**VitalSigns 2015 Full Indicators and Sources**

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Community Research Partners

Alberta Education
Alberta Ecotrust
Alberta Family Wellness Initiative
Alberta Health Services, Population and Public Health
Alberta Human Services
Alberta Office of Statistics and Information
Association of Universities and Colleges
ATB Financial
B Corporations
BOMA BESs
Calgary AfterSchool
Calgary Arts Development
Calgary Board of Education
Calgary Eats
Calgary Economic Development
Calgary Food Bank
Calgary Herald
Calgary Homeless Foundation
Calgary Police Service
Calgary Real Estate Board
Calgary Residential Rental Association
Calgary Sun
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives
Citizenship and Immigration Canada
City of Calgary
  • Civic Census
  • Community and Neighbourhood Services
  • ImagineCalgary
  • Parks
  • Planning, Development and Assessment
  • Recreation
  • Transportation
  • Utilities and Environmental Protection
Conference Board of Canada
Economist Intelligence Unit
First 2000 Days
Fraser Institute
Globe and Mail
Grow Calgary
Immigrant Access Fund
Industry Canada
Momentum
MoneySense
New York Times
RBC Economics Research
Statistics Canada
Toronto Region Board of Trade
United Way of Calgary and Area
Vibrant Communities Calgary
Vital Signs 2015 Survey Report
OUR VITAL PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

CALGARY NOW

POPULATION: CALGARY'S POPULATION TOPS 1.23 MILLION ACCORDING TO 2015 CALGARY CIVIC CENSUS RESULTS (Calgary Herald, July 29, 2015)¹

- Total population: 1,230,915
- Increase of 35,721 from 2014
- Majority of growth was concentrated in the SE quadrant of Calgary
- Evanston grew by 2,853 new residents in 2014

SENIORS: 120,000 CALGARIANS ARE AGED 65 YEARS AND OLDER, ACCOUNT FOR 10% OF THE POPULATION (City of Calgary Seniors Age-Friendly Strategy and Implementation Plan 2015-2018)²

- In 20 years this number will almost double to 225,000
- By 2042, it will increase to more than 280,000 (15% of Calgary’s total population)
- The number of Calgarians aged 75 and older will increase at an even faster rate

AGE: MEDIAN AGE IS 36.0 WITH 74.3% AGED 20 AND OLDER (Calgary Economic Development, 2014)³

- 48.5% of Calgarians are within core working age group of 25 – 54 (CMA, 2013)

IMMIGRANT POPULATION: 26.2% OF CALGARY'S POPULATION CMA IS IMMIGRANTS WITH 1.9% NON-PERMANENT RESIDENTS (2011 National Household Survey) (Calgary Economic Development, 2014)⁴

YOUTH: SHARE OF YOUTH (UNDER 15) IN POPULATION IS 17.6% IN VITAL SIGNS COMMUNITIES ON JULY 1ST, 2001–2014 (Statistics Canada, 2015)⁵

³ Calgary Economic Development 2015: http://www.calgaryeconomicdevelopment.com/research/demographicspopulation/population
⁴ Calgary Economic Development 2015: http://www.calgaryeconomicdevelopment.com/research/demographicspopulation/population
⁵ Statistics Canada 2015: Estimates of population by census metropolitan area, sex and age group for July 1, based on the Standard Geographical Classification (SGC) 2011; Table 051-0056 for CMAs http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&retreLang=eng&id=0510056&pattern=051-0056..051-0064&tabMode=dataTable&srchLan=-1&p1=-1&p2=31
• In 2014, the share of youth (under 15) in the total population was 17.6% in Calgary (CMA).
• Below the provincial rate in 2014 (18.2 in Alberta) & over the longer time horizon 2001–2014 the share of youth dropped by 9.2 percent in Calgary (CMA) and by 11.2 percent in the province of Alberta.

VACANCY RATE: 12,526 TOTAL VACANCIES AS OF AUGUST 2015, UP 2.64% FROM 2014
(Global News Calgary, August 2015)6

LARGEST COMMUNITIES BY POPULATION (Calgary Herald 2015)7

• Panorama Hills: 25,993
• Beltline: 21,939
• Evergreen: 21,700
• Tuscany: 19,737
• Taradale: 19,223

CALGARY THEN

THE 1877 SIGNING OF TREATY 7 IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE FOUNDING EVENTS OF MODERN SOUTHERN ALBERTA (Mayor Naheed Nenshi, 2014)8

• “The Story of Moh’kinsstis says that before there was the place we call Calgary, the First Peoples were stewards of this land. At the confluence of two rivers, the lifeblood of our city, our cultures converged and our story began... It is essential that Calgarians of every culture and tradition walk on a shared path paved with opportunity, recognizing that we are connected to each other and to this place, where our collective spirit generates enough for all.”

