



VOLUME 3

Calgary & Region Social Outlook 2009-2014

INTRODUCTION

Think of cities and the first things that come to mind are physical buildings, adjoined by a network of roads. Or maybe for some, cities elicit thoughts of industry or how the aesthetic tastes of the day are represented, or how the surrounding environment plays a part in creating this unique, bustling and dynamic interplay called “The City.” Concrete and tangible descriptions of cities are one thing, but beneath them lay another reality much harder to describe – yet is the common thread that links all the above – and that is People. Cities are made up of People.

Cities are where vast numbers of people live in close proximity and enjoy nuanced, personal and individual events that have a profound influence on each other, because of this nearness. These events – such as the way people interact with each other, their issues of concern and their personal victories and defeats – become elucidated over time and through shared experience; and result in patterns that can be assessed, interpreted and projected into a framework for understanding future “people events.”

Examining these patterns is what The City of Calgary’s *Social Outlook, 2009-2014* is all about. It’s a comprehensive and detailed compilation of these “people events” which, through the use of timely local data, provide a snapshot for readers of what Calgary is all about, what are its opportunities and challenges, and where it is going from here as a relatively young and vibrant city.

In 2004, The City of Calgary adopted a “Triple Bottom Line” (TBL) approach to decision-making, to enhance Calgary’s long-term sustainability by ensuring that social, economic and environmental considerations are taken into account in all City planning and decision-making.

This report focuses on the social dimensions of the Triple Bottom Line policy framework. Currently, there are five social themes within the framework. These five themes are:

1. an **Inclusive City**,
2. a **Cultural City**,
3. an **Active City**,
4. a **Safe City**,
5. a City of **Strong Neighbourhoods**.

The Socio-Economic Outlook is a five-year forecast aimed at assisting readers to understand and adapt to change inside and outside of Calgary, provides valuable assistance for planning/ budgeting at both City and community levels and is a vital preparatory series that supports City Council during its budget adjustment process. It also helps inform Council on decisions that impact the local community. It fills an important information gap, as no other publication produced internally or externally at The City of Calgary provides such a thorough analysis of our local economy and society.

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OVERVIEW

Calgary's economy slides into recession following record growth ...

Until last year, economic growth in Canada was led by the western provinces that generated substantial employment gains. This led to historically low unemployment rates and growing participation in the labour force, particularly in Calgary. This period of economic prosperity also finally generated rising wages and incomes following a quarter century of stagnation. In 2008, however, the economy began to falter and employment growth leveled off, leading to rising unemployment. As the recession deepened, the quality of jobs in Alberta deteriorated, part-time work began to grow, wage increases moderated, and work hours fell.

Looking forward, economic growth in the Calgary Economic Region should recover after 2010, when unemployment will peak and then decline steadily, stabilizing at pre-recessionary levels by 2013. Weakness in the labour market over the next two years, however, will likely mean wage growth will be slow. Despite this short term surge in unemployment, labour shortages may re-emerge by the end of the forecast period when wage growth may start to recover.

... as households struggle financially ...

While income and earnings growth slowed over the past year, household wealth also eroded as the stock market fell and property values deteriorated, leaving many households financially vulnerable. Over the past several years, household spending has continued to outpace income growth, leading to record low savings and increasing debt. As a result, many households did not have sufficient financial reserves to meet the challenges of a slowing economy. Further, many households were reliant on two incomes to meet their current expenses and debts, and the loss of even one income is having a significant impact on the ability of many households to meet their financial obligations. As households struggle to deal with these serious financial challenges, consumer bankruptcies are rising, household spending is falling and many are having increasing difficulty meeting their basic needs.

As the recession took hold, many workers were nearing retirement and looking forward to leaving the workforce. Steep declines in the stock market, however, have eroded the value of many people's retirement savings which were already

insufficient. This may force many older workers to delay retirement. Moreover, for seniors who are not working, or unable to supplement their falling pensions with other income, the recession may have a significant affect on their financial well-being.

Over the next two years, income growth will remain slow due to lower wage growth and reduced investment income. As the economy recovers, wages may continue to stagnate as employment growth will be strongest in industries in the middle to lower end of the earnings spectrum. As a result, savings rates will remain low and households may continue to rely on debt to meet current expenses. Projected interest rate increases in 2011 and 2012 may pose challenges for highly indebted households. While a significantly lower rate of inflation may provide some relief, the deflated Canadian dollar may result in continued high prices for food and other imported goods.

... and vulnerable populations are impacted

Until the current recession, the economic prospects for minority groups in Calgary were improving. More immigrants were choosing Calgary as a destination over other more traditional immigrant centres due to the economic opportunities presented here. Recent immigrants, Aboriginal persons and visible minority persons were very engaged in the labour market, although their earnings tended to be lower on average. With economic growth coming to an abrupt halt, these groups may now find themselves more severely impacted due to persistent patterns of lower wages and higher rates of poverty and unemployment.

Poverty remained persistent even in the good times

Despite the recent period of prolonged economic growth, Calgary's poverty rate remained virtually unchanged between 2001 and 2006. One of the unique features of poverty in Calgary is that until recently, almost all of Calgary's poor were working. As the recession has deepened, low-income workers are being severely affected by layoffs, many of whom are ineligible for Employment Insurance. As a result, Social Assistance receipt has begun to rise in Calgary after years of decline.

Looking forward, continued slow income growth and rising unemployment will likely lead to continued increases in the poverty rate. Consequently, Social Assistance receipt will

likely continue to climb through to 2010 when unemployment peaks. Given current benefit rates for provincial income support programs, those relying on Social Assistance will face significant challenges meeting their basic needs, leading to rising demand for basic needs supports, particularly housing and emergency food assistance.

Housing affordability improving, but remains expensive

As the economy slowed, net migration to Calgary also eased, leading to lower demand for rental accommodation. This has led to rising vacancy rates and moderating rent after several years of steep increases. Although vacancy rates have started to rise, Calgary's rental stock continues to shrink as more units are converted to condominium ownership and little new rental stock is constructed, contributing to an ongoing lack of affordable housing. Further, despite moderating rent increases, rental accommodation in Calgary remains relatively expensive, with vacancy rates very low for lower-priced units. City shelters are reporting that demand is markedly higher than a year ago, while many former shelter residents are returning after being laid off.

Over the next two years, housing cost increases should continue to slow as reduced population growth eases pressure on the rental and ownership markets. This may help to moderate current household financial pressures. At the same time, however, Calgary's private rental stock is expected to continue to shrink, suggesting that currently low vacancy rates for lower-priced units may remain. New investments in affordable housing over the forecast period should begin to address the growing demand.

Rising food prices a growing challenge

Over the past two years, food prices in Calgary have risen appreciably. As a result, a growing number of households are either having too little food or are unable to provide nutritious food. As the full impact of the recession becomes felt in Calgary, food bank usage is growing following several consecutive years of decline. Further, the growing number of people forced to rely on Social Assistance due to either their ineligibility for, or exhaustion of, Employment Insurance benefits, will continue to increase the demand for food assistance given the gross inadequacy of Social Assistance benefit rates. Looking forward, rising food costs will continue to affect the ability of lower-income households to provide healthy and nutritious meals. The demand for food assistance arising from high unemployment rates will likely be exacerbated by stagnating wages over the forecast period.

Immigration reaches a record level in Calgary ...

Drawn by its stronger economy, immigration to Calgary has increased consistently over the past decade, reaching a record level in 2008, with The Philippines becoming Calgary's most important immigrant source country. Although the current economic recession may prompt expectations of a decline in immigration to Calgary, ongoing weakness in the economies of the primary immigration destination regions, notably Ontario and B.C., may contribute to ongoing high levels of immigration and secondary migration to Calgary.

As the economy recovers, immigration will again be important to meet local labour force needs and will continue to increase. In 2009, between 10,700 and 11,800 immigrants are expected to land in Calgary. Many of these immigrants will continue to face significant financial pressure, as they tend to have higher unemployment rates and lower earnings, and are under-represented in sectors that will contribute the most new jobs to the Calgary region over the next five years. New immigrants are also likely to continue to face linguistic and cultural challenges leading to an ongoing demand for language and settlement services.

... while human rights issues remain a concern

Across the country official human rights complaints are declining, a trend that may be expected to continue, although certain types of complaints may rise. The most frequent grounds for complaint is disability, one that may increase as the population ages. While human rights complaints are falling, discrimination remains an ongoing concern. Even as officially reported hate crimes fell in Calgary in 2008, anti-Semitic incidents and white supremacist activity rose. There is fear that such activity may continue or increase as economic opportunity is reduced and minority groups might be blamed and targeted. Such incidents will not likely be reflected in the number of formal human rights complaints, but should be closely monitored and addressed.

Calgary's voluntary sector is strong but challenged by recession

Throughout the past decade, Canada's voluntary sector has remained robust, with economic growth in the sector outpacing the rest of the economy. Meanwhile, voluntarism remains strong, with volunteer rates in Alberta rising. With the onset of the recession there is concern that falling household incomes

may lead to reduced charitable giving even as the demand for service grows.

In addition to reduced individual giving, shrinking corporate earnings may also lead to reduced corporate donations and sponsorships, while rising government deficits may lead to an increasingly constrained public funding environment. This is causing some analysts to worry that the financial pressures on many organizations will be too great, and some will be forced to close. Exacerbating this situation are recent changes to tax laws that encouraged the establishment of foundations and allowed for the charitable donation of equities that have left the sector more closely tied to the stock market. As stock markets fell, the value of many of the assets held by organizations and foundations also eroded.

There is particular concern in the voluntary sector for arts, culture, recreation and sport organizations who may not be the highest priority for donors as competition for donations grows. These organizations have also become increasingly reliant on corporate donations and sponsorships, and will thus be significantly impacted by reduced corporate giving. Further, household expenditures on recreation and culture in Calgary began to fall in 2007 after four years of consistent increases, a trend likely to continue given current and projected trends in income and earnings.

Looking forward, expect the funding environment to remain challenging over the next two years until economic growth picks up in earnest in 2011. The impact of reduced funding may be partially offset by reduced operating costs due to lower inflation. The current recession will also significantly impact Calgary artists whose earnings were already extremely low. Rising unemployment and stagnating wage growth will only exacerbate this situation. However, over the forecast period, employment growth is expected to remain strong in the Information, Culture and Recreation sector which will also benefit from new capital investments.

Human resource challenges for voluntary organizations persisting

In recent years, staff recruitment and retention have emerged as one of the most critical issues facing the voluntary sector due to an acute local labour shortage coupled with a high local cost of living and lower rates of pay compared to the private sector. As the labour market weakens, these human resource pressures may ease in the short term. However, simultaneous funding declines may require some organizations to lay off

staff, increasing the workload for remaining employees, who must in turn devote more time and energy to fundraising. Further, changing expectations of volunteers are making volunteer management more complex even as demands on staff rise. The impact of the recession on volunteer activity itself remains unknown; while reduced work activity may increase time available to households to engage in volunteer activity, financial constraints may simultaneously hinder their ability or willingness to do so.

Participation in culture and recreation activities rising, but barriers remain

Across the country, participation in cultural and recreational activities remains strong, with attendance at cultural events and institutions and participation in creative pursuits on the rise. Levels of physical activity, critically important for mental and physical health, are also increasing, though they remain insufficient. Despite the benefits of active recreational activities, many people continue to face barriers that prevent them from participating fully. Principal barriers to participation include a lack of time, program cost and the adequacy of facilities, as well as age and disability.

Looking forward, the increasing recognition of the importance of physical activity should lead to growing demand for recreation programs and services. At the same time, spending on recreation is declining with cost being one of the primary constraints to participation. In the current economic environment, interest in free or low-cost activities will likely grow, while activities requiring greater investments of money or time may experience lower demand.

Over the forecast period, the current shortage of sport and recreation infrastructure may ease as new infrastructure funding starts to flow, and slower population growth may ease growth pressures in newer areas. As the number of persons with disabilities grows due to an aging population, attention to universal accessibility in the design of facilities and programs will become increasingly important. As the population ages expect the demand for more passive recreational activities to also continue to grow.

Calgarians continue to feel safe, but concerns growing

Calgarians continue to feel relatively safe as both person and property crime rates fall, and the severity of crime is lessening. Despite decreasing overall rates of crime, however, concern about certain types of crime is rising, particularly organized crime and gang activity which is occupying more and more police

resources. Further, while homicide rates fall across Canada, they remain highest in western Canada, with Calgary having one of the highest homicide rates in the country. Meanwhile, youth crime rates continue to fall in Calgary, and increasing attention is being paid to providing positive programming for youth during the “critical hours” before and after school when most unhealthy youth activity occurs.

Calgary should remain a comparatively safe city as long-term declines in person and property crime rates should continue. However, recent increases in gang violence and organized crime may lead to rising safety concerns despite the falling rate and severity of crime. As the full impact of the current recession becomes felt, the stress associated with unemployment and reduced income may lead to new safety issues, such as increased crimes of desperation and family violence which is often associated with high levels of personal and financial stress. Calgary currently has a relatively high rate of family violence, and incidents in Calgary rose in 2008, reversing a consistent pattern of decline. As households experience increased levels of stress due to the economic downturn, more supports and services may be required to support families in crisis and mitigate these stresses.

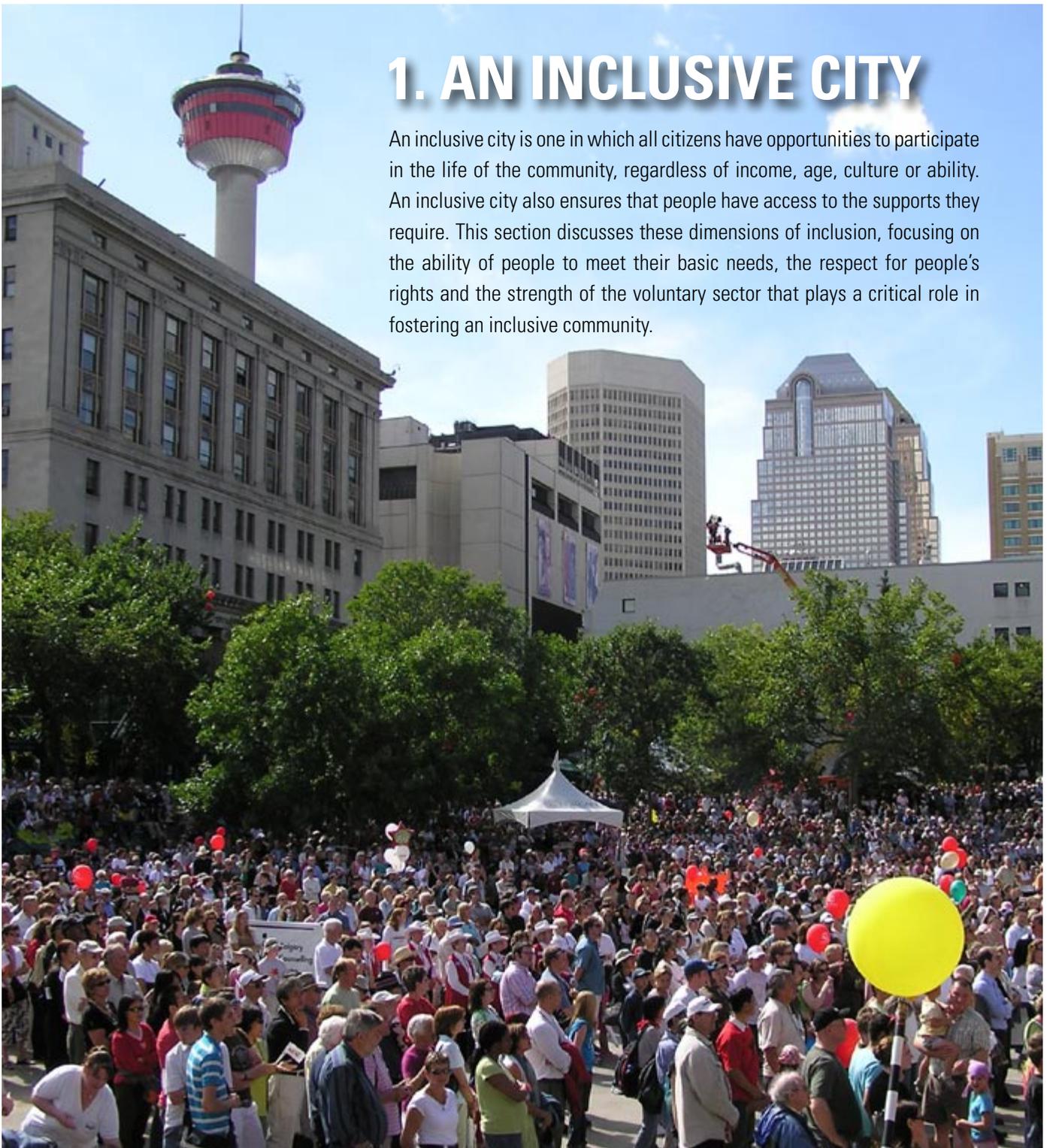
Calgary's suburbs continue to expand while becoming more diverse

Calgary's population continues to grow, largely driven by continued migration to the city. The developing communities on the city's outer fringe continue to accommodate the largest share of population growth, although the inner-city is also absorbing a larger share of the population. Although population growth is expected to slow over the next five years, the developing communities will continue to expand, albeit at a slower rate.

Suburban areas continue to grow more and more culturally and economically diverse. As inner-city areas become less affordable, the number of low-income suburban households continues to grow. At the same time, more and more immigrant and visible minority families are gravitating to the newer communities, increasing the cultural vibrancy of such areas. Given the changing social and economic character of Calgary's suburbs, the demand for supports and services in these areas is growing.

1. AN INCLUSIVE CITY

An inclusive city is one in which all citizens have opportunities to participate in the life of the community, regardless of income, age, culture or ability. An inclusive city also ensures that people have access to the supports they require. This section discusses these dimensions of inclusion, focusing on the ability of people to meet their basic needs, the respect for people's rights and the strength of the voluntary sector that plays a critical role in fostering an inclusive community.



“The City of Calgary values and promotes independence and is a vital partner in creating an inclusive city where all Calgarians have the opportunity to take an active part in the social, economic and cultural life of the community. To accomplish this The City of Calgary seeks to ensure equitable access to City services and amenities regardless of age, income, culture or physical ability, and fosters participation by persons from diverse populations and seeks to ensure that civic programs and services reflect and respond to the changing social and demographic structure of society.”

- Triple Bottom Line Policy Framework

1.1 BASIC NEEDS

1.11 Labour Force and Employment

EMPLOYMENT SNAPSHOT

Unemployment Rate, Calgary, 2008: 3.5%



Youth Unemployment Rate, Calgary, 2008: 7.0%



Labour Force Participation Rate, Calgary, 2008: 77.1%



Full time employment rate, Calgary, 2008: 85%



EMPLOYMENT TRENDS SUMMARY

- Until last year, employment growth has been strong across Canada, with the western provinces, particularly Alberta, leading the country. In response to a strong labour market, unemployment rates hit historically low levels, while labour force participation rates were high, particularly in Calgary. In 2008, employment growth began to slow after a decade of gains. As the economy faltered in the fourth quarter of 2008 and continued to lag throughout 2009, employment growth slowed and unemployment began to rise after reaching record lows in the previous two years. As a result, wage increases which had been growing at a healthy rate for the past several years began to moderate.
- Until the onset of the current recession, employment gains in Canada's services and construction sectors offset significant job losses in manufacturing. New jobs were of high quality, being largely full-time in higher paying sectors. However, as the recession has deepened, employment quality has deteriorated, particularly in Alberta. In 2009, part-time job growth has surpassed full-time job growth, while more jobs are being created in sectors with less security.
- Over the past several years, Calgary's population growth has lagged employment growth, exacerbating an acute labour shortage. In order to alleviate this, companies recruited increasing numbers of Temporary Foreign Workers. While this partially addressed the shortage of labour, complaints of employment abuses by Temporary Foreign Workers increased. In 2008, as unemployment rates rose and the labour shortage eased, many Temporary Foreign Workers have been left in extremely vulnerable situations. These workers are now at high risk of job loss, and will face significant barriers to re-employment.
- As the labour shortage worsened in 2007, the number of workers working overtime in Alberta grew, while significant numbers of people moved to the province in search of work. However, due to the increasing use of lesser skilled or younger workers, along with reduced capacity for training, labour productivity in Alberta fell while occupational fatalities reached record levels. In 2008, work hours began to fall as did the percentage of the workforce working overtime.
- Until the current recession, employment prospects for vulnerable populations continued to improve in Calgary. Earnings however lagged, leading to a growing disparity in earnings between the average worker and recent immigrants, visible minority and Aboriginal workers.

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK

- Economic growth in the Calgary Economic Region is projected to recover from an expected 2.0 per cent decline in GDP in 2009 to a gain of 1.2 per cent in 2010 and peaking in 2011 at 3.4 per cent. In line with economic growth projections, the unemployment rate in the Calgary Economic Region is projected to rise from an expected rate of 6.5 per cent in 2009 to a peak in 2010 of 7.0 per cent, and then decline steadily to a rate of 4.0 per cent by 2013.
- As the economy recovers, employment growth will be strongest in the construction, wholesale trade and professional, scientific and technical services sectors, with these three sectors accounting for 70 per cent of all new employment in the Calgary Economic Region over the next five years.
- Over the forecast period, employment growth is expected to be strongest in industrial sectors in the middle to lower end of the earnings spectrum. Between 2009 and 2013, only 14.5 per cent of new jobs in the Calgary Economic Region will be created in the top five industries with the highest average earnings. Consequently, the recent slowdown in wage growth in Calgary will likely continue.
- Although many workers are nearing retirement, recent declines in the stock market have eroded the value of retirement savings. This, coupled with already insufficient levels of retirement savings, may force some workers to delay retirement; as a result, the average age of the workforce will likely continue to rise. This trend will be supported by legislative changes that allow employees to begin drawing pension income while they continue to work without losing seniority, job security or health and dental benefits.
- As the economy recovers, Calgary will continue to look to immigration to help fill its labour force needs. An analysis of potential source countries that could meet the skill requirements of the local economy determined that many of these workers may face significant cultural and linguistic challenges to integration. This suggests that more supports will be required for immigrants if Calgary is to be successful in efforts to address labour supply issues through immigration.
- The social and economic conditions of new immigrants continue to be of concern as the current recession has significantly impacted the sectors in which they are predominantly employed. Further, recent immigrants have tended to be under-represented in the industrial sectors that are expected to contribute the most new jobs to the Calgary region over the next five years. As unemployment rates for recent immigrants were already above and earnings below average, even before the start of the recession, many may face significant challenges in meeting their basic needs over the coming years.
- Despite a short term surge in unemployment, labour shortages are expected to re-emerge in Calgary and the rest of the country over the long term. Over the next two decades, labour force participation rates are expected to continue to decline due to the aging of the baby boom and low fertility rates. While factors such as increased immigration and delayed retirement may slow the decline, these factors will not reverse it.

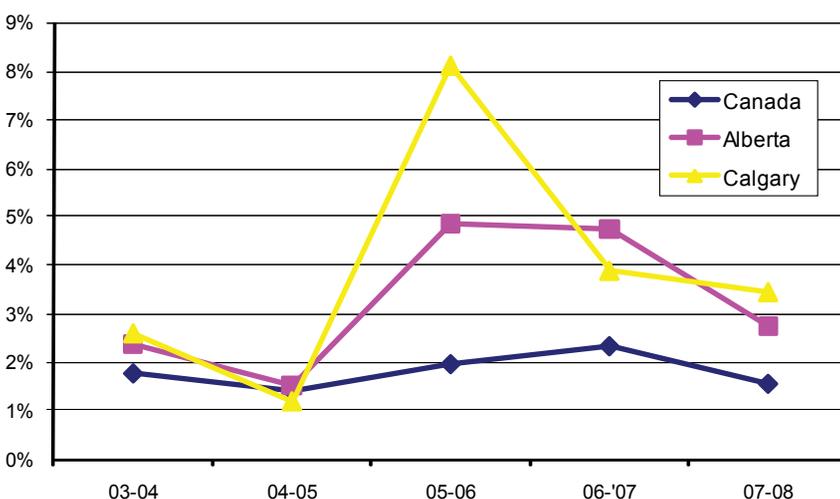
Discussion

► *Employment Growth Slows After a Decade of Gains*

Across Canada, employment grew in 2007, rising by 2.3 per cent over 2006, continuing a long-term trend (Statistics Canada, 2009a). In Alberta, employment grew by 4.7 per cent in 2007, accounting for 23 per cent of all job growth in Canada. In Calgary, employment grew by 3.9 per cent between 2006 and 2007, an increase of 25,500 jobs, accounting for 29 per cent of the increase in provincial employment, and 6.7 per cent of the increase in national employment (Government of Alberta, 2008a). This was followed by a further 3.5 per cent increase in employment in 2008 (See Table 1). In late 2008, employment growth slowed as the recession set in during the fourth quarter, falling to a rate of 1.5 per cent across Canada and 2.7 per cent in Alberta, almost half the rate of 2007.

Over a six month period covering the end of 2008 and beginning of 2009, slowing job growth turned to outright job loss as the Canadian economy shed 2.1 per cent of total employment, a decrease of 356,000 jobs (Tal, 2009). Alberta has not been immune to this slowdown, reporting employment losses over the first quarter of 2009, primarily in full-time employment. Full-time job losses to date have been partially offset by gains in part-time work. Despite the economic slowdown, Calgary continued to have the strongest employment growth in Alberta, gaining over 10,000

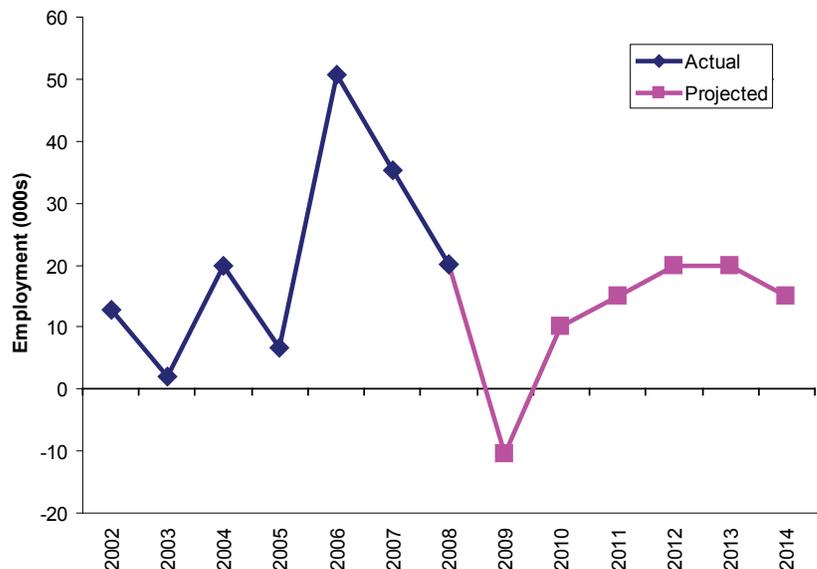
Annual Rate of Employment Growth, Canada, Alberta, Calgary (CMA)



jobs between March 2008 and March 2009 (Government of Alberta, 2009a).

Over the coming five years, employment growth is expected to recover after declining sharply from its peak in 2006. In 2009, Calgary is expected to suffer a net loss of 10,500 jobs (See Table 2). However, job growth should resume in 2010, increasing gradually to 2012 and 2013 when an estimated 20,000 net new jobs are expected to be created (City of Calgary, 2009a).

Net Change in Employment, Calgary, Actual and Projected



► *Part-time Jobs Lead Recent Employment Growth*

Three quarters of all jobs created in Canada in 2007 were full-time jobs (Statistics Canada, 2009a) while in Alberta, full time work grew by 5.0 per cent and part-time by 3.3 per cent (Government of Alberta, 2008a). In Calgary, just under two-thirds (65 per cent) of new jobs created in 2007 were full-time (Statistics Canada, 2009b). However, as the recession has gained traction since the fourth quarter of 2008, employment growth has largely been in part-time work.

► *Employment Gains in Services and Construction Offset Manufacturing Loss*

Nationally, employment growth in 2007 was driven by substantial gains in the construction and health care and social assistance sectors

1. AN INCLUSIVE CITY

which offset significant manufacturing losses. Lin (2008) notes that “For every job lost in manufacturing, nearly two were gained in either construction or health care and social assistance”. Significant gains were also experienced in accommodation and food services; professional, scientific and technical services; information, culture and recreation; and retail trade.

In Alberta, the largest employment gains in 2007 were in construction, followed by mining, oil and gas extraction; business, building and other support services; and health care and social assistance (Statistics Canada, 2009a). In Calgary, employment growth was strongest in public administration; business, building and other support services; other services; information, culture and recreation; and utilities. At the same time, employment decreased in the agriculture; accommodation and food services; manufacturing; and professional, scientific and technical services sectors (Government of Alberta, 2008a).

In the last quarter of 2008 and the first part of 2009, job losses have mounted in Alberta, being most pronounced in the trade; professional, scientific and technical services; construction; and, forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas sectors. These losses have been partially offset by gains in education; other services; and finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (Government of Alberta, 2009a).

Despite the economic downturn, certain types of jobs remain in high demand. Sankey (2009a) notes that, as companies seek to adjust to current economic conditions, jobs that help them to adjust and become more efficient will be demanded. This includes Information Technology (IT) work as companies seek to optimize their business processes. Accountants may also be needed as companies restructure and seek to address their financial challenges. Public sector and health care workers are also expected to be in demand, as are skilled trades as economic stimulus spending generates capital projects. In Calgary post-secondary institutions are also reporting a significant increase in demand for programs as unemployment rises.

Over the forecast period (2009-14), significant employment gains in Calgary are expected in the wholesale trade and construction sectors, which should rebound following significant losses in 2008-09, as well as in the utilities and professional, scientific and technical services sectors (See

% Employment Change by Industry, Calgary

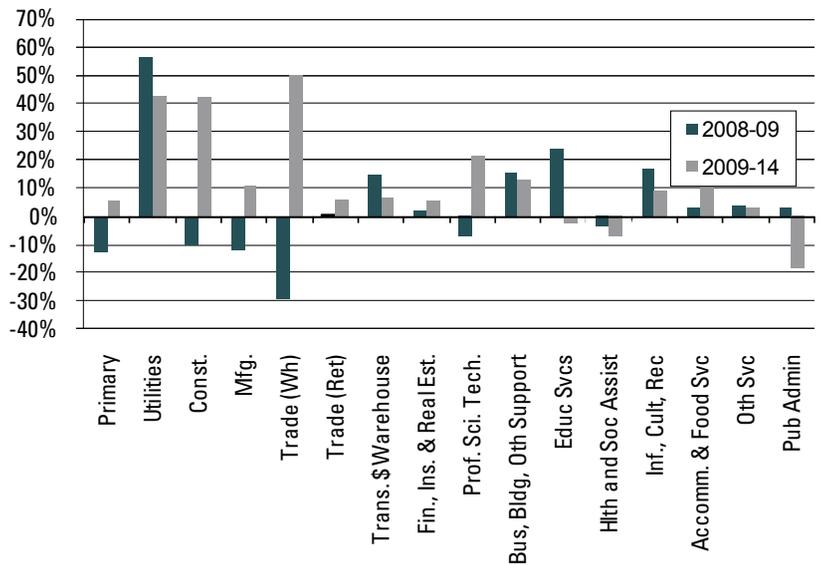
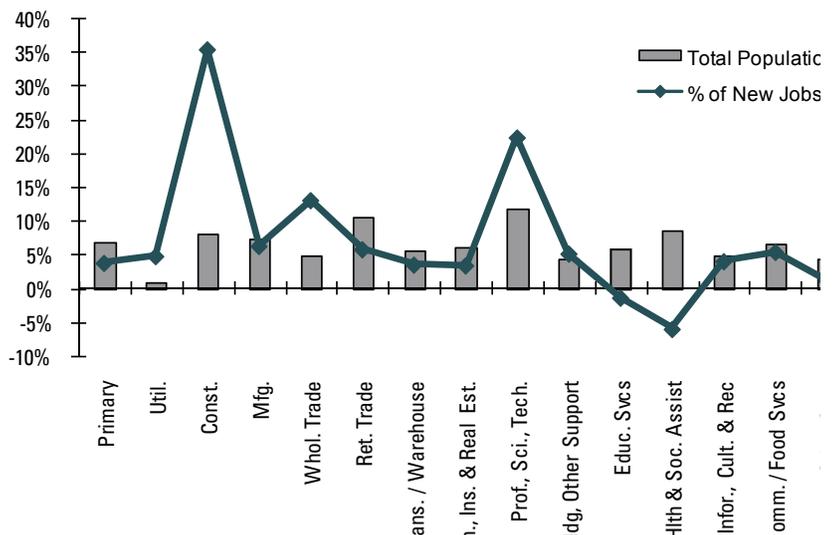


Table 3). The construction sector is projected to account for the greatest share of new jobs, followed by professional, scientific and technical services and retail trade. It is important to note that while the construction industry is expected to account for 35 per cent of all new jobs in Calgary, it currently employs only 8 per cent of the workforce. Meanwhile, roughly one in five workers (22 per cent) are employed in sectors that are projected to experience employment losses over the forecast period (City of Calgary, 2009a).

Distribution of Total Workforce (2006) Showing % of New Employment (2009-14), Calgary

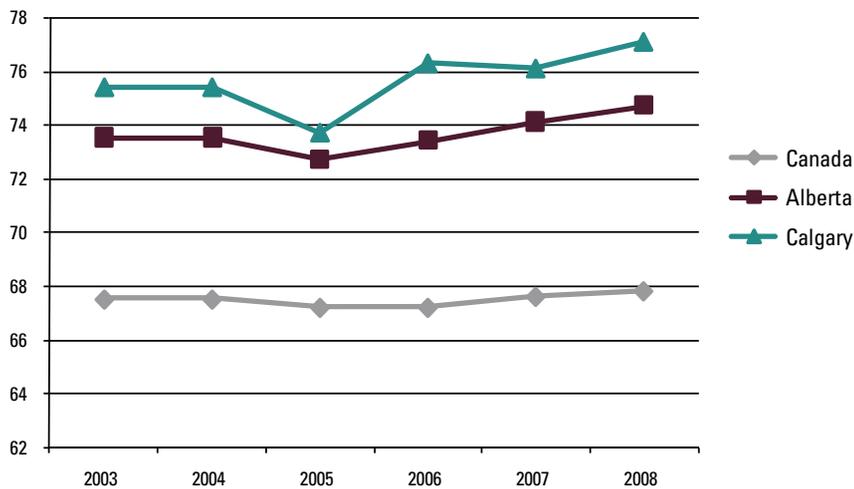


► **Labour Force Participation Continues to Rise**

Nationally, the labour force participation rate grew in 2007 following three years of declines. In Alberta, the participation rate also rose, growing by 0.7 percentage points to 74.1 per

1. AN INCLUSIVE CITY

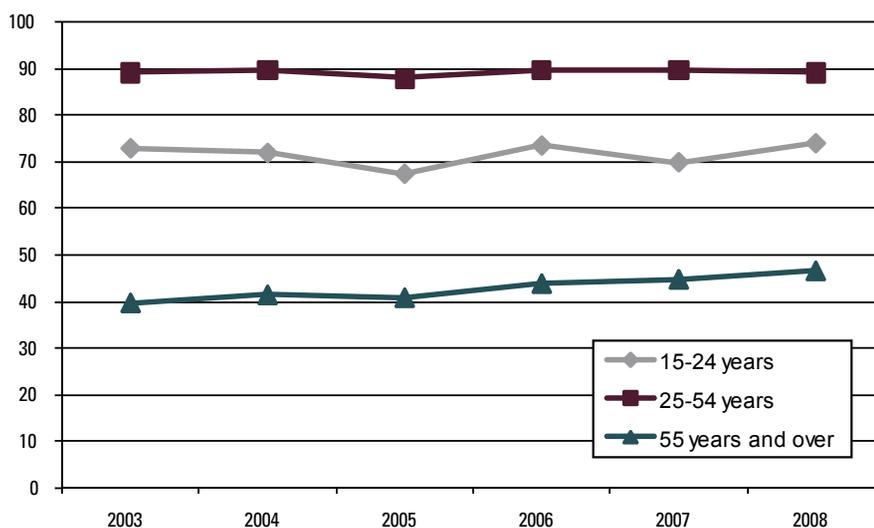
Labour Force Participation Rates, Canada, Alberta and Calgary (CMA)



cent, the highest rate in 32 years, and the highest in Canada (Statistics Canada, 2009a). Despite the onset of the recession in the latter half of the year, labour force participation rates continued to rise across Canada and in Alberta in 2008, while in Calgary, it rose by a full percentage point from 2007 to 77.1 per cent (See Table 4) (Statistics Canada, 2009b).

Labour force participation in Calgary increased most significantly for younger workers (age 15 – 24) whose participation rate rose from 69.6 per cent to 73.7 per cent. Participation of older workers (aged 55+) also rose significantly, increasing by almost two full percentage points from 44.5 per cent in 2007 to 46.3 per cent in 2008, a substantial increase from 39.5 per cent in 2003 (See Table 4) (Statistics Canada, 2009b). As unemployment rises, however, labour force participation may fall in the short-term as people give up looking for work.

