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®
TAKING THE PULSE OF CALGARY

THE CALGARY FOUNDATION
FOR CALGARY FOREVER
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.

**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 Vital Signs (Fall, 2009) and Youth Vital Signs (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.
# 2009 SUMMARY

## KEY ISSUE AREA

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<th>CITIZENS’ SAY: WHAT’S NOT</th>
<th>KEY ISSUE AREA RESEARCH</th>
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<td>B</td>
<td>• Culture of life-long learning</td>
<td>• Class sizes</td>
<td>• Improvement in high school completions</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Availability of adult learning programs</td>
<td>• High tuition</td>
<td>• High proportion with post secondary education</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Variety of post-secondary options</td>
<td>• High school drop-out rate</td>
<td>• High life-long learning</td>
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<td>• Calgary Public Libraries</td>
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<td>• High library usage</td>
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<td>• Availability of French immersion</td>
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<td><strong>SAFETY</strong></td>
<td>B−</td>
<td>• Block watch</td>
<td>• Gang control</td>
<td>• Low violent crime rate</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Visible police presence</td>
<td>• Need stricter judicial system</td>
<td>• High safe and livable city ranking</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Safe streets</td>
<td>• Safety on LRT</td>
<td>• Domestic violence calls increase</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Extra LRT patrols</td>
<td>• Safety in schools</td>
<td>• Gang-related homicides increase</td>
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<td><strong>HEALTH &amp; WELLNESS</strong></td>
<td>B−</td>
<td>• Public awareness concerning obesity</td>
<td>• Better access to family physicians</td>
<td>• Long waits for long-term care</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Great fitness facilities</td>
<td>• Need for shorter wait times, especially emergency care</td>
<td>• ER wait times rise</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Pathways for walking and biking</td>
<td>• Need for shorter wait times, especially emergency care</td>
<td>• More Calgarians lack a regular medical doctor</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Quality care in hospitals</td>
<td>• Need for shorter wait times, especially emergency care</td>
<td>• Smoking rates up</td>
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<td><strong>ARTS &amp; CULTURE</strong></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>• Vibrant festivals</td>
<td>• Affordability of events</td>
<td>• Highest household spending on arts and culture</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Lots of entertainment options</td>
<td>• Need better publicity</td>
<td>• Creative &amp; active arts community</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Local/Community theatre</td>
<td>• More celebrations of other cultures</td>
<td>• Most cultured city on Maclean's list</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FINANCIAL WELL-BEING</strong></td>
<td>C</td>
<td>• Affordable housing initiatives</td>
<td>• Transit is expensive</td>
<td>• Food Bank usage increases</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Job opportunities</td>
<td>• Cost of living is high</td>
<td>• Cost of nutritious food increasing</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Programs for low income families</td>
<td>• High housing costs</td>
<td>• Personal bankruptcies rise</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Charitable organizations helping homeless</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Economy down, demand for community services up</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GETTING STARTED</strong></td>
<td>B−</td>
<td>• Many agencies serving new Canadians</td>
<td>• Recognition of immigrant skills</td>
<td>• Cultural diversity increases</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Access to health care</td>
<td>• Acceptance of new cultures</td>
<td>• English as a Second Language need grows</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Job opportunities</td>
<td>• Lack of diversity in neighbourhoods</td>
<td>• Immigrant child care needs increase</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NATURAL ENVIRONMENT</strong></td>
<td>B−</td>
<td>• Recycling program</td>
<td>• High use of individual vehicles</td>
<td>• Blue cart program doubles amount recycled</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Maintenance of parks</td>
<td>• High water usage</td>
<td>• Consumer water demand decreases</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Clean air and water</td>
<td>• Need compost service</td>
<td>• Community gardens flourishing</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WORK</strong></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>• Low unemployment rate</td>
<td>• Need to diversify for boom / bust cycles</td>
<td>• Unemployment rate doubles</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Diversity of opportunities</td>
<td>• Wages not aligned with cost of living</td>
<td>• EI claims rise dramatically</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Robust economy</td>
<td>• Need less dependency on oil</td>
<td>• Employment by industry shifts</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HOUSING</strong></td>
<td>C</td>
<td>• Good quality housing</td>
<td>• Urban sprawl</td>
<td>• Funding target for affordable housing units exceeded</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Many new buildings</td>
<td>• Price of housing</td>
<td>• Home prices drop</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Some subsidized housing</td>
<td>• Homelessness</td>
<td>• Homelessness up</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Rents remain high</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BELONGING &amp; LEADERSHIP</strong></td>
<td>B−</td>
<td>• Strong sense of community</td>
<td>• Economy adversely affecting charities</td>
<td>• Alberta volunteer rate rises</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Volunteerism</td>
<td>• Low voter turnout</td>
<td>• Charitable donors decrease slightly</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Corporations helping community</td>
<td>• Citizen apathy</td>
<td>• Voter turnout drops</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Sense of community belonging drops sharply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUSTAINABLE CITY</strong></td>
<td>C</td>
<td>• People are becoming more “green”</td>
<td>• Cost of transit and parking</td>
<td>• Green buildings rising</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• C-train expansions</td>
<td>• Urban sprawl</td>
<td>• Farmer’s markets growing</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Curbside recycling</td>
<td>• Need bike and car pool lanes</td>
<td>• More commuters using sustainable transportation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Farmer’s markets</td>
<td>• Need more community gardens</td>
<td>• Pathways &amp; bikeways extended</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SPORTS &amp; RECREATION</strong></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>• Many areas to play sports</td>
<td>• Need more subsidies for low income families</td>
<td>• Physically active Calgarians on the rise</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Community programs</td>
<td>• User fees climbing rapidly</td>
<td>• City Parks &amp; Recreation programs top choice for recreational activities</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Variety of options</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Calgarians passionate about amateur sport</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Aging community association facilities</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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:

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

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.

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.)

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

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.
GETTING STARTED

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.

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 ACTION

ORDER INTERNATIONAL CUISINE PREPARED BY IMMIGRANT WOMEN. ethnicitycatering.ca

WORK

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 $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

OBTAIN FREE RESUME BUILDING AND CAREER PLANNING ASSISTANCE. bowvalleycollege.ca
FINANCIAL WELL-BEING

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 $1 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.

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

HOUSING

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.

FUNDING TARGET FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS EXCEEDED

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 IMPACT

Momentum's Owen Hart Home Owners Program

VITAL ACTION

Volunteer for Project Homeless Connect. calgaryhomeless.com
**ARTS & CULTURE**

**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.

**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.

**LEARNING**

**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 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

**CHECK OUT THE FREE PROGRAMS AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY**
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
JOIN CO-ED SPORT LEAGUES AND SOCIAL CLUBS. calgarysportsclub.com

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
ENROLL IN A FREE, INTERACTIVE PROGRAM TO QUIT SMOKING. albertaquito.ca
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

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

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 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 ⌁ DISCOVER PROVINCIAL REBATES RELATED TO HOME ENERGY EVALUATIONS. climatechangecentral.com

VITAL ACTION ⌁ TEACH YOUR KIDS ABOUT ONLINE SAFETY youthlinkcalgary.com
BELONGING & LEADERSHIP 

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

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 ACTION
SHARE YOUR TIME AND SKILLS WITH OTHERS.
volunteer calgary.com

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
LEARN HOW TO START YOUR OWN COMPOST.
cleanclagary.org
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The Praxis Group

SURVEYS

The Calgary Foundation

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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

$22 million granted to 665 charitable organizations

49 new funds established

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

**Doc Seaman COMMUNITY CONNECTOR**

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.