THRIVING
CRITICAL
Calgary’s Vital Signs will spark discussion, encourage connections and inspire action.

Welcome to The Calgary Foundation’s first Vital Signs report card – a report card where over 600 Calgarians have graded the city on our overall quality of life, providing a clear snapshot of their views on our city’s wellness and liveability.

Calgary’s Vital Signs will enhance the unique role The Calgary Foundation (TCF) has played in the Calgary and area community for over 50 years. Over time, TCF has developed a deep understanding of the many issues that affect our city through our strong relationships with our donors, fund holders, grantees and committee members who help guide our grant making decisions. Going forward, Vital Signs will inform TCF in its role as an effective and knowledgeable grant maker.

As you will see within these pages, this report card is both a celebration and a sobering wake-up call. While Calgary is leading the nation with unparalleled prosperity and opportunity, the city is experiencing tremendous growing pains and key areas that determine our overall well-being are in critical need of attention.

As the saying goes, “Perception is reality.” Travelling through our city, citizens have their own experience of what it means to be a Calgarian. In launching Vital Signs this year, TCF wanted Calgarians to challenge their perceptions and step out of their experience and into that of others, essentially examining the duality of this unprecedented boom.

Calgary’s Vital Signs is part of a national initiative of 11 community foundations across Canada, spearheaded by Community Foundations of Canada, to measure the overall quality of life in Canadian communities and help identify areas for improvement. While other cities are referenced within the report, Calgary’s Vital Signs is not meant to compare ourselves with other cities, but rather to better understand our strengths and our opportunities for improvement.

Calgary’s Vital Signs has been made possible through the support from our Board, staff, volunteers and members of Calgary’s Vital Signs Advisory Groups. These contributors, as well as other partners, are listed in our Acknowledgements section.

Intended as a long-term initiative, our hope is that Calgary’s Vital Signs is intended to be a long-term initiative. You may agree or disagree with some of the perceptions of our graders - but our hope is that this initiative will spark discussion and inspire action through encouraging connections with community organizations, governments, public institutions and citizen’s groups.

Asking questions, taking a vital look at ourselves through this mirror, pooling the talents and efforts of citizens who care about our city … this is only the beginning.

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**METHODOLOGY**

**STARTING THE PROJECT**

*Vital Signs* was first developed by the Toronto Community Foundation in 2001 as an annual check-up of the quality of life in their city. Five community foundations adopted the initiative for their own cities in 2006 through the facilitation of Community Foundations of Canada. The Calgary Foundation is undertaking the initiative for Calgary's *Vital Signs* in 2007 because of the important opportunity it creates to spark discussion, encourage connections and inspire action on issues that are important to Calgarians. While *Vital Signs* is nationally coordinated, it is ultimately a local initiative.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The Calgary Foundation engaged numerous organizations, community leaders, interested citizens and local experts in the development of Calgary's *Vital Signs*.

**RESEARCH**

The Calgary Foundation enlisted Sustainable Calgary to undertake the indicator research. Calgary's *Vital Signs* also established an Indicator Action Team composed of researchers from various local organizations to help assemble and investigate possible indicators for the project and suggest data sources.

The Praxis Group developed and carried out the citizen grading survey.

Community Foundations of Canada retained the Centre for the Study of Living Standards (CSLS) to undertake research on indicators being used by the *Vital Signs* projects across Canada.

**Secondary Research Sources**

The Research Team collected data from various sources including Statistics Canada, the City of Calgary, local school boards, Calgary Health Region, various government ministries and other data sources.

**Indicator Selection**

Indicators in the 12 key issue areas were selected and prioritized based on the following guidelines:

- Relevance to key issue area
- Effect on the well-being of the population
- Perceived public interest
- Understandability and measurability
- Ease and cost of data collection
- Frequency of collection for future use

More than 200 knowledgeable Calgarians actively involved on the different issue areas participated in Indicator Table meetings to identify which indicators would be included in this first report.

**CITIZEN GRADING**

Calgary's *Vital Signs* invited interested, informed or involved Calgarians from various sectors – business, non-profit, civic, academic, artistic – to participate in the on-line grading process. Over 800 signed up and more than 600 completed the grading survey. Graders were asked to assign marks to each of the 65 indicators in the 12 key issue areas.

What the grades mean:

- **A** Very good: stay the course
- **B** Good: but some improvements could be made
- **C** Fair: suggest additional effort be made to address these issues
- **D** Poor: substantial additional work is required
- **F** Fail: immediate action is crucial

We used mean scores to present the grades for each indicator. The issue area grades were derived from the grades of individual indicators.

**GRADER PROFILE:**

- 73% have lived in Calgary for more than ten years
- 13.9% have recently moved to Calgary (one to five years)
- 64.7% are female
- 31.5% are between the ages 20 and 34; 47% are between 35 and 54; 20% are over the age of 65

**GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE**

Much of the data is available at a Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) level. The city of Calgary is part of the Calgary CMA and accounts for over 90% of the CMA population. If the data pertains to the Calgary CMA, it will be cited as Calgary area. Data pertaining to the municipal boundaries of Calgary will be cited as “city” or “Calgary.”

