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Welcome to Calgary
Greetings

MAYOR
NAHEED K. NENSHI

Welcome to the Municipal Handbook—a fascinating snapshot of The City of Calgary including our storied history, our most important traditions, and how our local government works. I suspect that even long-time residents of Calgary will find some tidbits of information that are new to them. On behalf of my colleagues on City Council, I hope that this handbook helps you to become better acquainted with our great city. I encourage you to visit The City website at calgary.ca to learn even more about Calgary.

CITY MANAGER
JEFF FIELDING

This Municipal Handbook helps explain how The City of Calgary operates and what it does for our community. Thousands of employees provide hundreds of services and our organization is very proud that our work supports the quality of life enjoyed in Calgary. You are invited to learn more about how civic government works and how it contributes to the wonderful fabric that is Calgary.
Our Crest

Calgary’s official crest was created through a local contest and adopted in 1902. The upper-third of the crest shows the setting sun above a mural crown (symbol of loyalty) and the Rocky Mountains. The lower two-thirds bear the red cross of St. George and the Canadian maple leaf with a bison in the centre of the leaf. A horse and a steer representing Calgary’s early economy support the crest. Below the shield are the Canadian maple leaf, the leek of Wales, the shamrock of Ireland, the rose of England and the thistle of Scotland.

On the scroll is Calgary’s motto “Onward,” with the dates of incorporation as a town (1884) and as a city (1894). Under the scroll are the Union Jack and the Red Ensign.

From 1902 to 1984, the official crest existed only in black and white. In 1984, an alderman asked The City to develop the crest in full colour, using the original design approved in 1902.

Our Flag

The design for The City’s official flag was selected through a competition conducted by the Centennial of Incorporation Committee. The winning design, created by Yvonne Fritz and Gwin Clarke, was officially adopted by City Council in 1983.

The design incorporates a white hat and the stylized letter ‘C,’ symbolizing harmony among The City and the hospitality and spirit of its citizens. The letter ‘C’ marks The City’s centennial year. Historically, this letter mark signifies the character, change, culture and charm synonymous with the Calgary community.

Official colours of red and white depict Calgary’s lively development. The scarlet colouring of the Northwest Mounted Police uniform is captured in the brilliant red and white of the fields. This colour combination reflects Calgary’s hospitality and spirit.
Our Song

Following a national contest held in 1986, City Council approved an original tune composed and written by Barry Bowman and Tom Loney. Neighbours of the World is the official song of Calgary. To listen to a recording of the song, please click below:

Neighbours of the World
Neighbours of the World Instrumental

The City of Calgary holds copyright to both versions of the song Neighbours of the World.

This, this is the time
Here, here is the place to be
Stay, and set your spirit free
Come now, now, now, now

Let everyone know
Let everyone come to see
Our dreams turn into reality
A place for us to share

For we are neighbours of the world
A shining city we call Calgary
For we are neighbours of the world
A place for you, a place for me

A new beginning for you
Treasure all the time you spend
Calgary is your journey’s end
Come now, now, now, now

Hey, tell all the world
This, this is our finest year
You’ll find your tomorrow’s here
You’ll find it here today

For we are neighbours of the world
A shining city we call Calgary
For we are neighbours of the world
A place for you, a place for me

Reach out, let’s make a bridge
Take the hands of your brand-new friends
Share the feeling that never ends
We’re neighbours of the world

Yes we are neighbours of the world
A shining city we call Calgary
For we are neighbours of the world
A place for you, a place for me

Our Flower

In 1991, The City adopted the red pasque flower (anemone pulsatilla rubra) as its official floral emblem. This flower is a fitting symbol for Calgary as it closely resembles the prairie crocus, growing wild in the Calgary area. Unlike the prairie crocus, the red pasque has been hybridized and can be grown by local gardeners.
Our sister cities

Reflecting the growing importance of international relations, The City of Calgary shares sister city status with six cities around the world. This status ensures mutually beneficial arrangements in areas such as culture, education, business, trade and investment. Calgary’s sister cities are:

QUEBEC CITY, CANADA (1956)
Quebec City is Calgary’s longest-standing sister city, and the oldest relationship of its type in Canada. The relationship recognizes the similarities between the two cities, including population, river landscape and our similar dynamic and diverse communities as well as the large festivals that the cities host – the Quebec Winter Carnival and the Calgary Stampede.