- Mayor Nenshi

CALGARY ON THE WORLD STAGE

CALGARY 5th MOST LIVABLE CITY IN THE WORLD IN 2014 OUT OF 140 GLOBAL CITIES SIX YEARS IN A ROW (Economist Intelligence Unit, 2014)9

CALGARY CLEANEST CITY IN THE WORLD: Based on availability and drinkability of water, waste removal, quality of sewage systems, air pollution, and traffic congestion (Mercer Global Financial, 2014)10

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7 Calgary Herald article by Trevor Howell and Sammy Hudes, Calgary’s population tops 1.2 million according to new census figures, July 2015: http://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/is-calgary-still-growing-city-releases-new-census-figures
8 Quote from Mayor Naheed Nenshi, 2014
10
**CALGARY 33rd IN THE WORLD FOR QUALITY OF LIFE** (The Mercer Quality of Living Survey, 2015)¹¹
- Calgary is down from #31 in 2014, #32 in 2012, #33 in 2011 ranking

**CALGARY 3RD WORST CITY IN CANADA FOR WOMEN OUT OF CANADA’S LARGEST 20 CITIES** (Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, 2015)¹²
- Women occupy 29% of senior management positions and two women are currently in Calgary city council
- Calgary ranks number one for educated women with 28% holding university degrees
- Calgarian women are more likely than men to have a high school education while men are twice as likely to complete trades training or apprenticeships

**CALGARY 2ND OUT OF 50 CITIES FOR ATTRACTIVENESS TO MIGRANTS** (Conference Board of Canada, 2014)¹³
- Calgary ranked: #1 in economy and innovation, #5 for housing, #17 for society, #25 for education, #30 for health and #36 for environment

**CALGARY 3RD IN GLOBAL PROSPERITY BEHIND ONLY PARIS AND STOCKHOLM** (Calgary Herald, 2015)¹⁴
- Average commute time of 52 minutes (the shortest out of all cities)
- Calgary’s housing is the most affordable among 12 North American cities
- Calgary was ranked second in 2014
- Comparatively low share of employment in cultural industries and the lowest student-teacher ratio among the five Canadian cities in the analysis

**CALGARY BEST SPORT CITY OUT OF 30 GLOBAL CITIES: Ranked #5 in Ultimate Sports City Award out of 30 global cities** (SportsBusiness International, 2014)¹⁵

**CALGARY DROPPED FROM #2 TO #19 BEST PLACE TO LIVE ON MONEYSENSE MAGAZINE’S CANADA’S BEST PLACES TO LIVE** (MoneySense Magazine, 2015)¹⁶

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¹² Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives 2015: [https://www.policyalternatives.ca/best-worst#hash.UsIYYQAs.dpuf](https://www.policyalternatives.ca/best-worst#hash.UsIYYQAs.dpuf)
ARTS

CALGARIANS ENGAGED IN THE ARTS (Living a Creative Life: Success Indicator Baseline Report, 2014)\(^\text{17}\)

- 87% of Calgarians believe that arts help bring people together and enable people to connect to each other
- 82% of Calgarians believe that a strong arts and culture scene is key to creating a vibrant, safe and prosperous city
- 87% of Calgarians engage with the arts in some way:
  - 70% attend arts events (visiting galleries, attending performances, etc.)
  - 59% have a creative or personal practice (photography, sketching, playing music, etc.)
  - 48% engage through media (watching TV, downloading music, reading magazines, etc.)
- 19% donate to a not-for-profit arts or cultural organization
- 17% volunteer for an arts organization or arts event

ARTS EVENTS BY THE NUMBERS (Calgary Arts Development 2014 Accountability Report)\(^\text{18}\)

- 3.6 million people attended arts events in Calgary in 2014
- 10,000 arts events held annually in Calgary
- 26,869 volunteers for arts-related activities
- 780,743 volunteer-hours for nonprofit arts organizations
- 4,545 Calgarians work in an artist occupation, comprising 0.7% of our city’s overall labour force
- $112 million in direct economic output, including artistic expenses, facility costs, administration and more, via Calgary’s investment in its arts sector
- 749.6 full-time equivalent staff hired by Calgary arts organizations

CULTURAL TOURISM AND THE REMARKABLE EXPERIENCE ACCELERATOR (Living a Creative Life: Success Indicator Baseline Report, 2014)\(^\text{19}\)

- Remarkable Experience Accelerator is a partnership between Calgary Arts Development and the Calgary Hotel Association that invests in medium-to-long-term tourism and cultural innovation.


term arts experiences that give more reasons to visit Calgary. Calgary International Film Festival participated in the program from 2012 to 2014, and saw attendance increase from 20,000 to 29,000 between 2013 and 2014, increasing the number of hotel nights booked by out-of-town attendees by 33%

3,405 CALGARY-PRODUCED ARTS ACTIVITIES ENGAGING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES (Living a Creative Life: Success Indicator Baseline Report, 2014)²⁰

- 2,191 for disability communities
- 498 for multicultural communities
- 317 for LGBTQ communities
- 203 for Aboriginal communities
- 146 for those experiencing mental health issues
- 108 for those experiencing homelessness
- 64 for seniors and aging populations

CANADIAN BUSINESSES BELIEVE ARTS PRODUCE SOCIAL BENEFITS (Business for the Arts 2015)²¹

