

CIVIC PARTNER 2022 ANNUAL REPORT SNAPSHOT- VCC INITIATIVES LTD (VIBRANT COMMUNITIES CALGARY)

VCC INITIATIVES LTD. (VIBRANT COMMUNITIES CALGARY)

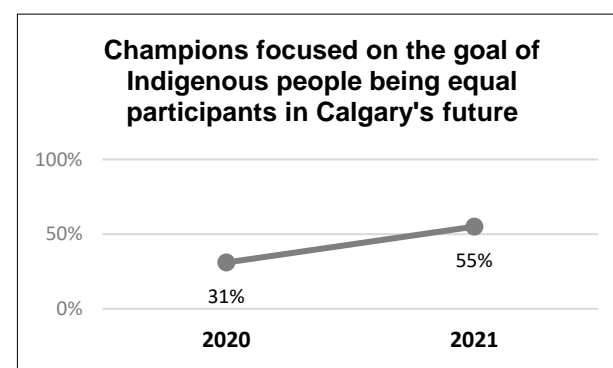
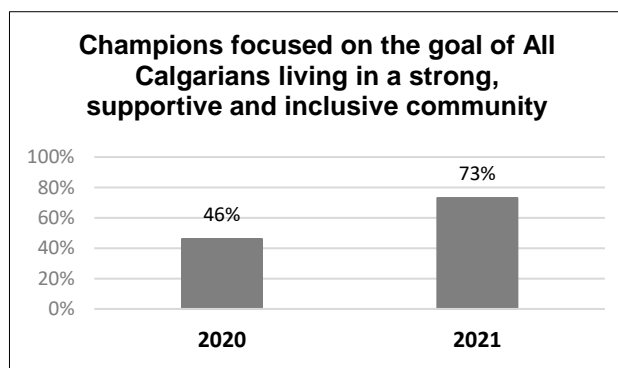
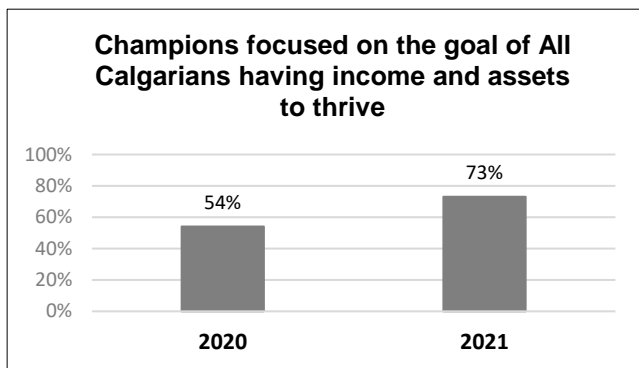
Mission: We will create opportunities to align and leverage the work of hundreds of organizations and thousands of Calgarians to reduce poverty in our city.

Line of Service: Community Strategies

2022 City Investment

Operating Grant: \$484,000

2022 Results



- Every year the *Enough for All* poverty reduction strategy is evaluated by an independent third-party to assess the community's progress towards achieving systems change priorities. The 2022 evaluation will be released in June 2023. The City of Calgary is a member of the evaluation committee.
- Champion survey participants were asked which of the *Enough for All* goals their organization aligns with. Results demonstrate that work is being done in all three areas, with overall increases in all three goals since 2019.

Addressing climate change

Partnered in a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Partnership Grant project, *Quality in the Built Environment*, focused on designing inclusive, sustainable and healthy cities. Participated as a subject matter expert on how climate change affects people living in poverty in Calgary and was a key contributor to the Calgary Climate Symposium in 2022.

Advancing equity, diversity and inclusion; and racial equity

Focused on a key principle in *Enough for All*: Reducing racism and discrimination and promoting diversity in the development and evaluation of policies, services, programs and workplace practices. Raised awareness and supported capacity building for *Enough for All* Champions on *Racism is a Root Cause of Poverty* including sessions on how Champions can be effective allies in their organizations.



VCC INITIATIVES LTD (VIBRANT COMMUNITIES CALGARY)
Civic Partner 2022 Audit Report

Civic Partner Name: Vibrant Communities Calgary (VCC) (Vibrant Initiatives Ltd.)

Legal Structure: Independent External Organization (non-profit company)

Manage/operate a City-owned asset: No

1) **What is your organization's guiding mission or mandate?**

Vision: We live in a community where there is enough for all.

Mission: We will create opportunities to align and leverage the work of hundreds of organizations and thousands of Calgarians to reduce poverty in our city.