JAIPUR, INDIA (1973)
Jaipur, known as the “Pink City” because of the distinctive colour of its buildings, has gone through tremendous economic reforms and deregulations that resulted from twinning with Calgary in 1973.

DAQING, CHINA (1985)
Paired with Calgary for its affiliation with the oil and gas industry; many special associations have developed between the two cities since their twinning, including the naming of Daqing Avenue in Calgary’s Chinatown.

NAUCALPAN, MEXICO (1994)
Signed a sister city agreement with Calgary. Naucalpan is a strong industrial centre containing about 60 per cent of Mexico City’s industries.

DAEJEON, KOREA (1996)
Twinned with Calgary for mutual interests in science, technology, research and development.

Phoenix is Calgary’s most recent sister city and is the fifth largest city in the United States. The Calgary-Phoenix sister city relationship was established due to the complementary nature of the two cities’ economies and communities.
Facts about Calgary

(As of July 2013, unless noted otherwise)

Population: 1,149,552
Location: in the foothills of Alberta’s Rocky Mountains, where the Bow and Elbow rivers meet
Comparative size: largest city in Alberta and third-largest city in Canada
Area: 848 sq KM
Elevation: 1,128 metres above sea level
Last municipal election: Oct. 21, 2013
Next municipal election: Oct. 16, 2017
Total number of public park sites: more than 5,600

Total area parkland: more than 10,000 hectares
Length of Calgary’s pathway system: more than nearly 800 km
Number of library locations: 18
Number of licensed dogs: 108,688 (as of December 2012)
Number of licensed cats: 48,279 (as of December 2012)
Street lamps: 79,582
Envirosmart street lamps: 57,327

Our Population Growth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1884</td>
<td>506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1894</td>
<td>3,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>1904</td>
<td>10,543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1948</td>
<td>104,718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>206,831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>218,418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>311,116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>403,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>505,637</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>623,133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>708,593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>819,334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>904,987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>1,019,942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>1,071,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1,090,936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1,120,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1,149,552</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Calgary’s Centre City

Calgary is home to several of the tallest buildings in Canada. The Bow Building is the tallest tower in Canada west of Toronto at 58 stories. The next tallest buildings in Calgary are the Suncor Energy Centre with 53 floors, and Banker’s Hall with 52 floors. Many of these buildings are connected by 18 kilometres of walkways and bridges elevated 15 feet (4.5 Meters) above street level known as the +15. This network is the largest of its kind in the world.

Business Revitalization Zones (BRZs)

A Business Revitalization Zone is a self-help program by which businesses in an area can jointly raise and administer funds to improve and promote their businesses and communities.

Calgary has several BRZs around the city:
- 4th Street BRZ
- Calgary Downtown Association
- Kensington BRZ
- Inglewood BRZ
- International Avenue BRZ
- Marda Loop BRZ
- 17th Avenue Retail Entertainment District
- Victoria Park BRZ
- Bowness BRZ
- Montgomery BRZ

The economic development of these zones is enhanced through promotions and marketing. These groups have found success in improving public parking, neighbourhood beautification and crime reduction because of the community approach to problem solving.

A Business Revitalization Zone advocates, promotes and creates a vibrant commercial area where community and business flourish.

