



Relocation Guide





CIR REALTY

CIR REALTY is Calgary's largest independent agency with over 700 REALTORS® and Staff spread over four Calgary and ten Alberta satellite offices. As a new member of Leading Real Estate Companies of the World™, CIR REALTY is proud to also be one of the 600 affiliate firms in the world-wide organization that holds the number one position in terms of sales or volume in more of the top markets than any other national association.

We recognize that most companies either grow or retract- seldom have any achieved success by staying the same. Growing companies have some common attributes which include high energy, enthusiasm, enlightened leadership and a clear sense of purpose. CIR REALTY has all these attributes.

CIR REALTY has plenty of room to develop in Calgary and across the province. We are already proud to have Calgary's second highest market share, but we have our sights set on positioning to be number one in all of the markets we operate in. A growing and thriving company is not only more stable and secure, but also provides greater opportunities and excitement for everyone involved.

Our Managers and Staff take their jobs and responsibilities seriously. We know we are a part of a winning team because we have the skills, experience and determination to make a difference to our REALTORS® and their clients. We choose to perform at a high level so our REALTORS® can do the same. CIR REALTY REALTORS® demand nothing less and they deserve nothing less.

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City Guide

Calgary is a city that stands on its own. The surrounding region boasts small town living, yet the towns do not actually border Calgary. The city continues to grow with many people moving from other countries as well as other parts of Canada. Space is not an issue here.





Calgary

Calgary is a diverse and expansive city built on a quadrant system with easy access to the mountains and river valleys. Calgary's appeal goes beyond oil, gas and cowboy hats. This city has something for everyone.

Lying at the foothills of Alberta's Rocky Mountains, and at the meeting point of the Bow and Elbow Rivers in south-central Alberta, Calgary is the largest city in Alberta with over 1 million residents and growing.

Calgary has seen much economic success and is growing quickly. Alberta's economy, driven by its massive oil reserves, is seeing its biggest boom in the province's history. As a result, Calgary is experiencing an enormous boost in real estate, employment, and general population wealth. Alberta tends to have a more conservative or libertarian approach to governing and politics. The province therefore has some of the lowest taxes in all of Canada. Alberta's political climate also ensures very attractive investor incentives and benefits, not to mention comparatively high wages and salary.

Calgary is close by to many national parks. Banff National Park and Jasper National Park are well known for their spectacular natural sites and year-round outdoor adventure opportunities – they are popular destinations for those who love to ski, hike, bike, walk, and enjoy the scenery. In addition to the natural attractions in and around Calgary, the city boasts a bustling nightlife, local theatre, and the world famous Calgary Stampede - an annual event that showcases the Cowboy culture of Alberta.

Calgary is a relatively new city gaining a place on the international stage. It is growing by the minute – expanding its safe and secure residential neighbourhoods, its growing and highly profitable commercial presence, and its continuing promise of happiness and prosperity to all who live within its boundaries. Calgary is a significant immigration destination with about 23% of its population coming from outside of Canada.





Map of Calgary





Calgary NW



* Known for...

The NW end of the city makes for a quick exit to the mountains and boasts some great parks including Bowness Park and Nose Hill Park.



Calgary NE

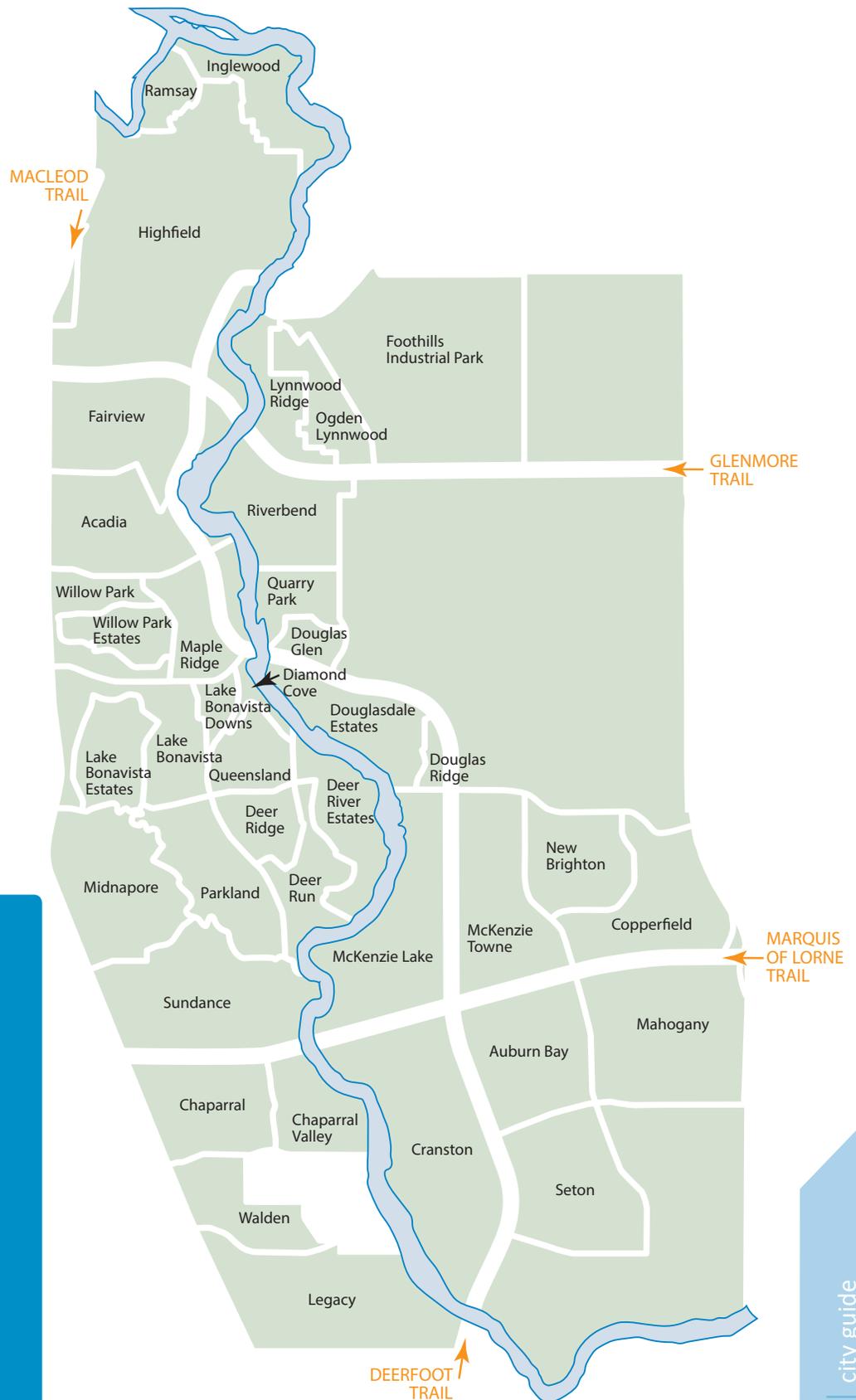


* Known for...