Labour Force Participation Rates by Age, Calgary (CMA)



► Unemployment Rates Rise Following Record Lows

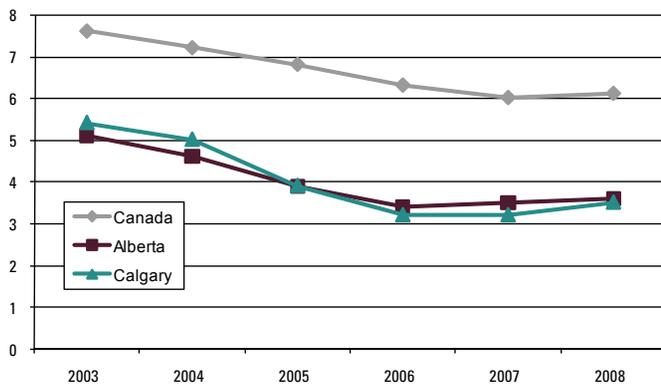
Strong employment growth in 2007 pushed the national unemployment rate down to a 32 year low of 5.8 per cent, rising marginally in 2008 to 6.1 per cent. In 2007, Alberta reported the lowest unemployment rate in the country at 3.5 per cent, rising slightly by the end of 2008 to 3.6 per cent. In Calgary, the unemployment rate remained unchanged in 2007 at 3.2 per cent, the lowest among major cities in Canada (Statistics Canada, 2009a) rising slightly to 3.5 per cent in 2008. Between 2007 and 2008, unemployment rates in Calgary increased particularly for youth (age 15 – 24) where unemployment increased for the second consecutive year (See Table 5). Older workers (age 55+) also saw an increase of over one percentage point between 2007 and 2008 (Statistics Canada, 2009b).

As economic growth slowed during the latter part of 2008, unemployment rates began to rise. By March of 2009, job losses across the province had pushed Alberta's unemployment rate up to 5.8 per cent, although Alberta continued to report one of the lowest unemployment rates in Canada. Calgary's unemployment rate also increased steeply during the first half of 2009, rising to 6.3 per cent in April and 6.6 per cent in May. These increased rates may even understate the effect of the recession on the local economy. During a recession the number of "hidden unemployed" tends to rise; individuals who have given up looking for work and are no longer counted as unemployed. Further, Sankey (2009a) notes that many companies remain leery of laying off skilled and experienced employees as they are concerned they will not be able to rehire them once the economy turns around. Should the recession continue, however, more significant layoffs may occur.

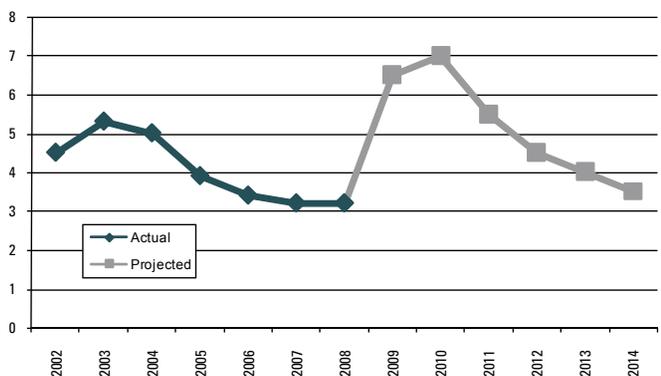
In the Calgary Economic Region, unemployment is expected to rise sharply, more than doubling from a low of 3.2 per cent in 2007 to a projected rate of 6.5 per cent in 2009 (See Table 2). After peaking at a rate of 7.0 per cent in 2010, unemployment is expected to ease as employment growth resumes in 2011,

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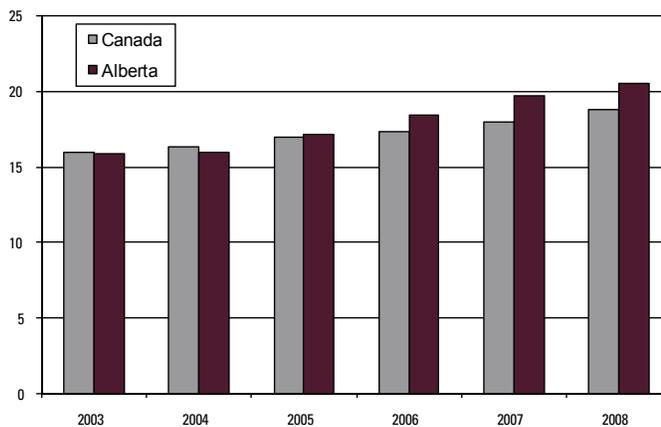
Unemployment Rates, Canada, Alberta and Calgary (CMA)



Unemployment Rate, Actual and Projected, Calgary Economic Region



Median Hourly Wage, Canada and Alberta



returning by 2013 to around its 2006 level (City of Calgary, 2009a). With the return to relatively low unemployment rates, labour shortages may again emerge.

► Wage Increases Moderate in 2008

While there was concern that job losses in Canada's manufacturing sector over the previous years would see higher paying jobs in the goods sector being replaced by lower paying jobs in the services sector, in fact, most jobs created over the first part of the decade were in the upper end of the pay scale. As a result, earnings have been increasing consistently with the Canadian median hourly wage climbing by 17.3 per cent from \$16.00 in 2003 to \$18.76 in 2008 (Statistics Canada, 2009b) (See Table 6).

In 2007, Alberta reported the highest median wage among the provinces at \$19.67 / hour, 6.1 per cent above the 2006 rate and significantly higher than the 3.5 per cent increase nationally. In fact, Alberta's significant wage growth has tended to skew national average earnings upwards (Lin, 2008). In Calgary, average hourly wages reached \$24.83 / hr, the highest rate in the country (Statistics Canada, 2009a). These gains however have been eroded by rapid increases in the local cost of living.

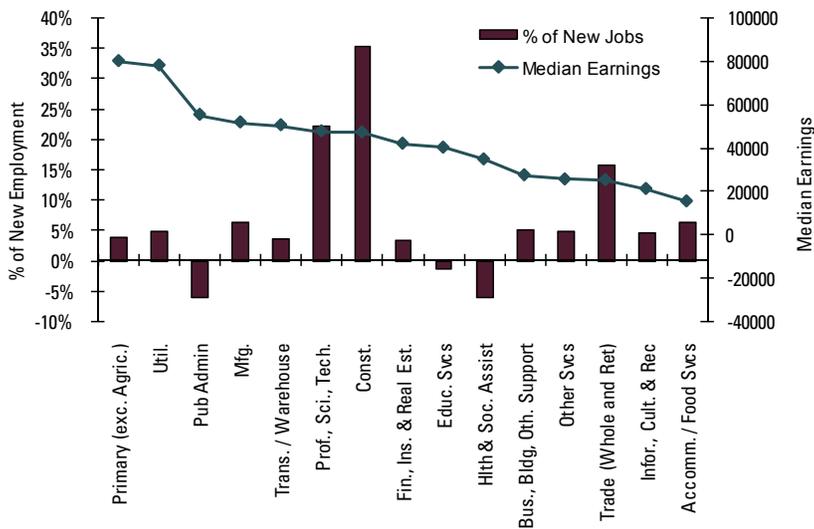
As the Canadian economy weakens and unemployment rises, the bargaining power of labour is diminishing and wage gains are slowing. In 2008, wages continued to rise across Canada and in Alberta, though at a more moderate rate (See Table 6). Between 2007 and 2008, wage gains equaled 4.3 per cent in Alberta and 4.2 per cent nationally (Statistics Canada, 2009b). Over the first quarter of 2009, average hourly wages were reported to have declined in Alberta, although Alberta's average wage remains above the national average and is also higher than a year ago (Government of Alberta, 2009a).

... And Are Expected to Remain Weak Over Forecast Period

Over the forecast period, employment growth is projected to be strongest among those industries with lower median earnings. The five industrial sectors with the lowest median earnings in 2007 are projected to account for over one-third (37 per cent) of all jobs created in Calgary between 2009 and 2014 (See Table 7). Meanwhile, the top five sectors with the highest median earnings are expected to account for just 14 per cent of new employment (City of Calgary, 2009a). This suggests continued weakness in overall earnings in Calgary over the next five years. As unemployment returns to relatively low levels by the end of the forecast period however, labour shortages may re-emerge and this could lead to renewed wage growth by that point in time.

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% of New Employment (Calgary, 2009-14) Showing Median Earnings (Alberta, 2007)



► More People Working Overtime

The number of workers in Alberta working paid overtime increased marginally in 2008, rising by 2.2 per cent, with 14.8 per cent of Alberta workers reporting paid overtime hours (See Table 8). At the same time, however, the average number of overtime hours fell from 13.9 to 13.5 hours per week. Average total hours worked in Alberta declined slightly in 2008 (See Table 9), falling from 36.6 hours per week in 2007 to 35.9 hours in 2008 (Statistics Canada, 2009b).

Although overtime hours appeared to level off in 2008 as the economy slowed, there is concern that they may increase significantly over the coming year. As the recession deepens and layoffs increase, remaining staff are being required to carry a heavier workload. A recent survey found

that one-in-five Canadian workers report working longer hours to keep up due to the current recession, with 40 per cent of them receiving no additional pay. Workers are also increasingly taking work home with them, working through lunch, or avoiding taking sick days (Globe and Mail, 2009).

Similar to overtime hours, multiple job holding fell marginally in 2008 after increasing for the past several years (See Table 10). Over the past three decades, the percentage of workers across Canada working multiple jobs increased from 2.1 per cent in 1976 to 5 per cent in 1993 and 5.3 per cent in 2007 (Statistics Canada, 2009a). Workers in Alberta are more likely to hold multiple jobs, with the number of multiple jobholders typically accounting for about 8 per cent of the workforce. Over the past five years, the number of multiple job-holders grew by 13.6 per cent, falling slightly in 2008 (Statistics Canada, 2009b).

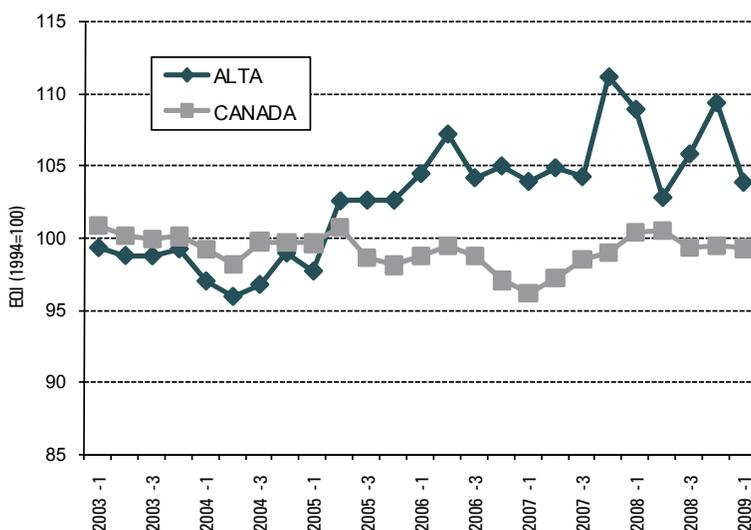
► Employment Prospects for Vulnerable Populations Improving ...

Over the past decade, employment prospects for vulnerable populations including immigrants, Aboriginal persons and persons with disabilities, have been improving. As employment rates for new immigrants improved over the decade, the gap between recent immigrants and Canadian-born workers narrowed. In Calgary, the labour force participation rate for new immigrants in 2006 was virtually identical to that of the labour force as a whole (Statistics Canada, 2009c) (See Table 11).

► Employment Quality Deteriorating in Alberta

Over the past several years, job quality across Canada has been rising. Despite the current weakened economy, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) national Employment Quality Index (EQI) has remained remarkably stable, except in western Canada where it has deteriorated, particularly in Alberta. The stability in the national EQI is due to the fact that most job losses, until recently, have been in lower paying jobs. Also, to date, job losses have largely affected men, while women's employment has remained relatively stable. As more women are working in high quality occupations, the stability of women's employment has helped to stabilize the national index. Negative factors impacting the EQI, especially in Alberta, are the loss of full-time jobs, as well as a shift from paid employment to self-employment which is less stable (Tal, 2009).

CIBC Employment Quality Index (EQI), Canada and Alberta



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Despite relatively strong employment rates, immigrants continue to have difficulty finding employment that is appropriate to their skills and experience. In 1991, 12 per cent of established immigrants with university degrees held jobs with low educational requirements; by 2006, this proportion had nearly doubled, with 21 per cent holding low education jobs. Some of this difference is explained by the socio-demographic characteristics of immigrants including country of origin, age, region of residence and visible minority status. However, other non-demographic factors are also impacting labour market success, including language ability, non-recognition of credentials, quality of education and economic cycles (Statistics Canada, 2008a).

Employment prospects for Aboriginal people in Canada have also been improving over the decade, with the Aboriginal employment rate rising faster than the non-Aboriginal rate between 2001 and 2006. In Alberta, the employment rate for off-reserve Aboriginal people rose by 5.1 percentage points between 2004 and 2007, significantly more than the 1.2 percentage point increase for the non-Aboriginal population (Statistics Canada, 2008b). In Calgary, the employment rate for Aboriginal people in 2006 was 71.0 per cent, almost identical to the overall rate of 72.3 per cent for the total population (See Table 11).

As the employment rate has risen, the national unemployment rate for Aboriginal people has correspondingly declined, falling from 17.4 per cent in 2001 to 13.2 per cent in 2006 (Statistics Canada, 2009a); by 2007, it had dropped to 8.8 per cent, with the lowest unemployment rates reported in the western provinces (Statistics Canada, 2008b). However, despite this decline, Aboriginal people remained more than twice as likely to be unemployed as non-Aboriginal workers (Statistics Canada, 2009a). In Calgary, the Aboriginal unemployment rate in 2006 was 7.0 per cent, almost double the city's overall rate of 4.1 per cent (Statistics Canada, 2009c) (See Table 11).

Similar to recent immigrants and Aboriginal persons, employment prospects for persons with disabilities have also improved over the decade. Between 2001 and 2006, the national labour force participation rate for persons with disabilities rose while unemployment dropped. Over that time period, the participation rate rose from 56.9 per cent to 59.6 per cent as the unemployment rate dropped from 13.2 per cent to 10.4 per cent (Statistics Canada, 2008b). In Calgary, the labour force participation

rate for persons with disabilities was 52.0 per cent in 2006, up from 48.0 per cent five years prior, while the unemployment rate dropped from 7 per cent to 6 per cent (Statistics Canada, 2009c) (See Table 11).

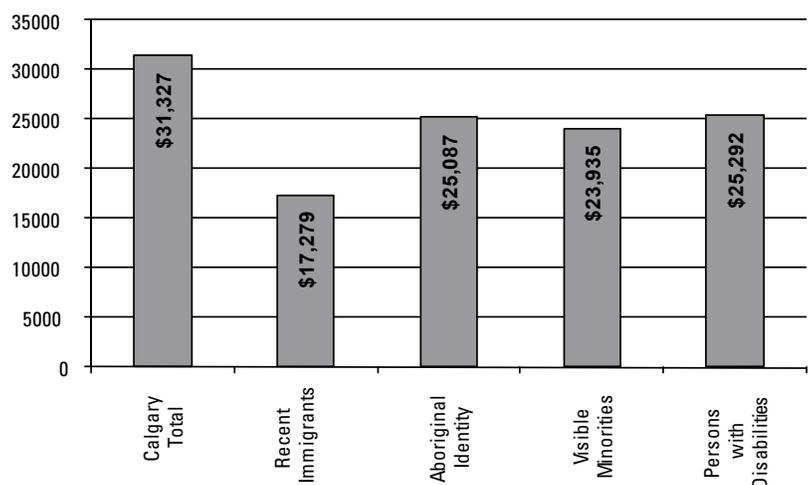
... *Though Earnings Lag*

Although vulnerable populations appear to be achieving greater success in the labour market, they continue to earn less than Canadian-born workers. Nationally, in 2007, recent immigrants earned 24 per cent less than Canadian-born workers (Statistics Canada, 2009a). In Calgary, median employment income of recent immigrants was roughly half that of the Calgary average, with recent immigrants earning only \$17,279, 55 per cent below the median income of \$31,327 (Statistics Canada, 2009c) (See Table 12).

Despite having higher levels of education than the average Canadian, the wage gap between immigrants and Canadian born workers not only remains but widens with higher education. This suggests that labour market success is more related to other factors. In fact, a person's country of origin seems to have more of a bearing on employability than education. While immigrants from Southeast Asia have employment rates comparable to Canadian-born workers, workers from other parts of Asia, Latin America, Africa and Europe have higher unemployment rates and lower employment rates than the Canadian-born, in spite of comparable levels of education (Statistics Canada, 2009a).

Earnings disparities also exist between the total population and Aboriginal workers and persons with disabilities. Despite having employment and participation rates that are virtually identical to the total population, Aboriginal people in Calgary

Median Employment Income for Selected Social Groups, Calgary (CSD), 2006



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earn on average 20 per cent less than other workers. In 2006, median employment income for Aboriginal people was only \$25,087 compared to the Calgary median of \$31,327. Persons with disabilities similarly earn less, with median earnings of only \$25,292 in 2006, 20 per cent below the Calgary median (Statistics Canada, 2009b) (See Table 12).

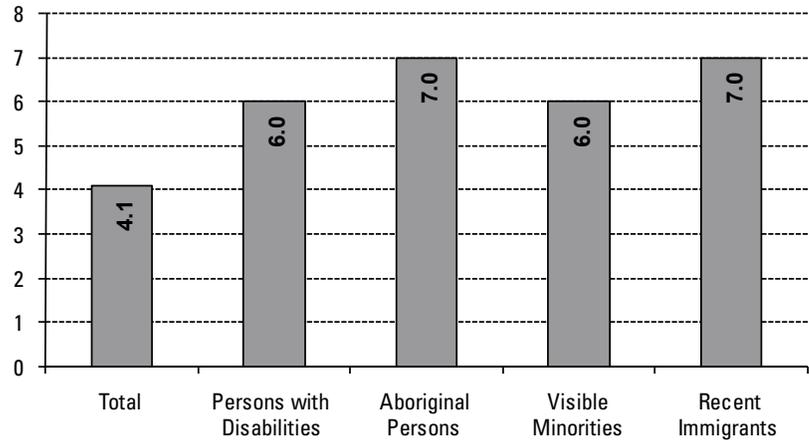
► *Recent Immigrants More Vulnerable to Current Recession*

Between 2008 and 2009, the most significant job losses were experienced by five industrial sectors: wholesale trade (-29 per cent), primary industry (-13 per cent), manufacturing (-12 per cent), construction (-10 per cent) and professional, scientific and technical services (-7 per cent). These employment losses affected various population groups differently, depending on the relative importance of the sector to that population.

Overall, Aboriginal persons and persons with disabilities may have fared marginally better than the rest of the population, having a slightly smaller proportion of their workforce in the most severely affected industries. At the same time, they are also slightly over-represented in the five industries that did show modest job growth in 2008-09. The Aboriginal workforce, however, has been affected by the decline in the construction industry, where a significant percentage is employed.

Recent immigrants, appear to be at greater risk of being impacted by the current recession, being disproportionately employed in industries that have experienced significant job

Unemployment Rate for Selected Groups, Calgary (CSD), 2006

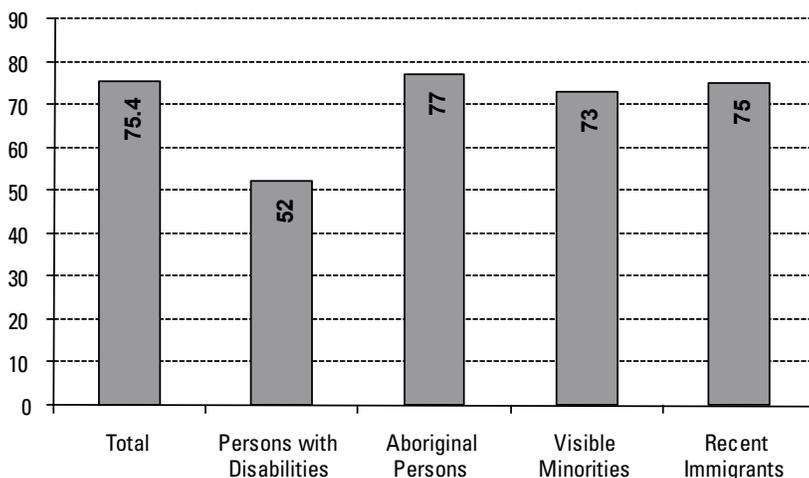


loss. The steep declines in manufacturing and professional, scientific and technical services in particular may have had a significant impact as a larger share is employed in these sectors. Further, recent immigrants are under-represented in the industries that gained employment over the past year.

► *Employment Prospects for Minority Workers Mixed During Recovery*

Between 2009 and 2014, three industries are expected to account for 70 per cent of all job growth in Calgary: construction (35.3 per cent); professional, scientific and technical (22.3 per cent) and wholesale trade (13.0 per cent). Overall, minority workers are more or less equally represented in these growth sectors compared to the total population. Recent immigrants, however, are slightly under-represented in these sectors, which may exacerbate their already difficult economic and employment conditions.

Labour Force Participation Rate for Selected Groups, Calgary (CSD), 2006



► *Recession Puts Temporary Foreign Workers at Risk*

Over the past five years, Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs) have become an increasingly important component of the Alberta labour force as employers sought to fill increasingly acute shortages of workers. In 2008, there were about 38,000 TFWs in Alberta, up from 22,000 in 2006. As economic conditions continue to deteriorate, there is concern that layoffs among this group of employees will increase. Although employers are

required to abide by the Employment Standards Act when laying off TFWs, many workers are unaware of their rights or the process to seek redress if their rights have been violated. Further, while TFWs are entitled to Employment Insurance (EI) benefits if they have qualified, many may be unaware of their entitlements or the process to claim them. This is leading to growing concern about the situations of many of these workers (Sankey, 2009b).

Policy Developments

- In 2009, the federal government introduced amendments to the Immigrant and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA) to provide increased protection from human trafficking for vulnerable foreign workers.
- In 2008, the federal government passed Bill C-28 which allows employers who offer pension plans to enable employees to begin drawing pension income while they continue to work without losing seniority, job security or health and dental benefits
- In response to current economic conditions and the reduced demand for foreign labour, new recruitment process guidelines were put in place by the federal government in 2009 that make it more difficult for employers to recruit Temporary Foreign Workers.
- In 2008, the Governments of Canada and Alberta signed a Labour Market Agreement that will see an investment by the federal government of an additional \$316m in skills training for workers not eligible for training through the Employment Insurance program. This will include groups who are under-represented in the labour force such as Aboriginal people, immigrants and persons with disabilities.
- In 2009, Alberta's minimum wage increased to \$8.80 / hour, up from the previous rate of \$8.40 / hour. As of July 1, 2009, Alberta's minimum wage rate was the 5th highest among the provinces.

1.12 Income

INCOME TRENDS SUMMARY

- After remaining virtually unchanged for the previous quarter century, the incomes of Canadian households finally started to show improvement during the mid-part of the current decade. Despite rising incomes over the past few years, household spending outpaced growth in both income and inflation. As a result, household savings continued to fall while debt rose.
- As the economy entered recession in the last quarter of 2008, income and earnings growth had already started to slow, while household wealth experienced significant declines due to falling stock markets and eroding property values. In this weakened economic environment, household debt has continued to grow, while increasing numbers of those who assumed debt over the past few years have found their debt loads to be unmanageable. As a result, the number of consumer bankruptcies in Alberta has spiked.
- As the economy weakened, household spending fell for the first time in several years. Although household spending has fallen overall, food expenditures have continued to rise leading to concern about the ability of many households to continue to meet their basic needs.
- As savings have fallen and wealth deteriorates, the sufficiency of current and future retirement income remains a significant concern. Prior to the current recession, coverage of workers by Registered Pension Plans was falling, while individual retirement savings rates were insufficient. With the onset of the recession, not only are individual retirement investments being jeopardized by falling stock markets, many Registered Pension Plans are also experiencing significantly eroded values.

INCOME SNAPSHOT

Average Total Individual Income, Calgary, 2007: \$34,100	↑
Average Total Family Income, Calgary, 2007: \$68,800	↑
Average Total Family Income for Single-parent Families, Calgary, 2007: \$49,300	↑
Average Total Income for Single Persons, Calgary, 2007: \$31,700	↓

INCOME OUTLOOK

- Over the next two years, income growth will remain slow due to lower wage growth and reduced investment income. As the economy recovers after 2011, wage growth should strengthen but may lag as employment growth will be strongest in industries in the middle to lower end of the earnings spectrum. Over the medium term, wage growth in Alberta is expected to average 3 per cent in line with growth in productivity and inflation, with real wage gains of over 1 per cent as inflation remains low.
- As unemployment rises, those who have been laid off may experience increased financial stress. For many households, current expenses and debts have been serviced by two incomes and the loss of one or both will have a serious impact on the ability of the household to meet its financial obligations. For single earner households, especially single parents, any loss of employment will have a very significant impact on the economic security of the household.
- As income growth remains slow and unemployment rises, households are unlikely to increase their savings which are already at historically low levels. Further, the current trend of relying on debt to meet current

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expenses may continue. While currently low interest rates may limit extreme short term vulnerability, projected rate increases in 2011 and 2012 may pose challenges for highly indebted households, particularly if there is a lag in employment growth.

- The good news for Calgary households is that the rate of inflation is expected to slow markedly. In 2009, Calgary is expected to enter a period of deflation, with prices falling by 1.0 per cent overall. In 2010, inflation is forecast to rise to a rate of 1.5 per cent and then increase gradually to a rate of 3.0 per cent by 2013. This is markedly lower than the peak of 5.0 per cent recorded during 2007. Although overall inflation may remain low, the currently deflated Canadian dollar will likely result in continued high prices for food and other imported goods which may pose challenges for lower income households.

Discussion

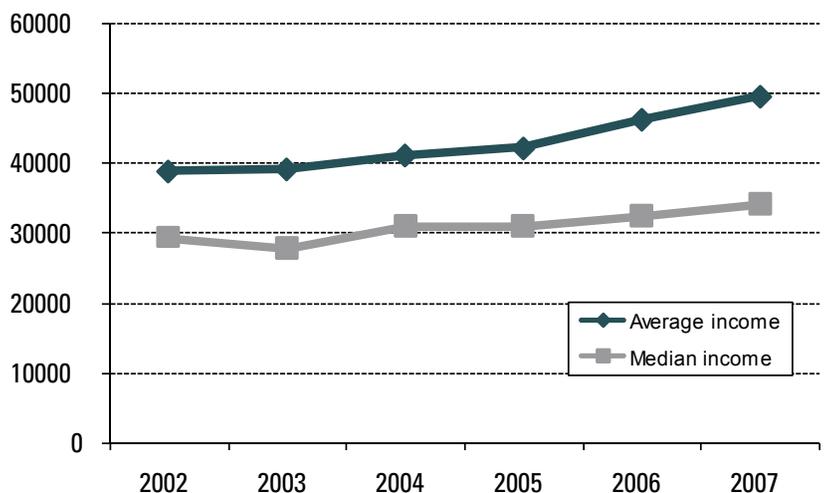
► *Income and Earnings Growth Slows*

Nationally, incomes continued to grow in 2007. Between 2006 and 2007, the median income of individuals across Canada rose 4.3 per cent, and by 9.3 per cent over the previous five years. In Alberta, incomes grew by 3.5 per cent between 2006 and 2007, less than the national average, and significantly lower than the 7.8 per cent rate of income growth reported between 2005 and 2006. In Calgary, income also continued to grow in 2007, with average individual income rising by 7.1 per cent between 2006 and 2007 to \$49,500 (See Table 13), the highest average among Canadian CMAs (Statistics Canada, 2009d).

Although average income in Calgary has risen appreciably, median income growth continues to lag. Between 2006 and 2007, median income grew by 5.6 per cent, 1.5 percentage points less than average income growth (See Table 13). Over the past five years, while average income has grown by 27.6 per cent, Calgary's median income rose by just 16.4 per cent, continuing a trend of increasing income inequality. In 2007, median income in Calgary was only 69 per cent of average income (the lowest ratio among Canadian CMAs), compared to 75 per cent in 2002 (Statistics Canada, 2009d).

Similar to the income of individuals, family income also continued to rise in Calgary in 2007, growing by 4.6 per cent over 2006 (See Table 14). Median family income in Calgary

**Average and Median Income of Individuals, Calgary
CMA (2007 Constant Dollars)**



was the highest among Canadian CMAs in 2007 at \$68,800, significantly higher than the Canadian CMA average of \$56,500. Continuing recent trends, the income for two-person families significantly exceeded the income of single persons (unattached individuals). Similarly, the income of two-parent families continued to greatly exceed that of lone-parent families. Between 2006 and 2007, the income of lone-parent families in Calgary dropped considerably following significant growth over the previous two years. The income of unattached individuals also fell, though not as significantly as the drop experienced by lone-parent families (Statistics Canada, 2009d).

Similar to the trend of the past five years, youth (under 25) experienced the greatest income growth in 2007 (See Table 15). Seniors also continued to experience healthy income growth. At the same time, incomes for pre-retirement age cohorts (ages

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45 – 54 and 55 – 64) have shown little growth over the past five years and declined between 2006 and 2007 (Statistics Canada, 2009d).

► Household Savings Remain Weak While Wealth Declines

During the latter part of this decade, investment income grew in importance to Canadian households and families. Between 2006 and 2007, the number of investors grew by 8.6 per cent while the percentage rose from 35.1 per cent to 37.5 per cent, with investment income up by an average of 12.3 per cent. This was the fourth consecutive year of increases of investors and investment income (Statistics Canada, 2008d).

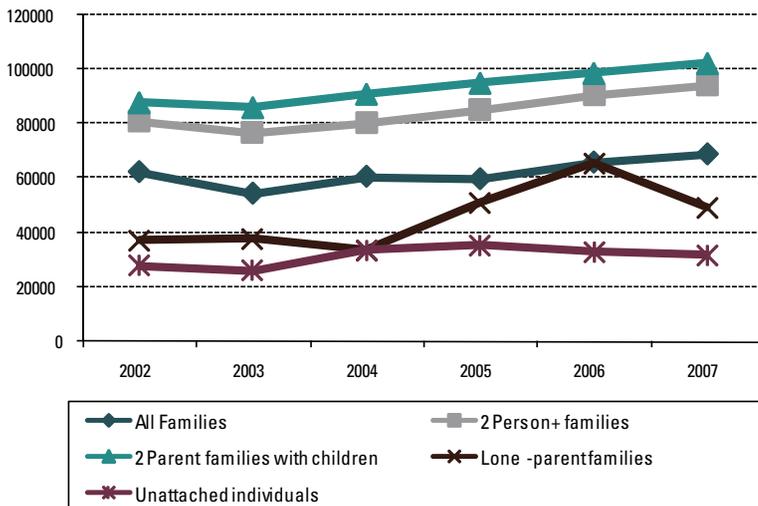
Despite rising earnings and investment income, household savings have remained relatively weak. In 2008, the national household savings rate was approximately 3 per cent, compared to a rate of 13 per cent in 1990. The lower savings rate may have been a result of growing household financial stress, but also of a perception that savings were not as necessary given rapidly rising property values (Sauve, 2009).

With the collapse of the stock market and falling property values, the assets of Canadian households held either in real estate or securities fell considerably over the past year, leading to a significant erosion in household net worth. Statistics Canada (2009e) reports that the total value of household assets in Canada fell by 3.2 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2008. This was primarily due to declines in equity markets that significantly reduced the value of shareholdings, life insurance and pension assets.

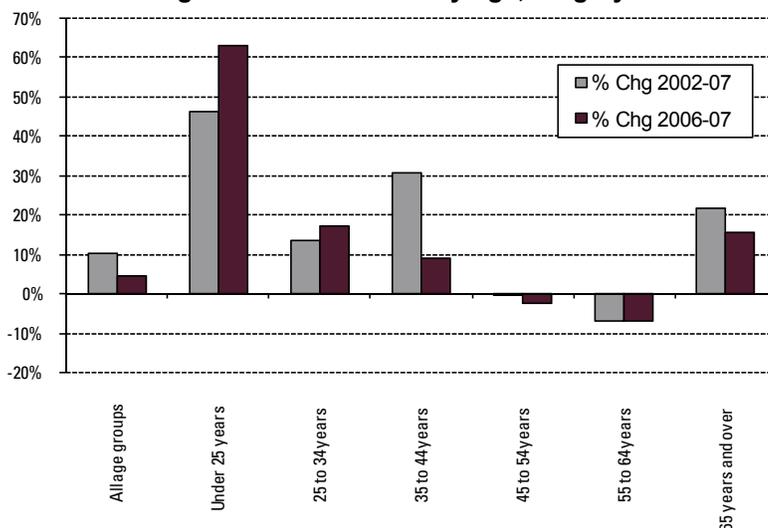
► Household Debt Continues to Grow

As household savings remain low and net worth erodes, household debt has been steadily increasing, a trend that continued in 2008. Between 1990 and 2008, the average total debt load per household increased by 71 per cent in real terms to \$90,700. This increase was over six times faster than the increase in household income. Total debt now equals 140 per cent of household disposable income compared to 91 per cent in 1990 (Sauve, 2009). The Bank of Canada attributes long-term increases in household debt to easier access to credit and declines in borrowing rates. Despite such rising indebtedness, the Bank of Canada maintained in 2008 that debts and assets were relatively well matched and the number of vulnerable households had decreased, leading to the conclusion that

Median Total Income by Economic Family Type, Calgary, CMA



Change in Median Income by Age, Calgary CMA



► Earnings Growth Remains Weak During Recovery

As employment growth picks up after 2009, the strengthening economy may not result in earnings growth returning to its pre-recessionary levels. As discussed in the previous section, over one-third of job growth is expected to occur within the industrial sectors with the lowest median earnings. Meanwhile, the top five sectors with the highest earnings are expected to account for just 12 per cent of all job growth between 2009 and 2014 (See table 7).

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Canadian households were fairly well positioned to manage their debt (Faruqui, 2008).

Contrary to the Bank of Canada's optimism, however, personal bankruptcies rose appreciably across Canada in 2008, with the largest increases occurring in Alberta, where bankruptcies were up by 27 per cent. In Calgary, bankruptcies rose by 30 per cent over 2007. Blackwell (2009) observed:

"Canadians have been accumulating debt at a blockbuster pace, and that tripped many into bankruptcy – even some who were still working – as the recession began to take hold ... The oil boom pushed many to overextend themselves, and with house prices sliding in the region (Alberta), the only option for some is to declare insolvency."

► Household Spending Falls, While Food Expenditures Rise

Even before the current recession hit Canadian households, household expenditures were already beginning to slow. In 2007, Alberta households reported the highest level of spending in the country, but also the slowest rate of spending growth. Between 2006 and 2007, household spending in Alberta grew by just 0.8 per cent compared to spending growth of 3.3 per cent nation-wide (Statistics Canada, 2008e). In Calgary, household expenditures actually fell in 2007 for the first time in at least five years, dropping by 3.2 per cent (See Table 16) (Statistics Canada, 2009f).

Across Canada, food expenditures rose the most in 2007, growing by 3.7 per cent, the fastest annual increase in this category since 2002. This trend continued through 2008 and into 2009 as the depreciating Canadian dollar resulted in increased prices for fresh fruits, vegetables and other imported foods. As of January 2009 food prices had risen for 14 consecutive months at an annual rate of 7.7 per cent (Rangasamy and Shenfeld, 2009). This is putting increasing pressure on low-income households that spend a larger proportion of their monthly budget on basic needs. Statistics Canada (2008e) reported that in 2007 the bottom 20 per cent of Canadian households spent just over half (52 per cent) of their income on necessities (food, shelter and clothing) compared to the top 20 per cent who spent only 28 per cent of their income on necessities.

In Calgary, household spending fell in almost all categories in 2007, with the greatest drop (-31.4 per cent) reported in

household operations (See Table 16). This was followed by a 23.1 per cent drop in expenditures on games of chance, recreation (-15.9 per cent), gifts of money and contributions (-15.3 per cent) and personal care (-13.6 per cent). The only categories to report any increase in spending were personal insurance payments and pension contributions (+8.2 per cent) and education (+6.6 per cent). Over the past five years, current consumption¹ by households has fallen as a percentage of total expenditures from 71 per cent in 2003 to 65 per cent in 2007. Over the same period of time, the percentage of household expenditures accounted for by personal taxes rose from 21 per cent to 27 per cent (Statistics Canada, 2009f).

► Retirement Savings Remain Insufficient for Many

As Canada's population and workforce grow older, more workers are nearing or entering retirement. As more and more Canadians near retirement, the sufficiency of retirement savings is critically important. An important component of Canada's retirement income program is the Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP). In recent years, both contributions and contributors to RRSPs have been increasing across Canada and in Alberta. In 2007, the number of RRSP contributors across Canada rose by 6.3 per cent, while total contributions rose by 5.3 per cent. In Alberta, the number of contributors rose by 2.9 per cent, while total contributions were up by 8.8 per cent. Alberta reported the highest median contribution among the provinces at \$3,200 compared to the national median of \$2,780. Calgary reported the highest median contribution among major Canadian cities at \$3,770 (Statistics Canada, 2008f).

Although the number of contributors has continued to increase, the percentage of Canadian taxfilers reporting RRSP contributions has consistently fallen from a peak of 30 per cent in 1997 to 27 per cent in 2007. Over that time, the median contribution also fell by 13 per cent (Sauve, 2009). This suggests that a significant number of people will not have sufficient savings upon retirement. According to Statistics Canada (2008g) among the 80 per cent of Canadians aged 45-59 who were actively or recently employed, about one-third feel that their retirement income will be inadequate to meet their needs upon retirement. This is consistent with the annual retirement survey conducted by Desjardins Financial Security (2009) which found that, in 2008, over one-third of respondents (37 per cent)

¹ Total current consumption refers to the expenses incurred during the year for food, shelter, household operations, household furnishings and equipment, clothing, transportation, health care, personal care, recreation, reading materials, education, tobacco products and alcoholic beverages, games of chance, and a miscellaneous group of items.

had given up trying to save, believing they will never have enough money to retire. Increasing debt and reduced personal savings are the primary factors affecting people's ability to save for retirement.

