rents remain high</li> </ul>
<b>BELONGING &amp; LEADERSHIP</b>	<b>B-</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong sense of community</li> <li>• Volunteerism</li> <li>• Corporations helping community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economy adversely affecting charities</li> <li>• Low voter turnout</li> <li>• Citizen apathy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alberta volunteer rate rises</li> <li>• Charitable donors decrease slightly</li> <li>• Voter turnout drops</li> <li>• Sense of community belonging drops sharply</li> </ul>
<b>SUSTAINABLE CITY</b>	<b>C</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People are becoming more "green"</li> <li>• C-train expansions</li> <li>• Curbside recycling</li> <li>• Farmer's markets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost of transit and parking</li> <li>• Urban sprawl</li> <li>• Need bike and car pool lanes</li> <li>• Need more community gardens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green buildings rising</li> <li>• Farmer's markets growing</li> <li>• More commuters using sustainable transportation</li> <li>• Pathways &amp; bikeways extended</li> </ul>
<b>SPORTS &amp; RECREATION</b>	<b>B</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many areas to play sports</li> <li>• Community programs</li> <li>• Variety of options</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need more subsidies for low income families</li> <li>• User fees climbing rapidly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physically active Calgarians on the rise</li> <li>• City Parks &amp; Recreation programs top choice for recreational activities</li> <li>• Calgarians passionate about amateur sport</li> <li>• Aging community association facilities</li> </ul>

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Calgary's Vital Signs engaged over 1700 citizens and community partners who added their voice to ensure an accurate and relevant snapshot of Calgary's quality of life.

### COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP GROUP

Representatives from key Calgary organizations provided high level advice and recommendations to ensure that the 2009 Calgary's Vital Signs report is an effective vehicle for showing the trends and priorities that are emerging in Calgary.

### VITAL CONVERSATIONS

To encourage community dialogue in a collaborative setting, approximately 100 Calgarians representing the public, charitable and corporate community shared their opinions about quality of life issues in Calgary. Their feedback informed the selection of indicators in the 12 key issue areas for the 2009 Calgary's Vital Signs report. Here is what we heard:

Top reasons to be proud	Top worries or concerns
Blue Box recycling	Need more public transit
Parks, pathways and rivers	Underemployment of new immigrants
Caring citizens and strong volunteerism	Health care
10 Year Plan to End Homelessness	Lack of positive news coverage
Plan It / Sustainability Plan	Lack of affordable housing
Safe city to live in	Lack of sports and recreation facilities
	Urban sprawl

### CITIZEN ONLINE SURVEY

From an open invitation to all Calgarians, 1166 citizens completed an online survey assigning grades and providing their views on what is successfully working and what needs improvement for each of the 12 issue areas. Their thoughtful insights generated an astounding 1100 pages of comments. (To view visit [thecalgaryfoundation.org](http://thecalgaryfoundation.org).)

#### Profile of Graders

- 80%** have lived in Calgary for more than ten years
- 65%** are female
- 26%** are between 19 and 34
- 48%** are between 35 and 54
- 25%** are 55 and over
- 12%** did not volunteer in the last year

### CITIZEN PHONE SURVEY

To augment the findings of the self-selected online survey, a randomized phone survey was conducted. The sample of 419 respondents is representative of the Calgary population over the age of 18 and is reliable within +/- 5%, 19 times out of 20. What we learned is that both approaches yielded similar findings. When asked what issues they'd like to see addressed to improve their quality of life in Calgary, here's what Calgarians said:

#### Top issues

- Health care
- Public transit
- Affordable housing
- Schools and education
- Crime

#### What's working

- Friendly and clean city
- Safe city
- Nice parks
- Educational opportunities

#### What's not

- Air quality
- Lack of healthcare
- Housing prices
- Poor transportation

### INDEX OF GRADING

- A** Excellent: stay the course
- B** Good: but some improvements could be made
- C** Average performance: suggest additional effort be made to address these issues
- D** Below average performance: additional work is required
- F** Failure: immediate action is crucial

(Graders could also choose to give their grade a plus or minus.)

