



CALGARY ALLIANCE

FOR THE COMMON GOOD

ANNUAL REPORT 2023





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OUR MISSION

"Organizing the power of communities to shape a just and compassionate city."

BUILD ENDURING RELATIONSHIPS ACROSS THE DIVERSITY OF OUR CITY: Create a broad-based, shared organization that is as diverse as Calgary, building relationships among organizations and people from various community, ethnic, non-profit, labour and religious groups.

BE A SCHOOL FOR PUBLIC LIFE: Strengthen our member organizations and their leaders, in order to develop a healthy and effective civic life.

ORGANIZE AND RESPOND: Use the principles and techniques of community organizing to effectively address the real issues facing Calgarians and our member organizations.



WE VALUE

GROWING & BUILDING LEADERS.

We work to gather and develop people who want to transform the world from what it is to what they believe it should be.

RELATIONSHIPS OF DIGNITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT.

We believe in developing trust and building community across the lines that divide us.

COLLABORATIVE DEMOCRACY.

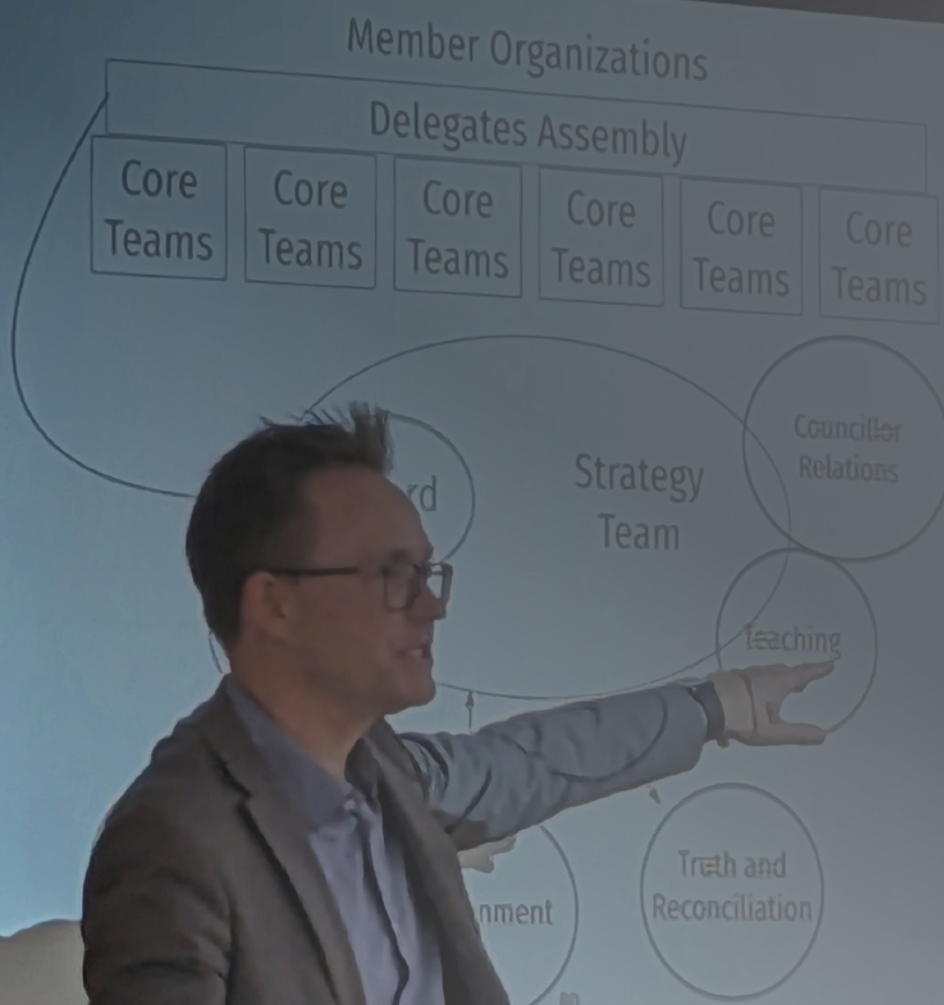
We believe that people committed to building and exercising power together have the ability to change their communities for the better.

