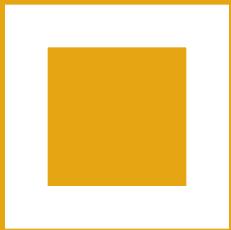


THRIVING



CRITICAL

2008

CALGARY'S

VitalSigns[®]

TAKING THE PULSE OF CALGARY



THE CALGARY
FOUNDATION

FOR CALGARY FOREVER

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Board Chair
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CALGARY... ONLY 113 YEARS TO 1 MILLION...

- 1894** Calgary incorporated as a city
- 1914** Oil discovered in Turner Valley
- 1978** Calgary's population reaches 500,000
- 1988** Calgary hosts the Winter Olympics
- 2001** Calgary leads Canada's population growth
- 2007** Calgary reaches 1 million

Calgary is the best city in Canada to live according to a 2008 Conference Board of Canada study.

CALGARY...

- Has the youngest workforce of any major city in Canada with 24% of the labour force between the ages of 25 and 34 years
- Has the longest paved path system in Canada – more than 635 kilometers long
- Has no provincial sales tax, the lowest overall provincial corporate tax rate in Canada, and the lowest personal income tax rate in the country
- Has 9 of the 22 top-performing high schools in Alberta
- Has 10 million square feet of downtown office space at some stage of construction – 50% of Canada's total
- Has an unemployment rate of 3.2%, the lowest in Canada
- Has a vacancy rental rate of 2% up from .5% in 2007 with an average rent for a 2 bedroom apartment of \$1,100 – the highest in Canada

CALGARY'S VitalSigns

was launched by **The Calgary Foundation** in 2007 to spark discussion, encourage connections and inspire action. The report provides a snapshot of Calgary that tells it like it is and highlights both areas of concern and celebration.

Calgary's Vital Signs takes the pulse of our community and gives citizens a voice and a clarity of vision to take action. It's not how we celebrate our economic success but how we face our challenges that truly reflects the soul of our city.

IN 2007 – hundreds of citizens became graders for Calgary's Vital Signs which delivered the sobering wake up call that our city of endless prosperity presents challenges that threaten the quality of life for many Calgarians.

IN 2008 – **Calgary's Vital Signs** repeats the message that Calgary's fast paced economic growth puts us at a crossroads of unrest as we wrestle with labour shortages and safety concerns such as an increase in domestic violence.

Change happens when we connect and inspire others.

Following the publication of last year's report, the Calgary Council of Women, Vibrant Communities Calgary and Ethno-Cultural Council of Calgary all cited **Calgary's Vital Signs** as a useful advocacy tool that strengthened their voice by reinforcing the real issues facing their organizations.

As one of 15 community foundations publishing Vital Signs, Calgary's Vital Signs

increases the effectiveness of The Calgary Foundation's grantmaking through identifying key issues and priorities that provide guidance to better inform our donors about compelling funding opportunities requiring philanthropic support.

Calgary's Vital Signs is all about community engagement.

Thank you to our visionary leadership team and members of the research network and to the hundreds of interested, involved and informed Calgarians who attended our community discussion tables and completed the survey.

Volunteers are the backbone of community. We'd like to thank our Board and Committee members who donate their time, skills and expertise as volunteers for The Calgary Foundation.



"Statistics are like a bikini; what they reveal is suggestive, but what they conceal is vital – they are useful if viewed as a porthole through which a glimpse of a bigger or more complex system is revealed."

AARON LEVENSTEIN,
BUSINESS PROFESSOR



The Calgary Foundation is committed to **imagineCALGARY's Plan For Long Range Urban Sustainability** – a blueprint for creating a sustainable future that was developed with input from 18,000 Calgarians. A selection of **30 YEAR TARGETS** from the plan are included in Calgary's 2008 *Vital Signs* report card.



Donald G. Cormack
BOARD CHAIR

Eva Friesen
PRESIDENT & CEO

2008 REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Each of the 57 indicators included in Calgary's *Vital Signs* report has a narrative to tell and can be analyzed individually – but it is as important to look at the story that they weave when taken together.

LEARNING

Calgary is one of the most highly educated cities in the country with positive trends for high school completion and aboriginal educational attainment that are above the national average.

SAFETY

Statistics show crime rates falling, but many Calgarians feel less safe. The discouraging news is that our domestic violence rates are the highest in Canada but the encouraging news is the re-offence rate amongst those that have undergone treatment is low.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Calgary has one of the highest rates of good mental health in Canada and continues to be one of the most physically active cities but our challenges continue to be access to timely health care and physicians.

ARTS & CULTURE

Based on spending, attendance, and municipal investment in public art, Calgarians support a vibrant arts scene but the shortage of visual/performing art spaces doesn't allow new organizations to establish and existing arts groups to grow.

GAP BETWEEN RICH & POOR

Ensuring low income earners are able to support their basic needs is of deep concern; 6.5% of Calgarians earn less than \$25,000 annually and overall debt climbed at a higher rate than income.

GETTING STARTED

Almost 50% of employed immigrants who come to Alberta have post secondary credentials but despite these qualifications, their average income is 63% lower than non-immigrants.

WORK

Calgary enjoys a low unemployment rate, a high number of small businesses per capita and the highest concentration of head offices in Canada but a growing challenge is rising business costs.

HOUSING

The lack of affordable housing options and an 18% increase in homelessness are major challenges for our city. Without spending more than 30% of gross income, 23% of employed Calgarians cannot afford the \$1100 average monthly rent for an apartment.

ENVIRONMENT

While Calgary has among the best air quality of major Canadian cities and the quality of our main water source is good, many are concerned about the 82% of Calgarians who don't compost and the lack of a city wide recycling program.

