Calgary’s Vital Signs is an annual community check-up conducted by The Calgary Foundation that measures the vitality of our community, identifies trends and assigns grades in areas critical to quality of life.

What do Calgarians care about?
Perhaps our quality of life isn’t just tied to economics and infrastructure. While Calgarians considered all aspects of their quality of life, the areas that most enhanced their overall well-being were:

- Learning
- Citizen Engagement
- Living Standards
- Immigrant Newcomers

Grading At A Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Culture</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aging Population</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>B*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizen Engagement</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainability</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting Around</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Wellness</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigrant Newcomers</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living Standards</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbourhoods*</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports &amp; Recreation*</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Info on these key issue areas is available at thecalgaryfoundation.org

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

**METHODODOLOGY:**
846 citizens added their voice to Calgary’s Vital Signs by assigning grades, choosing their top 3 priorities and adding their comments on things that are working well in each of the key issue areas. The online survey, conducted by The Praxis Group, is based on a ‘self-selected’ respondent population. Results are reliable within +/- 4%, 19 times out of 20.

A random sample telephone survey was conducted in the same survey period asking the same grading questions. There was no statistically significant difference in the grades provided in the random method compared with the self-selected method. To learn more about how we found our graders, go to thecalgaryfoundation.org

**INDICATOR RESEARCH**
Local experts representing a range of Calgary organizations provided research support to ensure that the indicators used for Calgary’s Vital Signs are relevant, accurate and comprehensive. Community Foundations of Canada, who retain The Centre for the Study of Living Standards to undertake national research, provided additional indicator data. To see a full listing of our research partners go to thecalgaryfoundation.org

This report only scratches the surface, there’s a lot more information! Further details on indicators and sources can be found at thecalgaryfoundation.org
A handmade sign nailed to a tree during flood recovery became a rallying call and was also potent shorthand for what it means to be a resilient community. Namely, a community with the ability to recover, persist and even thrive amid disruption. **Mission accomplished Calgary!**

The disastrous floods of late June tested our city as never before. But our community spirit, strong civic governance and a phenomenally engaged population working together in common cause, lifted the city up off the mat.

Calgary’s investments in resilience don’t just serve us in times of disaster; they also contribute to the vitality of our city. **This is what our annual Vital Signs report aims to monitor and highlight to ensure we continue to ‘gain the community’ needed to weather any storm.**

Some important community resilience attributes reported by our Vital Signs 2013 survey respondents include the fact that 60% know their neighbours well enough to seek help or offer assistance and 67% feel they can make a difference in their community or city. However, 20-34 year olds and those with lower income were least likely to feel connected. Looking forward, there’s opportunity to increase engagement for all Calgarians.
Getting to the point of learning

Kathleen Kawalauskas is the Program Manager with The Learning Partnership’s Turning Points Program, a character development program for students in Grade 6 through 12, where they read, write and think about fundamental values.

Teachers report that students participating in Turning Points have increased attendance and academic involvement. Over 13,000 students across Canada participated in the program last year, with 21 schools and 2,561 students participating from Calgary.

The Learning Partnership received a Community Grant from The Calgary Foundation in support of the Turning Points program.

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Learning VITAL SIGNS

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citizens Said:</td>
<td>“I love that so many organizations make efforts to provide free workshops, seminars, and educational programs, especially within the nonprofit world. The Library does an incredible job of this as well.”</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Statistics, facts and interesting things:

**HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION RISES**
Calgarians (aged 25-64) who graduated from High School:
- 2011: 91%
- 2006: 89%
- Provincial 2011: 88%
- National 2011: 87%

**ABORIGINAL POPULATION ACHIEVEMENT**
Percentage of Aboriginal population (aged 25-64) having achieved at least one certificate, degree or diploma:
- Calgary 2011: 82%
- Calgary 2006: 78%
- Provincial 2011: 70%
- National 2011: 71%

