

44th Annual Conference of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada

Calgary, May 22-25, 2025



Calgary Calling!

The Danish community in Calgary was established in two major waves, though immigration of Danes to Calgary continues to this day. The first wave from Denmark was in years between 1900 – 1930. A second wave took place after WWII, in the 1950-1960s. This resulted in the founding of Sharon Lutheran Church in 1917, and then the Danish Lutheran Church in 1964. In 2010 these two congregations merged. In addition the Danish Canadian Club arose out of the merger of no less than 4 different Danish clubs. And then Dana Village was built in the late 1990s as a retirement residence for independent seniors. Other organizations include the Naverklub (the largest outside Denmark), a chapter of former Royal Danish guards, and a Danish businessman's association.

Calgary has been calling Danes and other immigrants for over a century. It is with great eagerness that we call you as well to come and visit us in Calgary. We are proud of our City and all of the wonderful sights --- the Rocky Mountains to the West, the dinosaur remains and badlands around Drumheller, the ocean-like prairies to the east, and the beautiful, vibrant City we call home. Come celebrate the contributions of Danes in the prairie regions and to understand how each has contributed to the building of this marvellous country we call Canada.

The City of Calgary began as a North-West Mounted Police (now known as the RCMP) fort built at the junction of the Bow and Elbow Rivers. Calgary straddles the transition between the foothills of the Rocky Mountains to the west and the vast prairies to the east. This area had long been inhabited by indigenous peoples, primarily members of the Blackfoot Confederacy, the Nakoda, and the Tsuut'ina nations.

The first European known to have visited the area was David Thompson, a mapmaker for the Hudson's Bay Company. The first documented European settler in the area was John Glenn in 1873. Then in the spring of 1875 three Catholic priests, Father Lacombe, Father Remus, and Father Scollen built a small log cabin on the banks of the Elbow River. Later in 1875 Inspector Brisebois led a group of 50 Mounties north, from Fort MacLeod, to establish a fort. Their mission was to protect the fur trade and to defend the western plains from US whisky traders.

At Christmas dinner in 1875 Inspector Brisebois named the new fort after himself. This caught the attention and ire of his superiors. Subsequently the Minister of Justice intervened and in the spring of 1876 he named the Fort "Calgary" (a Gaelic word for "clear running water"), a name suggested by Colonel MacLeod. The next year, in 1877, through Treaty 7, the First Nations in the area ceded title to the Fort Calgary region. In 1881 the federal government began to offer leases for cattle ranching in Alberta (though not a Province until 1905). This was the catalyst for immigration to the settlement of

Calgary. The Canadian Pacific Railway reached Calgary in August of 1883. Calgary's first newspaper, the Calgary Herald, also appeared in August of 1883. The first school opened on February 18, 1884, and on December 3, 1884, Calgarians elected their first mayor and four councillors. And, incidentally the first Calgary Stampede was held in 1912, and annually since 1923.

Calgary was the first town incorporated in Alberta, and has grown tremendously to become the fourth largest City in Canada with a population approaching 1.4 million people. It is a centre many economic sectors like energy, financial services, film & television, technology, tourism, etc. It has the largest number of millionaires per capita of any major Canadian City, and in 2022 was ranked, along side Zurich, as the third most livable city in the world, and the most livable in Canada and North America.

On the following pages you will find the Federation Conference program, registration form, accommodation information, meal selections, transportation details, etc. We begin the conference on Thursday evening with a upscale opening reception at the Dorian Hotel, recently awarded a Michelin gold key, the only hotel in Calgary to receive such an honour. We spend Friday in and around the Danish settlement of Dickson. Saturday our day begins at Dana Village, and in the evening we have a lovely dinner & dance at the Danish Canadian Club -- a last "hurrah" as it closes its facilities at the end of June. And, on Sunday we will attend the worship service a historic Sharon Danish Lutheran Church, followed by lunch and the traditional closing ceremonies.

Your planning committee:

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