

Quick Facts About Calgary's Diversity

Immigrants:

- 23.6% of Calgarians were born outside of Canada
- Approximately 12,000 new immigrants arrive in Calgary per year
- 22% of Calgary's population were visible minorities in 2006
- 43.6% of new immigrants to Calgary in 2006 were born in Asia. China (16.4%), India (10.2%), Philippines (10%) and Pakistan (7%) were the leading countries of birth for immigrants to Calgary
- 18% of Calgarians in 2001 spoke neither English nor French as their first language

Refugees:

- Approximately 1,300 refugees arrive in Calgary each year
- 1/3 are government-assisted refugees destined to Calgary and are received through the Calgary Catholic Immigration Society and 2/3 are migrants to Calgary from their original destinations in Canada

Persons with disabilities:

- Nearly 14% of Albertans aged 15 and over report having one or more disabilities
- Many persons with disabilities live in poverty, or are at risk for living in poverty
- More than half of Albertans with disabilities aged 15 to 64 are employed

Gender and sexually diverse persons:

- 5 – 10% of Calgarians would identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, inter-sexed, transgender and two-spirited

Persons living in poverty in Calgary:

- 1/3 of all persons with disabilities, 1/2 of all Aboriginal persons, almost 1/2 of all recent immigrants, close to 1/3 of all visible minority persons, over 1/2 of all single parent families, over 1/4 of seniors, and 1/5 of Calgary's children live in poverty

Persons experiencing homelessness:

- 4,060 of Calgarians were absolutely homeless (living on the street with no physical shelter, including those who spend their nights in emergency shelters in 2008)
- The true number of homeless in Calgary is probably much higher when the numbers of "hidden homeless" are considered, particularly women, families and youth

Persons with low literacy skills:

- 40% of youth and 48% of adults have inadequate literacy in Canada
- Youth from disadvantaged backgrounds, including lower socio-economic status, are vulnerable to low literacy