BELONGING & LEADERSHIP

Calgarians are more charitable than the national average, but our municipal voting rates continue to decline and with many Calgarians working long hours, our sense of community belonging is slightly lower than the rest of Canada.

SUSTAINABLE CITY

Calgary is leading the country in the number of green building projects registered with the Canada Green Building Council's LEED Standard and Built Green™ but our dependence on cars and the growing commuting distance is our greatest challenge.

VALUING DIVERSITY

Making the city accessible for all by welcoming and integrating our increasingly diverse citizens and supporting the well-being of the most vulnerable including developmentally challenged or low income Calgarians are priorities for our city.

METHODOLOGY

Intended as a long-term initiative, **Calgary's Vital Signs** builds on partnerships with a broad range of community members who contributed their skills and expertise along with hundreds of citizens who were actively engaged in the development and grading of the report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Goals

- Highlight areas of need to encourage further dialogue and response from institutions, public leaders, charitable organizations and citizens
- Encourage cross-sector, holistic thinking on the overall vitality of our city and provide impetus for cross-sector initiatives
- Build community capacity through shared knowledge for good decision-making

Community Leadership Group

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

Community Discussion Tables

A cross section of 230 community members attended workshops to provide guidance used to identify and select indicators in 12 key issue areas.

Citizen Graders

Hundreds of Calgarians signed up to be graders, assigning grades to the 4 – 5 indicators in the 12 key issue areas.

Profile of Graders

- 78% have lived in Calgary for more than ten years
- 68% are female
- 28% are between the ages 19 and 34
- 49% are between 35 and 54
- 23% are over the age of 65

Index of Grading

- 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

(Mean scores were used to present the grades for each indicator. The issue area grades were derived from the grades of individual indicators.)

RESEARCH

Research Network

Sustainable Calgary, along with 20 local indicator and issues research experts, ensured the indicators for Calgary's *Vital Signs* were 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.

Survey

The Praxis Group executed the online survey. Registration was open to all Calgarians, and hundreds of citizens signed up to have their say.

Indicator Selection

Indicators were selected and prioritized based on the following guidelines:

Indicator Characteristics:

- Perceived public interest
- Does the indicator inspire action?
- Does the indicator report on an issue or trend that individuals or communities can do something about?

Overall Indicator Set:

- Does it reveal both strengths and weaknesses of Calgary?
- Does it reflect a balance of focus on people, the economy and the environment?

Data Selection

Data Specifications:

- Understandability and measurability
- Ease and cost of collection
- How current the information is and frequency of collection for future use

VITAL IMPACT

The Calgary Foundation granted \$30,000 to the University of Calgary to support *Aboriginal Lynx: Aboriginal Career and Employment Program* that provides aboriginal students with summer, internship and full time employment opportunities in response to requests from the corporate sector for this service.



□ BOUNDLESS
□ LIMITED

LEARNING B

IN 2006, ALBERTA STUDENTS RANKED 2ND IN THE WORLD IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT.

YOUR PRIORITY

PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION WHO HAVE NOT COMPLETED HIGH SCHOOL C+
In 2007, 14.7% of Calgarians (aged 15 and over) had not completed high school, a figure that has been decreasing steadily since 1990 with only Victoria and Ottawa among Vital Signs communities posting lower rates.

PROPORTION WITH POST SECONDARY EDUCATION B
In 2007, 54.3% of Calgarians (15 years and over) have post-secondary education (university degree, post-secondary certificate or diploma), compared to the national average of 49.9%. Only Ottawa (60.3) and Montreal (55.3) among Vital Signs communities had higher levels.

INTERNET USE A
In Calgary, 85% of people aged 16 and older used the Internet in 2007, higher than the provincial average of 77% and the national average of 73%. This compares to 83% in Victoria, and 78% in both Vancouver and Edmonton.

ABORIGINAL EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT B-
In 2006, 69% of Calgary's aboriginal population aged 15 and over held at least one certificate, diploma or degree, up from 63.3% in 2001. One of the highest rates in the country, the Calgary result exceeded the national rate of 56.3%.

VITAL ACTION

- LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE
- GET A LIBRARY CARD – IT'S ONLY \$12
- GO HEAR AN INTERESTING SPEAKER AT A LOCAL LECTURE



VITAL IMPACT

The Calgary Foundation granted \$14,150 to Agape Language Centre to support *Great Canadian Adventure – Settling into Canada*, a 12-week ESL program that also includes instruction in Canadian history, geography, food and government allowing newcomers to settle into Canadian society with ease and confidence.



OPPORTUNITIES
 OBSTACLES

GETTING STARTED C +

ALMOST 50% OF EMPLOYED IMMIGRANTS WHO COME TO ALBERTA WITH POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIALS ARE NOT UTILIZING THEIR SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE IN THEIR JOBS.

PROPORTION OF FOREIGN BORN IN POPULATION

B

In 2006, Calgary's foreign-born population was 252,770 representing 23.6% of the total population, up from 20.9% in 2001. Calgary ranked fourth in 2006 (behind Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver) in its share of recent immigrants. China, India and the Philippines are the three top source countries for new immigrants to Calgary.

LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME

B-

In 2006, 12.9% of Calgary's population (or 138,340 individuals) reported speaking a non-official language most often at home. While almost half of the immigrant population spoke English at home, 44.6% most often spoke a non-official language at home – 68 different languages were reported spoken.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

C+

In September 2006 there were 19,715 ESL students within the Calgary Board of Education system, up from 17,683 in 2005-2006. The number of ESL students requiring programs has more than tripled in the decade since 1996.