The Praxis Group conducted the online and phone surveys.

### INDICATOR RESEARCH

Over 20 local research experts representing a wide range of Calgary organizations were individually convened to provide current statistical data and research to ensure that the indicators used for Calgary's Vital Signs are relevant, accurate and comprehensive. Community Foundations of Canada, who retained The Centre for the Study of Living Standards to undertake national research, provided additional expertise. The research sources for all the indicators can be found at [calgaryvitalsigns.ca](http://calgaryvitalsigns.ca)



## GETTING STARTED **B-**

**LEAVING YOUR OLD LIFE FOR A NEW LIFE IN A NEW COUNTRY PRESENTS MANY CHALLENGES FOR IMMIGRANTS INCLUDING LANGUAGE BARRIERS AND ISOLATION.**

### **THE NEW IMMIGRANT QUALIFICATIONS GAP: HIGH EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

At 55%, the proportion of Calgary's recent (within 5 years) immigrants (ages 25 to 54) with a university certificate, degree or diploma in 2006 was almost twice as high as that of non-immigrant residents (30%) in the same age range. However, the unemployment rate of recent immigrants almost doubled that of their non-immigrant counterparts.

### **INCREASING CHILDCARE NEEDS**

In Calgary, the proportion of recent (within 5 years) immigrant families with children (ages 0-12) was 58% in 2006, compared to non-immigrant (34%) and established immigrant families (35%).

### **HIGH CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

Canadian cities have achieved levels of cultural diversity that are exceptional on a global scale. As immigrants make up 23.6% of Calgary's total population, Calgary was ranked in the top 10 most culturally diverse urban regions within North America in 2006.

### **ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE NEED GROWS**

The English as a Second Language (ESL) population in the Calgary Board of Education increases by about 2000 students per year. This diverse group of students has over 70 language and cultural groups with a variety of complex needs.

## WORK **B**

**WORK NOT ONLY PAYS FOR FOOD AND HOUSING, BUT PROVIDES A SENSE OF IDENTITY AND SECURITY. LIFE IS LESS STRESSFUL WHEN JOBS ARE SAFE, ENJOYABLE, ACCESSIBLE AND PAY REASONABLY WELL.**

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DOUBLES**

In June 2009, Calgary's unemployment rate was 6.6%, up from 3.3% in June 2008, while the national rate was 8.4%. The June 2009 youth (15-24 years) unemployment rate in Calgary was 15%, up from 6.9% in June 2008.

### **EI CLAIMS RISE DRAMATICALLY**

In Calgary, Employment Insurance (EI) claims have risen 187% from March 2008 to March 2009. Calgary still has the second lowest proportion of its labour force receiving benefits among major Canadian centres, behind Ottawa. Only about 30% of Calgary applicants receive EI due to stiffer access requirements.

### **EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY SHIFTS**

The services-producing industries led the way in job creation in Calgary, adding 9,300 jobs between December 2008 and May 2009, a 1.7% increase. Over the same period, the goods-producing sector lost 32,300 jobs, a 15% decrease.

### **TELEWORKERS INCREASE**

At 4,900 in 2006, the number of Calgary teleworkers rose 88% from 2001. Telework refers to work by an employee performed away from the traditional office. Benefits include decreased commuting and related expenses such as parking.

## VITAL IMPACT

 **THE CALGARY FOUNDATION** granted **\$35,000** to **Youth in Motion** to support the **New Horizons Mentoring Program**, a program that assists internationally educated immigrants to overcome employment barriers in Canada.

## VITAL IMPACT

 **THE CALGARY FOUNDATION** granted **\$30,000** to the **University of Calgary** to support the **Cybermentor Online Curriculum**, a female mentorship program aimed at increasing young women's interest in science and engineering careers.