Mandate: Vibrant Communities Calgary (VCC) works to achieve a substantial and sustained reduction in the number of Calgarians living in poverty. VCC works to grow the social, economic and political engagement of Calgarians in their community, and believe that everyone has a right to fully participate in their communities. There are important systemic factors that contribute to poverty, and VCC believes that the whole community has a vital role to play in changing these conditions. Change occurs through engagement, inspiration and action.

2) **What top 3-5 key results did your organization achieve in 2022 that contributed to one or more of key City strategies or plans or [Citizen Priorities](#) (a prosperous city, a city of safe and inspiring neighbourhoods, a city that moves, a healthy and green city)?**

Calgary's Corporate Affordable Housing Strategy: "Housing" is identified in *Enough for All* as a [Lever of Change](#) and outlines that access to affordable and appropriate housing decreases the likelihood that families and individuals will fall into or remain in poverty. In 2022 VCC invested significant resources to continue research and provincial advocacy on this file. Most notably, through our leadership and backboning of the Social Policy Collaborative, VCC commissioned research on the affordable housing system in Alberta and more specifically on Calgary's affordable housing need (discovering, for example, that Calgary has more than 81 000 households in need of affordable housing and calculated Calgary's portion of federal dollars earmarked for affordable housing). This research informed [A path to recovery: Growing Alberta's affordable housing stock and recover-oriented support systems](#) – a set of policy recommendations for the provincial government. These recommendations led VCC and the SPC's advocacy on this issue in 2022 that helped shape several provincial government funding announcements in late 2022 and early 2023 directly related to our ask.

Calgary EATS! Food Action Plan: [Food Security](#) was one of VCC's highlighted Levers of Change in 2022 due to the unprecedented food insecurity faced by Calgarians due to the pandemic and affordability crisis. To inform a coordinated, systems change approach to addressing food security, VCC conducted research which led to the report [State of Calgary's Emergency Food Assistance System](#) update, exploring the progress of Calgary's emergency food assistance system and new challenges in 2022 that includes policy and operational recommendations for the sector. Several of these recommendations started to be actioned at the end of 2022 by numerous community groups. VCC also elevated the issue of food insecurity in Calgary through dozens of media interviews on this subject, and continued root cause system

change work that will address food insecurity in the long term such as advocating for implementation of Calgary's [2022 living wage](#) and [advocating for indexation of income support](#) (which was achieved at the end of 2022 with VCC's advocacy in this area being cited as a key advocacy driver of indexation).

Anti-Racism Strategy: In 2022, VCC continued our commitment to advance the knowledge and practice of Allyship. We compiled tools and resources to help our Champions, staff, leadership and the community to advance the work of anti-oppression and anti-racism. We also engaged with Enough for All Champions in February offering tools like echoing the voices of lived experience, and tips for speaking up when you see something wrong. Attendees also discussed actions that can advance anti-racism and anti-oppression work, including things like purposefully incorporating the voices of lived experience in your workplaces and on boards. As a follow-up to the discussion, VCC set up a new page on our website to house resources and tools for further learning. [Check out Principles in Action: Allyship tools & resources.](#)

3) Performance measures help demonstrate the return on The City's investment in a partner's operations. Please identify performance measures that reflect your organization's impact in 2022 (how much you did, how well you did it, and how the people you serve are better off).

NOTE: A detailed accounting of organizational outcomes will be provided in the annual Enough for All evaluation which will be released in June 2023 that is compiling data from the City of Calgary, United Way, Momentum (our MOA Partners) and other sources. The City of Calgary is a member of the Enough for All Evaluation Committee.

See below (had difficulty placing in chart for top measures):

Performance Measure Name: All Calgarians live in a strong, supportive and inclusive community

How much did you do? In addition to the allyship and Indigenous reconciliation activities listed throughout this report, VCC, with its committee Poverty Talks!, held a number of important conversations and events to encourage people who live in poverty to get [engaged in our community](#) through civic participation. Below are some of the activities that were held this year to reach this goal:

- Poverty Talks! was very active in elevating the voices of lived experience in Calgary in 2022, including raising awareness and community conversations around increasing cost of living, accessible language in the courts, and strengthening community connections. Poverty Talks! has also finalized a peer manual, started discussions on youth engagement, and submitted feedback to the City's budget for 2023-26. Poverty Talks! shared stories with United Way as they work to update their *Make-the-Month* online tool and met with media on several occasions to provide insight on rising utility fees and the impact of inflation.
- On October 17 – the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty – eight community conversations were hosted by Poverty Talks! alongside the City of Calgary's community social work team and VCC staff to engage Calgarians on topics such as inflation and food security.