The future sufficiency of retirement savings can be assessed by looking at the savings patterns among those approaching retirement. Desjardins Financial Security (2009) reports that among workers with 16 or more years before retirement, 18 per cent have personal debt loads of \$25K or more (excluding mortgages) which is limiting their retirement savings. Among workers with five years or less before retirement, almost one-third of workers (30 per cent) report that they will be unable to retire at their ideal age, with two-thirds of those reporting insufficient retirement savings as the primary reason.

Income sufficiency among those who have recently retired is also being called into question. Almost three-quarters of households (70 per cent) had household incomes of less than \$50K two years after retirement, despite the fact about half (49 per cent) had incomes of over \$100K five years before. While most of these households are not carrying much debt, they also have very little in the way of assets, with less than one-third having \$100K or more in personal savings and investments beyond their principal residence.

“As life expectancies lengthen, low savings reserves may mean that some retirees will need to access other resources, including the equity in their homes, to make ends meet. And that, in turn, may mean less of an inheritance for their children – many of whom may be counting on bequests to finance their own retirement. (Desjardins Financial Security, 2009:10)”

Current and future retirement income sufficiency is also being severely challenged by the current economic crisis. Due to declines in the stock market in 2008, a typical company pension fund lost 15 – 20 per cent of its value over the past year (McFarland, 2008). While most companies will be able to cover these losses, some may be forced to either increase contributions or cut benefits. Steep contribution increases could negatively impact corporate investment plans while employees may suffer as most pension income is determined by the market value of fund investments. Any significant loss in fund values could mean deferred retirement for some workers (McLeod, 2009).

1.13 Poverty

POVERTY TRENDS SUMMARY

- As the Canadian and Alberta economies entered recession in 2008, many Canadian households were already experiencing growing financial stress. Further, despite the recent economic boom, Calgary's poverty rate remained virtually unchanged between 2001 and 2006.
- Vulnerable populations continue to report the highest poverty rates. Recent immigrants, Aboriginal persons, persons with disabilities and visible minority persons continue to be at the greatest risk of poverty and will likely be the most severely impacted by the current economic downturn.
- In 2006, almost all of Calgary's poor were working. As the recession deepens low-income workers are being severely affected by layoffs. Many of these affected workers will be ineligible for Employment Insurance and will require significant support to meet their basic needs.
- In 2008, Social Assistance receipt rose in Calgary after years of decline. This was driven by a 30 per cent increase in provincial Income Support (welfare) cases. Meanwhile, welfare incomes continue to decline across the country, particularly in Alberta.

POVERTY SNAPSHOT

Persons Living in Low-income Households, Calgary, 2006: 138,745 

Percentage of Population Living in Low-income Households, Calgary, 2006: 14.2% 

Income Support (IS) Recipients, Calgary, 2008: 10,583 

Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) Recipients, Calgary, 2008: 12,319 

Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) Recipients, Calgary, 2008: 25,578 

POVERTY OUTLOOK

- Although poverty rates remained stable during the first part of the decade, many households still experienced high levels of financial stress and vulnerability as they struggled to meet rising living costs. The strong job market, however, meant that most lower-income households were able to find work to sustain themselves. With unemployment now rising and wages frozen, poverty rates can be expected to rise, and many households will face significant challenges in meeting their basic needs over the coming years.
- Social Assistance receipt will likely continue to climb through to 2010 when unemployment is expected to peak. As employment picks up in 2011, Social Assistance receipt may start to decline. Given current benefit rates for provincial income support programs, those forced to rely on Social Assistance will face significant challenges in meeting their basic needs.
- For lower-income households, the current low value of the Canadian dollar will result in ongoing high food prices. This may be moderated by slower housing cost increases and relatively low inflation overall. Continued low interest rates will also be of benefit to those struggling with high levels of debt.
- Although poverty rates for seniors have declined markedly during the first half of the decade, as retirement investment incomes remain depressed and retirement savings insufficient, the number of seniors experiencing financial stress may rise over the next few years. While this may prompt some older workers to delay retirement, for those seniors requiring additional income, the weak job market may reduce their ability to earn it.

Discussion

Poverty remains a persistent condition, despite a decade of unparalleled economic growth. The psychological and social impacts of poverty on both individuals and society are many. High levels of job stress, financial problems, personal stress and problems with relationships lead to distress which is often exacerbated by a lack of support (Statistics Canada, 2009g). A failure to address poverty and its impacts affects us all.

► *Canadian Households Experiencing Growing Financial Stress*

Despite a period of prolonged economic growth, many Canadians are experiencing significant financial stress, and were so even before the current recession began. After nearly a decade of prosperity, a recent survey found that over half of Canadians (59 per cent) felt that they are no better off (33 per cent) or are in fact worse off (26 per cent) in 2008 than they were ten years ago. Further, roughly half (47 per cent) of Canadians were struggling to keep their personal debt under control even before the stock market crash of 2008, with almost two-thirds of households (62 per cent) earning less than \$30K per year concerned about debt (Hennesy and Yalnizan, 2008).

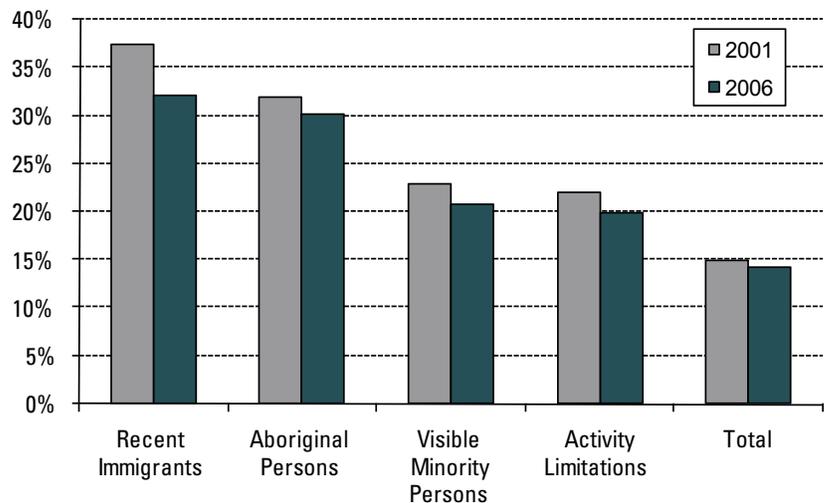
The rising cost of living is a significant concern for many Canadians. In 2008, roughly four out of five Canadians (83 per cent) were worried about the rising cost of living, with Albertans having a higher than average level of concern (86 per cent) (ibid.). This rising stress may be related to the rapidly increasing cost of basic needs items, such as food. Over the past year, the depreciating Canadian dollar has resulted in consistently increasing food prices, particularly for fresh fruits, vegetables and other imported foods (Rangasamy and Shenfeld, 2009).

► *Poverty Rates Remain Virtually Unchanged Despite Recent Boom*

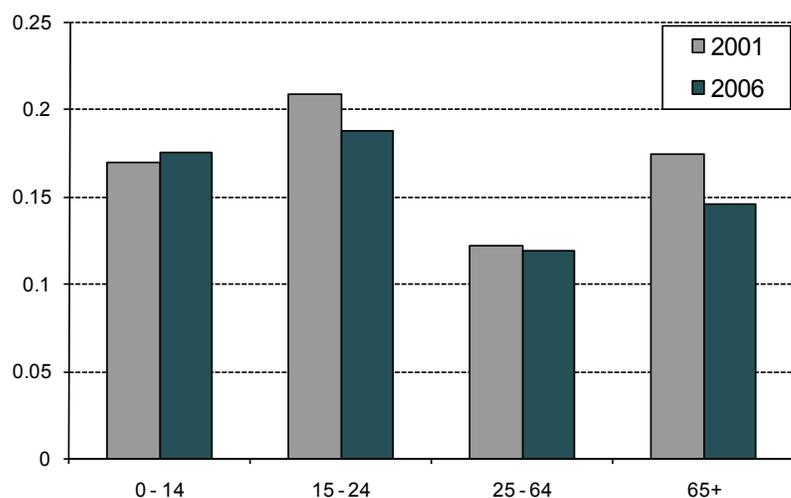
In Calgary, despite one of the most significant economic boom periods in the city's history, the poverty rate remained virtually unchanged between 2001 and 2006 (See Table 17). In 2001,

Low income cut-offs before tax, Urban areas, population 500,000 and over, 2007	
1 person	\$21,666
2 persons	\$26,972
3 persons	\$33,159
4 persons	\$40,259
5 persons	\$45,662
6 persons	\$51,498
7 persons or more	\$57,336

Poverty Rate by Selected Groups, Calgary (CSD)

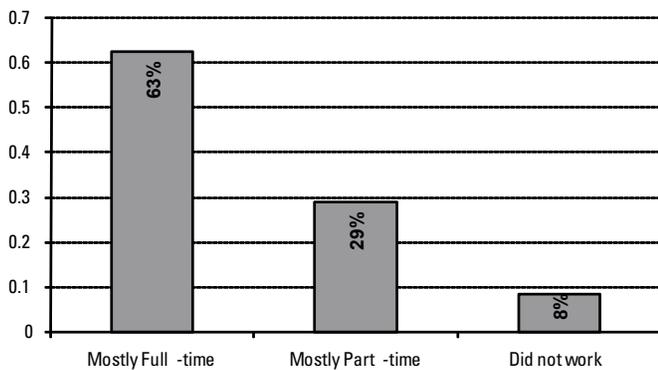


Poverty Rate by Age, Calgary (CSD)

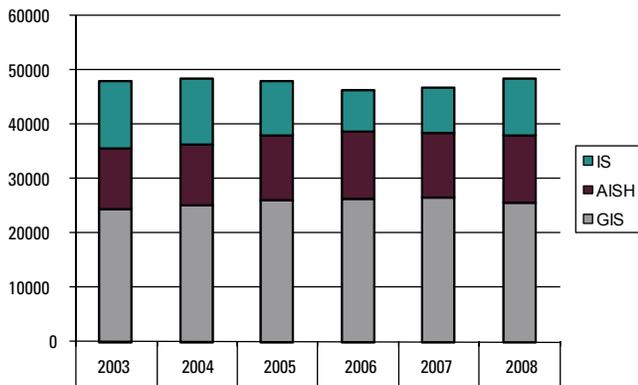


1. AN INCLUSIVE CITY

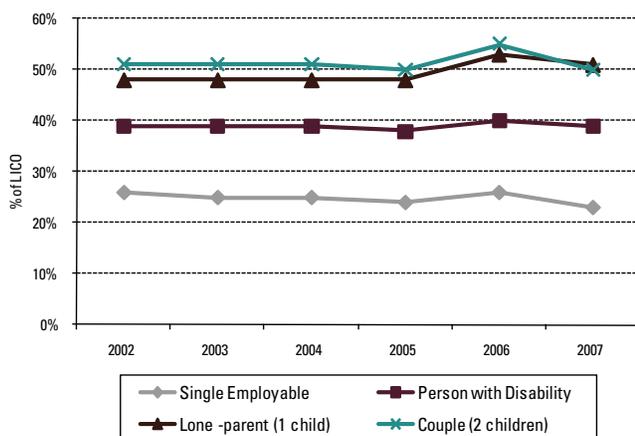
Low-income by Employment Status, Economic Families, Calgary (CSD), 2006



Social Assistance Recipients by Program Type, Calgary



Welfare Incomes as % of Pre-tax LICO, Alberta



Calgary had a poverty rate of 14.9 per cent; by 2006 the rate had dropped by less than one percentage point to 14.2 per cent. Over that period of time, the number of persons in low-income households increased from 129,105 to 138,700. Moreover the rate of child poverty (0-14 years) actually increased from 16.9 per cent to 17.5 per cent. Meanwhile, the seniors poverty rate (65+) dropped significantly by almost three percentage points from 17.4 per cent to 14.6 per cent (Statistics Canada, 2009h).

► *Vulnerable Populations Report Highest Poverty Rates*

Although poverty rates declined for most vulnerable populations in Calgary between 2001 and 2006, they remained significantly higher than the total population (See Table 18). Further, despite declines in the poverty rate for these groups, they comprised a larger share of Calgary's low-income population leading to a growing racialization of poverty in the city (See Table 19) (Statistics Canada, 2009h).

► *Almost All of Calgary's Poor Are Working*

Working poverty remains an important characteristic of Calgary's socio-economic environment. In 2006, there were 68,470 low-income workers in Calgary, including 46,770 full-time workers. Consequently, it should be noted that almost all (92 per cent) of Calgary's poor were either working or living in households with at least one earner; in fact, two-thirds of low-income workers were working mostly full-time (Statistics Canada, 2008h). Meanwhile, the majority of clients of the Calgary Inter-faith Food Bank are reported to be working (Calgary Inter-faith Food Bank, 2009), while roughly two-thirds of residents of the Mustard Seed homeless shelter are also reported to be working (Derworiz, 2009a).

► *Social Assistance Receipt Rises in 2008 After Years of Decline*

In 2008, the number of Social Assistance recipients in Calgary increased slightly, rising 3.8 per cent following several years of decline (See Table 20). The increase was due largely to a substantial increase in the number of Income Support recipients, which grew by 30 per cent between December 2007 and December 2008 (Government of Alberta, 2009d). This increase was partially offset by a slight reduction in the number of seniors receiving the Guaranteed Income Supplement (HRSDC, 2009)

As Social Assistance receipt climbs, welfare rates remain woefully inadequate. In 2007, a single employable person in Alberta relying on provincial welfare assistance (Income Support) received a total annual income of only \$5,059 or \$420 per month, less than a quarter (23 per cent) of the pre-tax low-income cutoff (LICO). A lone-parent with one child received only \$16,230 or \$1,350 per month, roughly half (51 per cent) of the pre-tax LICO (National Council of Welfare, 2008).

Policy Developments

- The United Nations Human Rights Commission Working Group made a series of recommendations to the Government of Canada in 2009 regarding human rights in Canada including Canada's responsibility for ensuring economic, cultural and social rights. One key recommendation to the federal government was for the development of a national strategy to eliminate poverty.
- In 2009, the Government of Alberta introduced new regulations providing enhanced consumer protection for consumers of Payday Loan services.
- In 2008, the Government of Alberta announced increases in Income Support (IS), Alberta Seniors Benefit (ASB) and Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) monthly benefits. Earnings exemptions for AISH recipients were also increased to allow more income to be earned before monthly benefits are reduced.
- In 2009, City of Calgary Council considered but ultimately rejected a Living Wage policy that would have ensured a \$12.00 / hour minimum wage for City of Calgary workers and City contractors. Similar policies are currently under consideration by municipal councils in The City of Ottawa and the Region of Waterloo (Ontario).



1.14 Housing

HOUSING TRENDS SUMMARY

- The demand for rental accommodation slowed in 2008 as net migration to Calgary fell in response to a weakening economy. As a result, vacancy rates continued to rise while rent increases moderated after several years of steep increases. Despite moderating rent increases, rental accommodation remains relatively expensive, with vacancy rates for lower-priced units remaining low. Ownership affordability meanwhile improved in 2008 on falling house prices as the real estate market weakened.
- Calgary's rental stock continued to shrink in 2008 as more rental units were converted to condominium ownership and very few new units were constructed. The rate of condominium conversion did slow however, as large numbers of new condominium units under construction were brought to market.
- The lack of affordable housing continues to contribute to an ongoing crisis of homelessness in Calgary. With the onset of the recession, lower-wage workers who were previous shelter residents are reported to be returning to shelters after being laid off. However, new non-market affordable housing units being built with investments from various orders of government through the Calgary Homeless Foundation may alleviate some demand on city shelters over the next few years.

HOUSING SNAPSHOT

Average Private Market Apartment Rent, Calgary CMA, 2008: \$1,031 

Private Market Apartment Vacancy Rate, Calgary CMA, 2008: 2.1% 

Number of Private Market Rental Units, Calgary CMA, 2008: 36,858 

Homeownership Rate, Calgary, 2009: 71.1% 

HOUSING OUTLOOK

- In 2009, private apartment vacancy rates are expected to rise as population growth remains constrained and renters move into homeownership as prices moderate and interest rates remain low. Renters are also expected to move into newly completed condominiums that are rented as part of the secondary rental market in Calgary. As the rental market eases, average rents are not expected to rise appreciably, with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) predicting average rent will rise only marginally to \$1,150 (CMHC, 2008a).
- Calgary's private apartment rental stock is expected to continue to dwindle. In 2009, multi-family starts are expected to drop by 63 per cent as supply outstrips demand (CMHC, 2008b). Neither are many rental housing starts expected in 2009 while the ongoing conversion of rental units to condominiums, albeit at a lower rate than in 2008, will continue to erode the rental universe in 2009 (CMHC, 2008a).
- One possible source of new rental housing in the Calgary market may come from the secondary rental market as a number of major condominium projects are completed, leading some investors to rent their holdings while waiting for condominium demand to rebound (CMHC, 2008b). New affordable housing units are also expected to be developed as a result of Alberta's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness, and will help ease the ongoing lack of affordable housing.

1. AN INCLUSIVE CITY

- After years of rapidly escalating house prices, ownership affordability is expected to improve in Calgary in the short-term. The New Housing Price Index (NHPI) is expected to decline by 2.5 per cent in 2009, following increases that have slowed over the past few years (Ibid.). This may prompt renters to continue to move into home-ownership as prices moderate and interest rates remain low.
- While low interest rates and a softer housing market may benefit some renters and allow them to move into home ownership, the continued high rate of unemployment for the next two years may limit the ability of lower-income renters to exercise this option. Stagnating income and wage growth will likely contribute to ongoing affordability challenges despite moderating rent increases. Further, the current recession is already reportedly affecting the employment prospects of the most vulnerable and limiting their opportunities to move from shelters to independent living arrangements. Over the longer term, rising interest rates may further impact the ability of lower-income households to enter the ownership market even as the economy recovers.

Discussion

► *Demand for Rental Accommodation Slows in 2008 ...*

Nationally, rental demand grew in 2008 due to high levels of migration, growth in youth employment and the large gap between the cost of renting and home-ownership. In Calgary, slowing migration resulted in an easing of demand for rental accommodations in 2008 following steep increases in preceding years (CMHC, 2008a).

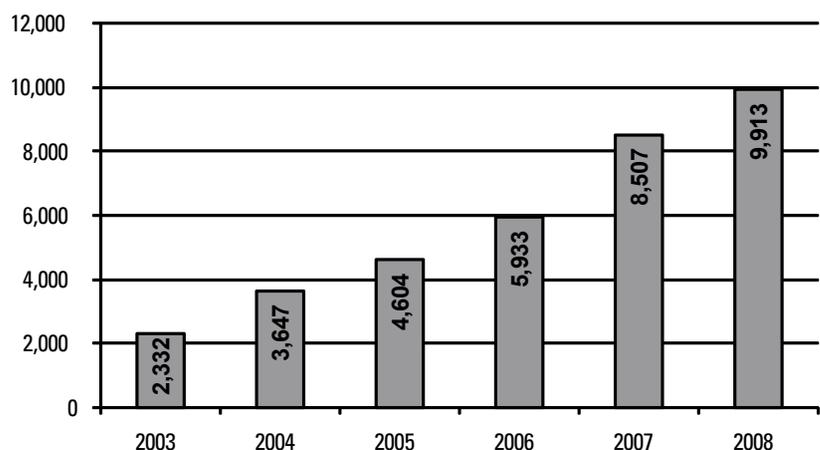
... while Calgary's Rental Stock Continues to Shrink

Despite slowing demand, the continued reduction in Calgary's private rental stock has helped to keep vacancy rates lower than they otherwise would be in the current market. Between 2007 and 2008, 912 rental units were converted to condominiums, compared with the record 1,917 units converted in 2007. The slower rate of condominium conversions in 2008 was the result of lower demand and a high level of condominium supply in the resale market (Ibid.).

The total loss of private market rental stock in 2008 was 1,406, fewer than the 2,574 units lost in 2007. However, nearly 10,000 private market rental units have been removed from the market in Calgary since 2001 (see Table 21). In 2008, new

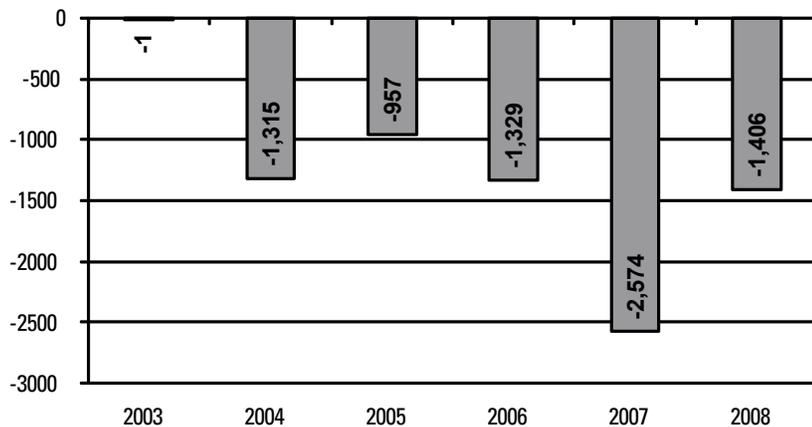
rental construction was limited almost exclusively to social housing. While no significant new rental stock has come to market in recent years, multi-family starts surged in 2008 with significant condominium tower developments in the downtown core. Despite a decline in the economy, multi-family starts in 2008 were still 19 per cent higher than 2007 (CMHC, 2008b), although construction has since ceased on a number of projects due to the recession.

Cumulative Annual Net Loss of Private Rental Market Apartment and Row Home Stock, Calgary (CMA)



1. AN INCLUSIVE CITY

Annual Net Loss of Private Rental Apartment and Row Home Stock, Calgary (CMA)



► **Vacancy Rates Improve on Reduced Demand ...**

As demand slowed, vacancy rates in Calgary improved. In 2008, the average vacancy rate for private rental market apartments in the Calgary CMA was 2.1 per cent, up from 1.5 per cent in 2007 (see Table 21). This increase is attributed to reduced net migration as well as the continued movement of renters into homeownership. Despite rising average vacancy rates overall, however, vacancy rates remained low among the cheapest units, with a rate of just 0.9 per cent for units priced at less than \$600 (CMHC, 2008a). Housing experts contend that an 'ideal' vacancy rate in a balanced market should be about 3 per cent.

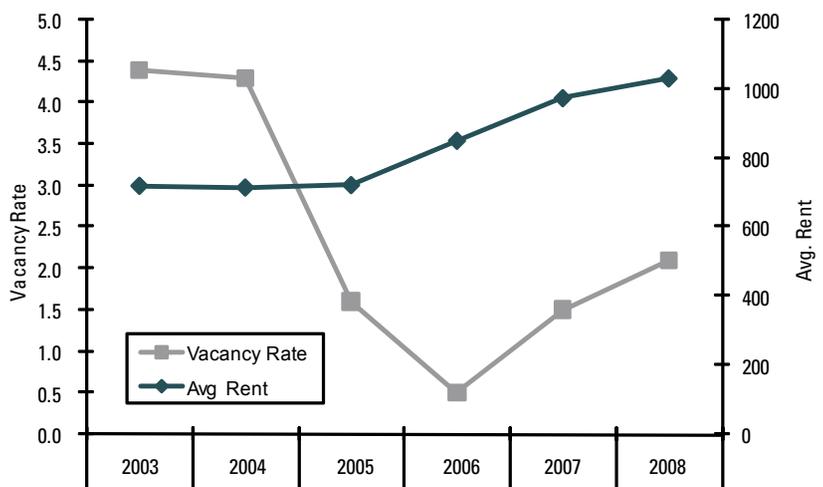
► **Rent Increases Moderating ...**

Overall, average rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Canada's 34 major cities rose by 2.9 per cent between 2007 and 2008, a more moderate rate of increase than in previous years. As a result of lower rent increases as compared with income growth, CMHC's rental affordability index improved in 2008 following two years of decline. In Calgary, average rents also increased at a more modest rate than the previous two years. Between 2007 and 2008, average rent grew by just 4.7 per cent, compared to rates of 15.4 per cent in 2007 and 18.3 per cent in 2006. Average rent in 2008 was \$1,031 per month, \$57 higher than the average of \$974 in 2007 (See Table 21) (Ibid.).

... but Rental Accommodation Remains Relatively Expensive

While increasing vacancy rates are having the effect of moderating rent increases, rental accommodation in Calgary remains relatively expensive. In 2008, Calgary was reported to have the highest average rent for a two-bedroom apartment among Canadian cities, and the third highest average rent for a two-bedroom condominium, following Toronto and Vancouver (Ibid.). For lower-income households, affordability remains a significant challenge. A total of 38,610 renter households in Calgary need affordable housing, having a gross annual household income that is less than \$44,000 and spending 30 per cent or more of household income on rental costs. This amounts to 37 per cent of all rental households in the city. In 2008, a one-bedroom apartment in the private rental market had an average rent of \$952, which would have required an annual pre-tax income of \$38,080 or more. Very few low-income households would have been able to afford even a one-bedroom apartment, which is not considered to be a suitable option for families with children because it has too few bedrooms according to national occupancy standards (City of Calgary, 2009b).

Average Private Rental Market Apartment Rent and Vacancy Rates, Calgary (CMA)



► *Lack of Affordable Housing Contributing to Ongoing Crisis of Homelessness*

While there are a variety of factors contributing to homelessness in Calgary, such as mental health and addictions, the lack of affordable housing continues to be blamed for much of the ongoing high level of homelessness in the city. The Mustard Seed and Calgary Drop-In Centre estimate that between 60 – 70 per cent of their clients are working. Of those, many report stable full-time or part-time employment, while others have casual jobs as day labourers (Derworiz, 2009a). Despite strong employment among shelter residents, there is a concern that the current recession could significantly impact employment opportunities for current and past shelter clients, particularly day labourers. Derworiz (2009b) reports that:

“The Calgary Drop-In Centre has been at or near capacity for the past few months, and the staff has started to notice an increase in the number of returning former clients. There has also been a drop in the number of people able to get day jobs moving furniture, working in warehouses or removing snow.”

The Calgary Drop-In Centre is noticing that many returning clients are those who had found stable employment and moved into housing, and are now returning to the shelter after having been laid off.

In addition to the demands being placed on shelters, there is a significant number of homeless persons who choose not to stay in shelters. A recent survey estimated that 340 people are sleeping outside during the night in Calgary on streets and riverbanks, and in parks and alleys. The primary reasons for not sleeping in shelters include people wanting to sleep with their partner or their pets, wanting to avoid large crowds, or the use of drugs and alcohol (Derworiz, 2008). Increasingly these individuals are at risk of victimization (Derworiz, 2009c).

► *Ownership Affordability Improves on Falling House Prices*

While rental affordability has improved marginally, affordability of ownership has improved markedly as housing prices have fallen. The Royal Bank's Housing Affordability Index improved for all market segments in 2008, but affordability of single-detached homes improved the most in 2008 (Government of Alberta, 2009e). In 2008, the CMHC New Housing Price Index (NHPI) rose by just 1 per cent, compared to previous

increases of 16.2 per cent in 2007 and 43.6 per cent in 2006 (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, 2008b). Although affordability has improved recently, the Government of Alberta (2009e) notes that affordability levels continue to remain historically poor. It must also be noted that home ownership remains out of reach for the vast majority of Calgary households that are in need of affordable housing because they have low incomes and are already spending more than they can afford on shelter.

Policy Developments

- In 2009, the Governments of Canada and Alberta signed an amendment to the Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program that will see an additional \$386M invested in affordable housing in Alberta over the next two years.
- In 2008, the Government of Canada extended by two years the Affordable Housing Initiative (AHI) that provides funding for the development of new affordable housing.
- In 2009, the Government of Alberta approved A Plan for Alberta – Ending Homelessness in Ten Years. This is Canada's first provincial homelessness strategy. The plan adopts a “Housing First” approach to provide immediate housing for those in need accompanied by appropriate client-centred support services to help recipients develop and maintain independence. Through this plan, the Government of Alberta aims to construct 11,000 affordable housing units in Alberta by 2012 and has provided funding for both homelessness and affordable housing initiatives.
- In 2008, Calgary's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness was released and several pilot projects were implemented with some significant achievements being made during the first year.
- The City of Calgary is currently developing an attainable homeownership program that will result in an initial 1,000 multi-family units being built on City-owned lands as well as vacant surplus school sites that The City has acquired.

1.15 Food Security

FOOD SECURITY TRENDS OVERVIEW

- With the rising cost of food across Canada and in Alberta, a growing number of households are experiencing food insecurity. This is resulting in many either having too little food, or food with poor nutrition.
- In 2008, food bank usage began to increase after several successive years of decline, escalating in 2009 as the impact of the recession deepened locally. While working families continue to be the most frequently in need of emergency food assistance, the number of clients in receipt of Employment Insurance benefits or without any income rose significantly in 2009. Of concern is the high number of children living in families relying on emergency food assistance.
- The ongoing lack of affordable housing continues to exacerbate food insecurity issues as housing costs dominate household expenditures leading to the need for emergency food assistance.

FOOD SNAPSHOT

Total Number of Food Hampers Distributed by the Calgary Inter-faith Food Bank, Calgary, 2008: 37,924 

Total Number of People Receiving Assistance from the Calgary Inter-faith Food Bank, Calgary, 2008: 40,239 

Total tonnes of food distributed by the Calgary Inter-faith Food Bank, Calgary, 2008: 5,872 

FOOD SECURITY OUTLOOK

- As the full impact of the recession becomes felt in Calgary, expect the demand for emergency food assistance to continue to climb over the next two years.
- As the number of people forced to rely on Social Assistance rises due to either their ineligibility for, or exhaustion of, Employment Insurance benefits, food insecurity will rise as a result of the gross inadequacy of Social Assistance benefit levels.
- The demand for food assistance arising from high unemployment rates will be exacerbated by stagnating wages over the forecast period with low-wage workers historically constituting the bulk of clients of the Calgary Inter-faith Food Bank.
- Rising food costs will continue to affect the ability of lower-income households to provide healthy and nutritious meals. The impact of rising food costs may be partially offset by improved housing affordability over the short-term.

Discussion

► *Cost of Food Rising Across Canada and Alberta*

Across Canada, the cost of nutritious food is becoming an increasing concern. In 2008, the cost of a nutritious food basket in Alberta for a family of four was \$740 - \$812 per month, while for a single parent with 2 children, it was \$403 - 444 / month (Dieticians of Canada, 2008). Over the past year, the depreciating Canadian dollar has resulted in consistently increasing food prices. As of January, 2009, food prices had risen for 14 consecutive months at an annual rate of 7.7 per cent (Rangasamy and Shenfeld, 2009).

Across Canada, the prices of foods with poor nutritional quality (such as chips and pop) tend to be lower than healthy foods. Meanwhile, recent price increases have affected fresh fruits, vegetables and other imported foods the most, items that in 2008 accounted for almost 40 per cent of the average Canadian household grocery budget. This may explain why almost half (47 per cent) of Canadians report going without fresh fruit, vegetables, dairy products, whole grain products, lean meat or fish because they are too expensive. In 2008, almost half of adults and 70 per cent of Canadian children did not consume the minimum recommended servings of these items (Heart and Stroke Foundation, 2009).

► *Lack of Affordable Housing Also Affects Need for Emergency Food*

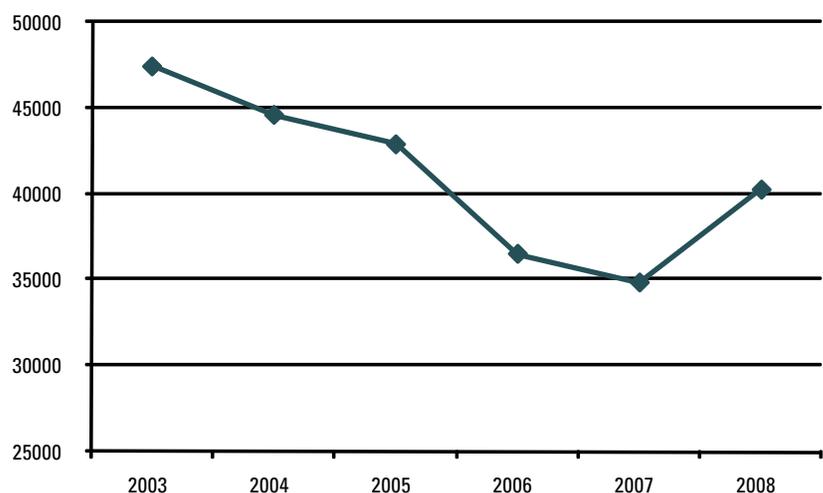
In addition to the rising cost of food, housing costs remain a critical factor affecting food security for low-income families. According to The Dieticians of Canada (2008), renters are at a far greater risk of food insecurity than others. Pegg (2009) reports that over half of food bank users across Canada (58 per cent) were in market rental housing in 2008, while one quarter were in social housing. While data on the housing status of users of the Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank is not available, anecdotal reports suggest that the high cost of housing locally has had an important impact on the ability of low and moderate income Calgaryans to afford food. While moderating rent increases may provide some limited financial relief to lower-income households, housing remains relatively unaffordable in Calgary and many continue to be faced with difficult choices between paying rent and buying nutritious food.

► *Food Bank Usage Growing in Calgary*

Over the past two years, food bank usage has declined across the country after peaking in 2004 - 2005. In March 2008, 704,414 Canadians received assistance from a food bank, a 2.2 per cent decline from 2007, while in Alberta, 33,580 people required emergency food assistance (Pegg, 2009). In Calgary, 40,239 people received at least one food hamper from the Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank in 2008, up 15.5 per cent from 2007 after several successive years of decline (See Table 22). This increase was driven by a 31 per cent increase in new clients (Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank, 2009).

Groups at greatest risk of food insecurity include those living in low-income households, female lone-parent families, Aboriginal people living off-reserve, renters and Social Assistance Recipients. In Alberta, with the exception of Social Assistance Recipients, rates of food bank usage are similar to the national average for these sub-groups (Dieticians of Canada, 2008).

Number of Clients Receiving Hampers from the Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank



► *Children More Likely to be Users of Food Banks in Alberta*

Due to the importance of adequate nutrition for healthy child development, the number of children relying on food banks for their nutritional needs is always of concern. Nationally, the percentage of food bank recipients who were children declined slightly from 39 per cent in 2007 to 37 per cent in 2008. In Alberta, the percentage of food bank recipients who were children was higher than the national average at 42 per cent (Pegg, 2009). In Calgary, the rate of child receipt was identical

to the provincial rate of 42 per cent, marginally lower than the rate of 43 per cent reported in 2007 (See Table 23) (Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank, 2009).

► *Working Families Most Frequently in Need of Emergency Food Assistance*

Nationally, 14.5 per cent of food bank users reported employment as their primary source of income, up slightly from 13.5 per cent in 2007. In Alberta, however, the percentage of food bank users who were working was double the national rate, as 28 per cent reported employment as their primary source of income, up from 27 per cent in 2007 (Pegg, 2009). In Calgary, employment remained the most important source of income for food bank recipients in 2008, with 42 per cent reporting employment income in 2008, unchanged from the previous year (See Table 24).

While wages continue to be the greatest source of income for Calgary food bank users, in 2009, the number of clients reporting Employment Insurance income or who had recently been laid off or finished work increased dramatically. Comparing January – June 2009 with the same period in 2008, the number of unemployed / laid off food bank clients was up by over 300 per cent (839 in 2008 and 3,536 in 2009). In 2008, the Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank also began to notice a significant increase in the number of clients who had no income (i.e. no new money coming into the family in the past 30 days). This suggests that the current economic downturn and associated rise in unemployment are taking a toll on many Calgary families who may have lost employment and are struggling to provide for their basic needs.

For those who exhaust their Employment Insurance benefits or are otherwise without income, Social Assistance (welfare) may be the only option. Given the extremely meagre benefits available through provincial Social Assistance programs most households relying on Social Assistance face challenges meeting their basic needs. According to the Dieticians of Canada (2008), 6 of every 10 households supported by Social Assistance across Canada report food insecurity; in Alberta the rate is 8 of every 10 households. This level of food insecurity among Social Assistance recipients is evidenced by the usage of food bank services by such households. In 2008, half of all food bank users in Canada were receiving provincial Social Assistance, while 13 per cent were receiving disability benefits (Pegg, 2009). In Calgary, one in five food bank users were

receiving provincial Income Support in 2008, with a further 7.6 per cent reporting disability benefits (AISH) as their primary source of income (Calgary Inter-faith Food Bank, 2009).

1.2 HUMAN RIGHTS AND DIVERSITY

1.21 Immigration

DIVERSITY TRENDS SUMMARY

- Immigration to Calgary increased in 2008 after falling slightly in 2007, reaching a record level. Most immigrants to Calgary are now fluent in English, compared to five years ago when over half had no official language ability. In 2008, The Philippines became Calgary's most important immigrant source country, surpassing India and China which have traditionally been the dominant source countries of immigration.
- Calgary's minority communities tend to be younger and have families. Census data reveal that recent immigrants and visible minorities have above average education, while minority communities in general have a very strong attachment to the labour force.
- Despite their strong attachment to the labour force, Calgary's minority communities earn less and have lower average incomes than other Calgarians and are much more likely to experience poverty.
- Across the country, including Alberta, official human rights complaints continue to decline. At the same time, however, discrimination remains an ongoing concern. Although officially reported hate crimes in Calgary fell in 2008, there was an increase in anti-Semitic and white supremacist activity.