- Business for the Arts (BftA) released a report conducted by the Strategic Counsel revealing high levels of engagement in the arts by Canadians and a commitment from business to invest in arts and culture:
  - Canadians are more likely to choose arts and culture events over sports
  - Since 2008, business investment in the arts has increased by 49%
- More than half of Canadians favour businesses that invest in arts and culture:
  - 82% believe engagement with the arts leads to good health and well-being
  - 95% say arts education assists in the intellectual development of children
  - 88% believe youth engagement with the arts helps reduce youth crime and alienation
  - 83% of parents believe that engaging children in the arts is important for their development
  - 80% believe that arts education improves children’s academic performance
  - 79% believe that the arts helps children from disadvantaged communities succeed

STAMPEDE HIGHEST GROSSING FESTIVAL (ECONOMIC IMPACT) IN CANADA (Flight Network 2014)\textsuperscript{22}

- Calgary Stampede generates over $350 million in economic benefit for Albertans.
- Calgary Stampede grosses more than the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto, Winterlude in Ottawa and the Just for Laughs Festival in Montreal.
- For every $1 that is spent at the Stampede grounds, another $2.65 is spent by visitors in the city of Calgary.

\textsuperscript{22}The 10 Strangest Facts You Didn’t Know About the Calgary Stampede July 12, Flight Network 2014: http://www.flightnetwork.com/blog/10-strangest-facts-didnt-know-calgary-stampede
LIVING STANDARDS

HOUSING

85% OF EMERGENCY SHELTER USERS ONLY STAY FOR ONE OR TWO NIGHTS (The School of Public Policy, University of Calgary)²³

- Study examined 33,000 people who stayed in Calgary homeless shelters over a five-year period, finding that the majority stayed infrequently and for a short period of time. The data found only 1.6% stayed frequently and for long periods, but their impact on the system was significant, (occupying 1/3 of beds)
- Despite the progress moving more than 6,000 people off the streets since 2008, the one-night count of the city’s homeless last October tallied 3,531 people spending the night at the city’s shelters, short-term housing facilities or on the streets — virtually unchanged since January 2014, when the count was 3,533

54% OF ALBERTA’S HOMELESS POPULATION LIVES IN CALGARY, 34% LIVES IN EDMONTON (Calgary Sun, 2015)²⁴

- 4% live in Fort McMurray, 3% in Grande Prairie, 2% in Reed Deer and Lethbridge with the remaining 1% in Medicine Hat
- 18.4% of Calgary’s homeless were new to town, slightly higher than the provincial average of 18.1%

1,617 EMERGENCY SHELTER BEDS IN CALGARY (Shelter Capacity Report, 2012)²⁵

- Number of beds has stayed the same, but number of shelters is down

WORK

128,300 CALGARIANS ARE SELF-EMPLOYED, HIGHEST NUMBER PER CAPITA IN CANADA (Calgary Economic Development, 2014)²⁶

- 91.2 people per 1,000 are self-employed in Calgary

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²³ Who are the homeless? Numbers, trends and characteristics of those without homes in Calgary, School of Public Policy, University of Calgary 2015: [http://www.policyschool.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/research/who-are-homeless-kneebone-bell-jackson-jadidzadeh.pdf](http://www.policyschool.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/research/who-are-homeless-kneebone-bell-jackson-jadidzadeh.pdf)
• 87.8 people per 1,000 are self-employed in Vancouver

48% OF ALBERTANS WOULD STRUGGLE IF THEIR PAYCHEQUE WAS DELAYED JUST ONE WEEK (The Canadian Payroll Association, 2015)27

• If an emergency arose in the next month, 25% of Albertans would be unable to come up with $2,000
• 40% of Albertans feel overwhelmed by debt – 4% higher than the national average

CALGARY HAS THE SECOND HIGHEST TOTAL GROWTH IN SALARIES AND WAGES OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS AMONG MAJOR CANADIAN CITIES (Calgary Economic Development, 2015)28


• 63% of low-wage earners are women, 79% are 20+ years, 24% are 45+ years

POVERTY

CALGARY’S 2013 LOW INCOME RATE: 7.5%, COMPARED TO ALBERTA: 7.6% & NATIONAL: 14% (Statistics Canada, 2013)30

• 43% of children in lone-parent families headed by a woman live in low income. Implications of this rate include educational and employment opportunities, ability to break intergenerational poverty and to flee domestic violence are immense given these considerations

PREDATORY LENDING THROUGH PAYDAY LOAN BUSINESS USAGE IS UP IN 2014 (The Globe and Mail, 2015)31

• 73 of 86 payday loan businesses are in areas with above average incidences of poverty
• Number of people who say they or a family member have used payday loan services in the last year has more than doubled from 2% in 2009 to 4% in 2014

GETTING AROUND

HOW CALGARIANS GET TO WORK:

- **67% DRIVE** (City of Calgary Transportation Planning – Drive Alone 2014)\(^{32}\)
- **18% TAKE TRANSIT** (City of Calgary Transportation Planning – Transit 2014)\(^{33}\)
- **5% CARPOOL** (City of Calgary Transportation Planning – Carpool 2014)\(^{34}\)
- **5% WALK** (City of Calgary Transportation Planning – Walk 2014)\(^{35}\)
- **1% CYCLE** (City of Calgary Transportation Planning – Bicycle 2014)\(^{36}\)

