Bouchercon, the World Mystery Convention 2026



## **Key Information**

HOST CITY	CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA
PROPOSED VENUES	CALGARY TELUS CONVENTION CENTRE
PROPOSED DATE	OCTOBER 20 -25, 2026

#### **CONTACT DETAILS**



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### **Local Organizing Committee Members**

Calgary have gathered a potential of 25 + people who are interested in representing our writing local scene through being on the Organizing Committee for Bouchercon, the World Mystery Convention 2026. Below we have listed a number of confirmed committee members.



#### Susan Calder - Co-Chair

Susan Calder grew up in Montreal and has lived in Calgary for twenty-six years. She is the author of four novels; one standalone suspense and three books in her Paula Savard Mystery Series set in Calgary. Susan's short stories have won contests and appeared in numerous magazines and anthologies, including Passport to Murder, Bouchercon Anthology 2017. She attended Bouchercon Toronto that year. Susan has served on the boards of the Alexandra Writers Centre Society, Crime Writers of Canada, and When Words Collide Festival for Readers and Writers. She writes regular articles for Opal Writers Magazine and blogs monthly on her publisher BWL Publishing Inc.'s website. To learn more about Susan, please visit her website www.susancalder.com



#### Pamela McDowell - Co-Chair

Pamela McDowell is a native Calgarian who enjoys exploring and writing about her home province. She has published a chapter book series with Orca Books and 57 non-fiction books for children and is now developing a mystery series for young adults. Pamela's expertise is in people and program management with large non-profit organizations, such Ronald McDonald House Charities Alberta and Heritage Park Historical Village. She has experience coordinating programming and multi-day conferences for writing groups, including the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators Canada West, Mystery Writers Ink, and the Calgary Writers Association. To learn more about Pamela, please visit www.pamelamcdowell.ca



#### Tony Berryman - Local Committee Chair (Position TBD)

Tony enjoys a good thriller and is now writing them, two fingers at a time. His first massage therapy thriller, The Night Nurse, was published in 2020. The second, On Borrowed Time, is due out in early 2023.

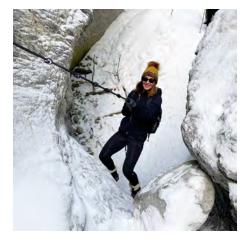
Tony spent 17 years as a registered massage therapist. He's also been a taxi driver, apple picker and Rocky Mountains snowplow operator. He spent four years as a visitor communications coordinator and staff trainer for Parks Canada. Tony is active in his local arts and culture scene and spent several years as a grant writer.

Tony lives in a small town just west of the Rockies with Juanita Rose Violini, his life partner and interactive murder mystery expert.









#### Dave Butler - Local Committee Chair (Position TBD)

Dave Butler is the author of the Jenny Willson mystery series, published by Dundurn Press. He's a forester and biologist living in Cranbrook, British Columbia, in the shadow of the Rocky Mountains. His writing and photography have appeared in numerous Canadian publications. He's a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal winner, and a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. When he's not writing, Dave is professionally involved in sustainable tourism at local, national and international levels and he travels extensively. He's a Professional Author Member of the Crime Writers of Canada. Dave is represented by Sam Hiyate at The Rights Factory therightsfactory.com/authors/dave-butler/ and is a founding member of, and regularly posts at Free Range Writers.com.

#### Karl Buchner - Local Committee Chair (Position TBD)

Karl Buchner is a published writer with three books published on Amazon, Kobo, and Kindle with a forth in the series to be published later this year. He is the founder of the Parkdale Writer's Guild and Kerby Writer's Guild (latter starts Sept 2022). These are seniors (55+) critiquing groups that wish to improve their skills and become published. He was involved with the skiing portion (Spray Lakes / Sparrowhawk – changed to Nakiska after award) of the 1988 Olympic Bid Book working with Frank King. He has held senior positions on the preparation of World Bank Funding projects for Central European countries and later as Project Manager on those projects (primarily Slovenia and Romania). He has extensive experience in proposal preparation and project implementation for numerous North American enterprises (primarily Xerox, Data General, UMA Group, Digitech, and Western Diversification). He has enjoyed a vast experiential background in education, technology, economics, and business development through domestic and international positions and consulting.

