

# Calgary Essentials

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**Location:** In the foothills of Alberta's Rocky Mountains, at the junction of the Bow and Elbow Rivers.

**Origin of Name:** Calgary was named by Lieutenant-Colonel James Farquharson MacLeod of the North West Mounted Police in 1876. He took the name from the estate of the same name on the Isle of Mull, the ancestral home of his Scottish cousins, the MacKenzies.

**Official Name:** Heart of the New West (according to the Calgary Economic Development Corporation).

**City Nicknames:** Cow Town, Stampede City, C-Dot.

**Official Flower:** In 1991, the city adopted the Red Pasque Flower (*Anemone pulsatilla* "Rubra") as its floral emblem. This flower is a fitting symbol for Calgary as it closely resembles the Prairie Crocus which grows in the Calgary area. Unlike the Prairie Crocus, the Red Pasque Flower has been hybridized and can be grown by gardeners.

## They Said It

*"Without a doubt, the best thing about Calgary is its people. Calgarians have optimism, energy and spirit that can't be beat. They work hard, but they know how to have fun too. For proof, you need look no further than the city's legendary entrepreneurial vigor, the way we welcomed the world to the 1988 Winter Olympics, and the world famous Calgary Stampede."*

– Former Alberta Premier, Ralph Klein

**Official Flag:** Calgary's official flag was designed by Gwin Clarke and Yvonne Fritz and was adopted in 1983 as a result of a contest. The design contains a cowboy hat and the letter "C" on a red background. The stetson has a hand-like shape and is a symbol of hospitality.

**Calgary's Crest:** Calgary's crest, adopted in 1902, was again the result of a contest. The upper third of the crest shows the setting sun above a mural crown — a symbol of loyalty — and the Rocky Mountains. The lower two-thirds bear the red cross of St. George and the Canadian maple leaf inset by a bull buffalo, all supported by a horse and steer. Below the shield are the Canadian maple leaf, the leek of Wales, the shamrock of Ireland, the rose of England and the thistle of Scotland.

**Calgary's Motto:** Onward

**Dates of Incorporation:** As a town: 1884; as a city: 1894.

**Time Zone:** Mountain Standard Time

**Area Code:** 403

**Postal Codes:** T1Y to T3R

**System of Measurement:** Metric

**Voting Age:** 18

**Drinking Age:** 18

**Statutory Holidays:** The province of Alberta has nine official statutory holidays: Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Remembrance Day, Victoria Day, Labour Day, Canada Day, Thanksgiving Day and Alberta Family Day (the third Monday in February). As well, many Calgary businesses allow workers to take off the morning of the Calgary Stampede parade, held the first Friday in July after Canada Day.

## Take 5 GERRY MEEK AND STAFF'S TOP FIVE ESSENTIAL READS

Gerry Meek is the Director of Calgary Public Library. The Calgary Public Library system has 17 locations and is Canada's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest system. When all types of users are combined, Calgarians used the Library more than 32 million times in 2006. The Central Library, the heart and hub of the system, is located in downtown Calgary adjacent to City Hall and Olympic Plaza. Gerry, along with many other staff members, chose what they believe are the top five books that provide intriguing insight to the city and its' people.

1. **Calgary: Spirit of the West** by Hugh Dempsey. Published by the Glenbow and Fifth House Ltd, 1994.
2. **Historic Walks of Calgary** by Harry Sanders. Published by Red Deer Press, 2005.
3. **Calgary: Heart of the New West**, introduction by Darrel Janz. Published by Towery Publications, 2001.
4. **Udderly Art: Colourful Cows for Calgary** by Tom Keyser. Published by Johnson Gorman, 2000.
5. **Fields of Fire: An Illustrated History of Canadian Petroleum** by David Finch and Gordon Jaremko. Published by Detselig Enterprises Ltd, 1995.

### SISTER CITIES

The city of Calgary has no fewer than six ‘sister cities’ around the world. The first city into which it entered such a relationship was Quebec City in 1956, followed in 1973 by Jaipur, India. In 1985, Daqing, China came into the family, as did Naucalpan, Mexico in 1994. Daejeon, South Korea signed on in 1996 and the following year saw Pheonix, Arizona enter the fold.

### AREA

Calgary: 722 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Toronto: 641 km<sup>2</sup>  
 New York: 831 km<sup>2</sup>

**Elevation:** 1,128 m

**Number of Parks:** 29

### PATHWAYS

For a city built on the consumption of fossil fuels, it might come as a surprise to discover that Calgary is home to the largest urban pathway system in North America. The network encompasses more than 600 km of dedicated recreational pathways and over 250 km of shared on-street bikeways.

