

“Calgarians have never shied away from tough challenges, and neither have I. With conviction and with purpose, we will protect what matters and build what’s possible. Safer streets, stronger neighbourhoods, and a city we can all be proud of — that is the Calgary we deserve, and that is the Calgary I will fight for.”
– Jyoti Gondek

Public Safety Building Safe Streets & Strong Communities

Safety is the foundation of a strong city. It’s what allows families to thrive, businesses to grow, and communities to feel connected. That’s why public safety is the first pillar of my plan for Calgary’s future.

Over the past four years, I’ve taken real action to make Calgarians feel safer. We reopened a downtown police station, restored visible patrols to our core, and launched the Safer Calgary Initiative to strengthen partnerships between police, peace officers, and outreach teams. We invested in new fire halls and faster emergency response, recognizing that every second counts in an emergency. And we put safety back at the heart of city-building by ensuring neighbourhoods and downtown alike benefit from targeted investments.

And I know there is more to do. Calgarians have told me they want a downtown free of open drug use, neighbourhoods where help arrives quickly when crisis strikes, and roads where their kids can cross the street without fear. These aren’t luxuries — they are the essentials of daily life.

That’s why my public safety plan balances presence with prevention. It addresses the visible concerns we see on our streets while tackling the root causes of disorder, addiction, and crime. It invests in the firefighters, police officers, and peace officers who protect us, while demanding that the Province fund its fair share of medical emergency response.

And my plan builds on innovation and data that I championed to redesign streets before tragedy strikes, not after.

Public safety is about more than statistics — it’s about people. The parent who wants their teenager to take the train downtown and feel safe. The small business owner who needs side-walks outside their shop to be welcoming, not intimidating. The senior who wants to cross the street with confidence.

This plan is for them. For all of us. Together, we can build a Calgary where every resident — no matter their age, background, or neighbourhood — can feel safe, secure, and supported.

Theme 1: Make Downtown Safe for Everyone

Downtown is Calgary's economic and cultural heart. If the core doesn't feel safe, the whole city feels it. Families avoid events, businesses struggle to attract customers, and workers hesitate to stay late or commute by transit. Calgarians have told me loud and clear that the biggest barriers to a thriving downtown are open drug use, visible disorder, and the feeling that public spaces don't belong to them anymore.

That's why my plan starts in the core. Over the past term, we've reopened a downtown police station, increased visible patrols, and launched the Safer Calgary Initiative to bring police, peace officers, and outreach workers together. But I know this isn't enough. We need to go further by balancing accountability with compassion – ending open drug use on our streets while ensuring those struggling with addiction, trauma, or homelessness are directed toward real support, through Community Court. More information here: [Community Court](#).

Downtown safety is about more than enforcement. It's about restoring confidence in Calgary's core – so parents feel comfortable bringing their children to festivals, small businesses can thrive, and new residents want to live in the heart of our city. A safe, welcoming downtown is the foundation for economic growth, cultural vibrancy, and community pride.

“Public spaces must be places where families, workers, and visitors feel welcome and secure. They cannot be places of fear and disorder.

My commitment is to restore safety in our core so that every Calgarian can be proud of their downtown again.”

– Jyoti Gondek

End open drug use through strengthened city bylaws and Community Court referrals.

- Strengthen bylaws to allow intervention where visible drug use undermines safety.
- Use Community Court to provide a pathway to treatment, housing, or recovery supports. Referring offences to Community Court connects people to housing, recovery, and mental health supports through a proven diversion model that lowers repeat offences while relieving pressure on traditional courts.
- Work with Mental Health and Addictions Minister Rick Wilson to immediately address the problems of open drug use associated with the Sheldon Chumir Supervised Consumption Site, urging quick and compassionate action to save lives and bring Calgarians back to a vibrant Beltline.
- This is a balance between keeping streets safe and providing an avenue for people to enter programs or access services designed to facilitate recovery. It's comparable to Vancouver's successful Community Court program, with more information available here: [BC Community Court](#).

Fund and support integrated response by Calgary Police Service, Transit and Peace Officers, and outreach teams.

- Embed outreach workers alongside police and peace officers to ensure immediate connection to help, while allowing officers to focus on public safety. This is how outreach teams in Calgary are delivering essential services: **Alpha House**
- Pairing both peace and police officers with outreach workers ensures distress situations are de-escalated and people are connected to support immediately.
- This dual approach delivers more humane, effective responses, eases pressure on emergency services, and supports longer-term stabilization. Check out how Winnipeg has created a Downtown Community Safety Partnership: **Downtown Community Safety Partnership**.

Establish a dedicated non-emergency response line for Calgarians to call or text when witnessing people in distress in public settings

- This line diverts non-violent calls away from 911 and sends specialized responders to move people off the streets into care.
- Clarifying where to call or text in a non-emergency situation provides clear communication to Calgarians and coordinates a response between all recovery agencies, police and peace officers.
- Establishing this line will move people in visible crisis off the streets more quickly because the specialized line, staffed by trained responders, ensures quicker, more appropriate intervention.
- Having this resource will restore confidence in shared public spaces. By giving residents and businesses a clear, reliable way to call or text for help when someone is in distress, the City can respond more consistently and effectively. This not only helps the individual but also reassures families, commuters, and customers those streets, transit stops, and business fronts won't be left unmanaged – creating an environment where everyone feels secure returning to Calgary's core. Here's an example of Toronto's Community Crisis Service which resolves 78% of diverted calls without police involvement:

Toronto Community Crisis Service

Increase visible peace officer, police and outreach patrols, while maintaining a downtown station.