How well did you do it? Across these events and activities, we engaged thousands of Calgarians.

How are Calgarians better off? Calgarians who live in poverty are not always aware of the municipal policies and systems that hold poverty in place. By engaging citizens in these issues, Calgarians became aware of the key role that the municipality plays in poverty reduction and the citizen role in participating in

local government to advocate for issues that affect people in vulnerable situations.

Performance Measure Name: All Calgarians have sufficient income and assets to thrive

How much did you do? Income Support advocacy continued to be a major focus for VCC in 2022 as Calgarians faced elevated levels of unemployment, employment volatility, and income instability as we work to recover from the overlapping crises of the COVID-19 pandemic affordability crisis. VCC is both backbone and co-chair of the [Social Policy Collaborative](#) that created [this brief](#) and led advocacy with this province in this area with the goal of improving the effectiveness of Alberta's Income and Employment Support programs. These programs will be essential to the province's economic recovery as Calgarians seek support to meet their essential needs and find new opportunities to become self-sufficient through employment. VCC continued to lead the [Basic Income Alberta](#) and [Alberta Living Wage Network](#) work for Calgary. Additionally, VCC co-authored a study saying that Canada is closer than ever to a workable guaranteed basic income. Finally, VCC published its [2021 Poverty Snapshot](#) that provides key information to policy makers about the state of and solutions to poverty reduction in Calgary.

How well did you do it? VCC has had several meetings with policy makers and business to increase adoption of income support policies that work for all Calgarians and in December 2022 the provincial government announced it was indexing all income supports to 6% effective January 1, 2023. VCC has been named as a key advocacy voice making this happen. Additionally, VCC is called on as the subject matter expert in many fora related to income support policy with the goal of increasing population-level understanding of how adequate income addresses most areas of poverty reduction (for example, the answer to food insecurity is not more food, it's adequate income).

How are Calgarians better off? Adequate income support programs (e.g., Employment Insurance, Social Assistance, Guaranteed Income Supplement) are a critical part of the community's social safety net. They complement and fill the gaps when well-paying employment is currently unavailable or for people unable to work full-time hours or at all. The re-indexation of income supports in Calgary will reach thousands of Calgarians (aggregate Alberta data on number of income support recipients can be found here: <https://maytree.com/social-assistance-summaries/alberta/>).

Performance Measure Name: All Indigenous People are equal participants in Calgary's future
(see alignment with the Truth, Reconciliation and White Goose Flying section for progress against this outcome).

- 4) **What are examples of benchmarks your organization uses to evaluate and improve performance and operations, and increase your organization's impact?**
 - a) **Please provide examples of benchmarks, and how this information is being used to support continuous improvement.**
 - b) **Please indicate your current and targeted performance in comparison to these benchmarks**

Enough for All is a collective impact, systems change strategy that requires a sophisticated evaluation that goes beyond traditional outputs (i.e., number of people served by a program). To do this, Enough for All is evaluated by an independent third party, Dr. Katrina Milaney, Associate Professor in Community Rehabilitation and Disabilities Studies and Associate Scientific Director of Population Health for the O'Brien Institute for Public Health at the University of Calgary. Dr. Milaney engages stakeholders in a series of surveys, focus groups and interviews and also completes a review of Enough for All Champion research and annual reports to compile indicators across all Levers of Change including employment rates, income support caseloads, and program statistics, to understand how Enough for All is changing

systems that hold poverty in place.

This is the third year of applying a Principles Focused Evaluation (PFE) for the Enough for All strategy. PFE was developed by Michael Quinn Patten and is a helpful approach when trying to assess complex and dynamic systems approaches to social change. It is an appropriate method as it allows examination of strategies, advocacy campaigns, policy and system change and complex interventions.

Process results are guided by the following evaluation benchmarks:

1. What has changed because of E4A 2.0?
2. What is the value that VCC brings as backbone?
3. Where do we need enhancement or adjustments with the backbone?

Impact Evaluation Results are guided by the following evaluation questions:

1. To what extent are the Levers and Principles applied/implemented and manifested (and how) through implementation of the E4A strategy?
2. To what extent is the application of the Levers and implementation of Principles effective in contributing to the Goals?
3. To what extent are we reducing poverty?
4. Where do we need enhancement or adjustments in the E4A strategy to fill gaps?