**H O W V I T A L S I G N S C A N I M P A C T C H A N G E**

**TORONTO'S VITAL SIGNS REPORT HELPED CONNECT THE DOTS BETWEEN THE GROWTH IN YOUTH VIOLENCE, THE 10 YEAR HIGH IN YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE DRAMATIC DROP IN YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN RECREATION. ARMED WITH THIS DATA THE TORONTO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION BROUGHT TOGETHER THE CITY, TORONTO'S SCHOOL BOARDS, THE UNITED WAY AND SPORTS AND RECREATION ORGANIZATIONS TO CREATE THE TORONTO SPORT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM.**

**THE CALGARY CONTEXT**

- First Nations people have lived near the confluence of the Bow and Elbow Rivers for thousands of years.
- Calgary was founded in 1875 and incorporated as a City in 1894. Today Calgary is the nation’s oil epicentre, which has helped the city become one of Canada’s largest business centres.
- Between 1976 and 2005, the City of Calgary’s population almost doubled in size. Calgary has one of the lowest median ages (35.7 years) of Canada’s large urban areas and also has the lowest concentration of seniors. Natural increase (births minus deaths) in population growth is also particularly strong in Calgary. Although it is difficult to accurately predict population growth, The Calgary Metropolitan Area (CMA) is projected to reach about 1.5 million people by 2030.
- International immigrants are a key factor in Calgary’s growth. Of the people who now call Calgary home, 21% were born outside of Canada, compared to 44% in Toronto and 37.5% in Vancouver.
- While the cost of living also needs to be taken into consideration, incomes are certainly higher in Calgary than in other large Western Canadian cities. Employment growth in Calgary has been strong: between 1989 and 2005 employment grew by 6.8% or twice the share of the national population. Employment in the services-producing sectors – such as healthcare, education, finance and public administration – grew significantly (69.8%) between 1996 and 2005.
- The average price of a residential home (single-family, condominiums and mobile homes) rose most sharply in Calgary over the 1996 to 2006 period ($134,643 in 1996 compared to $348,700 in 2006).
Calgary scores the highest across the country when it comes to the Composite Learning Index (CLI). A higher CLI correlates with greater economic and social success. Overall, our level of education achievement, test scores and literacy rate are among the best in the country.
LEARNING  B-
LAST YEAR, OVER 42,000 ADULTS ATTENDED CONTINUING EDUCATION CLASSES THROUGH THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY.

THE LEVEL OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION  B-
In 2006, 53% of Calgary area residents aged 15 and over had completed post-secondary education (degree, certificate, diploma). This was above the provincial rate of 48% and the national rate of 49%. The proportion of Calgarians who have achieved post-secondary education has been increasing since 1990 when the rate was 40%.

THE COMPOSITE LEARNING INDEX  B+
The Composite Learning Index is a national index developed by the Canadian Council on Learning to evaluate how a community supports learning in various ways – in school, in the home, at work and within the community. A high CLI score means that a community possesses learning conditions that support economic and social success. In 2007, the index for Calgary was 93 compared to 90 in 2006. The provincial score in 2007 was 86, compared with a national index of 76. Calgary scored the highest among all Canadian cities.

ADULT LITERACY RATE  B
In a 2003 literacy survey, the average score in Calgary was 293. This was above the Canadian average of 272 and provincial average of 283. Scores in the range of 276 to 325 are in the proficiency level required for a modern economy and knowledge society. The survey also showed that about 40% of Calgarians were functioning below proficiency levels.

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE  C
Class size is computed as the ratio of students to full-time equivalent teachers in the classroom. It does not include educational professionals who do not teach in classrooms and therefore provides a more accurate measure of the relationship between numbers of students and teachers. The average class size in Calgary area schools in 2005 compared to Alberta Learning recommendations (in brackets) were: Kindergarten to Grade three: 20.7 (17); Grade four to six: 23.5 (23), Grade seven to nine: 23.7 (25); and Grade ten to 12: 24.8 (27).

PROVINCIAL ACHIEVEMENT TEST PERFORMANCE  C+
In 2006, 77.9% of Calgary Board of Education students and 87.2% of Calgary Catholic Separate School District (CSSD) students from Grades three, six and nine scored acceptable or better in their Provincial Achievement Test scores. Of this number, 25.8% and 28.4% scored excellent respectively.

ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL DROP OUT/COMPLETION RATES  C+
In 2006, the annual high school drop out rate among Calgary Board of Education students was 4.9% while the Calgary CSSD had a drop out rate of 2.4%. These rates decreased slightly from 2005 rates of 5.3% and 3.2% respectively. In 2006, 69.5% of CBE students completed high school within three years of entering Grade 10. The completion rate for CSSD is 74.6%.

PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION WITH POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION
Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey for Calgary CMA

YOUR PRIORITY
32% OF GRADERS INDICATED THAT AVERAGE CLASS SIZE IS THE AREA IN MOST URGENT NEED OF ATTENTION.

VITAL ACTIONS
- DONATE BOOKS TO LOCAL, REGIONAL, OR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES
- VOLUNTEER AS A MENTOR AT A LITERACY PROGRAM: READ WITH CHILDREN
- GET TO KNOW THE ISSUES FACED BY YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD AND TRUSTEES SO THAT YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE DISCUSSION
There is a growing perception that the city is less safe now than it was a few years ago. Interestingly, both the property and violent crime rates have been decreasing over time. On the flip side, the number of domestic related calls to police has increased between 2004 and 2006.
SAFETY  C

ALTHOUGH THE RATE IS FALLING, CALGARY HAS HIGHER RATES OF YOUTH-RELATED CRIME PER CAPITA THAN MANY OTHER CANADIAN CITIES, INCLUDING VANCOUVER, TORONTO AND MONTREAL.

