

**CANADIAN FEDERATION
OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS**

Powered by Entrepreneurs.

Entrepreneurs' views on 2015 City of Calgary Budget

Richard Truscott, Alberta Director

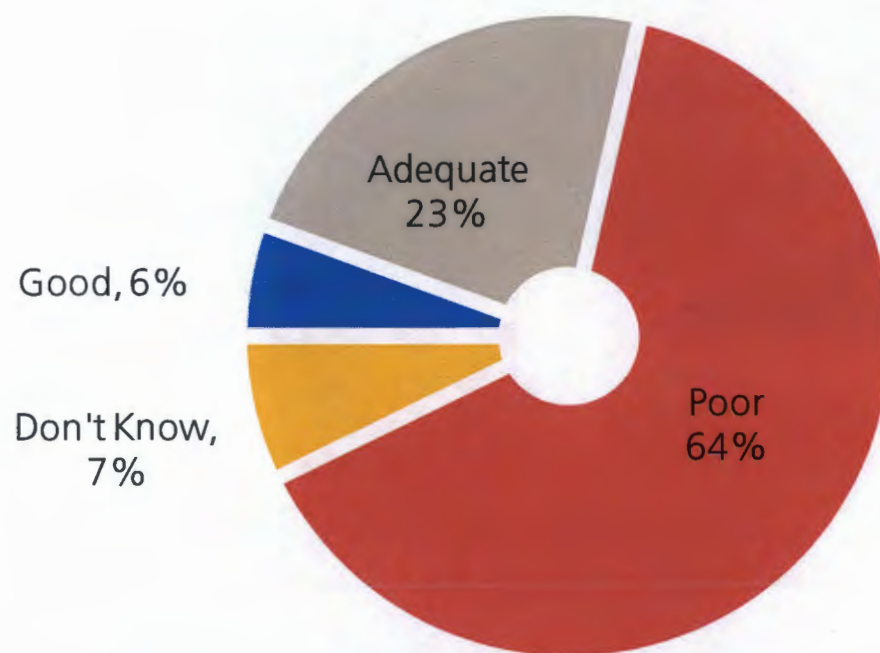
November 2014

About CFIB:

- ▶ Non-partisan, not-for-profit political advocacy organization
- ▶ Founded in 1971
- ▶ **109,000** independently owned and operated business members across Canada, including **10,000** in Alberta and **2,500** in Calgary
- ▶ Every sector of the economy, every region of the country
- ▶ Lobby federal, provincial, and municipal governments

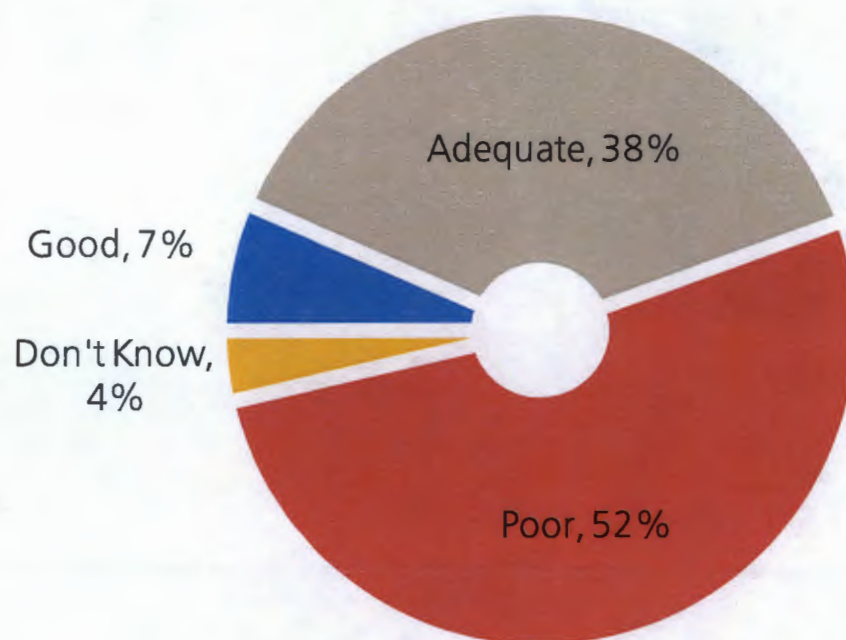
Awareness of small business needs

“How do you rate the local government where your business is situated on: overall awareness of small business sector?” (Calgary)

