

# Calgary Today, Calgary Tomorrow

Context and Vision Direction for the Calgary Plan

**The Calgary Plan is the municipal development plan for The City of Calgary. It is a statutory plan built upon the foundations, goals, outcomes and key directions included in this non-statutory document.**

## **Calgary today**

The foundational elements of the Calgary Plan.

## **Calgary tomorrow**

The goals and outcomes that the Calgary Plan policies are working to achieve.

## **Key directions**

The priorities The City will take action on over the next 10 years.

# Calgary today: plan foundations

Calgary is changing. That change can be seen in population growth, a changing climate and a increasing diversity of people. A recognition of the shared history of this land with Indigenous peoples, including First Nations, Métis Nation and urban Indigenous peoples, allows the building of meaningful relationships to improve outcomes for all. The Calgary Plan was written with an understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing Calgary in 2024. Attention was paid to outline the foundations needed to address the previous gaps around equity, Truth and Reconciliation and climate change in land use and mobility planning.

## CALGARY TODAY

# Growth

**Cities grow and change over time and Calgary is growing.** All areas will see change, but that change may look different from place to place. The next wave of urban growth will come in two forms, redevelopment of existing areas and new development on the edge of the city. Existing communities will experience growth through infill and strategic redevelopment. In areas where urban development has not yet occurred, new growth areas will emerge taking their direction from approved plans and regional density targets. Outside of residential areas, places will evolve as new businesses and economic sectors emerge.

**Meeting the diverse needs of a large, growing city will be a big challenge.** More Calgarians means more perspectives, and more demand for choice in everything – where to live, how to get around, what services and amenities are needed. Increasing and changing demands puts pressure on natural and infrastructure systems to adapt and change. Meanwhile, resources are limited and investments cannot occur everywhere at once. To meet these constraints, growth and investment need to be prioritized and balanced between redevelopment and new growth on the edges of the city.

**With big change comes big opportunity for Calgary too.** If planned strategically, growth can be a powerful tool to help Calgarians thrive. While on average a young population, Calgary is aging quickly. Redevelopment will help revitalize and stabilize the population of existing areas while providing more housing options, keeping local schools and services viable. More neighbours mean more customers to shop at local businesses, strengthening the economy and connections within communities.

Focusing more growth near transit keeps Calgarians moving in efficient and affordable ways, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Growing compactly means preserving more lands for natural areas and other uses, increasing access to nature, parks and recreation for all Calgarians. Growth in all areas can help to ensure everyone has an opportunity to experience the social and economic benefits of a prosperous city.

Growth can provide Calgarians more choices on where and how to live, keeping Calgary attractive and competitive to the next generation of talent looking for a city that offers more opportunities. Supporting new and emerging industries with a talented workforce and room to grow helps Calgary's businesses compete nationally and internationally.

### A diversifying city

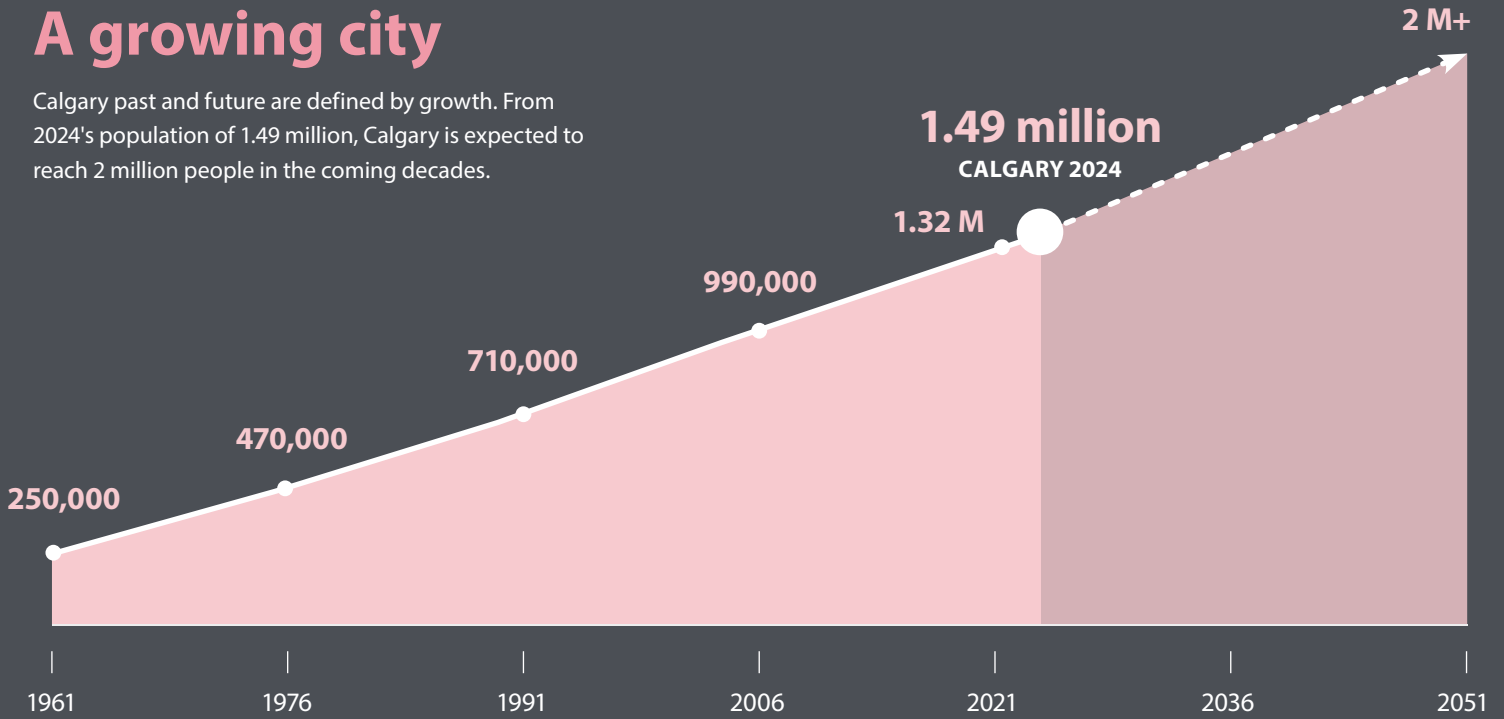
Since 1991, Racialized/visible minorities have increased from 14 per cent to 41 per cent of Calgarians.