**VITAL ACTION**  **ORDER INTERNATIONAL CUISINE PREPARED BY IMMIGRANT WOMEN.** [ethnicitycatering.ca](http://ethnicitycatering.ca)

**VITAL ACTION**  **OBTAIN FREE RESUME BUILDING AND CAREER PLANNING ASSISTANCE.** [bowvalleycollege.ca](http://bowvalleycollege.ca)



## FINANCIAL WELL-BEING **C**

**WITHOUT PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS ROOT CAUSES OF POVERTY, HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION CONTINUE TO BE CHALLENGES FOR THOSE LIVING BELOW THE POVERTY LINE.**

### **FOOD BANK USAGE UP SHARPLY**

Between December 2008 and February 2009, The Calgary Interfaith Foodbank distributed nearly 3,000 more food hampers than it did over the same period a year prior – an increase of 32%. The number of new clients over that period grew by more than 1,500 Calgarians, an increase of 44%.

### **COST OF NUTRITIOUS FOOD INCREASING**

In June 2008, the average monthly cost of a nutritious food basket (a 51 food item tool used to estimate the cost of a nutritious diet) for a Calgary family of four was \$784, a 10% increase from November 2007.

### **PERSONAL BANKRUPTCIES RISE**

From the first quarter of 2008 to the first quarter of 2009, Calgary saw an 81% increase in consumer bankruptcies. Over the same period, there was a decline in business bankruptcies.

### **ECONOMY DOWN, DEMAND FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES UP**

Distress Centre Calgary reported that the number of high-risk calls (i.e. suicide attempts and homicidal thoughts) that resulted in immediate 911 dispatch reached 371 by August 2009, higher than the 369 high-risk calls recorded in all of 2008.

## HOUSING **C**

**PROVIDING BASICS LIKE FOOD, TRANSPORTATION, EDUCATION AND RECREATION IS DIFFICULT IF HOUSING COSTS ARE TOO HIGH.**

### **HOME PRICES DROP**

Between May 2008 and May 2009, the median price of a single family home decreased from \$419,000 to \$390,000, a 6.9% drop. During the same time period, the median price for condominiums decreased by 10.5% with prices dropping from \$285,000 to \$255,000.

### **HOMELESSNESS UP**

The number of people experiencing homelessness has quadrupled in the last decade. 197 families were homeless in 2008, up 36% from 2006. In May 2009, the shelter utilization rate was approximately 88%. The bed capacity is 2,445, up from 2,137 in June 2008 when the utilization rate was 85%.

### **FUNDING TARGET FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS EXCEEDED**

Launched in 2008, Calgary's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness has a 2010-2011 target of adding 850 units of affordable housing; actual units, commitments and funding are in place now for a total of 891 units system-wide.

### **RENTS REMAIN HIGH**

In April 2009, the average rent for a two-bedroom unit was \$1,106, up \$10 from April 2008. To be able to afford to rent this unit in 2008, a household needed a minimum median income of \$45,920 per year. The median income for single-person households was \$28,510 and \$36,820 for a lone parent with one child. There are over 60,000 lone parents and over 160,000 single-person households in Calgary.

## VITAL IMPACT

 **THE CALGARY FOUNDATION** granted over **\$17,000** to the **Calgary Urban Projects Society** to support programs that help people overcome the challenges of poverty to attain brighter futures.

**VITAL ACTION**  **ENROLL IN A MONEY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR LOW INCOME EARNERS.** [momentum.org](http://momentum.org)

## VITAL IMPACT

 **THE CALGARY FOUNDATION** granted over **\$40,000** to **Momentum's Owen Hart Home Owners Program** that offers low income citizens the opportunity to save towards a home down-payment and increase home ownership money management skills.

