

# Background

## Context

The global coronavirus pandemic declared on 2020 March 11 is Canada's second most deadly natural disaster in over 120 years. The death toll is second only to the 1918 Spanish Influenza. The negative impact extends beyond health and quality of life losses to include significant economic losses, social issues, and environmental impacts. Although this report's focus pertains to the economic impact, it does not mean that economic losses outweigh other impacts.

Calgary's sluggish economic growth in recent years turned into a deep recession last year. It was due to a coronavirus-induced lower demand for goods and services. Calgary experienced a significant decline in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from 2019 to 2020. It was due to restrictions to normal business activities targeted at slowing the spread of the virus. The result was adverse impacts on businesses and workers that support providing the goods and services.

Through past Council direction across multiple departments and the recommendations of the ERTF, City Administration is undertaking a significant body of work to support Calgary's post-pandemic economic recovery.

In 2021 February, and through support from the Service Owner Network, City Administration issued a survey to complete an inventory of the volume of ongoing post-pandemic economic recovery activities. The outcome is a list of 63 City-specific plans, programs and initiatives.

## Previous Council Direction

On 2018 November 14, C2018-1158 Council approved the One Calgary Service Plans and Budgets. Council direction on the 'Prosperous City' Citizen Priority confirmed that 'Calgary is open for business.' Council identified a prosperous and resilient economy as one of seven quality of life themes for Calgarians. The goal was to support making Calgary a great place to make a living and a great place to make a life.

On 2020 March 16, C2020-0390 Council approved the Economic Resilience Task Force (ERTF) as one of five Task Forces in the COVID-19 Corporate Governance structure. The mandate was to address Calgary's economic challenges and mitigate unfavourable impacts through recommendations. The recommendations would target economic resilience through coordinated response, recovery and resilience-building activities.