**1/4 CHILDREN NOT DEVELOPING APPROPRIATELY**
Percentage of kindergarten children experiencing great difficulty in one or more areas: physically, socially, emotionally, communication and thinking skills:
- Calgary 2012: 25%
- Provincial 2012: 27%
- National 2012: 25%

**BUSINESS TOP CHOICE AS MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY**
2011 most common fields of study for Calgarians with degrees:
- Business: 21%
- Engineering: 17%
- Education: 11%
- Health: 10%

**LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES* POP UP**
- 2013: 25
- 2012: 5

*mini-libraries run by volunteers in public spaces

There’s a lot more information! Further details on indicators and sources can be found at thecalgaryfoundation.org
If we could just bottle that...

There is a lot of energy in the world and Kali Taylor is trying to harness it. She’s the founder and Executive Director of Student Energy, a nonprofit dedicated to creating the next generation of energy leaders who will help transition the world to a sustainable energy future. Student Energy has a network of 20,000 students in over 75 countries. Their Global Energy Literacy Research Project aims to better understand the energy education landscape by identifying areas for greater coordination and programming.

This project was recently supported by The Calgary Foundation’s Community Grants program.
A welcome mat for everyone

Francis Boakye is the Manager of Programs and Community Relations at the Centre for Newcomers. The Centre ensures that immigrant newcomers achieve full economic, social, and cultural integration in the Calgary community by providing settlement, employment, language and youth services. Last year, the Centre for Newcomers served over 8,000 new Calgarians, helping over 1,200 people with career development and job search, and over 3,000 people with settlement.

The Calgary Foundation regularly supports the Centre for Newcomers through Donor Advised Funds and Community Grants.
Want the key to the city?

**Corinne Lyall** is the President of **Doors Open YYC**, a program that offers free ‘behind the scenes’ access to landmarks, City-owned structures, parks, tourist destinations and heritage buildings. Ever wonder how a digital library works, what District Energy is or how firefighters train? Doors Open YYC 2012 informed and engaged over 16,000 Calgarians with the help of 200 volunteers at 35 sites in every corner of the city. Doors Open YYC helps build civic pride and appreciation for historical and culturally significant places.

*The Calgary Foundation’s Community Grants program supported Doors Open YYC in 2012.*
Learning is working

Jenny Krabbe is the Program Coordinator at Calgary Immigrant Women’s Association (CIWA). CIWA’s mission is to help low literacy immigrant women and their families integrate into their communities. The project focuses on job coaching and training, helping women navigate job searches by teaching workplace English and online literacy. They even provide bus tickets and child care when needed. Over 70% of women who completed the training streams in 12 months successfully found employment.

The Calgary Foundation supported CIWA’s Building Futures for Low Literacy Immigrant Women through the Community Grants program.

Statistics, facts and interesting things:

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FALL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>OVERALL</strong></td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>YOUTH</strong></td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(National 2012: 7.2%)

(National 2012: 14.3%)

**SELF-EMPLOYED IN 2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calgary</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SMALL BUSINESSES THRIVE IN 2011**

<50 = 95% employees

TYPES OF SMALL BUSINESSES:
- Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services: 23%
- Construction: 12%
- Retail: 9%

**LONGER AVERAGE WORK WEEK IN 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hours/week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calgary</td>
<td>38.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provincial</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>36.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(2010-2012)
Three year-old Sophie and her mother attend the Pre-Natal to Three Child Development Centre at the Calgary Urban Project Society (CUPS) where they get support, education and parenting training. Current research in infant brain development informs the program to help families lay the best possible foundation for their child’s lifelong success. CUPS helps marginalized Calgarians feel empowered through health care, education and housing services. Over 1,000 families in crisis and 24,500 medical visits were supported this year alone.

The Calgary Foundation regularly supports CUPS through Donor Advised Funds.
If it’s Tuesday at 11am, the Dickson family knows where their matriarch is. June Dickson has been volunteering with Calgary Meals on Wheels since 1966, inspiring three generations of Dicksons to volunteer in their communities. She started preparing meals in the United Church basement and has, for almost five decades, delivered meals to Calgarians to support their choice of independence. Often the only face-to-face contact some clients have in a day, June sees the social connection as important as the meal.

