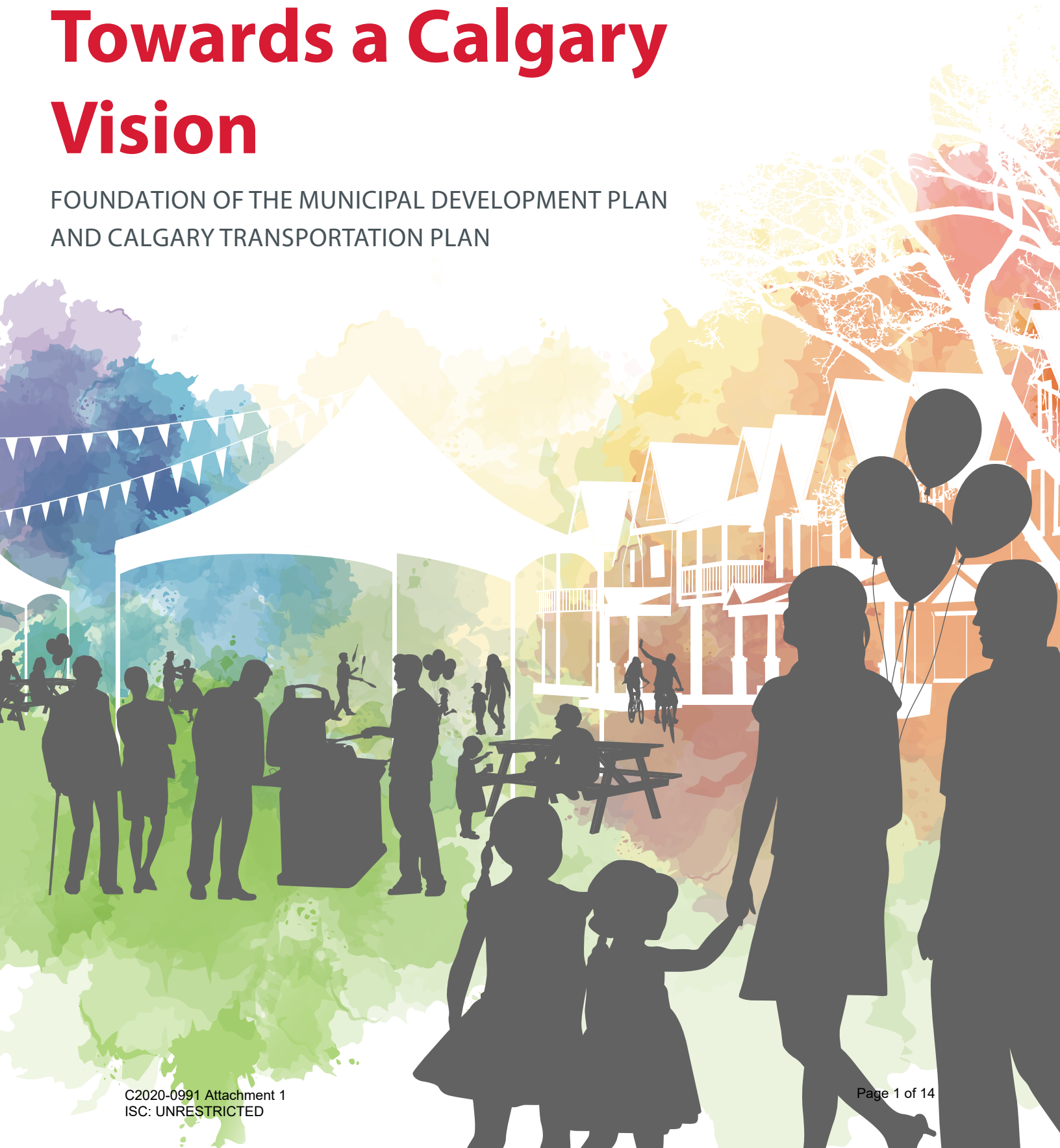


# Towards a Calgary Vision

FOUNDATION OF THE MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
AND CALGARY TRANSPORTATION PLAN





# Calgary's Legacy of Change

After decades of exceptional growth cycles, Calgary is facing new challenges. In recent years, The City has faced turbulent times. Challenges include the 2013 floods, economic shifts in the global energy industry, and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Choosing to face exceptional opportunities and challenges is central to Calgary's story. This is why "Onwards" is the motto at the centre of The City of Calgary's crest. Again and again, Calgarians have shown their ability to adapt to change and move forward.

The Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and Calgary Transportation Plan (CTP) is the foundation to guide decisions and investment. The Plans work towards realizing Calgary's vision to be a sustainable, resilient city focused on maintaining a world-renowned quality of life, outstanding natural assets and a strong diverse economic future.



## Calgary's Vision and Council's Direction

Council adopted the MDP and the CTP in 2009. The policies contained within these Plans reflect the voice of thousands of Calgarians and are built upon the visioning work of The Go Plan, The Calgary Plan, imagineCalgary and Plan It. This massive collective effort focused on The City preparing for and delivering a future that is responsive to Calgarians goals, visions and priorities.

The Plans' visions are comprised of Sustainability Principles and Key Directions for Land Use and Mobility. Together, the MDP and CTP provide The City's long-term, 60-year strategy and 30-year planning and transportation policies. These elements direct how The City moves onwards during times of challenge and opportunities, and builds upon the tradition of making Calgary a great place to live and make a living. They collectively work towards delivering diverse communities, respect for protecting the natural environment and maintaining Calgary's status as one of the most livable communities in the world. Further, the plans direct balancing growth to support financial sustainability, good value to citizens and sound investments for the coming decades.

### **How does the Municipal Development Plan work?**

The MDP is mandated by the Alberta Municipal Government Act. MDP (Volume 1) is The City of Calgary's highest level statutory plan guiding Council, staff, business and community groups. It provides a framework for implementation and investments to realize the Plan's vision and goals. Essential implementation tools include the Community Guidebooks (Volume 2), Calgary Transportation Plan (Proposed Volume 3), Local Area Plans, growth strategies and multiple guidelines.

### **Where does the Municipal Development Plan apply?**

The MDP applies to the entire city as outlined in the plan. The plan directs growth and respects The City's responsibility as the largest partner in the Calgary Metropolitan Region. Other City plans may offer additional detail, policy, regulations and guidance to advance The City's vision but should always be aligned to the MDP.



**Multi-partner Vision**

# imagineCalgary

**2005-2006**

- 18,000 Calgarians participated
- 100-year vision
- Sustainable more compact city form



**Municipal Visioning**

# Plan It Calgary

**2006-2009**

- 6,000 Calgarians participated
- Sustainable more compact city form

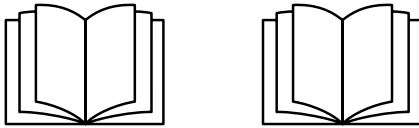


**Policy**

# MDP and CTP

**2009**

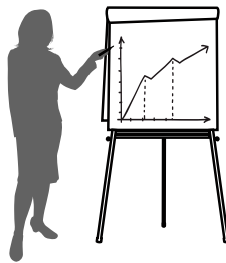
- Calgary's focus and growth directions to achieve the vision
- 10-year reviews



**Supporting Policy and Direction**

# Strategies, Guidebooks and Guidelines

- Ongoing Growth and Change Actions



**Implement**

# Implementation and Execution

- Investments to realize MDP and CTP objectives
- Deliver on the services our communities value



## 10-year Review

The vision policies and directions of the MDP and CTP have served Calgarians for the last decade. They have guided the development of increased transportation choices, promoted new mixed-use development and expanded housing choice, enhanced parks and recreation centres.

Cities are always changing, and this is particularly true of Calgary. To ensure the Plans continue to respect the changes to Calgary's context, the MDP requires a major review of Volume 1 every 10 years. In 2019, Council directed the review of the MDP and CTP to focus on technical updates, consider current growth forecasts, market trends, overall city and community values and The City's financial capacity.