PROPERTY CRIME RATE  C+
In 2006, the property crime rate in the Calgary area was 4,027 incidences per 100,000 population. This decreased from 4,095 in 2005 and 4,509 in 2000. Calgary’s property crime rate was lower than Vancouver’s (5,874) but higher than Montreal’s (3,642) and Toronto’s (2,471). The Calgary Police Service, which includes attempted incidents in its Annual Statistical Report cited 5,419 property crime offences per 100,000 population in 2006. The Report showed a similar downward trend in offences from 2002 to 2006.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  D+
The Calgary Police Service responded to 11,775 domestic related calls for service in 2006. This was an increase from the 11,603 calls in 2005 and 11,107 in 2004. At the same time, the number of victim reported domestic offences went down to 4,268 from 4,621 in 2005.

VIOLENT CRIME RATE  C
In 2006, Calgary’s violent crime rate was 802 incidences per 100,000 population. This decreased from 838 in 2005 and 879 in 2000. The rate is down 27% from that in 1991. Calgary’s violent crime rate is lower than that of Vancouver (1,089) and Montreal (818) but higher than that of Toronto (738).

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TIME  C
Calgary’s Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responded to 107,152 calls in 2006. The average response time for high priority calls was seven minutes, within the EMS target response time. The Calgary Fire Department’s average response time to priority calls was six minutes and 24 seconds in 2006.

NUMBER OF POLICE OFFICERS  C
There were 159 police officers per 100,000 population in the Calgary area in 2006. The number was up from 135 in 2000. Calgary has 8% fewer police officers per 100,000 population than Toronto, 13% fewer than Montreal and 7% more than Vancouver.

VITAL ACTIONS
- SUPPORT OR JOIN YOUR LOCAL BLOCK WATCH; GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOURS AND OTHER COMMUNITY MEMBERS
- BE WATCHFUL FOR SIGNS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SUPPORT THOSE WHO ARE TAKING ACTION AGAINST IT
- EMPLOY LOCAL YOUTH FOR HOUSE AND GARDEN JOBS

YOUR PRIORITY
34% OF GRADERS INDICATED THAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS THE AREA IN MOST NEED OF URGENT ATTENTION.
EVEN THOUGH CALGARIANS LIVE A RELATIVELY HEALTHY LIFESTYLE, OUR ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE, RATE OF LOW BIRTH WEIGHT BABIES AND CHILDHOOD OBESITY ARE AREAS OF CONCERN.

Calgary’s physician-to-population ratio exceeds both the provincial and national ratios and we continue to be one of the country’s most physically active cities. The discouraging news is that we have a high incidence of low birth weights and one quarter of our preschoolers are considered overweight or in danger of becoming overweight.
HEALTH & WELLNESS  C-

ACCORDING TO THE CALGARY HEALTH REGION, 78.5% OF THE REGION’S POPULATION DOES NOT MEET THE DAILY NUTRITION CRITERIA OF A BALANCED DIET.

NUMBER OF PHYSICIANS C-

In 2005, Calgary had 219 active physicians (109 family practitioners and 110 specialists) for every 100,000 population. This total represented a 17% increase from 2000. Calgary’s physicians-to-population ratio exceeded the provincial and national ratio of 191 physicians per 100,000 population. Calgary’s ratio was lower than that of Vancouver’s (231 per 100,000) and Montreal’s (246 per 100,000) but higher than Toronto’s (141 per 100,000).

RATE OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY C-

In 2005, 56.6% of Calgarians aged 12 and over reported at least moderate levels of physical activity. Although the city’s population continues to be one of the most physically active in Canada, the rate of activity has decreased since 2003 when it was 57.3%.

CHILD AND YOUTH OBESITY D

In 2004, about 55,000 or one in four Calgary area residents aged two to 17 years were considered obese or overweight. In 2006, 25% of Calgary preschoolers were overweight or at risk of being overweight.

MENTAL HEALTH C

In 2005, 78.1% of people residing in the Calgary region, aged 12 and over rated their own mental health as very good or excellent. About 8.5% consulted with a mental health professional. Calgary Health Region’s survey in 2005 showed that about 11% of people in the region reported symptoms of social anxiety.

ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES D+

In 2006, 44% of Calgarians reported that health services were easy to access. Among the harder services to access were emergency room services (49%) specialists (53%) and hospital care (55%). Among the easiest to access were pharmacists (95%), chiropractic services (94%) and lab tests (85%).

RATE OF LOW BIRTH WEIGHT BABIES C-

A healthy birth weight is a key predictor of infant health and development. Low birth weight is a birth weight less than 2,500 grams. In 2006, 6.9% of babies born in the Calgary region had low birth weights. The three districts (out of 19) in the city that registered the highest incidences were: districts ten (southeast), three (northeast), and eight (northwest) with incidences of 8.8%, 8.3% and 7.9%, respectively.

ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES

Proportions of Calgarians reporting easy access to health services (Health Quality Council of Alberta)

YOUR PRIORITY

38% OF GRADERS IDENTIFIED ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES AS THE AREA IN MOST URGENT NEED OF ATTENTION.
ARTS & CULTURE

ARTS AND CULTURE NURTURE THE SOUL AND ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE SUSTAINED VIBRANCY OF ANY CITY.

The arts are an important investment for the City of Calgary with substantial economic return: Recipients of municipal arts grants alone injected between $90.1 million to $167.7 million into the local economy in 2005.
ARTS & CULTURE

WE ARE LOSING OUR ARTISTS AND CULTURAL WORKERS EITHER TO MIGRATION OR CAREER SHIFTS. THE NUMBER OF CULTURAL WORKERS IN CALGARY HAS DECREASED BY 40% SINCE 2003.