Our White-hatting tradition

One of the enduring symbols of Calgary’s western hospitality is the white cowboy hat. Paying tribute to Calgary’s western heritage, the Calgary Stampede and the city’s pioneering spirit, the hat symbolizes many of Calgary’s best attributes. The Mayor’s Office, in partnership with Tourism Calgary, continues to play an integral role in promoting the symbol by welcoming visitors to the city and presenting them with a white hat in an official white hat ceremony.

The origin of the white hat dates back to 1947, when local oilman Bill Herron and his family chose to wear white hats to complement their western attire for the Calgary Stampede Parade. The family received the “best dressed” prize for their matching black and white outfits, horses, saddles and bridles. Demand skyrocketed for white hats made in Calgary by local hat maker Morris Shumiatcher of Smithbilt Hats.

A year later in 1948, the Calgary Stampeders qualified to play for the Grey Cup in Toronto against the Ottawa Rough Riders. It was the first time the Stampeders had qualified for the Grey Cup finals, and Calgarians were so excited that a group of prominent local citizens chartered a train to take fans to Toronto for the game. Two hundred and fifty Stampeders fans and a host of entertainers, all clad in the unofficial outfit of white hats and colourful bandanas, boarded the train, along with a chuckwagon and 12 horses. In the days leading up to the big game, Stampeder fans amazed Torontonians with square dancing in the streets, pancake breakfasts, riders on horseback and the official presentation of a white hat to the mayor of Toronto.

After the Stampeders won the Grey Cup, the fans, horses and assorted entertainers piled back on the train and celebrated all the way back to Calgary. Among the jubilant fans was a young alderman and radio announcer, Don MacKay, who went on to be elected as mayor in 1950. Being a skilled promoter, MacKay distributed white hats as gifts to all visiting dignitaries and the tradition of the white hat was established.
Calgary’s Transit System

Calgary’s light rail transit (LRT) system is known as the CTrain and was one of the first such systems in North America – after Edmonton’s LRT and the San Diego Trolley.

This system consists of the Blue Line (Saddletowne to 69 Street) and the Red Line (Crowfoot to Somerset-Bridlewood) on 53 kilometres of track. More than 50 per cent of downtown workers take Calgary Transit to get to their jobs, while 39 per cent of downtown workers travel by car.

The City’s bus system has approximately 160 routes serviced by over 1,000 vehicles. When full, each bus can carry as many people as 41 cars (at the average of 1.2 people per car) and an extended articulating bus can carry as many people as 104 cars.

City Parks and Green Spaces

Calgary has over 10,000 hectares of parkland combined with more than 5,600 public park sites. These areas are connected by nearly 800 kilometres of paths for walking, cycling and inline skating. You can also enjoy walking your dog in any of the 150 off-leash areas.
Major events and attractions

Each year, Calgary plays host to countless special events and festivals. Dedicated to everything from food and wine to folk, reggae, blues and jazz music – and everything in between – Calgary’s festivals and events have something for all tastes.

We encourage you to checkout visitcalgary.com for a complete listing of events.

Leisure and recreational facilities and attractions open to the public

Calgary has many leisure and recreational facilities open year-round. The City of Calgary operates 12 arenas, 12 athletic parks, 12 pools and fitness centres, 6 public golf courses, 2 art centres and 2 leisure centres. The City of Calgary’s Recreation program guide provides details on leisure programs, services and special events.

Visit calgary.ca/recreation or pick up a Recreation program guide on stands located throughout Calgary.
Municipal Government
Municipal government

The role of City Council is to govern The City of Calgary, Calgary’s municipal corporation, to ensure it provides the civic services Calgarians need and want. In carrying out its many duties, City Council must respond to citizens’ immediate concerns and opportunities, as well as anticipate and plan for the community’s long-term development and growth.

Calgary City Council consists of one mayor, who represents the entire city, and 14 councillors, who represent different “wards” or specific areas of the city. The mayor is elected city-wide by all eligible voters, whereas councillors are elected by the constituents of their individual wards. Both the mayor and councillors hold office for four-year terms.