### An aging city

Since 1991, seniors are the fastest growing segment of Calgary's population.

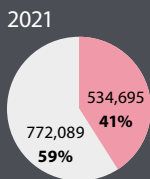
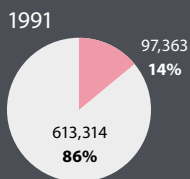
## A growing city

Calgary past and future are defined by growth. From 2024's population of 1.49 million, Calgary is expected to reach 2 million people in the coming decades.

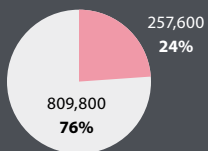


## A diversifying city

**RACIALIZED/VISIBLE MINORITIES**



**PERSONS 15 YEARS AND OLDER WITH A DISABILITY, 2022**



## An aging city

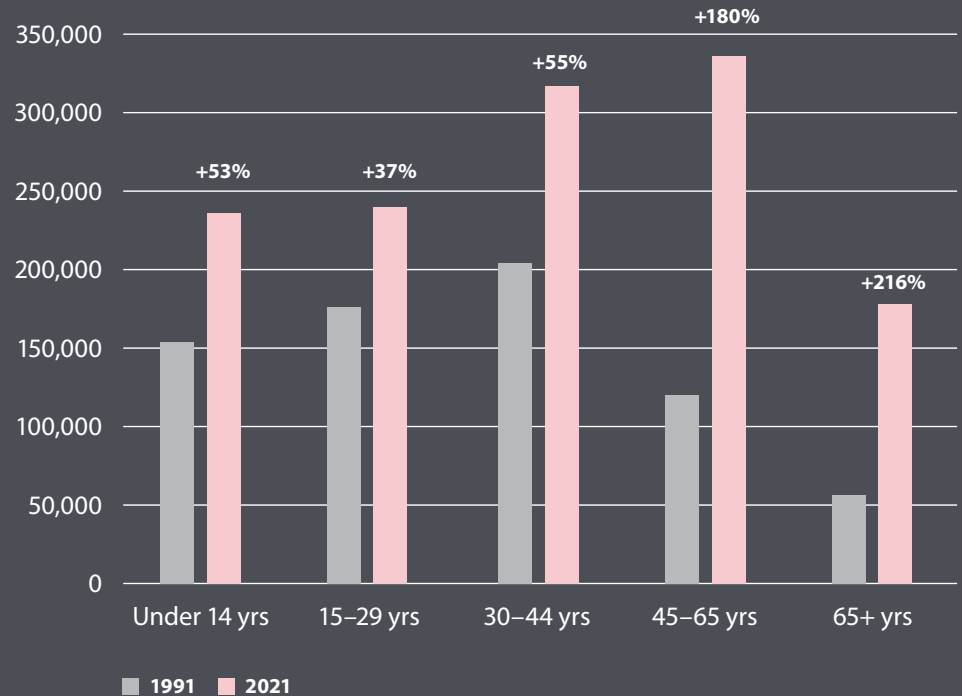


Figure 1

Source: Statistics Canada, 1961-2021 Census of Population.

CALGARY TODAY

# Truth and Reconciliation

## Moh-kins-tsis. Guts-ists'i. Wíchispa Oyade. Otos-kwunee. Calgary.

The municipality of Calgary is located on the ancestral lands and traditional territories of the Siksikaitstapi (Blackfoot) First Nations, the Îethka Nakoda Wícastabi (Stoney Nakoda) First Nations, the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and homeland to the Métis Nation of Alberta. Indigenous peoples have stewarded these lands and waterbodies for thousands of years. With thousands of years of sustained Indigenous presence and relationship to the land, water and ecology, Indigenous peoples have deep knowledge, context and a rich understanding of the land. European settlers began arriving in the mid-1800's and in 1894 Calgary was established where the Bow and Elbow rivers meet.

A shared history exists between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people on this land since European settlers arrived. We continue to share places and spaces in Calgary, and it is important that Calgary is reflective of that history. The City acknowledges the importance of knowing Indigenous long-held history and presence on this land and the importance of Truth and Reconciliation to honour and strengthen relationships with Indigenous peoples.

Taking meaningful steps to acknowledge the truth and actively reconcile with Indigenous peoples through land use

planning begins through a shared connection to the land. Indigenous peoples have their own spiritually intricate connection to and a responsibility to care for and protect the land that includes traditional knowledge and practices in land use, ecosystem management, and placemaking and place-keeping. Their perspectives can offer insights for new ways of working together in sustainable urbanization and urban design.