EMPLOYMENT IN CULTURAL INDUSTRIES
In 2006, Calgary had 8,600 individuals employed in cultural industries. This represents 1.3% of total employment in the city. According to Statistics Canada data, the number of cultural workers in Calgary has decreased by 40% since 2003.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING ON ARTS AND CULTURE
Combined government spending on the arts in Calgary in 2003 was $24.05 per person. The biggest contributor is the provincial government ($16.35), followed by the City of Calgary ($3.92) and the federal government ($3.78). Among Canada’s large cities, the City of Calgary spends the least amount per person on arts and culture. Vancouver allocates the most at $9.34 per person.

PUBLIC LIBRARY USAGE
Often referred to as “the people's university,” the public library fosters personal empowerment and community development through access to learning resources. Calgary public libraries had 13.98 items in circulation per resident in 2005, compared with 13.3 items in 2000. The public library branches had 5.6 million individual visits and 2.2 million website visits in 2005. About 51% of Calgarians were registered borrowers of the public library.

ATTENDANCE AT ARTS AND CULTURAL EVENTS
Calgary Arts Development reported that in 2006 attendance from all events organized by approximately 120 non-profit arts and culture organizations was 2,106,131, of which 1,185,049 were paid attendees. Overall attendance has been steady since 2001. However, with our population increase, this would suggest that attendance per capita at arts and cultural events is actually decreasing.

PURPOSE-BUILT CULTURAL SPACES
In 2007, Calgary has an estimated 242 purpose-built cultural spaces. These include theatres, galleries, studios, music venues, new media and film venues, and museums. In addition, approximately 1,000 adapted spaces such as public parks, churches and community halls are used for arts and culture activities.

EMPLOYMENT IN CULTURAL INDUSTRIES
Statistics Canada for Calgary CMA

YOUR PRIORITY

45% of graders identified government spending on the arts and culture as the area in need of urgent attention.

VITAL ACTIONS

- Buy at least one piece of art from a local artist once per year, every year – it can be a painting or a hand-thrown coffee mug
- Buy someone else a ticket to an event you enjoy
- Volunteer for a local cultural event or arts organization at least once per year
WHILE THE CITY GROWS SO DOES THE GAP BETWEEN THE RICH AND THE POOR. CLEARLY THE BENEFITS OF GROWTH ARE NOT BEING SHARED BY ALL CALGARIANS.

Even though Calgary’s poverty rate (in 2005) was lower than the provincial and national rates, nearly 16% of Calgary families are living below the poverty line. At our province’s 2006 minimum wage (seven dollars) a single mother with two children would need to work 96 hours per week to meet her family’s basic needs.
GAP BETWEEN RICH & POOR D
THE TOP 10% OF INCOME EARNERS IN THE CALGARY AREA ARE EARNING EIGHT TIMES MORE THAN THE BOTTOM 10%. THIS GAP HAS INCREASED BY 6% SINCE 2001.

OVERALL POVERTY RATE (LOW INCOME MEASURES) C-
In 2005, 74,040 families or 15.8% of families in the Calgary area lived below the poverty line, down from 16.6% in 2004 and 16.7% in 2000. Calgary's poverty rate in 2005 was lower than the provincial (16.3%) and national (21.7%) rates.

THE GAP BETWEEN TOP AND BOTTOM INCOME EARNERS D-
In 2005, the average income for the richest 10% of Calgary area residents was $187,400, while the average income for the poorest 10% was $22,800.

RELIANCE ON FOOD BANKS C-
In 2005, the Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank (CIFB) distributed emergency food hampers to 42,883 clients – a slight decrease from the 44,598 clients that it delivered to in 2004. An increasing amount of food distributed by CIFB is delivered to social agencies. In 2006, CIFB provided about 2.5 million pounds of food to this network.

LIVING ON MINIMUM WAGE D-
In 2006, to meet basic needs while working for minimum wage, a single person in Calgary needed to work 64 hours per week. A couple with no children needed to work 40 hours each per week. At the same wage level, a single mother with two children needed to work 96 hours, while a couple with two children needed to work 58.5 hours each. (On September 1, 2007 the Government of Alberta increased the minimum wage from seven dollars to eight dollars per hour.)

THE ABILITY OF LOW INCOME EARNERS TO SUPPORT BASIC NEEDS D-
A family of four in Calgary with one employed adult earning ten dollars per hour with two children aged 13 and seven would have barely earned enough to meet expenditures for basic needs (housing, transportation, child care, food, utilities, clothing, health care and other basic necessities). A single parent with a two-year old child receiving income support will have a shortfall of more than $350 for the year.

LEVEL OF POVERTY
Number and percentage of families living in poverty based on Low Income Measures, Statistics Canada

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of families (thousands)</th>
<th>Low income families (thousands)</th>
<th>Percentage of families in low income</th>
<th>Percentage of families with children that are low income</th>
<th>Percentage of families with seniors that are low income</th>
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<tr>
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<td>16.1</td>
<td>19.7</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Low Income Measures (LIM) are relative measures of low income developed by Statistics Canada.

YOUR PRIORITY
57.3% OF GRADERS IDENTIFIED THE ABILITY OF LOW INCOME EARNERS TO SUPPORT BASIC NEEDS AS THE AREA IN MOST URGENT NEED OF ATTENTION.
HOW EASILY ARE NEWCOMERS TO CALGARY ABLE TO GET ESTABLISHED IN THEIR NEW CITY?