Council sets priorities, establishes policy and makes decisions based on information from four Standing Policy Committees:
- Community and Protective Services
- Planning and Urban Development
- Transportation and Transit
- Utilities and Corporate Services

Council meets regularly on the first and third Mondays of each month. One of these meetings is a regular Council meeting where the issues from the policy committees are discussed and the results of any strategic planning session are shared. The other meeting is a combined Council meeting and public hearing where planning matters are also discussed.

In order to vote in a Calgary municipal election, you must be at least 18 years old, a Canadian citizen, a resident of Calgary and have resided in Alberta for at least six (6) consecutive months immediately preceding election day.

To run for the office of the councillors or mayor, a candidate must be eligible to vote in that election, must have been a resident of the local jurisdiction for six (6) consecutive months prior to the election, and must submit nomination papers containing 100 signatures and a deposit of $500 for The Office of The Mayor and $100 for The Office of The Councillor.

Boards, commissions and committees that report to Council

From Aboriginal Urban Affairs to The Calgary Zoological Society, approximately 90 boards, commissions and committees report regularly to City Council. Each has a particular mandate, reporting to City Council on their specific area of importance. Visit calgary.ca for a complete list of boards, commissions and committees along with their current members, mandates and meeting dates.

Appointment of citizen members to City committees, boards and commissions

Every summer, The City invites citizens to apply for vacant positions on various boards, commissions and committees. Advertisements appear in local newspapers describing the number of members to be appointed, any special eligibility qualifications, terms of appointments, and meeting times, lengths and schedules.

For additional information about the appointment process and how to apply, contact The City Clerk’s Office at 403-268-5861 or online at calgary.ca/cityclerks.
2013 – 2017 City Council

WARD 1
Councillor Ward Sutherland

WARD 2
Councillor Joe Magliocca

WARD 3
Councillor Jim Stevenson

WARD 4
Councillor Sean Chu

WARD 5
Councillor Ray Jones

WARD 6
Councillor Richard Pootmans

WARD 7
Councillor Druh Farrell

WARD 8
Councillor Evan Woolley

WARD 9
Councillor Gian-Carlo Carra

WARD 10
Councillor Andre Chabot

WARD 11
Councillor Brian Pincott

WARD 12
Councillor Shane Keating

WARD 13
Councillor Diane Colley-Urquhart

WARD 14
Councillor Peter Demong
City Council – a brief history

There have been various changes over the years to the structure of Calgary City Council and to the election process. Mayoralty contests (now referred to as elections) were held annually from 1884 to 1923. Calgary Mayors began serving a two-year term following a plebiscite in 1923. In 1968, the *Municipal Government Act* increased the mayor’s term of office to three years.

The number of aldermen and their method of election have also changed. From 1884 to 1886, four councillors were selected from the town at large. In 1894, the same year that Calgary became a city, the term “councillor” was replaced by “alderman” and Calgary was divided into three wards, with three representatives from each ward representing their constituents, for a total of nine aldermen. In 1906 a fourth ward was created, bringing the total number of aldermen to 12. The ward system was not used from 1914 to 1960 when aldermen were elected from across the city for two-year terms.

The ward system was re-established in 1960 following a plebiscite. Six wards were established in October, each represented by two aldermen. In 1976, the number of wards was increased to 14. We still have 14 wards today, and aldermen are once again referred to as councillors. As of the 2013 election, City Council will serve a four-year term.

Plebiscites

A plebiscite is an important public issue driven by citizens, through a petition, or by City Council itself, and then voted on directly by citizens. The results of the vote can be either binding or non-binding.