Land use planning practice involves the understanding of land, people, relationships, theories and the balancing of diverse perspectives to apply policy and regulation to land use, design, natural resources, mobility and infrastructure. Land use planning practice values the collective perspectives and insight of the people of Calgary to inform planning direction and decisions.

Through a shared connection to the land, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous perspectives are valuable in city planning practice. In working together with Indigenous peoples, the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives broadens the knowledge and understanding of the land and better informs decision making. By working together with Indigenous peoples, The City can better steward these lands and make Indigenous presence on these lands more visible.

### Language and learning

The Blackfoot Nations call this place Moh-kins-tsis.

The Tsuut'ina Nation call this place Guts-ists'i.

The Stoney Nations call this place Wíchispa Oyade.

The Métis Nation of Alberta call this place Otos-kwunee.

The City is on a learning pathway to understand Indigenous ways of knowing, engaging, building relationships and equitable environments. As The City learns more, it will continue to update the work, processes and relationships to reflect that learning.

CALGARY TODAY

# Equity and inclusion

The City's vision of a great place to make a living, a great place to make a life includes everyone. As one of Canada's fastest growing and most diverse cities, Calgary's population is a rich blend of social, cultural and economic identities. By embracing this growth and actively supporting anti-racism, equity, diversity, inclusion and a strong sense of belonging for all individuals in the city's communities, Calgary strengthens its social, environmental and economic resilience, especially during times of rapid change. Taking this approach to city planning not only improves community well-being but fosters vibrancy, innovation and competitiveness with other major cities.

In North America, past discriminatory and racially unjust planning processes and practices about how land is used and how people move around their city have built and reinforced systemic barriers, leading to an inequitable distribution of opportunities and resources. This has created obstacles for many Calgarians to access secure and affordable housing, reliable transportation, basic services and public amenities. Indigenous, Black and diverse Racialized peoples, and equity-denied groups, and especially individuals with multiple overlapping social identities such as age, disability, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, income or other social factors often face disproportionate challenges. Focusing on the needs of vulnerable and underrepresented groups will help ensure that all Calgarians have fair access to opportunities and resources to thrive in our city.

The Calgary Plan strives for equitable, anti-racist and inclusive outcomes for all Calgarians. Achieving this requires acknowledging and addressing the

deep-rooted racism and different forms of discrimination embedded in planning systems, programs, services and policies. Actively identifying, challenging and removing these barriers ensures that the design and building of the city supports racial equity and justice, diversity, inclusion and reconciliation, providing all Calgarians with the opportunity to experience a safe, affordable and livable city.

In planning practices and processes, The City supports meaningful engagement and participation that reflects Calgary's diverse cultures, perspectives and lived experiences, prioritizing the voices of equity-denied groups who are often excluded from conversations that affect their lives. Achieving social, environmental and economic equity in Calgary also requires collective effort amongst The City, local communities, organizations and industry partners to address the diverse needs of its population. Building capacity and strengthening relationships between planning professionals and partners will help increase understanding and trust to reach equitable land use and mobility outcomes.

By conducting an equity analysis, collecting disaggregated data, developing reliable indicators and continuously monitoring progress, The City can identify and prioritize inequalities, such as in city building processes, service delivery and budgets. This will enhance accountability and informed decision making, helping to close gaps in resource access and allocation across the city. This approach can create more equitable and inclusive planning outcomes, offering all Calgarians greater choices and opportunities, especially for underserved communities, and fostering a better quality of life for everyone in our city.

## Equity

Equity is when conditions are adjusted to meet people's diverse needs, strengths, and social realities. It requires recognition that different barriers, often systemic, exist for diverse groups.

(City of Calgary Social Wellbeing Policy – 2019)

## City's commitments to equity and anti-racism

The City is making efforts to create a future where everyone has access to equitable and inclusive opportunities to experience the city's social, economic and environmental benefits. Commitments to equity and anti-racism are reflected in various strategies and policies all working together, including the Anti-Racism Strategic Plan (2023), Gender Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy (2019) and the Social Wellbeing Policy (2019).