#### Steena Holmes - Local Committee Chair (Position TBD)

Steena Holmes is a Calgary-based award-winning author who has written over 30 novels of different genres selling over 2 million copies worldwide including her popular "Finding Emma" series. She is a New York Times and USA Today Bestselling Author and has also reached the #1 Bestseller list on Amazon. Her latest novel, "The Perfect Secret", is a page-turning psychological suspense thriller that will delight Bouchercon fans. Steena is also a frequent guest speaker sharing her expertise on indie publishing and using your brand to reach readers. When not busy writing and raising her family in Calgary, Steena loves to travel taking her talents on the road with "Steena Travels" leading groups to visit exotic locations for delicious literary adventures (infused with chocolate and coffee, of course). Learn more about Steena, her works, her interests and more at www.steenaholmes.com.

#### Kelly Malacko - Local Committee Chair (Position TBD)

Kelly Malacko earned her BA in Communications from the University of Calgary and a Diploma in Journalism from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. Kelly brings a background in print journalism, as well as marketing and communication experience with Parks Canada and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Currently, she is the co-host of a bi-weekly Twitter chat group for writers and is focusing on writing fiction. Kelly finds balance coaching boxing, raising two children and a rambunctious Airedale Terrier, and is married to a police officer who barely flinches when she plots crimes and asks for his input.

#### Annie Murray - Local Committee Chair (Position TBD)

Annie Murray is Rare Books and Special Collections Librarian in Archives and Special Collections. She curates books and other special materials for Special Collections and the Glenbow Library Collection.

She is currently overseeing the completion of a multi-year project to migrate and preserve audiovisual recordings from the EMI Music Canada Archive, sponsored by the Mellon Foundation. She is also a co-applicant in the SSHRCfunded SpokenWeb partnership to identify, preserve, share and integrate literary audio recordings more deeply into the study of literature.

#### Olyn Fleming Ozbick - Local Committee Chair (Position TBD)

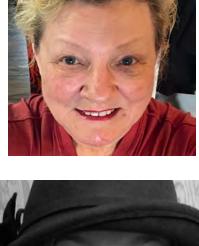
Olyn Fleming Ozbick is an internationally award-winning magazine editor and journalist, and author of the popular picture book, The Davy Rule. Her short stories have been published in anthologies and literary magazines in Canada, the US and the UK. Her essays, reports, reviews and creative nonfiction have been widely published. She is passionate about language and literature and fascinated by technology and its possibilities. She teaches writing at the Alexandra Writers Centre and taught Journalism in the Faculty of Journalism at Mount Royal University. She lives in Calgary with her frisbeelovin' border collie.

#### Judith Pittman - Local Committee Chair (Position TBD)

Judith "Jude" Pittman, is part owner and publisher of BWL Publishing Inc. a Canadian publisher located in Airdrie, Alberta. Nominated by Airdrie Life Magazine as one of 2019's Amazing Airdrie Women, Jude's focus as a publisher is on the stories of Canadian women, and in 2018 BWL Publishing released the Canadian Historical Brides Collection, a 12 book set of creative non-fiction novels featuring pioneering women from every Province and Territory in Canada. Pittman is a mystery author and her books include the 5 book Kelly McWinter PI mystery series, and with husband John Wisdomkeeper, Street Justice, a Metis mystery set in Vancouver.

#### Stacey Kondla - Local Committee Chair (Position TBD)

Stacey Kondla is a literary agent with The Rights Factory. She has a variety of clients with works that include adult literary fiction, mystery, science fiction & fantasy, romcoms, historical, nonfiction science, and children's picture books, middle grade, and young adult titles. Her background includes working as a Field Representative for Scholastic Book Fairs, managing at two different Chapters/Indigo stores, freelance editing, and serving on the organizing committee of When Words Collide (A Festival for Readers and Writers).