The formal 2022 evaluation is currently underway, but examples of progress to benchmarks are as follows:

Example one:

Progress to Enough for All Goals:

Goal	2021	2020
All Calgarians have sufficient income and assets to thrive	73%	54%
All Calgarians live in a strong, supportive, and inclusive community	73%	46%
All Indigenous People are equal participants in Calgary's future	55%	31%

Example two:

The Impact that enough for all has had on understanding the root causes of problems for Indigenous peoples:

Metric	2021	2020
Much better	9%	0%
Somewhat better	46%	22%
Stayed the same	46%	67%
Somewhat worse	0%	11%
Much worse	0%	0%

Example three:

Which is the strongest Enough for All Lever of Change your organization has advanced (2021)?

Which is the strongest E4A Lever of Change your organization has advanced?	%
Housing	36.4%
Financial Empowerment	27.2%
Early learning and care	18.2%
Employment	18.2%
Justice	18.2%
Adult literacy and foundation learning	9.1%
Food Security	9.1%
Income Support	9.1%
Physical and Mental Health	9.1%
Transportation	0%

There are significantly more qualitative and quantitative measures that are captured in the annual Enough for All Evaluation. [Please visit VCC's latest Enough for All Evaluation page for the detailed report.](#)

5) What key results or progress was achieved in 2022 that reflected your organization's changes to strategies, programs or services to better address equity, diversity or inclusion, or support racial equity?

Ensuring equity for equity-deserving groups is one of the key tenets of *Enough for All* implementation which considers how the *Levers of Change* may express themselves uniquely for racialized people, Indigenous people, women, youth, seniors, newcomers and refugees, and LGBTQ2S people in our community. In 2022, the [Enough for All Principle](#) of *Reducing racism and discrimination and promoting diversity in the development and evaluation of policies, services, programs and workplace practices* was a major focus of VCC's work.

- Above work captured in sections related to the Anti-Racism strategy and White Goose Flying within this report.

- VCC continued its awareness raising and capacity building for *Enough for All* Champions on its [Racism is a Root Cause of Poverty work](#) which included sessions on how Champions can be effective allies in their organizations.

6) What steps did your organization take in 2022 to advance any respective calls to action in the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action](#) report or [The City's White Goose Flying Report](#)?

Truth and Reconciliation, White Goose Flying: One of three goals of *Enough for All* is that *All Indigenous People are equal participants in Calgary's future*, which is aligned with The City of Calgary's approach in the Indigenous Policy (i.e., that The City will strive to learn from and work with Indigenous communities, grounded in the spirit and intent of reconciliation). In 2022, in conjunction with VCC's Indigenous Advisory Committee, VCC brought together it's Enough for All Champions at Brown Bear Woman Cultural Centre for a facilitated full day of conversations about Tsuut'ina history, truth, and what progress toward reconciliation looks like that resulted in Enough for All Champions committing to building better relationships and actioning Enough for All Goal 3 in their work which we are actively monitoring and supporting through ongoing

capacity building. Additionally, VCC, through our involvement on the Indigenous Gathering Place Society of Calgary Board of Directors, actively advocated for the creation of the Indigenous Gathering Place which received Council approval in 2022. For more information on VCC’s implementation of Goal 3 in 2022 please visit our [Kistoonon \(gi sdoon noon\) site here](#).

RESOURCES

7) Please outlined how The City’s operating funding was allocated in 2022.

5%	Advertising and promotion
11%	Programs or services
2%	Office supplies and expenses
5%	Professional and consulting fees
63%	Staff compensation, development and training
0%	Fund development
0%	Purchased supplies and assets
4%	Facility maintenance
10%	Evaluation or Research
%	<i>Other, please name:</i>

8) Did volunteers support your operations in 2022?

How many volunteers?	5
Estimated total hours provided by volunteers:	1000

9) Did your organization receive any awards or recognition in 2022 that you want to highlight?

N/A

10) What changes did your organization implement in 2022 to address climate change, for example, operational or program changes that reduced greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), air/water pollution, or waste that aligned with [The City’s Climate Change Program](#) including Council’s Climate Emergency Declaration?

VCC is a key community partner in a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Partnership grant project on designing inclusive, sustainable and healthy cities titled “Quality in the Built Environment”. Executed over 5 years, this research project involves 14 cities across Canada with the University of Calgary leading the Calgary project. Calgary’s approach to this research will focus on the urban core, and considers the realms of inclusivity, sustainability and health as critical drivers for positive change in our urban environments.

VCC also participated as a subject matter expert on how climate change affects people living in poverty in Calgary and was a key contributor to the Calgary Climate Symposium in 2022.

11) CAPITAL PROJECTS AND ASSET MANAGEMENT (for Civic Partners managing City-owned assets)

N/A