YOUR PRIORITY

IMMIGRANT UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

D+

While the 2006 unemployment rate for Calgary's non-immigrant population was 3.9%, recent immigrants to Calgary have an unemployment rate of 7.0%, one of the lowest in the country. Calgary tends to attract immigrants who are more educated and more likely to find work within one year of arrival than are immigrants elsewhere in Canada. Despite these qualifications, up to one-half of employed immigrants who come to Alberta with postsecondary credentials are not fully utilizing their skills and experience in their jobs.

MEDIAN INCOME OF RECENT IMMIGRANTS

C

The median total family income of recent immigrants (arrived between 2001 and 2004) in 2005 in Calgary was \$55,273, up from \$52,975 in 2000 (in 2005 dollars). Recent immigrant's average income is 63.2 % that of non-immigrant income.

VITAL ACTION

- MENTOR A NEW CANADIAN www.immigrantservicescalgary.ca
- HIRE AN INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED IMMIGRANT TO WORK IN THEIR FIELD OF TRAINING

VITAL IMPACT

The Calgary Foundation granted \$15,000 to the Sandy Cross Conservation Foundation to support the protection of wildlife habitat and conservation education programs.



REUSE
 WASTE

ENVIRONMENT C –

CALGARY HAS OVER 10,000 HECTARES OF PARKS AND GREEN SPACES AND HAS TWO OF THE LARGEST URBAN PARKS IN CANADA, FISH CREEK PARK AND NOSE HILL PARK.

AIR QUALITY B
 In 2006, the number of days of above threshold levels of Ozone was zero, same as in 2001 – the 2001-2006 average was two days. The number of days with PM 2.5 (respirable particulate matter) concentrations above threshold levels was also zero, equal to the 2001 number – the 2001-2006 average was two days. Calgary has among the best air quality of major Canadian cities.

PESTICIDE USE D
 According to Alberta Environment, in 2005 Calgarians purchased 15,410 Kg of pesticides, up from 13,522 in 2004 and 11,974 in 2003. In 2005, close to 80% of total sales in Calgary were herbicides, half of which were weed and feed-type products.

RECYCLING RATE D
 In 2006, 85% of households in Calgary had access to a recycling program, below the national average of 93%. Calgary had the lowest rate of access to a recycling program of all Vital Signs communities. Of the households that had access to a recycling program, 95% participated, slightly lower than the national rate of 97%.

BOW RIVER WATER QUALITY C
 According to Alberta Environment, upstream water quality on the Bow River had an index rating of 100 or 'Excellent' for the 2006/07 reporting period. Downstream of Calgary, the rating was 84 or 'Good' -- a rating that has generally been maintained since The City of Calgary implemented enhanced wastewater treatment practices in 1997.

HOUSEHOLDS THAT COMPOSTED KITCHEN OR YARD WASTE D
 In 2006, 18% of all households in Calgary reported that they composted; 15% reported that they composted kitchen waste, and 21% of households that did not live in apartment buildings and had a lawn or garden reported composting their yard waste. Canada-wide, 27% of households composted.

YOUR PRIORITY

VITAL ACTION

- INSTALL WATER SAVING AERATORS ON YOUR WATER FAUCETS AND LOW FLOW SHOWER HEADS
 - UNPLUG APPLIANCES OR ITEMS USING A POWER BAR TO SAVE ENERGY
- www.cleancalgary.com



The Calgary Foundation granted \$35,000 to Wood's Homes, sponsoring **Governors for Children**, to support *Impacting Healthy Active Lifestyles of Less Fortunate Children*, a program that addresses the issue of healthy and active lifestyles for children who are homeless or living in poverty.

VITAL IMPACT



FIT
 FLABBY

HEALTH & WELLNESS C

MENTAL ILLNESS COSTS THE CANADIAN ECONOMY AN ESTIMATED \$51 BILLION ANNUALLY IN DIRECT TREATMENT COSTS, LOST PRODUCTIVITY AND DIMINISHED QUALITY OF LIFE.

OBESITY RATE

D+

In 2007, 16.4% of residents of the Calgary Health Region aged 18 and over had a Body Mass Index (BMI) of greater than 30, indicating obesity. This rate is below the provincial rate but slightly higher than the national average and almost double that of Vancouver.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY DURING LEISURE TIME

C+

In 2007, 56.3% of people aged 12 and over in the Calgary Health Region reported being moderately active or physically active compared to 49% nationally and 49.9% in Vancouver. Calgary continues to be one of the most physically active cities in Canada.

MENTAL HEALTH

C+

In 2007, 78.5% of those aged 12 and over in the Calgary Health Region reported excellent or very good mental health – compared to 72.7% nationally – one of the highest rates in the country.

YOUR PRIORITY

FAMILY PHYSICIANS

D+

In 2006, there were 112 general/family physicians per 100,000 population in the Calgary Health Region, which was above the provincial average of 104 and the national average of 98 but lower than the Vancouver Health Region's rate of 159.

BEST HEALTH INDEX

B-

Calgary ranked third after Vancouver and Victoria in the Reader's Digest Healthy Cities Index. In it Calgarians ranked second in self-rated health, had the lowest number of people with diabetes and high blood pressure, was tied for the strictest smoking ban in the nation, and has the fifth-longest life expectancy.

PROBLEM GAMBLING

C-

A 2007 national survey showed a decrease in problem gambling across the country, including a drop in Alberta from 5.2% in 2002 to 3.8% – still above the national average of 3.5%. Calgary has the third most casinos per capita in North America after Las Vegas and Atlantic City.