## Vision Remains the Right Roadmap for Calgary

The present vision of the MDP and CTP is sustainable and resilient growth for Calgary. During the update process, the feedback received from community groups and stakeholders indicated that this vision remains the right direction for our city. Stakeholders and community members encouraged an increased focus on execution to realize the Plans' principles focusing on the following key elements.

## Key Elements of the Plans



### Economic development – shaping a city that retains and attracts

Many cities across North America would like to have grown as much as Calgary has in recent decades. The major driver for this growth was expansion in the energy sector and its demand for talent. Planning decisions and leveraging investments to appeal to a diversity of people further supported this growth. This combination of a strong economy and recognized livability resulted in Calgary being awarded as one of the most desirable places to live in Canada, and the world.

Neighbouring western North American cities, such as Denver, Salt Lake City and Vancouver, are working towards similar outcomes. They are realizing success in their livability and economic development by using their City Plans to their advantage. They work at continuously communicating the values embedded in their plans and celebrate the successful execution of their goals. Their focus is on decision-making and implementing projects which support their plans' long-term vision.

The MDP and CTP is committed to maintaining Calgary's status as "a great place to make a living, a great place to make a life," by increasing focus on realizing new diverse economic development and attracting new businesses. The goals and direction of the Plan offers policy to support The City's efforts as it seeks to cultivate these opportunities.

The MDP and CTP also enable Calgary to respond to change and evolve to keep its competitive advantage. Over the next 20 years, the plans support:

- A prosperous economy.
- Designing a city for all ages, including children.
- Protecting the natural environment.
- Maintaining a high standard of livability.
- Offering a great public life to its residents.

To further support economic development, the following ongoing initiatives implement the MDP and CTP.



### Greater Downtown Strategy

The Downtown Strategy will provide guidance on the "look and feel" of the downtown for the next 20-50 years and identify where change should occur and where change will be managed. It outlines an approach which focuses and directs land uses, development, public investments and strategies.



## Next Generation Planning – great neighbourhoods for everyone

The Next Generation Planning system is developing the strategies and tools to realize the MDP and CTP vision for great and complete communities. The system identifies implementation gaps in existing policies and processes. The program includes several supporting projects such as the Guidebook for Great Communities, Multi-Community Local Area Plans, and Growth and Change Strategies for the Established Area and Industrial Lands.

urban form and balancing future growth between the development of new communities and strategic redevelopment in built-out neighbourhoods. Realizing balanced growth is shown to have significant cost savings and reduce the tax burden.

Policy guiding strategic growth is refined in the update to leverage the benefits of change to support further sustainable investment. The focus of the changes is to further coordinate and direct land use, development, investment and strategies in support of a more compact urban form.



## Climate resilience

Calgary's climate is changing, creating both risks and opportunities. To meet these challenges, The City must integrate climate resiliency across the organization, including long-range planning. Climate resilience is the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses and systems within a city to survive, adapt, recover and grow despite climate-induced chronic stresses (e.g. water shortages) and acute shocks (e.g. floods). Climate resilience plays a critical part in Calgary's overarching resilience framework given how climate disruptions will impact many aspects of Calgary's operations and services and citizens' well-being.

How Calgary grows and develops will have significant impacts on greenhouse gas emissions and the capacity for our built form, systems and



## Balanced growth and realizing efficiencies

Though no longer booming or busting, the city continues to grow at a healthy rate and an independent review confirms Calgary should anticipate close to one million new residents within the next 50 years. The Plans' vision to accommodate this growth is through achieving a more compact



people to adapt to changing climate conditions. The Climate Program is the broad administrative umbrella that provides strategic oversight to climate-related activities at The City.

The Climate Resilience Strategy was adopted in 2018 and aims to maximize Calgary's climate resilience. Calgary is committed to a low-carbon future and reducing the impacts of climate change through commitments to reducing GHG emissions, mitigating risks from natural hazards and capitalizing on new opportunities.



