



FOREVER FUNDS INITIATIVE

Research To Support
The Five Forever Fund Areas

May, 2006

The Diversity and Inclusion Fund supports inclusion, valuing all people equally and treating all people with respect.

- Alberta has the highest migration and immigration rates in Canada.
- Recent immigrants and Aboriginal people will account for 27% of Alberta's population and 62% of Alberta's population growth.
Diversity Calgary
- There are more visible minorities in Western Canada. 20.9% of Calgary's population was foreign born. 2003 CanWest Report
- It is expected that by 2017, the number of visible minority groups will continue to grow more rapidly than the rest of the population. In Calgary, that represents 24% of the populations. Stats Can 2005
- In Calgary just over half of all immigrants in 2002 knew either or both official Canadian languages; 49.2% knew neither English nor French. Of concern is the number of youth and seniors that do not speak an official language, as this can impact education, workplace integration, social and recreational opportunities. Diversity Calgary
- While the poverty rate in Calgary is at 14.1% (2000), poverty rates for recent immigrants is at 41.8% and visible minorities at 31.8%. The poverty rate among Aboriginal people was 50.6% and among persons with disabilities it was 33.8%. Statistics Canada
- Poverty among immigrant youth is especially worrying with 51% of immigrant children between the ages of 0-14 being classified as poor.
Statistics Canada
- Of Canadian children under age 15 years, 25% will be from visible minorities and the visible minority senior population will rise from 4% of the population in 1991 to 13% of the total population by 2016.
Diversity Calgary
- Immigration is a key component of Alberta's population growth and will increase in importance as the contribution of natural increase (births less deaths) decreases. 2003 CanWest Report
- Over 1.5 million immigrants came to the West between 1971 and 2002. Presently, Canada will need 250,000 immigrants a year to avoid population decline, to keep the economy healthy and to sustain the tax base. Statistics Canada
- 6.5% of the 255,888 immigrants who came to Canada in 2002 ended up in Alberta. This was attributed to the attraction of skilled workers. Most of this population went to large urban areas. 2003 CanWest Report
- In 2001, 14.9% of Alberta's population was foreign born. 2003 CanWest Report

The Seniors Fund supports enriching the lives of seniors and learning from their experience and expertise.

- By 2015, senior citizens (65 & older) will outnumber children (under 14).
December 2015 - Stats Can
- Currently seniors comprise 10% of our population. By 2016, there will be an estimated 492,800 seniors in Alberta, comprising 14% of the total population. By 2026, Albertans age 65 or older will comprise 20% or 1 in 5 of the population.
- Seniors are the fastest growing segment of the population. Not only will a larger proportion of the population be “senior” but there will also be an increase in older seniors over age 85.
- As seniors age, the percentage that live in urban areas increases.
- Alberta attracts more seniors than any other province. Since 1984 more seniors have moved into Alberta from other parts of Canada than have moved out.
- The senior population is growing at a faster rate than the general population. Since 1971 there has been a 164% increase in the number of Albertans over the age of 65. In the same time frame the entire population of Alberta increased 87%.
- In September of 2003 there were at least 234 females and 32 males aged 100 years and over in Alberta.
- Alberta’s Aboriginal seniors have average incomes of only \$19,964 compared to the average income of other Alberta seniors at \$26,336.
- In 2001, approximately 18% of the total Alberta immigrant population was comprised of seniors.
- In 2001, 44% of seniors reported that they had a disability, that is, their everyday activities were limited because of a health related condition or problem.
- Over the next 10 years, nearly 37 million ‘baby boomers’ across North America will be facing the role of family caregiver for aging parents and will need supports.
- In 2003, the proportion of the population over 65 years of age was the highest it has ever been and will rise rapidly when baby boomers start to reach 65 after 2010. CanadaWest Foundation’s State of the West Report 2003

The Arts and Heritage Fund supports and celebrates creativity and history, interpreting the past and forging links to contemporary discussions.

- Canada's cultural sector is bigger than the agriculture, forestry, mining, oil and gas sectors combined. It has grown by over 30% over the past decade. Canadian Arts Coalition
- Total public funding for arts per person in Alberta in 2002/03 was \$160; national average \$236.
- Alberta ranked 10th among the provinces for per capita public arts spending
- Total amount of Canada Council for the Arts awards given in 2003/04: \$132 million. Amount awarded to Albertans: \$8.2 million.
- 93% of Canadians believe that arts activities contribute to the vitality of their communities - a belief that is strengthened by the evidence that the presence of strong arts and cultural activity is essential to a city's competitiveness in the 21st century. Canadian Arts Coalition
- Canada Council funding as a per cent of all government spending in 2003/04 was 0.1 per cent. Canadian Arts Coalition
- Since 1998, there has been a 50% increase in the number of applications applying for funding to the Canada Council. Canadian Arts Coalition
- 96% of Canadians believe the arts are an essential part of their children's education. Canadian Arts Coalition
- Between 1971 and 2001, the number of artists in Canada more than tripled (compared with an 81% increase in the overall labour force). Canadian Arts Coalition
- Between 1991 and 2001, the number of artists increased by 29% (compared to 10% growth in the overall labour force). Canadian Arts Coalition
- In spite of the increase in number of artists working in Canada, after adjusting for inflation, government spending on culture decreased by 1.3% between 1991 and 2001. Canadian Arts Coalition
- Edmonton City Council approved a \$570,000 increase to annual arts and festival operating funding in their 2005 budget. The City of Calgary approved \$75,000. This increase in funding is not enough to support even the current level of funding to Calgary arts organizations by the Calgary Region Arts Foundation. Edmonton Arts Council, Calgary Region Arts Foundation