#### Robin van Eck- Local Committee Chair (Position TBD)

Robin van Eck is a Calgary-based writer and literary arts advocate. Her first novel, Rough, was published in 2020 by Stonehouse Publishing. She has 20 years experience with the Calgary literary community and is currently the Executive Director for the Alexandra Writers Centre, an organization dedicated to the literary arts in Alberta. You can learn more about her at www.robinzvaneck.com or check out the Alexandra Writers Centre at www. alexandrawriters.org

#### Cecilia Alcaraz - Local Committee Chair (Position TBD)

Cecilia Alcaraz is a member of Alexandra Writer's Centre Society (AWCS) and the Writers Guild of Alberta (WGA). She is proud to be part of the burgeoning BIPOC writer community in Calgary and credits AWCS's Borderlines Writers Circle for helping her find her tribe and advocacy. Cecilia writes novels and short stories that intermingle the heartbreaking with the humorous. A lawyer in her former life, she currently works at Choice Properties where she is joyfully running the office book club.



#### **Steele Curry - Special Advisor**

Lifelong, Calgary-based, passionate reader and collector of mystery, espionage and thriller fiction. Have attended the Bouchercon mystery conventions on a regular annual basis since 2000. Served on the National Bouchercon Board and as its co-chair together with Mike Bursaw. Received The Don Sandstrom Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement in Mystery Fandom at the Toronto Bouchercon in 2017. Contributor and reviewer for Deadly Pleasures Mystery Magazine. Donated 8,000 first edition mystery book collection to the University of Calgary in March 2021.



#### **Overview**

The Calgary TELUS Convention Centre (CTCC) is much more than just a venue. It is a space of community and inspiration, where ideas are shared, and meaningful connections are made. They facilitate and host meetings and events that engage people, face-to-face and virtually.

They have over 122,000 sq. ft. of flexible space, 47,000 sq. ft. of exhibit space, five pre-function areas and 36 meeting rooms. They bring people together locally and from around the world for a variety of events, meetings, special occasions, and conferences, always with the safety and wellbeing of their clients and guests as a top priority.

Located on the iconic Stephen Avenue at the centre of Downtown Calgary, the CTCC is connected to the Calgary Marriott Downtown Hotel, Fairmont Palliser and Hyatt Regency. The convention neighbourhood has a diverse collection of restaurants, retail shops, live theaters, concert halls, convention facilities, museums, art galleries, and Calgary's business towers.

Whether it's parking in the underground lot, riding on Calgary light-rail transit to the station by their doors, or staying at one of the connected hotels, visiting the Centre is comfortable, convenient and easy.



3 connected hotels (Calgary Marriott Downtown Hotel, Hyatt Regency Calgary, Fairmont Palliser)



19 km | 11.8 mi | 20 min.

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122,000 sq. ft. Floor Plans and Capacity Charts



- Food & Beverage: Marriott

- Audio Visual: Encore
- Show Services: Global Convention Services
- Decor: Decor & More



- On-site paid parkingConnected to a light-rail transit
- station (Calgary C-Train)



- Global Biorisk Advisory Council (GBAC) STAR

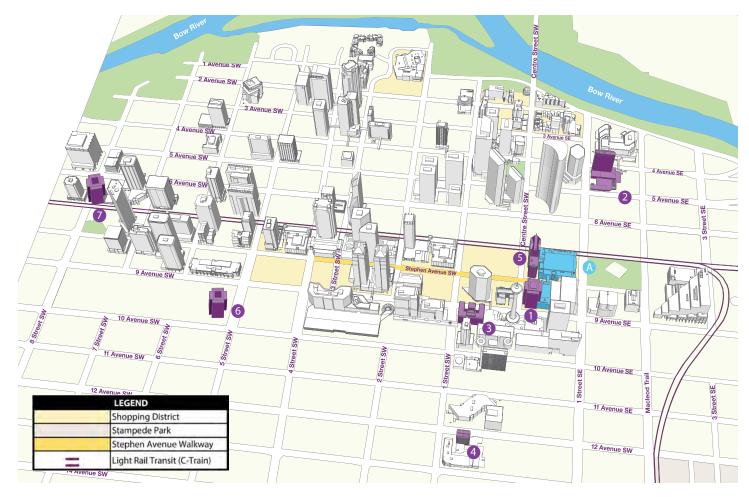
- BOMA Go Green
- 2018-2020 NAFA Clean Air Award