DIVERSITY SNAPSHOT

Total Immigrant Landings, Calgary, 2008: 12,689



Share of National Immigration, Calgary, 2008: 5.1%



Percent of Immigrants Landing in Calgary Without Official Language Ability, Calgary, 2008: 26.7%



Total Number of Complaint Files Opened by the Alberta Human Rights Commission, Alberta, 2008: 680



Hate-bias Crimes, Calgary, 2008: 78



DIVERSITY OUTLOOK

- Over the forecast period, immigration is expected to continue to increase in Calgary. In 2009, the Government of Canada expects to accept between 240,000 and 265,000 immigrants to Canada. Assuming that Calgary continues to receive its five-year average share of 4.5 per cent of Canada's immigrants, this would result in a total of between 10,700 and 11,800 immigrants landing in Calgary in 2009.
- Although the current economic recession may prompt expectations of a decline in immigration to Calgary, ongoing weakness in the economies of the primary immigration destination regions, notably Ontario and B.C., may contribute to ongoing high levels of immigration and secondary migration to Calgary.
- Recent immigrants have been disproportionately affected by the current recession, and may benefit less from the economic recovery. Consequently, the need for supports for this population may be expected to grow.
- As the economy recovers, immigration will once again become highly important to Calgary for its labour force needs. According to Calgary Economic Development (2008) countries that could provide labour to meet labour demand in projected high demand occupations over the coming decade include India, China, Philippines, the

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United Kingdom, Russia, the United States, Pakistan, Mexico, Korea, Jamaica and Hong Kong. Workers from many of these countries face significant linguistic and cultural challenges to integration, suggesting that more supports will be required for immigrants if Calgary is to be successful in efforts to address labour supply issues through immigration.

- Recent trends suggest that human rights complaints may continue to decline overall. However, certain types of complaints may be expected to rise. Over the past several years, disability has remained the most frequent human rights complaint. As the population ages, expect the number of age and disability complaints to rise. Further, as unemployment rises and economic opportunity is reduced in the short-term, recent white supremacist and anti-Semitic activity may continue or increase as minority groups might be perceived to be competing for employment and targeted. Such incidents will not likely be reflected in the number of formal human rights complaints, but should be closely monitored and addressed.

Discussion

► *Immigration to Calgary Reaches Record Level*

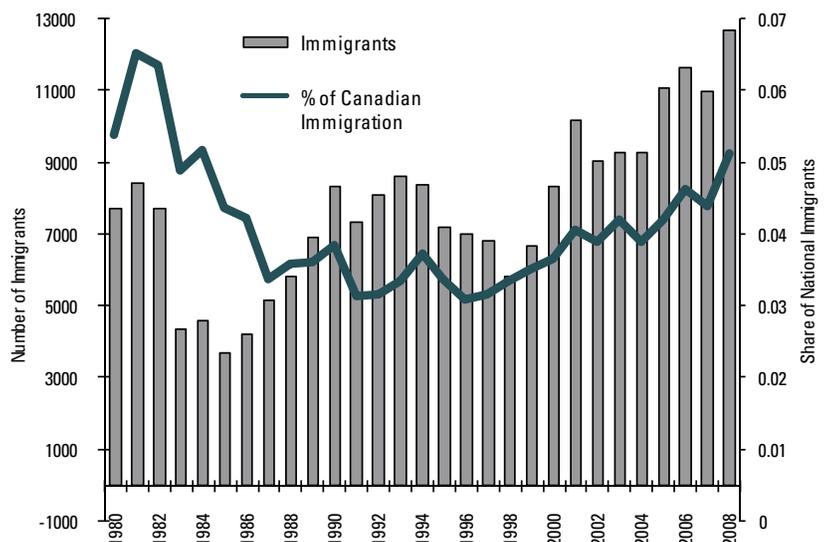
Canada accepted a total of 247,243 immigrants and refugees in 2008, up slightly from the 236,754 that immigrated to Canada the previous year (See Table 25) (Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2009a). Immigration to Calgary reached a record high in 2008, after falling slightly the year before. This continues a long-term trend of increasing immigration for the past ten years. In 2008, there were 12,689 immigrants who landed in Calgary, compared to 10,972 the year before.

The increase in immigration to Calgary in 2008 reflects Calgary's growing ability to attract a larger share of immigrants to Canada. In 2008, immigrant landings in Calgary accounted for 5.1 per cent of Canada's immigrants that year (Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2009b). This continues a decade-long trend where Calgary has become increasingly attractive as a destination for immigrants.

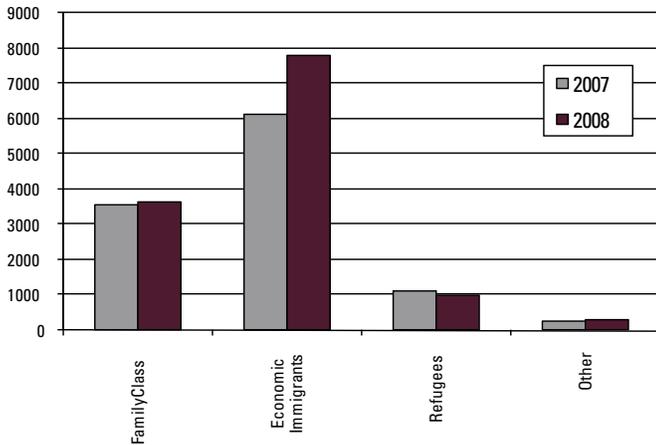
Calgary's increasing competitiveness may be reflective of the greater economic opportunities that western cities such as Calgary are believed to have. Jiminez (2008a) reports that, as patterns of economic growth have shifted, immigration patterns are changing accordingly as immigrant families are earning more in non-traditional immigrant centres in the West than they do in traditional immigrant centres such as Toronto. This may explain recent increases in the share of immigrants settling in western cities, while Toronto's share has fallen.

Nationally, the majority (60 per cent) of immigrants to Canada were Economic immigrants in 2008, followed by Family Class (26.5 per cent) and Refugees (9 per cent) (Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2009a). In Calgary, Economic Immigrants also continue to constitute the majority of immigrants, accounting for 61 per cent of Calgary's immigrants who landed in 2008 (See Table 26). Family Class immigrants were the second largest group, accounting for 29 per cent of immigrants, followed by Refugees (8 per cent). Over the past year, the number of Economic immigrants grew significantly, while the number of Refugees fell (Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2009b).

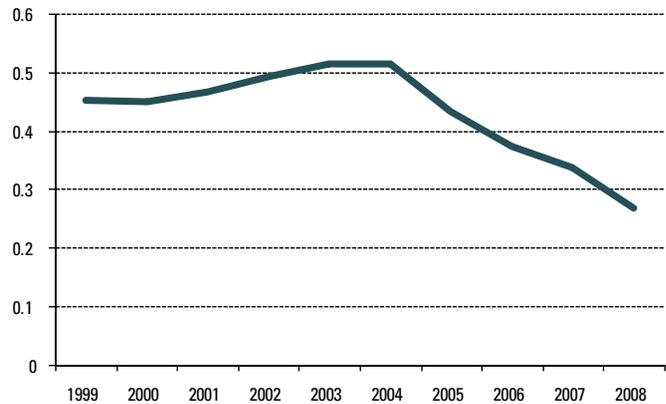
Immigration to Calgary, 1980-2008



Immigrant Landings by Class, Calgary



Percentage of Immigrants Lacking Official Language Ability, Calgary



► ***The Philippines Becomes Calgary's Number One Source Country***

In 2008, the Philippines became Calgary's largest immigrant source country for the first time (See Table 27). Meanwhile, China, which has long been Calgary's most important source country fell to third, while India, the largest source country in 2007, fell to second. Significant increases were noted between 2007 and 2008 in the number of immigrants from the United Kingdom (+43.9 per cent), as well as Venezuela (+37.9 per cent), Korea (+26.0 per cent) and Colombia (+23.9 per cent).

► ***Most Immigrants to Calgary Now Fluent in English***

Continuing a long-term trend, the percentage of immigrants to Calgary lacking official language ability (English or French) continues to decline. In 2008, only 27 per cent of immigrants to Calgary could not speak either English or French, down from 34 per cent the previous year, and significantly lower than 2004 when over half of immigrants who landed that year could not speak either of Canada's official languages (See Table 28).

Fluency in one of Canada's official languages is an important contributor to economic success. Immigrants who use a non-official language at work are reported to be more likely to live in low-income households and twice as likely to have previously been unemployed. The use of non-official languages at work is associated with lower levels of education, lower skilled jobs and lower earnings. In 2006, 16 per cent of immigrant workers in Canada used a non-official language at work, the same percentage as in 2001 (Statistics Canada, 2009i). In Calgary, 7.8 per cent of recent immigrants who were employed in 2006 were using a non-official language at work (Statistics Canada, 2009j).

1.22 Socio-economic Conditions of Calgary's Minority Communities

► ***Calgary's Minority Communities Younger, with Families***

With the exception of persons with disabilities, Calgary's minority communities tend to have a much younger age profile than the city as a whole, with a significantly greater proportion of the population under the age of 15, and a smaller proportion aged 65 and older. As minority communities tend to be younger, with the exception of persons with disabilities, fewer individuals from minority communities are living alone (Statistics Canada, 2009j). As a younger population, persons from Calgary's minority communities also tend to be more affected by issues facing families with children.

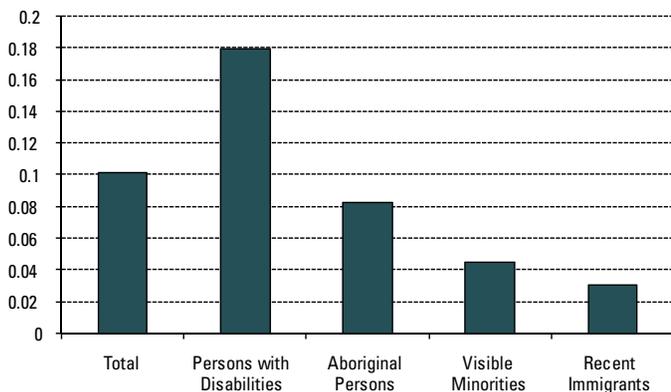
Childcare is a particular concern, especially given the income challenges faced by many families which tend to require both parents to work. This is a particular concern for Aboriginal families as childcare arrangements aren't typically supportive of Aboriginal culture (Statistics Canada, 2008i). Parents with children who have disabilities face particular challenges. A recent study reported that roughly one-quarter of parents of children with a disability found their child's health to be a critical source of stress, particularly as they try to balance their responsibilities of caring for their child with other obligations such as work. Their children's disabilities also affect their leisure and personal time, as well as their ability to find childcare (Statistics Canada, 2008j).

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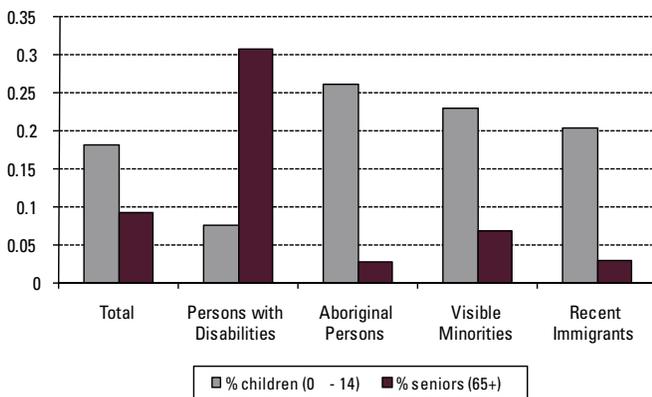
► *Recent Immigrants and Visible Minorities Have Above Average Education*

Calgary's visible minority persons and recent immigrants are on average better educated than the population as a whole, with a high proportion having attained a university degree. Persons with disabilities and Aboriginal persons, however, tended to have lower levels of education than the average, with a greater proportion lacking a high school diploma, and fewer having a

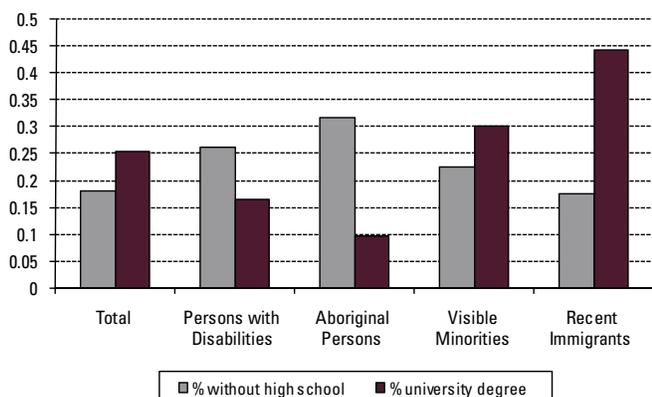
Percent of Persons Living Alone, Calgary (CSD), 2006



Age Distribution for Selected Groups, Calgary (CSD), 2006



Level of Education for Selected Groups (Age 15+), Calgary (CSD), 2006



university degree compared with the total population (Statistics Canada, 2009j).

► *Minority Communities Have Strong Attachment to Labour Force*

With the exception of persons with disabilities, Calgary's minority communities report labour force participation rates that are roughly equal to the overall labour force participation rate. In fact, the Aboriginal participation rate exceeds the overall rate. However, despite generally equal participation rates, unemployment rates among Calgary's minority communities remain significantly higher than the rate for the total population. Aboriginal persons and recent immigrants reported the highest unemployment rates at 7 per cent, roughly 3 percentage points above the average (Statistics Canada, 2009j).

Persons with disabilities tend to have significantly greater employment challenges than those without disabilities. Statistics Canada (2009k) reported that persons with disabilities tend to not only have lower work-activity rates but also work fewer annual hours than persons without disabilities. This affects their ability to earn a sufficient income and leaves them at more risk of being in low-income. Not only does the presence of a disability affect the person experiencing the disability, it also impacts the entire household. Statistics Canada (2008j) reported that 3 out of 5 parents with children with disabilities stated that their child's disability affected their employment. The most frequent effect was limiting the number of hours parents were available to work.

► *Calgary's Minority Communities Earn Less and Have Lower Average Incomes*

Of those who are employed, workers from Calgary's minority communities tended to have below average total income and to earn less than the average from employment. Recent immigrants and visible minorities reported the lowest average employment income, despite having higher average levels of education. Calgary's minority communities also reported a smaller percentage of individuals receiving \$60K or more in income and a significantly higher proportion receiving less than \$20K compared to Calgary as a whole (Statistics Canada, 2009j). As noted previously, persons with disabilities experience particular challenges due to the fact that disabilities tend to affect the amount of work they are able to do. Statistics Canada (2008j) also reports that parents of children with disabilities find that their child's disability affects their finances.

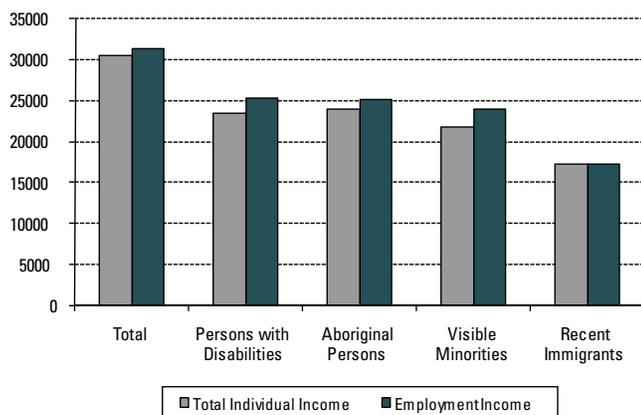
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Discrimination is also a factor accounting for differences in income. Jiminez (2008b) reports that persons of colour experience more discrimination and difficulties in the labour market than others leading to lower incomes.

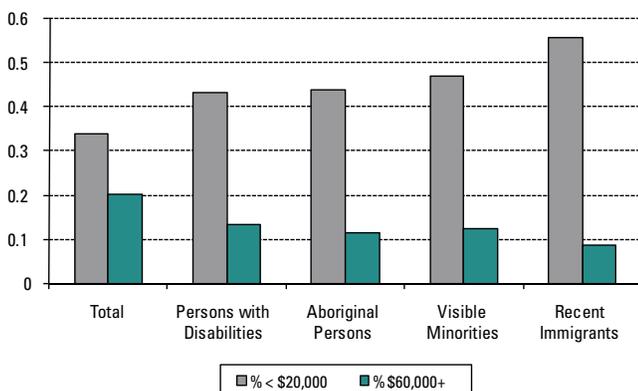
“Blacks do fairly well in terms of education, but black men especially stand out with strikingly lower incomes. They report experiences of discrimination on a much higher level than other racial groups. (Jiminez, 2008b)”

While outcomes for first generation immigrants tend to be similar, there are significant differences across ethnic groups in subsequent generations. For second and third generations, those of Chinese and South Asian ethnic origin reported significantly higher average earnings, while second and third generation Black and Latino persons earned less than newcomers (Ibid.).

Median Total and Employment Income of Individuals, Calgary (CSD), 2005



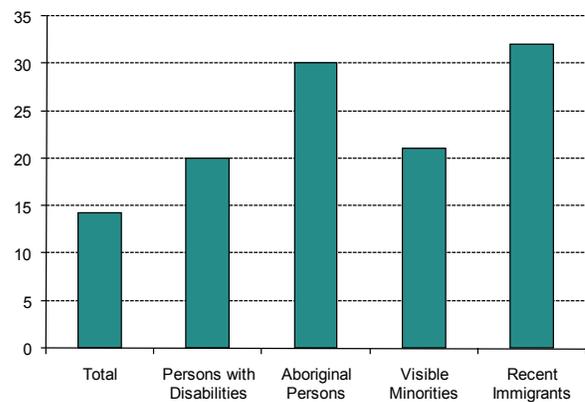
Income Distribution for Selected Groups, Calgary (CSD), 2005



► *Calgarians From Minority Communities More Likely to Experience Poverty*

Low-income rates tend to be significantly higher among Calgary’s minority communities. Recent immigrants reported the highest low-income rates, with roughly one-third living in low-income households, more than double the low-income rate for Calgary as a whole (Statistics Canada, 2009i). Low-income rates for children (under 6) and seniors tend to be higher among minority communities, with almost 45 per cent of Aboriginal children living in low-income households. Statistics Canada (2008i) reported that, nationally, nearly half (49 per cent) of First Nations children living off-reserve in the provinces were living in low-income households.

Low-income Rate for Selected Groups, Calgary (CSD), 2006



1.23 Human Rights and Discrimination

► *Human Rights Complaints Declining Across Canada and in Alberta*

Human rights complaints lodged with the Canadian Human Rights Commission continue to decline. In 2008, there were 577 signed complaints opened with the Canadian Human Rights Commission, 10 per cent fewer than the previous year (See Table 29). In the Alberta / NWT region, 54 complaints were signed in 2008, down from 68 the previous year. Disability remained the most frequently cited grounds for complaint nationally, accounting for roughly one-third of all complaints (See Table 30). Over the past five years, complaints have gone down in all categories, with the exception of age which has seen an increase of 55 per cent (Canadian Human Rights Commission, 2009).

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In Alberta, the number of human rights complaints filed with the Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission (HRCC) increased marginally, after falling consistently for the past four years. In 2007/08, there were 680 complaint files opened with the HRCC, 3.2 per cent more than last year (See Table 29). Disability (physical or mental) remained the primary grounds for complaint, accounting for over half (52 per cent) of all complaints to the HRCC, with the number of disability related complaints growing by 15 per cent over the past year. Over the past five years, disability related complaints have consistently increased as a proportion of total complaints. Complaints based on grounds of race, ancestry or religion together accounted for 18 per cent of all complaints to the commission in 2007/08, with the number of such complaints rising by 13 per cent over the past year. Employment practices remained the primary reason for complaint, accounting for 82 per cent of all complaints (Government of Alberta, 2008b).

While recent declines in the number of complaints may be interpreted as a positive sign, there is concern that it may also reflect a growing lack of confidence in the system. In Alberta, human rights protections are often considered to be weak in comparison to other jurisdictions. The Sheldon Chumir Foundation (2008) notes that the Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission has suffered from a lack of political support resulting in a low profile among Albertans, demoralization among staff and a failure to undertake major reforms that have been pursued in other jurisdictions. One of the critical problems with the existing system is the length of time it takes to bring cases to resolution. Alberta's growing diversity means that failure to address issues with the Human Rights and Citizenship Commission is a serious concern.

“That Alberta is significantly more diverse is evident on the streets of our towns and cities and is clearly reflected in the statistics ... Accordingly, a strong commitment on the part of the provincial government to combating discrimination, through an improved Commission and better human rights law, is needed more than ever (Sheldon Chumir Foundation, 2008).”

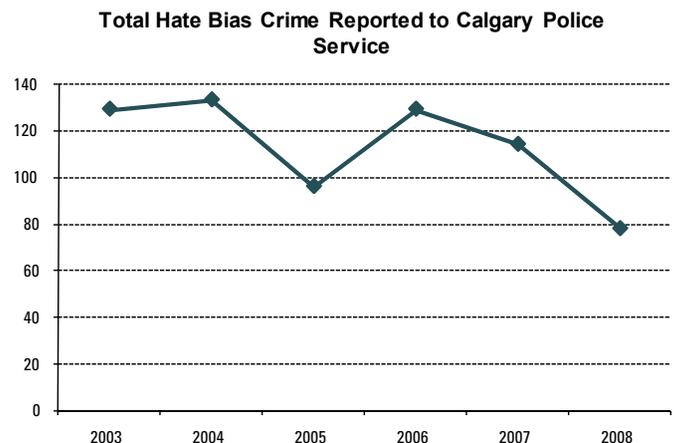
While concerns about the adequacy of Alberta's human rights protections persist, the Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission reports that an independent survey of Albertans in 2008 found that 88 per cent of Albertans believed human rights in the province were “fairly well” or “very well” protected (Government of Alberta, 2008b).

► *Discrimination Remains an Ongoing Concern*

While Canada tends to be highly regarded internationally for its record on human rights, a recent study by the Association for Canadian Studies found that over one-quarter (28 per cent) of Canadians say that they have personally felt discriminated against or harassed for their ethnicity, age or sexual orientation. This compares to a rate of only 15 per cent in the European Union (EU). Canadians are also more likely to report that they have witnessed discrimination against someone else in the past year; in Canada, 41 per cent reported having witnessed discrimination, compared to only 29 per cent in the EU. The most frequently reported types of discrimination witnessed by Canadians were incidents based on race or sexual orientation (Proudfoot, 2008).

► *Hate Crime in Calgary Falls ...*

In 2008, hate crimes in Calgary fell to their lowest reported level since such crimes began to be tracked (See Table 31), although it is estimated that only about 10 per cent of all hate crimes are actually reported. In 2008, there were 78 reported hate crimes in Calgary compared to 114 in 2007 and 129 in 2006. As in previous years, race was the primary motivating factor, accounting for 51 crimes, followed by ethnicity. Combined, race and ethnicity accounted for 83 per cent of all crimes. Crimes motivated by sexual orientation fell most significantly over the previous year, with 4 such crimes reported in 2008 compared to 22 in 2007. Crimes motivated by religion also fell by half from 16 in 2007 to just 8 in 2008. Assaults and mischief each accounted for 35 per cent of crimes (Calgary Police Service, 2009).



... *While Anti-Semitic Activity Rises*

Across Canada, anti-Semitic activity appears to be on the rise. In 2008, the number of anti-Semitic incidents nationally reached an all-time high of 1,135 in 2008, an 8.9 per cent increase from 2007. Factors that may account for the increase in anti-Semitic activity include the recent economic downturn which has revived stereotypes and myths about Jewish economic control, leading to blame being assigned to the Jewish community for the recent recession. As well, the war in Gaza resulted in increased anti-Israel messages which may have been translated into anti-Jewish sentiments, particularly on university campuses (Klein and Bromberg, 2009).

The majority of anti-Semitic incidents nationwide were incidents of harassment (803 - 70 per cent), followed by incidents of vandalism (318 - 28 per cent) and violence (14 - 1.2 per cent). Incidents of harassment often involved threats of physical harm. Of concern is the increase in web-based hate activity. This includes the presence of hate-based websites with links to Canada, but also the use of new media such as social blogs, social networking sites, online videos and text messaging (Klein and Bromberg, 2009).

In Alberta, a record 50 hate-related anti-Semitic incidents were reported in 2008, a 28.7 per cent increase from 2007. Thirty-two of these incidents took place in Calgary and 18 in Edmonton. Of the 50 cases, 38 were incidents of harassment and 11 of vandalism. There was also one incident of violence in Alberta, where no incidents of violence had been reported in 2007. The incidents of harassment included neo-nazi / white supremacist activity, while vandalism included attacks on synagogues, private homes and public property (Klein and Bromberg, 2009).

► *Local White Supremacist Activity Remains a Concern*

Of ongoing concern is the increasingly visible presence of neo-nazi / white-supremacist organizations, especially the Aryan Guard in Calgary and their recent recruitment efforts targeted at youth (Klein and Bromberg, 2009). The Calgary Police Service report that the Aryan Guard was actively recruiting youth to its organization from Calgary schools in 2008, through distribution of "white power" music CDs that contain racist lyrics. This is reported to be similar to a recruiting drive in schoolyards by white-supremacist organizations in the United States. The Aryan Guard is reported to be planning new fundraising and recruitment activities in Calgary this year, including efforts to host local concerts with U.S. based neo-nazi bands (Komarnicky, 2009a).

In 2008 and the first part of 2009, the Aryan Guard was involved in a series of violent high profile incidents in the city. During the summer of 2008, a member of the Aryan Guard was arrested after a racially motivated attack on a Japanese tourist (Martin, 2008). In March, 2009, approximately 60 Aryan Guard members staged a "White Pride" march through downtown Calgary. They were met by approximately 400 anti-racist counter-demonstrators. Two persons were injured as the groups clashed, with three people being arrested. Calgary police called the level of violence at this and a similar confrontation last year "troubling". In 2008, roughly 30 Aryan Guard clashed with about 150 anti-racist protesters (Komarnicky, 2009b).

In addition to rising anti-Semitic activity, attitudes of intolerance continue to surface in Alberta. In 2008, an individual from Alberta who had been previously convicted of promoting hatred was arrested in Toronto for promoting hatred following a speech in which he discussed "black crime". This person, previously from Ontario, moved to Alberta following convictions which landed him in jail for promoting hatred in Ontario. The organizer of the event at which the individual spoke was quoted as saying that his arrest would never have happened in Alberta which he called "... a more homogenous area where you don't have to look over your shoulder every time you tell a joke in a bar." (Freeze, 2009).

Policy Developments

- Recently, Canada's human rights record was reviewed by the United Nations Human Rights Council who made a series of recommendations to the Canadian government. The Council urged Canada to ensure more appropriate representation of minority communities at all levels of government and also to reconsider its stance and fully implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- In 2009, the Government of Canada's First Ministers and Territorial Leaders agreed to develop a national framework for foreign credential recognition by the end of 2009.
- In 2009, the Government of Canada extended and announced changes to the Communities at Risk: Security Infrastructure Pilot (SIP) program to amend eligibility criteria to make it easier for communities who have experienced hate crime to access program funds to combat hate activities.

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- In 2009, the Government of Alberta introduced the Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Amendment Act to enhance human rights protections in Alberta. This Act adds sexual orientation as a protected ground in Alberta's human rights legislation. In addition to the amended legislation, administrative changes are being made to the Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission to reduce the time it takes to review a complaint.
- In 2009, the Government of Alberta enacted the Service Dogs Act to ensure guaranteed access to all public places for Albertans with disabilities who use a service dog.
- In 2008, the new Canadian Experience Class of immigration was initiated. This new class allows certain Temporary Foreign Workers and foreign student graduates with work experience to apply directly for permanent residency and have their Canadian experience included as part of their selection criteria.
- In 2008, the Government of Alberta released A Foreign Qualifications Recognition Plan for Alberta. This new plan focuses on providing specialized information and assessment standards and resources to facilitate better transition to the workforce for new immigrants.
- In 2006, The City of Calgary was one of the first municipalities to join The Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination (CCMARD). In late 2008, an Action Plan was unanimously approved by City Council and a budget of \$308.9K was allocated over 3 years. In 2009, positions will be staffed to create a work plan to implement the Action Plan and to ensure that racism and discrimination remain priority areas for The City of Calgary and the community.
- In 2008, The City of Calgary implemented a new policy that will allow people to wear traditional clothing such as hijabs while swimming in City of Calgary pools. This new policy follows controversy in other cities about the wearing of hijabs in various sports and recreational activities, including pools. The rationale for accommodation of non-traditional dress in pools is that teaching basic swimming skills to populations that may otherwise not be exposed to the water is important to save lives.

1.3 VOLUNTARY SECTOR

VOLUNTARY SECTOR SNAPSHOT

Percentage of Households reporting Charitable Donations, Calgary, 2007: 72%



Average Charitable Donation amount per household, Calgary, 2007: \$1,381



VOLUNTARY SECTOR TRENDS SUMMARY

- Canada's voluntary sector continues to make a significant economic contribution, with GDP growth in the sector outpacing overall GDP growth in Canada over the past decade. However, there is growing concern about the impact of the current recession on the sector and the risk that charitable donations and government funds may be reduced as the demand for service increases.
- While charitable giving remained strong in 2008, there is fear that it will be significantly reduced in 2009 as the full impact of the recession is felt by households and corporations. Some analysts predict that many voluntary organizations will be forced to close. In response to the funding challenges confronting them, some organizations are looking at new forms of cooperation.
- Across Canada and Alberta, voluntarism remains strong, with volunteer rates in Alberta rising between 2004 and 2007. Changing patterns of voluntarism, however, are affecting the capacity of the sector to operate effectively. Volunteers are increasingly looking for short-term activities with less ongoing or regular commitment, making the management of volunteer resources more complex.
- Human resources challenges emerged over the last few years as one of the most critical issues facing the sector. Recruiting and retaining workers in the economic climate of the time was difficult due to the high cost of living locally coupled with lower rates of pay as compared to the private sector. The difficulty in maintaining an adequate paid staff compromised the ability of many organizations to achieve their mission. At the present time, human resource issues in the sector persist, although the current recession may ease these pressures somewhat as the labour market becomes less constrained.
- Current funding arrangements are impacting organizational capacity. The tendency for funders to provide project as opposed to core funding has jeopardized the basic organizational capacity of many organizations. At the same time, new funding arrangements are emerging, particularly the increased establishment of foundations and the trend to donate equities as opposed to cash. The recent decline in the stock market, however, has affected the value of donated equities and the assets of foundations, leading to a more constrained funding environment.

VOLUNTARY SECTOR OUTLOOK

- Due to the current economic recession, there is ongoing concern and expectation that charitable donations will fall in the short term. Over one-third (38 per cent) of Alberta charities expect donations to decrease in 2009. Hospitals are the most likely to expect contributions to decrease (45 per cent) in 2009, followed by arts and culture (44 per cent), health (38 per cent), education (38 per cent) and social services (37 per cent) (Innovative Research Group, 2009). At the same time, recent reports suggest that the impact to charitable donations may not be as severe as feared.

- As earnings contract and government deficits mount, corporate donations and government funds may become more constrained. Depressed stock markets will also constrain the value of investments for Foundations and equities held by organizations. Expect the funding environment to remain challenging over the next two years until economic growth picks up in earnest in 2011. Moderating inflation, however, may partially offset the impact of a more restrictive funding environment by reducing operating costs for organizations.
- As the labour market weakens, human resource pressures in the sector may ease in the short term. However, reduced funding may lead some organizations to lay off staff, increasing the workload for remaining employees and increase staff retention challenges. Human resource pressures may return by the end of the forecast period as the economy rebounds and labour shortages re-emerge in the local economy.
- The impact of the recession on rates of voluntarism remains unknown. While reduced work activity may increase time available to households to engage in volunteer activity, financial constraints may simultaneously hinder their ability or willingness to do so.

Discussion

► *Canada's Voluntary Sector Continues to Make Significant Economic Contribution*

Canada's voluntary sector continues to be a significant contributor to the nation's economic growth. In 2007, the voluntary sector accounted for 2.4 per cent of the country's economic activity. In fact, over the 1997-07 period, economic growth in the core non-profit sector outpaced the overall economy, growing by an average of 7.0 per cent annually compared with a rate of only 5.8 per cent for the economy as a whole. Economic growth in the non-profit sector slowed in 2005, however, largely due to a slowdown in paid compensation for employees (Statistics Canada, 2008k). With the onset of the economic recession however, the financial situation in the sector appears to have deteriorated appreciably.

The voluntary sector remains an integral component of Calgary's social fabric. In 2008, there were reported to be 5,153 distinct groups operational in the city, of whom 981 were registered charities or incorporated non-profits. The Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations (2008) suggests that this likely under-represents the size and extent of the sector, and notes:

"There is speculation that organizations and initiatives that are not registered or incorporated are numerous, forming the base of a 'sector iceberg', but there is currently no

mechanism for counting these organizations. (Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations, 2008: 15)"

Most voluntary sector organizations in Calgary are small, in terms of both budget and staffing, but have a variety of strengths. Being closer to the community and having less bureaucracy, small organizations are better positioned to understand the needs of their communities and adapt quickly to new situations. These organizations also spend proportionately less on administration so more money goes directly to the community. Despite these advantages, smaller organizations tend to feel that their work is under-valued by larger organizations, funders and the corporate sector (Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations, 2009).

► *Charitable Giving Remains Strong*

Over the past several years, charitable giving across Canada has remained strong. In 2007, 84 per cent of Canadians (age 15+) made a charitable contribution, virtually the same rate as in 2004 (Statistics Canada, 2009i) although the number of donors fell slightly by 0.9 per cent to \$5.7M between 2006 and 2007 (Statistics Canada, 2008i). Reports suggest that charitable giving remained strong across the country in 2008, with about three quarters (76 per cent) of Canadians reporting that they made a charitable donation in the past 12 months

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of \$25 or more; in the Alberta / NT region, 84 per cent reported such donations (Innovative Research Group, 2009).

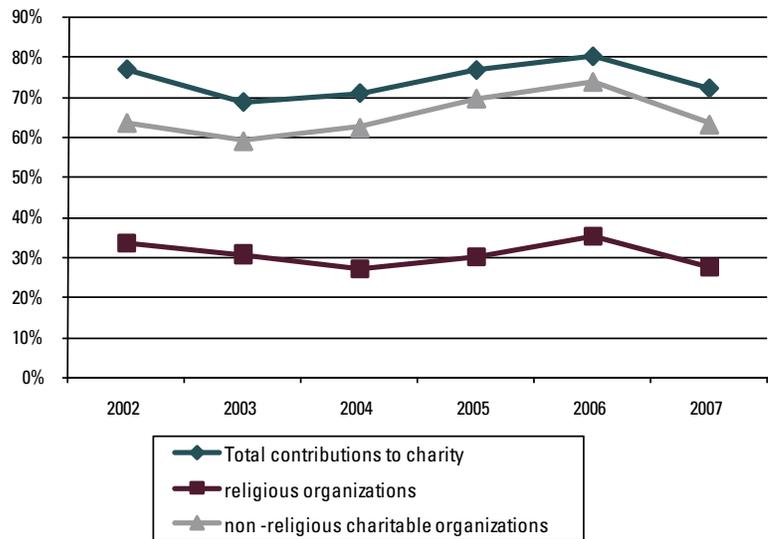
In Alberta, the number of donors rose slightly between 2006 and 2007, increasing by 0.2 per cent to 601,460 (Statistics Canada, 2008I). Between 2004 and 2007, the donation rate in Alberta increased significantly from 79 per cent to 85 per cent, the 7th highest among the provinces and territories (Statistics Canada, 2009I). In Calgary, however, the percentage of households reporting charitable expenditures fell in 2007 to 72 per cent, down from 80 per cent the previous year (See Table 32).

The total amount of charitable donations in Canada rose in 2007, ending the year 1.4 per cent higher than 2006 at \$8.6B while the median donation remained unchanged at \$250, the first year in several where the median donation did not increase. In Alberta, total donations rose by 7.3 per cent between 2006 and 2007 to a total \$1.38B, with Alberta reporting the third highest median donation in among the provinces and territories at \$350 (Statistics Canada, 2008I). In Calgary, average household charitable donations grew between 2006 and 2007, rising by 7.2 per cent to \$1,381. Between 2002 and 2007, average charitable donations grew by a remarkable 70 per cent (See Table 33).

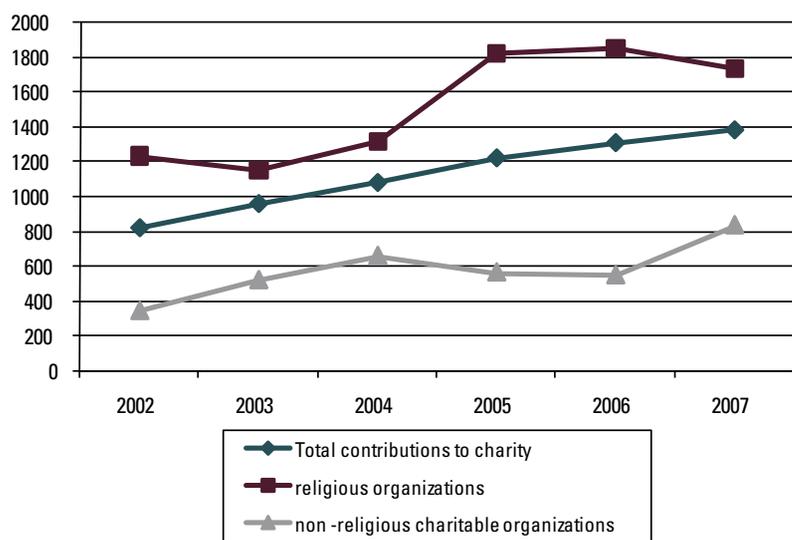
Among individual donors, religious organizations remain the most frequent recipients of donations, receiving almost half (46 per cent) of all donations made by Canadians in 2007, followed by health organizations (15 per cent) and social service organizations (10 per cent) (Statistics Canada, 2009I). In 2008, arts and culture organizations across Canada were the most likely to report increases in contributions, with over half (53 per cent) reporting that contributions had grown over the previous year. Education focused organizations were the next most frequent to report contribution increases (50 per cent), followed by hospitals (43 per cent), social services (42 per cent) and health (39 per cent) (Innovative Research Group, 2009).