DIVERSITY IN OUR COMMON CALL TO JUSTICE AND COMPASSION.

Our work is rooted in the common call to justice and compassion found in our diverse religious, labour, and cultural traditions.

IMPACT FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

We will take action to realize positive changes that impact people and address the roots of our shared issues.



OVERVIEW

The past few years have been years of major victories, new challenges, transitions and possibilities.



LISTENING CAMPAIGN

2022-2023 began with a Listening Campaign focused on finding direction for our teams and setting priorities for our campaign regarding the city's new budget. We knew that our listening campaign would be challenging as we dealt with issues of the environment and mental health, so we brought in experts who taught us how to make our listening more trauma-informed and incorporate practices that foster dialogue across differences.

What we heard was:

- A growing concern with the rising cost of living and its impact across the city – especially in the areas of food, housing and transportation.
- A need for improved transportation and transit safety

- A growing concern about the presence of unhoused people on transit struggling with addictions, underscoring the need for treatment and housing.
- Concern about racism and growing divisions in our community.
- Protecting the environment and the need for our economy to transition in a way that is just and equitable, again, with a focus on transportation and housing.
- The need to produce our energy sustainably and adapt our city for a warmer world.





MENTAL HEALTH

Our mental health team had been leading a campaign to increase mental health support in the school system. In June 2022, we heard that the provincial government would commit \$20 million per year to pilot collaborative models for mental health services and support in schools, as well as \$20 million dollars for increased access to mental health professionals and other professional supports for students. Then, in July, an additional \$42 million was announced for integrative mental health support in schools, part of \$197 Million dollars of support announced to support schools and children. This announcement directly lined up with what our team had been advocating for. Since this announcement, we have heard from principals and school board trustees that these investments are happening and making a difference in our school systems.

We have also heard stories from our member Ethiocare about how the mental health strategy we have advocated for is now being used to create innovative programs that cross cultural boundaries by integrating mental health into family wellness and sports. We have also heard from service providers on how the Mental Health Strategy is streamlining and making access to the mental health system easier for all. Our work and collective voice is having an impact.

ENVIRONMENT

As an Alliance, we are committed to working for real change and not just symbolic victories. This is especially important in addressing climate change challenges. Our work began with the municipal election in 2021, where we asked Citry Council to go beyond a statement about a climate emergency with a commitment to net zero emissions and a plan to get there, with real timelines.

Mayor Jyoti Gondek, newly elected, made this commitment.

Our leaders and teams followed with three actions at city hall, plus meetings with city councillors. Together, we can celebrate how this work led to the passing of Calgary's Climate Strategy. Going beyond strategy to action made our 2022 city budget campaign critical.





BUDGET CAMPAIGN

In November 2022, Calgary's City Council met to pass the budget that will guide our city's spending for the next four years. We have learned that these budget decisions are some of the most important decisions our council makes to shape our city. Our Budget team led a campaign that resulted in funding important initiatives to build the common good of our city.

These initiatives include:

- Renewed funding for the City's Mental health strategy
- Funding for transit ambassadors working to address the mental health and poverty challenges we see and experience on our transit system.

- Funding for implementing Calgary's Climate Strategy, including support for Calgary's 5A network for accessible non-motorized transportation
- Addressing the rising cost of living by freezing transit pass prices and funding the development of a housing affordability strategy.

Between our members and other stakeholders, 128 people spoke to city council, resulting in \$128 million in new funding for the environment, the arts, transit and community services.

In 2023, we have continued to be engaged in ensuring that the housing strategy, mental health strategy and climate strategy are funded and implemented.





TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

During our October action assembly, Chief Neufeld made a commitment to hiring eight community outreach officers, at least five of whom would be Indigenous.

There has been ongoing work to ensure follow-through on this commitment. We are excited that Calgary Police Service is in the process of creating this team.