Health and Safety Practices







#### **Meeting Venues**

A. Calgary TELUS Convention Centre

#### **Downtown Hotels**

- 1. Calgary Marriott Downtown Hotel
- Delta Hotels by Marriott Calgary Downtown 2.
- Fairmont Palliser 3.
- 4. Hotel Arts
- Hyatt Regency Calgary
   Residence Inn by Marriott Calgary Downtown/ Beltline District
- 7. Sandman Signature Calgary Downtown



Tourism Calgary offers an extensive list of resources and services to ensure the best event experience for meeting planners, clients and their delegates. Our dedicated Event Services team is committed to assisting meeting planners in organizing the details of your confirmed meeting or convention. Our team can provide you with event logistics, pre and post event options, attendance building, and more.

#### **Meeting Planners Toolkit**

We know that your time is at a premium, which is why we have compiled a comprehensive toolkit of helpful resources, such as:

- Customizable attendance building materials.
- Custom microsite connecting delegates with that they need to know when visiting Calgary.
- Media library with high-quality destination photos, B-roll, and Tourism Calgary logos.
- Digital downloads of visitor guides and Calgary minimaps to help attendees make the most of their visit.
- Delegate discounts including links to coupons for local attractions.
- Pre and post, local tours and companion tour experiences.
- Connections to local experts that can assist with developing and facilitating technical tours related to the conference theme or industry.
- Written destination content, links to useful destination resources, and digital banners for e-newsletters and conference websites.

 A list of local suppliers, including, photographers, caterers, transportation providers, local gift options, off-site venue options, restaurants, tour operators, and more.

#### **Site Visits**

Tourism Calgary's Event Services team is here to support you as you move through the planning process towards a successful event. We can assist with the coordination and logistics of a customized site visit itinerary, with both virtual and in-person options available.

#### **On-Site Services & Experience Enhancements**

Tourism Calgary offers numerous ways to help make your event truly memorable, such as, on-site visitor services and the uniquely Calgarian, White Hat Ceremony. Your event could be eligible for:

- Access to the YYC Calgary International Airport Hospitality Services.
- Physical copies of our visitor guides and Calgary mini-maps for attendees.
- A staffed, on-site Calgary information table including suggestions on what to do and where to eat in and around the city.
- Assistance with coordinating a White Hat Ceremony.
- Welcome pageantry at YYC Calgary International Airport and/or the meeting venue.
- Meeting/convention advisories to transportation providers, restaurants, tour operators, and attractions.

"The numerous resources available from [Tourism Calgary] have provided me tremendous advantage and guidance for my conference planning experience in Calgary. From the White Hat Ceremony, to airport greeters and being an overall go-to for recommendations on supplier partners has made [Tourism Calgary] an invaluable resource; integral to the success of my client's conference."

- Ellen Boddington, BA, CMP, CMM, Stellar Conference & Event Management Inc.

# Why Calgary

## Ultimate Host City

#### **Your Ultimate Hosts**

Calgary sits on the edge of the snow-capped Rocky Mountains and the vast expanse of the Canadian prairies. There is an underlying energy in the city that exhilarates, invigorates and motivates. With a population of almost 1.5 million, Calgary is a place of big skies, big ideas and welcoming, friendly people. There is always something to do - some new restaurant to try, festival to lose yourself in or attraction to experience. Calgary is dynamic. The city is also gaining global recognition for our architecture, young and affluent population, and celebrated arts and culinary scenes. It's a combination of cosmopolitan feel and undeniable community spirit that gives Calgary its unique energy.