## Accessible design

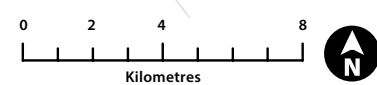
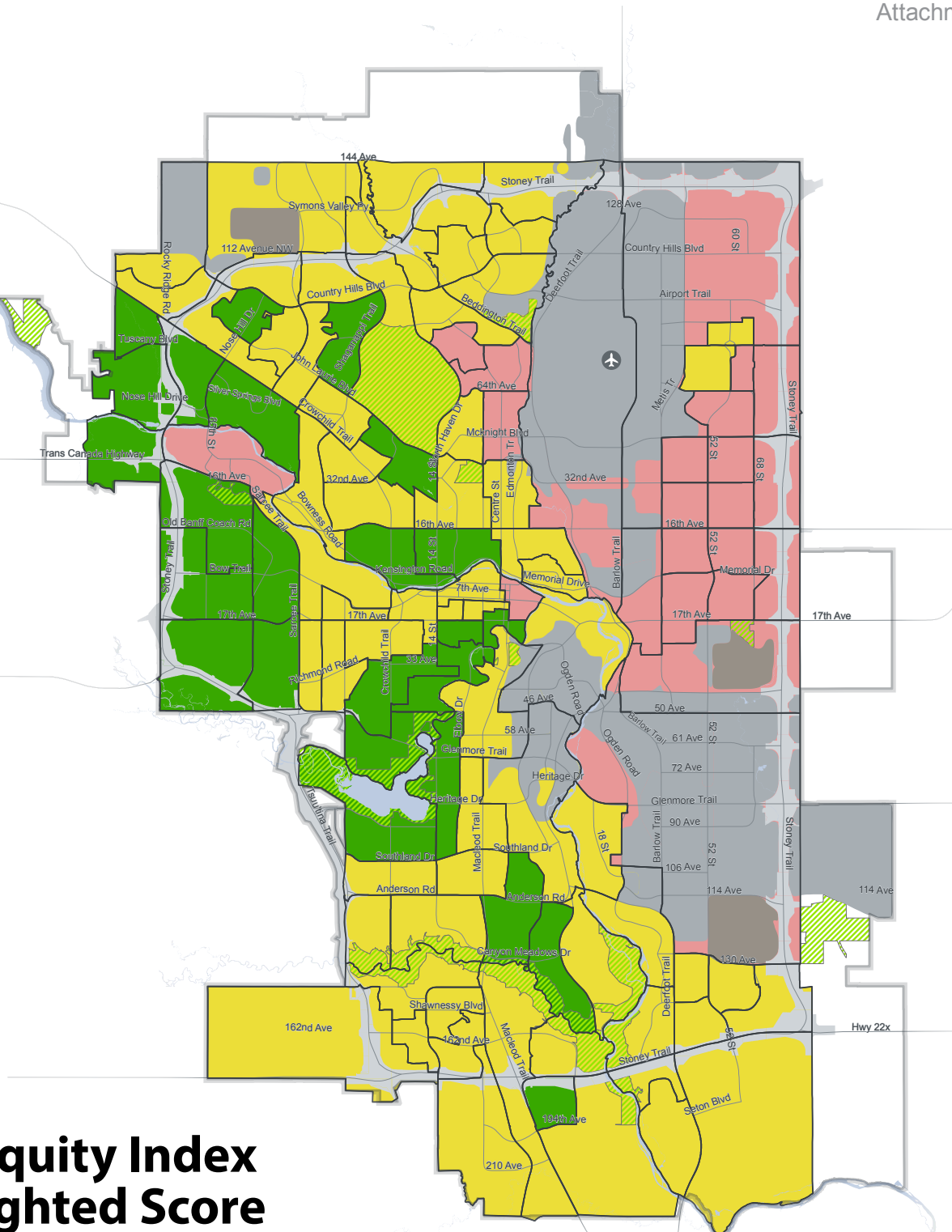
The City is committed to removing barriers to provide equitable access to City infrastructure, buildings, public spaces and services for persons with physical, sensory, cognitive and mental health disabilities.

(Accessible Design Standards 2016)

**The 2021 Calgary Equity Index** is an objective and relative geographically-based tool to identify disparities in equity across community service areas in Calgary. The index is made up of numerous social and economic indicators across different categories that affect overall health and wellbeing of Calgarians, assigning a score between 0 and 100. A low equity score means low equity and high need, while a high equity score means high equity and low need. Closing the gap in the range of scores indicates more equitable access, opportunities and outcomes for residents, regardless of where they live. And a higher overall equity index indicates more prosperity in Calgary city-wide.

# Calgary Equity Index Total Weighted Score

- Below benchmark (<= 49.7)
- Between benchmark and target (49.8–70.1)
- Above target (>= 70.2)
- Calgary city limits
- Major parks
- Transportation utility corridor
- Landfills
- Industrial areas
- Roads



Map 1



CALGARY TODAY

# Climate

Climate change is no longer a future concern – it is an immediate and increasing challenge. As Calgary experiences more frequent and severe climate events like heat waves, wildfire smoke and thunderstorms, the city must not only mitigate its contribution to climate change, but also adapt to protect people, infrastructure, the economy and the natural environment.

How Calgary is designed and built significantly impacts resource consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and the city's vulnerability to climate hazards. Most of Calgary's rapid population growth has been in vehicle-oriented suburban areas which are costly to maintain and emit large amounts of greenhouse gases. These areas can be difficult for efficient transit service, walkability and natural systems connectivity. Developing areas must be designed with climate mitigation and adaptation at the forefront and redeveloping areas need to be retrofitted to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to changing conditions.

In order to progress towards The City's goals of net-zero emissions and be a climate-resilient city by 2050, land use and mobility planning changes are needed. Calgary Plan policies support climate goals, guiding and balancing through difficult trade-offs. Although these challenges seem daunting, they also are an exciting opportunity to build a better and more resilient Calgary.

As Calgary faces rapid growth in a rapidly changing climate, city planning needs to embed climate mitigation and adaptation tactics. This includes protecting natural systems, supporting low-carbon mobility options, building net-zero, climate-resilient buildings and creating vibrant compact mixed use communities. Actions taken today to reduce emissions and adapt to climate impacts will help make Calgary a more resilient, vibrant, healthy and prosperous city for all current and future Calgarians, especially the most vulnerable.