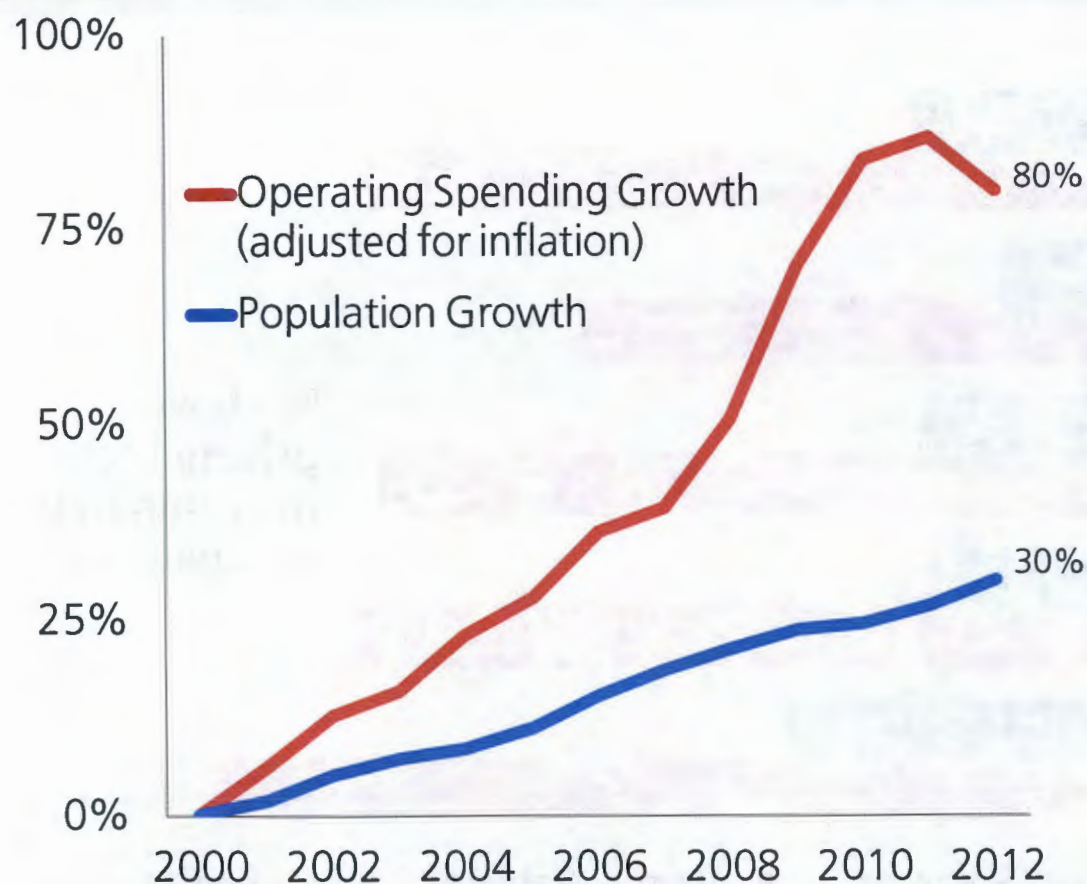


Value-for-money of city services

"How do you rate the local government where your business is situated on: value-for-money of public services?" (Calgary members)