#### A billion reasons to hold your event in Calgary

Calgary is a meeting destination like no other: a mix of big-city energy and warm Western hospitality. With community spirit at its core, Calgary is full of shareable experiences. From a bustling downtown to characterfilled neighbourhoods, along winding rivers and inside every welcoming venue, there are a billion reasons that make Calgary the perfect place to host your next meeting or event.

Why a billion? We're investing more than one billion dollars to make Calgary the largest convention destination in Western Canada. With an expanded BMO Centre and hotel development on Stampede Park, new event centre, new Culture & Entertainment district, upgrades to Calgary's pedestrian walkway - Stephen Avenue - and more.

Guided by your preferences, we make researching and booking your event as simple, straightforward and seamless as possible. Whatever you choose, the Meetings and Conventions team is your intermediary to venues, accommodations and other services to help you plan a successful meeting in Calgary.

#### **Past Clients Hosted in Calgary**



"The [Tourism] Calgary Team truly went above my expectations as to the type of services provided to companies interested in hosting meetings and conventions in Calgary. I was made to feel at ease, they were attentive to my requests, I was provided with amazing information to choose from, energized by the opportunities to deliver the best conference and transit show possible."

- Luc Vincent, Events & Industry Programs, Canadian Urban Transit Association

## **About Calgary**





Calgary has the highest concentration of corporate head offices per capita in the country. The city has historically been home to major oil and gas producers but the list of companies headquartered here extends well beyond energy.



The Volunteer Capital of Canada

Largely born out of the 1988 Winter Olympics and perpetuated with the annual Calgary Stampede, from World Cups to Golf Championships, volunteer wait-lists are not uncommon in Calgary.



#### Young & Affulent

Calgary has the youngest population among Canada's major cities, third highest level of educational attainment, and the highest median household income.



Calgary is home to 240 different ethnic origins, ranking third in Canada in the proportion of visible minorities.



Calgary is good for your bottom line. Alberta is the only province in Canada without a provincial sales tax (PST).



Calgary is easily accessible worldwide, just one stop away from most major global cities.

#### Climate

#### Summer

Calgary is a mountain city with a dry climate directly related to our northern latitude. It also means Calgary summer days are longer. Temperatures are mild – the highest on average in July is at around 23.2°C (73.8°F).

#### Winter

During the winter, the mountains to the west of Calgary receive abundant snowfall (perfect for skiing). The city itself usually has moderate snowfall. Winter often brings warm, westerly winds called Chinooks that can raise the temperature by as much as 15°C. The average daily temperature in the winter is -7.5°C (18.5°F).





Rainfall per year: 326 mm (12 inches)

Snowfall per year: 128 cm (50 inches)

## Explore Calgo

#### **Calgary Cuisine**

Calgary is world-renowned for innovative, creative and unique cuisine. With a variety of internationally acclaimed local chefs, the food scene here is vibrant and constantly growing - in the downtown core alone there are over 200 restaurants. From exquisite fine dining to casual cowboy fare, Calgary's cuisine is sure to tantalize every palate.

#### **Arts & Culture**

With numerous theatre companies, art galleries, music halls, and highly attended festivals, Calgary's arts and culture landscape is thriving. Dynamic, world-class performances take place nightly, from ballet to opera, musicals to comedy.

#### **Shopping in Calgary**

Whether you're picking up custom-made cowboy boots or perusing high-end fashion, Calgary is packed with fantastic shopping centres and stores, sure to quell your retail therapy needs.



#### **Professional Sport Leagues**

Calgary is the proud home of six professional sport leagues within hockey, ringette, football, soccer, and lacrosse. The city is filled with incredibly skilled professional athletes to check out at a game throughout year and experience the energy Calgary is known for.

#### Pre & Post Event Getaways

Calgary's location makes it the perfect basecamp for adventure. In fact, the province of Alberta is home to six UNESCO World Heritage Sites, four of them within a 3 hour drive from Calgary.