## Alignment of Plans

The MDP and CTP update aligns and integrates citywide plans, initiatives and strategies to guide future investments, so things are working together to maximize outcomes. Through the review, The City's Climate Resilience Strategy and Infrastructure Calgary program describing The City's current investment approach have been incorporated.



## Transportation: a key advantage

Integrating land use and transportation remains as important as ever. To help realize increased transportation options, more complete communities and long-term financial sustainability the location and types of transportation is central in the land use planning process.

# Onward

In 2019, Calgary ranked the most livable city in North America by the Economist Intelligence Unit. Maintaining this high quality of life is embedded in the goals of the MDP and CTP. It is a critical factor in Calgary's growth. As the city grows, its economy is becoming more diverse and Calgary is seeing development in several sectors.

Calgary is diverse and multicultural. Upwards of 28 per cent of Calgarians were born outside Canada, and speak over 140 languages. The City believes that it should not matter what you look like, where you come from, how you worship, or who you love. All Calgarians belong here and deserve the opportunity to live life to its full potential.





## The City We Want to Build

Through imagineCalgary and Plan It, Calgarians expressed a desire to make their city grow in a more resilient, sustainable pattern that supports economic, social and environmental well-being.

One of the key directions coming from the community visioning is to achieve a more compact city form. This pattern should take advantage of using existing infrastructure more efficiently and reduce long-term costs.

In 2009, Council adopted the MDP and CTP policies to balance Calgary's growth between new communities and redevelopment in existing neighbourhoods. This commitment has been supported by projects like East Village redevelopment, new growth in the Beltline, adopting regulations for secondary suites and the award-winning new Central Library.

This commitment has resulted in the beginnings of a rebirth in its urban neighbourhoods and increased quality of design in the developing suburbs.

Balanced growth supports many singular outcomes including:

- Reducing traffic congestion.
- More walkable communities.
- Maximizing the investment in existing infrastructure.
- Reinvestment in existing communities.
- Increased housing choices.
- Supporting high-quality, frequent transit service.
- Maintaining existing retail hubs.

In the coming 60 years, Calgary is anticipating continuous long-term growth and upwards of one million more residents. The vision for Calgary outlined in the Municipal Development Plan and the Calgary Transportation Plan offers a foundation to harness the opportunities that come from this change. They guide Calgary on how to face future challenges, grow sustainably, prioritize investment and realize immediate and long-term benefits for our citizens

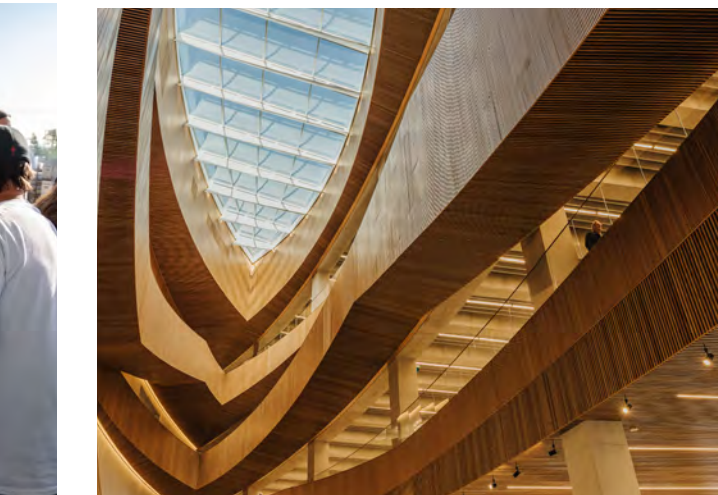
From its founding, Calgary has been a constant motion of growth and change. Work will continue to grow a more diverse economy and bring new businesses and people. Calgary has always been a city of people who embrace and support change. It is a city that brings together people and cultures, each with a desire to take risks and build a great Calgary.



Bow River pathway



Manchester Stampede Breakfast



Calgary Central Library

Olympic Plaza in the Downtown Core, 2018

**“I like thinking big. If I’m going to be thinking anyway. It may as well be big.”**

**Rem Koolhaas**

Founding Partner, Office for Metropolitan Architecture