The NE end is in close proximity to Calgary International Airport, and its multicultural neighbourhoods make for some of the best food in the city!



Calgary SE



* Known for...

The SE quadrant runs the gamut from some of the oldest neighbourhoods in the city to some of the newest. It also includes a major industrial park (Foothills) and Canada's largest urban park; Fish Creek Provincial Park.



Calgary SW



* Known for...

SW Calgary flanks the Elbow and Bow rivers, features high-end shopping on Uptown 17th Avenue and is host to many of the city's pristine golf courses.



Getting Around

Calgary is an expansive city with many unique ways of getting around.

Calgary International Airport (YYC)

Calgary is a transportation hub for much of central and western Canada. The airport, in the city's North East, is the third largest in Canada by aircraft movements and is a major cargo hub. www.calgaryairport.com

Trains

The Rocky Mountaineer, www.rockymountaineer.com, and Royal Canadian Pacific, www.royalcanadianpacific.com, operate railtour services to and from Calgary.

Roads

The city is divided into four quadrants (North East, North West, South East and South West). Much of the city is on a grid where roads are numbered with avenues running east–west and streets running north–south. In Calgary it is not uncommon to find non-numbered streets within a new community that have the same name prefix as the community itself so that streets can more easily be located within the city, but this also makes it very important to make sure you know if it is a Street or Road or Boulevard, etc... that you are looking for.

Transit

Calgary Transit provides public transportation services throughout the city with buses and light rail. Calgary's rail system, known as the C-Train, was one of the first such systems in North America and consists of three lines (two routes) on 90 kilometres (56 mi) of double tracks. It's also the only emissions-free, wind-powered public transit operation in North America. The bus system has over 160 routes and is operated by 800 vehicles.

Pathway System

At any time of the year you can walk, run, ride or rollerblade through the entire city without ever touching a main road. Approximately 700 kilometres of pathways run along the Bow and Elbow rivers, connecting Fish Creek Provincial Park, Nose Creek, West Nose Creek, the Western Irrigation District Canal and the perimeter of the Glenmore Reservoir. Dozens of Calgary communities are linked by the pathway system and the City of Calgary works extremely hard to keep these pathways clear for use.

With another 260 kilometres of on-street bikeways, the city of Calgary can boast the most extensive urban pathway and bikeway network in North America.



Calgary Region

When you live in one of the many communities close to Calgary, you enjoy all the friendly comforts of small town living, plus the advantages of nearby big city services and opportunities.

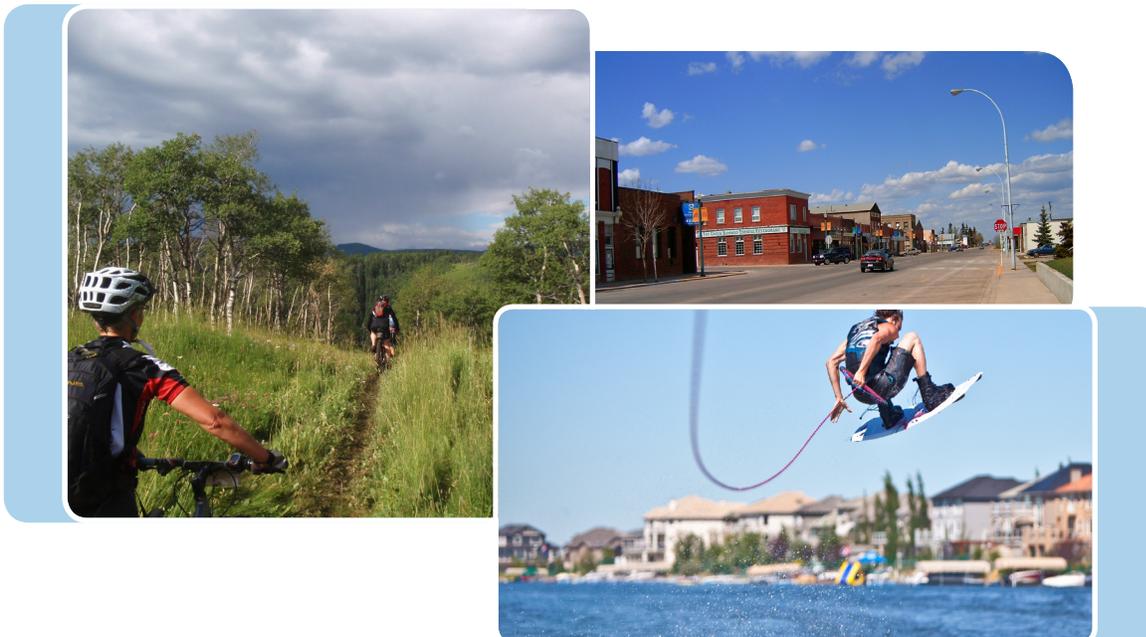
It's a way of life that's become increasingly popular, especially for young families in the area. Being close to a larger centre allows people to travel into the city for work, specialized medical care, concerts or classes.

There are 18 very diverse municipalities in the Calgary region, from Banff in the west to Wheatland County in the east, and from Airdrie in the north to Nanton in the south.

You can see why: some of the finest untouched wilderness areas in all of Canada are on the doorstep, with limitless opportunities for hiking, camping, fishing and just about every other outdoor activity imaginable.

These small towns also have all the advantages of modern, well-serviced communities. Schools are well established, and offer a range of specialty subject and extra-curricular choices. Many towns have their own hospitals and municipal services, including recreation facilities, police and fire departments and road links with Calgary.

The Calgary Regional Partnership website at www.calgaryregion.ca/crp also provides valuable information on life just outside of the city boundaries.





Satelite Communities

Airdrie

The City of Airdrie is one of the fastest growing communities in Canada with 38,091 people located 10 minutes north of Calgary. With a wide range of housing options available in both new and established neighbourhoods, people are discovering that Airdrie offers a small town lifestyle with big city amenities.

Chestermere

Surrounding Chestermere Lake, the town of Chestermere started off as a summer village and was incorporated as a town in 1993. It has seen a steady population increase to 14,285. With its close proximity to Calgary (20 minute drive to downtown), Chestermere is a popular residential location for workers in downtown Calgary.

Cochrane

Cochrane has a reputation for its Western culture which is evident in its downtown core, especially on Main Street. Also known for its quaint shops, including coffee and ice cream, it is a key tourist destination any time of the year. With a population of 15,424 and only 40 minutes to downtown Calgary, Cochrane's population is booming.

Crossfield

Crossfield is a quiet place, home to 2,861 people, numerous green spaces, a bustling residential market and a solid industrial sector, often heralded as a "small town with plenty of atmosphere". Only 43 minutes to Calgary's downtown core and located in the Calgary-Edmonton corridor the population is growing quickly.

Okotoks

Okotoks is a young, vibrant and sustainable community situated on the Sheep River. The community has devised a plan that focuses on self-sufficiency and sustainable living. With downtown Calgary only a 39 minute drive away Okotoks is a convenient place to live as well as a beautiful one.

Strathmore

Strathmore offers its 12,139 residents all the benefits of country living and town services with easy access to Calgary (43 minutes to downtown). There is a wide choice in restaurants, hospitality and shopping, meaning that Strathmore is developing into a thriving country town.