### LANGUAGES WE SPEAK

- Percentage whose mother tongue is English: 78
- Chinese (Mandarin, Cantonese, etc.): 4.4
- Italian: 1.6
- German: 1.6

### Did you know...

that there are more than 25,000 more single men in Calgary than there are single women?

### They Said It

*“It’s a good music town. I knew some players out here. Nice people. (I also like) how many Maritimers there are out here. There’s a pile of them even from my own hometown. I love the mountains - that’s the other thing I really love about out here.”*

– **Dylan MacDonald** on what he likes most about his adopted Calgary.

- French: 1.6
- Punjabi: 1.4
- Other languages include — Polish, Spanish, Portuguese, Ukrainian, Arabic, Dutch, Tagalog, Greek, Vietnamese, Cree, Inuktitut
- Percentage of Calgarians who are bilingual: 1.3

*Source: Statistics Canada*

### LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH

	Alberta	Canada
Male	77.5	77.4
Female	82.2	82.4
Total	79.9	79.9

*Source: Alberta Government.*

### POPULATION

Population of the City of Calgary: 988,193

Population of the Municipality: 1,079,310

*Source: Statistics Canada*

### Did you know...

that Calgary has more than 180 distinct neighbourhoods within its boundaries?

## POPULATION IN PERSPECTIVE

Calgary is the fifth largest municipality in Canada — after Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver and Ottawa. Its population of one million makes it about a fifth the size of Toronto (5.3 million).

Calgary has about as many people as the small nations of Trinidad & Tobago (1,088,600) and East Timor (1,040,900), and has about a quarter of the population of Ireland (four million).

## Take 5 WILL FERGUSON'S TOP FIVE THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT CALGARY

Will Ferguson was born and raised in Alberta. An author, humorist and historian, he has traveled the world, recounting in ten books and countless newspaper and magazine columns his adventures abroad and offering his perspectives on his home country.

Ferguson's first book, a tale of reverse-culture shock titled *Why I Hate Canadians*, sold more than 50,000 copies. The follow-up, *How to Be Canadian*, has sold more than 200,000 copies and was awarded the CBA Libris Award for Non-Fiction Book of the Year. His *Canadian History for Dummies* won the Canadian Authors Association Award for History. His book *Happiness and How to Be a Canadian* were short-listed for the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour, the first time an author had been nominated twice in one year. *Happiness* took home the prize as did his *Beauty Tips from Moose Jaw* in 2005. Ferguson was also awarded the Pierre Berton Award by Canada's National History Society. He lives in Calgary with his wife Terumi and their two sons.

1. Calgary is one of the most educated cities in Canada, nudged out only by Ottawa in the number of postgraduate degrees. Instead of bestowing visitors with a white hat, perhaps we should be giving them honorary degrees instead. That would certainly reflect Calgary's demographics more accurately. There's a good deal more MBAs in this city than cowboys.

2. Calgary is a heartland for volunteerism. You may have heard this claim before. Well, it's true. The Canadian Centre for Philanthropy

## CALGARY JOINS THE MILLION CLUB

On July 24, 2006, Calgary welcomed its millionth bouncing baby citizen. Dashiell Waite, weighing in at nine pounds, ten ounces, was welcomed into the world by a host of business and community leaders, including Mayor Dave Bronconnier who celebrated the occasion by white hatting the wee tyke. Instead of the usual wide brimmed Stetson bestowed on visiting dignitaries and notables, little Dashiell was given a specially knitted white cap with "Calgary One Million" embroidered across the front.

has reported that Calgarians donate 50 percent more to charities than the national average, and far ahead of Toronto. This is a "booster city" in the best sense, and even at one million people, Calgary still has that civic spirit.

3. Calgary has one of the highest Green Party votes in Canada, second only to Victoria. In fact, three out of Calgary's eight ridings gave the Green Party more than 10 per cent support – a significant milestone for the environmental movement. Maybe Elizabeth May should have run in Calgary Centre instead?

4. Despite its public image, Calgary is a green city. Montreal's *Maisonneuve Magazine* has stated that "Calgary's commitment to green power is the largest in North America," with commitments in place for the city to run on 75 percent green sources (such as wind power), with greenhouse gas emissions to be cut by 50 percent below its 1990 levels within five years. No other city in Canada – or the continent – can match this.

5. Calgary has a break-out theatre scene. Following the trail blazed by Edmonton, Calgary has embraced new and innovative theatre. This is a young city with an optimistic air. It's a city open to new ideas, something reflected in what is now one of the strongest arts and new theatre scenes in Canada. When Douglas Coupland launched his one-man play *September 10, A Play* he chose Calgary for its debut.

