

Why the Calgary Metropolitan Plan is Essential to our Future

BY [CRPADMIN](#) • FEBRUARY 11, 2013 • [CALGARY METROPOLITAN PLAN, PARTNERSHIP/PLAN, REGIONAL SERVICING AND CMP IMPLEMENTATION](#)



Regional growth planning isn't usually a prominent news story. A complex topic, full of jargon and a bit dry compared to other subjects such as government budgets or crime. However, the Calgary Region's growth plan, the [Calgary Metropolitan Plan](#) (CMP), has been front and centre: [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

Notwithstanding barbs concerning peacocks and farm teams, both the Mayor of Calgary and the Minister of Municipal Affairs have valid points. Minister Doug Griffiths is correct in saying everyone involved must be respected when it comes to a partnership: from the City of Calgary to the rural communities. Mayor Naheed Nenshi is spot on about the CMP needing to be legislated sooner. Both are correct that the Calgary Metropolitan Plan is important for the future growth of the Calgary Region.

A central theme is a perception of the City of Calgary as a "bully" enforcing development policies through the CMP by withholding water services. Nothing could be further from the truth. What is missing from these articles is that the Calgary Metropolitan Plan was developed and [unanimously approved](#) by 14 municipalities, not just Calgary. All municipalities in the [Calgary Regional Partnership](#) benefit from the CMP as it helps prepare

the Region for inevitable growth; a growth affecting municipalities [throughout Alberta](#). In fact, according to the 2011 Federal Census, the Town's of Chestermere and Strathmore as well as the City of Airdrie is growing [four times faster than Calgary](#), with Chestermere being the fastest growing Town in Alberta. Furthermore, fallout of the growth can be felt in many areas that municipalities have to plan for: [housing](#), [water](#), [schools](#), and even [language](#). Water, in particular, is our Region's most compelling issue because it is at risk due to rapid growth but at the same time a major catalyst for change.

According to a [2012 Urban Futures study](#), the Calgary Region is forecasted to have a population growth of more than 3 million by 2076. That's more than double the population the Region has today. The Calgary Metropolitan Plan addresses fundamental questions as a result of that growth:

- **Where will all those people live?**
- **Will there be enough water to support this growth?**
- **How will all these people move around?**
- **How will municipalities grow to accommodate the population?**
- **What employment and economic opportunities will be available?**

It is time for all municipalities, urban and rural, and the Province to work with the Calgary Metropolitan Plan so we can grow responsibly, steward our limited natural resources and prepare for future generations that will call our Region home.

Let us know what you think of the Calgary Metropolitan Plan.

For more information on the Calgary Metropolitan Plan you can [read it](#), visit the [website](#) or head to our [YouTube channel](#).