In Calgary, donations to non-religious organizations have grown the most over the past five years, although donations to religious organizations remain the most common. In the

Percentage of Households Reporting Charitable Contributions, Calgary (CMA)



Avg. (\$) Charitable Contribution per Household Reporting Contributions, Calgary (CMA)



corporate sector, the largest share of donations are directed to sports and recreation organizations (33 per cent), followed by activities that promote voluntarism and charitable giving (15 per cent) and arts and culture (10 per cent) (Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations, 2008).

Despite healthy growth in charitable giving, there is public concern about how those donations are being used. While Canadians continue to report high levels of trust in charities and their leaders, there is general agreement that spending practices need to be more transparent. This concern about a lack of transparency and where donations are going is

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impacting fundraising activities, and most Canadians agree charities need to pay more attention to fundraising practices (Ipsos Reid, 2008).

► *Current Funding Arrangements Impact Organizational Capacity*

Nationally, roughly half of all funding in the voluntary sector comes from some level of government. An ongoing challenge with government funding is the shift from operational to program funding over the past decade, particularly for smaller organizations which account for the largest share of voluntary organizations. Reliance by smaller organizations on program funding means that the organization's mission often gets sidetracked in the pursuit of project funding. Funders also tend to prefer new innovative projects, but are often unwilling to provide ongoing sustainable funding for such projects once proven successful (Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations, 2009).

Reliance on program funding also means that revenues can vary widely. Further, many organizations have a relatively few number of programs, so the loss of funding for a particular program can destabilize the whole organization. Organizations also report difficulty obtaining funding for projects that are somewhat controversial. The Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations (2009) notes that this lack of funding certainty can have significant impacts on the long-term capacity of organizations, stating:

“Organizations who face funding shortfalls for programs or service delivery fundraise; defer expenditures on facility or equipment maintenance; have unpaid overtime, salaries and benefits that may be well below market and may not even equate to a living wage; and hire staff that will work for the wages but might not have the required qualifications.”

► *New Funding Arrangements Emerging*

Recent changes to tax laws have resulted in new funding arrangements for the voluntary sector emerging. First, tax changes that allow the donation of securities have resulted in such donations almost tripling throughout Canada between 2003 and 2007, potentially replacing other types of donations. Secondly, tax changes that encourage the establishment of foundations have resulted in them assuming a greater role in funding nationally. Between 1997 and 2007, the number

of foundations in Canada more than doubled from 1,350 to almost 3,000. In Alberta, meanwhile, social enterprise is also emerging as an important revenue source for organizations (Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations, 2008).

► *Voluntarism Remains Strong Across Canada and Alberta*

In 2007, just under half (46 per cent) of Canadians (12.5 million people) volunteered for an organization, virtually unchanged from the 45 per cent rate reported in 2004. The total amount of time volunteered equaled almost 2.1 billion hours, the equivalent of 1.1 million full-time jobs. This is a 4.2 per cent increase in total hours volunteered from 2004. There was little change in the average number of hours volunteered, however (168 in 2004 and 166 in 2007) (Statistics Canada, 2009).

In Alberta, the volunteer rate rose between 2004 and 2007 from 48 per cent to 52 per cent, the sixth highest volunteer rate among the provinces and territories. While the provincial volunteer rate rose, the average number of hours volunteered fell slightly between 2004 and 2007 from 175 to 172 hours. Volunteers indicated that they did not volunteer more because, first, they did not have the time (75 per cent), while about half (52 per cent) indicated that they were unable to make a long-term commitment (Ibid.).

Nationally, the most frequent types of volunteer activities reported were organizing or supervising events, fundraising, sitting on committees or boards and teaching, educating or mentoring. Most of the volunteered hours were devoted to sports and recreation, social services, education and research and religious organizations (Ibid.). According to the 2007 Alberta Recreation Survey, 37.0 per cent of Albertans reported that they had volunteered in the past 12 months in work connected with culture, recreation, sport or parks (Government of Alberta, 2008c).

► *Changing Patterns of Volunteering Affecting Sector Capacity*

Changing patterns of volunteering and new expectations of volunteers are putting a strain on many more traditional voluntary organizations. Mt. Royal College professor Naheed Nenshi notes that “When we look at the research, it's clear that participation in volunteer and non-profit organizations has been on a gradual, measurable and steady decline for some time. People are still volunteering, but they are doing it in more private ways ...” (Remington, 2009).

Community service clubs are being particularly impacted by the changing nature of volunteering. Over the years, service clubs have provided important community services. Remington (2009) notes:

“For decades, fraternal organizations ... have provided a social safety net for those not covered by government programs, assisting sick children, the disabled, the disadvantaged and the abused. With the economy unsettled and governments facing deficits, the role they play is crucial.”

Now, however, such organizations are struggling to attract new members. These organizations are heavily reliant on membership dues to support their activities, as well as fundraising activities like casinos and bingos. Declining membership, therefore, not only strains the financial capacity of these organizations to continue their community service, it also puts additional strain on the remaining members to continue carrying out the organization’s charitable work (Remington, 2009). The loss of such organizations would result in a significant gap in Calgary’s social infrastructure.

► ***Economic Recession Impacting Financial Capacity of the Sector***

Until the recent recession, the voluntary sector was experiencing healthy revenue growth, with revenues in the core non-profit sector up by 7.0 per cent between 2004 and 2005 (Statistics Canada, 2008k). Meanwhile, charitable giving remained strong into 2008, with 44 per cent of charities across Canada, and 49 per cent of Alberta charities reporting increased donations over 2007 (Innovative Research Group, 2009). As the global recession deepens, however, there is a strong concern that charitable giving from individuals and corporations may become increasingly constrained. Alexander and Sukmanowsky (2008) report that growth in donations had already been slowing in the past three years leading up to the start of the recession and it is feared that donations may be even lower in 2008 and 2009. This may be exacerbated by rising budget deficits that may lead to reduced government funding, even as the demand for service grows.

For many organizations, the impact of the recession may be severe. Gibbins (2009) notes that “... most charities operate without significant financial reserves, government grants are precarious at best, and demand for their services is likely to grow when economic times get tough.” In the United States,

where the recession has had a more severe impact, charitable giving fell by 5.7 per cent in 2008, the sharpest decline in five decades (Strom, 2009a). Most of this decline was experienced during the fall of 2008 coinciding with the collapse of the stock market. As a result, Strom (2009b) reports:

“Only 12 percent of (surveyed) organizations expect to end the year with an operating surplus, compared to 40 percent who ended their most recent fiscal year with money on hand ... Almost a third said they did not have enough cash on hand to cover more than one month’s expenses, while roughly another third said they only had enough money to get them through the next three months.”

While perhaps not as acute as the situation in the United States, many observers expect the recession to have a serious impact on the Canadian voluntary sector as well. Laucius (2009) suggests that between 10,000 and 12,000 non-profit organizations across Canada may fail as a result of the current recession, out of a total of 60,000 organizations, noting: “While the top 5 per cent of Canadian charities control about 85 per cent of the dollars, the vast majority of Canada’s charities are ‘kitchen table’ operations that depend on volunteers. That makes them vulnerable.” An emerging trend in the United States is for organizations who find themselves unable to continue to operate to seek bankruptcy protection, as opposed to the traditional approach of simply closing their doors and filing a plan of dissolution (Strom, 2009c).

Summerfield (2009) expects the effects of the recession on the sector to be felt in several ways. First, charitable foundations may stop giving grants or greatly reduce their grant programs as their endowments have been affected by the drop in the stock market. Falling stock markets have resulted in community foundations across Canada losing millions of dollars, forcing many to cut or even suspend grants to thousands of charitable organizations. A survey undertaken by Philanthropic Foundations Canada found that 86 per cent of foundations reported decreased investment income, and 54 per cent reported that they would be making fewer grants this year (Laucius, 2009). Community foundations in Mississauga, Ottawa, London, Windsor, Winnipeg, Calgary, Vancouver and Victoria are in such a position (Waldie, 2008).

“There are 165 community foundations across Canada holding nearly \$3 billion in total assets, making them among the largest charities in

1. AN INCLUSIVE CITY

the country, Last year, they gave out \$176 million in grants to more than 17,000 agencies including arts groups, sports clubs and social services. Many foundations invest up to 60 per cent of their funds in the stock market, investments that have suffered in the Toronto Stock Exchange's 41 per cent drop this year. For most, that has translated into a loss of more than 10 per cent on their overall investments ... (Waldie, 2008)"

Secondly, large donors (philanthropists) may not have the funds to support their favourite charities to the extent they previously did. The effect on smaller donations from individuals is still unknown. While many organizations are concerned that the economic downturn will result in reduced charitable donations, Todd Hirsch of the Alberta Treasury Branch, notes:

"A downturn does cause corporations to look for ways to reduce their costs and spending, but corporate Calgary has put a high priority on giving. I don't think anyone has to worry that corporate giving is going to dry up right away. Tough times always encourage companies to be creative. If not straight financial support, companies may choose to second people to these agencies. (Myers, 2008)"

Despite the current economic challenges, many observers suggest that charitable giving will not be as severely impacted as feared. In the United States it is noted that, while the value of donations dropped steeply in 2008, giving remained strong, with 2008 donations still higher than all previous years apart from 2007 (Strom, 2009a). In Canada, a recent report by The Globe and Mail noted that:

"Across the country, several charities are counting impressive increases in donations and reporting record fundraising drives for 2008. While big gifts have largely dried up because of the falling stock market, many charities say smaller donations are still pouring in. (Walton and Waldie, 2009)."

In the United States, experience has shown that giving has tended to be resilient during economic downturns, though growth in giving tends to slow. A similar pattern is evident in Canada where giving has continued through recent recessions, but donations have grown at a slower rate, rising again with

GDP as the economy recovers (KCI Philanthropy Inc, 2008). This seems to be borne out by a recent survey that found that most Canadians plan to give the same amount or more to charity this year (Walton and Waldie, 2009). Another survey reported that 12 per cent of Canadians and 11 per cent of Albertans intend to increase their donations in 2009 (Innovative Research Group, 2009). This suggests that giving may not be as severely affected by the recession as feared.

► *Recession to Impact Different Types of Organizations Differently*

The impact of the recession will depend to some extent on the distribution of revenue sources for different organizations. Nationally, 49 per cent of sector funding comes from government, 35 per cent from earned income, 13 per cent from gifts and contributions and 3 per cent from other sources. In Alberta, earned income has greater importance compared to the rest of the country, accounting for 49 per cent of revenues and government only 33 per cent. Corporate donations, sponsorships and grants, meanwhile, accounted for 4 per cent of revenues of voluntary organizations (Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations, 2008). Organizations that are more heavily reliant on earned income and corporate donations may experience a greater impact than those that receive a larger portion of their funding from government.

Further, as donations in securities increased following recent changes to Canadian tax law, many organizations that received such donations have been left vulnerable in the current recession. Across Canada, close to half (41 per cent) of charities reported that their organization's investment portfolio decreased in 2008 (Innovative Research Group, 2009). Further, the correction in the stock market has meant that donations of equities will likely be drastically reduced (Alexander and Sukmanowsky, 2008).

The impact of the recession may also be experienced differently by different types of organizations. Laucius (2009) speculates that donors will be more likely to continue to give to causes that touch them directly and that meet immediate rather than future needs. Consequently, local charities may fare better than national ones, and national charities better than international ones. In the United States, however, changes in giving patterns have not born out such expectations. Strom (2009a) reports:

"About two-thirds of public charities saw donations decrease in 2008 ... Most surprising ... was the decline in gifts to organizations"

working to meet basic needs, like food banks and homeless shelters, which are seeing a big increase in demand for their services. Many fund-raising experts had predicted that donors would increase giving to those types of charities at the expense of others, like arts groups. But (it is) estimated that gifts to those organizations fell by an inflation-adjusted 15.9 percent.”

In Canada, donors appear to be adjusting their giving more in line with expectations. In 2009, social services became the highest priority for donations, with 26 per cent reporting this as their highest priority, compared to just 19 per cent in 2006. Meanwhile, health related charities fell into second place, identified by just 23 per cent as their highest priority compared to 31 per cent in 2006. This was followed by faith based / religious organizations (13 per cent), international aid / humanitarian efforts (11 per cent), arts and culture (3 per cent) and educational institutions (2 per cent) (Innovative Research Group, 2009).

► ***Voluntary Organizations Responding to Challenges of Recession***

As the global recession has deepened, the demand for services of voluntary organizations has increased while donations and government funding has fallen. Alexander and Sukmanowsky (2008) note that “This creates a perfect storm for charities as demand increases and financial capacity wanes.” In response, organizations are undertaking a variety of cost containment strategies. In a recent survey roughly one-quarter (24 per cent) of organizations reported that they are reducing budgets for staff professional development in response to current funding challenges. Other strategies included reducing the budget for fundraising programs (22 per cent), reducing salary increases (21 per cent), reducing consultant budgets (20 per cent), reduced staffing (17 per cent) and reduced programming (14 per cent) (Innovative Research Group, 2009).

While cost-containment strategies are important responses to changes in revenues and demand, more creative responses are also being sought. Some observers suggest that the recession may have unanticipated benefits to the sector by sparking more ingenuity, creativity and collaboration among organizations, particularly smaller ones. In the United States, some organizations are considering mergers or acquisitions as a strategy for dealing with organizational or financial challenges. Some of the reported benefits of mergers include

service quality improvements, improved efficiency, increased funding, development of new skills in the organization and entry into new geographical service areas (Milway, 2009).

In Canada, there is some evidence of such restructuring beginning to take place. Laucius (2009) reports that “Non-profits are already collaborating and sharing resources such as office space and expertise. Now, they will have to think about merging with similar organizations that have similar missions in order to survive.” The Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations (2008) reported that organizations in Calgary are now finding new models of collaboration, including shared service arrangements, shared space and joint ventures.

Summerfield (2009) also recommends that non-profit organizations seek to diversify their sources of income, seek out new donors and focus on donor relationships. However, these sorts of strategies tend to require significant staff resources at a time when many organizations are contemplating staff reductions. This task typically falls to Executive Directors who, anecdotally, are in many cases spending up to 50 per cent of their time looking for funding and reporting on funding that they have received. Innovative Research Group (2009) points out that staff reductions instituted as a cost containment strategy may simultaneously hinder the ability of an organization to fundraise, precisely when fundraising activities are possibly most critical.

► ***Human Resource Issues Remain Critical Challenge for Calgary Non-Profits***

Human resource issues have been one of the most pressing challenges for the voluntary sector locally for the past several years. Attracting and retaining workers is complicated by stressful working conditions coupled with low job security and high turnover in entry-level positions. Meanwhile, an aging workforce at the senior and middle management levels is feared to presage an imminent leadership crisis as the current generation of leaders in the sector retires (HR Council for the Voluntary and Non-profit Sector, 2008). In 2008, the Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations stated that human resources issues were reaching such a critical point that organizational failure may result for some.

“The tight labour market, increasing demand for services, insufficient levels of funding and restrictive funding practices, are the core pressures creating the staffing issue. (Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations, 2008: 16)”

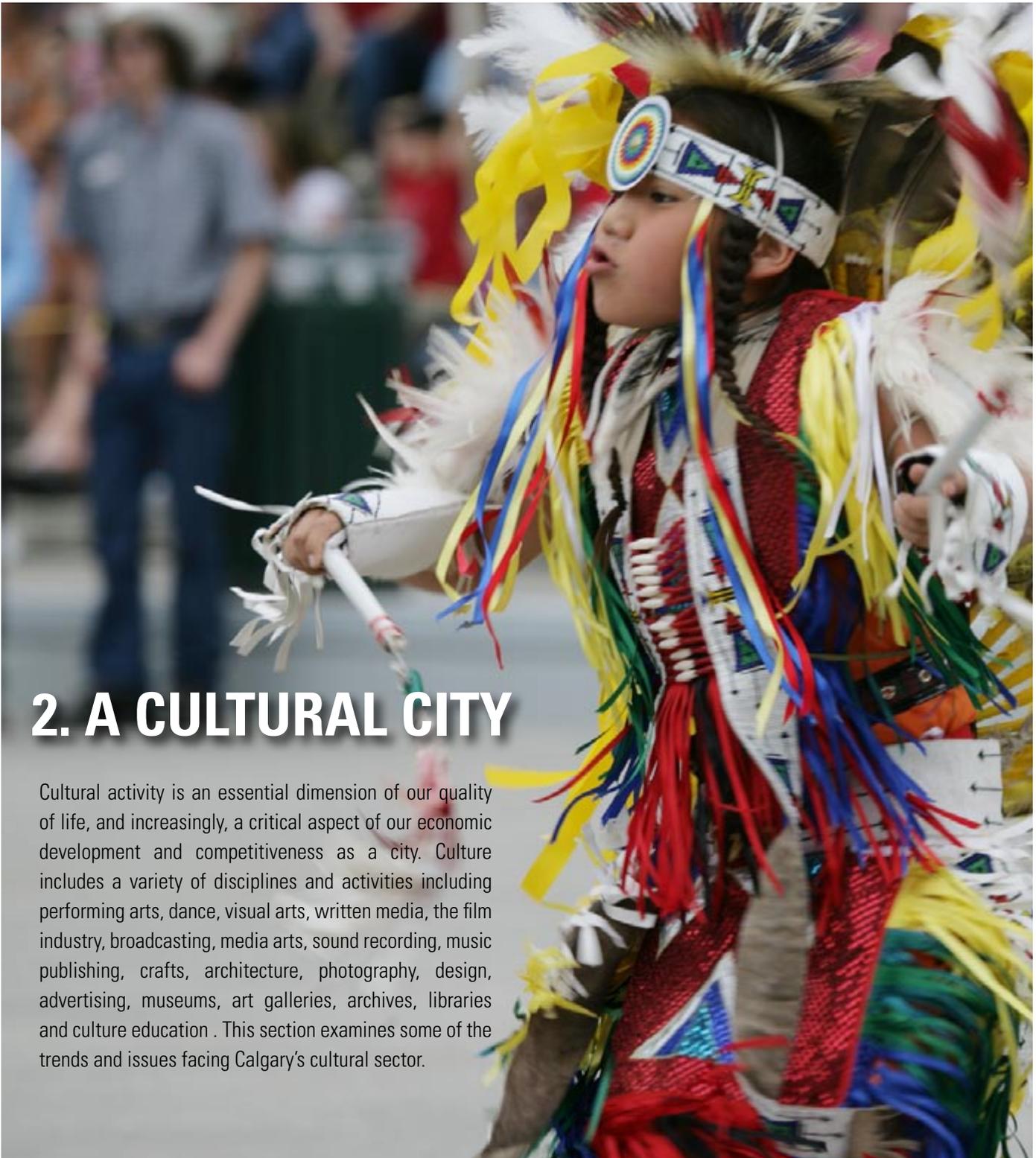
As the tight conditions in the local job market ease as a result of the current economic downturn, recruitment and retention issues may also improve somewhat for organizations in the sector in the short-term. However, many organizations are also contemplating staff reductions as a cost containment strategy to deal with declining revenues. Any such staff cuts may have a significant long-term impact on organizations in the sector as layoffs or reductions negatively affect employee morale as well as the ability to deliver the same level of services / programming, leading to increased stress among remaining staff (Innovative Research Group, 2009).

Given the stresses inherent in work in this sector, retaining skilled employees has proved challenging for many organizations. While employees of non-profit organizations tended to rate their job satisfaction positively, there is dissatisfaction with compensation, feedback and evaluation and opportunities for advancement. In a recent survey of Calgary voluntary organizations, roughly one-quarter of employees indicated that they were looking for a new job, with salary being the most important reason given (HR Council for the Voluntary and Non-profit Sector, 2008).

and an enhanced charitable tax credit. The Province is also supportive of the Alberta Non-profit and Voluntary Sector Initiative (ANVSI) Collaboration Committee and is beginning to take action on key sector issues such as Human Resources. At the same time, however, the 2009 Provincial Budget eliminated the Wild Rose Foundation on which many organizations have been reliant for funding.

Policy Developments

- In 2009, the Government of Canada re-introduced the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act. The legislation is intended to allow non-profit organizations to incorporate faster, increase their financial accountability, clarify the roles of directors and officers and enhance the protection of members' rights. The Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations (2008) notes that the current federal approach to the sector is contradictory. While the government has been aiming to reduce administration and reporting requirements through the new Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, at the same time new policies requiring new administrative and reporting procedures are being introduced by the Canada Revenue Agency. The end of the national Voluntary Sector Initiative and Voluntary Sector Forum has left a gap in leadership at the national level, exacerbated by funding cuts to national umbrella organizations such as imagine Canada and Volunteer Canada.
- The Government of Alberta has placed a new focus on the voluntary sector through the establishment of the new Department of Culture and Community Spirit



2. A CULTURAL CITY

Cultural activity is an essential dimension of our quality of life, and increasingly, a critical aspect of our economic development and competitiveness as a city. Culture includes a variety of disciplines and activities including performing arts, dance, visual arts, written media, the film industry, broadcasting, media arts, sound recording, music publishing, crafts, architecture, photography, design, advertising, museums, art galleries, archives, libraries and culture education . This section examines some of the trends and issues facing Calgary's cultural sector.

The City of Calgary seeks to promote and maintain a high quality of life through the provision and support of opportunities for recreation, leisure, artistic expression and appreciation, special events, and the preservation of the city's heritage. The City of Calgary is a vital partner in creating an inclusive community where cultural diversity is embraced and valued as a community asset. The City of Calgary both initiates and supports projects aimed to enhance and support diverse cultures and traditions.

- Triple Bottom Line Policy Framework

ARTS AND CULTURE TRENDS SUMMARY

- The culture sectors in Canada and Calgary continue to make strong economic contributions, with arts organizations generating increasing revenues and accounting for increasing shares of both GDP and the labour force. However, with the current recession, many arts organizations now face challenges. Over the past decade, private sector revenues have become increasingly important to arts organizations and these have been impacted by the economic downturn, leading to reduced funding for many organizations. There is concern that short-term cost-containment strategies employed by arts organizations to deal with funding shortfalls may have long-term implications for our cultural heritage.
- Calgary's cultural sector continues to struggle with a significant infrastructure deficit due to the impacts of both rapid population growth and years of deferred capital expenditures. New infrastructure funding announced from the provincial and municipal governments may help to address this deficit.
- Over the past decade, culture workers have become an increasingly important part of Canada's and Alberta's workforce. The income and earnings of artists, however, remain extremely low, even before the onset of the current recession. The economic downturn may thus have a significant impact on Canadian artists.
- Across the country, and in Calgary, cultural participation remains strong in terms of both attendance at cultural events and institutions, as well as direct participation in creative pursuits. In 2007, however, Calgary household expenditures on cultural activities dropped following four years of consistent increases.
- Technology and demographic change continue to affect how people participate in cultural activities, with cultural consumers increasingly seeking more interactive experiences.

ARTS AND CULTURE OUTLOOK

- Calgary's cultural sector will continue to be challenged by the pressures facing all non-profit and voluntary organizations. An increasingly constrained funding environment and reduced disposable income arising from the current recession will impact revenues for many organizations. Meanwhile, budget deficits at the federal and provincial level may result in reductions in funding for arts and culture organizations. This, coupled with recent restructuring of municipal grants, will likely continue to increase the role of the municipal government in Calgary's culture sector as both a funder and provider.
- Despite a constrained funding environment, new capital investments in cultural infrastructure will benefit Calgary's culture sector over the next few years. This includes new federal funding commitments through its economic stimulus plan, as well as provincial funding through the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) program, a portion of which has been directed to culture related infrastructure.
- The current recession will likely have a significant impact on Calgary artists. Artists' earnings were already extremely low prior to the economic slowdown. Rising unemployment and stagnating wage growth will only exacerbate this situation.
- Despite the recession, employment growth in the information, culture and recreation sector remained strong in 2008-09, growing by an estimated 16.5 per cent. Over the forecast period, this sector is forecast to account for 4.5 per cent of all jobs created in Calgary.

Discussion

► *Cultural Sectors Continues to Make Strong Economic Contribution*

As the western world transforms from an industrial to knowledge economy, creativity is becoming central to economic vitality. The Conference Board of Canada estimates that Canada's culture sector employed 1.1M people in 2007 and generated \$46B in real value-added GDP, accounting for 3.8 per cent of Canada's real GDP. When economic spinoffs are accounted for, it is estimated that the culture sector accounted for \$84.6B or 7.4 per cent of Canada's total real GDP (Conference Board of Canada, 2008). Statistics Canada (2009m) also reported that Canada's performing arts industry alone generated \$1.2B in revenue in 2007, 2.8 per cent higher than in 2006.

While the direct economic benefits of arts and cultural activity are important, there are also important intangible benefits of a vibrant culture sector. Despite growing global interconnectivity, the quality of local places remain important and is a significant factor influencing location decisions of people and firms. Further, the culture of a place helps people adapt to change by providing a sense of belonging. The Conference Board of Canada (2008) notes that, in this new environment the most successful cities will be those that have developed hotbeds of creativity.

In Canada, the culture labour force is primarily located in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver with these three cities accounting for 64 per cent of the sector's labour force in 2007 (Conference Board of Canada, 2008). Despite the dominance of these three cities, Calgary is increasingly becoming a centre of recognized cultural activity as well, particularly noted as a centre for architectural services and specialized design. Calgary's cultural profile was also raised in 2008 with the hosting of the national Juno awards, an event which is estimated to have generated \$11.3M in economic activity and involved over 100,000 Calgarians in the celebrations leading up to the event (Calgary Arts Development, 2009).

► *Current Economic Recession Challenges Arts Organizations*

Prior to the onset of the current recession, Canada's cultural sector remained economically healthy. Over the past ten years, Canada's performing arts organizations have consistently posted surpluses while public museums and art galleries have largely broken even (Hill and Capriotti, 2008a, b). Meanwhile,

book sales across Canada have continued to rise, even after the onset of the recession (Scowen, 2009).

Despite a relatively healthy economic position prior to 2008, there is concern that the current recession will have significant impacts on Canada's cultural sector. Strom (2009d) notes that "Performing arts groups typically are the non-profits hit first in economic downturns, as donors devote more of their giving to charities that address basic needs and consumers cut spending on entertainment." In the United States, many museums and art institutions are now facing significant financial challenges due to reduced values of endowment funds, reduced charitable giving and reduced government funding. At the same time, charitable giving is expected to decline as donors direct their donations to more basic needs services. This is prompting institutions to reduce hours, lay off staff and decrease exhibits. In the United States, a recent survey found institutions contemplating budget cuts ranging from 5 to 30 per cent, with larger cuts expected in 2010 (Stern, 2009).

In Alberta, arts and culture organizations will be affected by changes to Alberta's non-profit funding programs. In the 2009 Provincial Budget, grant funding for the voluntary sector was referred to the Community Initiatives Program (CIP) which itself had \$1M removed from its budget. In the past, the CIP has not provided operating grants, and required organizations to raise matching funds for proposed projects. Although most arts organizations were not eligible for lottery funds from both the Alberta Foundation for the Arts (whose allocation remained unchanged in this 2009 budget) and Wild Rose Foundation, the elimination of this source of funds will surely have an impact across the non-profit sector. At the same time, the economic downturn is also negatively impacting casino fundraising which has a prominent place in the budgets of many not for profit arts organizations. Along with the increase in the number of organizations applying to hold a casino, the revenues generated, pooled and distributed are dropping and organizations are being assigned casinos less frequently.

There is concern that the impacts of the current financial crisis facing institutions may be long-lasting. In the United States, some institutions are responding to the recession by selling off items from their collections to balance their finances. There is also a risk in staff layoffs, as the loss of curators and educators may threaten permanent harm to collections. While reduced endowments, donations and funding have hurt institutions, at the same time there is speculation that earned revenues may grow as people with reduced financial resources forgo more expensive vacations and patronize local museums and art institutions instead (Stern, 2009).

► *Private Sector Revenues Increasingly Important to Arts Organizations*

Shifts in funding for Canada's culture sector over the past decade may have important ramifications given the current economic recession. Although government funding continues to account for a significant portion of revenues for Canada's arts and culture sector, non-government revenues are accounting for an ever larger share of total organizational revenues. Over the past ten years, private sector revenues grew by 47 per cent for museums and art galleries, while earned revenues grew by 25 per cent, and government revenues only 12 per cent (Hill and Capriotti, 2008b). For performing arts organizations, private sector revenues grew by 53 per cent, and earned revenues by 27 per cent, while government revenues rose by only 25 per cent. Over that period of time, fundraising also became an increasingly important component of performing arts organizations' revenues (Hill and Capriotti, 2008a).

As private sector revenues have assumed greater importance to cultural funding, federal spending on culture declined between 2004/05 and 2005/06, while provincial and municipal funding grew. Combined, culture spending by all three levels of government grew slightly from \$7.6B in 2004/05 to \$7.84B in 2005/06. In 2005/06 Canada's combined municipal funding of \$2.31B almost equaled the federal contribution of \$3.55B, greatly exceeding combined provincial expenditures of \$702.8M (Statistics Canada, 2008n). In Calgary, total arts grants to the community increased by more than \$350K between 2007 and 2008. In 2008, City Council approved a further increase in available grants for 2009, bringing total available city grants in 2009 to almost \$4M (Calgary Arts Development, 2009).

► *Culture Workers a Growing Part of Canada's Labour Force*

In 2006, the cultural sector in Canada accounted for 3.3 per cent of the Canadian labour force, representing 609,000 workers, almost one-quarter (23 per cent) of whom worked as artists. Between 1971 and 2006, the number of artists grew more quickly than the overall labour force, although growth slowed in the most recent 2001-06 period. Over the past 35 years, the artistic labour force grew by three and a half times, while the cultural labour force overall tripled in size (Hill and Capriotti, 2009b).

Musicians and singers accounted for roughly one-quarter of Canada's arts workers, followed by

authors and writers; producers, directors and choreographers; artisans and craftspersons and visual artists (See Table 34). Artists as a group are becoming more diverse, older and better educated. Women account for slightly more than half (53 per cent) of all artists, while the number of visible minority, Aboriginal and immigrant artists has grown significantly (Hill and Capriotti, 2009b).

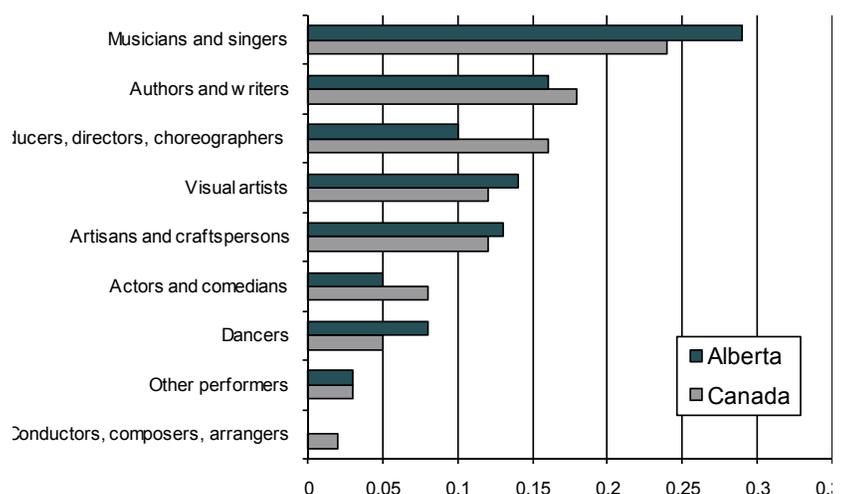
While the paid culture labour force is important, it is important to note that over three-quarters of the total labour force of arts organizations (including galleries and museums) are made up of volunteers. Consequently, trends impacting volunteering and voluntary organizations are of particular importance to the cultural sector. For a discussion of trends and issues facing the voluntary sector, refer to Section 1.3.

► *Alberta's Arts and Culture Workforce Growing*

Nationally, Canada's cultural sector remains largely concentrated in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia. Hill and Capriotti (2009a) note:

"As a group, Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia account for 81 per cent of Canada's artists ... These three provinces have significant arts infrastructures that attract a large number of artists. Those areas with a large arts infrastructure may be able to provide more full-time or near full-time arts employment and self-employment opportunities than other jurisdictions. (Hill and Capriotti, 2009a:7)"

Distribution of Artists by Discipline, Canada and Alberta, 2006



2. A CULTURAL CITY

The number of artists in Alberta has grown substantially over the past twenty-five years, increasing by 37 per cent between 1991 and 2006. In 2006, there were 12,200 artists in Alberta, 4 per cent more than in 2001, accounting for 0.59 per cent of the province's labour force. The broader cultural sector in Alberta employed 56,000 workers in 2006, 2.7 per cent of the provincial labour force. Compared to Canada, musicians and singers account for a slightly larger share of the arts labour force in Alberta (See Table 34), along with visual artists and dancers (Hill and Capriotti, 2009b).

► *Income and Earnings of Artists Remain Extremely Low*

The average earnings of artists in Canada tend to be very low, with a typical Canadian artist earning less than half the typical earnings of all Canadian workers; Aboriginal and visible minority artists have particularly low earnings. Hill and Capriotti (2009b:38) note "A typical artist, on their own, lives in a situation of extreme low-income: the median earnings of artists are 38 per cent below the low-income cutoff for larger urban areas (\$20,800)." Further, the earnings of artists have been decreasing, even before the start of the current recession. Between 1990 and 2005, average earnings for artists declined by 11 per cent, while average earnings for the labour force as a whole grew by 9 per cent. Much of the decline in artists' income is due to a 14 per cent drop in income over the past five years (Hill and Capriotti, 2009b).

Artists in Alberta earned \$20,222 in 2005, the fourth highest average earnings among the provinces, but below the national average of \$22,731 and down 8 per cent from 2000. Alberta also had the highest earnings gap, with artists earning 52 per cent less than the average earnings of the provincial labour force overall (\$42,439). Average earnings in the cultural sector were higher, 68 per cent above the earnings of artists, but still

lower than the average earnings of the total labour force (Hill and Capriotti, 2009b).

With earnings in the culture sector being very low, smaller visual, performing and media arts organizations in Calgary, like other non-profit organizations, are faced with the ongoing challenge of affording realistic and sustainable staff compensation, given the vagaries of changeable government funding commitments. In 2007 the Independent Media Arts Alliance (Prairie Region) commissioned a Compensation Review which found that within the prairie region, Calgary media arts organizations are faced with a 12 per cent higher cost of living than the rest of the prairie provinces (Araneda, 2007). For further discussion regarding Calgary's cost of living, refer to Section 1.12.

It is also important to note that a substantial proportion of Canada's artists are self-employed, and also that the culture workforce, like the rest of the labour force is aging. As self-employed workers, most professional visual, media and dance artists have no pension or secure retirement, nor do they have unions or professional associations to represent their interests. While currently, the local arts community comes together when there is an individual crisis (health, fire, flood, death) to raise funds to assist for the

short term, this issue may be faced by Calgary's arts community increasingly in the not-so-distant future.

► *Cultural Participation Remains Strong Across the County ...*

Across Canada, cultural participation has remained strong over the past decade. In 2006/07, attendance at museums and galleries was 10.3M, up slightly from 10.0M in 1996/97 (Hill and Capriotti, 2008b). Meanwhile, among performing arts organizations, attendance increased by 3 per cent to 10.0M



2. A CULTURAL CITY

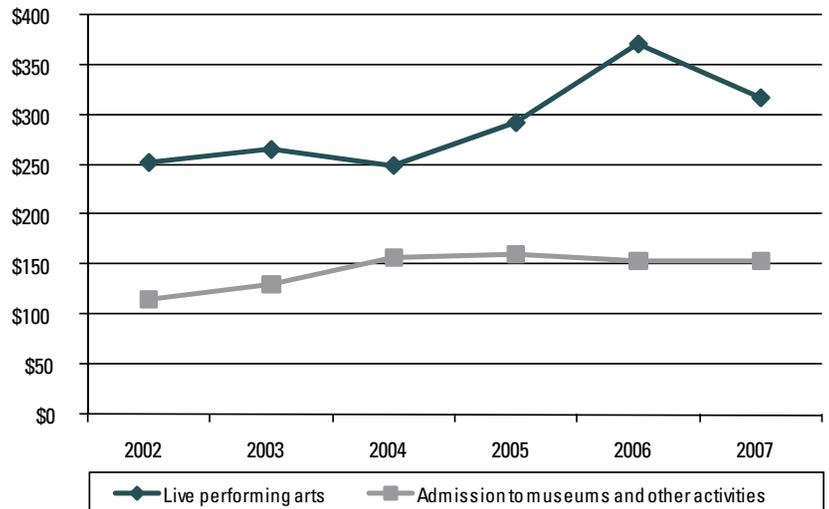
over the same period of time, while the number of performances grew by 29 per cent (Hill and Capriotti, 2008b).

In Calgary, the percentage of households reporting expenditures on cultural activities (live performances or attending art galleries or museums) declined slightly in 2007. Whereas in 2006 roughly half (52 per cent) of Calgarians reported expenditures on live performances, in 2007, just 41.5 per cent reported such expenditures (See Table 35). A similar trend was noted in expenditures on admissions to art galleries and museums, with the percentage reporting expenditures dropping from 53.5 per cent to 48 per cent.

Average household expenditures on culture showed similar declines. Between 2006 and 2007, average household expenditures in Calgary fell by 14.5 per cent for live performances, though expenditures on admissions to art galleries and museums remained virtually unchanged (See Table 36). Registrations for City of Calgary Arts programs, however, continue to grow, rising by 15 per cent over the past 4 years (See Table 37), with 9,112 art program registrations in 2008 compared to 7,992 in 2004 (City of Calgary, 2009c).