**VITAL ACTION**  **VOLUNTEER FOR PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT.** [calgaryhomeless.com](http://calgaryhomeless.com)



## ARTS & CULTURE **B**

**ARTS AND CULTURE INSPIRES INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY WHILE SHAPING HOW WE COMMEMORATE OUR PAST, UNDERSTAND OUR PRESENT, AND IMAGINE OUR FUTURE.**

### EMPLOYMENT IN CULTURAL INDUSTRIES LOW

11,100 Calgarians were employed in cultural industries in 2008, 13% less than in 2007. These employees accounted for 1.6% of total employment in Calgary. By comparison, cultural industries accounted for 2.0% of employment in Canada.

### HIGHEST HOUSEHOLD SPENDING ON ARTS AND CULTURE

In 2007, households in Calgary spent an average of \$1,180 on arts and culture, down 20% from 2006. Calgary households spent more than any other Vital Signs communities and 27% more than the Canada-wide average.

### CREATIVE & ACTIVE ARTS COMMUNITY

In 2008, local non-profit arts events attracted public attendance of close to 1.7 million people; 2,481 new artistic works were created and presented by Calgary arts organizations; and, 696,461 children and youth participated in arts education programs.

### MOST CULTURED CITY

Calgary topped *Maclean's* magazine's 2009 Most Cultured Cities list for the second year in a row. This list is derived from the Canadian Council on Learning's "learning to be" pillar, based on the per cent of people who spend money on reading, the performing arts and museums in 2007.

## LEARNING **B**

**AFFORDABLE AND FLEXIBLE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT SCHOOLS, WORKPLACES OR ONLINE PROMOTES LIFE-LONG LEARNING.**

### IMPROVEMENT IN HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETIONS

In 2008, 14.1% of Calgarians (aged 15 and over) had not completed high school, a slight improvement from 14.7% in 2007. Calgary's 2008 rate was better than that for Alberta (19.5%) and Canada overall (21.6%).

### HIGH PROPORTION WITH POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

In 2008, 56.2% of Calgarians (15 years and over) had post-secondary education (university degree, post-secondary certificate or diploma), compared to the national average of 50.4%. Only Ottawa (61.2%) among Vital Signs communities had a higher level.


### HIGH LIFE-LONG LEARNING

In the Canadian Council on Learning's 2009 Composite Learning Index (CLI), Calgary's score is the highest in Canada at 89, 18.7% higher than the national average (75%). The CLI is an annual measure of Canada's progress in life-long learning – at school, at home, at work, in the community.


### HIGH LIBRARY USAGE

Calgary Public Library (CPL) customers borrowed almost 15.4 million books, CDs, and DVDs in 2008, up 1.1 million from 2007, making CPL the sixth largest civic library system in North America. 72% of Calgary households have at least one library user.

## VITAL IMPACT

 **THE CALGARY FOUNDATION** granted almost **\$40,000** to the **Alberta Ballet Company** to fund the initial development plans for the **Centre for Ballet in Calgary** that will serve the long term needs of the dance community in Calgary.

## VITAL IMPACT

 **THE CALGARY FOUNDATION** granted over **\$25,000** to **Junior Achievement of Southern Alberta** to support the development of new curriculum for high school trade programs that introduce a solid understanding of a career in the trades.

**VITAL ACTION**  FIND COMPLETE COVERAGE OF CALGARY'S VIBRANT ARTS SCENE. [CalgaryCulture.com](http://CalgaryCulture.com)

**VITAL ACTION**  CHECK OUT THE FREE PROGRAMS AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY [calgarypubliclibrary.com](http://calgarypubliclibrary.com)



## HEALTH & WELLNESS **B-**

HEALTH CAN BE DEFINED BY ONE'S PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING, NOT SIMPLY THE ABSENCE OF DISEASE.

### LONG WAITS FOR LONG-TERM CARE

The number of Calgarians needing placement in long-term care grew to 357 in March 2009, up from 233 in March 2008 – 120 of these patients were waiting in hospital beds. The average wait time for those needing nursing home care increased 28% during this period.