**CALGARY HAS THE THIRD HIGHEST LRT RIDERSHIP IN NORTH AMERICA** (Calgary Herald, June 2015)\(^{37}\)

FOOD

**FOOD ASSETS GROW** (Calgary Eats! 2014)\(^{38}\)

- 19 farmer/public markets – Farmers’ market and farm retail market value in Calgary is $878 million (tripled since 2004)
- 200+ community gardens
- 8 urban orchards
- 10 community supported agriculture programs
- 4 food home delivery services of local food

**43% OF CALGARY FOODBANK USERS ARE CHILDREN (6% HIGHER THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE)** (Calgary Food Bank 2014)\(^{39}\)

**58% OF CALGARIANS 12 YEARS AND OLDER AND 66% 65 YEARS AND OLDER ARE NOT EATING THE RECOMMENDED AMOUNTS OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES** (Statistics Canada 2014)\(^{40}\)

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• The recommended intake of fruits and vegetables is five servings daily
• This was a 6.6% decrease from 2003, but an increase 2011 rate lows of 51.8%. This is lower than both the provincial average at 61.2%, and the national average at 60.5%

MONTHLY COST OF HEALTHY EATING FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR = $1,098.92 (ANFB, 2015)\(^{41}\)

• Man 31-50 years old, woman 31-50 years old, male child 9-13 years old, female child 4-8 years old
• The ANFB provides an estimate of the cost of healthy eating based on current nutrition recommendations and typical food consumption patterns. Food prices are collected biannually in communities throughout Alberta through a partnership between Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development and Alberta Health Services, Nutrition Services, with the support of local full-service grocery stores.

COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE

ENOUGH FOR ALL: A community-driven poverty reduction strategy that aims to address the root causes of poverty. Enough for All began as the Calgary Poverty Reduction Initiative (CPRI), which was launched in 2011 by Mayor Naheed Nenshi following his first campaign for office. It is based on 15,000 hours of consultation with Calgarians, the business community, government, nonprofits, and academia. It is built on the principles of abundance, resilience and trust

SIMPLIFYING THE SYSTEM: Calgarians applying for City-subsidized programs now need to apply only once to have their income qualified for all five programs including:

• **No Cost Spay/Neuter:** Animal & Bylaw Services offers free spay and neuter surgery for companion cats and dogs of eligible low-income Calgarians
• **Property Tax Assistance:** Financial assistance is available for low-income homeowners who experience an increase in their property tax
• **Recreation:** Calgarians in financial need can qualify for the fee-assistance program that offers reduced rates on recreation programs offered by The City, admissions to City-run recreation facilities
• **Transit Low Income Passes:** Discounted monthly passes are available for low-income adults and youth that allow unlimited access to Calgary Transit services
• **Seniors’ Home Maintenance Services:** This program helps low-income seniors live securely in their own homes by providing basic yard care, snow removal, house cleaning, interior and exterior painting, and minor repairs

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\(^{40}\) Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey, Indicator Profile, for Canada, Provinces and Health Regions, CANSIM Table 105-0501: [http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/150617/dq150617b-eng.pdf](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/150617/dq150617b-eng.pdf)

\(^{41}\) Alberta Nutritious Food Basket (ANFB) for Calgary June 2015
THRIVING POPULATIONS

YOUTH

YOUTH CRIME HAS DROPPED BY 40% FROM 2010 (Calgary Police Service Annual Statistical Report 2010–2014)\(^2\)

ABORIGINAL POPULATIONS

69% OF ALL CHILDREN IN CARE IN ALBERTA ARE ABORIGINAL (Alberta Human Services’ 2013 Child Intervention Statistics report)\(^3\)

AN ESTIMATED 12,000 SURVIVORS OF THE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SYSTEM LIVE IN ALBERTA (Globe and Mail, 2015) \(^4\)

- The last residential school didn’t close until 1996
- Almost a third of aboriginal Canadians – 150,000 people, were raised, without access to their families in residential institutions

AGING POPULATIONS

9,000 OF CALGARY’S 133,000 SENIORS EXPERIENCE SOME FORM OF ELDER ABUSE (Calgary Herald, 2015) \(^5\)

- 83% of alleged cases in Calgary, perpetrator was a family member or spouse of the victim
- Calgary’s aging population is expected to grow from 12% to nearly 20% by 2035
- Calgary’s Elder Abuse Response Team (EART), a partnership between Carya, Kerby Centre and CPS resource line received more than 2,000 calls in 2014

THE NUMBER OF HOMELESS SENIORS INCREASED FROM 84 IN 2012 TO 122 IN 2014, MANY OF WHOM WERE LIVING IN EMERGENCY SHELTERS (Calgary Sun, 2015) \(^6\)

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VACANCIES AND RENTS RISE AT CITY’S SENIORS’ RESIDENCES (Calgary Herald, 2015)  
- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation reports vacancy rates for standard retirement spaces in the Calgary metro area has grown to 6.4% from 4.8% last year. This growth is due to more supply added to the market.