Community

Calgary is a diverse city and appeals to people from many different walks of life. As such, there are many educational, faith-based and resource centres in Calgary communities to satisfy any interests you may have.





Schools

Calgary is proud to be home to some of the best primary and secondary learning institutions in Canada. Whether you are looking for Public, Private or Catholic education, ESL classes, or schools that specialize in sports or the arts, Calgary has something to offer.

The websites below are a great place to start searching for a school that is right for you and your family.

Child Care and Preschools

To find daycares, pre-schools, family day homes, out of school care or group family care, the government of Alberta has a great child care search tool at www.child.alberta.ca/home/ChildCareLookup.cfm.

Calgary Board of Education

Website www.cbe.ab.ca Phone 403-294-8255

Calgary Catholic School District

Website www.cssd.ab.ca Phone 403-500-2000

There are 2 other school divisions serving the communities immediately surrounding the city of Calgary.

Rocky View School Division

Serving communities west, north and east of the city of Calgary

Website www.rockyview.ab.ca Phone 403-945-4000

Foothills School Division

Serving communities south and south west of the city of Calgary

Website www.fsd38.ab.ca Phone 403-652-3001 or 403-938-6436



Post Secondary

Calgary has a variety of specialized post secondary institutions available providing a wide range of world-class programs that help meet the diverse needs of new students including adult learners.

The University of Calgary

Website www.ucalgary.ca Phone 403-220-5110

Mount Royal University

Website www.mtroyal.ca Phone 403-440-6111

Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)

Website www.sait.ca Phone 403-284-7248

Alberta College of Art + Design (ACAD)

Website www.acad.ca Phone 403-284-7600

Bow Valley College

Website www.bowvalleycollege.ca Phone 403-410-1400

DeVry

Website www.devry.ca Phone 403-235-3450

Other Great Resources

Government of Alberta: Alberta Learning Information Service

Website www.alis.alberta.ca

Global Village (Study English as a second language)

Website www.gvenglish.com Phone 403-543-7300



Public Library

In total, there are 17 Calgary Public Library branches sprinkled throughout the city, forming the second most used library system in Canada (after Toronto). Through the Calgary Public Library, Calgarians have access to more than 2.8 million books, CD's, DVD's, books on CD and tape, magazines and newspapers, reference books and ESL materials. With a number of programs going on every day, geared towards adults, kids or teens, there is always something new to learn. Calgarians visit their Library more than 5.5 million times in a year for research, enjoyment and inspiration.

The Calgary Public Library Branches are:

W.R. Castell Central Library	616 Macleod Trail SE
Alexander Calhoun Library	3223 - 14th Street SW
Bowness Library	7930 Bowness Road NW
Country Hills Library	11950 Country Village Link NE
Crowfoot Library	8665 Nose Hill Drive NW
Fish Creek Library	11161 Bonaventure Drive SE
Forrest Lawn Library	4807 - 8th Avenue SE
Glenmore Square Library	7740 - 18th Street SE
Louise Riley Library	1904 - 14th Avenue NW
Memorial Park Library	1221 - 2nd Street SW
Nose Hill Library	1530 Northmount Drive NW
Shaganappi Library	3415 - 8th Avenue SW
Shawnessy Library	333 Shawville Blvd. SE
Signal Hill Library	5994 Signal Hill Centre SW
Southwood Library	924 Southland Drive SW
Thornhill Library	6617 Centre Street North
Village Square Library	2623 - 56th Street NE

New branch:

The Calgary Public Library is currently constructing its 18th branch in the city's NE; the Saddletowne library is expected to open in the fall of 2011.

Website www.calgarypubliclibrary.com

**Additional libraries are available via colleges & universities amongst other specialized institutions.*



Faith Centres

In keeping with the multi-cultural makeup of Calgary, the city is home to a number of faith communities. To find out more, explore this section and find links for faith communities in Calgary. These websites offer information on beliefs, meeting times, events and provide directories of places of worship within the city. This is just a sampling of what is available. Calgary is such a diverse city that there is sure to be a place of worship to meet everybody's unique needs.

Baha'i Faith in Calgary

Website www.calgary-bahai.org

Phone 403-278-7307

Myanmar Buddhist Temple

Website www.calgarymyanmartemple.ca

Phone 403-568-7205

Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary

Website www.calgarydiocese.ca

Phone 403-218-5500

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Website www.ldschurchtemples.com/calgary
under construction - completion mid-2012

Jehovah's Witnesses

(Watchtower Bible and Tract Society)

Website www.watchtower.org

Canadian Jewish Congress

(Alberta synagogue directory)

Website www.cjc.ca/community/synagogue-directory/alberta

Phone 403-255-8688

Muslim Association of Calgary

Website www.muslimassociationofcalgary.ca

Phone 403-242-1615

Alberta Baptist Association

Website www.nab.ca

Phone 780-438-8852

Anglican Diocese of Calgary

Website www.calgary.anglican.ca

Phone 403-243-3673

The Calgary Presbytery

Website www.calgaryunited.ca

Phone 403-287-0375



Faith Centres

Christian Reformed Church in North America

Website www.crcna.org

Phone 1-800-730-3490

Evangelical Free Church of Canada

Website www.efccm.ca

Phone 1-877-305-EFCC (3322)

Lutheran Church Canada

Alberta & British Columbia District

Website www.lccabc.ca

Phone 1-888-474-0063 (local 780)

Mennonite Church of Alberta

Website mca.mennonitechurch.ab.ca

Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada

Alberta & NWT District

Website www.ab.paoc.org

Phone 780-426-0018

Sikh Society of Calgary

Website www.sikhsocietyofcalgary.org

Phone 403-246-1776

Presbyterian Synod of Alberta and the Northwest

Website www.synodabnw.ca

Seventh Day Adventist

The Alberta Conference

Website www.albertasda.org/index.php

Phone 403-342-5044

Taoist Tai Chi Society of Canada

Western Region

Website www.western.canada.taoist.org

Phone 403-240-4566

Western Canadian District of the Christian and Missionary Alliance

Website www.cmawdo.org/index.html

Phone 403-265-7900

Hindu Society of Calgary

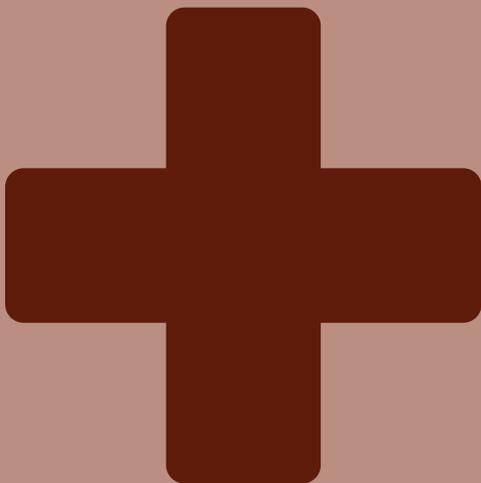
Website www.calgarymandir.ca

Phone 403-291-2551



Health & Safety

Calgary is one of the safest and healthiest cities in the world. With an abundance of health resources and many safety contacts, we consistently rank near the top in global quality of living surveys.