In 2008, attending a fair or festival was the most popular cultural activity of Albertans, with almost two-thirds (62.5 per cent) reporting attendance. The same year, half of Albertans also reported visiting a museum or art gallery, and 45 per cent reported attending live a live theatre, while one-quarter reported taking part in dance (Government of Alberta, 2008c).

Avg. (\$) Cultural Expenditure per Household Reporting Cultural Expenditures, Calgary (CMA)

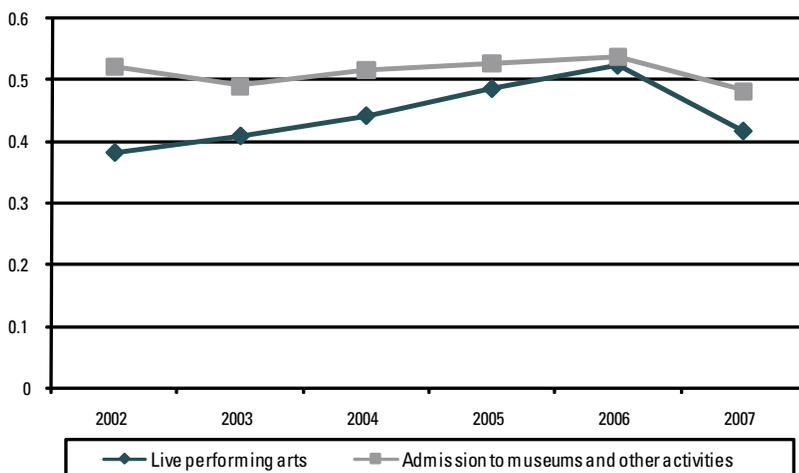


... But Technology and Demographic Change Affect How we Participate

As Canada's society ages and changes, cultural participation will also be transformed. The Conference Board of Canada (2008) notes that population ageing will have an important effect on the cultural labour force as well as the way people spend their time and money, being more likely to engage in activities that are less physically demanding. At the same time, increased immigration and growing cultural diversity will affect the demand for multilingual cultural programming, while increasing pressure to ensure that Canadian programming reflects the diversity of Canadian culture.

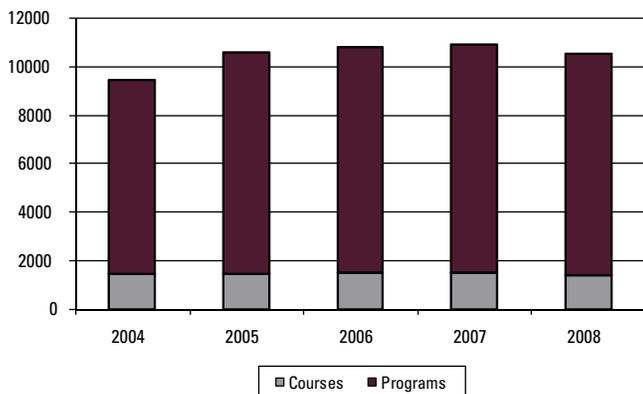
Technology is another influencing factor as new information technologies are increasing global inter-connectedness while simultaneously influencing the ways people interact and the range of options available to them with respect to media choice. This is fueling greater inter-active creativity in online environments. The Conference Board of Canada (2008) notes "Through new media, the cultural creative process has been democratized in many ways, and the boundary between audience and creator have been blurred." In this new technological environment, consumers are increasingly seeking interactive experiences and desire to participate directly in generating value from products and services. Through participatory technologies, consumers are able to engage in knowledge exchange and content production. This will require traditional creative producers to develop new business models.

Percentage of Households Reporting Cultural Expenditures, Calgary (CMA)



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Registrations in City of Calgary
Art Programs and Courses, 2004-08



The growth of the internet is also transforming traditional business practices as online commerce has transformed how material is distributed. Use of the internet as a vehicle for distribution of creative content drastically reduces production costs and inventory requirements and allows for mass marketing to small niche markets. In this environment, production of cultural goods with more limited appeal can become viable due to the ability to access a huge critical mass of people. The production of cultural goods thus shifts from one of mass production and distribution of a small number of widely appealing products, to one of mass distribution of unlimited products to an unlimited number of niche markets (Conference Board of Canada, 2008).

While new technologies are increasing the range of creative pursuits available to both artists and audiences, they are also posing new challenges for the cultural industry in Canada and worldwide. International piracy of culture goods has become a critical copyright issue, as the internet has become a significant force for piracy due to its anonymity, flexibility and global market reach (Ibid.). While the availability of free information on the internet may have affected the willingness of consumers to purchase print materials, book publishing seems to be faring better than other print media as household spending on books has continued to rise moderately. Residents in Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario remain the most avid book buyers (Statistics Canada, 2008m). This suggests that traditional print media may remain important despite the growth of new technologies and media.

Policy Developments

- In 2008, the Government of Canada committed to reducing arts spending by \$44.8M by April, 2010, with most of the reduced spending within the Heritage Canada program (Bradshaw, 2008). However, the 2009 federal budget

reversed this direction and committed \$160M in additional funding for the arts. This investment will go exclusively to funding festivals and training (\$100M) and infrastructure (\$60M) (Bradshaw, 2009). This was followed in spring 2009 with an announcement of a further investment of \$60M over the next two years in the Cultural Spaces Canada program to provide support for cultural and heritage infrastructure projects.

- Despite announcements of additional funding, there is mounting concern that the growing federal deficit will spark a new round of budget cuts that will affect federal arts funding. In anticipation of a Strategic Review, certain departments and government agencies have been requested to scope their budgets in order to facilitate a 5 per cent budget reduction. There is concern that, with the federal budget deficit growing, the arts may be targeted for spending reductions as a deficit mitigation strategy (Laghi, 2009).
- In 2009, the Government of Canada announced the Alberta Creative Development Initiative, a new program designed to support the development of the arts in Alberta. This program will provide funding support to artists and arts organizations in collaboration with the Calgary Arts Development Authority and the Edmonton Arts Council.
- In February, 2009, Calgary City Council developed a \$3.3B capital funding framework that included up to \$165M for cultural infrastructure (Calgary Arts Development, 2009).
- In 2009, Calgary City Council approved directing 5 per cent of the provincial Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) funds to culture related infrastructure, a total of \$165M. "Based on typical leveraging ratios, this important step could result in a total cultural infrastructure investment of \$1B in Calgary over the next ten years, virtually unprecedented in Canadian municipal history." (Calgary Arts Development, 2009:12)
- In 2008, Calgary grant programs were restructured to put more focus on operating grants that will result in over \$3.75M flowing to community organizations through the operating grants program in 2009.



3. AN ACTIVE CITY

Increasingly, recreation is coming to be understood as a necessary component of overall wellness, rather than just discretionary leisure time. This coincides with a new understanding of health as a condition of overall personal wellness rather than focusing narrowly on disease. In this new environment, recreation is increasingly recognized as a critical element of the community's quality of life. This section discusses trends and issues with respect to Calgary's recreation and sporting environment.

"The City of Calgary strives to create and sustain a healthy community by promoting active living through the provision of a wide range of sustainable and accessible recreational programs, services, facilities, and amenities. The City of Calgary provides leadership and encourages physical activity through funding, capital, promotion, partnerships and appropriate urban planning and design."

- Triple Bottom Line Policy Framework

SUMMARY OF ACTIVE LIVING TRENDS

- Levels of physical activity across Canada and in Calgary remain insufficient but continue to rise slowly. Levels of physical activity in Calgary are reported to be somewhat higher than that of Alberta and Canada. Levels of physical activity remain critically important, not only for physical health, but also for mental health and broader community well-being. Local governments continue to have a significant role to play, as one of the principal providers of recreational services in communities.
- Despite the many personal and social benefits of active recreational activities, many people continue to face barriers that prevent them from participating fully. Principal barriers to participation among Albertans include lack of time, program cost and the adequacy of facilities. Age is another important factor, as is the presence of a disability, with older Albertans or those with disabilities less able to participate. There is also growing concern among Canadians with the amateur sporting environment. Concerns include too much focus on winning / competition, violence, under- and over-involvement of parents, poor coaching and leadership, harassment, intolerance / racism, lack of fair play and injuries.
- The economic recession is challenging the capacity of many community recreation organizations and facilities. There is more competition for reduced donations, with sport not always being the highest priority. Due to falling financial markets and reduced economic activity, fundraising goals for local sport have fallen short. This may exacerbate long-term challenges with maintaining and increasing Calgary's recreational and sporting infrastructure.
- Sports and recreation organizations have faced significant challenges due to rising operating costs, a lack of volunteers and challenges recruiting and retaining paid staff. The current recession may be easing cost and human resource pressures, while simultaneously adding to financial challenges due to a more constrained funding environment.

ACTIVE LIVING OUTLOOK

- Reported levels of physical activity have shown marked improvements in Calgary over the past several years, although they remain insufficient, while the priority placed on recreational and leisure activities has risen. This suggests that there is a growing recognition of the importance of physical activity and this should continue to be reflected in a growing demand for programs and services.
- Despite rising levels and interest in physical activity, spending on recreation is declining. Meanwhile, cost is one of the primary reported constraints to participation. As the full impact of the recession is felt by Calgary households, interest in free or low-cost opportunities is likely to grow, while activities requiring greater investments of money or time may experience lower demand.
- Lack of time is a principal barrier to participation in recreation and leisure activities for Calgarians. The potential impact of the current recession on the time available to households for recreational activities remains unclear. In previous recessions, employers have reduced work hours in an effort to cut costs and save jobs. This could leave people with more free time, although with less money.
- As the population continues to age and the number of persons with disabilities increases, expect the demand for more passive recreational activities to continue to grow. Attention to universal accessibility in the design of facilities and programs will become increasingly important.

- As the economy slows, the extreme human resource pressures faced by many organizations due to the acute local labour shortage may ease due to a less constrained labour market. Also expect the severe operating cost pressures experienced by many organizations to ease as inflation moderates.
- While cost pressures on organizations may ease due to the faltering economy, the funding environment is likely to remain tight for the next two years as individual and corporate donations and sponsorships are cut back due to the current recession. This may be exacerbated by lower earned revenues arising from reduced disposable income.
- The current shortage of sport and recreation infrastructure may ease over the forecast period as new infrastructure funding starts to flow and slower population growth may ease growth pressures in newer areas. Plans to increase population and density in established areas over the next several decades, however, will result in growing demand for infrastructure in inner-city and established areas.

Discussion

► *Recreation Provides Significant Social Benefits*

Recreational sport and leisure activities provide significant health and social benefits to our communities, including improving mental and physical health and well-being, promoting positive values and lifeskills and reducing risk behaviours among youth, while building stronger and more inclusive communities (Mulholland, 2008). As one of the principal providers of recreation and parks services, local governments have a unique role to play. Recreation and parks facilities and services promote exercise and fitness, help build community cohesion, give children and adults fun things to do, add to cultural vitality, provide opportunities for people to meet and socialize and improve physical and emotional health. Local parks additionally provide places for relaxation and peace and access to nature.

These benefits are clearly recognized and valued by Calgarians. In a recent survey, 85 per cent of Calgarians agreed that public parks and recreation services provide significant community benefit while 93 per cent felt that their community would be significantly worse off without public parks and recreation services. Similarly, 93 per cent felt that recreation participation contributes to an individual's health and well-being, 80 per cent that it will make people less reliant on the health care system; 71 per cent that it is a major factor in crime prevention and 92 per cent that it is an important way of ensuring children and youth live healthy lifestyle. Finally, 82 per cent felt that recreation programs, parks and facilities make it easier for

people to socialize and feel included in the community (Harper, 2008).

► *Household Spending on Recreation Declines*

In 2008, household recreation expenditures declined sharply from 2007, as did the percentage of households reporting expenditures on the use of recreation facilities. Between 2006 and 2007, the percentage of households reporting expenditures on the use of recreation facilities plunged from 58.5 per cent to 37.2 per cent (See Table 38). Meanwhile, average household expenditures on recreation fell by 14 per cent from \$6,069 to \$5,245. The drop in expenditures on recreation facility use was even more pronounced, falling by 26 per cent from \$576 in 2006 to just \$440 in 2007 (See Table 39) (Statistics Canada, 2009f).

In Calgary, total attendance at City of Calgary Recreation facilities was 2,612,245 in 2008 (See Table 40). During the same year, there were 72,745 registrations in City of Calgary Recreation programs, and 10,856 registrations in Recreation Courses. This represents a 6 per cent decline in facility attendance and course registrations since 2004, and a 5 per cent decline from 2007. This decline in attendance is due to renovations at Southland and Village Square Leisure Centres in 2007 and 2008. These renovations were undertaken to upgrade the centres in order to encourage and increasing active participation. However, the resulting closures of Southland (September 2007 to July 2008) and Village Square (July 2008 to January 2009) meant that registered swim lessons were

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not able to occur which had a significant short-term impact on volumes (City of Calgary, 2009c).

► **Levels of Physical Activity Insufficient but are Rising Slowly**

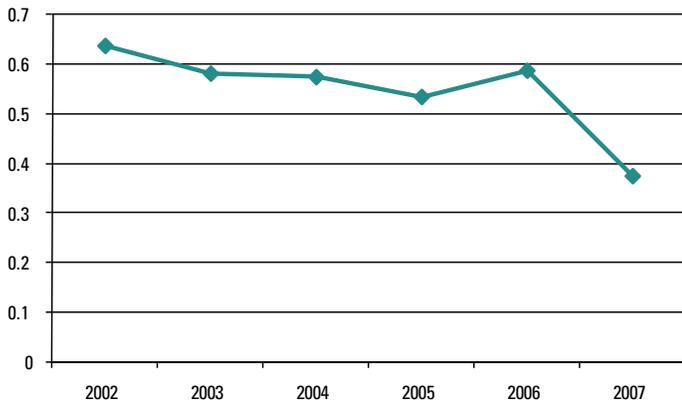
Reported levels of physical activity continue to increase slowly, but remain insufficient. In 2008, only 13 per cent of children and youth across Canada were engaging in 90 minutes of physical activity per day as recommended. Although this level of activity remains woefully insufficient it is a marked improvement from 2006 when only from 9 per cent met the recommended guidelines (Active Healthy Kids Canada, 2009). Despite relatively low reported rates of physical activity, Mulholland (2008) reports that half of Canadian children, and just over a quarter (28 per cent) of adults participate directly in sport, while 18 per cent belong to a local sport club, league or organization.

In Alberta, just over half (58.5 per cent) of adults are physically active enough to experience health benefits. This is somewhat lower than 2007 when 62.4 per cent of Albertans were reported to be sufficiently physically active, and also lower than 2005 when 60.2 per cent reported sufficient levels of activity. In Calgary, however, rates of physical activity are climbing, with 64.0 per cent of Calgarians reporting sufficient levels of physical activity in 2008, up slightly from 2007 when 63 per cent so reported, and 57 per cent in 2000 (Lotz, Berry and Spence, 2009).

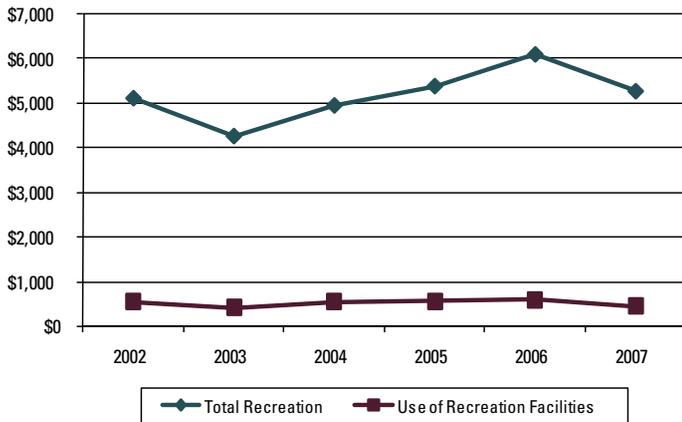
Nationally, only 15 per cent of Canadian parents are reported to be frequent users of recreation programs and facilities, while 34 per cent report frequent use of parks and open space (Active Healthy Kids Canada, 2009). A recent survey of Alberta households, however, reported significantly higher rates of use of parks and recreation programs and facilities. In 2007, 4 out of 5 Albertans reported that they had made direct use of public recreation and / or parks services. This included 35 per cent of individuals and 48 per cent of households who reported that they used both recreation and parks services during the previous year. At the same time, 38 per cent of individuals and 33 per cent of households used parks alone, while 6 per cent of individuals and 4 per cent of households used recreation services alone (Harper, Godbey, Greenslad and Mahaffy, 2009).

While levels of physical activity are slowly increasing in Alberta, a recent study also found that Albertans are placing increasing importance on leisure activities. In 2007, almost half (47 per cent) of Albertans identified leisure as their top priority, ahead of work (32 per cent). This is almost a complete reversal from a decade ago (1996) when almost half (48 per cent) placed work as their top priority, ahead of leisure (27 per cent) (Harper, et al, 2009).

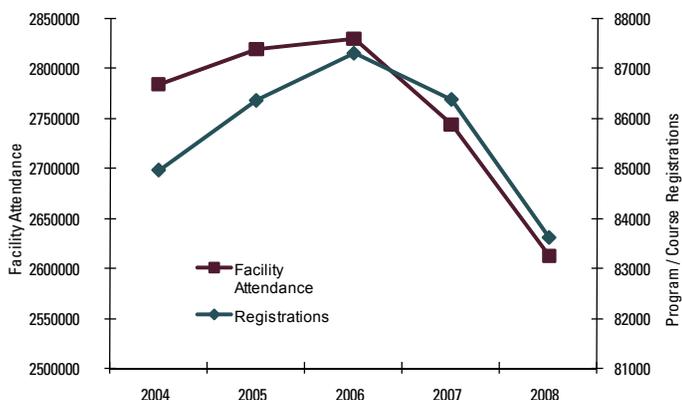
% of Households Reporting Expenditures on Use of Recreation Facilities, Calgary (CMA)



Avg. (\$) Household Recreation Expenditures, Calgary (CMA)



Facility Attendance and Program and Course Registrations, Calgary Recreation, 2004-08



► *Passive and Individual Activities More Popular*

More passive activities, as well as individual rather than team activities, tend to be the most popular among Albertans. In 2008, the most frequently reported physical activities were walking for pleasure (81.4 per cent), followed by bicycling (41.9 per cent), swimming (pools) (40.5 per cent), aerobics / fitness / aquasize / yoga (37.7 per cent), swimming (lakes and rivers) (34.7 per cent), weight training (27.3 per cent), jogging / running (27.5 per cent) and ice skating (not hockey) (18.9 per cent).

In the same year, Albertans' favourite activities were walking (12.6 per cent), golf (10.7 per cent), camping (8.4 per cent), reading (3.9 per cent), swimming (3.9 per cent), hiking (3.3 per cent), bicycling (3.1 per cent), jogging / running (2.8 per cent), fishing (2.6 per cent) and gardening (2.4 per cent) (Government of Alberta, 2008c). In Calgary, a recent survey (HarGroup et al, 2008) identified the activities that were most important to Calgarians. The most predominant activities reported were swimming, gymnasium / fitness, walking, soccer, golf and cycling.

Levels of physical activity are associated with certain social and demographic factors. The percentage of people with sufficient levels of physical activity tends to decrease with age from 81 per cent among those 18 – 24 years of age, to 56 per cent among those age 45 – 54 and 37 per cent of those age 65+. Physical activity also increases with education, from 48 per cent among those who did not complete high school, to 57 per cent among those with a high school education and 60 per cent among those with post-secondary education (Lotz, et al, 2009).

HarGroup (2008) reported that age is an important factor affecting the choice of activities among Calgarians as well. While many activities are popular among all age-groups, such as swimming, reading and outdoor activities, there are certain activities that are more predominant among children and youth. Creative activities (i.e. playing a musical instrument, dancing) are more likely to be engaged in among children / youth, as are computer games, while involvement in sport tends to decrease as individuals age. For the most part, youth seek social connections in recreation and leisure rather than competition.

While certain activities may be more predominant among youth, many activities that people enjoy later in life are begun in youth. Individual pursuits (such as fitness training, cycling, golf, hiking, jogging, reading, going to the park, yoga, gardening) become apparent among young adults and continue into later age categories. Similarly, observatory activities (i.e.

attending sports events and attending musical concerts and live theatre) typically begin in adulthood and involvement increases with age. Meanwhile, more passive activities (i.e. travelling, attending live theatre, volunteering, fishing, book reading, gardening, social activities) are prominent among 45+ age groups (HarGroup et al, 2008).

► *Lack of Time, Cost and Adequacy of Facilities Pose Barriers to Participation*

Despite the importance placed on leisure activities by Albertans, many face significant barriers to participation. Lack of time is one of the primary factors affecting participation. A recent survey reported that 41 per cent of Albertans felt they had less time for recreation and leisure in 2007 than they did five years prior (Harper et al, 2009). The 2008 Alberta Recreation Survey also found lack of time to be the primary reason Albertans did not start a new activity (Government of Alberta, 2008c). Hargroup (2008) also reported that lack of time was the number one barrier for Calgarians to participating in recreation programs and activities (See Table 41).

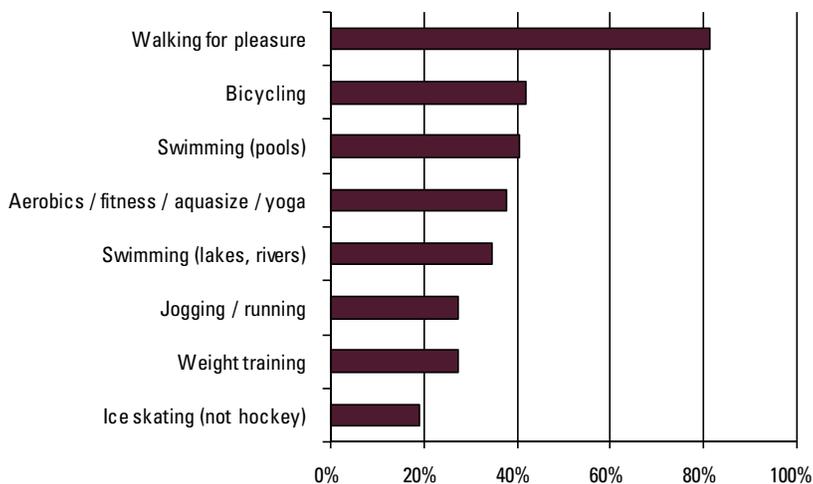
A second barrier to participation in activities is cost. Across Canada, physical activity increases with income. Among those with incomes of \$20K or less, only 29 per cent get the required amount of physical activity, compared to 68 per cent among those with incomes of 100K+ (Lotz, et al, 2009). Active Healthy Kids Canada (2009) also reports that children from lower-income families are three-times more likely to have never participated in organized activities and sports than those in the highest income level. In Alberta, almost one-in-five people find the cost of equipment, materials and supplies to be a barrier to participation in recreational activities, with an equal percentage limited by the cost of admissions and other charges (Government of Alberta, 2008c). In Calgary, HarGroup (2008) reported that 10.5 per cent of people found cost to be a significant barrier to their participation.

Harper et al (2009) also note Albertans living in poverty place an equally high value on recreation / leisure programs but are less likely to access them, and are consequently more likely to depend on schools for their recreation / leisure activities.

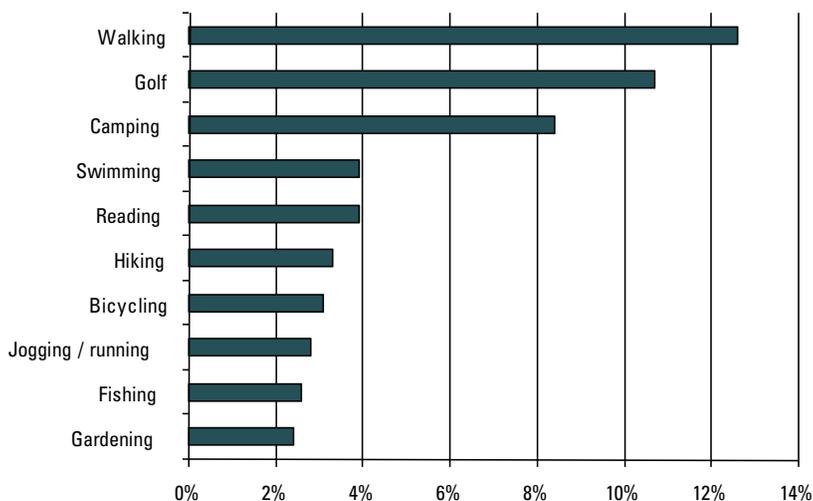
“That puts onus on schools to service the needs of families in poverty – and on public recreation leaders to partner with them. The work is particularly critical in light of strong correlation between income levels and well-being.”

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Albertans' Most Frequently Reported Physical Activities, 2008



Albertans' Favourite Leisure Activities, 2008



Respondents living in poverty rated their overall life satisfaction significantly lower, and are more likely to describe their health as fair or poor. Given recreation and parks' ability to mitigate poor health and improve life satisfaction, those living in poverty represent a key target audience. (Harper, et al, 2009:19)."

Disability is another important factor limiting participation in activities. Harper et al (2009) reports that 5 per cent of Albertans cited disability as a reason for not participating in local recreation activities. Of households with a disability, almost three quarters (72 per cent) report that this disability affects their ability to participate in local government recreation activities,

while two-thirds report that this disability affects their ability to access public parks. Households with the presence of a disability also reported lower life satisfaction, happiness and health. In Calgary, 4.4 per cent of people indicated that their age, health or physical challenges prevented them from participating in recreational programs and activities last year (Hargroup et al, 2008).

An emerging barrier to participation is a growing concern among Canadians with the amateur sporting environment in the country. While most Canadians believe that sport can have a positive impact on youth, many are concerned that the values of community sport are being compromised. Mulholland (2008) notes:

"... community sport is increasingly being pulled toward the values of commercial sport, undermining the benefits which can only be fully realized when sport is conducted in a positive and intentional way – when it is inclusive, fair, fun and fosters genuine excellence. (Mulholland, 2008:ix)"

Issues of concern to many Canadians with community sport include too much focus on winning / competition, violence, under- and over-involvement of parents, poor coaching and leadership, harassment, intolerance / racism, lack of fair play and injuries. These factors can contribute to decreasing sport participation by children as they grow older (Mulholland, 2008).

Finally, the adequacy of facilities is an important barrier for many people. Overcrowded recreation facilities was identified by 15 per cent of Albertans as a key reason for not starting a new activity in 2008 (Government of Alberta, 2008c). Calgarians were less likely to report overcrowded facilities as a barrier, though this was cited by 3 per cent as a factor limiting their participation (Hargroup et al, 2008). Calgary's recent population boom, however, as well as growth in new sports such as soccer, has resulted in a significant shortage of sport and recreation space in the city. While land is set aside in new developments for additional sport and recreation space, older areas continue to be under-served. Not only is capacity in established areas insufficient, many facilities in these areas were built in the late 1960's with federal Centennial grants

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and are nearing the end of their life-cycle. Facility ageing is exacerbated by years of deferred maintenance and upgrading due to reduced government funding during the 1980's and 1990's (Kom, 2009a).

Despite legitimate concerns about the adequacy of Canada's recreational infrastructure, the country does continue to have a good infrastructure in place, and there are indications that this may be upgraded with new capital funding. Nationally, most students (80 - 95 per cent) report that their schools have a gym, playground equipment, playing fields and a paved play area (Active Healthy Kids Canada, 2009). Meanwhile, the vast majority (85 per cent) of Albertans report that they can easily walk from their home to a park, playground or other open space (Harper, et al, 2009) and most Canadians (83 per cent) also report that they feel that their neighbourhood is safe for their

children to play outside (Active Healthy Kids Canada, 2009).

In Calgary, recent initiatives have been undertaken to improve the city's recreational infrastructure. Funding through the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) program is resulting in new facility development and redevelopment, as detailed in the following table.

Additionally, pathways and bikeways have been upgraded over the past two years, including more on-street bike routes, completion of missing links in the pathway network and upgrades to parts of the pathway destroyed in 2005 flooding (Ferguson, 2009c). To address issues of insufficient and aging recreational facilities, The City of Calgary is also seeking to rejuvenate aging existing facilities in established areas while looking for opportunities to build new facilities on vacant lands in these areas.

Project Stream	Project Name	City Contribution
Regional Recreation Centres	NECC (North East Centre of Community)	\$70 M
	SECRS (South East Calgary Recreation Society)	\$70 M
Ice Surface Development	CNRCs (Calgary Northwest Recreation Centre Society)	\$70 M
	WinSport (CODA) – two public ice sheets	\$20 M
	Trico Centre (FLC) – one public ice sheet	\$9.5 M
	South Fish Creek Rec Association (SFCRA) – two public ice sheets	\$14 M
Sport Facility Renewal	Various	\$40 M (\$10 M /quad-rant
New Brighton Athletic Park	New Brighton Athletic Park Construction of tournament quality multi-use rectangular fields.	\$8.6 M

Source: City of Calgary, 2009c

► *Economic Recession Challenging Capacity of Community Recreation Organizations and Facilities*

Prior to the onset of the current recession, Canada's sport and entertainment sector remained financially healthy. Operating revenues for Canada's spectator sports, event promoters, artists and related industries rose 9.1 per cent in 2007, largely due to a 15.2 per cent increase in revenues from promoters of performing arts and sports. Spectator sports accounted for 40 per cent of total operating revenues in this sector (Statistics Canada, 2009n). Operating revenues for Canada's amusement and recreation industry increased by 3.4 per cent from 2006, mostly due to a 9.1 per cent increase in revenues from the ski

industry. Golf courses and country clubs generated close to one-third of total revenues for the industry (Statistics Canada, 2009o).

While the for-profit sport and entertainment industry is economically important, most sports in Canada are community sporting activities that are led, organized and supported by community volunteers and institutions. In 2008, there were 33,650 sport and recreation organizations in Canada, almost three-quarters (71 per cent) of them local. In fact, sport and recreation organizations make up 21 per cent of Canada's non-profit sector and engage 5.3M volunteers, 28 per cent of Canada's total volunteer effort (Mulholland, 2008).

The current financial crisis may most severely affect community-based sporting. In the current economic climate, there is more competition for reduced donations, with sport not always being the highest priority. Ferguson, (2009a) quotes a local sports organizer saying:

"It's always easy to get funds for sick kids and sick trees, but what about funds to keep kids health and active? What about the preventative benefits of that? ... Certainly there's a passion and religion for this sport. But the reality is, not enough philanthropists are lining up to give to kids sport."

Due to falling financial markets and reduced economic activity, fundraising goals for local sport have fallen short. Hockey Calgary aimed to raise \$5M in private donations to add six new rinks to increase facility capacity over the next 2 years in response to increased demand for ice time. However, by early 2009, only \$2M had been raised, leaving the organization with a significant funding shortfall (Ferguson, 2009a). Falling financial markets also resulted in a 20 per cent loss of value of the Winsport endowment fund over the past two years which has led to reduced operational funding for Olympic training facilities such as Canada Olympic Park, the Canmore Nordic Centre and the Olympic Oval (Derworiz, 2009d), potentially requiring Winsport to seek community donations to make up the losses (Derworiz, 2009e).

of City ice-time to associations that are buying additional private ice-time.

- In 2008, The City of Calgary's released its ten year implementation plan for sport facility development and enhancement. This plan will focus on four key areas: enriching sport diversity; improving facility access; enhancing existing facilities; and, guiding new facility development.

Policy Developments

- In 2009, the Government of Canada introduced the Recreational Infrastructure Canada Program. This new program will invest \$500M in recreational facilities across Canada over a two-year period.
- In 2008, the Government of Alberta released a new plan to guide the management of provincial parks over the next ten years. This plan is accompanied by funding to support parks programs and operations, as well as capital funding for maintenance and upgrading of facilities, or the development of new infrastructure.
- In 2009, The City of Calgary implemented a new approach to allocating ice-time for minor hockey. The new plan equalizes area boundaries to ensure roughly equal numbers of players in each area and reduces allocations

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“The City of Calgary seeks to ensure a safe environment for individuals and families through the provision of emergency services (Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services). The City also works with the community to promote safety and prevention through programs such as education and appropriate physical design.”

- Triple Bottom Line Policy Framework

SUMMARY OF SAFETY TRENDS

- Calgarians continue to feel relatively safe as both person and property crime rates fall, and the severity of crime is lessening. At the same time, fewer victims are reporting offences to the police.
- Despite decreasing overall rates of crime, concern about certain types of crime is rising. While homicide rates fall across Canada, they remain highest in western Canada, with Calgary having one of the highest homicide rates in the country.
- Youth crime rates continue to fall in Calgary, while increasing attention is being paid for positive programming for youth during the “critical hours” before and after school when most unhealthy youth activity occurs.
- Concern about organized crime and gang activity is a growing concern of Calgarians, and is occupying more and more police resources. There is increasing organized criminal activity in financial crime and human trafficking in addition to ongoing involvement in the drug trade.
- Incidents of family violence rose in Calgary in 2008 for the first time in several years, reversing a pattern of consistently declining incidents. Calgary continues to have one of the highest rates of family violence in the country.
- Traffic safety in Calgary continues to improve as the injury collision rate falls. However, Alberta recorded a significant jump in impaired driving offences in 2008 compared to the previous year.
- Workplace safety in Alberta improved marginally in 2008, although there continues to be a high rate of injury among young workers.

SAFETY SNAPSHOT

Person crime rate, Calgary, 2008: 800.3 / 100,000



Property crime rate, Calgary, 2008: 4,768 / 100,000



Crime Severity Index, Calgary, 2008: 91.5



WCB Lost-time Claims, Alberta, 2008: 32,248



Victim Reported Domestic Offences, Calgary, 2008: 4,002



Calgary Fire Department Incidents, Calgary, 2008: 49,876



SAFETY OUTLOOK

- Person and property crime rates have been experiencing a long-term decline in Calgary over the past two decades and there is no reason to expect this trend to be reversed in the coming years. However, recent increases in gang violence and organized criminal activity may prompt concerns about community safety to rise despite the falling rate and severity of crime. At the same time, there appears to be a growing reluctance on the part of victims to report crimes, particularly property crimes, to police.
- As the impact of the current recession is felt by Calgary households, the stress associated with unemployment and reduced income may lead to new safety issues arising. In the United States, there has

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been noted recently an increase in “crimes of necessity” involving first-time offenders who engage in illegal activities such as shoplifting due to financial need. As unemployment rates continue to rise over the next two years and incomes suffer, additional supports to distressed households may be important to mitigate the stresses that could lead to criminal behaviour.

- Family violence is often associated with high levels of personal and financial stress, and Calgary currently has a relatively high rate of family violence that increased in 2008. As households experience increased levels of stress due to the economic downturn, more supports and services may be required to support families in crisis and avert situations of abuse, or guarantee the safety and well-being of victims.
- As homelessness remains an ongoing issue, potentially increasing during the current economic recession, the safety of this population needs to be taken seriously, given the high rate of attacks suffered by them.
- As population growth eases over the short term, the stress placed on Calgary’s transportation network by high rates of growth may also ease. As a result, it is not expected that the falling rate of traffic injuries and fatalities would change. However, recent significant increases in impaired driving offenses across Alberta remain a cause for concern.

Discussion

► *Calgarians Continue to Feel Relatively Safe*

Calgarians continue to feel relatively safe. In 2008, over three-quarters of Calgarians (79 per cent) agreed that Calgary is a safe place to live; however, 73 per cent also perceived that crime rates were getting worse. Calgarians tend to be most concerned about illegal gang activity (55 per cent), followed by LRT safety (38 per cent), youth-related crime (37 per cent), drug enforcement (35 per cent), safety in the downtown / city centre (31 per cent), computer / internet crime (26 per cent), house break and enter (25 per cent) and vehicle theft (21 per cent) (Enviroics, 2008).

► *Crime Rates Continue to Fall ...*

Canada’s crime rate declined in 2007 for the third consecutive year, continuing a long term trend of declining crime rates since peaking in 1991. The national crime rate declined by 7 per cent with declines reported in most serious violent offences such as homicides, attempted murders, sexual assaults and robberies. Declines in such serious offences in 2007 followed two years of increases. While crime rates fell in almost all provinces and territories, they remained above the national average in the

Person and Property Crime Rate (per 100,000), Calgary, 2003-08

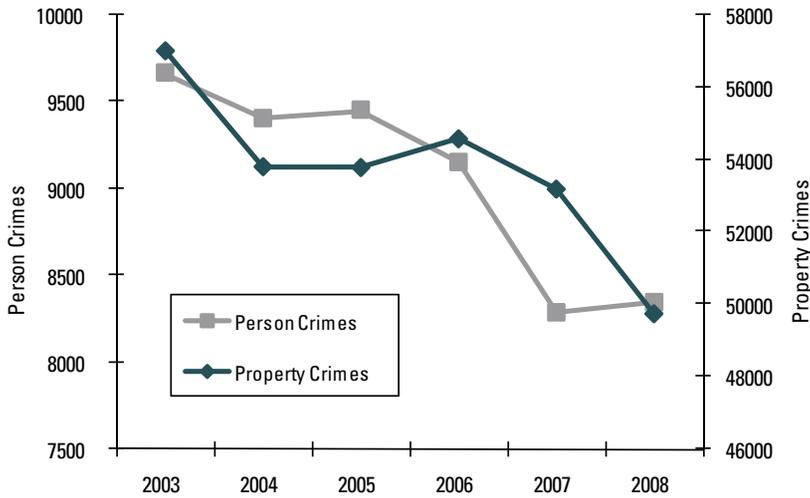


four western provinces, particularly violent crimes (Statistics Canada, 2008o).