### ER WAIT TIMES RISE

In February 2009, emergency patients at Calgary's three hospitals requiring hospitalization faced a median wait time of 16.6 hours before being transferred to a bed. These delays were 31% longer than in February 2008, when patients faced a median wait of 12.6 hours to be transferred.

### MORE CALGARIANS LACK A REGULAR MEDICAL DOCTOR

In the Calgary Health Region in 2008, 18% of the population (12 years and over) did not have a regular medical doctor, up from 15% in 2003. In 2008, 19% of Albertans and 16% of Canadians reported not having a regular doctor.

### SMOKING RATES UP

In 2008, 19% of Calgarians (12 years and older) were smokers, up from 17% in 2007. This rate was below the national (21%) and provincial rates (22%). Smoking costs the Alberta economy \$1.8 billion annually.

## SPORTS & RECREATION **B**

BY ENCOURAGING CALGARIANS TO HAVE FUN, LEARN AND DEVELOP SKILLS, SPORTS AND RECREATION DEVELOP ACTIVE CITIZENS AND A HEALTHY COMMUNITY.

### PHYSICALLY ACTIVE CALGARIANS ON THE RISE

In 2009, at 64%, Calgary led the province with the highest percentage of adults who were physically active enough to experience health benefits, up from 57% in 2000. According to the Alberta Centre for Active Living, Alberta households who earn greater than \$100,000 per year are over five times more likely to obtain enough physical activity than those earning less than \$20,000 per year.

### AGING COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION FACILITIES

According to a survey by the Federation of Calgary Communities, the average age of the 136 Community Association facilities in the Calgary area is 36 years. There are 24 associations with facilities 40 years or older – and 8 over 60 years.


### CITY PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAMS TOP CHOICE FOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

In a 2008 City of Calgary survey that questioned dependence on recreational facilities, 84% reported that they depend on local government parks and recreation services, 77% on commercial facilities, 56% on private clubs and 54% on service clubs, religious and community organizations.

### CALGARIANS PASSIONATE ABOUT AMATEUR SPORT


In 2008, 45% of Calgary households had at least one occupant who actively participated in amateur sport. In that same year, 320,000 participants engaged in 85 different sport activities administered by over 400 sport organizations.

## VITAL IMPACT

 THE CALGARY FOUNDATION granted over **\$24,000** to **Wellspring Calgary** to fund the development of **Return to Work: Supports for Success**, a program that gives emotional, educational and financial support to cancer survivors as they return to work.

**VITAL ACTION**  ENROLL IN A FREE, INTERACTIVE PROGRAM TO QUIT SMOKING. [albertaquits.ca](http://albertaquits.ca)

## VITAL IMPACT

 THE CALGARY FOUNDATION granted **\$25,000** to **Parks Foundation Calgary** to support the **Calgary Sport Council** in a feasibility study for the development of a sport and recreation fund for amateur sport facilities.

**VITAL ACTION**  JOIN CO-ED SPORT LEAGUES AND SOCIAL CLUBS. [calgarysportsclub.com](http://calgarysportsclub.com)





PHOTO: JANICE FRANCEY



PHOTO: STUART GRADON, CALGARY HERALD

## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT **B-**

**THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT REFERS TO THE QUALITY OF LOCAL AIR, LAND AND WATER AND ACCESS TO NATURAL AREAS AND PARKS.**

### **BLUE CART PROGRAM DOUBLES AMOUNT RECYCLED**

Since the opening of the Materials Recovery Facility on April 21 to the end of July 2009, over 20,000 tonnes of material had been recycled from the blue cart program and community recycling depots. In the same period in 2008, 11,506 tonnes of material were collected.

### **HOUSEHOLD COMPOSTING ACTIVITY**

In 2007, 46% of Calgary households reported that they composted, 24% reported that they composted kitchen waste, and 55% of homes that had a lawn or garden reported composting their yard waste. Canada-wide, 57% of households composted.

