

Background

Context

The global coronavirus pandemic was declared on 2020 March 11. It 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. There are significant economic losses, social issues, and environmental impacts. The focus is on the economic impact. As a result, the total impact is much larger.

There were restrictions to normal business activities to slow the spread of the virus. The demand for goods and services fell sharply. There have been other economic challenges in recent years. Together, they have led to Calgary's deepest recession in 34 years. There are adverse impacts on businesses and workers.

Previous Council direction has led to multiple initiatives. The ERTF recommended programs complement ongoing work. There is now a variety of work to support Calgary's post-pandemic economic recovery.

In 2021 February, through the Service Owner Network, City Administration issued a survey. It led to a complete inventory of ongoing post-pandemic economic recovery activities. In total, there were 63 City-specific plans, programs, and initiatives.

In 2021 September, City Administration re-issued the survey. The outcome is up-to-date progress information. It is a comprehensive resource for ongoing post-pandemic economic recovery activities.

Previous Council Direction

On 2018 November 14, Council received report 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.

On 2020 March 16, Council received report C2020-0390. Council approved the ERTF. It was one of five Task Forces to overcome COVID-19 challenges. The ERTF mandate focused on Calgary's economic resilience. The task was to identify solutions. Recommendations were to target coordinated response, recovery, and resilience-building activities.

On 2020 November 9, Council received report C2020-1215. Council approved the Mid-Cycle Adjustments to the One Calgary 2019-2022 Service Plans and Budgets. It included new investments for medium-term economic recovery. The investments supported two ERTF programs. One of them was for green investments and financing. The other was innovation through public procurement programs. There was base funding support of \$174,000. The additional one-time component was \$667,000.

On 2021 April 27, Council received PFC2021-0579. The report was titled 'Post-Pandemic Economic Recovery.' Council direction was for continued tracking and communication with the Calgary community. Council requested updates every six months. After the 2021 November update, future updates would occur through Briefings. Council also asked for concluding ERTF recommendations in 2021 November.