Health

If you are looking for a specific health, safety, government or social service you can dial 2-1-1 in Calgary or visit the Inform Alberta website at www.informalberta.ca, Alberta's province-wide service directory.

Alberta Health Care Insurance

The Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan is a service available to all permanent residents, and their dependants, of Alberta. There is absolutely no charge for this service, not even a monthly premium. You may choose to opt-out of the program, but every Albertan must register. You will find the application forms and more information on the program at:

Website www.health.alberta.ca/health-care-insurance-plan.html.

Many employers will provide private insurance to cover other health care costs not covered by the AHCIP. If your employer does not provide this insurance, Alberta Blue Cross—an independent organization—can provide this service for a fee.

Website www.ab.bluecross.ca

Alberta Health Services

Website www.albertahealthservices.ca

Hospitals

Foothills Medical Centre	1403 - 29 Street NW	Phone 403-944-1110
Rockyview General Hospital	7007 - 14 Street SW	Phone 403-943-3000
Peter Lougheed Centre	3500 - 26 Avenue NE	Phone 403-943-4555
Alberta Children's Hospital	2888 Shaganappi Trail NW	Phone 403-955-7211

Healthlink

Healthlink provides access to health advice 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The phones are always answered by registered nurses and anyone can call.

Phone 403-943-LINK (5465)

Find a Doctor

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta provides a very handy online search tool that you can use to find a doctor in Alberta.

Website www.cpsa.ab.ca



Safety

Below is basic contact information for medical and safety emergencies. For further information on preventative measures, please contact the departments at the NON-emergency numbers.

Emergencies

If you are experiencing or witnessing a medical or safety emergency in Calgary, you should immediately dial 9-1-1. This phone number will put you in contact with the Calgary Police, who will direct your call to the appropriate dispatch unit (Emergency medical services (EMS), The Calgary Fire Department, Emergency police Services).

The Calgary Police

Emergency Contact Number 9-1-1

Non-Emergency Contact Number 403-266-1234

The Calgary Fire Department

Emergency Contact Number 9-1-1

Non-Emergency Contact Number Dial 3-1-1 (*The City of Calgary*) and ask to be put through to the Fire Department

Emergency Medical Services (EMS / Paramedic)

Emergency Contact Number 9-1-1

For more information on Public Safety, visit the City of Calgary:
Website www.calgary.ca

Poison Control

Emergency Contact Number 9-1-1

Non-Emergency Contact Number (24 hr) 403-670-1414



Services

Calgary has many service centres and companies to provide you with what you need. From home phone and internet to composting and registry needs, there are a variety of different service providers that will assist you in setting up your new home.





Get Connected

The websites listed below are of some of the most popular service providers available in our area. Quite often you will be able to find companies which offer package deals and include two or three of these services together.

Traditional Home Telephone

Primus	www.primus.ca	Telus	www.telus.com
Shaw	www.shaw.ca	Rogers	www.rogers.com

Mobile Phone

Bell	www.bell.ca	Rogers	www.rogers.com
Fido	www.fido.ca	Telus	www.telusmobility.com
Koodo	www.koodomobile.com	Virgin Mobile	www.virginmobile.ca

Internet

Nucleus	www.nucleus.com	TekSavvy Solutions	www.teksavvy.com
Shaw	www.shaw.ca	Telus	www.telus.com
		Yak Communications	www.yak.ca

Television

Bell	www.bell.ca	Shaw	www.shaw.ca
Telus	www.telus.com	Shaw Direct (satellite)	www.shawdirect.ca



Utilities

Recycling and Composting

The city offers a blue cart recycling program for all single family residences, as well as residential buildings with up to four units. The service collects paper, cans, cardboard, glass and plastics on the same day and from the same location as regular garbage collection. If you need a blue cart, please call 3-1-1. As well, there are almost 60 community recycling depots around the city. The city also offers electronics drop-off spots and special seasonal services or events, such as hazardous materials disposal days, Christmas tree pick-up, and fall leaf and pumpkin collection days.

Check out the City of Calgary's website at www.calgary.ca for more information.

There is no curbside organics composting program, but the City of Calgary, working with Green Calgary, www.greencalgary.org, provides subsidized composters for your home for \$25 each.

Electricity and Natural Gas

The Utilities Consumer Advocate are our voice when it comes to Alberta's electricity and gas markets. The UCA represents Alberta small consumers by advocating for reasonable costs, empowering albertans, safeguarding consumer interests, providing balanced representation and resolving concerns respectfully. They also provide unbiased information to help you decide which energy providers to use.

Check out their website www.ucahelps.alberta.ca to find out which energy providers are available in your city/town.

Call Before You Dig

If you plan to disturb the ground, find out where the buried facilities on your property that are owned by the utilities are as part of your project planning process. If, for example, you are planning to build a fence, the presence of buried facilities may dictate where posts cannot be installed, which may affect the design of the fence, including the location of gates.

Website www.alberta1call.com Phone 1-800-242-3447

Sewer and Water

Sewer Phone 403-268-1155

Water Phone 403-268-4355



Registries & Banks

Registries

A large number of personal and legal transactions can be conducted through Alberta Registries, including:

- the issuing and renewing of drivers' licenses
- registrations of birth, marriage and death
- land title searches and transfers
- personal property registration
- personal identification
- travel documentation
- registrations of corporations, vehicles, and liens
- paying fines (speeding tickets, ect.)

The majority of these services are available from registry agents located in communities throughout the province. For more information on services offered through Alberta registries, or for where to find the registry closest to you, visit www.servicealberta.gov.ab.ca

Banking

Living in Calgary gives you access to a multitude of local, national and international Banks and Credit Unions. The following financial institutions have multiple locations across the city:

TD Canada Trust	www.tdcanadatrust.com
The Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)	www.royalbank.com
HSBC	www.hsbc.ca
Scotia Bank	www.scotiabank.com
The Bank of Montreal (BMO)	www.bmo.com
CIBC	www.cibc.com
ATB Financial	www.atb.com
First Calgary Savings	www.1stcalgary.com



Lifestyle & Recreation

Calgary's cultural scene features everything from annual festivals to a growing artistic community. With many parks and sports entertainment venues as well, there is something to appeal to everyone's sense of fun!





Family

There are so many amazing things to do in Calgary. Below is a short list of some of the most original and fun places for families.

The Calgary Zoo

Saying there is so much to see and do at the zoo doesn't begin to describe everything that you can do there. Besides getting to see some amazing animals from all over the world you can journey through the dinosaur park and learn about the giants from the past.

Heritage Park

This is Canada's largest living history museum. Meet friendly pioneers, ride the steam train or cruise Glenmore Lake on the SS, enjoy the antique midway and be a part of the old west.

Canada Olympic Park

This is a great place to visit at any time of the year. Whether you enjoy skiing or snowboarding in the winter or mountain biking or checking out the Skyline zip line in the summer.