Crime rates also fell in most CMAs, with western CMA's having higher overall and violent crime rates. In 2007, homicide rates were highest in Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Edmonton and Calgary. Calgary’s overall crime rate in 2007 was 6,202 / 100,000, 8.4 per cent lower than the 2006 rate (Statistics Canada, 2008o). In 2008, the person crime rate continued to drop in Calgary, falling to 800 / 100,000 from 813 a year earlier (See Table 42). At the same time, the property crime rate also continued to drop, falling to 4,768 / 100,000 from 5,214 the previous year (Calgary Police Service, 2009).

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Number of Person and Property Crimes, Calgary, 2003-08



2008, police departments across the United States reported that shoplifting arrests were up 10 – 20 per cent over the previous year, while a survey of retailers found that 80 per cent reported sharp increases in shoplifting over the past year. Many of those shoplifting are first-time offenders who have become involved in shoplifting out of economic necessity (Urbina and Hamill, 2009).

► Fewer Victims Reporting Incidents to Police

In Calgary, an estimated 14 per cent of the population was a victim of crime in 2008. Of those, 70 per cent were victims of property crime, 19 per cent of person crime and 7 per cent of identity theft or fraud. Of those who were victimized, however,

only 70 per cent reported the crime to police, down from an estimated 79 per cent in 2007. The primary reasons for not reporting crimes were, first, victims did not want to bother the police (43 per cent), they felt the police could not do anything (29 per cent), they dealt with the incident in another way (14 per cent), they were unaware a crime had been committed (12

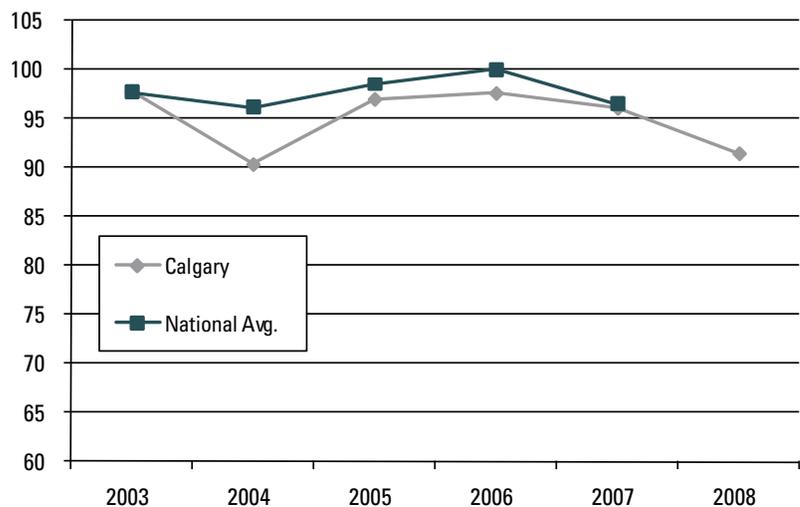
Victimization among Calgary's growing homeless population remains a significant concern. The Calgary Homeless Foundation reports that 68 per cent of the people it surveyed said that they had been the victim of a violent attack since becoming homeless, with most attacks going unreported to the police. This is a significantly higher rate of victimization than any American city that has done a similar survey, almost twice the rate found in cities like Los Angeles, New York, Portland and Washington D.C. Attacks can be both from other homeless persons, as well as from the larger population or from drug dealers who often prey on a person's addictions (Derworiz, 2009f).

... While the Severity of Crime Lessens

Overall, the severity of crime across Canada was lower in 2007 than ten years previous. Over the decade (1998 – 2007), the crime severity index fell by 20 per cent, largely due to a 40 per cent decline in break-ins. The majority of offences reported to police tend to be less serious ones such as mischief and minor theft. Crime severity remains highest in the western provinces, with Alberta having the fourth highest severity rate among the provinces. Calgary reported the fifth highest rate of severity among major cities in Canada (Statistics Canada, 2009p), although the Crime Severity Index in Calgary fell in 2008 for the second consecutive year (See Table 43) (Calgary Police Service, 2009).

As the recession deepens, reports from the United States indicate that crimes of desperation are on the rise. In December,

Crime Severity Index, Canada and Calgary, 2003-08



per cent), or they were afraid of revenge (5 per cent). Of note is the fact that the percentage of victims who felt that the police could not do anything more than doubled from 14 per cent in 2007, to 29 per cent in 2008 (Enviroics, 2008).

► *Homicide Rates Continue to Fall Across Canada ...*

Canada's homicide rate fell by 3 per cent in 2007, continuing a long-term downward trend since the mid-1970's. Consistent with recent patterns, stabbings and shootings have each accounted for about one-third of all homicides. Although the use of firearms in homicides has been declining, the use of handguns is rising, mostly in urban areas. Gang-related homicides continued to rise in 2007, consistent with a long-term increasing trend since 1991. In 2007, about one in five homicides was gang related (Statistics Canada, 2008p).

... but Remain Higher in Calgary and Western Canada

The western provinces and territories continue to have the highest homicide rates in the country. Alberta reported the third highest homicide rate among the provinces and territories in 2007, with a rate of 2.53 / 100,000, down slightly from the rate of 2.82 in 2006. Calgary's homicide rate in 2007 was 3.1 / 100,000, the third highest rate among Canadian CMAs, compared to rates of 2.41 in Vancouver, 2.01 in Toronto and 1.58 in Montreal (Ibid.). In 2008, the number of homicides increased marginally in Calgary, with 33 homicides reported compared to 32 reported in 2007. Compared to 2004, however, the number of homicides has increased markedly when only 18 homicides were reported. Attempted homicides have also risen significantly, from 7 in 2004, to 20 in 2007 and 36 in 2008 (Calgary Police Service, 2009).

► *Youth Crime Rates Also Falling*

Across Canada, youth crime rates fell by 1.5 per cent in 2007 after increasing by 3.3 per cent in 2006. This decline was due to a decrease in non-violent crime, while the youth violent crime rate remained stable after increasing steadily over the past two decades (Statistics Canada, 2008o). Youth homicides declined in 2007 after reaching an all-time high in 2006, with about one-third of all youth homicides being gang related (Statistics Canada, 2008p).

Youth involvement in drug activity appears to be increasing. Over the past ten years, the rate of youth accused of drug offences has more than doubled, with one-in-five persons accused of drug offences in 2007 being a youth. In Alberta, the rate of drug offences has grown by 44.6 per cent over the past ten years, with Alberta reporting the eighth highest rate of youth drug offences among the provinces and territories in 2007 (Statistics Canada, 2009q).

In Calgary, the number of youth offences continued to decline in 2008, with offences against persons falling by 7.4 per cent to 919 offences compared to 992 offences in 2007. This resulted in a decline in the youth person offences rate from 12.3 / 1,000 in 2007 to 11.3 in 2008, the fourth consecutive year of decline. Youth property offences also continued to fall in 2008, with the number of offences dropping by 12.8 per cent from 3,249 in 2007 to 2,832 in 2008. This led to a drop in the youth property offence rate from 40.2 / 1,000 in 2007 to 34.9 in 2008. This is the fourth consecutive year of decline for the youth property offence rate (Calgary Police Service, 2008).

► *Ongoing Need for "Critical Hours" Programming*

Children who are not involved in formal or informal activities before and after school are more likely to engage in unhealthy activities. Research shows that during those hours, youth are more likely to abuse alcohol, tobacco, drugs; be injured in a household accident; engage in sexual activity; or be in or cause a car crash. In 2006, 24 per cent of all chargeable incidents involving youth in Calgary took place between the hours of 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm (City of Calgary, 2008c).

There are some significant pressures in Calgary's social environment that increase the need for critical hours programming. Significant population growth and shifts have resulted in large concentrations of youth in neighbourhoods where there are few facilities, programs and services. Family pressures are also exerting an influence on youth delinquent activities. In a high percentage of Calgary families both parents are working, resulting in a lack of supervision for many youth during the critical hours. Further, continuing high rates of poverty, particularly among lone-parent families, affect youth behaviour, with children from low-income families less able to afford to participate in programs. These influences are exacerbated by an uncoordinated and under-serviced array of critical hours programs (Ibid.).

Demographic shifts may also contribute to unproductive youth activities. The City of Calgary (2008c) identifies as a risk the increasing numbers of immigrant youth who are struggling with adapting to Canadian society while maintaining their own cultural identity. While these pressures are real, a recent report (Jimenez, 2009) also noted that immigrant youth are much less prone to both property and violent crime than Canadian-born youth based on a survey of self-reported behaviour. Canadian-born youth reported the highest level of property-related

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delinquency (17.2 per cent) compared to just 7.7 per cent of youth who had immigrated to Canada after the age of 5. Immigrant youth also reported the lowest rate of violent delinquency (9 per cent) compared to 13.1 per cent of Canadian-born youth. Factors influencing positive behaviour among immigrant youth included strong educational aspirations and close connections to family.

As the youth crime rate stabilizes, fewer youth are ending up in the criminal justice system. This is attributable in large part to the effectiveness of the Youth Criminal Justice Act which has greatly affected the flow of cases through the criminal justice system in Alberta, with the number of youths charged showing a sharp decline after the introduction of the Act in 2003. Youth are increasingly being diverted away from the criminal justice system, particularly for minor offences such as property and drug offences. The Gateway program in Calgary has been particularly effective in diverting youth from the criminal justice system for minor offences (DeGusti, 2008).

► *Drug Offences in Calgary Start to Fall*

Although the overall crime rate has tended to decline over the past decade, drug offences continue to rise, increasing by 37.1 per cent nationally between 1997 and 2007. While cannabis offences continue to account for the majority of offences, these have been declining while offences related to cocaine, crystal meth, ecstasy and “date rape” drugs have been increasing. In 2007, Calgary reported the second lowest rate of drug offences among major Canadian, although the rate of offences in Calgary has grown by 52 per cent over the past ten years (Statistics Canada, 2009q). In 2008, drug offences in Calgary started to fall, declining by 23.4 per cent from 2007 (Calgary Police Service, 2008). Reduced drug activity may be attributed to a variety of factors including an increased police presence, rising levels of gang violence and lower revenues in the drug trade which have resulted in many street-level traffickers leaving Calgary after moving here during the boom (Nixon, 2009).

► *Organized Crime Remains a Growing Concern*

Organized crime continues to be a concern in Calgary and throughout Alberta. The Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta (2008) reports that there are 54 organized crime groups currently operating in the Alberta / NWT region. While relatively unsophisticated, these groups appear to be increasingly well-networked with other criminal groups operating inside and outside of the region. Few of the groups in the region confine

themselves to a single community, but tend to be based in one with operations extending throughout the region.

Most groups in Alberta are primarily involved in drug trafficking, with marijuana and cocaine being the primary markets within Alberta. Demand for crystal meth, meanwhile, is reported to have declined considerably over the past year. Organized crime groups involved in drug trafficking are no longer working in isolation, but have developed cooperative links with other groups. Weapons trafficking is another significant area of operations for organized crime in Alberta, though it is extremely difficult to track. It is believed that weapons are being imported overland into Alberta from the United States.

Increasingly, organized crime groups are becoming engaged in financial crime. This includes mortgage fraud, counterfeit currency and counterfeit payment cards through “skimming”. While the production of counterfeit currency appears to be on the decline, there is a notable increase in the production of counterfeit payment cards with links to groups in Toronto and Montreal. In the United States, it is being reported that organized crime has become increasingly involved in shoplifting due to the ease with which stolen goods can now be sold over the internet. The internet also facilitates shoplifting with new internet sites emerging that provide fake receipts, fake price tags and gift card schemes (Urbina and Hamill, 2009).

Human trafficking is another area that appears to be growing in importance for organized crime. Human trafficking generally involves the movement and exploitation of victims for work in the sex trade. This occurs either from the importation of foreign individuals who are brought to Canada under the guise of visitor or work permits, or from the recruitment and movement of domestic sex trade workers by organized crime groups. It is believed that the profits generated from human trafficking may now equal or exceed those generated by the drug and weapons trafficking trade (Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta, 2008).

► *Police Resources in Calgary Fewer than Other Cities but Growing*

Police resources in Calgary have been increasing markedly in recent years, though they still lag other major jurisdictions. In 2008, there were 1,711 police officers in the Calgary CMA², a rate of 149 officers per 100,000 population. This was the second lowest ratio of officers to population among major cities in Canada. Between 1998 and 2008, however, the

² Includes jurisdictions in addition to the Calgary Police Service.

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Calgary CMA reported a 13.2 per cent increase in the number of officers, the greatest rate of growth in officers among major Canadian cities. At the same time, Calgary's policing costs were the fifth highest among major Canadian cities at \$250 / capita (Statistics Canada, 2008s).

Although Calgary's crime rate is falling, this has not translated into a reduced need for police resources. While police are investigating fewer crimes as the crime rate falls, they are also solving fewer of them. Between 2004 and 2008, the clearance rate for the Calgary Police Service fell from 69.8 per cent to 64.2 per cent. Clearance rates are said to be falling due, in part, to the rise in gang activity. Gang related crimes are said to be harder to solve as people are often reluctant to provide information. Also, the recent rise in gang activity has taken officers away from other areas in order to work on solving gang issues (Massinon, 2009).

► *Incidents of Family Violence on the Rise in Calgary*

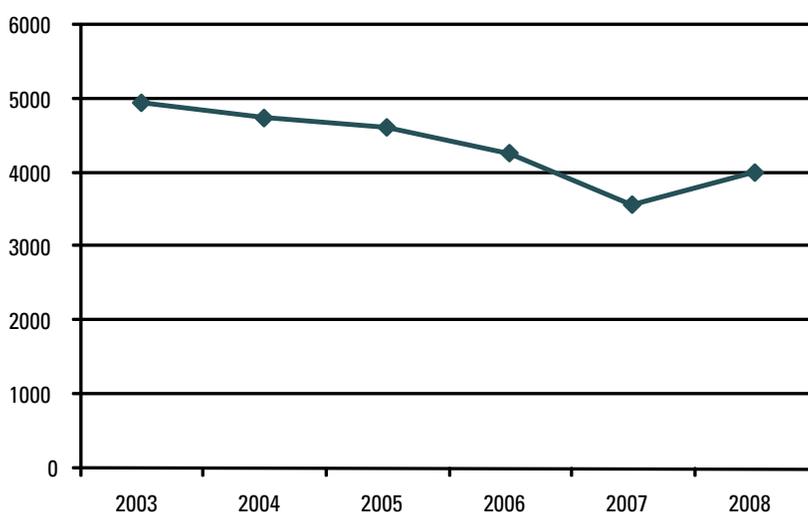
In 2006, there were 4,447 incidents of spousal violence in Alberta, the third highest number of incidents among provinces and territories. These incidents accounted for 18 per cent of all violent incidents in the province that year, the second highest proportion among the provinces and territories. The most frequently reported types of violent incident nationally were common assault (61 per cent), major assault (14 per cent), uttering threats (11 per cent) and stalking (8 per cent) (Statistics Canada, 2008q). In Calgary, the number of domestic offences rose in 2008, with 4,967 incidents reported to police, a 12.2 per cent increase from 2007 (See Table 44). The vast majority of domestic related person offences in 2008 were assaults, although there were 7 domestic related homicides in Calgary (Calgary Police Service, 2009).

Across Canada, approximately 101,000 women and children were admitted to 569 shelters between April 1, 2007 and March 31, 2008. According to the 2008 survey of shelter users, the vast majority of shelter residents was fleeing abuse, with two-thirds fleeing situations of psychological abuse and half fleeing physical abuse. Other reasons for seeking shelter included threats (39 per cent), financial abuse (36 per cent), harassment (28 per cent), or sexual abuse (24 per cent). About one-third of shelter residents were not fleeing abuse, but entered for other reasons, primarily a lack of affordable housing. Only one-

quarter of residents had reported the most recent incident of abuse to police (Statistics Canada, 2009r).

In 2007/08, a total of 8,021 women and 6,561 children across Canada were admitted to a women's shelter, the vast majority to an emergency shelter. Alberta accounted for 14 per cent of all admissions in Canada. Eighty-one per cent of Alberta women admitted to shelters were fleeing abuse by a current or former partner, a rate of 33 / 100,000 married, common-law or separated women, the fourth highest rate among the provinces. Over the past decade, the percentage of Canadian women in shelters with children has decreased, falling from 56 per cent in 2000 to 52 per cent in 2008 (Ibid.).

Total Reported Domestic Offences, Calgary, 2003-08



► *Traffic Safety Improving*

Across Canada, traffic safety has been consistently improving over the past twenty-five years. Between 1979 and 2004, the number of people killed in motor vehicle accidents dropped by 52 per cent from 5,933 to 2,875. Young and elderly motorists were more likely to be killed than other age groups. Between 2000 and 2004, roughly one-quarter (24 per cent) of all motor vehicle deaths were of people aged 15-24 (Statistics Canada, 2008r). Impaired driving continues to be a significant cause of motor vehicle collisions and injuries. In 2007, impaired driving offences were one of two types of offences that increased nationally, rising by 3 per cent largely due to a 19 per cent increase in Alberta (Statistics Canada, 2008o).

Traffic safety in Alberta remains somewhat below the national standard. Between 1979 and 2004, Alberta had the fourth highest rate of motor vehicle deaths among the provinces, at 11.4 / 100,000, significantly higher than the national rate of 9.0

4. A SAFE CITY

/ 100,000 (Statistics Canada, 2008r). Calgary roads, however, remain much safer than the provincial statistics would suggest. Over the past ten years, the number and rate of traffic collisions resulting in injury has steadily declined from a rate of 489 per 100,000 in 1998 to just 324 in 2007, the second lowest injury collision rate among major Canadian cities. The injury collision rate in major Canadian cities ranged from a low of 238 in Vancouver to a high of 1,109 in Edmonton. Despite a drop in the number and rate of injury collisions, however, total collisions have been rising over the past four years (City of Calgary, 2008d). In 2008, the traffic collision rate continued to increase, although the number and rate of fatalities declined (Calgary Police Service, 2008).

In 2008, many police jurisdictions across Canada reported a significant drop in motor vehicle deaths. Nationally, reduced traffic fatalities are being attributed in part to higher gasoline prices which lead people to drive less and more slowly. In the United States, motor vehicle deaths were down about 10 per cent, while Americans were reported to be driving about 3.5 per cent fewer miles than in the previous year. A recent study in the United States revealed that when gas price increases are sustained for two years, every gas-price jump of 10 per cent leads to a 2 per cent drop in motor vehicle deaths (Wingrove, 2008).

► *Emergency Services Calls Continue to Grow*

In 2008, Calgary Fire Department vehicles responded 109,476 times to 49,876 incidents, an 11.1 per cent increase in incidents over the previous year (See Table 45). Almost half of the incidents (47 per cent) were medical / rescue calls, while 4.9 per cent were fires. Increases in call volumes were experienced in all incident categories except rupture / explosions and severe weather calls, which declined from the previous year by 16.0 per cent and 71.4 per cent, respectively (Calgary Fire Department, 2009).

► *Workplace Safety in Alberta Improves Marginally*

Workplace safety in Alberta improved marginally in 2008. Between 2007 and 2008, new Workers Compensation Board (WCB) claims fell by 4.2 per cent, from 175,297 to 167,896, while lost-time claims fell from 35,083 to 32,248 (Government of Alberta, 2009f). However, Alberta imposed record penalties for Occupational Health and Safety violations in 2008, with penalties totaling \$5M assessed against 22 companies. This

compares to total penalties of \$1.7M assessed against 12 companies in 2007 (Government of Alberta, 2008d).

Sprains or strains continued to be the leading cause of claim, accounting for just over one-third (35 per cent) of all claims in 2008. This was followed by superficial wounds (18 per cent) and open wounds (17 per cent). Injuries to the back continued to be the most frequently reported area of injury (15.5 per cent), followed by fingers (14 per cent) and hands (11 per cent) (Government of Alberta, 2009f).

In 2007, young workers accounted for 19.5 per cent of all lost-time WCB claims, and 22.7 per cent of disabling injury claims, despite making up only 17 per cent of the workforce. This is of concern as Alberta has had the highest proportion of young workers among the provinces. The higher rate of injury may be attributed in part to lack of training and reluctance on the part of younger workers to ask questions (Cryderman, 2008).

Policy Developments

- In 2009, the Government of Alberta introduced the Victims Restitution and Compensation Payment Act which allows for the seizure of the proceeds and instruments of crime and compensates victims and communities affected by those crimes.
- In 2009, the Government of Alberta amended the Vehicle Equipment Regulation under the Traffic Safety Act to allow the removal of illegally armoured vehicles from Alberta roads.
- In 2009, the Government of Alberta amended the Municipal Government Act to protect municipal Fire Departments from liability. This amendment is intended to help municipalities attract and retain firefighters.
- In 2009, responsibility for the operation of Emergency Medical Services in Calgary was transferred from The City of Calgary to Alberta Health Services.

5. A CITY OF STRONG NEIGHBOURHOODS

Globally, Calgary continues to rank highly in terms of overall quality of life. According to the Mercer 2009 quality of living survey, Calgary ranked 26th out of 215 global cities surveyed. This was a drop of one place from 2008, when Calgary ranked 25th. Compared to other Canadian cities in the survey, Calgary ranked fifth, after Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal (Grant, 2009). This section discusses some of the issues affecting the quality of life in Calgary's neighbourhoods.



The City of Calgary promotes strong neighbourhoods through the development and support of integrated communities with a varied social composition and a strong sense of place. Working in partnership with other stakeholders, The City achieves this through appropriate planning and design that provides easy access to a compatible range of public and private services and amenities that respond to the needs of a diverse population. A high quality of life in neighbourhoods is maintained through planning approaches that promote privacy, safety and quiet within residential areas, with easy access to transit, community services, parks, open space and amenities.

- Triple Bottom Line Policy Framework

SUMMARY OF NEIGHBOURHOOD TRENDS

- Calgary's population continues to grow, largely driven by continued migration to the city. The developing communities on the city's outer fringe continue to accommodate the largest share of population growth, although the inner-city is also absorbing a larger share of the population.
- Young families with children continue to gravitate to the new suburbs. Meanwhile, Calgary's suburban areas are continuing to grow more and more culturally diverse.
- Over the past five years, poverty rates declined in most neighbourhoods as poverty fell across the city. At the same time, income inequality between neighbourhoods increased markedly even as a larger share of the low-income population resided in the newer suburbs.
- Calgary's population remains highly mobile with over half of Calgarians having moved within the past five years. People in the developing communities were most likely to have moved recently, followed by those in the inner city. As the population ages, more and more people are living alone, with people in the downtown and inner-city most likely to live alone.
- More and more Calgarians are choosing sustainable transportation options for commuting to work, although the city remains highly auto-dependent.
- Calgary continues to suffer from an ongoing community infrastructure deficit as older areas remain underserved with inadequate facilities in need of upgrading, while new areas are growing faster than The City's ability to provide new infrastructure.

NEIGHBOURHOOD OUTLOOK

- Although population growth is expected to slow over the next five years, the developing communities will continue to expand, albeit at a slower rate. Based on 2008-09 rates of growth, the developing communities may be expected to grow by 111,600 people, and the downtown and inner city by 7,700 people.
- Recent patterns of demographic change in Calgary's neighbourhoods may be expected to continue. Expect Calgary's developing communities to continue to become increasingly culturally diverse. At the same time, the number of low-income households in developing communities may continue to increase, particularly as inner-city areas become less affordable. As financial stress increases due to the economic recession, there may be significant numbers of households in developing communities in need of support, although such services in new areas remain scant.
- As the population ages, increasing numbers of people may be at risk of social isolation. The number of people living alone continues to rise in all parts of the city outside of the downtown. As well, the number of persons with disabilities is also expected to rise. Ensuring access to services and amenities in all parts of the city will be important for meeting the needs of an aging urban and suburban population.
- Increasingly, Calgary workers are choosing alternative commuting options for getting to work. This includes growing numbers of transit users, as well as teleworkers. As fuel prices are expected to remain high and distance to work remains a factor, expect this trend to continue.
- Calgary's community associations will likely continue to struggle with issues of declining membership and aging facilities. However, new infrastructure funding to support the retrofitting of ageing facilities may benefit community associations. As well, policy changes that will increase the flexibility of use of surplus Municipal Reserve lands may increase opportunities for the development of new community infrastructure in established areas.

Discussion

► *Calgary Suburbs Continue to Accommodate Most of Calgary's Growth*

Between 2008 and 2009, Calgary's population grew by 22,563 people, reaching a total population of 1,065,455. Over half (58 per cent) of this growth was due to net migration, as an additional 12,920 people moved to Calgary over the past year. While this is roughly half the number of migrants recorded during the peak of the boom (2005-06), it is significantly higher than the level of migration recorded five years prior, and roughly equal to last year's level of migration.

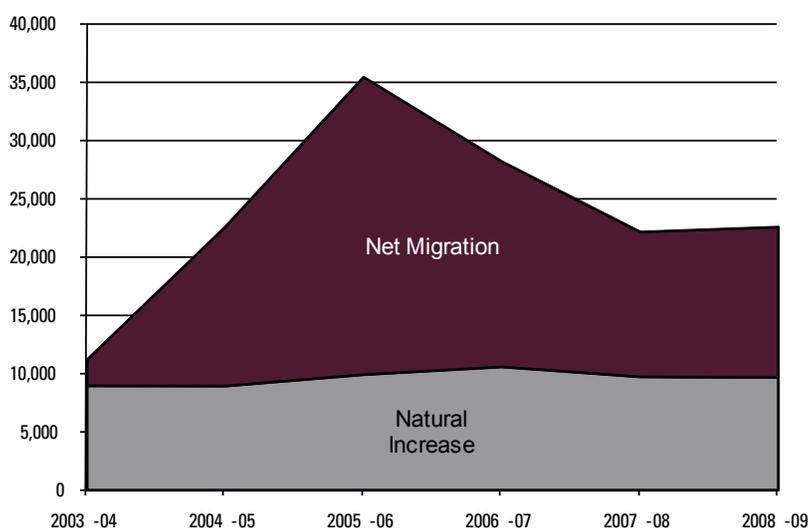
Most of Calgary's population growth continues to be accommodated in the developing communities on the city's outer fringe. In 2008-09, 94 per cent of all population growth was directed to the developing communities. Meanwhile, the downtown and inner-city absorbed 6.5 per cent of the growth, while the established areas lost population (See Table 46). As a result, the share of the city's population living in the developing communities continued to increase, rising from 18.6 per cent in 2008 to 20.2 per cent in 2009 (See Table 47).

► *Young Families With Children Continue to Gravitate to Suburbs*

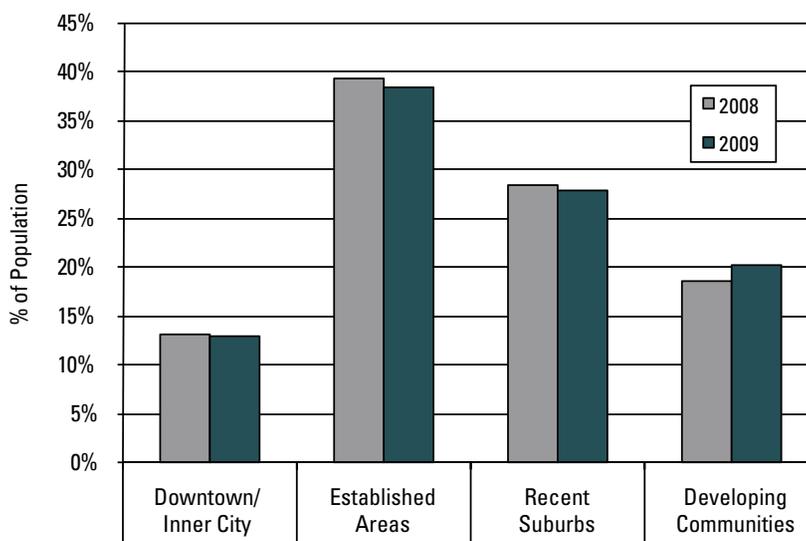
Achieving a balanced population in terms of age and family structure contributes to long-term community sustainability. In Calgary, attaining such a balance has proven to be challenging. According to the most recent federal census (2006), recent suburbs and developing communities continue to have the highest percentage of families with children. Between 2001 and 2006, the percentage of families with children increased in all urban areas; however, the fastest rate of growth was in the downtown and inner city, where the percentage of families with children increased from just under a quarter (24 per cent) to one-third in the downtown, and from 37 per cent to almost half (49 per cent) in the inner city.

Although the percentage of families with children grew in almost all urban areas, the distribution of families with children

Population Growth by Source, Calgary



Distribution of Population by Urban Area, Calgary



continued to shift to the recent and developing communities. Between 2001 and 2006, the share of all families with children living in established communities fell from 38 per cent to 31 per cent, while in the recent suburbs and developing communities, it rose from 42.5 per cent to 51 per cent (Statistics Canada, 2009s).

► *Suburban Areas Growing More Culturally Diverse*

As Calgary's population continues to become increasingly culturally diverse, the cultural diversity of its neighbourhoods also grows. Between 2001 and 2006, the share of the population of each area of the city comprised of racialized persons grew. Calgary's downtown area remains the most culturally diverse

part of the city, with racialized persons accounting for almost half of the total downtown population in 2006. Meanwhile, the inner city and inner suburbs remain the least cultural diverse, with racialized persons comprising 18 per cent and 17 per cent of the populations of those areas respectively. While the downtown remains the most diverse part of the city, in terms of the distribution of that population, Calgary's racialized population resides predominantly in the established areas and recent suburbs. Together, these two areas accounted for almost two-thirds (65 per cent) of Calgary's racialized population in 2006 (Ibid.).

Although cultural diversity increased in all parts of the city between 2001 and 2006, there was a significant shift in the distribution of Calgary's racialized population with Calgary's new and developing areas becoming increasingly important areas of diversity. Between 2001 and 2006 there was a significant movement of the racialized population from the established and recent suburbs into Calgary's developing communities. By 2006, Calgary's developing communities were home to 16 per cent of Calgary's racialized population, compared to only 4 per cent in 2001. Meanwhile, the percentage of the racialized population residing in established areas fell from 37 per cent to 28 per cent (Ibid.).

At the same time, Calgary's racialized population is becoming increasingly concentrated in a few communities (See Table 48). Whereas in 2001 there were only 29 communities where racialized persons comprised 30 per cent of the population or more, by 2006, the number of such communities had risen to 44. Meanwhile, the number of communities where racialized persons comprised half or more of the population more than doubled from 6 to 15. Further, the percentage of Calgary's racialized population living in those concentrated communities also grew. Whereas in 2001, only 11 per cent of the racialized population lived in communities of 50 per cent or more racialized persons, by 2006, one-quarter lived in such communities (Ibid.).

► *Poverty Rates Declined in Most Neighbourhoods Between 2001 and 2006*

Poverty rates in Calgary declined marginally overall between 2001 and 2006, with the largest decline occurring in the downtown, falling from 39 per cent to 36 per cent. Poverty rates in Calgary remain highest in the downtown area, where over one-third of downtown residents were living in low-income

households in 2006. Poverty rates remain lowest in the recent suburbs and developing communities (Ibid.).

Although poverty rates declined or were generally stable over the 2001 – 2006 period, there was an important shift in the distribution of Calgary's low-income population between 2001 and 2006. Over that time period, the proportion of the low-income population in the inner city, inner suburbs and established areas all fell, while the share residing in the recent suburbs and new suburbs grew markedly. Whereas in 2001, 23 per cent of Calgary's low-income population resided in the recent suburbs and developing areas, by 2006, almost one-third (30 per cent) called these communities home (Ibid.).

Overall, the concentration of poverty in Calgary declined between 2001 and 2006 (See Table 49). Whereas in 2001 there were 13 communities with a poverty rate of 30 per cent or more, by 2006, only 9 communities had such elevated rates of poverty. Further, whereas in 2001 10.5 per cent of Calgary's low-income population lived in communities of concentrated poverty, by 2006, only 5.8 per cent lived in such communities (Ibid.).

► *Income Inequality Between Neighbourhoods Grows*

While poverty and concentrations of poverty declined over the first part of the decade, income inequality between Calgary neighbourhoods grew significantly. Between 2001 and 2006, the median income of the highest income community grew by 58.9 per cent, while that of the lowest income community grew by just 6.7 per cent (See Table 50). As a result, the monetary distance between the highest and the lowest income community grew. Whereas in 2001 the median income of the lowest income community was 8.8 per cent that of the highest, by 2006 it had fallen to just 5.9 per cent (Ibid.).

► *Demographic Changes Present Challenges to Community Vitality*

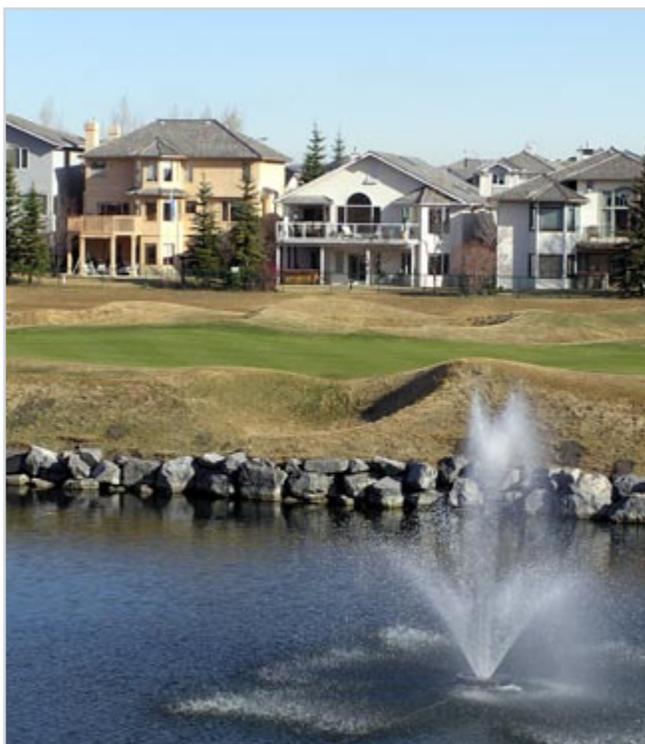
Strong neighbourhoods result from the connections made between the people who live there. These strengths are built up over time, as neighbours get to know each other and feel more and more invested in their local community. Consequently, in communities where people frequently move in and out, there can be greater challenges for building such a sense of community. This is a particular challenge in Calgary whose population continues to be highly mobile.

5. A CITY OF STRONG NEIGHBOURHOODS

In 2006, over half (52 per cent) of Calgary's population had moved within the previous five years. Not surprisingly, mobility was highest in the developing communities, where 81 per cent of the population had moved within the previous five years. The downtown area had the second highest mobility rate, where roughly three-quarters of the population had moved within the previous five years. Mobility was lowest in the inner suburbs, established areas and recent suburbs (Ibid.).

Another factor affecting community vitality is the percentage of the population that lives alone. Persons who live alone are of concern as they may be most vulnerable to isolation and economic insecurity. Calgary's single population continues to be highest in the downtown and inner city, where 37 per cent and 25 per cent of the population respectively lived alone in 2006. Between 2001 and 2006, the percentage of the population living alone rose in all areas of the city, except for the downtown where it fell by 6 percentage points. The percentage of seniors living alone is similarly highest in the downtown and inner-city, where 60 per cent and 44 per cent of seniors respectively lived alone in 2006. As with all persons, the percentage of seniors living alone climbed in all parts of the city, except for the downtown where it fell by two percentage points (Ibid.).

As communities age and change, the role of Community Associations also changes. While Community Associations may have a significant role to play in fostering healthy adjustments to change, they are struggling as organizations, facing declining membership and aging facilities. Decline in membership is being attributed in part to a failure by some organizations to adapt programming to current needs, relying instead on traditional programs that are no longer attracting interest. This may be the result of them continuing to be led by long-time volunteers who are reluctant to deviate from established practices (Kom, 2009b).



► *More Calgarians Choosing Sustainable Transportation Options for Commuting to Work*

One of the impacts of a suburban oriented pattern of growth is the ever-increasing distance required by workers to commute to their jobs. This can result in increasing traffic congestion with associated health and environmental impacts. Recent data, however, show that an increasing share of Calgary workers is opting for more sustainable transportation choices for their commute to work. Between 2001 and 2006, the percentage of workers choosing more sustainable transportation options such as transit, walking and cycling, grew in all areas of the city. Reliance on the automobile however increases significantly with distance from the core. The proportion of workers who took transit, walked or bicycled to work in 2006 was highest in the downtown core, and lowest in the recent suburbs and developing areas (Statistics Canada, 2009s).

As active / sustainable transportation options gain in popularity, walking to work, particularly in the inner city, has increased. Over the past twenty-five years, the number of pedestrians entering the downtown in the morning peak hour has risen steadily from a total of 1,518 in 1980 to 4,634 in 2005. This increase may reflect population growth in the inner city and the fact that most of the inner city is within 30 minutes

walking distance of the downtown core. In order to continue to encourage and facilitate walking, ongoing construction of pedestrian overpasses city-wide is required. Over the past 25 years, the number of pedestrian bridges per 100,000 people has fallen from 7.8 in 1981 to 6.0 in 2006. Over that period of time, the number of pedestrian bridges increased from 46 to 60. This increase, however, was not sufficient to keep pace with Calgary's population growth (City of Calgary, 2008e).

In addition to transit, walking and cycling, telework has also gained importance for Calgary workers, though this is not tracked by the Census. According to a study by The City of Calgary (2008f), between 1996 and 2006, the number of teleworkers in Calgary grew by 128 per cent from 2,150 to

4,900. Between 2001 and 2006, the number of teleworkers grew by 88 per cent, six times faster than the rate of population growth (13 per cent), and four times the rate of job growth (20 per cent). This greatly exceeded the 60 per cent increase in telework predicted nationwide.

