

What Makes “Sense of Community” a reality!

Community Associations are major contributors to the “quality of life” for their residents. However, frequently the community volunteers are so busy providing programs & services, managing their facilities & amenities and governing the organization that they lose touch with exactly how important their contribution is to their community.

“Sense of Community” is the sense of belongingness, fellowship, “we-ness”, experienced in the context of a functional group or geographically based collective. (Buckner, 1988:773). There are several elements to “sense of community”; a feeling of belonging or membership; having influence on your community and vice versa; being able to meet most of your needs through your community for such factors as safety, services and respect; and being emotionally connected with and committed to your community.

Some “sense of community” indicators are;

1. Degree of sense of community experienced
2. Participation, volunteering in local group
3. Acquaintance with, knowledge of, ability to identify neighbours or local children
4. Frequency of chatting outside, waving, visiting, socializing
5. Help exchange amongst neighbours
6. Amenities, facilities and services available
7. Degree of alienation from neighbours, (trust)
8. Frequency of reading community newsletter
9. Extent of fear, incivility

Calgary has a mechanism to address all of these indicators, the -

***Calgary
Community
Associations.***

Celebrate the outstanding “quality of life” enjoyed by Calgarians and Celebrate the Community Associations contribution.



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