#### The Rockies: Banff & Lake Louise

Just west of the city are the majestic Canadian Rocky Mountains. Stunningly beautiful, Banff and Lake Louise offer adventure and first-class amenities - from unparalleled skiing and hiking opportunities to delectable dining and Nordic spas. Approximate Distance: 127 km/79.2 mi

#### Drumheller & The Badlands

East of Calgary, the endless golden prairies suddenly drop away into a strange moonscape of striped hills and otherworldly rock formations – The Badlands. Hike through the impressive Horseshoe Canyon, explore the hoodoos, or visit Drumheller, the Dinosaur Capital of the World, and the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology. Approximate Distance: 138 km/85.6 mi

#### Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump

Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, south of Calgary, is where Blackfoot hunted buffalo for 6,000 years. Experience diverse programming, and vast landscapes to learn about the region and its cultural significance. Approximate Distance: 184 km/ 114 mi

#### **Waterton Lakes National Park**

Take a drive south of Calgary and watch the rugged, windswept mountains rise abruptly out of gentle prairie grassland in spectacular Waterton Lakes National Park. Here, several different ecological regions meet and interact in a landscape shaped by wind, fire, flooding, and abundant plants and wildlife. Approximate Distance: 271 km/166 mi

## **Activities & Attractions**

Calgary boasts an incredible selection of activities and attractions that will spark your imagination and get your heart racing. From yoga with goats to skydiving indoors, and everything in-between, we invite you to experience all that our city has to offer.

#### Calgary Zoo

A central fixture in the city, the Calgary Zoo is located downtown, occupying St. Georges Island on the Bow River. The Zoo offers captivating animal experiences and exhibits, including the new Panda Passage. The Zoo is also one of Canada's leaders in conservation efforts.

#### **TELUS Spark**

The TELUS Spark Science Centre is a space for people of all ages and abilities to let go and embrace the desire to explore science, technology, engineering, art and math. The centre features incredible exhibits and programs, over 200 hands-on experiences and the largest Dome theatre in Western Canada.



#### **Studio Bell**

Studio Bell, home of the National Music Centre, is a world-renowned architectural wonder and an international hub of music and technology. The National Music Centre features a 2,000+ piece collection of artifacts, instruments and music technology, 22,000 sq. ft. of exhibitions, a 300-seat performance space, and recording studios, including the Rolling Stones Mobile Recording Studio.

#### **WinSport**

For those seeking a complete sport and adrenaline experience without leaving the city limits, WinSport (known as Canada Olympic Park) has everything an outdoor enthusiast could ask for - from skiing to mountain biking. The park also includes a breath-taking skyline luge ride and high-speed zipline that approaches speeds of 70km per hour.



#### Heritage Park Historical Village

See and feel the past as it comes to life in front of your eyes. This unique Park's attractions and exhibits span Western Canadian history from the 1860s to 1950s. With over 180 exhibits on 127 acres of land, Heritage Park is Canada's largest living history museum.

#### **Calgary Tower**

Open every day of the year (except Christmas), this attraction is a landmark of the city. Come to the Tower for a 360 degree view of Calgary from the 191 metre observation deck, and gaze at the mountains and prairies that surround the city. This is a great experience for an hour, an afternoon, or daytime visit.



#### **Calgary's International Airport**

The Calgary International Airport (YYC) is Canada's fourth busiest airport and is consistently ranked as one of the best airports in North America for overall passenger convenience. In 2019, YYC boasted more than 1,400 weekly departures and operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, serving over 18 million passengers a year.

More than 200 daily non-stop flights connect Calgary to the world through this modern, easy to navigate airport and Calgary is no more than one stop away from any major city in the world. YYC is just 20 minutes from downtown Calgary and is easily accessible from anywhere in the city.

#### Taxis, Limousines & Ride Sharing

Taxis charge a base rate of \$3.80 and an additional surcharge at the airport. Most services have online and mobile booking apps. Stands are located at YYC and at most downtown hotels.

Limousines and luxury sedans charge a fixed rate and are available for transportation from YYC as well as around the city from several organizations. Ride sharing is a convenient mode of transportation with Uber offering the service in Calgary.