VITAL ACTION

- REDUCE YOUR RELIANCE ON YOUR CAR – COMMUTE BY CYCLING OR WALKING AT LEAST ONCE PER WEEK
- UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OF MENTAL HEALTH ON YOUR OVERALL HEALTH, AND WORK TO REDUCE THE STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH IT

VITAL IMPACT

The Calgary Foundation granted \$12,000 to the Ogden House Senior Citizens Club to support the research phase of the *Centennial Legacy* project, laying the groundwork to build two affordable mixed income housing facilities in their community.



**AFFORDABLE
IMPOSSIBLE**

HOUSING D

IN 2006, THE AVERAGE HOUSE COST 4.2 YEARS OF ANNUAL INCOME FOR THE AVERAGE FAMILY UP FROM 2.9 YEARS IN 2000.

RENTAL VACANCY RATE

D+

In 2007, the rental vacancy rate in Calgary for two bedroom units increased to 1.5% from 0.5% in 2006, indicating more rental vacancies than Vancouver but a tighter market than either Montreal or Toronto. The average rent was \$1,092 per month. From 2006-2007, Calgary's rental stock declined by 2,183 units (5.4%) to 38,150 units. Condo conversions accounted for almost three quarters of the lost units.

HOUSEHOLD SPENDING ON SHELTER

D+

In 2005, 39.4% of households spent 30% or more of their income on rent, slightly lower than the national average of 40.3%. The proportion of households spending more than 30% of income on owner's major payments on shelter was 19.2%, higher than the national average of 17.8%.

AVERAGE HOUSING PRICE IN RELATION TO MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME

D+

In 2006, the average house cost 4.2 years of annual income for the median family. This was lower than the national average of 4.4 years and higher than the provincial average of 3.6. This has increased sharply from 2.9 years in 2000.

MINIMUM HOUSING WAGE

D

In 2007, the minimum housing wage (the hourly income required to rent housing in Calgary without spending more than 30% of gross income on shelter) for a one-bedroom apartment was \$17.27. According to Vibrant Communities Calgary, 23.8% of employed Calgarians (or 136,200 people) earn less than \$15 per hour – under the minimum housing wage for a 1-bedroom apartment.

HOMELESSNESS

F

The 2008 Biennial Count of Homeless Persons in Calgary reported an estimated 18.2% increase in the overall number of homeless people over 2006. 4,060 homeless persons were counted on the night of May 12, 2008, compared to 3,436 in 2006 – 3,195 in facilities, 296 were counted by service agencies, and an estimated 569 people were living on the streets.