SENIORS AGE-FRIENDLY STRATEGY (City of Calgary, 2015)  
- Following the guidelines of the World Health Organization’s Age Friendly Cities framework, the Strategy was designed to incorporate the needs of aging Calgarians into the City’s planning and development.
- Council approved this plan in the summer of 2015 and implementation began in the fall of 2015.

IMMIGRANT NEWCOMERS

2014 CALGARY CMS TOP SOURCE COUNTRIES FOR PERMANENT RESIDENTS (Calgary Economic Development 2014)  
- Net gain of permanent residents from other countries: 19,740 in 2014
- New Calgarians (from other parts of Canada): 43,103 in 2014

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SIGNIFICANT TAX AND SOCIETAL RETURNS FROM IMMIGRANT ACCESS FUND MICRO
LOAN PAYBACK PROGRAM (IAF Canada)\(^{50}\)

- Borrowers who successfully completed their learning program, would go from paying $1,945 in tax based on their pre-borrowing income ($1,290 in federal tax, $655 in Alberta tax), to paying $8,452 as a result of the loan ($5,797 in federal tax and $2,655 in Alberta tax)
- The average Alberta IAF borrower who had completed their learning program had $16,000 in annual income at the time of the loan, but over $50,000 in annual income at follow up
- Each dollar of public funding for these loans returns over $15 in additional income for society, and around $3 in additional tax for the federal and provincial treasuries in the borrower’s first year of employment

COMMUNITY
KNOWLEDGE

There’s No Place Like Home (CBC News, 2015)\(^{51}\): Calgary Boys and Girls Club launched Aura Host Homes that matches homeless LGBTQ2S+ youth with approved host families who provide a safe and welcoming home

CBE Holistic Help & Healing Program: In 2016, the Calgary Board of Education will open a new early learning centre that will provide parenting support, a cultural space, preschool programs, full-day kindergarten and before and after school care for Aboriginal families

A Senior Friendly City: Following the World Health Organization’s Age Friendly Cities guidelines, the City of Calgary has approved a Seniors Age-Friendly Strategy to incorporate the needs and contributions of aging Calgarians into the city’s planning and development

\(^{50}\) IAF Canada, Evaluating the Income & Tax Yield Outcomes of the Immigrant Access Fund Program in Alberta, by Dr. J.C. Herbert Emery, March 2013: http://www.iafcanada.org/assets/228/IAF%20Evaluation%20of%20Income%20and%20Tax%20Outcomes%20Dr%20JC%20Emery%20March%202015.pdf

\(^{51}\) CBC News Calgary, Homeless LGBT youth to be matched with host families, June 2015: http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/homeless-lgbt-youth-to-be-matched-with-host-families-1.3112495
ENVIRONMENT

GRADE: 2014: B- | 2015: B-

CONSERVATION

CALGARY FOUNDATION’S FLOOD REBUILDING FUND GRANTED $9 MILLION THROUGH 130 GRANTS (The Calgary Foundation 2015)52

- Following the Southern Alberta Floods of June 2013, the Calgary Foundation established the Flood Rebuilding Fund, which supports qualified donees in long-term rebuilding and recovery efforts in Calgary and area including the hardest hit areas of High River, Canmore, and surrounding First Nation reserves

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS ARE UP 22% FROM 2005 CITY WIDE DUE TO POPULATION INCREASE (City of Calgary, 2011)53

- Calgary has a target to reduce city-wide GHG emissions to 20% below 2005 levels by 2020 (the reductions needed to avoid the most dangerous impacts of climate change), and 80% below 2005 levels by 2050. In 2014, Calgary’s city-wide emissions were 22% above 2005 levels
- The primary reason for the growth in emissions is due to population growth in Calgary
- Starting in 2012, the provincial government legislated a Renewable Fuel Standard. This required that an average of 2% renewable diesel in diesel fuel and 5% renewable alcohol in gasoline sold in Alberta (Vehicle fuel is the fastest growing component of the community GHG inventory – cleaner gasoline and diesel fuel starting in 2012 helps to counteract some of that growth)
- Average vehicle fuel efficiency has improved since 2005. However, the average vehicle size driven in Calgary has also increased. Therefore, improved vehicle fuel efficiency is counteracted by an increasing average vehicle size in Calgary

CALGARY’S LRT LEADING CANADA IN RENEWABLES (Huffington Post Alberta, 2015)54

- LRT 100% wind power since 2012 and the city's other operations use a mix of renewable energies including wind, hydro, biomass and solar power
- City’s investment in renewable energy enabled 144MW of new wind capacity
- By purchasing wind power Calgary Transit reports they are saving 56,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per year

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SUSTAINABILITY

CITY WORKING TOWARDS 80% LANDFILL DIVERSION (City of Calgary Waste and Recycling Services 2011) 55