- Visible patrols with officers and outreach teams deter crime, address distress, and give Calgarians peace of mind as they conduct daily life downtown.
- Targeted patrols at transit, nightlife events, and festivals boost safety.
 - **Target patrols in high-traffic areas** like LRT stations, pedestrian corridors, and nightlife districts, where visibility builds confidence and deters disorder.
 - **Coordinate patrol schedules with community events** so that festivals, markets, and downtown gatherings feel safe and supported.
 - **More officers on foot and bike patrols** to create a stronger presence, improve accessibility, and foster approachable, community-based policing.
 - **Regularly engage with businesses and residents** through patrol walk-throughs and check-ins, building trust and ensuring concerns are addressed quickly.

- **Pilot “predictive patrol zones”** using data on repeat incidents, so resources are directed where they’ll have the greatest impact.
- A permanent downtown station provides stability while more patrols deter crime and reassure residents. Safety is both real and felt. A permanent station in the core keeps support close, boosts accountability, and signals that the heart of the city matters.
- Embed community-based officers within the patrol network to ensure that neighbourhoods have a primary contact with whom to build relationships and solutions to address the disorder and crime that is often specific to geographic areas. In Toronto, the Neighbourhood Community Resource Officer program has improved trust and safety: **Safe Routes to Schools**

Theme 2: Keep Neighbourhoods Safe and Supported

Safety doesn't stop at the downtown core — it must extend to every community across our city. Calgarians want to know that when they call for help, whether it's a fire, a break-in, or a medical emergency, someone will arrive quickly.

Over the past four years, we have invested in new fire halls, supported community policing, and strengthened emergency response. But as Calgary grows by more than 250 people every single day, demand for services is stretching resources thin. In too many neighbourhoods, response times are at risk of falling behind, and our firefighters continue to shoulder the cost of being first on scene for medical calls without fair provincial funding.

That must change. Neighbourhood safety means ensuring families feel protected close to home, no matter where they live. It means stable budgets for first responders, new infrastructure in fast-growing communities, and accountability from the Province to do its part. Calgarians deserve nothing less than reliable, timely help when they need it most.

“When a family dials 911, they don’t care if it’s the City or the Province that’s responsible. They just need help, fast. My plan ensures the right people arrive quickly, with the tools and training to save lives.”

– Jyoti Gondek

Build new community fire halls to improve emergency response times.

- Calgary is expanding rapidly—at over 250 new residents per day. In some neighborhoods, long travel distances result in delayed fire and emergency response.
- Currently, 90% of 911 fire calls are met within a seven-minute target (“90th percentile”), but gaps remain visible on city maps.
- New fire halls in the right places will reduce response times, ensuring help arrives when minutes matter, like this example in the Calgary community of Cornerstone:

Fire Station and Multi-Service Development.

Ensure first-responder budgets match population growth and inflation.

- The operating budget for first responders must keep pace with population growth and inflation, to ensure there are enough firefighters and police officers to serve Calgarians.
- Fire and police services have consistently faced rising demand without aligned funding increases. To maintain safety, budgets must grow with the city—allowing for sufficient hiring and training of firefighters, paramedics, and police officers. This avoids dangerous backlogs and supports sustainable emergency services.
- Budgets indexed to population and inflation prevent falling behind as demand rises.

Press for fair provincial funding for medical first response.

- Fight for Calgary's fair share of provincial funding to address the reality of Calgary Fire Department being the first on call for most medical distress calls.
- Calgary Fire responds to most medical distress calls—often arriving before Alberta Health Services—but doesn't receive matching provincial funding. This leaves Calgary footing costs that should be provincially covered. It's only fair that AHS resource allocation reflects who's first on scene.

Theme 3: Make Calgary's Streets Safer for All

Safety is also about how we move through our city — crossing the street, riding a bike, or driving home from work. In 2024, 29 people were killed in traffic collisions across Calgary, including 13 pedestrians — the highest number in more than a decade. These aren't statistics — they are families changed forever, lives cut short, and neighbourhoods left grieving.

That's why traffic safety has been a core part of my time as Mayor, and it's a major piece of my plan. Under my leadership, Calgary has already funded urgent crosswalk upgrades and pushed to modernize how we identify high-risk intersections. But we need to go further by using technology like artificial intelligence to analyze near-misses, restoring enforcement tools like photo radar on high-speed routes, and committing to long-term design improvements that protect everyone — pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers alike.

Safe streets are the foundation of mobility and community confidence. Parents should not fear their child walking to school. Seniors should feel secure crossing an intersection. And no driver should lose their life because of outdated systems or unchecked speeding.