Telus World of Science

Here is a unique way to learn through creative exhibits and shows. This gives everyone an opportunity to learn and grow through science.

Peter's Drive-In

There is nothing better than a cold milkshake on a hot day. Maybe you are hungry for a little more. Then you will have to try their burgers, fries and onion rings. You will definitely come back for more.

Village Square & Southland Leisure Centres

There is so much to do and a whole lot of fun to be had. From the water parks with a wave pool, dive tank, kiddies pool and hot tub to the gymnasium, weight rooms and fitness studios.

Butterfield Acres

Butterfield Acres is a great place to take the family and just watch animals eat hay and forget about the city! It is like a small farm which can be a lot of fun for little kids who have never seen live farm animals before.

Shakers Family Fun Centre

Shakers is a seven acre indoor and outdoor fun park with attractions and fun events for all ages, including two go cart tracks, mini golf, laser tag, a climbing wall, huge indoor playground and 60+ game arcade.

Bowness Park

Bowness Park is located in NW Calgary along the Bow River. A shallow lagoon runs along the park's southern edge, a favourite spot for paddle boating in the summer and ice skating in the winter. Bowness Park is highly used for picnicking and accessing the Bow River.

Fish Creek Provincial Park

Fish Creek Park is Canada's largest urban park. The park contains a mix of forest and open prairie. Historic Bow Valley Ranch House (now a restaurant), archaeological sites, visitor centre and extensive environmental education programs are some of the parks attractions.



Family

The Scotiabank Saddledome

Home to Calgary's NHL team the Calgary Flames, and the WHL team, the Calgary Hitmen, as well as the Roughnecks in the Canadian National Lacrosse League. As the primary indoor arena in Calgary, The Scotiabank Saddledome is also host to the biggest concerts that come to town!

McMahon Stadium

Owned and operated by the University of Calgary and the UofC Dinos Football team, the stadium is also home to the Calgary Stampeders, a member of the Canadian Football League.

Foothills Stadium

Home to the Calgary Vipers, a member of the Golden Baseball League.

Spruce Meadows

A large equestrian facility that hosts 500,000 visitors annually and is home to over 1000 horses! Aside from the numerous equestrian events that take place throughout the year, Spruce Meadows also holds Calgary's biggest and best Christmas Market each December along with a variety of other markets during the year.

Maxbell Centre

The Maxbell Centre is home to the Calgary Canucks, of the Alberta Junior Hockey League, and the primary facility for the Northeast Calgary Athletic Association's minor hockey teams. Every December, it serves as the primary venue for the Mac's AAA midget hockey tournament which draws thousands of minor hockey players to their rinks every year.



Festivals

Calgary Folk Music Festival

Head over to Prince's Island and prepare to be overtaken by the music! Pack a picnic and snacks, spread out your blanket and sit back and enjoy. There is a diverse group of performers who attend this festival so if you have never been you will definitely come away a fan. There is an area designated for dancing near the stage so let loose and enjoy.

Besides the excellent music there's a children's play area, a craft market, a record tent, and for anyone over 19 a beer garden. There are food booths with some delicious food available to purchase. Concerts take place on the main stage and they also have workshop sessions bringing a variety of musicians together to jam. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the gate. This is a do not miss event and well worth the price of the ticket.

Calgary Fringe Festival

Uncensored, unexpected, unforgettable theatre. Expect to be entertained and enjoy the different art forms at this festival, it's not your run of the mill theatre entertainment. Performances are a unique blend of creative scripts and will be a little more edgy and unusual. The festival hosts a combination of local, national and international productions, 27 altogether with a total of 160 performances over 9 days.

Performances can, and do, feature every form of art and entertainment with sketches of comedy to offbeat life drama. Sets are kept simple so what is front and center is the work the participants do. This festival is definitely worth checking out! Tickets can be purchased online up until half an hour before the show and be sure to be on time because they do not admit once the performance has started.

Calgary International Blues Festival

The Blues come to life again during the summer and if you missed the Midwinter Fest this is another chance to catch some of the best at their craft. The talent is amazing and their performances legendary. There is a 4 day transferable event pass that you can purchase online in advance.

Besides the excellent music they have food & drink Concessions, an arts market to stroll through and a Blues Festival record tent where you can pick up a few CD's. The festival also has First Aid on hand and an information/lost children tent just in case. Sit back be entertained and enjoy what this festival has to offer.

Calgary Reggae Festival

This is a full day of fun with live performances from the best Canadian and International Reggae artists. Enjoy the sounds and sights that this festival brings each year which surpasses not just musical boundaries but cultural ones as well.

The festival has a beer garden for the adults as well as a separate youth area, and plenty of arts and crafts. Get a taste of some of the best food from this region from the many food vendors and also shop for a few things to take home.

Carifest Caribbean Festival

Carifest begins with a rowdy and colourful parade and is followed by five days of steel drums, dancing and reggae. The downtown becomes a temporary escape to warm Caribbean beaches during the lunch hour. Head to Prince's Island Park for the festival wind up to enjoy the great music, spicy food and Caribbean arts and crafts.

Most events are free however tickets have to be purchased for the celebration at Prince's Island Park Sunshine Festival.

Funnyfest - Calgary Comedy Festival

They say that laughter is the best medicine for anything and here is the opportunity to cure whatever ails you! This festival showcases the best of the best in standup comedy and sketch comedy, sit back and let them deliver the laughs.

Performers and venues are announced in advance of the festival and tickets can be purchased online. The calibre of entertainment makes this a must see for everyone. There is nothing better than the gift of laughter and they deliver the gift.

Afrikadey

This is a week-long celebration of Africa and its culture. There is so much to see and enjoy. All the events leading up to the festival take place at several venues in the city and it all wraps up August 14 with a festival at Prince's Island Park. They have all their events and times listed on their website.

The showcase of talent holds your attention and awakens your spirit; this is a celebration of life! There is a variety of delicious food on the Island to tempt your taste buds, a beer garden if you are looking for a cold one and exhibitions of dance and drums. They also have a children's craft area to create a masterpiece as well as other artists on hand with their creations on display.



Festivals

Calgary Stampede

Built on the foundations of western tradition it's billed as the Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth, and the Stampede Board never falls short of meeting that billing! They kick off 10 days of Stampede with an exciting, jam packed full of people, parade in downtown Calgary. The rodeo is held each afternoon, the chuck wagons race each night and closes with the Grandstand Performance and Fireworks for the entire 10 days. The Agriculture Pavilion allows visitors to learn about farm animals and enjoy all the displays and showings, allowing interaction with a wide variety of animals.

No matter how high or how fast you want to go, you can definitely get your thrills on the midway. During the Stampede you can get your fill of star packed concerts from the biggest names currently headlining to those just stepping out on the stage. There are so many side activities presented. Attend the Blacksmith competition, marvel at the teams in the heavy horse pull, or eat to your heart's content and enjoy a free concert. No matter how old you are there is something for everyone down at the park. During Stampede there are free pancake breakfasts held all over the city and always something going on downtown at Rope Square (Olympic Plaza).