The support of The Calgary Foundation’s Donor Advised Funds enables Meals on Wheels to deliver 1,700 meals a day for 900 clients.

Statistics, facts and interesting things:

**HALF LACK CONVENIENT ACCESS TO GROCERY STORE IN 2012**

52% of Calgary’s 300,000 residences are located more than 1km from a major grocery store.

**COST OF FOOD**

Minimum cost of a healthy diet for a family of four in 2012:

- $950.65/mth
- If one of the kids is a teenager: $1050.65/mth

**MAJORITY NOT EATING ENOUGH FRUITS & VEGGIES**

Percentage of Calgarians aged 12+ who are NOT eating at least 5 portions of fruits and veggies in 2012:

Provincial 62%  Calgary 60%  National 59%  Seniors 54%

Healthy Eaters!

**3 things to celebrate**

1. Farmers’ markets / local food options
2. Wide variety of restaurants
3. Diversity of food options

**3 things to improve**

1. Access to affordable, nutritious food
2. Access to locally grown food
3. Support for community programs that promote availability of locally or regionally grown foods

**MORE EATS ON THE STREETS**

Calgary has 37 Food Trucks and about 25 more operate on private property or events.

(Vancouver has 54 mobiles and stationary food trucks.)

There’s a lot more information! Further details on indicators and sources can be found at thecalgaryfoundation.org
Parachute is a Canadian nonprofit working to bring attention to the issue of preventable injuries. Andrew Wong is a university student involved with several of their teen driver safety programs. Parachute recently launched the Calgary version of the "Is It Worth It?" Teen Driver Safety Campaign which aims to prevent injury and save lives by reducing distracted, impaired and aggressive driving. Eight Calgary high schools participated in the program, where students implemented activities and events focused on teaching their peers about driving injuries and prevention.

A Community Grant from The Calgary Foundation helped Parachute get their Calgary program off the ground.

Driving home safety

VITAL SIGNS

CITIZEN SURVEY

YEARLY GRADES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Citizens Said:

“Need to improve downtown safety before and after business hours. The core does not seem safe.”

Statistics, facts and interesting things:

**INCIDENCE OF ASSAULT IN 2012**

74% of Albertans said they know a woman who has been physically or sexually abused – highest rate in Canada.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Incidents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2,574</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DECLINING VEHICLE THEFTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Incidents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>323</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| National 2012: 223 |

**YOUTH CRIME AT 5-YEAR LOW**

Offences /10,000 youth (12-17):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Incidents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>412</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**YOUTH AS VICTIMS ON THE RISE**

Victims per 10,000 youth (12-17):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Incidents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>316</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OVER 8 FULL ACRES!**

370,000 square feet of graffiti were removed by the City’s graffiti abatement program in 2012.

3 things to celebrate:

1. Feeling extremely safe
2. Calgary Police Service both visible and dedicated
3. Majority of neighbourhoods feel safe

3 things to improve:

1. Bullying in schools
2. Traffic / road safety
3. Gang violence

There’s a lot more information! Further details on indicators and sources can be found at thecalgaryfoundation.org
Jazzing up Calgary

Kimberley Cooper is only the second Artistic Director at Decidedly Jazz Danceworks (DJD). Now entering its 30th season, DJD is Canada’s largest contemporary dance company. With more than 50 original works (2 or 3 new works every year) DJD has established itself internationally as a leader – innovating and pushing the form. DJD also offers classes to more than 1,000 students of all levels through the School of Decidedly Jazz and conducts a Professional Training Program with dancers selected from a national audition process.

DJD receives ongoing funding from The Calgary Foundation through Donor Advised Funds.
Let’s talk about it

Pam Krause is the Executive Director at the Calgary Sexual Health Centre. The Centre provides the public with sexual health services and reliable information while promoting healthy bodies and relationships through innovative programming. The Centre reaches over 10,000 youth annually - from teaching parents how to talk to their kids about sex to supporting LGBT youth in schools, the Centre gives people the tools to make healthy decisions about their sexuality.