Some of the most recent plebiscites in Calgary include the fluoridation issue in 1989 and 1998, and the video lottery terminal issue in 1998. For more information about past plebiscites please contact The City of Calgary Corporate Records and Archives at archives@calgary.ca.
## The City of Calgary Mayors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mayor</th>
<th>Term began</th>
<th>Term ended</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>George Murdoch</td>
<td>Dec. 4, 1884</td>
<td>Oct. 21, 1886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Clift King</td>
<td>Nov. 4, 1886</td>
<td>Jan. 16, 1888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Webster Marsh</td>
<td>Jan. 21, 1889</td>
<td>Jan. 20, 1890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Delamere Lafferty</td>
<td>Jan. 20, 1890</td>
<td>Jan. 19, 1891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Reilly</td>
<td>Jan. 19, 1891</td>
<td>Jan. 18, 1892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander Lucas</td>
<td>Jan. 18, 1892</td>
<td>Jan. 2, 1894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wesley Fletcher Orr</td>
<td>Jan. 16, 1894</td>
<td>Jan. 6, 1896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander McBride</td>
<td>Jan. 6, 1896</td>
<td>Jan. 4, 1897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wesley Fletcher Orr *</td>
<td>Jan. 4, 1897</td>
<td>Jan. 3, 1898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthur Leslie Cameron</td>
<td>Jan. 3, 1898</td>
<td>Jan. 3, 1899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Reilly *</td>
<td>Jan. 3, 1899</td>
<td>Jan. 2, 1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Henry Cushing</td>
<td>Jan. 2, 1900</td>
<td>Jan. 7, 1901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Stuart Mackie</td>
<td>Jan. 7, 1901</td>
<td>Jan. 6, 1902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Underwood</td>
<td>Jan. 6, 1902</td>
<td>Jan. 5, 1904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Emerson</td>
<td>Jan. 2, 1905</td>
<td>Jan. 14, 1907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Hunter Adams</td>
<td>Jan. 3, 1921</td>
<td>Jan. 2, 1923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Harry Webster</td>
<td>Jan. 2, 1923</td>
<td>Dec. 31, 1926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frederick Ernest Osborne</td>
<td>Jan. 3, 1927</td>
<td>Dec. 31, 1929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Davison</td>
<td>Jan. 1, 1930</td>
<td>Dec. 31, 1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Cameron Watson</td>
<td>Jan. 1, 1946</td>
<td>Dec. 31, 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Walter Grant MacEwan</td>
<td>July 4, 1963</td>
<td>Oct. 18, 1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naheed Kurban Nenshi</td>
<td>Oct. 25, 2010</td>
<td>present</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ward boundaries

Councillor Joe Magliocca
WARD 2

Councillor Druh Farrell
WARD 7

Councillor Evan Woolley
WARD 8

Councillor Richard Pootmans
WARD 6

Councillor Ward Sutherland
WARD 1

Councillor Ray Jones
WARD 5

Councillor Brian Pincott
WARD 11

Councillor Gian-Carlo Carra
WARD 9

Councillor Peter Demong
WARD 14

Councillor Shane Keating
WARD 12

Councillor Councillor Jim Stevenson
WARD 3

Councillor Councillor Andre Chabot
WARD 10

Councillor Councillor Diane Colley-Urquhart
WARD 13

Councillor Councillor Ray Jones
WARD 4

Councillor Councillor Councillor"
The Municipal Building

Calgary’s municipal government is located in three inter-connected buildings in downtown Calgary at Macleod Trail and Seventh Avenue S.E.

City Hall – a history of our buildings

The oldest of the municipal buildings is the City Hall Building, which is a historic site. Constructed from locally sourced sandstone and featuring a 32.7 metre (100-foot) clock tower that chimes every half-hour, the building was officially opened by Sir Robert L. Borden on June 26, 1911, four months before he became Canada’s eighth prime minister.

The City Hall Building has received three heritage designations: Municipal, Provincial and National. The building underwent major interior renovations from 1995 to 1997. These renovations implemented some of the originally planned features that were initially scrapped to save costs, including a tile floor featuring a compass made of coloured stone. The offices of the mayor, councillors and City Clerk are all located in the City Hall Building.