Global Fest

You definitely have to get out to this festival because the fireworks display they put on is phenomenal!! This festival has international competitors trying to outdo each other the night of their performance, with the grand finale on the last night of the festival.

There are cultural pavilions and food kiosks for everyone to enjoy as well as an international night market and children's area. Also available are two licensed areas where you can sample beverages from around the world. Add to that cultural performances on each of the three stages that they have set up for your entertainment.

Taste of Calgary

If you are interested in being able to try new foods then consider heading down to Taste of Calgary where you can get bite size samplings of a variety of food from some of Calgary's finest restaurants.

There is no admission, however, there is a reasonable charge for the sampling tickets. Enjoy live music and entertainment while you stroll through the market. No matter what this is definitely worth attending to discover some new places to eat or new foods to enjoy.

Calgary Winefest

Winefest is one of the most distinguished all inclusive wine events in Calgary. You have a chance to sample hundreds of international wines, ports, sparkling and dessert wines from the world's most celebrated wine regions. There are wine experts to share their knowledge and guide you through your wine tasting, offering ways to educate your palate and senses.

If you enjoy wine or haven't had a chance to taste a variety of wines then this is something worth checking out! There will be an onsite liquor store at Winefest so that you are able to purchase your new favourites! Tickets can be purchased online only and they sell out quickly for this event.

Banff Summer Arts Festival

This festival offers a showcase of the area's best artists for everyone to enjoy and the calendar of events allows you to pick and choose what to attend.

The festival offers the choice of outdoor theatre, art exhibitions, dance & jazz performances and film screenings. You can check the event calendar on their website for more information and ticket prices.

Calgary Comic & Entertainment Expo

Where else can you dress up like your favourite comic character and walk amongst your heroes? If you do dress up be sure to enter in the costume contest. You can go down for just one day or get a weekend pass. Better yet you can splurge for the VIP Pass. Either way it's definitely an exciting way to spend the day.

Each year they invite celebrity guests to meet with the public. You can get autographs, pictures and photo ops. They also have special expo exclusives each year and an exclusive convention artbook featuring many of the guest artists. Tickets can be purchased in advance online or at the door the day you go. The exhibits are excellent and worth seeing!!



Festivals

Calgary International Improv Festival

The great thing about improv is nothing is scripted and no one, not even the comedians, know what is coming next. It's spontaneous and delivers a new show every time.

The audience is encouraged to participate by throwing out suggestions for scenes; no idea is too crazy. Improv comedy is made up right before your very eyes which is what makes this so much fun. Tickets can be purchased online or at the door.

Calgary Turkish Festival

Attend this vibrant festival and experience authentic Turkish foods and mouth watering desserts. Enjoy the musical artists and dance performances they have planned for your entertainment. With this much fun planned just try not to dance and sing in the street.

Wander through the bazaar and stop by to check out all the displays of goods and do a bit of shopping. You never know what treasure you will find.

Chinatown Street Festival

This one day festival is one that shouldn't be missed so if you have nothing special on your to do list today, then you might want to take this one in. This celebration is located in Chinatown and gives everyone the opportunity to experience traditional Chinese culture.

There are performances on the main stage with traditional dance, merchant booths to shop at and the best food! Also on hand is a kid's area where they can play games and have fun.

Lilac Festival

The Lilac Festival is a one day event held along 4th Street with a variety of entertainment, great food and shopping to enjoy. With usually over 500 vendors along the street there is something for everyone!

The Parade kicks it all off starting at 10 am and winding it's way down fourth with a diverse group of music and performers!! There is no charge to attend this event however anything you wish to purchase will have a cost involved.

Soundasaurus Experimental Music Festival

Soundasaurus Experimental Music Festival takes new media technologies: sound, video and net art, installations, compositions and performances... mix liberally with super

cool dinosaurs and a dash of experimental goodness.

This is a multisensory, three-day festival rocking the centre in conjunction with the High Performance Rodeo. It's an experience to sink your saber teeth into—rarer than a woolly mammoth and bigger than the badlands—SOUNDASAURUS rocks... and roars.

Expo Latino Festival

When they say this is the hottest outdoor festival they don't mean the weather! They celebrate and party at Princes Island park come rain or shine, their goal is to make sure everyone has a great time!

Enjoy the tasty and exotic foods and browse in the arts market, you could even go home with something special. The live entertainment is phenomenal and if it's been a while since you danced to the hot Latin music there are workshops provided so you can hit the dance floor and have a great time.

Calgary Ukrainian Festival

Close your eyes and let the smell of kolbasa and perogies transport you to this festival to enjoy delicious Ukrainian food and lively entertainment! There is so much to experience and enjoy that you will be sure to include this event in your things to do list each year!

The pavilion holds booths where you can purchase clothing, crafts and great food. There will be entertainment on hand for your enjoyment, singers as well as dancers in traditional costume. There will also be an arts and crafts section for the kids to spend some time creating fine artwork. Saturday night is the ever popular "Zabava" a high energy party where the drinks flow, the music is amazing and you best bring your dancing shoes! Check the website for the Zabava tickets, they go quickly.

Calgary Greek Festival

OPA!! This is your chance to join in on the festivities and celebrate the very best of traditional Greek food and entertainment. This festival celebrates friendship and a coming together of community which is what makes it feel like you are a part of the family.

This event offers wonderful music and dancing for everyone to enjoy, which is nothing short of amazing! There will be delicious food to partake in and the wine will be brilliant. Take the time to browse through the kiosks and see if anything special catches your eye.



Museums

The Lougheed House

The Lougheed mansion was built in 1891 and was originally known as Beaulieu, which is French for beautiful place. Just looking at the house it was very aptly named because it is indeed a beautiful house. During the early years the Lougheed house, many of the elite of society were guests of the Lougheed family, royalty, celebrities and politicians. During the Second World War the mansion was home to the Red Cross for a blood donor clinic. If only the walls could talk!!

Explore the Lougheed House and gardens, take some time in the gift shop and then stay for lunch in the restaurant. If you go on the weekends they also serve brunch.

Glenbow Museum

One of the great things about the Glenbow is that it brings together a museum, library, archives and an art gallery all in one place. Their artifacts are extensive and their art collections are nothing short of brilliant.

There are a variety of programs which are offered to the public. The exhibitions which are brought in and displayed add so much to what is already offered. The historical documents, artifacts and the history of our western heritage, provides a glimpse of how this province grew up. Their permanent exhibits appeal to everyone and offer a look at the world beyond. There is also a gift shop and a Discovery room which offers activities for any age.

Aero Space Museum

An afternoon spent at the aerospace museum is a chance to take a walk back in time through aviation history. The hangar presently used to house the museum pieces was used as a training hangar in WWII and then as a helicopter hangar. The aircraft on display are amazing and date back to planes from flight's early days to its jet planes.

What started out as privately owned collections have now become museum pieces for everyone to enjoy. The museum also has an extensive scale model plane collection and the attention to detail is impressive. Before you leave be sure to stop at the gift shop and pick up something special for yourself.