“These are not just numbers — they are human lives. We must stop reacting after tragedies and start preventing them before they happen. Calgarians deserve streets designed for safety of all users.”
– Jyoti Gondek

Make urgent investments in crosswalk upgrades, traffic calming, enforcement and street design improvements to prevent collisions that protect pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers alike, while keeping disruptions to commuters to a minimum.

- Simple design changes like raised crosswalks, curb bump-outs, and speed cushions save lives.
- Use the City of Calgary's Vision Zero strategy to ensure that new neighbourhoods have streets designed to discourage speeding and facilitate safer crossing for pedestrians. This builds on Council's 2021 decision to decrease neighbourhood speed limits to 40 km/h as a life saving measure.
- Retrofit existing streets that are oversized by placing temporary traffic cones or posts in areas of high collision probability, with the goal of implementing permanent solutions based on monitoring of results.

Support Calgary Police Service in their call for automated enforcement on high speed roadways like Stoney Trail to protect the safety of motorists. Work with the Province to prioritize safety and not revenue generation

- Excessive speed was a factor in 35% of Calgary's fatal collisions in 2024, making it one of the leading causes of deaths on our roads. High-speed corridors like Stoney Trail are particularly dangerous because collisions at those speeds are almost always catastrophic.
- Automated speed enforcement allows the City to consistently slow drivers down in high-risk areas where officers cannot be stationed 24/7. These systems target only dangerous drivers, not everyday commuters following the rules, and their placement is transparent and data driven.

- Unlike sporadic speed traps, automated enforcement provides consistent deterrence. Over time, this changes driving culture and reduces the sense that “speeding is acceptable” on Calgary’s roads.
- This is not about revenue — it’s about prevention. By keeping speeds within safe limits, automated enforcement reduces both the likelihood of collisions and unsafe conditions for first responders on site responding to traffic incidents

Building on Jyoti’s work as Mayor, explore and invest in ways that AI and new technologies can identify and prioritize high risk locations by examining both near-miss data and actual collision data.

- **AI can capture near-miss data invisible to traditional reporting.** This lets the City see danger zones where collisions haven’t yet been recorded, making it possible to fix risks before lives are lost
- **Predictive modelling helps prioritize limited resources.** Instead of waiting for tragic proof, Calgary can direct safety investments to the locations with the highest probability of future collisions.
- **Real-time analytics create faster response.** Video and sensor technology can flag speeding patterns, red-light running, or potential pedestrian incidents as they happen, so enforcement and design changes are driven by current behaviour, not outdated data.
- **Equity mapping ensures vulnerable road users are protected.** AI tools can highlight areas where youth, seniors, or newcomers face higher risks, ensuring safety upgrades are distributed fairly across the city.

Enhance school-zone safety with infrastructure and enforcement.

- **Improved signage, flashing beacons, and strict enforcement protect children near schools.** These measures increase driver awareness and compliance in areas where children are most vulnerable, reducing the chance of tragic collisions during school hours.
- **Traffic-calming measures like raised crosswalks and curb extensions slow vehicles where kids cross daily.**

Slower vehicle speeds dramatically reduce both the likelihood and severity of collisions — a child hit at 30 km/h has a 90% chance of survival, compared to less than 50% at 50 km/h.

- **Dedicated school safety patrols and automated enforcement create consistent deterrence during drop-off and pick-up times**

This ensures that high-risk moments of congestion are managed, keeping both children and parents safe while reducing chaotic traffic around schools.

- **Partnerships with parent councils and community groups help identify high-risk areas that need upgrades first.**

Parents and schools see the daily risks first-hand; incorporating their insights ensures resources go where they’re needed most, increasing trust and results.

- **Safe walking and cycling routes reduce vehicle congestion around schools while giving kids healthier, safer ways to travel.**

Fewer cars near schools mean less risk of accidents, less pollution, and more independence for children walking or biking safely with their peers. In Toronto, the Safe Routes to School program reduced incidents at pilot schools, showing how design upgrades and community partnerships can prevent harm before it happens: [Safe Routes to Schools](#)

Conclusion

Public safety is not negotiable — it is the very foundation of a thriving city. Calgarians deserve to feel secure in their homes, confident in their neighbourhoods, and proud of a downtown that is vibrant and welcoming. That is the standard I have fought for over the last four years, and what I will continue to fight for as your Mayor.

This plan is not about words on paper — it is about taking real action. It will end open drug use on our streets, put more officers and peace officers where they are needed most, build more fire halls that save lives, and prevent collisions using new technology before tragedy strikes. It is about demanding the Province pay its fair share, so Calgary families are not left carrying the burden alone.

I will not accept a city where parents fear for their children crossing the street, where seniors feel unsafe on the sidewalk, or where small businesses close their doors because the core feels abandoned. We have made great strides together as a city, but I know we can do better, and under my leadership, we will.

Together, we will reclaim our streets, restore confidence in our communities, and make Calgary the safest, strongest city in Canada. That is my promise and commitment to you — and that is the future I will deliver as your Mayor.

A handwritten signature in pink ink, appearing to read "Jyoti", with a horizontal line above it.