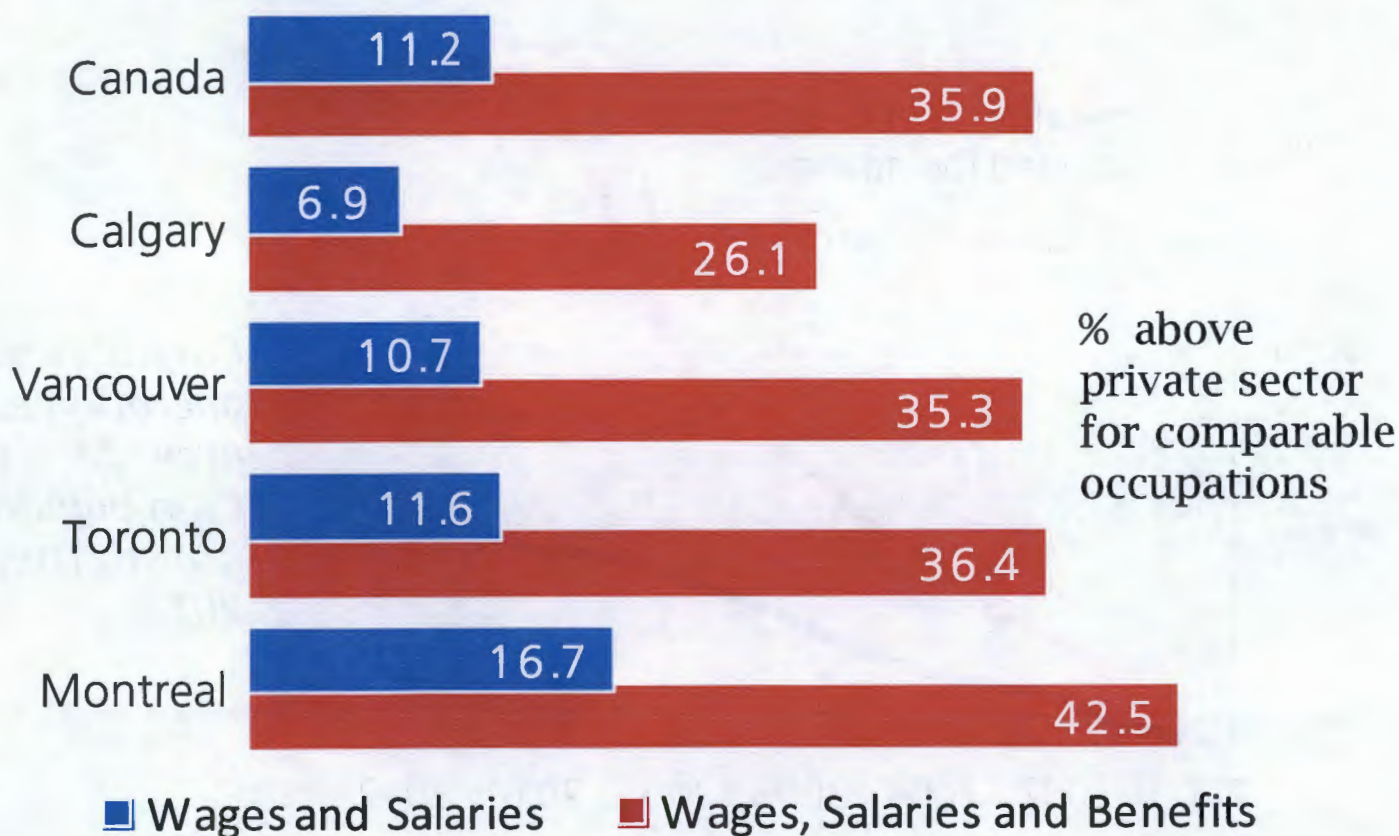


CFIB Municipal Spending Watch



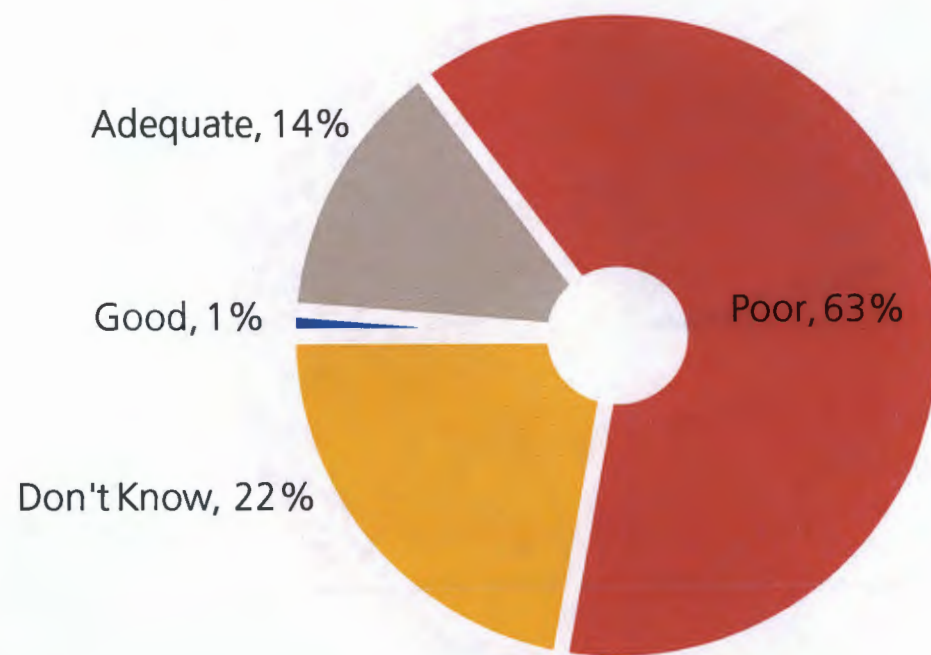
Calgary's municipal operating spending grew 2.6 X faster than population growth from 2000 to 2012

Municipal government wage & benefit advantage



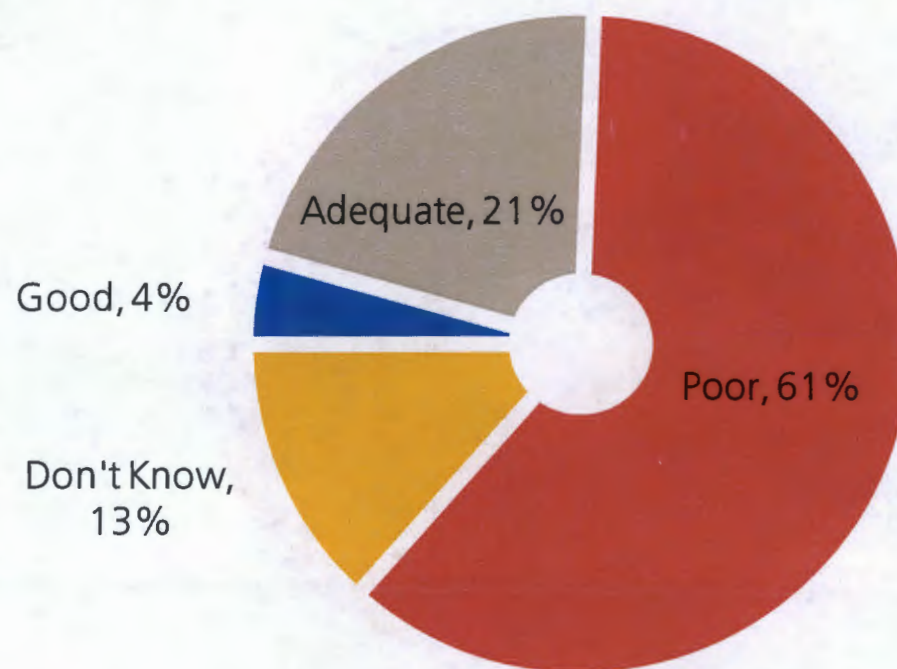
Controlling municipal wages

“How do you rate the local government where your business is situated on: controlling municipal wages?” (Calgary members)



Property tax burden

“How do you rate the local government where your business is situated on: reasonable property tax levels?” (Calgary members)