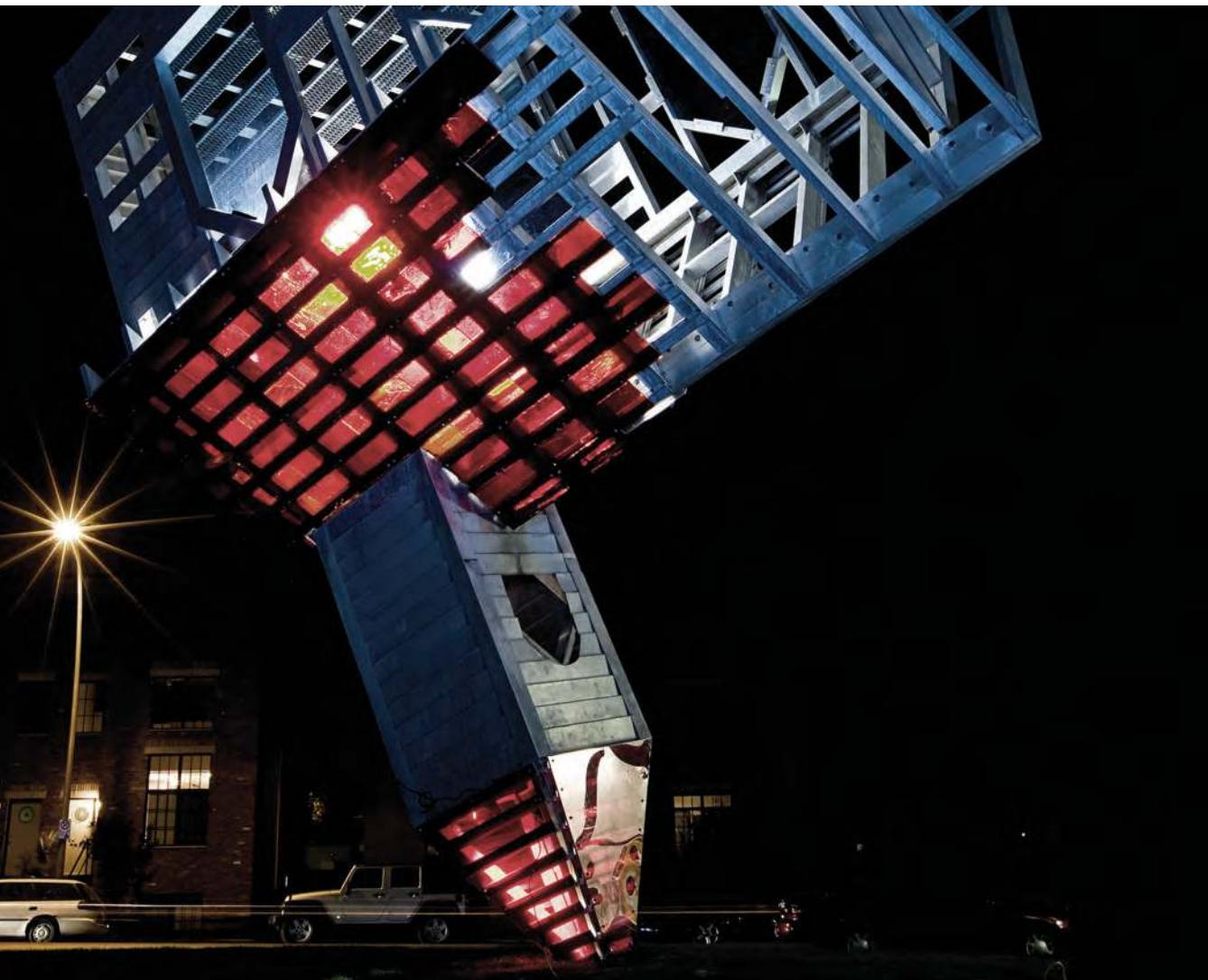
YOUR PRIORITY

VITAL ACTION

- ❑ READ THE 10-YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS
www.endinghomelessness.ca
- ❑ RENT A BEDROOM TO A STUDENT

VITAL IMPACT

The Calgary Foundation granted \$21,000 to Lunchbox Theatre for the development of a *Venue Search and Relocation Plan* to assess and identify potential new locations for the world's longest running live lunchtime theatre presented within the downtown core.



INSPIRED
 INDIFFERENT

ARTS & CULTURE C

CALGARY'S PERFORMING ARTS VENUES ARE OPERATING AT CAPACITY, MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR EXISTING ARTS ORGANIZATIONS TO GROW AND NEW ARTS ORGANIZATIONS TO GET ESTABLISHED.

ATTENDANCE AT CULTURAL EVENTS C
In 2005, 43% of Calgarians (aged 15 and older) attended a concert or performance by professional artists of music, dance, theatre, or opera. 17.5% attended a cultural or artistic festival (such as film, fringe, dance, jazz, folk, rock, buskers or comedy). These rates were slightly lower than the national average of Vital Signs communities.

HOUSEHOLD SPENDING ON ARTS AND CULTURE B-
In 2006, households in Calgary spent an average of \$1,484 (in current dollars) on arts and culture (includes entertainment such as movie theatres, live sport events, live performing arts, admissions to museums, works of art, antiques, rental of satellite services), up 18.1% from 2005. Calgary households spent more than the provincial average of \$1,250 and the Canada-wide average of \$948.

YOUR PRIORITY VISUAL AND PERFORMING ART SPACES D
In a 2007 benchmarking study conducted by Calgary Arts Development Authority that compared Calgary's inventory of significant arts facilities to other Canadian and US cities, with 23 visual and performing arts spaces, Calgary had the lowest number. On a per capita basis, Calgary's performing arts seats inventory is lower than any other of the benchmarked cities, and less than half of the inventory of Vancouver, Austin and Seattle.

CIVIC PUBLIC ART INVESTMENT C+
From 2004-2006, 14 public art projects were initiated by The City of Calgary for a total public art budget of \$2,437,000 supported through a funding mechanism established by The City's Public Art Policy. The funding mechanism is a "percent for public art" strategy, whereby one% of capital upgrade and growth project budgets over \$1 million is dedicated for public art.

VITAL ACTION

- ATTEND "SATURDAY MORNING AT THE SYMPHONY" WITH YOUR KIDS
www.cpo-live.com
- ENJOY FREE "FIRST THURSDAYS" DOWNTOWN – ART, FOOD, LIVE MUSIC AND THEATRE
www.firstthursdays.ca



VITAL IMPACT

The Calgary Foundation granted \$27,500 to Sky Works Charitable Foundation to support *Home Safe Calgary*, a documentary film focusing on child and family homelessness that will be used as a community development tool by local, regional and national groups to create strategies for change.



PRIVILEGED
 STRUGGLING

GAP BETWEEN RICH & POOR C

IN 2007, OVERALL HOUSEHOLD DEBT GREW BY 3%, WHILE DISPOSABLE INCOME GREW BY ONLY 1.6%.

CHILD POVERTY C

In 2006, 15.1% of children (0-17 years old) in Calgary were members of low income families, down 23.6% since 2000. Calgary's rate is one of the lowest in the country. The national rate is 23.1%.

ELDERLY POVERTY RATE C

In 2006, the elderly poverty rate (persons 65 and over) in Calgary, based on the Low Income Measure (LIM), an indicator of relative poverty, was 6.4%, down from 8.0% in 2000. Compared to the national rate of 13.5%, Calgary's rate is one of the lowest in the country.

INDIVIDUAL INCOME B

Calgarians are the most affluent Canadians, with the highest wages per employee in Canada for the past seven years, and the highest average personal income at \$52,922 in 2007 (compared to Edmonton at \$42,863, Toronto at \$37,018 and Vancouver at \$34,941). In 2005 nearly 17% of families in Calgary earned more than \$150,000 – almost twice the Canadian average (8.7%).

MILLIONAIRES PER CAPITA B+

Calgary is home to the highest number of millionaires in Canada on a per capita basis (182.6 per 100,000 in 2005). Calgary has also had the highest growth in millionaires in Canada, more than quadrupling from 1996-2005.

YOUR PRIORITY

LIVING ON MINIMUM WAGE D

The minimum wage in Alberta, as of April 2008, is \$8.40 per hour – the seventh lowest in Canada. Working full-time, an individual employed at minimum wage would have a before-tax income of only \$18,171. This is \$3,031 below Statistics Canada's 2006 before-tax Low Income Cut-Off (LICO) for an individual in a large city (\$21,202) and \$14,279 below for a family of three (\$32,450). In 2005, 6.5% of Calgary families made less than \$25,000, better than the national average of 10.5%.