- In 2014, Calgarians sent an average of 627 kg/capita to landfills – a drop of approx. 125 kg/capita over the last five years (overall waste diversion rate of 30% in 2014)
- It is also estimated that Calgarians had achieved an overall waste diversion rate of 30% in 2014 (due to the introduction of diversion programs in the single family sector including blue cart recycling and the organics pilot program)
- Calgarians still send over 749,000 tonnes of waste to landfill annually

10 SECONDS OF IDLING USES MORE FUEL THAN TURNING YOUR ENGINE OFF AND RESTARTING IT (City of Calgary News Blog) 56

- Parked and running vehicles continue to produce emissions that contribute to air pollution
- If you want to start an idle free zone at your school or workplace visit calgary.ca for idle-free posters that can be downloaded and printed

RIPARIAN AREAS IN CALGARY: AREAS SURROUNDING RIVERS, CREEKS AND STREAMS (City of Calgary 2015) 57

- Two rivers: Bow River and Elbow River
- Eight creeks: Nose Creek, West Nose Creek, Twelve Mile Coulee, Coach Creek, Confederation Creek, Forest Lawn Creek, Radio Tower Creek, Pine Creek

400 ROOFTOP AND URBAN BEEHIVES IN CALGARY INCLUDING TWO BEEHIVES IN ROOFTOP GARDENS OF THE CITY OF CALGARY’S MUNICIPAL BUILDING (Calgary Eats 2014) 58

- Rooftop gardens and urban beehives can be found at The Mustard Seed and on restaurants and hotels such as downtownfood, Catch Restaurant, and the Hyatt Regency
- Urban beehives in Calgary are managed by Apiaries and Bees for Communities (A.B.C), a local initiative for pollination stewardship, training 236 Calgarians in hobby beekeeping since 2010

56 City of Calgary News Blog, “Seven actions you can take to help the environment”, April 2015: http://www.calgarycitynews.com/search/label/Environment#
**Energy Futures Lab:** Led by the Natural Step and convened by the Pembina Institute, the Banff Centre and the Suncor Energy Foundation, the Energy Futures Lab brings leaders together to address current and emerging energy challenges and identify, test and scale new initiatives and collaborations.

**Gardens in the Sky:** The Mustard Seed, the City of Calgary Municipal Building, the Hyatt Regency Hotel and Catch restaurant have joined the urban agricultural trend of building rooftop gardens.

**Mapping What Matters**[^59]: Guided by a vision of healthy ecosystems for all Albertans, a project to improve the effectiveness, resiliency and connectedness of environmental nonprofits in Calgary by the Alberta Ecotrust Foundation.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

NEIGHBOURHOODS

CALGARY FOUNDATION SUPPORTS CITIZEN-LED INITIATIVES (The Calgary Foundation 2015)\(^{60}\)

- Calgary Foundation’s Neighbour & Stepping Stones Grants: 11,700 & counting citizens touched by neighbour & stepping stones grants

CALGARY FOUNDATION NEIGHBOUR GRANTS (UP TO $5,000)(The Calgary Foundation 2015)\(^{61}\)

- $140,403 granted out to 30 projects
- 8,000 attendees and 121 volunteers

STEPPING STONES GRANTS (UP TO $5,000) (The Calgary Foundation 2015)\(^{62}\)

- $12,596 granted out to 22 projects
- 3,700 attendees and 90 volunteers

2015 VITAL SIGNS SURVEY RESULTS REVEAL 67% OF CALGARIANS 12 YEARS AND OLDER REPORTED A STRONG SENSE OF COMMUNITY BELONGING (Calgary Foundation’s Vital Signs Survey, 2015) \(^{63}\)

INCLUSION

68% OF ALL HATE/BIAS CRIMES REPORTED ARE MOTIVATED BY RACE/ETHNICITY (AN INCREASE OF 59% FROM 2013) (Calgary Police Service Annual Statistical Report 2009-2013)\(^{64}\)

- Hate/Bias Crimes increased in 2014 which is positive as this means they are being captured and reported. (These types of offences are particularly susceptible to under-reporting given the sensitive nature and motivations of some of the crime)

BY 2019, AN ESTIMATED 200,000 CALGARIANS WILL BE LIVING WITH A DISABILITY (Metro News, 2015)\(^{65}\)

- Just one to three per cent of affordable housing is accessible

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\(^{63}\) The Calgary Foundation, Vital Signs Report Survey Results 2015


The standard population requires between 8-10 per cent of housing to be accessible
There are over 100 city buildings that need to be audited for accessibility

CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

CALGARIANS GAVE MORE IN 2013 ($420 MEDIAN CHARITABLE DONATION) (Statistics Canada, 2015)

- Fewer Calgarians donated in 2015 (24.5% of Calgarians gave a charitable donation)
- Since 1997, median charitable donations have risen 147.1%, from $170
- Median charitable donations in Calgary (CMA) are $140 higher than the national average ($280)

FOUR OF CALGARY’S RIDINGS MADE UP THE LOWEST VOTER TURNOUT RATE IN ALBERTA (Elections Alberta)

- Calgary-Cross (40.6%), Calgary-Buffalo (40.9%), Calgary-East (40.9%) and Calgary-Greenway (41%)
- Past voter turnout:
  - 2015 – 53.7%
  - 2012 – 54.4%
  - 2004 – 45.1%
  - 2001 – 53.4%
  - 2008* – 40.6% *Smallest voter turnout in Alberta general election history
  - 1935 – 81.8% *Largest voter turnout in Alberta general election history

COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE

Transit 100% Accessible (City of Calgary News Blog): Calgary Transit’s fleet of 1,100 buses has been transitioned to low-floor buses that allow a ramp to be lowered to make it easier for customers with mobility issues to board the bus.