## Planning priorities for climate mitigation and adaptation

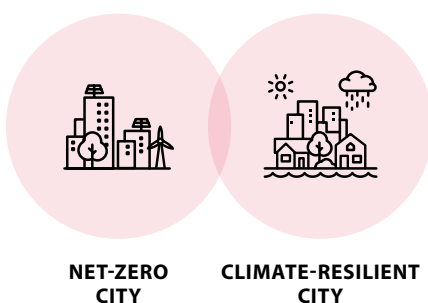


Figure 2

- Neighbourhood scale renewable energy
- Preserve, restore and build healthy ecosystems
- Low-carbon travel options
- Reduced risk from flooding
- Prioritized growth in developed areas
- More local food production
- Diverse, walkable, compact mixed-use communities
- Reduced risk from drought
- Net-zero and climate-resilient buildings and homes

CALGARY TOMORROW

# Environment goal

## Calgary respects and protects natural systems.

Respecting, restoring and protecting the environment is critical to the health of all living things. Calgary's remarkable natural systems – prairies, foothills, parkland and river valleys – sustain life, perform ecosystem services, provide food and clean the air and water. For generations, Calgary's natural systems have also been critical to cultural and spiritual expression.

Growth impacts the natural environment and Calgary is healthier and more resilient with thriving and connected natural systems. To balance these two factors, the Calgary Plan includes policy to protect, restore and integrate natural systems into communities, reducing environmental impact and supporting the many services that natural systems provide.

## OUTCOMES

Calgary Plan policies work towards the following environmental outcomes:

- 1. Respect for and integration of natural systems:**  
Indigenous worldviews and the needs of all living things guide natural system stewardship and integration into public spaces for healthy, climate-resilient communities.
- 2. Sustainable water resource management:**  
Waterway and watershed protection maintains water quality, improves flood and drought resilience and supports human wellbeing, ecosystem health and economic activities.
- 3. Equitable access to nature:**  
All Calgarians have equitable access to nature for health and well-being.
- 4. Net-zero emissions and efficient urban growth:**  
Calgary's sustainable urban form focuses on compact growth that respects natural systems and integrates transit, walking and wheeling connections.
- 5. Healthy and connected natural ecosystems:**  
Healthy and connected natural systems support biodiversity and provide ecosystem services, like climate adaptation and carbon sequestration.

CALGARY TOMORROW

# People goal

## Calgary is a healthy, vibrant city for people of all backgrounds.

Calgary is a city for all ages, incomes, abilities and backgrounds. Creating a more livable city requires acknowledging and addressing inequities by focusing on engagement with and addressing the needs of equity-denied communities.

Calgary Plan policy prioritizes safety, affordability and equity. This includes policy for dignified housing, diverse park and recreation spaces, easy and sustainable travel options and infrastructure to address barriers to make Calgary more accessible and socially inclusive. Overall, this includes land uses, mobility options, housing and amenities to meet a range of physical, cultural, social and financial needs. Accomplishing this goal will enhance the quality of life for all people who call Calgary home.

### OUTCOMES

Calgary Plan policies work towards the following people outcomes:

- 1. Equitable access to public services and mobility:**  
Calgarians have access to safe, affordable, accessible and reliable public services and travel options.
- 2. Affordable and resilient housing and resources:**  
Calgary offers a diverse housing supply with convenient access to employment, food, childcare, services and amenities that support healthy lifestyles.
- 3. Recognition and inclusion of Indigenous worldviews:**  
The Calgary Plan respects and acknowledges Indigenous worldviews and perspectives, and recognizes their contributions to the shared history and present landscapes.
- 4. Climate-resilient and adaptive communities:**  
Calgarian's exposure to climate impacts is reduced, particularly for those most vulnerable to its effects.
- 5. Inclusive and safe communities:** Calgary is welcoming for people of all cultures, backgrounds, abilities, ages and incomes, offering year-round opportunities for recreation, arts, cultural expression and social connection.

CALGARY TOMORROW

# Economy goal

## Calgary's robust, competitive and diverse economy supports innovation and opportunity for all.

Calgary is a regional economic hub, with The City supporting a range of sectors at different scales, from small local businesses to major industries and global enterprises. Calgary's variety of economic activity brings vibrancy, provides jobs and attracts people.

The Calgary Plan's policies focus on maintaining and growing diverse economic opportunities and enabling economic participation so that everyone can benefit from Calgary's prosperity. Focusing housing, jobs, schools, shopping and services around transit provides a catchment for businesses and commuting options for employees. Additionally, Calgary Plan policy focuses attention on the health of the Greater Downtown and industrial areas to set the stage for the next generation of talent and investment.

### OUTCOMES

Calgary Plan policies work towards the following economy outcomes:

- 1. Resilient and sustainable economic development:**  
Calgary adapts to stresses and shocks, including climate change impacts, and capitalizes on new energy markets and emerging industries.
- 2. Inclusive economic participation and growth:**  
Calgary's economy is where all residents, including Indigenous people and equity-denied groups, can participate fully and share prosperity.
- 3. Strong regional and industrial economic hub:**  
Calgary is the hub of the regional economy with a thriving industrial sector and efficient goods movement network connected to regional, national and international networks.
- 4. Enhanced connectivity and accessibility:**  
The transit network conveniently and affordably connects people to employment, education and amenities.
- 5. Thriving cultural and recreational sectors:** Calgary boasts a dynamic arts and culture sector and diverse amenities and recreation facilities that attract visitors, stimulate economic activity and enrich the quality of life for everyone.