While there are some improvements in sustainable transportation commuting to work, there is a long-term trend away from active transportation by children to school. In 2008, only an estimated 35 per cent of Canadian children walked or cycled to school, despite the fact that the majority of them live less than a kilometre away. This compares to an estimated 80 per cent of children who walked or cycled to school in 1970. Factors contributing to the decline in active modes of transportation include lifestyle factors – with more families with both parents working, parents drop off children at school on their way to work in cars as it is more convenient, and parents probably do not have the time to walk with their children to school. As well, the urban environment is often not pedestrian / cycle friendly, with sidewalks that are not large enough and a lack of space on the roads for bicycles. This creates safety concerns that affect the propensity to walk or cycle. The movement away from active commuting to school is affecting the ability of children to get the recommended amount of daily physical activity (Weeks, 2008).

One of the important impacts of our reliance on automobiles as our primary transportation option is the long-term effect on the quality of the air. While air pollution levels in Calgary are currently below national standards, they have been increasing in recent years, and are now approaching national standards. The primary source of air pollution in Calgary is transportation, largely cars and trucks. There is a concern that air quality may continue to deteriorate if action is not taken now to address air quality issues (Cryderman, 2009).

► *Community Infrastructure Deficit Remains*

In Calgary, the recent population boom has resulted in a critical shortage of community social infrastructure, particularly in newer communities. This is resulting in challenges to providing important social programs and services in growing parts of the city. The City of Calgary (2008c) notes that significant population growth and shifts have resulted in large concentrations of youth in neighbourhoods where there are few facilities, programs and services. This trend has been exacerbated by growth in new sports, such as soccer, which is adding to the significant shortage of community sport and recreation space (Kom,

2009d). According to the 2008 Alberta Recreation Survey, the adequacy of facilities is a significant barrier to active living for many people, with overcrowded recreation facilities or areas being identified by 15 per cent of Albertans as a key reason for not starting a new activity (Government of Alberta, 2008c).

Providing adequate new community infrastructure in response to growth is limited by current funding arrangements. Guttormson (2009) reports that current levies to new developments cover only about half of what it costs to actually develop a new subdivision. While such levies are to be applied to services such as transportation, recreation centres and libraries, as a result of negotiations with the development industry in 2000, no levies are applied for hard municipal infrastructure such as roads, transit and water. As a result, the total amount of funding available to service new communities is less than adequate, despite the fact that land is set aside in new developments for additional sport and recreation space.

Not only is The City facing challenges developing facilities in new communities, older areas also continue to be under-served. In many established areas, recreational capacity is insufficient, and many of the facilities that do exist are nearing the end of their life cycle. Currently, the average age of Community Association facilities is 36 years, but there are 24 associations with facilities more than 40 years old, while 8 associations have facilities that are 60 years or older. Facility ageing is exacerbated by years of deferred maintenance and upgrading due to reduced government funding during the 1980's and 1990's (Kom, 2009d).

Many older facilities are now overdue for critical maintenance and upgrades. However, the funds allocated for such upgrades have fallen short of requirements. Over the past several years, associations have requested 30 per cent more in funds from The City of Calgary than what has been allocated. The lack of funding has been exacerbated by the recent smoking by-law which has hurt bingo revenues, previously an important source of funds for Community Associations. This has resulted in important maintenance and upgrades being deferred (Kom, 2009b).

Policy Developments

- In 2009, the Government of Alberta announced that it is launching a comprehensive air quality study of Southern Alberta in response to growing concerns about air quality. This is expected to lead to some form of regional planning on air quality.

5. A CITY OF STRONG NEIGHBOURHOODS

- In 2009, the Government of Alberta announced the establishment of the South Saskatchewan Regional Advisory Council to provide advice to the provincial government as it develops a regional plan under the Land-use Framework. The South Saskatchewan Region includes the City of Calgary. The Advisory Council will provide advice on matters related to water, land use and population growth.
- In 2008, the Government of Alberta introduced Bill 41, an amendment to the Municipal Government Act, which will allow municipalities to designate new uses for surplus school sites. Such uses could include fire halls, police stations, libraries, daycares and affordable housing.
- In 2009, Calgary City Council considered revisions to the Municipal Development Plan that would lead to a denser and more transit-oriented form of development. A decision on this new planning approach is expected in Fall 2009.
- In 2008, Calgary City Council approved directing 5 per cent of provincial Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) funds to culture related infrastructure, a total of \$165M. Two of the funding priorities through this program are for the development of major and smaller community arts centres in suburban areas.
- In response to the challenges facing local Community Associations, The City of Calgary is developing a long-term strategy to revitalize community associations. This strategy is expected to be released in late 2009.
- A new agreement on levies between The City of Calgary and the development industry will be negotiated in late 2009 in order to better fund critical social infrastructure in new communities.

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DATA TABLES

Table 1: Labour Force Estimates (000's), Canada, Alberta and Calgary

CANADA	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Percentage Change	
							2003-08	2007-08
Population	25,106.5	25,443.4	25,805.5	26,185.1	26,553.4	26,924.7	7.2%	1.4%
Labour force	16,958.5	17,182.3	17,342.6	17,592.8	17,945.8	18,245.1	7.6%	1.7%
Employment	15,672.3	15,947	16,169.7	16,484.3	16,866.4	17,125.8	9.3%	1.5%
Full-time	12,705.3	12,998.1	13,206.2	13,509.7	13,803.1	13,976.6	10.0%	1.3%
Part-time	2,967	2,948.9	2,963.5	2,974.7	3,063.3	3,149.2	6.1%	2.8%
Unemployment	1,286.2	1,235.3	1,172.8	1,108.4	1,079.4	1,119.3	-13.0%	3.7%
Not in labour force	8,147.9	8,261.1	8,462.9	8,592.4	8,607.5	8,679.5	6.5%	0.8%
Unemployment rate	7.6	7.2	6.8	6.3	6.0	6.1	-1.5	0.1
Participation rate	67.5	67.5	67.2	67.2	67.6	67.8	0.3	0.2
Employment rate	62.4	62.7	62.7	63	63.5	63.6	1.2	0.1

ALBERTA	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2003-08		2007-08	
							2003-08	2007-08		
Population	2,461	2,505.8	2,555.6	2,641.3	2,740.7	2,796.8	13.6%	2.0%		
Labour force	1,808.8	1,842.4	1,857.5	1,937.5	2,030.6	2,088.1	15.4%	2.8%		
Employment	1,716.7	1,757.5	1,784.4	1,870.7	1,959.4	2,013.3	17.3%	2.8%		
Full-time	1,407.6	1,440.2	1,477.6	1,570.1	1,649.1	1,687.5	19.9%	2.3%		
Part-time	309.1	317.2	306.8	300.6	310.4	325.8	5.4%	5.0%		
Unemployment	92.2	85	73.1	66.8	71.1	74.8	-18.9%	5.2%		
Not in labour force	652.2	663.4	698.1	703.8	710.2	708.7	8.7%	-0.2%		
Unemployment rate	5.1	4.6	3.9	3.4	3.5	3.6	-1.5	0.1		
Participation rate	73.5	73.5	72.7	73.4	74.1	74.7	1.2	0.6		
Employment rate	69.8	70.1	69.8	70.8	71.5	72	2.2	0.5		

CALGARY (CMA)	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2003-08		2007-08	
							2003-08	2007-08		
Population	817.5	835.5	855.6	887.4	923.9	946.5	15.8%	2.4%		
Labour force	616.8	630	630.8	676.9	703.2	729.5	18.3%	3.7%		
Employment	583.5	598.7	605.9	655.1	680.6	704.1	20.7%	3.5%		
Full-time	483.5	492.8	508.3	561.3	583.1	598.4	23.8%	2.6%		
Part-time	100	105.9	97.5	93.9	97.5	105.7	5.7%	8.4%		
Unemployment	33.3	31.3	24.9	21.8	22.7	25.5	-23.4%	12.3%		
Not in labour force	200.7	205.5	224.8	210.5	220.7	217	8.1%	-1.7%		
Unemployment rate	5.4	5	3.9	3.2	3.2	3.5	-1.9	0.3		
Participation rate	75.4	75.4	73.7	76.3	76.1	77.1	1.7	1.0		
Employment rate	71.4	71.7	70.8	73.8	73.7	74.4	3.0	0.7		

Source: Statistics Canada, 2009b

Table 2: Projected Employment Growth and Unemployment Rates, Calgary and Economic Region, 2009-2013

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Employment Growth (Calgary)	-10.5	10	15	20	20
Unemployment Rate (Calgary Economic Region)	6.5	7	5.5	4.5	4

Source: City of Calgary, 2009a

Table 3: Distribution of Labour Force by Selected Social Groups (2006), Showing Share of Projected New Employment (2009-13) by Industry, Calgary

Percent Distribution	% Employment Change 2008-09	Share of Total Employment Growth 2009-13	Distribution of Labour Force, 2006			
			Total Population	Persons with Disabilities	Aboriginal Identity	Recent Immigrants
All industries	-1.4%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Goods	-9.7%	53.7%	23.2%	21.7%	25.3%	23.0%
Primary	-12.6%	6.0%	6.7%	5.0%	4.9%	5.4%
Utilities	56.1%	5.7%	1.0%	0.9%	1.0%	0.5%
Construction	-10.4%	34.8%	8.0%	7.8%	13.5%	4.7%
Manufacturing	-12.1%	7.2%	7.4%	8.0%	5.9%	12.6%
Services	1.9%	46.0%	76.8%	78.3%	74.7%	77.0%
Wholesale Trade	-29.1%	15.1%	4.8%	4.4%	4.1%	4.2%
Retail Trade	0.3%	6.6%	10.6%	11.5%	11.9%	11.4%
Transportation and Warehousing	14.6%	2.5%	5.6%	6.3%	6.1%	4.2%
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	1.6%	3.1%	6.1%	5.6%	4.3%	4.1%
Professional, Scientific and Technical	-7.5%	20.3%	11.8%	10.5%	6.4%	14.4%
Business, Building and Other Support	15.6%	5.7%	4.4%	6.0%	6.9%	7.1%
Educational Services	23.7%	-1.8%	5.8%	5.8%	3.9%	3.8%
Health Care and Social Assistance	-3.5%	-8.5%	8.6%	8.9%	9.1%	7.7%
Information, Culture and Recreation	16.5%	4.5%	4.9%	4.7%	4.8%	3.3%
Accommodation and Food Services	2.7%	5.8%	6.7%	6.4%	9.4%	11.4%
Other Services	3.7%	-0.3%	4.5%	4.9%	4.1%	4.6%
Public Administration	3.1%	-6.9%	2.9%	3.3%	3.7%	0.7%

Source(s): City of Calgary, 2009a; Statistics Canada, 2009c

Table 4: Labour Force Participation Rate by Age, Calgary (CMA)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
15 years and over	75.4	75.4	73.7	76.3	76.1	77.1
15-24 years	72.6	71.6	67.1	73.2	69.6	73.7
25-54 years	89.0	89.5	87.7	89.5	89.5	89
55 years and over	39.5	41.2	40.6	43.6	44.5	46.3

Source: Statistics Canada, 2009b

Table 5: Unemployment Rate by Age, Calgary (CMA)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
15 years and over	5.4	5	3.9	3.2	3.2	3.5
15-24 years	9.2	8.3	8.1	6.6	7	7.4
25-54 years	4.5	4.3	3.1	2.5	2.7	2.7
55 years and over	5.2	3.6	3.9	2.4	1.8	2.9

Source: Statistics Canada, 2009b

Table 6: Median Hourly Wage Rate, Total Employees Age 15+, Canada and Alberta

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Percentage Change	
							2003-08	2007-08
Canada	\$16.00	\$16.35	\$17.00	\$17.31	\$18.00	\$18.76	17.3%	4.2%
Alberta	\$15.87	\$16.00	\$17.18	\$18.46	\$19.67	\$20.51	29.2%	4.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2009b

Table 7: Distribution of Labour Force, Calgary (2006), Showing Share of Projected New Employment (2009-13) by Industry, Calgary, and Median Earnings, Alberta (2007)

Industry	Percent of Labour Force, Calgary, 2006	% of New Employment, Calgary, 2009-13	Median Earnings, Alberta, 2007
Primary (except. Agriculture)	6.7%	6.0%	\$79,700
Utilities	1.0%	5.7%	\$77,700
Public Administration	2.9%	-6.9%	\$55,000
Manufacturing	7.4%	7.2%	\$51,500
Transportation and Warehousing	5.6%	2.5%	\$50,200
Professional, Scientific and Technical	11.8%	20.3%	\$47,400
Construction	8.0%	34.8%	\$46,900
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	6.1%	3.1%	\$41,700
Educational Services	5.8%	-1.8%	\$39,900
Health Care and Social Assistance	8.6%	-8.5%	\$34,500
Business, Building and Other Support	4.4%	5.7%	\$27,200
Other Services	4.5%	-0.3%	\$25,300
Wholesale and Retail Trade	15.4%	21.7%	\$25,000
Information, Culture and Recreation	4.9%	4.5%	\$20,900
Accommodation and Food Services	6.7%	5.8%	\$15,200

Source: City of Calgary, 2009a; Statistics Canada, 2009b

Table 8: Number of Workers (000s) Working Overtime, Alberta

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Percentage Change	
							2003-08	2007-08
Total employees at work	1311.5	1333.2	1339.2	1422.8	1496.9	1537.9	17.3	2.7
Employees working overtime	326.4	326.6	381.3	386.8	415.1	416.1	27.5	0.2
Working unpaid overtime	161.3	148.7	179.4	168.5	174.6	173.8	7.7	-0.5
Working paid overtime	151.3	163.3	185.1	201.7	222.5	227.5	50.4	2.2
Both unpaid and paid overtime	13.9	14.7	16.8	16.5	18	14.8	6.5	-17.8
Average Overtime Hours	12.7	13.5	12.9	13.6	13.9	13.5	6.3	-2.9
Percentage of Workers Working Overtime, Alberta								
Employees working overtime	24.9%	24.5%	28.5%	27.2%	27.7%	27.1%		
Working unpaid overtime	12.3%	11.2%	13.4%	11.8%	11.7%	11.3%		
Working paid overtime	11.5%	12.2%	13.8%	14.2%	14.9%	14.8%		

Source: Statistics Canada, 2009b

Table 9: Average Actual Hours Worked (all workers), by Age and Sex, Alberta

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Both sexes	35.5	35.7	36.3	36.2	36.6	35.9
Men	39.7	40.0	40.7	40.6	40.7	40.0
Women	30.5	30.6	31.0	30.9	31.7	30.8
15 years and over	35.5	35.7	36.3	36.2	36.6	35.9
15-24 years	29.8	30.1	30.9	31.3	31.4	30.9
25-54 years	37.2	37.5	38.0	37.7	38.2	37.3
55-64 years	34.9	35.0	35.0	35.7	36.5	36.0
65 years and over	29.2	28.4	30.6	30.2	29.3	29.8

Source: Statistics Canada, 2009b

Table 10: Multiple Jobholders, Total Employees (Age 15+), Both Sexes, Alberta

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Percentage Change	
							2003-08	2007-08
Total employees at work	1311.5	1333.2	1339.2	1422.8	1496.9	1537.9	17.3%	2.7%
Total employed multiple jobholders	106.4	104.9	111.5	111.7	123.5	120.9	13.6%	-2.1%
Percent multiple jobholders	8.1%	7.9%	8.3%	7.9%	8.3%	7.9%		

Source: Statistics Canada, 2009b

Table 11: Total Population 15 Years and Over by Labour Force Activity for Selected Social Groups,

Calgary (CSD), 2006	Calgary Total	Recent Immigrants	Aboriginal Identity	Visible Minorities	Persons with Disabilities
Total population 15+	801,270	45,325	18,055	179,095	147,045
In the labour force	604,210	33,825	13,915	130,730	75,980
Employed	579,310	31,455	12,895	123,595	71,760
Unemployed	24,895	2,370	1,015	7,130	4,215
Not in the labour force	197,060	11,495	4,145	48,365	71,065
Participation rate	75.4	75.0	77.0	73.0	52.0
Employment rate	72.3	69.0	71.0	69.0	49.0
Unemployment rate	4.1	7.0	7.0	6.0	6.0
Percentage of Labour Force	100.0%	5.6%	2.3%	21.6%	12.6%
Percentage of Unemployed	100.0%	9.5%	4.1%	28.6%	16.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2009c

Table 12: Median employment income for selected social groups, population age 15+, Calgary (CSD), 2006

	Income (\$2005)	% of Calgary Median
Calgary Total	\$31,327	100.0%
Recent Immigrants	\$17,279	55.2%
Aboriginal Identity	\$25,087	80.1%
Visible Minorities	\$23,935	76.4%
Persons with Disabilities	\$25,292	80.7%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2009j

Table 13: Total Income of Individuals (\$2007), Calgary CMA

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	% Chg 2002-07	% Chg 2006-07
Average income	38,800	39,100	41,100	42,100	46,200	49,500	27.6%	7.1%
Median income	29,300	27,700	31,000	30,800	32,300	34,100	16.4%	5.6%
< \$10,000	20	21.6	19.1	18.4	16	14.4	-5.6	-1.6
\$10,000 to \$19,999	17.4	17.3	16.3	16.1	16.5	15.3	-2.1	-1.2
\$20,000 to \$29,999	13.3	14.1	13	14.3	13.5	14.3	1	0.8
\$30,000 to \$39,999	12.7	11.9	14.5	13.2	13	13.2	0.5	0.2
\$40,000 to \$49,999	9	9.3	9.8	9.5	9.3	11	2	1.7
\$50,000 to \$59,999	7.9	7.1	7.6	8.2	8.6	6.4	-1.5	-2.2
\$60,000 and over	19.8	18.6	19.7	20.3	23.1	25.5	5.7	2.4

Source: Statistics Canada, 2009d

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Table 14: Median Total income (\$2007), by Economic Family Type, Calgary CMA

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	% Chg 2002-07	% Chg 2006-07
All family units	62,300	54,400	60,600	59,700	65,800	68,800	10.4%	4.6%
Economic families, Two persons or more	81,000	76,600	80,300	84,900	90,400	94,100	16.2%	4.1%
Two-parent families with children	88,000	86,200	91,100	95,100	98,700	102,300	16.3%	3.6%
Lone-parent families	37,200	37,800	33,700	51,200	65,700	49,300	32.5%	-25.0%
Unattached individuals	27,800	26,100	33,600	35,300	32,800	31,700	14.0%	-3.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2009d

Table 15: Median Total Income of Individuals by Age (2007 constant dollars), Calgary CMA

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	% Chg 2002-07	% Chg 2006-07
All age groups	62,300	56,100	60,600	59,700	65,800	68,800	10.4%	4.6%
Under 25 years	24,900	14,900	21,800	22,700	22,300	36,400	46.2%	63.2%
25 to 34 years	55,500	52,200	63,600	49,500	53,800	63,000	13.5%	17.1%
35 to 44 years	71,800	71,800	72,000	79,900	86,100	94,000	30.9%	9.2%
45 to 54 years	86,500	81,800	96,500	92,800	88,700	86,700	0.2%	-2.3%
55 to 64 years	69,400	66,600	69,200	58,900	69,600	64,700	-6.8%	-7.0%
65 years and over	39,300	37,700	39,200	41,900	41,300	47,800	21.6%	15.7%

Source: Statistics Canada (2009). Income Trends in Canada.

Table 16: Average Household Expenditures by Category, Calgary CMA

	2006 (unadjusted)	2007	% Change 2006-07
Total expenditure	\$97,483	\$94,371	-3.2%
Total current consumption	\$8,092	\$7,815	-3.4%
Food	\$16,794	\$16,391	-2.4%
Shelter	\$4,198	\$3,807	-9.3%
Household operation	\$3,464	\$2,375	-31.4%
Household furnishings and equipment	\$4,256	\$3,878	-8.9%
Clothing	\$13,598	\$13,458	-1.0%
Transportation	\$2,488	\$2,187	-12.1%
Health care	\$1,537	\$1,357	-11.7%
Personal care	\$6,069	\$5,245	-13.6%
Recreation	\$384	\$323	-15.9%
Education	\$1,415	\$1,509	6.6%
Tobacco products and alcoholic beverages	\$1,960	\$1,709	-12.8%
Games of chance (net amount)	\$281	\$216	-23.1%
Miscellaneous	\$1,571	\$1,363	-13.2%
Personal income taxes	\$66,107	\$61,633	-6.8%
Personal insurance payments and pension contributions	\$23,851	\$25,800	8.2%
Gifts of money and contributions	\$5,249	\$4,445	-15.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2009f

Table 17: Poverty Rate by Age, Calgary (CSD), 2001 and 2006

	2001	2006
All ages	14.9%	14.2%
0 – 14 years	16.9%	17.5%
15 – 24 years	20.9%	18.8%
25 – 64 years	12.3%	11.9%
65 and older	17.4%	14.6%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2009c

Table 18: Poverty Rates for Selected Social Groups, Calgary (CSD), 2001 and 2006

	2001	2006
Recent Immigrants	37.3%	32.1%
Aboriginal Persons	31.8%	30.1%
Visible Minority Persons	22.8%	20.7%
Persons with Activity Limitations	21.9%	19.9%
Total	14.9%	14.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2009c

Table 19: Share of Low-income Population for Selected Social Groups, Calgary (CSD), 2001 and 2006

	2001	2006
Recent Immigrants	10.2%	13.1%
Aboriginal Persons	4.8%	5.3%
Visible Minority Persons	28.7%	34.7%
Persons with Activity Limitations	10.2%	13.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2009c

Table 20: Social Assistance Recipients by Program, Calgary

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Percentage Change	
							2003-08	2007-08
Income Support	12,374	12,177	10,119	7,844	8,237	10,583	-15.9%	29.9%
AISH	11,250	11,018	11,854	12,278	11,896	12,319	9.9%	3.4%
GIS	24,288	25,178	26,100	26,301	26,571	25,578	5.5%	-3.8%
TOTAL	47,912	48,373	48,073	46,423	46,704	48,480	1.2%	3.8%
Population	922,315	933,495	956,078	991,759	1,019,942	1,042,819	13.3%	2.3%
Rate of receipt	5.2%	5.2%	5.0%	4.7%	4.6%	4.6%		

Source(s): Government of Alberta, 2009d; Human Resources and Social Development Canada, 2009

Table 21: Selected Housing Indicators, Calgary

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Percentage Change	
							2003-08	2007-08
Private Rental Market Apartment Vacancy Rates (CMA)	4.4	4.3	1.6	0.5	1.5	2.1	-2.3	0.6
Average Monthly Rent for All Unit Types (CMA)	\$721	\$716	\$723	\$851	\$974	\$1,031	43.0%	5.9%
Total Private Market Rental Apartments (CMA)	43,244	42,335	41,416	40,333	38,150	36,858	-14.8%	-3.4%
Home Ownership Rate in Calgary (city)	70.4%	71.2%	71.6%	71.6%	71.7%	71.1%		

Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Company, 2008a

Table 22: Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank Recipients

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Percentage Change	
							2003-08	2007-08
Total Tonnes of Food Distributed	5,024	4,915	4,766	4,903	5,095	5,872	16.9%	15.3%
Total Hampers Distributed	51,820	44,497	41,832	34,070	32,747	37,924	-26.8%	15.8%
Total Clients (including repeat visits)	130,707	111,283	106,435	90,032	85,490	98,096	-24.9%	14.7%
Total Unique Clients (excluding repeat visits)	47,422	44,598	42,883	36,500	34,828	40,239	-15.1%	15.5%
Rate of Receipt (per 1,000) - unique clients	51.4	47.8	44.9	36.8	34.1	38.6	-25.0%	13.0%
Annual % Increase in unique clients	-1.8%	-6.0%	-3.8%	-14.9%	-4.6%	15.5%		

Source: Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank, 2009

Table 23: Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank Hamper Recipients by Age

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Percentage Change	
							2003-08	2007-08
Infants (0-2)	6,893	6,260	6,383	5,591	5,345	5,960	-13.5%	11.5%
Children (3-12)	34,091	28,809	28,068	24,105	22,551	25,717	-24.6%	14.0%
Teens (13-17)	12,748	11,125	10,766	9,337	8,911	9,592	-24.8%	7.6%
Adults (18-64)	75,427	63,796	59,893	49,701	47,451	55,358	-26.6%	16.7%
Seniors (65+)	1,548	1,293	1,325	1,298	1,232	1,469	-5.1%	19.2%

Source: Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank, 2009

Table 24: Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank Hamper Recipients by Income Source

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Percentage Change	
							2003-08	2007-08
Wage	19,694	17,146	16,168	13,672	13,758	15,824	-19.7%	15.0%
Income Support (formerly SFI)	12,242	10,036	9,393	7,818	6,935	7,702	-37.1%	11.1%
No Income	7,029	6,768	6,168	4,856	4,960	6,329	-10.0%	27.6%
AISH	4,706	4,115	3,810	2,978	2,784	2,884	-38.7%	3.6%
Pension	2,149	1,890	1,955	1,720	1,618	1,717	-20.1%	6.1%
EI	2,633	2,023	1,663	1,065	930	1,119	-57.5%	20.3%
Student Finance	1,843	1,317	1,379	1,160	947	903	-51.0%	-4.6%
Other						764	na	na
Child Support	864	679	665	462	510	405	-53.1%	-20.6%
WCB	615	459	402	285	280	251	-59.2%	-10.4%

Source: Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank, 2009

Table 25: Total Immigrant Landings, Canada and Calgary

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Percentage Change	
							2003-08	2007-08
Canada	221,462	235,825	262,241	251,653	236,754	247,243	11.6%	4.4%
Calgary	9,248	9,281	11,047	11,635	10,972	12,689	37.2%	15.6%
% of National Immigration	4.2%	3.9%	4.2%	4.6%	4.4%	5.1%		

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2009b.

Table 26: Immigrant Landings by Immigrant Class, Calgary

	2007		2008		Percent Change 2007-08
	#	%	#	%	
Family Class	3,533	32.2%	3,638	28.7%	3.0%
Economic Immigrants	6,095	55.6%	7,774	61.3%	27.5%
Refugees	1,104	10.1%	980	7.7%	-11.2%
Other	240	2.2%	297	2.3%	23.8%
Total	10,972	100.0%	12,689	100.0%	15.6%

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2009b.

Table 27: Immigrant Landings by Country of Birth – Top Ten Countries, Calgary

Country of birth	2008	2007	Percentage Change (2007-08)
Philippines	1,907	1,391	27.1%
India	1,686	1,503	10.9%
China, People's Republic of	1,084	1,129	-4.2%
Pakistan	820	935	-14.0%
United Kingdom and Colonies	817	458	43.9%
United States of America	441	383	13.2%
Colombia	351	267	23.9%
Korea, Republic of	350	259	26.0%
Venezuela	338	210	37.9%
Nigeria	265	268	-1.1%

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2009b.

Table 28: Immigrant Landings by Official Language Ability, Calgary

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Percentage Change	
							2003-08	2007-08
No Official Languages	4,744	4,772	4,770	4,341	3,703	3,388	-28.6%	-8.5%
English	4,247	4,252	5,766	6,677	6,607	8,673	104.2%	31.3%
French	32	32	80	137	143	133	315.6%	-7.0%
Bilingual	225	225	431	480	519	490	117.8%	-5.6%
Total	9,248	9,281	11,047	11,635	10,972	12,684	37.2%	15.6%

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2009b.

Table 29: Signed Complaints with the Canadian Human Rights Commission

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Percentage Change	
							2003-08	2007-08
Canada	1,084	828	752	717	638	577	-27.9%	-9.6%
Alberta, NWT, and Nunavut	133	98	77	57	61	54	-40.7%	-11.5%
Signed Complaints with the Alberta Human Rights Commission								
Total Signed Complaints	835	869	872	778	659	680	-21.7%	3.2%

Source(s): Canadian Human Rights Commission, 2009; Government of Alberta, 2008b

Table 30: Signed Complaints with the Canadian Human Rights Commission by Grounds of Complaint, Canada

	2007		2008		Percent Change 2007-08
	#	%	#	%	
Disability	298	35%	269	34%	-9.7%
Sex	113	13%	104	13%	-8.0%
National or ethnic origin	98	12%	95	12%	-3.1%
Race	79	9%	72	9%	-8.9%
Age	99	12%	103	13%	4.0%
Family status	37	4%	42	5%	13.5%
Colour	52	6%	40	5%	-23.1%
Religion	31	4%	23	3%	-25.8%
Sexual orientation	18	2%	15	2%	-16.7%
Marital status	14	2%	21	3%	50.0%
Pardon	1	0%	0	0%	-100.0%
Total	840	100%	784	100%	-6.7%

Source: Canadian Human Rights Commission, 2009

Table 31: Number of Hate-Bias Offences Reported to Calgary Police Service

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Percentage Change	
							2003-08	2007-08
Number of Offences	129	133	96	129	114	78	-39.5%	-31.6%

Source: Calgary Police Service, 2009a

Table 32: Percentage of Households Reporting Charitable Contributions, Calgary (CMA)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	% Change	
							2002 -07	2006 -07
Total contributions to charity	76.8%	68.7%	70.9%	76.6%	80.0%	72.1%	-4.7%	3.4%
religious organizations	33.4%	30.6%	27.1%	29.9%	35.0%	27.4%	-6.0%	5.1%
non-religious charitable organizations	63.5%	59.0%	62.3%	69.5%	73.6%	63.1%	-0.4%	4.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2009f

Table 33: Average (\$) Contribution of Households Reporting Contributions, Calgary (CMA)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	% Change	
							2002 -07	2006 -07
Average total contributions to charity	814	954	1,076	1,219	1,307	1,381	69.7%	7.2%
religious organizations	1,225	1,143	1,308	1,821	1,846	1,726	40.9%	1.4%
non-religious charitable organizations	341	517	655	561	545	830	143.4%	-2.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2009f

Table 34: Distribution of Cultural Labour Force by Occupation, Canada and Alberta, 2006

	Canada	Alberta
Musicians and singers	24%	29%
Authors and writers	18%	16%
Producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations	16%	10%
Artisans and craftspersons	12%	13%
Visual artists	12%	14%
Actors and comedians	8%	5%
Dancers	5%	8%
Other performers	3%	3%
Conductors, composers and arrangers	2%	na

Source: Hill and Capriotti, 2009a,b

Table 35: Percentage of Households reporting expenditures on cultural goods and services, Calgary

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Percentage Change	
							2002 -2007	2006 -2007
Live performing arts	38.0%	40.7%	44.0%	48.4%	52.2%	41.5%	3.5%	-10.7%
Admission to museums and other activities	52.0%	48.8%	51.4%	52.5%	53.5%	48.1%	-3.9%	-5.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2009f

Table 36: Average (\$) expenditure per household reporting expenditures on cultural goods and services, Calgary

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Percentage Change	
							2002 -2007	2006 -2007
Live performing arts	253	266	250	293	372	318	25.7%	-14.5%
Admission to museums and other activities	115	130	157	161	155	154	33.9%	-0.6%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2009f

Table 37: Participation in City of Calgary Arts Programs and Courses

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Percentage Change	
						2004-08	2007-08
Art Courses	1,423	1,444	1,502	1,497	1,396	-1.9%	-6.7%
Art Registrations	7,992	9,096	9,303	9,365	9,122	14.1%	-2.6%

Source: City of Calgary, 2009c

Table 38: Percentage of Households Reporting Recreation Expenditures, Calgary (CMA)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Percentage Change	
							2006 - 07	2002 - 07
Total Recreation	99.4%	99.3%	98.2%	99.2%	98.9%	98.5%	-0.4	-0.9
Use of Recreation Facilities	63.5%	57.9%	57.2%	53.2%	58.5%	37.2%	-21.3	-26.3

Source: Statistics Canada, 2009f

Table 39: Average Expenditure (\$) Per Household, Calgary (CMA)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Percentage Change	
							2006 - 07	2002 - 07
Total Recreation	5,089	4,240	4,926	5,359	6,069	5,245	-13.6%	3.1%
Use of Recreation Facilities	529	401	532	541	576	440	-25.7%	-16.8%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2009f

Table 40: Attendance and Participation in City of Calgary Recreation Facilities and Programs

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Percentage Change	
						2004-08	2007-08
Recreation Courses	11,549	11,648	11,550	11,445	10,856	-6.0%	-5.1%
Recreation Registrations	73,407	74,706	75,750	74,928	72,745	-0.9%	-2.9%
Total Facility Attendance	2,784,137	2,818,760	2,829,163	2,743,758	2,612,245†	-6.2%	-4.8%

Source: City of Calgary, 2009c

† Facility attendance in 2008 affected by extended pool closures for maintenance and upgrades

Table 41: Barriers to Participation in Recreation Programs and Activities, Calgary, 2008

	Number	Percent
Total Respondents	3,587	100.0%
Total Reporting Barriers	1,642	45.8%
Total Reporting Barriers	1,642	100.0%
No time	312	19.0%
Involved in other activities	257	15.7%
Work commitments	197	12.0%
Too costly / can't afford	172	10.5%
Too far away / inconvenient	154	9.4%
Not interested / lazy	113	6.9%
The right kinds of recreation / leisure opportunities / amenities not available	100	6.1%
Age / Poor health / physically challenged	72	4.4%
Nothing organized / available	72	4.4%
Family commitments	60	3.6%
Opportunities available too full / crowded	48	2.9%
Opportunities available do not suit my schedule	29	1.8%
Lack of awareness / information	18	1.1%
No children / children grown up	18	1.1%
Travel a lot	12	0.7%
Feel uncomfortable with other people who participate / intimidated by others	6	0.4%

Source: HarGroup et al, 2009.

Table 42: Person and Property Crimes, Calgary

Person Crimes	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Rate / 100,000	1,047.8	1,007.7	988.4	923.1	812.9	800.3
Number of Offences	9,664	9,407	9,450	9,155	8,291	8,346
Annual % chg		-2.66%	0.46%	-3.12%	-9.44%	0.66%
Property Crimes						
Rate / 100,000	6,183	5,764	5,625	5,503	5,214	4,768
Number of Offences	57,024	53,807	53,785	54,581	53,185	49,726
Annual % chg		-5.64%	-0.04%	1.48%	-2.56%	-6.50%

Source: Calgary Police Service, 2009

Table 43: Crime Severity Index

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Calgary	97.8	90.4	97	97.6	96.1	91.5
National Average	97.7	96.1	98.5	100	96.5	na

Source: Calgary Police Service, 2009

Table 44: Victim Reported Domestic Offences, Calgary

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Percentage Change	
							2003-08	2007-08
Total Reported Offences	4,956	4,748	4,621	4,268	3,564	4,002	-19.2%	12.29%

Source: Calgary Police Service, Personal Communication

Table 45: Calgary Fire Department Incident Summary³ by Major Incident Type, 2006-2008

Major Incident Type	2006	2007	2008	Change 2007-08	% Change 2007-08
Fire	2,519	2,209	2,467	258	11.7%
Rupture/Explosion	30	25	21	-4	-16.0%
Medical/Rescue	19,029	21,589	23,446	1,857	8.6%
Hazardous Condition	5,210	6,047	6,539	492	8.1%
Public Service Assistance	3,214	3,655	3,987	332	9.1%
Investigation	3,475	3,719	4,889	1,170	31.5%
False Alarm	7,559	7,475	8,479	1,004	13.4%
Severe Weather	40	168	48	-120	-71.4%
Total	41,076	44,887	49,876	4,989	11.1%

³ Included in the total incident count are all types of incidents, both within city limits and outside city limits, but excluding exposure fires as these are part of the main incident already included in the count.

Source: CFD FireRMS

Table 46: Population by Urban Area, Calgary

Urban Area	2008	2009	Population Change 2008-09		
			Number	Percent	% of Growth
Downtown / Inner City	137,000	138,459	1,459	1.1%	6.5%
Established Areas	410,469	409,993	-476	-0.1%	-2.1%
Recent Suburbs	297,278	297,809	531	0.2%	2.4%
Developing Communities	194,256	215,495	21,239	10.9%	94.1%
Industrial / Residual	3,874	3,699	-175	-4.5%	-0.8%
Total	1,042,877	1,065,455	22,578	2.2%	100.0%

Source: City of Calgary, Civic Census 2009

Table 47: Distribution of Population by Urban Area, Calgary

	2008	2009	Change
Downtown / Inner City	13.1%	13.0%	-0.1%
Established Areas	39.4%	38.5%	-0.9%
Recent Suburbs	28.5%	28.0%	-0.6%
Developing Communities	18.6%	20.2%	1.6%

Source: City of Calgary, Civic Census 2009

Table 48: Concentration of Racialized (Visible Minority and Aboriginal) Population, Calgary

	2001			2006		
	Number of Communities	Racialized Population	% of Calgary's Racialized Population	Number of Communities	Racialized Population	% of Calgary's Racialized Population
30% of Population or Greater	29	89,265	48.9%	44	135,745	52.8%
50% of Population or Greater	6	20,485	11.2%	15	63,510	24.7%

Table 49: Communities with Poverty Rates of 30% or Greater, Calgary

	2001	2006
Communities	13	9
Low-income Population	13,540	8,057
% of Low-income Population	10.5%	5.8%

Table 50: Comparison of Community Median Household Income, Calgary

	2001	2006	% Change
Calgary Median	\$57,879	\$67,238	16.2%
Community with Highest Median Income	\$184,383	\$292,974	58.9%
Community with Lowest Median	\$16,174	\$17,253	6.7%
Ratio Highest / Lowest	8.8%	5.9%	
Calgary Median as % of Highest	31.4%	23.0%	

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Dr. John te Linde has twenty five years of research and management experience in both academic and applied settings. His background includes work in social planning, social policy, community development, family therapy, population surveys, needs assessments, program evaluations, business planning, and experimental psychology.

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