

## The Calgary Foundation releases *Calgary's 2008 Vital Signs* report

**Calgary, AB** – Calgary is at a critical point in its history, with a population of 1,000,000, unparalleled prosperity and growing challenges. *Calgary's Vital Signs* serves as a community barometer inviting Calgarians to grade their quality of life.

One facet of *Calgary's Vital Signs* is an annual report card, to be released this year on Oct. 7, 2008. The report provides a clear snapshot of our city's wellness and livability, and gives Calgarians the opportunity to become "citizen graders" and have their say by grading Calgary's quality of life.

***Calgary's 2008 Vital Signs* report will be released at a press conference on Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2008 from 10:00–11:30 am. Presentations will start at approximately 10:30 am.**

- City of Calgary Outdoor Resource Centre - 1111 Memorial Drive NW (corner of Memorial Drive and 10<sup>th</sup> Street NW).
- Key members of Calgary's Vital Signs team will be in attendance. Coffee and an array of international foods will be provided. Complimentary parking available.

Calgary's Vital Signs report tracks quality of life in 12 key areas including: Getting Started, Safety, Health and Wellness, Housing, Arts and Culture, Gap Between Rich and Poor, Environment, Diversity, Sustainable City, Learning, Work, Belonging & Leadership. The report was developed with many community partners and reflects the community because it involved stakeholders at every level, from advising on the report's indicators and exploring research sources, to citizen graders assigning grades.

### **Thriving**

- Calgary transit carries over 270,000 on the CTrain alone everyday – the highest per capita number of passengers of any light rail transit system in North America.
- In 2007, Calgary had the highest number of small business per capita in Canada.
- In 2006, 69% of Calgary's aboriginal population aged 15 and over held at least one certificate, diploma or degree – one of the highest rates in the country.

### **Critical**

- Calgary leads the country in rates of domestic assaults.
- In 2006, the average house cost 4.2 years of annual income for the average family, up from 2.9 years in 2000.
- Recent immigrant's average income is 63.2% that of non-immigrant income.

More information about *Calgary's 2008 Vital Signs* available at [www.calgaryvitalsigns.ca](http://www.calgaryvitalsigns.ca).

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The Calgary Foundation (TCF), established in 1955, facilitates collaborative philanthropy by making powerful connections between donors and community organizations for the long term benefit of Calgary and surrounding area.

### **For more information, contact:**

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