VITAL ACTION

- INVESTIGATE, SUPPORT AND PROMOTE A LIVING WAGE
www.vibrantcalgary.com/livingwage
- DONATE TIME, MONEY AND/OR EXPERTISE TO AGENCIES
FOCUSED ON REDUCING POVERTY www.volunteercalgary.ab.ca

VITAL IMPACT

The Calgary Foundation granted \$20,000 to HOMEFRONT Society for the Prevention of Domestic Violence to support an early intervention and outreach program that offers assistance to families experiencing domestic conflict and often redirects these homes from ever entering the justice system.



SECURE
 VULNERABLE

SAFETY C – CALGARY LEADS THE COUNTRY IN RATES OF DOMESTIC ASSAULTS. HOWEVER, AFTER REHABILITATIVE TREATMENT, 67% OF OFFENDERS DON'T RE-OFFEND.

CRIMINAL CODE TRAFFIC OFFENCES B–

In 2006, Calgary experienced 243 criminal code traffic offences per 100,000 population (i.e., impaired and dangerous operation of motor vehicles, boats and aircraft, as well as failure to stop or remain at the scene following an accident), compared to the national rate of 368. Calgary has one of the lowest rates in the country, continuing a declining trend in such offences.

TRAFFIC DEATHS C

There were 39 fatalities in motor vehicle collisions in 2007, down from 46 the previous year and up slightly from the 37 reported in 2005. Though the number of collisions involving alcohol was lower in 2007 than in the preceding five years, impaired driving remains a leading cause of injury and death in our city.

YOUR PRIORITY

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE D

In 2007, the Calgary Police Service received 12,276 calls that were domestic in nature – an increase of over 500 calls from 2006. An estimated 78% of spousal abuse incidents go unreported. Over the past five years, more than 27% of all homicides in Calgary have been domestic in nature.

PERCEPTION OF SAFETY C–

In the Calgary Police Service 2007 Citizen Survey, 38% of Calgarians perceived crime in their neighbourhoods to be increasing, compared with 31% who perceived an increase in 2005 and 27% in 2003.

WORKPLACE INJURIES D+

Overall, injury-related emergency department visits have increased in the last five years. This is especially true for workplace injury-related visits, which have increased from 543 visits per 100,000 population in 2002-03 to 897 in 2006-07.

VITAL ACTION

- ENROLL IN A PERSONAL DEFENSE COURSE
- REPORT A CRIME USING THE CALGARY POLICE SERVICES ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM www.calgarypolice.ca
- REFER A WOMAN YOU'RE CONCERNED ABOUT TO www.calgarywomensshelter.com





VITAL IMPACT

The Calgary Foundation granted \$30,000 to the Calgary Immigrant Aid Society sponsoring GlobalFest to support *Calgary's Commitment to End Racism: Building Inclusive Communities and Cross Cultural Respect*, a Human Rights forum to engage citizens in constructive dialogue around the issues of racism and discrimination.

VALUING DIVERSITY C

WITH AN AVERAGE WAGE OF \$14.00/HOUR, THERE IS A 40% TURNOVER RATE IN THE COMMUNITY DISABILITY SERVICE SECTOR AND STUDENT ENROLLMENT IN REHABILITATION PROGRAMS HAS DECLINED BY 20%.



SHARE OF ELDERLY IN POPULATION C+
The proportion of Calgarians aged 65 and older in 2006 was 9.4%, up from 9.0% in 2001. The proportion was lower than the national rate of 13.7% and below the provincial rate of 10.7%.

PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION CLASSIFIED AS A VISIBLE MINORITY B-
In 2006, 22.2% of Calgary's population were visible minorities. This compares to the national proportion of 16.2% and the provincial proportion of 13.9% of the population. Calgary saw an increase of 44.3% in the visible minority population between 2001 and 2006. The largest visible minority groups in Calgary are Chinese and South Asian.

ACCESSIBLE CITY D
In a recent study on housing options for persons with physical disabilities sponsored by the Accessible Housing Society, out of 119 survey respondents, 46% of respondents are not living in accessible housing, 73% indicated their annual income is less than \$25,000, and of those 74% were on AISH (Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped).

YOUR PRIORITY

PROPORTION OF SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES C+
In 2006, 14.3% of families were single-parent families. This compares to 15.9% at the national level and 14.4% at the provincial level. The rate was down from 14.7% in 2001.

RESPECT
 IGNORE

VITAL ACTION

- CELEBRATE AND SUPPORT DIVERSITY IN CALGARY
www.everyonebelongs.com
- VISIT 17TH AVENUE SE (INTERNATIONAL AVENUE)
- CHALLENGE RACISM, SEXISM, HOMOPHOBIA, AND OTHER FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION



VITAL IMPACT

The Calgary Foundation granted \$30,000 to The Pembina Foundation for Environmental Research & Education to support *Building a Community Network to Engage Calgarians in How the City Grows*, an initiative that includes the website creatingcalgary.ca that encourages citizens to collectively develop solutions to Calgary's social, environmental and economic challenges.



DRIVE
RIDE

SUSTAINABLE CITY C

CALGARY TRANSIT CARRIES OVER 500,000 PASSENGERS EVERY BUSINESS DAY – 270,000 ON THE CTRAIN ALONE – THE HIGHEST PER CAPITA NUMBER OF PASSENGERS OF ANY LIGHT RAIL TRAIN SYSTEM IN NORTH AMERICA.