### **WATER DEMAND DECREASES**

In 2008, the average amount of water used in the city per person (residential, business and municipal use) was 422 litres per day, down from 451 litres per capital per day (lpcd) in 2006 and 527 lpcd in 1999. The City of Calgary's target for sustainable use of water is 350 lpcd by 2033.

### **COMMUNITY GARDENS FLOURISHING**

According to the Community Garden Resource Network, Calgary had 19 public community food gardens in 2009, up from nine in 2008. Calgary also has 27 gardens on private land with community building as their goal, up from four last year.

## SAFETY **B-**

**MANY CITIZENS ARE COMMITTED TO ENSURING PUBLIC SAFETY, AS THE SENSE OF SECURITY AFFECTS QUALITY OF LIFE.**

### **LOW VIOLENT CRIME RATE**

At 708 violent crimes per 100,000 persons in 2008, Calgary's violent crime rate was much lower than the national (932 per 100,000) and provincial rates (1,120 per 100,000). Calgary's 2008 rate was the lowest rate ever recorded since measurement began in 1991.

### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CALLS INCREASE**

In 2008, the Calgary Police Service received 13,496 calls that were domestic in nature – an increase of 1,220 calls from 2007. An estimated 78% of spousal abuse incidents go unreported.

### **MORE POLICE OFFICERS PER 100,000**

At 164 police officers per 100,000 in December 2008, the number of Calgary Police Service officers was up from 156 in 2007 and 155 in 2006.

### **HIGH SAFE AND LIVABLE CITY RANKING**

The Mercer Quality of Living Survey annually evaluates 215 cities on over three dozen social, economic, educational, environmental and personal safety criteria. In the 2008 survey, Calgary tied with Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and Vancouver as the safest city in North and South America and 25th in the world for overall livability.

### **GANG-RELATED HOMICIDES INCREASE**

Of the 33 homicides committed in Calgary in 2008, 15 were gang-related, up from 9 in 2007 and 3 in 2004. There were also 21 non-fatal gang shooting incidents. As part of Calgary's Gang Strategy, 278 weapons were seized from gang members and associates from July 2005–May 2009.

## VITAL IMPACT

 **THE CALGARY FOUNDATION** granted **\$70,000** over three years to **The Calgary Horticultural Society** to support the **Community Garden Resource Network**, a project that promotes and strengthens community gardens.

**VITAL ACTION**  **DISCOVER PROVINCIAL REBATES RELATED TO HOME ENERGY EVALUATIONS.** [climatechangecentral.com](http://climatechangecentral.com)

## VITAL IMPACT

 **THE CALGARY FOUNDATION** granted **\$6,000** to **YMCA Calgary's Strong Kids Campaign** to support the participation of economically disadvantaged kids in after-school programs that reduce the temptation of high-risk activities.

**VITAL ACTION**  **TEACH YOUR KIDS ABOUT ONLINE SAFETY** [youthlinkcalgary.com](http://youthlinkcalgary.com)



PHOTO: JANICE FRANCEY

## BELONGING & LEADERSHIP **B-**

**CITIZENS HAVE GREATER INCENTIVE TO BECOME A LEADER IN THEIR COMMUNITY WHEN THEY ARE CIVICALLY, ECONOMICALLY AND SOCIALLY CONNECTED.**

### CHARITABLE DONORS DECREASE SLIGHTLY

The proportion of tax filers declaring charitable donations in Calgary in 2007 was 26.4%, down from 27.2% in 2005, still 9.8% above the national rate. With a median charitable donation of \$350 in 2007, donations in Calgary were 40% higher than the national average of \$250.

### ALBERTA VOLUNTEER RATE RISES

In 2007, 52% of Albertans volunteered an average of 172 hours of their time, up from 48% in 2004. The Alberta rate was the fifth highest in the country (Saskatchewan and Yukon were highest at 58%) and higher than the 2007 national rate of 46%.

### VOTER TURNOUT DROPS

Voter turnout for the 2008 Federal Election in Calgary was 54%, dropping from 62% in 2006. The 2008 turnout was lower than the national average (59%) but higher than the provincial average (52%).