# YOU KNOW YOU'RE FROM CALGARY WHEN...

- Your belt buckle cost more than your watch.
- You've rubbed shoulders with Ralph Klein at the Louis.
- Drinking your weight in beer during the Stampede is considered a virtue.
- You not only own a Stetson, you know how to wear it.
- You know the difference between Smithbilt and Peterbilt.
- You know the difference between MacKenzie Towne and Chapparral.
- You spend more money on Stampede entertainment than Christmas.
- You know someone who has been a Young Canadian.
- Two-stepping is something you're good at, and proud of.
- You know what bitumen means.
- You own at least one Flames jersey.
- You've considered naming your firstborn Iggy or Kipper.
- You've volunteered with at least one organization in the last year.
- You know the Plus 15's like the back of your hand.
- You ride your bike/Vespa/motorcycle after the first snowfall.
- You know the difference between the Ship and the Drum.
- You've been to the Stampede parade at least once without any sleep.
- You can recite the names of the current Stampede Queen and Princesses.
- You know that Bronco is the mayor's nickname.
- You think the Flames were robbed in the 2004 Stanley Cup final game.
- Your idea of an awesome night on the town includes a shisha bar, burlesque dancing and honkytonks.
- You've written at least one letter to the editor of the *Calgary Herald*.
- A mini-Hummer makes sense.
- You're hung over for most of July.
- Jeans and a button down shirt are "business casual."
- You've puked in a bathroom at Cowboy's that wasn't designated for your gender.
- Going to the Deep South means driving to Shawnessy.
- Someone in your family is an engineer or a geologist.
- A \$350,000 condo is a steal.
- You've stumbled the Red Mile.
- Chanteuse Jann Arden has served you meatloaf and Jell-O.
- You still call it the Husky Tower.
- Oil and gas guru Gwen Morgan has flipped you pancakes.
- Golf is a legitimate business expense.
- You wear snow boots one week and sandals the next.
- You've made out while watching the fireworks from Scotsman's Hill.
- Skinny-dipping in the Bow is a rite of passage.
- You religiously attend Cowboy church during Stampede, even though you're Jewish.
- You think urban sprawl means stretching out in a buddy's downtown loft.
- There's a photo of you and Ralph having a beer at the Cecil.
- Crescent Road conjures images of first kisses and midnight toboggan runs.
- Patio time means cruising 17th Ave for a good spot to sit.
- You wear a business suit to a fashion gala.
- Dark blue is NOT the only acceptable colour for a business suit.
- Climate change is either the next best thing, or a Liberal conspiracy to shackle the West.
- Eating at home means ordering in.
- Cappuccinos at Lina's Italian Market is a Saturday ritual.
- Fear of Deerfoot is a seasonal driving disorder starting with the first snowfall.
- You accept city council making more than any other council in Canada, and voting themselves a 10 percent raise.
- You are equally as comfortable at Ceasar's Steakhouse as at Tekko Sushi.
- You buy ground bison from the Co-op to make burgers.
- Out east means anything past Winnipeg.
- Lunch at the Petroleum Club every Tuesday is non-negotiable.
- You know your way around Houston.
- Visiting friends and family make it out to the mountains more often than you do.

## Did you know...

that the Calgary Zoo is the second largest in Canada? Kamala, the zoo's elephant matriarch, has gained a reputation as a talented painter and her work is often auctioned off, raising money for various charities in the city.

### POPULATION DENSITY

- Calgary: 1,279 people/km<sup>2</sup>
- Edmonton: 1,047 people/km<sup>2</sup>
- Toronto: 3,939/km<sup>2</sup>
- New York City: 10,194 people/km<sup>2</sup>
- Tokyo: 13,416 people/km<sup>2</sup>

### UP AND UP

Over the past five years, the population of Calgary has increased by 12.4 percent, outpacing Canada's growth rate of 5.4 percent and Alberta's of 10.6 percent.

### Median Age

34.9 years

### BOYS AND GIRLS (2006)

	Men	Women
Total	497,449	494,310
0-19	123,166	119,172
20-34	120,197	120,309
35-64	212, 224	202,832
64+	41,862	51,997

Source: City of Calgary.

## Did you know...

that 20.9 percent of Calgarians are foreign born?

### CRADLE TO GRAVE

- Number of Calgarians born in 2005: 12,910
- Number of deaths: 4,680
- Number of marriages: 4,536

Source: Alberta Government.