#### **Explore Calgary on Foot, by Bike or Scooter**

Calgary has the most extensive urban pathway and cycle network in North America, with approximately 850 km of regional pathways and 95 km of trails. Exploring on foot is extremely easy, with plenty of wayfinding signage to help guide you to attractions, restaurants, and public art. The popular e-bike and e-scooter sharing programs, Bird and Neuron, are also available in Calgary. Users can download the mobile application, locate, and rent an e-scooter.

Calgary also has the world's largest elevated, climatecontrolled pedestrian pathway - the +15 Skywalk System. At 18 km long, the +15 (pronounced "plus 15") links over 100 downtown buildings and shopping centres. In most buildings, the +15 can be accessed on the second floor, watch for the blue +15 signage.

#### **Public Transit**

The backbone of Calgary's transit system is the C-Train, a light-rail train system that runs NW to SE and SW to NE. The downtown core is a Free Fare Zone, allowing passengers to travel between hotels, restaurants and events free of charge. Calgary also boasts an extensive busing system. Bus and C-Train tickets are purchased at YYC or paid by cash on the bus or at the station.

#### **Airline Offers for Group Travel**



Air Canada's <u>Meetings and Events Program</u> is available for 10 or more people travelling from multiple points of origin to the same destination. They simplify the booking process for you and your clients and you can take advantage of their reduced rates and other valuable benefits when planning trips within their extensive North American and international network.



WestJet's <u>Groups and Conventions Program</u> would be able to support your event by providing discounts for your attendees through their ever-expanding global network. For conventions with 25 or more delegates travelling from different locations to one destination, discounts would be available off their published fares, guaranteeing the lowest fare, as well as other great benefits.

## **Direct Flights into Calgary**

Calgary is easily reachable via a one-stop connection from almost anywhere worldwide. This destination list is based on 2019 activity prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and is subject to change.

#### **Canadian Destinations**

Alberta: Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Lloydminster, Medicine Hat British Columbia: Abbotsford, Castlegar, Comox, Cranbrook, Fort St. John, Kamloops, Kelowna, Nanaimo, Penticton, Terrace, Vancouver, Victoria Manitoba: Brandon, Winnipeg Northwest Territories: Yellowknife Nova Scotia: Halifax Ontario: London, Ottawa, Toronto, Windsor Saskatchewan: Regina, Saskatoon Yukon: Whitehorse

#### **U.S Destinations**

Arizona: Phoenix
California: Los Angeles, Palm Springs, San Diego, San Francisco
Colorado: Denver
Florida: Fort Lauderdale, Orlando
Georgia: Atlanta

Hawaii: Honolulu, Kahilui Illinois: Chicago Massachusetts: Boston Minnesota: Minneapolis/Saint Paul Nevada: Las Vegas New Jersey: Newark New York: New York City Oregon: Portland Tennessee: Nashville Texas: Austin, Houston, Dallas/Fort Worth Utah: Salt Lake City Washington: Seattle

#### **International Destinations**

China: Beijing France: Paris Germany: Frankfurt Ireland: Dublin Italy: Rome Japan: Tokyo Netherlands: Amsterdam United Kingdom: London

Additional seasonal flights available to sun destinations (Bahamas, Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Mexico)



### #FlyHealthyYYC

The YYC Calgary International Airport's commitment to safety remains their top priority. As travellers return to YYC, we want you to trust that they remain focused on delivering a safe and healthy airport to work at, to begin their journey or to welcome them home.

<u>Click here to learn more</u>





## Visiting Canada

# Your Event in Canada

#### **Entering Canada**

Visitors to Canada must have valid travel documentation, such as a passport. In certain cases, a visa or Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) may also be required. Visitors must present this documentation upon arrival at a port of entry. For more information on visas, eTAs, visiting Canada for business, and travelling with minors, please visit the Government of Canada website.

Like most countries, Canada has restrictions on certain goods you can bring into the country, this includes items such as firearms, animals and plants. You must declare all goods when you first arrive at your port of entry. For more information, visit the <u>Canada Border</u> <u>Services Agency</u>.

