



Media Advisory

The Calgary Foundation Hosts Distinguished Speakers and Local Musicians in Celebration of the Launch of Calgary's *Vital Signs*

Calgary, AB (October 18, 2007) – On **Monday October 22**, The Calgary Foundation will recognize the achievements of the city's philanthropic community through its **Friends of the Foundation Annual Celebration**. This event will also be occasion to celebrate the launch of Calgary's *Vital Signs* – an annual initiative to spark discussion, encourage connections and inspire action surrounding key issues that determine our overall quality of life.

Event Details:

When: Monday October 22
4:30 – 6:30 pm Appetizer Reception
6:30 – 8:30 pm Speakers, Entertainment, Book-Signing

Where: The Palamino Room, The Calgary Stampede Park Roundup Centre

The **Friends of the Foundation Annual Celebration** will provide an opportunity to hear from key *Vital Voices* – citizens actively engaged and involved in and informed about the key issues shaping our daily quality of life:

- **Alex McKay**, an educator in Calgary's public school system for 27 years
- **Jon Mitchell**, Board member of Young Environmental Professionals (YEP)
- **Joanne Stalinski**, senior vice president of wellness for the Calgary Health Region
- **Mario Ayudo**, immigrated to Calgary in 1999 and is now a settlement worker at the Calgary Centre for Newcomers
- **Ramona Johnston**, works to reduce poverty in our city through her work as the founder and director of Vibrant Communities Calgary

The keynote address will be given by distinguished speaker and Governor General Award Winning author **Dr. Thomas Homer-Dixon**, author of *The Ingenuity Gap* and *The Upside of Down*. Dr. Thomas Homer-Dixon is also a professor of political science at the University of Toronto and the director of the Trudeau Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies. He will be delivering a timely message for Calgary, speaking to the significance of citizen engagement and the opportunity for innovation and renewal in the face of challenge.

Calgary's very own **Tom Phillips Trio** will entertain throughout the evening.

Released on October 2, Calgary's *Vital Signs* is being embraced by community organizations, the media and individuals across the city. Acting as a community mirror and a pulse-taker, it is beginning to bring critical issues to the fore.

As we are all experiencing, Calgary is at a critical point in its history where points of tension are being felt across issues encompassing the cost of living, the arts and culture and the environment. *Calgary's Vital Signs* captures the concerns and the dialogue that we are all engaged in.

We invite you to join us in this important dialogue and celebration.

Established in 1955, **The Calgary Foundation** assists donors in creating a giving and caring community by applying its resources, expertise and leadership, in partnership with others, to identify needs and address issues in the Calgary and area community. With over 900 Endowment Funds established, the Foundation strengthens the charitable sector in the areas of Arts & Heritage, Human Services, Education, Environment, Health and Neighbourhoods through knowledgeable 360 degree grant making.

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The Calgary Foundation Media Contact:

Jennifer Gray
Calgary's Vital Signs
Research, Engagement & Communications
Cell: (403) 891.6562
Tel: (403) 802. 7700 ext. 7757

vitalsigns@thecalgaryfoundation.org
www.calgaryvitalsigns.ca