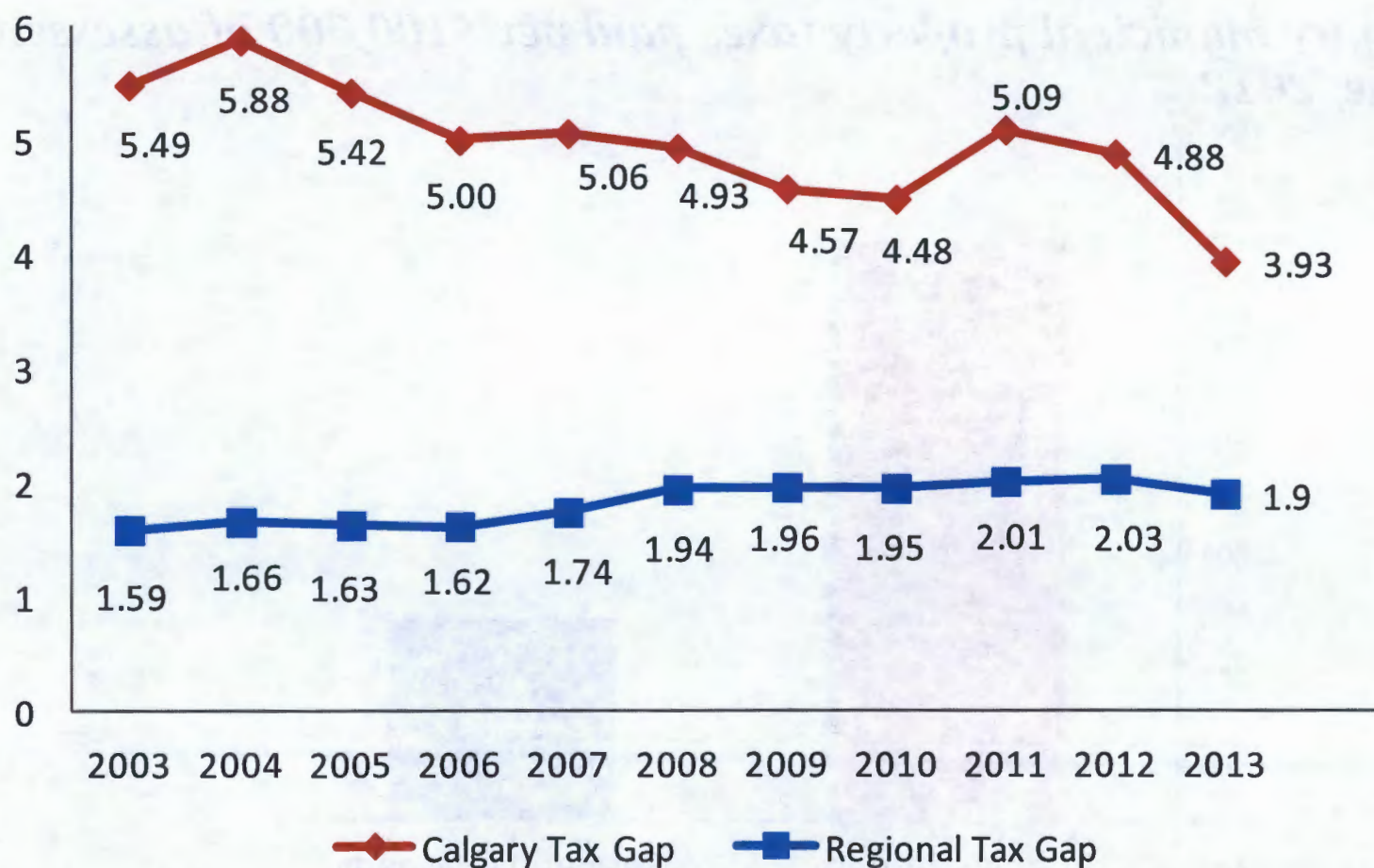


Better tax balance needed

Calgary municipal property taxes paid per \$100,000 of assessed value, 2012



Calgary tax gaps over time



Policy recommendations:

- ▶ Ensure growth in municipal operating spending is held to sustainability benchmark
- ▶ Conduct formal spending reviews and zero-based budgeting
- ▶ Adopt sustainable wage growth policies
- ▶ Examine new models of service delivery
- ▶ Rebalance the property tax system to make it more fair for small business

Questions?



**Building prosperity
for the future**

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