The Calgary Foundation supported the Calgary Sexual Health Centre with a recent Community Grant which assisted in updating their website and accessing new technologies to better reach youth.
Myrna Dube knows her way around Calgary. All the way around. As the CEO of Parks Foundation Calgary, whose mandate is to create parks, pathways, playgrounds and support amateur sport, she’s spearheading the Rotary/Mattamy Greenway. This unique pathway and park system will completely encircle Calgary, running over 138 km with 25 specialty parks – from outdoor “gyms” to special off-leash areas. The Greenway will give all Calgarians access to great recreational options, from anywhere in the city.

The Rotary/Mattamy Greenway project receives support from The Calgary Foundation’s Donor Advised Funds.
Ann O’Donnell is the Director of Resource Development at the Calgary Women’s Emergency Shelter. Last year, the Shelter served over 14,000 clients but turned away more than 2,500 women and 1,800 children. To meet this unfortunate growth in demand, the Shelter is updating its facility. Phase one increased capacity, phase two will enhance the children’s counseling area and phase three will create therapeutic outdoor spaces for adults and children.

The Calgary Foundation provides funding for the Shelter through Donor Advised Funds.

**Housing**

**VITAL SIGNS**

**CITIZEN SURVEY**

**YEARLY GRADES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Citizens Said:**

“Love seeing the progress to increasing density - condos built around LRT stations, stores to support the needs, encouraging ‘no-car’ homes.”

**Statistics, facts and interesting things:**

**RETIREMENT HOME RENT UP, VACANCY DOWN**

- Average monthly rent: $3,314 (2013)
- Average vacancy: 8.5% (2012) vs 7.5% (2013)

**CALGARY RENTAL VACANCY AT HISTORICAL LOW**

Even before the flood...

- April 2013: 1.2%
- April 2012: 2.5%

**RENTS CONTINUE TO CLIMB**

Average rent for an apartment:

- April 2013: $1,078
- April 2012: $1,004

That means, a minimum wage earner ($9.95/hour) needs 45% of their total income to rent a bachelor apartment (average $715/month).

**3 things to celebrate**

1. Diverse housing options
2. Higher density communities/limiting urban sprawl
3. Improved programs and options for low-income affordable housing

**3 things to improve**

1. Density issues to limit urban sprawl
2. Affordability of rental housing
3. Affordability of ownership housing

**SINGLE-FAMILY HOME SALES & PRICE TREND UPWARD**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Median Price:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2013:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$447,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2012:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$419,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2011:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$409,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Did You Know?**

In the months after the flood, sales were up 14%
Since 1955, The Calgary Foundation has been in the business of building a vibrant community. It is the philanthropic partnerships within the charitable, government and corporate communities that enable us to do this work. The strength and value of the community foundation is reflected in a healthy community supported by a strong, sustainable charitable sector.

The Calgary Foundation Fast Facts 2012-2013
- $205.2 Million received in new gifts
- Asset base of $632.4 Million
- $34.6 Million granted to 761 charitable organizations
- 42 New funds established
- Ten year compound return; primary endowment portfolio 7.4%, Benchmark indices 7.3%

Community Foundations of Canada
Vital Signs is a community check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our communities, identifies significant trends, and supports action on issues that are critical to our quality of life. Special thanks to the Toronto Community Foundation for developing and sharing the Vital Signs concept and Community Foundations of Canada for supporting a coordinated national Vital Signs initiative. For more information visit: www.vitalsignscanada.ca

We're listening
What do you think about the results of Calgary's Vital Signs 2013 Report?
Tweet: @calgfoundation #vitalsignsyyc
facebook.com/thecalgaryfoundation

Vital Signs Project Team:
The Calgary Foundation
Kerry Longpré - Project Leader, VP, Communications
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Creative Partner: juice
Survey Partner: The Praxis Group