### SENSE OF COMMUNITY BELONGING DROPS SHARPLY

In 2008, 53% of the population (12 years and over) in the Calgary Health Region reported a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging, down from 61% in 2007. The 2008 rate is lower than the national (65%) and provincial (60%) levels.

## SUSTAINABLE CITY **C**

**A RESILIENT COMMUNITY IS SUSTAINED BY A VIBRANT ECONOMY, A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT AND "TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE" DECISIONS OF SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.**

### GREEN BUILDINGS RISING

According to the Canada Green Building Council, Calgary had 88 projects in June 2009 registered with the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standard, up from 54 a year prior. Twelve of these projects are now certified, up from 5 last year. There are now over 6,086 Built Green™ homes in Calgary, almost triple from 2,173 a year ago.

### FARMER'S MARKETS GROWING

In the summer of 2009, Calgarians had seven farmer's markets to choose from, as well as at least eight within a one hour drive. Alberta farmer's markets' sales increased from \$233 Million in 2004 to \$388 Million in 2008. One third of Albertans say they will buy more locally grown food in the coming year.


### MORE COMMUTERS USING SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

In 2006, 25% of Calgary commuters used sustainable transit (walking, cycling or public transit) up from 23% in 2001. Between 1998 and 2008, the amount of downtown employees that took sustainable transit rose from 36% to 46%.


### PATHWAYS & BIKEWAYS EXTENDED

With 660 kilometres of pathways and 290 kilometres of on-street bikeways (up from 635 and 260 in 2006), Calgary has the most extensive network in North America. Snow is cleared off 130 kilometres of pathways during winter.

## VITAL IMPACT

 THE CALGARY FOUNDATION granted **\$40,000** to the **Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations** to build knowledge, readiness and resources for shared services in Calgary's voluntary sector in a time of economic downturn.

## VITAL IMPACT

 THE CALGARY FOUNDATION granted **\$40,000** to **Clean Calgary** to support the **Healthy Homes Project**, designed to introduce a holistic concept of a healthy home by demonstrating practical changes that benefit the environment and personal health.

**VITAL ACTION**  SHARE YOUR TIME AND SKILLS WITH OTHERS.  
volunteercalgary.com

**VITAL ACTION**  LEARN HOW TO START YOUR OWN COMPOST.  
cleancalgary.org

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## ABOUT THE CALGARY FOUNDATION



Established in 1955, The Calgary Foundation assists donors in creating a giving and caring community by applying its resources, expertise and leadership, in partnership with others, to identify needs and address issues in the Calgary and area community.

With over 900 Endowment Funds established, the Foundation strengthens community in the areas of Arts & Heritage, Human Services, Education, Environment, Health and Neighbourhoods through knowledgeable grantmaking.

### 2008 – 2009

- ☐ \$25 million received in new contributions
- ☐ Asset base of \$274 million
- ☐ \$22 million granted to 665 charitable organizations
- ☐ 49 new funds established

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*Vital Signs* is a community check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our communities, identifies significant trends, and shares opportunities for action in at least ten areas critical to quality of life.

*Vital Signs* is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada.



