



Urban Alliance

A research partnership between the City of Calgary and the University of Calgary

In 2007, the Urban Alliance was created to encourage and coordinate the seamless transfer of cutting-edge research between the City of Calgary and the University of Calgary – for the benefit of all our communities.

Vision

To win recognition as a world-class university in a world-class city through collaboration in municipal innovation, research and education that positions Calgary well for the long term.

Through the Urban Alliance, both organizations pursue common interests in research, development and education relating to:

- finding excellent solutions to complex problems facing Calgary;
- fostering world-class research and innovation
- developing highly qualified personnel;
- establishing flexible, cross-discipline approaches;
- energizing the relationship between university and city staff;
- facilitating continuity of corporate memory, wisdom and experience;

- realizing Calgary's long-term priorities and the imagineCALGARY vision; and
- nurturing a long-term partnership between the city and the university.

Mission

To engage top researchers who seek out and implement solutions to pressing municipal issues through high-quality research. The Urban Alliance provides a framework for leading-edge researchers and front-line city planners to work together to tackle problems such as transportation, waste reduction, energy and environment, youth crime, homelessness, poverty reduction and the integration of immigrants into our communities.

The Urban Alliance:

- identifies strategic issues facing the city;
- connects university researchers with questions for which the city seeks answers;
- encourages multi-disciplinary solutions to complex problems;
- builds a network of relationships and creative dialogue between the two organizations;
- seeks to leverage funding for research; and
- simplifies essential processes including research administration and data access.

The Urban Alliance was created to encourage and coordinate the seamless transfer of cutting-edge research between the City of Calgary and the University of Calgary – for the benefit of all our communities. **All activities are overseen by a steering committee of senior leaders from the city and the university, and administered by the Office of the Vice-President (Research) of the university.**

Success

In its initial three-year phase, with a contribution of start-up funding from Alberta Municipal Affairs, the Urban Alliance established one research professorship (Transportation Systems Optimization) and attracted funding in support of more than 60 research projects. These investigations engaged over 100 researchers, students and practitioners. In 2013-14, a number of new projects and initiatives were launched, including 10 projects funded through our first Seed Grant competition. These are in areas as diverse as flood mitigation, homeless-youth policies and quantum-secured communication.

Selected Projects

- Advancing Canadian Wastewater Assets
Water Resources + Biological Sciences, Geoscience
- Public Transportation for Urban Mobility Calgary
Transit + Civil Engineering
- Influence of Neighbourhood Environments on
Weight Status of Adults
Land Use Planning + Medicine
- Transportation Systems Optimization Professorship
Transportation + Civil Engineering
- Road Map for Sustainability of Municipal
Pavement Management Application
Roads + Civil Engineering
- Social Connectivity Project
Land Use Planning + Environmental Design
- Optimal Shelter Design in an Urban Environment
Community & Neighbourhood Services +
Environmental Design, Social Work

- Promising Practices – Housing and
Homelessness in Canada
Community & Neighbourhood Services,
Calgary Police Service + Social Work
- Optimization and Automatic Control for
Bioreactors in Wastewater Treatment
Water Resources + Electrical Engineering
- Analysis of Green Roof Replacement
on Municipal Hall
Corporate Services, Water Resources + Geography
- Biocell Approach for Energy Recovery and
Environmental Protection
Waste & Recycling + Civil Engineering
- Systems Analysis of Energy Utilization/Footprint
Environmental Management + Civil Engineering

Get Involved

Interested in learning more?

Are you a city practitioner with a research question, or university investigator with an idea for a research project?

Please visit our website or contact:

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