GREEN BUILDINGS

B-

According to the Canada Green Building Council (CaGBC), in July 2008 Calgary had 54 projects registered with the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standard – 49 registered for certification and 5 projects certified. This compares with 26 registered in Edmonton (none certified), 26 registered in Ottawa (3 certified), and 84 registered in Vancouver (3 certified). The Alberta residential housing industry is a national leader in building new green homes, largely because of Built Green™ Alberta. Over 2,173 Built Green™ homes have been constructed since 2004.

HOUSEHOLD ENERGY CONSERVATION

C

In 2006, 47% of households had a programmable thermostat, of which 85% actually programmed their thermostats. Canada-wide, the percentages were 40 and 83%, respectively. 74% of households with a programmable thermostat lowered the temperature while asleep, while only 46% of those with an unprogrammed or non-programmable thermostat did so. In addition, 54% of Calgary households had compact fluorescent light bulbs, compared with 56% in Canada.

REGISTERED VEHICLES PER CAPITA

D

Calgary's level of vehicle ownership per capita has been stable since 2004 but is one of the highest in Canada, with 4 cars for every 5 people in our city. Calgary's motor vehicle growth outstrips its population growth: since 2004 we have added 144,629 registered motor vehicles to our city and approximately 116,505 people.

YOUR PRIORITY

MEDIAN COMMUTING DISTANCE AND AVERAGE TIME

D+

In 2006, the median commuting distance to work in Calgary was 8.2 kilometres. This was higher than the national and provincial average of 7.6 km and was up from 7.7 km in 2001. Average commuting time was 66 minutes in 2005, about the same as Vancouver and Ottawa but lower than Toronto (79) and Montreal (76).

CALGARY'S ATTRACTIVENESS

B

In December 2007, a metropolitan benchmarking study by the Conference Board of Canada listed Calgary as the city that is the most attractive to people among 27 Canadian cities, ahead of Toronto, Vancouver, Edmonton and Victoria in the top five. The study compared the performance in seven domains: economy, innovation, environment, education, health, society, and housing.

VITAL ACTION

- JOIN THOUSANDS OF CALGARIANS IN THE ANNUAL RIVER CLEANUP
- SUPPORT 'PLAN IT CALGARY' TO HELP CURB SPRAWL AND BUILD WALKABLE COMMUNITIES www.calgary.ca



VITAL IMPACT

The Calgary Foundation granted \$20,835 to the Calgary Immigrant Women’s Association to support *Your Right and Responsibility to Vote*, a project to encourage civic participation and promote the benefits of voting amongst Calgary’s immigrant communities.



BYSTANDER
 PARTICIPANT

BELONGING & LEADERSHIP C

THE FEDERATION OF CALGARY COMMUNITIES PROVIDES LEADERSHIP TO 138 COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS TO ENGAGE CALGARIANS IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOODS.

VOTER TURNOUT

D-

Voter turnout for the 2006 Federal Election in Calgary was 62.3%, slightly lower than the national average of 64.7%. Voter turnout for municipal elections is far lower; even though it improved from 19.8% in 2004 to 32.9% in 2007, this is still less than the 45.8% and 38.1% in 1998 and 2001 respectively. It’s been more than three decades since at least half of Calgarians cast a municipal ballot.

YOUR PRIORITY

MEDIAN CHARITABLE DONORS

B-

With a median yearly charitable contribution of \$320 per donor in 2006, donations in Calgary were 28% higher than the national average (\$250) and the same as the provincial average. Median donations have increased 88.2% from \$170 in 1997.

SENSE OF COMMUNITY BELONGING

C-

In 2005, 60.9% of the population 12 years and over in the Calgary Health Region reported a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging. This is lower than the national level of 64.4%.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

B-

One unique example of Calgary’s community spirit is the stampede breakfast, a tradition where local organizations host free pancake breakfasts during Stampede. Literally hundreds are staged all across the city, offering free food and hospitality to all. The Calgary Stampede Caravan alone puts on 15 breakfasts serving over 40,000 people each year.