The Mental Health Fund supports the study, research and treatment of mental, nervous and emotional disorders

- Mental illness strikes more Albertans than breast cancer, diabetes or Alzheimer's disease. Alberta Mental Health Board - 2001
- Up to 60% of Calgary's homeless are individuals living with severe and persistent mental illness. Canadian Mental Health Association
- In Canada, the cost of mental disabilities is tagged at eight billion dollars but Health Canada says the extent of the problem is underestimated. Canadian Mental Health Association
- Mental Anxiety and stress were cited by Canadian workers in 1997 as reasons for growing levels of absenteeism, more often than physical illness. Canadian Mental Health Association
- Depression represents 14% of all disabilities in Canada, greater than the world average. One in ten will be diagnosed with Depression at some point in their lives. Canadian Mental Health Association
- About one in five Albertans will develop a mental illness during their lifetime. Add in stress-related mental disorders and the number increases to one-in-three Albertans. Alberta Mental Health Board
- A Health Canada report estimated that costs related to mental health problems resulted in a total cost of \$14.4 billion in 1998, placing mental illness amongst the most costly of all conditions in Canada.
- By 2020, it is estimated that Depressive illnesses will become the second leading cause of disease burden world-wide and the leading cause in developed countries like Canada. Canadian Psychiatric Association
- The highest provincial suicide rates are in Alberta and Quebec. Alberta Mental Health Board
- Six million (1 in 5) Canadians will suffer from a mental illness in their lifetime. 600,000 of them will be from Alberta. Canadian Mental Health Association
- The economic cost of mental illness in Canada is more than \$14 billion annually, second only to cancer. Canadian Mental Health Association
- More than 4000 Canadians die by suicide each year. Over 450 of these people will be from Alberta. Canadian Mental Health Association
- According to the Canadian Psychiatric Association, 50 acute mental health beds are required per 100,000 people. Calgary currently has 26 beds per 100,000 people. Canadian Mental Health Association

The Environment Fund supports the protection, preservation, enhancement and restoration of the physical environment

- In the last 40 years the habitats of Alberta's wolves, elk and grizzly bears has declined substantially due to human interests.
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)
- Since settlement began in Alberta, our province's wetlands have been slowly disappearing. It is vital to support these fertile and productive ecosystems.
Government of Alberta - Environment
- Aquatic ecosystems are very susceptible to small changes in water quality and quantity. It is estimated that 80% of Alberta's wildlife use these systems for all or some of their life cycle requirements.
Government of Alberta - Environment
- An October 2004 Summary Report undertaken by Alberta Ecotrust identified Alberta's priority environmental issues as:
 - 1) Water (both quantity and quality)
 - 2) Wilderness and wildlife protection
 - 3) Climate change
 - 4) Urban land management*Summary Report October 2004- Maximizing Effectiveness: An Assessment of Environmental Priorities and Voluntary Sector Capacity Needs in Alberta*
- The great majority of respondents felt that existing programs are not adequately addressing most of the current and emerging environmental issues. For example, 90% felt that energy efficiency and conservation was very or fairly important but 89% felt proactive sustainability strategies were only slightly effective or not being implemented at all. The same held true for protection of wilderness and habitat at 85% and 75% respectively.
Summary Report October 2004- Maximizing Effectiveness: An Assessment of Environmental Priorities and Voluntary Sector Capacity Needs in Alberta
- Access to financial resources remains a critical challenge for Alberta's environmental organizations, as funding sources are very fragmented. More than ¼ of these organizations reported that their funding was tied up in the delivery of specific projects/programs making it difficult to fund core staffing, administration and fundraising.
Summary Report October 2004- Maximizing Effectiveness: An Assessment of Environmental Priorities and Voluntary Sector Capacity Needs in Alberta
- Population growth has placed demands on the water supply in the last decade and will likely become a great challenge in the future. Climate change and glacial retreat add uncertainty to the quantity of flows for the future.
Summary Report May 2005 - A Report on the State of the Bow River Basin