The unemployment rate for recent immigrants in Calgary (those who entered Canada within five years) is higher than that of non-immigrants, even though they arrive with higher than average levels of education. Additionally, it takes more than 10 years for immigrants to catch up to the income levels of non-immigrants.
GETTING STARTED  C
APPROXIMATELY 37% OF IMMIGRANTS WHO ARRIVE IN CANADA HAVE A UNIVERSITY DEGREE AS COMPARED TO ABOUT 20% OF THE POPULATION.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR RECENT IMMIGRANTS  C-
Immigrants arrive in Canada with relatively high levels of education. Yet, the unemployment rate in 2001 for recent immigrants in Calgary (those who entered Canada within five years) was 6.7% compared to 4.9% for non-immigrants. Even for immigrants who have been in Canada longer (between six to 10 years) the unemployment rate was still higher than that for non-immigrants at 6.3%.

IMMIGRANT INCOME CATCH UP D
It takes more than 10 years for immigrants to catch up to the income levels of non-immigrants. On average, recent immigrants in Calgary in 2001 earned 55.8% of the income that non-immigrants earned. In comparison, the rate was 62.9% in Alberta and 65.7% in all of Canada. Immigrants in Calgary who have been in Canada from six to 10 years were still earning just 60.3% of the average non-immigrant income.

CHILD CARE SPACES D
In 2006, there were 14,743 licensed child care spaces in the city of Calgary. This number was able to serve 10.3% of the city’s children aged zero to 12.

NET MIGRATION C+
Immigration and interprovincial migration are key factors in Calgary’s population growth. Net migration (people arriving minus people leaving) increased the city’s population by 21,888 people in 2004. Of this, 9,589 were from outside Canada, 12,144 from other Canadian provinces and territories, and 155 from elsewhere in Alberta.

LANGUAGE EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMMIGRANTS C+
Calgary Immigrant Aid Society’s Immigrant Language and Vocational Assessment Referral Centre (ILVARC) is the central assessment and referral service for immigrants who need English language instruction. In 2006, ILVARC provided service to 8,166 individuals. This represents an 8.7% increase from the number of clients served the previous year.

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT B-
In 2006, 6.6% of youth aged 15 to 24 in the Calgary area were unemployed, the lowest level recorded in the 19 years that data was available. In comparison, the provincial youth unemployment rate in 2006 was 6.8% while the national rate was 11.6%.

YOUR PRIORITY
35% OF GRADERS INDICATED THAT HAVING ACCESS TO RELIABLE CHILD CARE SPACES IS THE AREA IN MOST URGENT NEED OF ATTENTION.

VITAL ACTIONS
- SPEND A SATURDAY ON INTERNATIONAL AVENUE TO IMMERSE YOURSELF IN ANOTHER CULTURE
- BE A CONVERSATION MENTOR AT AN ENGLISH INSTRUCTION CLASS
- VOLUNTEER AT AN AGENCY THAT PROVIDES SUPPORT TO NEW CALGARIANS ON UPGRADING SKILLS WWW.VOLUNTEERCALGARY.AB.CA

NET MIGRATION
People arriving minus people leaving Calgary (Statistics Canada 2004 for Calgary CMA)

VITAL ACTIONS

VITAL ACTIONS

VITAL ACTIONS
Calgary is the place to be if you’re looking for employment. Calgary’s economy is robust and our unemployment rate is the lowest that it has been in 20 years. Our employment growth is nearly four times that of the country and nearly twice that of the province. Calgarians work hard, logging considerably more hours than others across the country with many holding down multiple jobs to help make ends meet.
**WORK B-**

TO FILL UP ITS ACUTE LABOUR SHORTAGE, CALGARY IS INCREASINGLY RELIANT ON TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKERS. IN 2005 3,645 TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKERS ARRIVED IN THE CITY.

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE B+**
Calgary’s robust economy has been pushing employment numbers upwards. In 2006, the unemployment rate in the Calgary area was 3.2%, the lowest it has been in 20 years. Calgary's rate is almost 50% lower than the national unemployment rate and is the lowest among Canada’s large cities.

**EMPLOYMENT GROWTH B+**
Employment growth rate in 2006 in the Calgary area was 8.1%. This rate exceeded the city’s average growth rate of 2.7% over the last 20 years. It is almost four times the national employment growth rate and almost twice that of the province’s.

**THE AVERAGE WORK WEEK C+**
Calgarians are working longer hours than most Canadians. In 2006, Calgarians logged 38.3 hours of work per week per job. Only Northwest Territories residents put in more hours. It is important to note that many Calgarians have taken on multiple jobs and therefore are working longer hours. This number also does not include extra hours salaried professionals worked beyond their regular hours.

**LIVING WAGE D**
Vibrant Communities Calgary has calculated $12 per hour as the living wage in Calgary in 2007. Based on the June 2007 wages survey, 13.3% of employed Calgarians aged 15 and over earn less than $12 per hour; 8.3% of those aged 25 and over earn less than $12 per hour. Women are disproportionately represented with 17.6% earning less than $12 per hour.

**ECONOMIC DIVERSITY C-**
The Conference Board of Canada uses a scale of zero to one to measure economic diversity, with Canada’s economy as the index; a score of one means that an economy is highly diverse and is not reliant on a single industry while a score of zero means that an economy is not diverse. On this scale, Calgary scored 0.77 in 2006 compared to 0.84 in 2003, signifying a trend towards less economic diversity as compared to the overall Canadian economy.

**EMPLOYMENT GROWTH (IN THOUSANDS)**
Statistics Canada for Calgary CMA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Full time employment</th>
<th>Part time employment</th>
<th>Employment growth (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>600,200</td>
<td>544,600</td>
<td>3.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>611,400</td>
<td>511,700</td>
<td>1.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>624,700</td>
<td>516,000</td>
<td>1.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>642,800</td>
<td>526,500</td>
<td>2.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>655,000</td>
<td>546,000</td>
<td>1.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>705,000</td>
<td>691,200</td>
<td>8.12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**YOUR PRIORITY**
71% of graders indicated that supporting a living wage is the area in most urgent need of attention.