Cantos Music Foundation

You can drop in on Sunday afternoons or Thursday evenings for a tour of their collection. If you are a teacher or scout leader, this may be a great something to do for your class or troupe. Touring gives you an opportunity to see and play some of the rarest instruments in their collection. You can also get a few friends or family members together and book a private tour.

They have interesting exhibits and displays, which are diverse and celebrate all types of music. On the last Monday of the month enjoy the All Ages Blues Jam, everyone regardless of age can participate, each month features a special guest.

Military Museum

The Military Museum is Western Canada's largest military museum. Go and discover the victories, the tragedies and the sacrifices of the Canadian Forces. The Military museum is a dedication representing Canada's navy, army and air forces by educating the public about Canada's military. The museum is made up of many different museums all in one. You have the Naval Museum of Alberta where you can watch the ocean roll by from a Second World War wheelhouse, watch convoys escort troops to Normandy, peer through a submarine periscope and see a real Banshee Naval jet fighter. You will learn all about Canada's Ships and the sailors who protect our coastlines. Then you have the Army Museum of Alberta that exhibits Alberta's military heritage from the 1885 Northwest Rebellion to today's mission in Afghanistan. Learn about First Nations' participation in the army and the reflection of women who served with the Canadian Women's Army Corps.

Sit inside a Second World War Nissen hut for a pre-mission briefing of a bomber squadron's operations in the Air Force Museum of Alberta. Explore a C-130 Hercules model and see today's air force in action. Discover the role of Canada's active tank unit from the Boer War to Afghanistan in the Lord Strathcona's House Museum. See the Regiments transition from horses to motorcycle to tank for action in Italy and NW Europe. In the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Museum and Archives you can walk through a First World War Trench and learn the danger of peacekeeping. The Hall of Honour commemorates the regiments fallen soldiers and in the medals display you will find three Victoria Crosses. There are many more interesting museums to explore such as The King's Own Calgary Regiment Museum, Calgary Highlanders Regimental Museum and Archives, University of Calgary Military Museums Library & Archives, The Founders' Gallery and the Fall of '44.



Museums

Head Smashed in Buffalo Jump

Plan to spend the day at this attraction, it is well worth it! Native guides will take you through the center and go back in time. Learn the history of the Blackfoot nation and the importance of the jump to its people, see important artifacts and discoveries.

Special events and celebrations are held throughout the year; check the website for those. Take advantage of the craft activities, enjoy the First Nations Drumming & Dancing with contemporary performances. There is a café on site which could offer some new experiences in taste and culture. Be sure to stop by their gift shop, the craftsmanship is amazing.

The Royal Tyrrell Museum

The Royal Tyrrell Museum is the only museum in Canada which is entirely about paleontology and this place is over the top! Besides having the largest display of dinosaurs there is the opportunity to take part in a variety of fun and creative programs that take you back in time.

You can just drive out and explore on your own but if you check their website they have some suggestions to aid you in planning your visit to the museum. Try your hand at excavating in a realistic rock quarry, make your own replica fossil, or take a guided hike through the badlands. Definitely a great way to spend your day!!

Fort Calgary

Open year-round, located just east of downtown on 40 acres, the Fort offer Calgarians and their guests fun, interactive exhibits, tours and school programs. Fort Calgary is the only National, Provincial and Municipal Historic Site in the city. North West Mounted Police built their fort at the confluence of the Bow and Elbow Rivers in 1875. You can discover stories of Calgary's past from 1875–1914 at the lively interpretive Centre.

Experience both sides of the law. Spend some time in jail or try on the authentic RCMP uniform. The 1888 Barracks and Interpretive Centre are available for private rentals.

Deane House

The Deane House was built in 1906 for the superintendent Captain Richard Deane of Fort Calgary. It was originally built near the corner of 9th Avenue and 6th Street SE facing east towards the Barracks and parade square. In 1914 the house was moved to the southeast corner near the site of the present day Interpretive Centre when the Fort Calgary site was purchased by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway for use as a rail terminal. In 1929 the house was moved again, this time across the Elbow River to a new foundation on its present site. The Deane House host Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre year round.

With all of its rich history there are bound to be a few hauntings. The Calgary Association of Paranormal Investigations deems the Deane house as definitively haunted.



Performing Arts

One Yellow Rabbit Performance

Enjoy a night of entertainment where the artists push performance boundaries in the creation and presentation of original and innovative productions. This award winning group offers a variety of performance genres from comedy to drama and everything in between.

Their performances are nothing short of brilliant and you can expect to be wholly entertained by their talented ensemble cast. Check the website to see what's playing and treat yourself to a different theatre experience.

Lunchbox Theatre

If you are looking for a noon hour out of the ordinary then this might be just the thing for you to do. The theatre presents one act plays, they are a short play lasting the lunch hour, and you could be entertained with a comedy or musical. Audiences get comfy, relax and are treated to a great play all while you eat your lunch!

This may seem rushed to some people but being able to get away from the audience, relax and enjoy yourself in the fast pace of the work day is important.

Stage West Theatre Restaurant

Taking in a show at Stage West means that you can expect to be entertained and very well fed! With six shows scheduled to run during the season there is a lot to choose from. Prepare to thoroughly enjoy the buffet which is always delicious and afterwards sit back and enjoy the show.

You can enjoy brunch on Sunday mornings, dinner shows during the week, with the exception of Mondays and there is also a matinee on Wednesdays. Saturday morning is special because they also offer a Kid's show and always include foods in the buffet that appeal to the kids. Really a lot of fun to be had here and you could just end up becoming a regular.

Jubilations Dinner Theatre

A fun night out where you will be treated to a delicious four course meal as well as an amazing theatre production. As far as the show goes, they do things a little differently which is what makes a production at their theatre so unique. Tickets for their productions can be purchased by contacting the box office.

If you are celebrating a birthday or anniversary then let them know ahead of time because they love to make your evening with them even more special. Their customer service is exceptional and the friendly atmosphere makes your visit even more memorable.

Loose Moose Theatre

If you are looking for something different than the usual theatre you attend then head to the Loose Moose! This theatre company offers improvisational theatre at its best and has an international reputation for their work. They also have a training centre in place for anyone interested in doing improvisational theatre.

You can purchase tickets in advance over the phone with a credit card from their box office, or at the door with assigned seating for most performances. For more show information you can call their box office or look on their website.

Yuk Yuk's

Get out for a night of hilarity and treat your funny bone to a good time. This, of course, means lots of laughter and enjoyment on your part. The club features and promotes mainly Canadian comics and gives you a chance to see some great standup comedy.

You can check out their website to see who is performing if you are looking for a particular comedian coming to the club, but really any night is a good night. Tickets can be purchased through their box office. Best to try and get them as early as possible in the day. This is a fun night out for everyone.



Immigrating

You've made a big decision in choosing to immigrate to Canada, and there are a lot of questions that you probably want answered before, during and even after the big move.





Resources

Below are resources and governmental web sites to help you with all aspects of immigration.

Immigration Alberta

Alberta's official immigration website has important information on moving to the province. Their checklists are excellent for planning all aspects of your new life in the province.