KEY DIRECTIONS

# Accommodating a growing city

## The Calgary Plan directs a balanced approach to growth.

As Calgary grows to two million people, all areas of the city will need to play a role in accommodating new development. Balanced growth means allowing growth to happen in both developed areas and newly developing areas.

Balanced growth is more sustainable and financially responsible. Increasing how much growth takes place in developed areas will make more efficient use of existing infrastructure while continued growth at the edges of the city will ensure new communities will quickly become vibrant and sustainable places with amenities that support their residents.

### Growth principles reflected in the Calgary Plan:

**Balanced and sustainable growth:**

Fifty per cent of all new housing will occur in the redeveloping areas of the city.

Communities are designed to be walkable, compact and environmentally sustainable, ensuring minimal ecological disruption and maintaining a connected ecological network. This principle is primarily reflected in the growth policies in chapter three and also the natural and mobility systems policies in chapter two.

**Efficient development:** To grow efficiently and provide housing choice, more development is needed around the primary transit network and in areas where infrastructure already exists. This approach supports complete communities and makes the most out of existing public infrastructure investments. This principle is primarily reflected in the city structure map and policies in chapter three.

**Financial and resource responsibility:**

Calgary remains focused on long-term financial sustainability and ensuring critical services such as water supply remains secure as the city grows. Public investments are carefully managed to support responsible and sustainable development. This principle is primarily reflected in both the water policies in chapter two and the growth policies in chapter three.



In the last 50 years, most of Calgary's growth has been at the edge of the city. This has resulted in a growth pattern that is reliant on private vehicles and costly to serve and maintain. However, in the past few decades there has been more reinvestment and growth in the Greater Downtown and inner city. Areas around the primary transit network, rapid transit stations and in Greater Downtown are significant opportunities to accommodate the ongoing growth in a sustainable way.

KEY DIRECTIONS

# Protecting, connecting and integrating natural areas

**The Calgary Plan can help protect natural systems, increase connections between them and increase access to natural areas for Calgarians.**

Calgary has long benefited from thoughtful planning that has protected many environmentally significant areas, including some of North America's largest urban parks. However, some types of environmentally significant areas have been lost, and protected spaces are not always well connected to each other or the park system.

Protecting environmentally significant areas as a connected ecological network in developing areas, in addition to reconnecting and enhancing natural areas across the entire city, enables healthier natural systems bringing access to nature to more people in more parts of the city.

## Natural areas principles reflected in the Calgary Plan:

**Resilient ecological network:** Calgary's ecological network is protected, connected and enhanced throughout the city and into the surrounding region. Riparian and natural areas are restored to improve resilience against floods and droughts and to maintain water quality. This principle is primarily reflected in the Natural Systems map and policies in chapter two.

**Accessible and enjoyable natural areas:** Access to natural areas is improved with direct walking and wheeling connections. Opportunities for gentle recreation are provided to support environmental health, encourage connections and support individual well-being. This principle is primarily reflected in the natural areas policies in chapter two and park system policies in chapter four.

**Expanded naturalized spaces:** Naturalized spaces are created within existing parks and open areas, especially in places with limited access to nature. Urban environments are enhanced by a healthy, locally-suited tree canopy. Returning under-utilized spaces to a natural state is good for the environment and reduces operational costs. This principle is primarily reflected throughout the natural systems policies in chapter two.



Calgary is a river city situated at the confluence of two rivers as well as the meeting point of three major ecological systems. The river valleys are the city's ecological backbone and the core of one of North America's largest urban parks systems. This river environment is complemented by other significant natural park spaces, like Nose Hill Park and Ralph Klein Park. Overall, natural beauty, varied landscapes and expansive vistas characterize Calgary.

KEY DIRECTIONS

# Expanding housing choice and increasing supply

**The Calgary Plan can help enable increased housing choice and supply by making it easier to provide different types of housing across the city.**

Addressing housing affordability involves expanding the diversity and increasing the supply of both market and non-market housing in all areas to accommodate growth. Improving the availability of housing options that meet a diversity of needs creates a more balanced supply that is more affordable. More housing diversity provides individuals and families with more choices for their living situations.

The need for these actions stems from the desire to address affordability, of both housing costs and transportation expenses. The Calgary Plan supports greater housing diversity and strategically aligns housing growth with the primary transit network, ensuring that the combined costs of housing and travel remain manageable.

## Housing principles reflected in the Calgary Plan:

**Increased and diverse supply:** An expanded supply and variety of housing options exists throughout Calgary, with a focus on locating high density housing around the primary transit network. This housing supply provides options to meet a diversity of socio-economic, cultural and accessibility needs. This principle is primarily reflected throughout the housing policies and the city structure map in chapter three.

**Equitable access:** Barriers are removed and housing supports and services are increased for vulnerable, equity-denied groups, including Indigenous people living in Calgary and diverse Racialized communities, ensuring safe, secure and affordable housing choices. This principle is primarily reflected throughout the housing policies in chapter three.

**Supportive and streamlined development:** Working towards removing barriers in planning processes and providing incentives for non-market housing development can increase the supply of non-market housing. Like the other two principles, this is primarily reflected throughout the housing policies in chapter three.



Housing in Calgary is still less expensive compared to some other major Canadian cities; however, as Calgary continues to grow and attract new residents, the cost of housing will continue to rise if the supply of new housing does not keep pace.

