

Population Growth Renews Mayor's Call for Revenue Sharing

Another year of significant population growth in Calgary supports Mayor Bronconnier's call for more equitable revenue distribution among municipal, provincial and federal governments and greater flexibility for local revenue generation to effectively manage growth.

"We've welcomed more than 207,000 people to Calgary in the past 10 years. That's the equivalent of absorbing the entire population of Regina," said Mayor Dave Bronconnier. "We need the resources to provide the same high quality of services to all Calgarians, new and established, without putting additional pressure on our property tax payers or on those who use our facilities and services."

Calgary's population has grown by 22,583 people in the past year according to the 2005 Civic Census released today. The census shows the number of people in Calgary climbed 2.42% from 933,495 to 956,078 between April 2004 and April 2005.

Eleven communities had a population increase of more than 1,000 persons. The communities are Cougar Ridge (1,027), Coventry Hills (1,306), Cranston (1,165), Evergreen (3,029), McKenzie Towne (1,423), Panorama Hills (1,258), Rocky Ridge (1,017), Royal Oak (1,632), Saddle Ridge (1,039), Taradale (1,010) & Tuscany (1,904).

Two communities grew more than 100%. The communities are Evanston (144.13%) & Symons Valley (138.08%).

Net migration was 13,677, an increase of 11,424 (84%) from the 2004 figure. The natural increase, the result of the excess of births over deaths, was 8,906, down slightly from the previous year yet a significant source of population growth.

The figures show a significant growth in the housing stock and another hike in owner-occupancy over the past year. The number of housing units, both existing and under construction, jumped from 383,701 to 395,779. Of the 371,478 occupied dwellings in the city, 265,846 (71.56%) are owner-occupied.

The City of Calgary 2005 Civic Census – Highlights

Population

- **956,078** total population in Calgary
- **22,583** population increase between April 2004 and April 2005
- Calgary's total population increased **2.42** per cent in past year

- Net migration (people moving to Calgary) was **13,677**; up 11,424 (84%) over 2004
- Natural Increase (births over deaths) was **8906**; a drop of 21 over 2004

Ward Growth

- Eight wards experienced population growth; highest growth seen in Ward 3 (6,064 or 7.9 per cent)
- Six wards experienced population decrease; highest decrease seen in Ward 4 (-711 or -0.9 per cent)

Housing

- Total housing units increased to **395,779**; increase of 12,078 over 2004
- Housing increase **equivalent to 31 new homes occupied each day or one every 46 minutes, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.**
- 265,846 owner-occupied units – 71.56 per cent of total housing units

Implications of Calgary's rapid growth

- Rapid growth in housing units generates positive economic spin-offs for businesses serving the housing industry, job creation and commercial development in residential areas
- Growth in owner-occupied units suggests home ownership in Calgary is accessible, but affordable housing programs must continue to be developed to provide suitable housing for all Calgarians
- Calgary's growth rate heightens the need for responsible regional environmental planning to ensure our wider community remains clean and safe
- Calgary's brisk growth supports City's call for more equitable revenue distribution among municipal, provincial and federal governments and greater flexibility for local revenue generation to effectively manage growth

2005 Year to date residential building statistics (to June 2005)

Total number of new housing units to date in Calgary is **3930** - compared to 3567 for the same period in 2004.