A central commitment of our work is that we work *with* communities and not *for* communities. This led us to recognize that we needed to look at and change our culture and practices so we could be an Alliance that works *with* Indigenous community leaders in meaningful work.

To do this, we began the process of shaping an Indigenous Strategy. Consultation with Elders in our community began in September 2022. From this, an initial framework began to take form, which was then brought to additional conversations with Elders.

Working with a Royal Roads graduate student, Laureen Wray, we held a World Café Event in June 2023. This involved Non-Indigenous leaders reflecting together on how we can change to create an Alliance that respects and has healthy relationships with Indigenous communities.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

When the affordable housing strategy was brought back to Council in September of 2023, we partnered with other housing advocates to support the passage of this strategy. We were overjoyed when the strategy passed 12-3.

When implemented, this strategy will result in 3,000 of new affordable housing units being built, and the city now has access to federal funding which could build up to 35,000 more.

HEALTH OF THE ALLIANCE

We continue to emerge from the pandemic. We have witnessed a significant transition in our leadership, several leaders having retired or transitioned to other cities.

Despite COVID challenges, changes in leadership and continuous financial struggle, we remain a strong Alliance. We thank those who have contributed to our work before moving on to other venues. Member dues, donations and grants make it possible to continue to create and shape our city for the benefit of all.

REORGANIZING

In May 2023, our member leaders met to look at the year ahead. With the changes within our leadership, financial challenges on the horizon and shifts in our community, the decision by our members and leaders was to enter a time of renewal and rebuilding certain aspects of our organization. This is an opportunity for us to build a stronger Alliance.

We are focusing on building relationships, welcoming new organizations, discovering new leaders and strengthening our core teams within existing member organizations. At the same time, we are working on shifting our culture to be more inclusive of our city's diversity.

All of this depends on creating a more solid financial base for the work ahead. We are excited to see this effort bearing fruit as new leaders and communities begin to gather around our shared table.

THANK YOU.

We want to say a special thank you to all of our leaders, donors, staff, volunteers and the public leaders who have worked with us for the Common Good of all.



MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

ActionDignity

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 583

Ambrose University (and the Canadian Poverty Institute)

Anatolian Turkish Islamic Center of Calgary

Anglican Diocese of Calgary

Temple B'nai Tikvah

Calgarians for the Common Good

Calgary Climate Hub

Calgary Interfaith Council

Calgary Unitarians

Church of the Good Shepherd

CUPE 37 - The Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 37

CUPE 38 - The Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 38

CUPE 1169 - The Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 1169 – Calgary and Cochrane Public Library Workers

Eritrean Canadian Community Association of Calgary

EthioCare

Good Shepherd Moravian Church

Hillhurst United

Knox United

Synod of Alberta & the Territories - Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Lutheran Church of the Cross

Scarboro United

St. Andrew's Anglican Church

St. David's United Church

St. Laurence Anglican

St. Thomas United Church

Symons Valley United Church

BECOMING A MEMBER

OF THE CALGARY ALLIANCE FOR THE COMMON GOOD

WHY BECOME A MEMBER

- 1.** The Calgary Alliance for the Common Good is a vehicle by which its members join together to create collective power in order to have an impact on issues facing Calgarians, as well as build the power to shape the future direction of our city.
- 2.** Members have the opportunity to exercise and develop their leadership skills for public life.
- 3.** Calgary Alliance provides members with leadership development workshops and training including the Industrial Areas Foundation's world-class leadership training institutes and seminars.
- 4.** The Calgary Alliance for the Common Good works with members to strengthen their organizations and communities by surfacing and developing leaders who can apply community organizing skills in their contexts.
- 5.** CACG provides opportunities to build relationships by communicating and collaborating with community leaders from across the diversity of our city.
- 6.** Members participate in making decisions, defining the direction and setting the priorities for the Alliance.