KEY DIRECTIONS

# Strengthening Calgary's economy

## The Calgary Plan supports innovation and creativity to modernize the economy and increase economic participation.

Calgary needs to leverage its outstanding economic growth and the diverse, skilled workforce it has attracted from across Canada and around the world. To ensure the benefits of employment are shared equitably, the city needs more opportunities for economic participation. This involves supporting a wide variety of growing businesses, including ensuring the availability and protection of industrial lands, which are vital for Calgary's role as an inland port.

The necessity of these actions lies in the evolution of Calgary's economy, which is transitioning from a historically prosperous energy sector to a more diverse and resilient hub. By investing in innovation and sectors such as renewable and net-zero energy, health, science, technology, aerospace and agribusiness, the city can foster a more equitable, competitive and productive economy. When all Calgarians can thrive, the city's economic potential will be fully realized.

### Economy principles reflected in the Calgary Plan:

**Available and inclusive:** Safe, convenient and affordable mobility options, along with services like childcare, ensure diverse participation in the economy and support people working or attending post-secondary education. This principle is primarily reflected in the mobility policies in chapter two and the economic growth and participation section in chapter three.

**Business friendly and future-focused:** Calgary fosters a supportive environment for businesses of all sizes and stages, maintains a strong supply of industrial land and has a robust goods movement network to facilitate local and global trade. This principle is primarily reflected in the goods movement policies in chapter two and the economic growth and participation, Industrial – Mixed, and Industrial – Core sections in chapter three.

**Innovative and culturally vibrant:** The City promotes growth in Calgary's cultural sector and creative industries, as well as innovation through post-secondary and health institutions. The Greater Downtown serves as the central hub for business, culture, arts and learning. This principle is primarily reflected in the Greater Downtown policies and the economic growth and participation policies in chapter three.

Calgary has many competitive advantages, including a large, diverse and growing labour force; an interconnected network of air, rail and roadways; a varied supply of competitively priced industrial and commercial lands; high quality services and utilities, including transit, water and power networks; and a high quality of life, including housing, amenities and services, to attract and retain talent.





KEY DIRECTIONS

# Building a strong downtown

**The Calgary Plan supports a people-focused downtown that is safe and welcoming for everyone, with connected neighbourhoods, active streets and well-used, accessible public spaces.**

Calgary's downtown is the heart of the city and home to the city's highest proportion of population diversity. It is where Calgary's rivers meet and is the centre of employment, culture and government. The downtown is also a vibrant and growing community home to thousands of residents. Office vacancy, crime, homelessness and limited access to nature are challenges that need to be addressed for the downtown experience to evolve. The success of the downtown depends on how these identities converge to create a great, people-focused place.

## Downtown principles reflected in the Calgary Plan:

**Diverse and integrated:** A vibrant downtown integrates a mix of commercial, institutional, arts, culture and residential uses to foster a dynamic urban environment. This principle is primarily reflected in the Greater Downtown policies in chapter three.

**Inclusive and safe public spaces:** Public spaces and streets are designed to be inclusive, safe and welcoming for all people, including Indigenous peoples, Racialized and equity-denied groups. Efforts are made to remove systemic barriers and promote well-being and accessibility. This principle is primarily reflected in the Greater Downtown policies in chapter three as well as the mobility policies in chapter two and the park system policies in chapter four.

**Year-round, active and programmable spaces:** Public spaces and streets support activities throughout the day and year, encourage active mobility and provide flexible, multi-use environments for residents, businesses and events. This principle is primarily reflected in the Greater Downtown policies in chapter three as well as mobility policies in chapter two and park system policies in chapter four.



The Greater Downtown is marked by its iconic architecture and distinctive skyline. Calgary's transit network brings residents, visitors and workers from all around the city. The Bow and Elbow Rivers bound the downtown, providing direct access to natural spaces and connections to the regional pathway system. Calgary's arts, commerce and urban living centre has been and remains resilient in the face of economic shocks, societal shifts and changing needs and preferences.

KEY DIRECTIONS

# Creating inclusive, resilient and healthy communities

**The Calgary Plan enables complete and walkable communities in all areas of the city, by supporting a diversity of housing, land uses and scales of development.**

Today, Calgary has many walkable and complete communities, but many lack the right mix of housing, shops, recreation, parks and other amenities to provide convenient access for residents. Other areas lack safe and direct sidewalks and pathways. Complete communities are environments where it is easier, safer and more attractive for people to be active and interact with others, resulting in better mental and physical health. Creating more walkable and complete communities will help accommodate Calgary's expected growth in a sustainable, equitable, healthy and resilient way, while enabling greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

## Community principles reflected in the Calgary Plan:

**Diverse and equitable:** All areas have a variety of accessible housing, rich amenities like shops, services, recreation facilities, schools, arts and cultural resources, with prioritized investment in underserved areas and for equity-denied groups and Indigenous peoples. This principle is reflected through the housing and city structure policies in chapter three and the park and public recreation systems and municipal civic facilities policies in chapter four.

**Connected and safe:** Safe, efficient and accessible walking and wheeling connections are available throughout areas to enhance access to transit, parks, schools and other amenities, fostering a well-connected community experience. This principle is reflected primarily through the mobility policies in chapter two.

**Resilient and healthy:** People feel connected to others in their neighbourhood through social ties and community connections, building resilience to stress, change and climate-related impacts. This principle is reflected throughout the plan but includes specific content in chapter three's natural and other hazards and flood hazard areas policies and throughout chapter four.