In 1960, City Council approved the construction of a City office building. Completed in 1962, the building was designed by Rule, Wynn and Rule Architects. The Administration Building is joined to City Hall by a series of connecting corridors and stairs on several levels.

Calgarians laid the foundation for a new local government building in 1980, when they voted in favour of The City constructing its own government building as opposed to renting office space in privately owned buildings. Calgary architect Christopher Ballyn won The City sponsored province-wide competition with his unique triangular mirrored glass design. The 14-storey Calgary Municipal Building officially opened Oct. 18, 1985.
Municipal Administration
Municipal Administration

The City of Calgary’s Administration is responsible for managing and delivering more than 500 civic services. The City Manager’s Office provides leadership and direction to the five departments of Administration.

The City Manager, chief financial officer and five general managers oversee The City’s operating and capital budgets and are accountable for long-range and corporate plans for the organization. They also provide Council with information and advice on policy matters, ensuring that Council’s decisions, policies and programs are executed.

The City Manager, responsible to Council, leads The City Manager’s Office and Administration, and maintains key relationships with other levels of government. The City Manager ensures The Corporation supports the mayor and councillors and delivers on Council’s agenda and priorities. In addition he/she supports initiatives to strengthen the workplace, creating an environment where people can do great work. Most importantly, The City Manager directs The Corporation to deliver quality public services for all Calgarians.

The City of Calgary Administration – A brief history

The first City administrators were a board of commissioners, including the mayor, City Clerk and City engineer, appointed by City Council in 1905.

Various changes between 1905 and 1923 eventually established two elected officials as the board of commissioners – one being the mayor. In 1952, City Council appointed two commissioners that, along with the mayor, made up the board of commissioners. In 1959, City Council appointed a third commissioner, increasing the board’s total membership to four.

In 1968, the mayor ceased to be chairman of the board of commissioners, becoming an ex-officio member of the board. In 1971, the board expanded to four appointed commissioners.

A City-wide organizational review in 1999 and 2000 brought change to The City’s management structure. An executive team consisting of a chief executive officer and five executive officers replaced the board of commissioners structure and realigned business units.

The new structure is designed to:

- Support maximum effectiveness and efficiency in service delivery.
- Create consistent structure throughout The Corporation, in turn giving employees consistent and fair access to resources and opportunities.
- Challenge employees to innovate and continuously make service improvements — to examine what they do and how they do it on a daily basis — so that customers, the citizens of Calgary, recognize that The City provides maximum value for taxes and fees paid.
Today the chief executive officer is called The City Manager, who leads the Administration’s six departments. Under these six departments are The City’s business units that are responsible for delivering more than 500 services to the citizens of Calgary. General managers of each department direct City operations within the policy direction of City Council and approve budget provisions in accordance with the Municipal Government Act and Commissioners’ Bylaw No. 9017.

City Services

Although City Hall is located downtown, numerous City facilities and services are found in every quadrant of Calgary. The City is in your community operating swimming pools, maintaining parks and green spaces, fixing potholes and providing Calgarians with safe drinking water. More than 500 City services are provided to Calgarians, contributing to the city’s high quality of life and livability.

Calgary’s Information Call Centre

The City’s 311 service, launched in 2005, provides citizens, business owners and visitors with access to non emergency City services. Visit calgary.ca/311 to learn more.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP) has been in effect at The City of Calgary since October 1999. The principles of this legislation are in keeping with the way The City has conducted business since 1970.

WHY IS FOIP IMPORTANT?

Providing access to information is a significant part of being an accountable local government.

The City dedicates itself to providing citizens access to information, while at the same time ensuring the protection of individual privacy.

HOW DO WE DO THIS?

By collecting information only when required and authorized by you.

For more specifics on accessing information from The City of Calgary, or to find out more about FOIP, visit The City of Calgary website at calgary.ca/cityclerks.
Historical Timeline
A snapshot of Calgary history

1875
Northwest Mounted Police fort established at the junction of the Bow and Elbow rivers. First officially named Fort Brisbois, the fort is renamed “Fort Calgary” a year later.