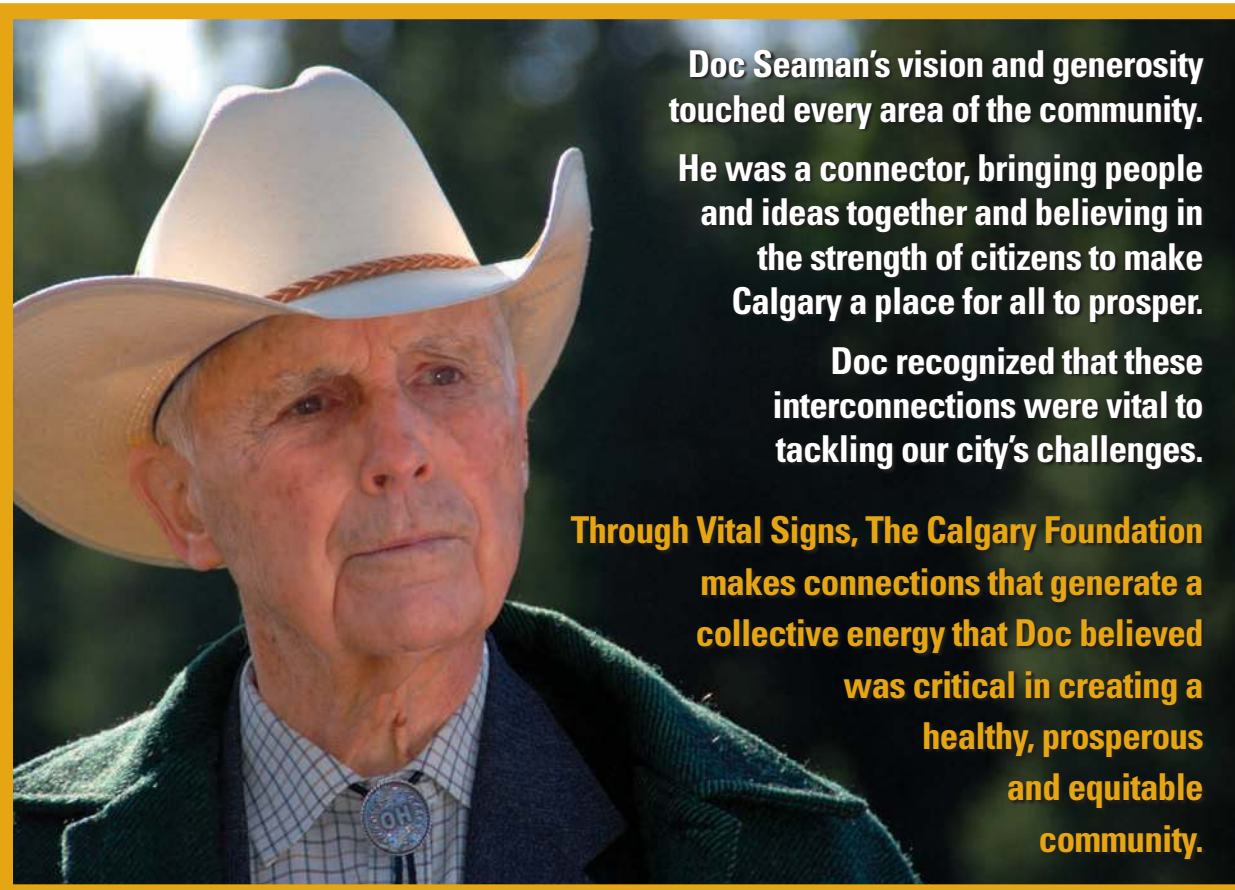
16 cities or regions produced *Vital Signs* reports:

Greater Saint John, Wolfville, Ottawa, Toronto, Oakville, Waterloo Region, Guelph & Wellington, Kingston & Area, Greater Sudbury, Red Deer, Medicine Hat, Victoria, Central Okanagan, Sunshine Coast, Boundary Communities (BC) and Calgary

Calgary's **VitalSigns** 2009 is generously supported by the **Daryl K. (Doc) Seaman Flow Through Fund at The Calgary Foundation.**

## **Doc Seaman** COMMUNITY CONNECTOR

PHOTO COURTESY/RUSSELL MOORE IMAGES



**Doc Seaman's vision and generosity touched every area of the community.**

**He was a connector, bringing people and ideas together and believing in the strength of citizens to make Calgary a place for all to prosper.**

**Doc recognized that these interconnections were vital to tackling our city's challenges.**

**Through Vital Signs, The Calgary Foundation makes connections that generate a collective energy that Doc believed was critical in creating a healthy, prosperous and equitable community.**

**Calgary's Vital Signs is an initiative of The Calgary Foundation.**

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