



**The City of Calgary, AB**

**2012 CAMA Willis Award for Innovation  
(Population over 100,000)**

***Our City. Our Budget. Our Future. Citizen engagement in a new approach to business planning and budgeting***

From February to November 2011, The City of Calgary undertook a new approach to the development of the 2012-2014 business plans and budgets.

The program – called **Our City. Our Budget. Our Future.** – conducted the most extensive budget dialogue with citizens in any Canadian municipality to date, the results of which were considered by Council for the development of Council's Fiscal Plan for Calgary, and by Administration in the development of proposed business plans and budgets.

**Our City. Our Budget. Our Future.** invited citizens to provide their input on City services and spending priorities before the development of business plans and budgets, and sought to educate, and build knowledge and capacity among stakeholders so that conversations about City services, priorities and budgets could be more informed. More than 23,000 Calgarians participated from February to May 2011.

Comments from participants expressed appreciation for City services and the opportunity to provide input, and noted an increased sense of openness and transparency. The program also provided the municipality with longer-term benefits by building capacity, knowledge and trust among citizens.

Emerging issues including challenges in financial sustainability and growth management, a recognized need for improved transparency in decision-making, and expectations for citizen engagement, called for changes to how City services are planned and delivered.

**Our City. Our Budget. Our Future.** helped address these issues by putting citizens at the centre of budget discussions, and reaffirmed the need and value for municipal administrators to engage in a more open dialogue on City budgets with citizens.

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