Website www.albertacanada.com/immigration

Citizenship & Immigration Canada

There are a few different ways to apply for immigration to Canada: this Canadian government website will give you all of the information you need, as well as the relevant application forms.

Website www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate

Career Connect

Career Connect helps newcomers upgrade or transfer work skills, relaunch careers or enter brand new professions.

Website www.calgarycareerconnect.com

Going to Canada

This invaluable resource includes information on immigrating to—and living and working in—Canada.

Website www.cic.gc.ca/english

Social Insurance Number (SIN)

This important card is required if you want to work in Canada: all employers ask for it.

Website www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/sc/sin

*** Tip**

To make things easier during the immigration process, have all of your supporting documents (such as your birth certificate) translated into english if necessary.



Organizations

There are several organizations in Calgary that exist to support new immigrants to the city. The following agencies provide settlement services, education and employment support, and help with integration into society.

Alberta Government

Alberta government provides a handy directory of provincial settlement services, employment support and language training.

Website www.employment.alberta.ca/Immigration

Directions for Immigrants

Bow Valley College's Directions for Immigrants is an information resource for new Canadians looking to work in the professional industries or the trades.

Website www.directionsforimmigrants.ca

Calgary Catholic Immigration Society

The Calgary Catholic Immigration Society is a non-profit volunteer organization that provides settlement and integration services to all immigrants and refugees in southern Alberta.

Website www.ccis-calgary.ab.ca

Calgary Immigrant Women's Association

The Calgary Immigrant Women's Association (CIWA) supports the integration of immigrant and refugee women, girls and their families into the Calgary community.

Website www.ciwa-online.com

Calgary Centre for Newcomers

The Calgary Centre for Newcomers is a non-profit organization devoted to assisting refugees and immigrants arriving in Calgary.

Website www.centrefornewcomers.ca

Immigrant Services Calgary

Over the past 30 years, this organization has helped over 250,000 immigrants settle into their new lives and homes in Calgary.

Website www.immigrantservicescalgary.ca

Calgary Immigrant Educational Society

The mission of the Calgary Immigrant Educational Society (CIES) is to provide education, multimedia information, job bank, and referral services to newcomers and economically disadvantaged Calgarians in an effort to help them find their rightful places in Canadian society.

Website www.immigrant-education.ca



Moving

Moving can be a daunting process, but if you stay organized, stick to a schedule, and prepare for the unexpected, you will arrive in your new house more relaxed and ready to set up your new home.





Moving Out Checklist

Purchasing a new home is exciting. To help save you time, stress, and money, we've created this handy Moving Checklist, giving you a detailed overview of what you need to do prior to your move, broken down into weekly tasks.

As you begin thinking of moving...

- Create a "move file" to keep track of estimates, receipts, and other important information
- Draw out a floor plan of your new home. Start deciding which function each room will serve
- Start researching your new community
- Budget for moving expenses and start collecting estimates

7 weeks before moving...

- Start pulling together medical and dental records including prescriptions and vaccination records. If necessary, ask your existing doctors if they can refer you to a care provider in your new neighbourhood
- If you have a pet, arrange for their veterinarian records to be transferred
- If you have children and they need to change schools, have school records transferred to their new school district and/or daycare
- Call your insurance agent to see what changes to expect in your policies for changing locations. Ask if moving is covered and arrange for insurance for your new home
- Get copies of any legal and financial records you need
- If you are a member of a gym or an organization, ask how you can end, sell, or transfer your membership

6 weeks before moving...

- Make a list of things that are valuable or difficult to replace. Plan on shipping these by certified mail or carrying them with you
- Start planning a yard sale or contact your local charities
- Make a list of friends, relatives, and businesses who need to be notified of your move
- Start working your way through each room taking inventory, deciding what to get rid of
- Think about subscribing to the newspaper in your new hometown to start learning about events and the local culture



Moving Out Checklist

5 weeks before moving...

- Start collecting boxes and other packing supplies
- Start packing items you don't use often. Also start disposing of the items you've designated for a yard sale, donation, or the junk yard
- Plan ahead for parking for the move, making sure that your movers are able to easily access your home
- Plan for short-term or long-term storage at destination if needed

4 weeks before moving...

- File a change of address
- Schedule disconnection of all utility services at your old home, and connection of them at your new one. Be sure to disconnect the day after you leave and connect the day before you arrive. If you have "last month" deposits with services, such as the water or gas company, request your refund
- If you are not moving yourself, make a reservation with a reputable and reliable moving service
- Make any necessary travel arrangements for your pets
- Advertise and host your garage sale
- Call your newspaper courier and set a date to cancel your subscription

3 weeks before moving...

- Make sure all library books have been returned and all dry cleaning or items out for repair have been picked up
- Retrieve any items out on loan to friends, etc...
- Decide if you will keep your plants or give them away
- Dispose of flammables, corrosives, and poisons
- If you are moving out of town, have your automobile(s) serviced
- Prepare auto registration to be transferred
- If you are moving into or out of an apartment, arrange to use the elevator on your move day



Tip

Create an "essentials box" which includes:

- cleaning supplies
- soap and handtowels
- toilet paper & bathroom essentials
- your bedding (make your bed first so you can sleep once you're tired!)



Moving Out Checklist

2 weeks before moving...

- Contact your bank and/or credit union to transfer or close accounts. Clear out safety deposit boxes and notify creditors of your move
- Plan meals for the last week of the move to help empty the refrigerator and avoid using appliances that will already be packed
- Confirm travel arrangements for pets and family
- Assemble a folder of important information about the house for the new owner of your home
- Confirm parking for your mover

1 week before moving...

- Finish packing and prepare an "essentials" box. Designate several boxes and items as "last load" items. Pack your suitcases and valuables separately
- Empty, defrost, and clean your refrigerator at least 24 hours before moving day
- Drain all gas and oil from your mower and other motors. Gas grills, kerosene heaters, etc...need to be emptied as well
- Fill any prescriptions or medications you will need for the next couple of weeks
- Drain water hoses
- If necessary, make childcare arrangements for moving day
- Notify friends and family of your new address and phone number

Moving out...

- Load your goods in a pre-designated order, saving "last load" items for the rear of your shipment. This might include your vacuum cleaner or bed sheets
- Take note of utility meter readings
- Check every room, closet, and cabinet one last time before deciding everything is loaded
- Leave a note with your new address in the house so that future residents can forward any stray mail
- Let a friend or family member know of your plans and whereabouts in case of an emergency or unforeseen event

You're ready to move in to your new home!



Moving In Checklist

Moving into your new home might seem a bit daunting, but you have been organized throughout the moving process and you're ready to make this new space your own!

Moving in...

- You are likely to arrive at your new home ahead of your shipment. Take this time to look things over and to ensure your new utilities have been connected
- Check appliances and systems to ensure all are working properly, and arrange for repairs if necessary
- Check to see if your mail is making it to your new address or pick up any mail being held
- Consider drawing out your new floor plan and decide where you want furniture and appliances placed

*Tip

Unload all of your things into the new rooms they will be used in; this way you can tackle unpacking one room at a time and give yourself an opportunity to tackle the most important rooms first.