BECOMING A MEMBER

To become a member organization:

- 1.** Make a formal decision to join.
- 2.** Appoint a leader or a team of leaders who will connect their organization to the work of CACG.
- 3.** Make a "fair share" financial dues commitment to sustain the work of the Alliance based on the size and scope of the organization.

If you are interested in having your organization become a member of the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good please contact our organizer.

Calgary Alliance for the Common Good
1703 1st Street NW
Calgary AB | T2M 4P4

(587) 209-4365
info@calgarycommongood.org



We would like to thank Calgary Foundation for its support of our work.

Without support by community partners and the specific grants of Calgary Foundation, we would not have been able to support the work of our Mental Health projects and ongoing efforts on Truth and Reconciliation.

FRIENDS

OF THE CALGARY ALLIANCE FOR THE COMMON GOOD

We want to thank everyone who has made a financial contribution to support the work of the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good. Your generosity makes our work possible.

Carol Yanke	Donna Ontonio	Jocelyn Keith-Asante	Meredith and Pat Cashion
Lora & Terry Wyman	Brie Nelson	Laura Karlsson	Kathryn Burwash
Susan Wood	Carolyn Muessig	Colin Jackson	Barbara Brydges
Ronald Wilburn	Pierann Moon	Susan Hull	Caroline Brown
Robert Tremblay	Isabel C Miller	Judy Hughes	Erin Brook
Dr. Beth Stovell	Luanne Metz	Carol Hollywood	Richard Bronstein
Wayne Stewart	John Mendham	Rev. Laura Holck	Meriam Bravante
Joan Stauffer	Heather McRae	Rev. Philip Holck	Mike Bonner
Vincent St. Pierre	Margaret McQuiston	Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor	Sam Bird
Barb Sokale	Beverley McQueen	Phyllis Hawley	Caryle and Brent Barr
Deborah Shnay	Elizabeth McLennan	Robert Hawkesworth	Mary and Trevor Axworthy
Jutta Shaw	Neil McKinnon	Matthew Hammer	Debi Andrus
Tammy Segstro	Jean McClure	John Griffith	Ryan Andersen
Sue Scott	Michael McBeth	Ivor Green	Carolyn Andersen
Pamela Scott	Stephen Maunula	Janet Gourlay-Vallance	John Andersen
Alex Schumacher	June Martin	Dr. Tesfamichael Ghebrehiwet	Anonymous
Les Sawatsky	Laura Lee	Norma Farquharson	Epstein-Shizgal Charitable Trust
David Saude	Joan Lawrence	Marcia Epstein	
Christine Sammon	Barbara Lane	Jane Ebbern	
Ayala Roudstein	Christine Laing	Ricardo de Menezes	
Pamela Rickey	Rabbi Ilana Krygier-Lapides <i>(Beth Tzedec Congregation)</i>	D. Sue Davis	
Lisa Reinders	Ingrid Kristensen	Jean Dacko	
Susan Podlog	Anne Kleffner	Bryan Cummings	
Rev. David Pickett	Rev. Erin Klassen	Patrick Colfer	
Lucia Pfeuti	Gordon King	Hope Cochran	
Cortney Peters	Robin Kidd	Susan Chivers	
Jane Perry	Barb Kennedy	Anne Charlton	
Rabbi Shaul Osadchey			

HOW CAN I GIVE?

Members of the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good have been working hard, but we have the potential and the power to do more. Please consider becoming a friend of the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good, so we can continue building people power. A tax-deductible gift can be made through our parent organization, Industrial Areas Foundation Canada and will support the work of developing leaders who can work together for the common good of all. Donations can be made online through:

www.calgarycommongood.org/donate.

Cheques can be made out to the Industrial Areas Foundation Canada (please specify Calgary Alliance in the memo area) and can be sent to:

Industrial Areas Foundation Canada

PO Box 20094 RPO Fairview

Vancouver BC | V5Z 0C1

Charitable Number 848143442RR0001

CONTACT US

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LEARN MORE



www.calgarycommongood.org

Find us at commongoodyyc on all socials.