**VITAL ACTIONS**
- SUPPORT LOCAL ESTABLISHMENTS THAT PROVIDE A BETTER THAN MINIMUM WAGE AND OFFER JOB TRAINING AND UPGRADING TO EMPLOYEES
- PATRONIZE LOCAL ENTERPRISES THAT EMPLOY A DIVERSE WORKFORCE
- SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES THAT HAVE AN INNOVATIVE AND ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT
HOUSING

Whether it’s the soaring cost of housing or the ailing realities of homelessness, housing issues are of concern to those who live in what is becoming one of Canada’s most expensive cities.

From 2000 to 2006, Calgary’s housing affordability decreased at the fastest rate in Canada. From 2004 to 2006, the number of people who were homeless in Calgary increased by 32%. The rental vacancy rate is currently sitting at 0.5%, down from over 4% in 2004.
AVERAGE HOUSING PRICES IN RELATION TO MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

The cost of buying an average-priced house in the Calgary area in 2005 was 3.33 times the median family income of $75,400. In 2000, the cost was 2.9 times the median family income.

RENTAL AVAILABILITY

The rental vacancy rate for two-bedroom apartments in Calgary was 0.5% in 2006 compared to 1.6% in 2005 and 4.13% in 2004.

NUMBER OF HOMELESS PERSONS

As reported by the city's biennial count, the number of homeless persons in Calgary jumped by 32% between 2004 and 2006 to 3,436. Of this number, 3,007 were housed in shelters or with service agencies, with the remaining 429 on the street.

SHELTER COST TO INCOME RATIO

For housing to be considered affordable, a household should spend no more than 30% of its gross income on shelter. In 2001, 36.5% of renters in Calgary spent more than 30% of their gross income on rent; 17.2% of home owners spent more than 30% of their gross income on house payments. Given the rise in the costs of housing in Calgary between 2001 and 2007, it is reasonable to presume that many more of Calgary's citizens are spending more than 30% of their gross income on shelter.

SOCIAL/SUBSIDIZED HOUSING

Non-market or social/subsidized housing provides long-term, stable and affordable housing options for households unable to afford market housing. In 2005, there were 13,596 non-market housing units in Calgary, constituting only 3.4% of all private dwellings.

RATIO OF AVERAGE HOUSING PRICES TO MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Statistics Canada

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

YOUR PRIORITY

30% OF GRADERS INDICATED THAT THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS IS THE AREA IN MOST URGENT NEED OF ATTENTION.

VITAL ACTIONS

- Volunteer at a homeless shelter or soup kitchen
- Let your alderman know that you support a relaxation to secondary suites regulations that will create new housing spaces
- Learn more about the issue by visiting: www.housingaction.ca and plan to attend an action event
We consume more water per person than the national average. Our Ecological Footprint is considerably larger than other urban centres. According to Statistics Canada, between 1990 and 2002 Alberta’s overall energy consumption soared 30.7% – the largest increase in Canada, surpassing the population growth of 22%.
ENVIRONMENT

IF PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD HAD CALGARY’S ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT, IT WOULD TAKE FIVE EARTH-SIZED PLANETS TO SUPPORT ALL OF US.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS
In 2005, Calgary generated 17.5 tonnes per person of greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, electricity and natural gas, up from 16.7 tonnes in 1997. The City of Calgary’s 2002 State of the Environment Report noted that the personal vehicle is the largest source of air pollution in the city. Emissions from transportation in the Calgary area were 2.75 tonnes per person in 2001, higher than Vancouver (2.08 tonnes), Montreal (2.37 tonnes) and Toronto (2.63 tonnes).

WATER CONSUMPTION
In 2006, the total daily water use in Calgary was 451 litres per person. This has been going down steadily since 1999 when consumption was 527 litres per person. Calgary’s domestic or household water use in 2006 was 340 litres per person whereas the Canadian average for cities with populations over 500,000 was 291 litres per person.

DOMESTIC WASTE
In 2005, Calgarians generated 220 kilograms per person of domestic waste. Due to the fact that Calgarians are recycling more of their household waste, per capita production of domestic waste has been declining since 1987. Calgary’s efforts to reduce waste lag behind those of many Canadian municipalities, where programs such as curbside recycling are well-established.

ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT
Ecological Footprint measures people’s demand on nature. It includes the resources we consume and the waste generated and compares this to what the earth is able to provide and absorb. It is not a measure of the physical size of a municipality. Calgary’s Ecological Footprint is 9.86 hectares per person and the national footprint is 7.25 hectares per person.

AIR QUALITY
In 2006, The City of Calgary’s Air Quality Index (AQI) at three monitoring stations – Central (downtown), Northwest (residential) and East (industrial) – was rated as good at 99.1%, 97.5% and 97% respectively, for most of the year. The AQI combines measures of carbon monoxide, fine particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide ($\text{NO}_2$), ozone and sulfur dioxide to represent overall air quality.

ENERGY CONSUMPTION
In 2005, Calgarians consumed 8,596 kWh of electricity per capita, 83 GJ of natural gas per capita and 1,848 litres of transport fuel per capita. These rates increased slightly from consumption patterns in 2000. The level of energy consumption in Calgary is not sustainable for the long term. From 1997 to 2002, there was a 1.5% increase in energy consumption per capita.