1884
Calgary is officially incorporated as a town, George Murdoch elected as Calgary’s first mayor.

1885
Calgary’s first town hall and jail are built.

1887
First fire hall built. Telephones and electric street lights installed.

1891
Calgary’s first public park was developed adjacent to the Canadian Pacific Railway station (where the Calgary Tower now stands).

1894
Calgary officially incorporated as a city with a population of 3,900.

1904
City Council decides to number streets and avenues and discontinue the use of names.

1909
Municipal transit service begins on July 5 with two Calgary Municipal Railway streetcars.

1911
City Hall opens for business.

1912
First Calgary Stampede held. Central Library opens to the public.

1915
First municipal golf course opens at Shaganappi Park.

1917
Calgary’s first female alderman, Mrs. Annie Gale, is elected. She is also the first female to serve on any municipal council in the British Empire.

1929
The Calgary Zoological Society is established and a zoo curator is hired.

1933
The Glenmore Dam, reservoir and water treatment plant open.

1940
First municipal swimming pool opens to the public in Mewata Park (now called Millennium Park).

1948
The first parking meters are installed downtown.

1964
Heritage Park opens in July.

1967
The Centennial Planetarium (now known as TELUS World of Science) is built to commemorate Canada’s 100th birthday.

1971
The City’s first three–year city election draws a record 73 for 27 seats.

1977
Devonian Gardens opens in September.

1978
Fort Calgary Interpretive Centre opens to the public.

1981
On May 25, Calgary’s new Light Rail Transit System “CTrain” goes into service. Daily ridership averages 35,000 to 40,000.
1982
Deerfoot Trail is completed two years ahead of schedule.

1983
The Family Leisure Centre and the Village Square Leisure Centre open in January.

1988
Calgary hosts the world during the XV Olympic Winter Games, Feb. 13-28. The Games are a huge success, with much of the credit going to the thousands of volunteers.

1990
The City begins its residential recycling pilot program for the collection of glass, cans and newspaper. It grows into a popular program with a high rate of support among Calgarians.

1995
On July 16, Calgary’s first police helicopter is in the sky. The helicopter is purchased for the Calgary Police Service by the Constable Rick Sonnenberg Memorial Society, which raises $1.5 million in one-and-a-half years. Christine Silverberg is appointed Chief of Police of the Calgary Police Service, the first woman to lead a major Canadian police force.

2000
The Centre Street bridge reopens ahead of schedule on Sept. 23. The bridge, a designated municipal historic resource, is restored to its original 1916 condition.

2002
In June, the G8 Summit is held in Kananaskis, with thousands of media and international visitors in Calgary. The City sets a new standard for hosting events, combining communications, security and contingency planning to ensure a safe, incident-free event.

2003
Calgary is the first municipality in Canada to receive two “safe community” designations, one from the World Health Organization and the other from the National Safe Communities Foundation.

2005
In March, The City of Calgary launched Canada’s first 3-1-1 municipal phone service, connecting citizens with non-emergency City services through a 3-1-1 operations centre that handles citizens’ service requests from initial intake through to resolution.

2006
In July, Calgary’s 1,000,000th citizen is born.

2007
On Jan. 1, Calgary bans smoking in public places, including restaurants and bars.

2008
Calgary hosts the Juno awards.

2010
The Calgary Fire Department celebrates their 125 year anniversary and China Town celebrates its 100 year anniversary.

2011
Britain’s Prince William and his wife Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, visit the Calgary Stampede on July 8.

2012
Calgary Stampede Centennial Celebration.

2013
Calgary experienced the largest flood in its modern history, with the Bow and Elbow Rivers inundating all or parts of 26 communities. At the peak, the flow at the junction of the two rivers was 30% greater than Niagara Falls.