#### Currency

The monetary system in Canada is comprised of Canadian dollars and cents. Although many businesses accept American currency, visitors are advised to exchange their traveller's cheques or homeland currency for Canadian currency. The best exchange rates can be found at chartered banks, credit unions, caisse populaires, and airport and border crossing exchange booths. Each financial institution sets its own exchange rate. Please note, some banks may charge a fee to cash travellers cheques.

#### **Tourism Levy & Fees**

Alberta has a four per cent (4%) levy and a three per cent (3%) Destination Marketing Fee on hotel rooms.

#### **Goods and Services Tax**

The five per cent (5%) federal goods and services tax (GST) is a value-added tax that applies to most goods and services. Similar systems of taxation are used in at least 48 other countries.

#### **GST Rebate for Foreign Conventions**

The Canada Revenue Agency may be able to support your convention with a rebate of the GST paid on a convention facility and a related convention supply. To learn more about GST rebates and eligibility, visit the <u>Canada Revenue Agency</u>.

#### Register your event with the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)

Be sure to take advantage of Canada's International Events and Convention Services Program (IECSP). Developed by the federal government to encourage organizations to hold their events in Canada, this complimentary program facilitates the movement of goods and attendees in and out of the country. Registration of your event is easy and can be done with the <u>Canada Border Services Agency</u>. You can contact the IECSP Regional Coordinator for Alberta by visiting the <u>IECSP Contact Page</u>. Please register your event at least 30 days prior to the event start date.

#### Register your event with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's Special Events Unit

The Immigrations, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's Special Events Unit will provide you with information and support regarding Canada's visa and entry requirements and help to facilitate timely processing of visa applications. Registration can be completed with the Government of Canada.

#### **Work Permits**

Work permit requirements will be outlined in the Letter of Recognition provided by the IECSP Regional Coordinator. More information can be found at Immigration and Citizenship Canada.

#### **Additional Resources**

Our national partner, Business Events Canada (BEC), has created a guide outlining everything you need to know about planning an event in Canada. For more information, see the <u>BEC</u> <u>Planning Toolkit</u>. To learn more about visiting Canada, visit <u>Canada Border Services Agency</u>.

Letters of Support

### Tourism Calgary



**phone** 403.263.8510 **fax** 403.262.3809 **toll free** 1.800.661.1678 200, 238 11 Avenue S.E. Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2G 0X8 visitcalgary.com

Connie Perry Bouchercon 103 Estainville Ave Lafayette,LA 70508 UNITED STATES

April 15, 2022

Dear Ms. Perry,

On behalf of Tourism Calgary and our industry partners, I am delighted you are considering our fabulous city as the site for the Bouchercon, the World Mystery Convention 2026.

Calgary is a captivating cosmopolitan city renowned as an accomplished host destination for world-class events and conferences. A safe, clean and friendly urban center of just over a million people, Calgary is surrounded by some of the world's most extraordinary natural beauty and cultural attractions including the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Banff National Park, Waterton Glacier International Peace Park, Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, and Drumheller and the Badlands.

The stage will be set for an outstanding assembly as attendees admire the majestic Canadian Rocky Mountains during their descent into the Calgary International Airport, ranked one of the best airports in North America for overall passenger convenience. Upon landing they are welcomed by our famous White Hat volunteers and our genuine western hospitality... and this is only the beginning.

When you choose to meet in Calgary, you have access to flexible meeting and convention space as well as first-rate amenities and accommodations. An incredible assortment of attractions, pre and post adventures, dining and shopping experiences, with no provincial sales tax, will ensure you attract the attendees you need to make Bouchercon, the World Mystery Convention 2026 a resounding success.

Should Calgary be Bouchercon's destination of choice, our team will work closely with you and our local hospitality partners to ensure the planning and activation of your event is a memorable and positive experience. As your "partner in planning" we have the interest, ability, and enthusiasm to bring together all of the resources you need to deliver an outstanding conference.

It would be a privilege to welcome the Bouchercon, the World Mystery Convention 2026 and we are excited about the opportunity of working with you.

Sincerely,

-Am

David Woodward Executive Director, Meetings & Conventions



## tourism Calgary

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