Most Walkable Neighborhoods (Avenue Calgary 2015): According to a 2015 survey published in Avenue magazine, walkability is the most important characteristic in making a great neighborhood. Top ten:

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67 Elections Alberta, Official Poll Results – Provincial May 2015: http://resultsnew.elections.ab.ca/orResultsPGE.cfm?EventId=31&bED=11&ED=11
68 City of Calgary News Blog, “Calgary HandiBus now on Calgary Transit team” August 2015: http://www.calgarycitynews.com/search/label/Accessiblity#sthash.u47oFiCw.dpuf
69 Avenue Calgary 2015: http://www.avenuecalgary.com/Best-Neighbourhoods/
1. Chinatown
2. Downtown Commercial Core
3. Cliff Bungalow
4. Eau Claire
5. Beltline
6. Downtown West End
7. Downtown East Village
8. Lower Mount Royal
9. Sunnyside
10. Hillhurst

**Bridge Over the Bow (City of Calgary News Blog 2015)**: In April 2014, The City installed an automatic data counter at the Peace Bridge to collect information on the number of trips being made across it each day on foot or by bike. Over the last 12 months, nearly 1.4 million crossings have been made by people walking and cycling across the Peace Bridge. That works out to be an average count of more than 3,800 a day.

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LIFELONG LEARNING

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

27% OF CALGARY CHILDREN EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTY IN ONE OR MORE AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT (Early Childhood Developing Mapping Project Alberta 2015) 71

DURING THE FIRST 2,000 DAYS OF A CHILD’S DEVELOPMENT (AGE 5), NAMELY FROM CONCEPTION TO KINDERGARTEN, MORE BRAIN DEVELOPMENT OCCURS THAN AT ANY OTHER TIME IN LIFE (The First 2,000 Days Child Development 2015)72

- The First 2,000 Days Network is a collective response of community members, organizations and professionals with a passion to make sure children from conception to age six are supported by family and community in order to reach their optimal development in the following five areas: physical health, emotional maturity, social competence, language, thinking skills, communication skills and general knowledge

SCHOOL AGE LEARNING

17,000 GRADE 7, 8 AND 9 ALBERTA STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT PEER AND DATING VIOLENCE WITH THE SHIFT PROJECT THAT FOCUSES ON THE “FOURTH R: RELATIONSHIPS” (Shift, 2015)73

- Shift, The Project to End Domestic Violence was initiated by the Brenda Strafford Chair in the Prevention of Domestic Violence, in the Faculty of Social Work, at the University of Calgary. Shift has a project called the “Fourth R: Relationships”, an evidence and school-based universal prevention resource that targets peer and dating violence and related risk behaviours

HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION IMPROVING SINCE 2008 (Statistics Canada, 2011)74

- 2014 High School non-completion rates: Calgary: 12.89%, Alberta: 16.6%, National: 17.9%
- Calgary, 2000: 19.2%

72 The First 2,000 Days Child Development Network http://www.2000days.ca/
POST-SECONDARY LEARNING

7,000 CREATIVE INDUSTRY STUDENTS GRADUATE EACH YEAR FROM A CREATIVE INDUSTRY PROGRAM AT CALGARY’S POST-SECONDARY SCHOOLS (Calgary Herald, 2015)75

19,000 CREATIVE ESTABLISHMENTS IN CALGARY (ARTISTS’ STUDIOS, RECORDING STUDIOS, ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS AND ART GALLERIES) (Calgary Herald 2015)76

ADULT LEARNING

CALGARY’S POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL LANDSCAPE IS ALIVE WITH VARIETY AND POSSIBILITIES: (Calgary Economic Development 2015)77

- Distance learning, travel study, practicum, internships and apprenticeships in addition to learning in an academic setting (MRU, U of C, SAIT, Bow Valley College, ACAD and Ambrose)

BOW VALLEY COLLEGE (BVC) UNVEILED THE 1,000 WOMEN RISING CAMPAIGN IN JUNE 2015 (Bow Valley College 2015)78

- This initiative has a simple, but powerful goal: 1,000 women rising up to help other women finish their post-secondary education and achieve their career ambitions. The program is aiming to raise $1 million in funding support to assist our female students in overcoming barriers to learning

COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE

CALGARY POLICE YOUTH PROGRAMS

**MASST:** Multi-Agency School Support Team works with children aged 5-12 years who are criminally involved or at risk of criminal involvement or victimization through early intervention

