

Understanding Values & Priorities Phase 2 Community Forum

Hosted by : Ethnocultural Society and Immigrant Sector Council of
Calgary
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What city services are most important to you?

- Racial profiling information and complaint line
- Multicultural Center
- Calgary Sexual Health Center
- Youth House (playground house youth could attend during school day after 6-8 pm)
- Community recording studio
- Youth artist showcase
- After school programs
- Educational
- Community services
- Child care
- Youth
- Affordable housing
- Affordable housing for new comers to Calgary
- Social services and mental health
- Calgary housing
- Programs for youth
- Affordable housing
- Affordable housing for new comers
- Community and neighborhood services
- Community services
- Community services
- Affordable child care
- Child care
- Child care
- Child care
- Child care services
- Library

- Library
- Library
- Public library services
- After school programs for children and youth, especially ESL students
- Animal shelters
- Policing
- Policing and crime
- Emergency services
- Safety
- Police check stops
- Ambulance rates reduced
- Calgary police
- Youth intervention services
- Emergency - Police and Fire
- Emergency services
- Drugs
- Drugs
- Law
- Safety for old people
- Crimes in school - teenage
- Transportation
- Transportation
- Transportation
- Downtown parking
- Lower parking rates downtown
- Transit
- Transit
- Transit
- Transit
- Low-income transit for larger low-income families
- Economic diversity
- Local online courses
- Continuing education
- Youth employment services
- Jobs
- Job opportunities
- Training programs and job opportunities
- Youth Employment Center
- Property tax decreased
- Education
- Education
- Education

- Education
- Distance learning and continuing education
- Education
- Drugs
- Health
- Health
- Health care
- Water services
- Recycling
- Recycling
- Bike paths
- Recreation centers
- Recreation
- Parks
- Parks
- Recreation
- Parks
- Parks and recreation facilities
- Parks
- Child care
- Parks
- Sexual Health Center
- The Distress Center (emotional support)
- Community activities that encourage/promotes multiculturalism
- Translation cultural competence in services
- Cultural education
- A center for multicultural activities
- Center or hub for ethnocultural communities
- Services that help new Canadians adjust to living in Calgary (e.g. what to do when faced with disputes with neighbors)
- Addressing racial discrimination in public places

What improvements, enhancements or changes would you recommend for these city services?

Community Services

- Calgary police youth initiative
 - Talk to kids about dangers they are facing
 - Pro-active policing, active in community
- Youth Employment Center
 - Provide career counseling
 - Have it available in all 4 quadrants of the city
 - Current location is somewhat dangerous area

- No activities for youth ages 14-18
 - Lack of somewhere to go
 - Lack of transportation
 - Worry when they go to malls
- Eligible/available
- Keeping youth busy - extending programming
- In the summer when kids are out of school
 - Current programs very expensive
- Libraries
 - Provide computer/internet
 - Help with resume/English as a 2nd language
 - This helps people find the contacts they need to change/improve life
- School registration fee - expensive
- Community service work from youth
 - Cannot allow turn around negative behaviors
- Good for youth to do volunteer work
- Match up youth with university students/other
- Mentor/mentee relationships (tutor them)
- Help with transition to new Canadian education system
- Needs to be long-term process
- Provide orientation to new community members
- Help with people making mistakes, not knowing what to do
- They can help with the transition to new community
- Understanding the rules of living in Calgary
- Seniors
 - Looking for programs to pass leisure time
 - Looking at learning new skills, help them become economically viable
- Having more variety of languages for people to access service
 - e.g. More than English and French
 - Use a touch tone - you want Spanish, press 3
- City lacking advertising for the programs available
- People do not know about translation or other services
- Could advertise after school care
- Use advertising at grocery stores or unexpected places or places where people have to go

Police/Safety

- Need to identify problem first
- Spend lots of dollars controlling issues
- Preventative policing (e.g. stopping liquor related offenses and affects family welfare/health)
- Stop problem before or let problem happen and then create solution
- It shows that the law is just for the people who cannot fight for it

- Approach needs to be proactive instead of reactive
- Services should be provided equitably across the quadrants of the city

Multicultural Services

- Library improvement, look at the community being served in that area and purchase books for the library that represent the diversity of the community
- Different cultures have different values that city services need to understand and accommodate, i.e. police do not understand cultural differences and it would be beneficial to increase education; police look only to enforce the law
- Sensitivity training for people in higher positions would be very valuable
- Racial discrimination is covert; immigrants need to be able to call it with a sense of safety, has not changed for many years, about job equals
- Canada is purported to support multiculturalism, people would benefit from better programs to educate existing Canadians. There are lots of double standards
- Racial profiling is alive and well
- City faces lots of issues that are determined by federal policies; city needs to step up to make change
- South Africa uses an “Equity Plan” for having people, etc. which is enforced by law, might be something for city to consider to integrate people
- Transit system is a step up from original country
- Calgary is a land of opportunity. Average person is kind, egalitarian
- Calgary is a growing city, elected officials/administration have to keep that in mind when planning for future
- Planning is important, but implementation is more important “all talk no action”
- An idea - Multicultural Day. Everybody participates. School, businesses, whole city. Cultural food. People dress in cultural clothing. Teach each other dances
- Calgary needs such a festival to celebrate our growing diversity
- New immigrants are not comfortable joining community associations. The associations need to reach out to new community members. Why not come together with cultural communities to find a more cohesive way. A name change would also help to start fresh

Parks and Recreation

- More youth programs more accessible
- Fine performing arts more accessible
- Center for Youth House - 4-8 pm
 - Drop in gathering place for youth
 - 1 or 2 adults supervise
 - T.V., ping pong, video games
- Need more active parks in city center (e.g. soccer, baseball), only park bench type now
- Skateboard parks
- Need more school programs that are more active, better advertising, increase awareness by youth
- All parks should have bike lanes, network throughout the city

- Cultural awareness programs especially youth after/in school
- School bullying issue

Transit/Transportation