### MARITAL STATUS

(Population aged 15 and over)

- Percentage who are married: 51
- Percentage who are single: 34
- Percentage divorced: 8
- Percentage separated: 3
- Widowed: 4

### MEAN AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE IN ALBERTA

Men: 33.1 (Canada: 34.6)

Women 30.7 (Canada, 32.1)

Source: Statistics Canada.

### CATS AND DOGS (2006)

- Number of dogs in Calgary: 92,563
- Number of cats: 90,137

Source: City of Calgary

## Did you know...

that in 2006, Calgary saw its total population increase by 35,681. Of these, 9,887 came from natural increase, the remaining 25,794 from in-migration.

## They Said It

"I want to be a Canadian first, I'll be an Albertan second, I'll be a Calgarian third."

– Grant MacEwan

### RELIGION

Calgary is often said to be in the "Bible Beltbuckle." This play on words is said to reflect the jeans-wearing cowboys and the high number of Christian conservatives who call Calgary and Southern Alberta home.

### RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

- Percentage who are Protestant: 35.2
- Percentage who are Catholic: 26.3
- Percentage with no religious affiliation: 25.2
- Christian (not affiliated): 4.3
- Muslim: 2.7
- Christian Orthodox: 1.2
- Buddhist: 1.7
- Sikh: 1.4
- Hindu: .07
- Jewish: .06
- Eastern religions: .01
- Other religions: .02

Source: Statistics Canada.

## Did you know...

that Calgary grows at a rate of 98 new arrivals a day (35,770 a year)?

### HEALTH CARE

Calgary has three major hospitals: the Foothills Medical Centre, the Rockyview General Hospital and the Peter Lougheed Centre, all overseen by the Calgary Health Region. A medical evacuation helicopter (Stars Air Ambulance) operates under the auspices of the Shock Trauma Rescue Safety.

Calgary also has the Tom Baker Cancer Centre (located in the Foothills Medical Centre), the Alberta Children's Hospital and the Grace Women's Health Centre providing a variety of care, in addition to hundreds of smaller medical and dental clinics. The University of Calgary Medical Centre also operates in partnership with the Calgary Health Region.

### EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The City of Calgary Emergency Medical Services (EMS) experiences over 96,000 emergency responses a year, and operates 44 advanced life support (ALS) response vehicles during peak times.

Source: City of Calgary Emergency Medical Services.

- Number of Doctors in Calgary: 2,603

Source: College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta.

### SCHOOLS

- Number of schools under the Calgary Catholic School District: 98
- Estimated staff: 4,000
- Estimated number of students: 44,000
- Number of schools under the Calgary Board of Education: 219

## Did you know...

that 80 percent of Calgarians are proud of their downtown and 77 percent think that Calgary has a good quality of life?

- Estimated number of teaching staff: 5,500
- Estimated number of support and CUPE staff: 3,000
- Estimated number of students: 98,380

Source: *Calgary Board of Education.*

## SECONDARY EDUCATION

Calgary is home to several universities and colleges.

- The University of Calgary, home to 28,807 students, is Calgary's largest degree-granting facility.
- Mount Royal College is the city's second largest institution with an enrollment of 13,000.
- Bow Valley College provides training in business, technology and the liberal arts for about 10,000 students.
- The Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) provides polytechnic education.
- The Alberta College of Art and Design (ACAD) offers training in the arts.
- University of Lethbridge has a satellite campus in Calgary.
- There also several private liberal arts institutions including Alliance University College, Nazarene University College and St. Mary's University College.
- Calgary is home to DeVry Career College's only Canadian campus.
- Also in Calgary: The Alberta Bible College and Rocky Mountain College.

Source: *UnivSource.*

## PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TEAMS AND THEIR NOTABLE WINS

- Flames, National Hockey League: 1 Stanley Cup Championship
- Stampeders, Canadian Football League: 5 Championships
- Roughnecks, National Lacrosse League: 1 Championship
- Vipers, Northern League (baseball): 0 Championships

Major Daily Newspapers: *Calgary Herald* and the *Calgary Sun*

## Web links

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### The City of Calgary

[www.calgary.ca](http://www.calgary.ca)

Everything you want to know about Calgary, from job opportunities to traffic updates to the comprehensive A to Z Directory.

### Calgary Economic Development

[www.calgaryeconomicdevelopment.com](http://www.calgaryeconomicdevelopment.com)

Find out about the region's competitive advantages, pro business climate and superior lifestyle.

### The Calgary Herald

[www.canada.com/calgaryherald](http://www.canada.com/calgaryherald)

A daily newspaper with free archives. The site is updated each day.