Calgary has a diverse range of communities, with varying levels of access by walking to where people need to go daily. Improving walking infrastructure, increasing housing and integrating the transit network not only promote a healthier lifestyle but also establishes transit as a preferred travel option, contributing to the overall vibrancy and connectivity of Calgary.

KEY DIRECTIONS

# Building around transit

**The Calgary Plan prioritizes building around transit, enabling growth around all rapid transit stations and connecting people to where they need and want to go.**

To keep people moving and support an affordable and environmentally sustainable city, it is critical to focus development around a frequent and reliable public transit system. Adding growth around direct, connected and affordable public transit will enable people from all over Calgary to participate in the economy, realizing more equitable benefits and increased economic productivity.

Improving community design around the public transit network is an important part of making transit effective. Walking and wheeling access enables more people to conveniently connect to transit stops and local destinations. Making it easier for Calgarians to choose transit and active travel options also helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote better health.

## Building around transit principles reflected in the Calgary Plan:

**Transit-oriented growth:** Development of housing and jobs around rapid transit stations and the primary transit network is an efficient use of land. This principle is reflected primarily through the city structure policies in chapter three.

**Enhanced transit and accessibility:** Investments are made in affordable and accessible transit services that align with growth areas, while the supply of affordable housing, support systems, recreation, parks and amenities near rapid transit stations and the primary transit network is increased. This principle is primarily reflected in the Primary Transit Network map and policies in chapter two, the city structure and housing policies in chapter three and the park system, public recreation system and municipal civic facilities policies in chapter four.

**High-quality, connected public spaces:** Streets and public spaces around rapid transit stations are designed to ensure safe, comfortable and direct walking and wheeling connections to local destinations, enhancing the overall user experience and accessibility. This principle is primarily reflected in the walking and wheeling policies in chapter two.



Calgary has an existing light rail and bus rapid transit system, connecting many areas of the city together. As the transit system expands and improves, the land surrounding these rapid transit stations and the primary transit network becomes a significant growth opportunity.

KEY DIRECTIONS

# Connecting mobility networks

**The Calgary Plan supports safe, affordable and convenient travel options for all Calgarians.**

Calgary offers a range of travel options, but not all options are equitably distributed across the city. Transit, walking and wheeling are often slower and less convenient than driving, even for relatively short trips.

An integrated and connected mobility system provides people, inclusive of age, ability and income, with multiple travel options to meet their needs across all seasons. Improving and expanding walking and wheeling networks enables healthier, more sustainable and equitable travel options.

## Mobility networks principles reflected in the Calgary Plan:

**Inclusive and convenient:** Safe, accessible, affordable and convenient travel options exist for people of all ages and abilities, connecting them to major employment areas, educational institutions and cultural and recreational destinations across the city. This principle is reflected in the mobility policies in chapter two.

**Preferred travel options:** Walking, wheeling and transit are the preferred travel options. Safe, customer-focused transit service is offered throughout Calgary at a frequency that encourages transit use. This principle is primarily reflected in the walking, wheeling and transit policies in chapter two.

**Efficient goods movement and regional coordination:** Efficient movement of goods in industrial areas is available and goods movement throughout the Calgary region is coordinated and connected. Regional and intercity public transportation is seamless, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving the safety of travellers. This principle is reflected in the goods movement policies in chapter two and the regional policies in chapter five.



Calgary has an extensive street network and robust goods movement network, ranking among the major North American cities with the lowest traffic congestion. By focusing investments on the primary transit network, walking and wheeling infrastructure, Calgary can expand the options available to everyone.

KEY DIRECTIONS

# Achieving quality design outcomes

**The Calgary Plan sets direction for achieving design excellence, building a city that is livable, attractive, memorable and functional.**

Urban design describes the creative and thoughtful way in which sites, architecture and public spaces are arranged, shaped and made functional, focusing on the quality of interaction between buildings and public spaces. High quality urban design results in inclusive spaces that inspire a sense of belonging.

Urban design involves effective coordination of an interdisciplinary field of expertise such as land use and mobility planning, architecture, landscape design, public art and engineering, among others.

## Urban design principles reflected in the Calgary Plan:

**Place:** Every location has a distinctive pattern of built form, landscape, history, culture and activities that inspire a sense of belonging for everyone. This principle is reflected in the public realm, site design, heritage and public art policies in chapter three.

**Scale:** The size and scale of sites, buildings and structures impact the sense of place and experience of the urban environment. This principle is reflected in the site design, architecture and heritage policies in chapter three.

**Amenity:** Well-designed architecture and public spaces that welcome all people and are attractive, comfortable and safe. This principle is reflected in the architecture and public realm policies in chapter three.

**Resilience:** Architecture and urban design concepts are adaptable to change in social, technological, economic and climatic conditions. This principle is reflected in the public realm, site design, architecture, natural and other hazards and flood hazard area policies in chapter three.

**Legibility:** Attractive, comfortable, and easily navigable routes for all travel options which connect places and areas contribute to the livability of cities and the health of people. This principle is reflected in the walking and wheeling policies in chapter two and the site design policies in chapter three.

**Vibrancy:** Streets and public spaces achieve vibrancy through architecture and urban design which creates active places supporting uses which offer variety, choice and fun. This principle is reflected in the mobility policies in chapter two and the site design and city structure areas in chapter three.