YOUR PRIORITY
51.3% OF GRADERS IDENTIFIED CALGARY’S ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT AS THE AREA IN MOST URGENT NEED OF ATTENTION.
SUSTAINABLE SHORTSIGHTED

LIVEABLE/WALKABLE CITY C-

CALGARY HAS ONE OF THE MOST EXTENSIVE URBAN PATHWAY AND BIKEWAY NETWORKS IN NORTH AMERICA.

At our current population and Ecological Footprint, today’s housing models are unsustainable. Calgary needs to increase population density within our current boundaries, and provide more affordable housing and transportation options. Our commuting time is increasing and nearly 80% of Calgarians use the automobile as their primary means of travel.
LIVEABLE/WALKABLE CITY C-
CALGARY’S INFRASTRUCTURE DEBT IS PROJECTED TO GROW BY AS MUCH AS $1.4 BILLION OVER THE 2004–2008 PERIOD GIVEN THE RATE AND NATURE OF OUR SPRAWLING GROWTH.

POPULATION DENSITY C-
Calgary’s population density in 2006 was 1,360 people per square kilometre compared with Vancouver’s density of 5,086 people per square kilometre. This increased by 10% from the density in 2001 of 1,252 people per square kilometre.

COMMUTE TIME D+
The average commute time, via car, transit or other means, for a round trip between work and home in Calgary was 66 minutes in 2005. In 1992, the average commute time was 52 minutes.

MODE OF TRAVEL TO WORK D
In 2006, 15.1% of Calgarians used public transit to get to work; 78% used their automobiles and 6% walked. These rates have not significantly changed since 2001.

PATHWAYS AND BIKEWAYS B-
With approximately 635 kilometres of pathways and 260 kilometres of on-street bikeways within its boundaries, Calgary has one of the most extensive urban pathway and bikeway networks in North America. Every hour, about 185 users in the summer and 120 users in the winter are on the pathways.

PUBLIC TRANSIT USE C
In 2005, 43% of Calgarians aged 15 years and older, or about 330,000 people, used public transit at least once per week. Transit use of this population group has increased by 13% from 2002.

VITAL ACTIONS
- GET TO WHERE YOU ARE GOING WITHOUT YOUR CAR: TRY WALKING, TAKING THE BUS OR CYCLING FOR ONE DAY A WEEK OR EVEN ONE DAY A MONTH
- PARTICIPATE IN A COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP DAY
- ENCOURAGE YOUR WORKPLACE TO PARTICIPATE IN CALGARY’S ANNUAL COMMUTER CHALLENGE. VISIT WWW.COMMUTERCHALLENGE.NET

YOUR PRIORITY
32.3% OF GRADERS INDICATED THAT MODE OF TRAVEL TO WORK IS THE AREA IN MOST URGENT NEED OF ATTENTION.
Calgary is home to a diversity of cultures and languages and we have one of the fastest growing Aboriginal populations in the nation. Even so, the representation of and support to visible minorities and Aboriginal communities needs to be strengthened.
DIVERSITY IN POSITIONS OF INFLUENCE D+
In 2007, of the 241 positions within a selection of Calgary’s most influential boards, councils, elected bodies and media, 27% were held by women, 8% by visible minorities and 0.5% by Aboriginal peoples. Since 2004, representation by these groups has been decreasing.

SUPPORT FOR ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES IN CALGARY C+
The Aboriginal population of Calgary has been growing 2.5 times as fast as the city’s population. They comprise the third largest Aboriginal community in Canada. The Aboriginal population comprises the third largest minority population in Calgary after the Chinese and South Asian populations. The City of Calgary lists more than 90 organizations that provide services to the city’s Aboriginal communities.

SUPPORT TO THE MOST VULNERABLE D-
In 2005, the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) for a disabled person in Calgary was 39% of the low income cut off. For the year, a disabled person will have an annual shortfall of about $10,500. This has remained the same over the past five years.

HATE/BIAS CRIMES C-
The number of hate/bias offences reported by the Calgary Police Service (CPS) in 2006 was 129. The numbers of offences in previous years were 93 in 2005, 133 in 2004 and 202 in 2002.

MULTICULTURAL RESOURCES B-
The City of Calgary’s Cross Cultural Connections Directory identifies the following resources: 71 culturally diverse media (radio, TV, newspapers); 55 Aboriginal organizations and committees, and more than 400 ethno-cultural organizations.

VALUING DIVERSITY C-
IT IS PROJECTED THAT BY 2011, MORE THAN ONE IN FIVE CALGARIANS WILL BE A VISIBLE MINORITY.

YOUR PRIORITY
60% OF GRADERS INDICATED THAT SUPPORT TO THE MOST VULNERABLE IS THE AREA IN MOST NEED OF URGENT ATTENTION.

VITAL ACTIONS
☐ ATTEND ONE OF OUR CITY’S MANY CULTURAL FESTIVALS AND CELEBRATIONS
☐ TRY SHOPPING IN A NEW COMMUNITY WITH DIFFERENT SMALL BUSINESSES, RESTAURANTS AND ART FORMS
☐ ENCOURAGE ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE DISABLED AT THE PLACES YOU FREQUENT
STUDIES SHOW THAT A STRONG SENSE OF BELONGING HAS BOTH COMMUNITY AND INDIVIDUAL BENEFITS LINKED TO MANY SPHERES OF LIFE.

The spirit of volunteerism has long been one of the hallmarks of Calgary. Recently, the rate of volunteerism in the city has decreased with 44.6% of Calgarians volunteering their time, below both provincial and national rates. Calgary has one of the lowest municipal voter turnouts in Canada with barely 20% of us going to polls at the last civic election (2004).
RATE OF VOLUNTEERISM
In 2004, 44.6% of Calgarians aged 15 and older volunteered their time compared to 46% in 2000. This rate was also slightly below the provincial rate of 47.7% and the national volunteer rate of 45.3%.