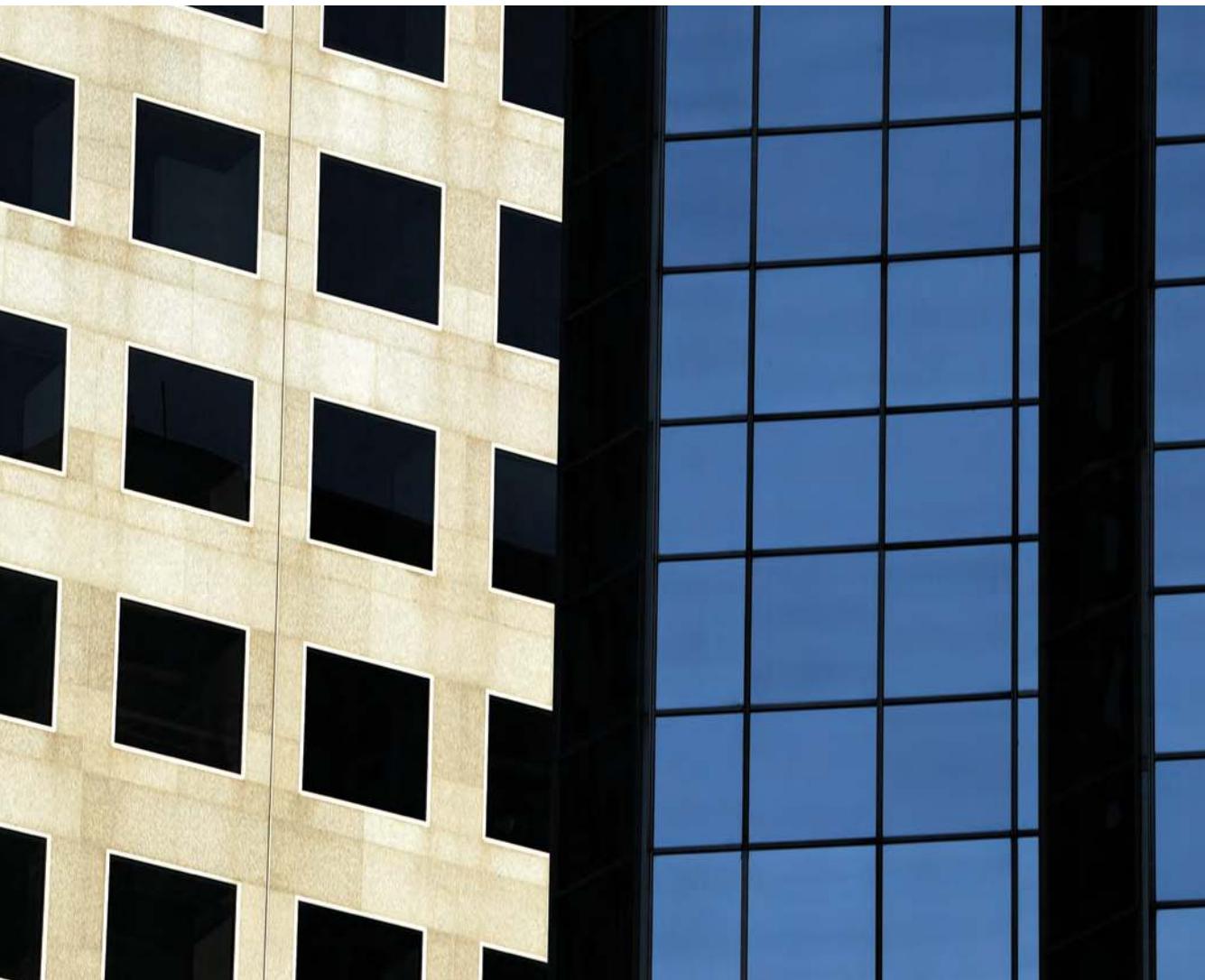
VITAL ACTION

- REGISTER FOR A BIKE, RUN OR WALK, SUPPORTING A CAUSE YOU CARE ABOUT
- VOTE IN CIVIC, PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL ELECTIONS
- PARTICIPATE IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



VITAL IMPACT

The Calgary Foundation granted \$25,000 to Hull Child and Family Services to support *Brighter Tomorrow*, a project that seeks and supports employment opportunities for clients who have developmental disabilities or mental health issues.



□ PROSPERITY
□ PRESSURE

WORK B

IN 2007, CALGARY HAD THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF SMALL BUSINESSES (LESS THAN 50 EMPLOYEES) PER CAPITA IN CANADA.

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH B

Calgary saw employment growth of 3.9% in 2007. This is down from 8.1% in 2006 but in line with the 1987-2007 average annual growth of 3.1%. Calgary has had one of the lowest unemployment rates in Canada for the past few years.

SMALL BUSINESS PER CAPITA B+

In 2007, at 40.2 per 1,000 population, Calgary had the highest number of small businesses per capita in Canada, leading Edmonton (37.7), Vancouver (36.9), Toronto (28.6), Montreal (28.2) and Ottawa (25.3). Small businesses, which employ less than 50 people accounted for 93.5% of all Calgary businesses with employees.

CORPORATE HEAD OFFICES A

Calgary has the highest concentration of head offices in Canada at 9.8 head offices per 100,000 population, compared to 5.1 for Toronto and 3.6 for Vancouver in 2006. The number of Calgary head offices increased from 68 in 2002 to 109 in 2006.

VITAL ACTION

- ENCOURAGE YOUR EMPLOYER TO CREATE A "VIBRANT WORKPLACE"
www.vibrantcalgary.com/vibrantworkplaces
- POWER YOUR OFFICE WITH ELECTRICITY FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES

YOUR PRIORITY

COST COMPETITIVENESS C

According to KPMG, with an overall competitiveness index value of 102 in 2008, Calgary has business costs (e.g., facility costs, transport costs, utility costs, depreciation charges, financing costs, non-income taxes and income taxes) that are 2% higher than the average of 15 representative cities in the United States; business costs have increased since 2002 when the index value was 85.

WORK ABSENCE B

With a 2007 work absence rate (average days lost per year, including maternity, for full-time employees) of 8.1 days, compared to 10.2 days nationally, Calgary has the lowest rate in the country among Vital Signs communities.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP GROUP

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Page 12: Janice Francey

Page 14: Sculpture on-loan from the Benefic Foundation.

Image courtesy: Glenbow Museum and TORODE Group of Companies

Photo: Chris Bolin

Page 22: Daniel Buchanan

Page 24: Doug MacKay

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 address issues in the Calgary and area community.

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

2007 – 2008

- ☐ \$33 million granted to 665 charitable organizations
- ☐ \$43 million received in new gifts
- ☐ 78 new funds established
- ☐ \$327 million asset base



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Vital Signs is an annual community check-up that is conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our communities, identifies significant trends, and assigns grades in at least ten areas critical to quality of life. *Vital Signs* is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada.

Vital Signs reports are published by 15 community foundations across Canada can be viewed at vitalsignscanada.ca



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Calgary's **VitalSigns** is an initiative of The Calgary Foundation



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FOR CALGARY FOREVER

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The savings below are achieved when postconsumer recycled fiber is used in place of virgin fiber.



1.42 trees preserved for the future



4.09 lbs waterborne waste not created



601 gallons wastewater flow saved



67 lbs solid waste not generated



131 lbs net greenhouse gases prevented



1,002,320 BTUs energy not consumed