

**Council Priorities for 2015-2018 - Taking *Action* for Calgary**

*Introduction - Council Message*

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## Our Vision

### **Calgary: a great place to make a living, a great place to make a life.**

For thousands of years, people have met at the confluence of two vital rivers to imagine and realize their futures. Together, we have built a city of energy, born of a powerful convergence of people, ideas and place. Together, we continue to imagine Calgary and a community where:

- We are each connected to one another. Our diverse skills and heritage interweave to create a resilient communal fabric, while our collective spirit generates opportunity, prosperity and choice for all of us.
- We are each connected to our places. We treasure and protect our natural environment. Magnificent mountain vistas and boundless prairie skies inspire each of us to build spaces worthy of our surroundings.
- We are each connected to our communities. Whether social, cultural or physical, these communities are mixed, safe and just. They welcome meaningful participation from everyone, and people move freely between them.
- We are each connected beyond our boundaries. We understand our impact upon and responsibility to others. Our talent and caring, combined with a truly Canadian sense of citizenship, make positive change across Alberta, throughout Canada and around the world.

We can make it happen!

With purpose, drive and passion, Calgary will be a model city, one that looks after the needs of today's citizens and those to come.

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## **Priority: A prosperous city**

Calgary remains a magnet for talent, a place where there is opportunity for all, and the best place in Canada to start and grow a business.

### **Strategic Actions:**

#### **Economic Growth and Competitiveness**

1. Strengthen Calgary's position as a global energy centre and location of choice for international talent, investment and innovation through enhanced business development, marketing and place-making initiatives.
2. Support civic, business and community partners, as well as business revitalization zones, to collaborate and attract local and global investment.
3. Cut red tape and foster a competitive tax environment to help small business succeed.

#### **Community Well-Being**

4. Increase affordable and accessible housing options in collaboration with other governments and community partners.
5. Reduce the number of people living in poverty.
6. Respond to the needs of an aging population.
7. Empower all Calgarians to live creative lives.
8. Expand our library system and enhance access to technology and information.
9. Invest in programs and services for children and youth, including providing a variety of affordable after school programs.

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## **Priority: A city of inspiring neighbourhoods**

Every Calgarian lives in a safe, mixed and just neighbourhood, and has the opportunity to participate in civic life.

### **Strategic Actions:**

#### **Public Safety**

1. Keep communities safe by maintaining standards for crime prevention, fire response, and enforcement.
2. Build resiliency to flooding.
3. Enhance The City's capacity and resiliency to prepare for and respond to pandemics, natural disasters and emergency situations.

#### **Quality of Place**

4. Revitalize the role and ability of community associations.
5. Systematically invest in older neighbourhoods as they evolve to accommodate changing community needs.
6. Manage growth to achieve the best possible social, environmental and economic outcomes within financial capacities.
7. Develop a new funding framework to provide for infrastructure in new neighbourhoods.
8. Make it easier to build developments that meet our Municipal Development Plan and Calgary Transportation Plan objectives.
9. Provide great public spaces and public realm improvements across the city to foster opportunity for well used public spaces and places for citizen connections and urban vitality.

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**Priority: A city that moves**

People and goods can move well and safely throughout the city, using a variety of convenient, affordable and efficient transportation choices.

**Strategic Actions:**

1. Implement and accelerate RouteAhead as transit funding becomes available.
2. Maximize the flow of traffic on the existing transportation network through the application of technology.
3. Invest in strategic road improvements in priority growth areas as funding becomes available.
4. Invest in active transportation infrastructure, including cycling and pedestrian networks.
5. Improve the taxi system.

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## **Priority: A healthy and green city**

We steward our air, land, and water while encouraging healthy lifestyles for all Calgarians.

### **Strategic Actions:**

#### **Natural Environment**

1. Implement the green cart program and multi-family recycling strategy, and reduce industrial, commercial and institutional waste in our landfills.
2. Encourage a broader range of innovative and clean energy technologies.
3. Manage the interrelationships between flood protection, water quality and quantity, and land use.
4. Work with our regional partners and the Government of Alberta on an integrated approach to the watershed.
5. Protect and enhance our urban forest and natural landscape throughout Calgary.

#### **Healthy Living**

6. Foster healthy lifestyles through a range of accessible and affordable recreational programs and opportunities that encourage active daily living.
7. Continue to invest in indoor and outdoor recreation facilities that address the changing needs of Calgarians.
8. Optimize the existing parks network to ensure Calgarians have access to nature and healthy and active lifestyles.

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**Priority: A well-run city**

Calgary's government is open, responsive and transparent, delivering excellent services at a fair price. We work with our government partners to ensure we have the tools we need.

**Strategic Actions:**

1. Finalize a new City Charter with the province.
2. Be as efficient and effective as possible, reducing costs and focusing on value-for-money.
3. Examine opportunities for alternative service delivery for competitiveness.
4. Balance demand for quality City services with affordable taxes.
5. Regularly collaborate and engage citizens to encourage participation in City decision-making, and better communicate the reasons for the decisions.
6. Effectively manage The City's inventory of public assets, optimizing limited resources to balance growth and maintenance requirements.
7. Continue to transform the organization to be exceptionally citizen-focused in its approach and delivery of service.
8. Increase collaboration across the organization, including alignment of budgets with service delivery to achieve City priorities.
9. Strive to be an employer of choice with a focus on addressing The City's aging workforce.

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