LEVEL OF CHARITABLE DONATIONS
In 2005, 27.2% of Calgary area residents who filed tax returns reported making donations to charitable organizations, down slightly from the 2004 rate of 27.7%. The national rate in 2005 was 25% and the provincial rate was 25.3%. The median amount that Calgarians donated in 2005 was $290, up from $270 in 2004. In comparison, the median amount donated in Toronto was $350 and $470 in Lethbridge.

VOTER TURNOUT IN ELECTIONS
Voting is both a right and responsibility of citizenship. The voter turnout in Calgary in the 2006 federal election was 62.3%. In the last provincial election in 2004 the turnout was 40.8%. In the 2004 municipal election the turnout was 19.8%. Calgary has one of the lowest municipal voter turnouts in Canada.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS TO COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS
About 22% of households in the Calgary area contributed to or paid dues to community and other social organizations in 2003. This was slightly higher than the provincial rate of 20% and the national rate of 19%.

WOMEN IN LOCAL ELECTED POSITIONS
The proportion of local elected positions held by women in Calgary has remained fairly constant over the years. Women comprise 33% of city aldermen, 57% of Calgary Board of Education trustees and 83% of Calgary Catholic Separate School District trustees. In comparison, women make up 35.5% of city councillors in Metro Vancouver and 36% in Saskatoon.

A SENSE OF BELONGING IN COMMUNITY
In the 2005 Canadian Community Health Survey, 61.2% of Calgarians reported a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging. A similar result came out of a survey conducted by the City of Calgary in 2006 in which 62% of respondents said they strongly felt they belong in Calgary. Health Canada notes that people with strong support networks and social contacts experience less health problems and have lower premature death rates.

YOUR PRIORITY
39% of graders identified voter turnout in civic elections as the area in most urgent need of attention.

BELONGING & LEADERSHIP
GENEROUS CALGARIANS HAVE HELPED THE CALGARY FOUNDATION INCREASE ITS ASSET BASE BY ALMOST $268 MILLION REPRESENTING A 500% INCREASE IN TOTAL ASSETS OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS.

VITAL ACTIONS
- VOLUNTEER FOR A LOCAL CHARITY THAT INTERESTS OR EXCITES YOU
  WWW.VOLUNTEERCALGARY.AB.CA
- GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOURS – SAY HELLO TO AT LEAST ONE A DAY
- MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A SAY IN THE SHAPING OF OUR CITY – GET OUT AND VOTE
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Calgary Foundation would like to recognize Toronto Community Foundation for developing and sharing the Vital Signs concept and Community Foundations of Canada for supporting a coordinated national Vital Signs initiative. Special thanks to the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation for its generous support of the national expansion of Vital Signs.

A very special thank you goes to the 610 Calgarians who were graders for the 2007 Vital Signs report card and all of those who attended our Indicator Action Table meetings.

We are most appreciative of the following partners who assisted us with the direction and the research instrumental in the launch of the 2007 Calgary Vital Signs initiative:

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The Calgary Foundation

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Calgary Economic Development

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City of Calgary

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Sustainable Calgary

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Alberta Ecotrust Foundation

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Federation of Calgary Communities

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Calgary Economic Development

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Calgary Health Region

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ABOUT THE CALGARY FOUNDATION
Established in 1955, The Calgary Foundation assists individuals in creating a giving and caring community by applying its resources, expertise, and leadership, in partnership with others, to identify needs and address issues for the long term benefit of Calgary and surrounding area.

The Calgary Foundation serves as a catalyst and convener, a meeting place fostering collaborations that create a community where citizens are engaged at all levels, a city that is healthy and vibrant, that embraces diversity and supports all of its members, and where a strong and sustainable charitable sector serves the needs of the community.

With over 900 Endowment Funds established by donors, The Calgary Foundation is a community builder – strengthening the charitable sector in the areas of Community Development, Environment, Education, Health, Human Services, Arts, Recreation and Neighbourhoods through knowledgeable 360 degree grant-making.

2006 – 2007

- received new gifts of $45 million
- increased asset base to $334 million
- granted $33 million to 547 charitable organizations
- established 84 new funds

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BUILDING ON CALGARY’S VITAL SIGNS
Calgary’s Vital Signs has deepened our understanding and knowledge of the issues that we face as a city. It has strengthened our relationships with various organizations and citizens groups, and created new ones. Vital Signs will inform and guide The Calgary Foundation’s own work as a funder, convener, leader and partner.

Calgary’s Vital Signs provides the community with access to information that impacts our city’s quality of life. Our website www.calgaryvitalsigns.ca will be a place for those who want to dig deeper into relevant studies and information on the various issue areas. It will also provide Calgarians an ongoing forum on how to get involved in areas that resonate with them.

Calgary’s Vital Signs will be a tool to strengthen local civic engagement initiatives. In synergy with ImagineCalgary, which engaged thousands of Calgarians in developing a long term vision of the city, Calgary’s Vital Signs will provide an annual checkup on the issues that impact this vision and identify where vital actions need to happen. We encourage other groups to use the report and the website for similar purposes.

The Calgary Foundation plans to further engage citizens and community organizations to discuss the findings of the report. A “What’s Next” workshop and a series of theme-based forums have been suggested by Calgary’s Vital Signs participants. These vital conversations will focus on ways that we can work together as a community to tackle issues and identify opportunities.

CREATIVE PARTNERS
Design by WAX partnership inc.
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