**YARD:** Youth at Risk Development program is an evidence-based initiative that seeks to prevent or stop gang involvement and criminal behaviors among youth aged 10-17 years

**SHOP:** Serious Habitual Offender Program identifies and monitors persons aged 12-24 years in Calgary who have a history of involvement in frequent criminal acts and are regarded as very likely to reoffend

**REDIRECT:** A first for Canada, a terrorism intervention program aimed at pulling youth away from radicalization
Mental Health

10% of AHS Services are Used by Children and Youth with Mental Health Problems (University of Alberta School of Public Health 2014)\(^79\)

- There is a need for a systematic description of child and youth unmet needs for services. This information is required in order to engage in system-level planning for child and youth services.
- About half of AHS direct and contracted programs surveyed indicated that they exclude children and adolescents and/or refer them elsewhere, respectively.

Work Absences Up in 2014 with an Average of 6.7 Days Off per Year (Statistics Canada)\(^80\)

- Mental health problems affect 21% of the working population and contribute to 30% of short and long-term disability claims.
- In Calgary, full-time workers were absent from work an average of 6.7 days in 2014 (excluding days spent on maternity leave), up 8.1% from 6.2 days in 1997.
- By comparison, the average number of days absent in 2013 was 7.6 days provincially and 8.8 days nationally.

Physical Health

Number of Family Physicians Up Above National Average (Canadian Institute for Health Information)\(^81\)


Youth (Ages 12-17) Obesity Rates Increased from 15% in 2003 to 28% in 2014 and Adult Obesity Rates Increased 14% in 2003 to 19% in 2014 (Statistics Canada 2013)\(^82\)

- Adult obesity rates for the population 18 years and older increased 25% between 2003 and 2014 from 13.9% to 18.6%. However, the 2014 rate is still 1.6 percentage.

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\(^81\) Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), Health Indicator Report 2013: [https://secure.cihi.ca/estore/productSeries.htm?pc=PCC34](https://secure.cihi.ca/estore/productSeries.htm?pc=PCC34)

\(^82\) Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey, Health Indicator Profile, annual estimates, by age group and sex, Canada, Provinces, territories, Health Regions (2013 boundaries) and peer groups 2013: [http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&id=1050501](http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&id=1050501)
points below the national average (20.2%) and 2.9 percentage points below the provincial average (21.5%)

61% OF ADULTS IN CALGARY HEALTH ZONE WHO SPENT THEIR TIME BEING ACTIVE OR MODERATELY ACTIVE IN 2014 (Statistics Canada 2015)83

- This is an increase of 4.6% from 2003 and a steady increase over time. Calgary (Health Zone) also ranks above both national (53.7%) and provincial (57%) averages by 7.6% and 4.3% respectively

SPORTS AND RECREATION

400 NUMBER OF SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS (Sport Calgary 2014)84

85+ DIFFERENT SPORTS OFFERED (Sport Calgary 2014)85

360,000 NUMBER OF REGISTRANTS IN PROGRAMS (Sport Calgary 2014)86

KIDSPORT HAS ALREADY SEEN A 35% INCREASE IN REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT BY END OF JULY 2015 (Calgary Herald 2015)87

SAFETY

PROPERTY CRIMES DECREASE 6% FROM 2010 AND NON-VIOLENT CRIME SEVERITY INDEX BELOW NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL VALUES (Calgary Police Service Annual Statistical Report 2010–2014)88

- Property crimes include break and enter, theft, vehicle theft, fraud related crime
- Property crimes comprise 7 in 10 of the Criminal Code offences recorded in the city, making it the offence type that affects the greatest number of people
- 3,000 vehicles were stolen between January and August 2015 – up by more than 50% from the same period last year

CALGARY POLICE CHILD ABUSE UNIT (Calgary Police Service Annual Statistical Report 2010 – 2014)89

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84 Sport Calgary 2014: [https://www.sportcalgary.ca/en/research](https://www.sportcalgary.ca/en/research)
• 476 investigations initiated, 142 assists on cases, 1,000 interviews conducted

**10% INCREASE IN DOMESTIC INCIDENTS ATTRIBUTED TO GROWING PUBLIC AWARENESS**
(Calgary Police Service Annual Statistical Report 2010 – 2014)

• 18,559 incidents in 2014 compared to 16,908 in 2013

**COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE**

**Fighting Cybercrime** (Calgary Police Service Annual Statistical Report 2010 – 2014): The Calgary Police Service has a cybercrime team to support investigations that involve the internet such as criminal harassment, homicide, non-consensual distribution of images, missing persons and cyber-financial crimes. In 2014, the team assisted in 416 criminal investigations.

**Building A Legacy of Play for Children** (City of Calgary News Blog 2015): In 2017, the City of Calgary will host the Triennial International Play Association World Conference that will bring together members from nearly 50 countries to exchange ideas and inspire action about play.

**9-1-1 Text Award** (City of Calgary Annual Report): The City of Calgary won the Municipal Excellence Award for being the first in Alberta to launch text with 9-1-1 that allows the deaf, hard of hearing and speech impaired community to get the emergency help they need.

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