

CALGARY JEWISH FEDERATION

IMPACT REPORT



2025/2026



Your United Jewish Appeal (UJA) dollars fund most programs and services provided by **Calgary Jewish Federation**, as well as essential services provided by our partners at home and abroad.



jewishcalgary.org



PJ Library® Calgary, in partnership with the *Harold Grinspoon Foundation*, has been serving children and families in our community for 17 years. This year, Calgary reached over 550 young families with the gift of free, high-quality Jewish books delivered monthly, sparking meaningful conversations and Jewish connections at home.

Our growing **PJ Our Way®** community, for ages nine to 12, now includes over 150 independent readers, engaging with Jewish stories and participating in vibrant tween-focused programs. Together, these initiatives continue to build Jewish identity, literacy, and community—one story at a time.



PJ Library has created an incredible resource for our family to connect with the Jewish community and introduce our young children to traditions in a super, kid-friendly and fun way!

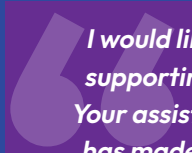
Thank you to PJ Library and the wonderful team for creating such warm, welcoming, and accessible programming for our families.



The **Integrated Bursary Program (IBP)** ensures that financial challenges never prevent families from accessing the opportunities that strengthen Jewish identity, connection, and belonging. By helping make Jewish day school and camp more affordable, IBP opens the door to transformative educational experiences and meaningful participation in community life.

This year, IBP provided vital support to 63 families, including 82 students and 45 campers. By reducing financial barriers, the program enables children and families to build lasting friendships, deepen their connection to Jewish life, and fully engage in our vibrant community.

The IBP program is also supported through the *Rogers Birdies for Kids presented by AltaLink* program. Community donations made before August 31 are matched by up to 50%, helping more families access the programs and experiences that enrich Jewish life and strengthen our community for generations to come.



I would like to sincerely thank you for supporting our family with a bursary. Your assistance, over the past 10 years, has made it possible for our daughter to attend Camp BB, JCC camps, and The Calgary Jewish Academy – opportunities that would not have been possible otherwise.



Calgary Jewish Federation's **Holocaust and Human Rights: Remembrance and Education** department completed a number of impactful community and student/educator focused projects in the past year. Highlights included the **Virtual Tour of Rome, Never Forget: Montana Tucker on the Holocaust, Antisemitism, and Hope, How to Share an Egg: A True Story of Love, Hunger and Plenty** with **Bonny Reichert**, and **Sharaka**.

Our community also came together to commemorate **Kristallnacht** in partnership with the Beth Tzedec Jewish Film Festival, **International Holocaust Remembrance Day** (featuring live music from Daniel Bhattacharya and the screening of *Les Chemin Des Juifs*) and **Yom HaShoah**. During the month of January, the exhibit **One Thread, Six Million Lives** debuted at Calgary Central Library and was once again brought back for the annual **Holocaust Education Symposium** – which welcomed over 2,400 students this year.

Finally, approximately 30 school and corporate Holocaust education presentations were given to schools and organizations, reaching nearly 1,000 students, educators, and employees. All of this was made possible thanks to the collaborative, ongoing, and generous support of our community donors, volunteers, and partner organizations.



Calgary Jewish Federation's **Inclusion** program continued to advance awareness, accessibility, acceptance, and belonging across our community. Guided by the belief that inclusion is a birthright, we worked to ensure that individuals of all abilities could participate fully in Jewish life and feel welcomed and valued.

Kesher provided meaningful opportunities for connection and engagement for Jewish adults with disabilities and their families, while **Inclusion Jr.** and the **Simcha Series** created inclusive experiences for young children and families.

In September 2025, in partnership with the Intentional Communities Consortium of Canada, we hosted the **Alberta Housing Roundtable** to raise awareness, identify resources, and advance accessible and affordable housing opportunities for adults with disabilities.

JDAIM 2026 brought the community together to celebrate inclusion, while leadership development through the Hartman Institute's **Courageous Leadership Program** strengthened our capacity to build a more inclusive Jewish Calgary.

As the rabbi of Kehilat Shalom Congregation and a long-time volunteer with Kesher, I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the extraordinary individuals who are part of this community. Each member brings unique talents, warmth, and a genuine desire to connect. Grounded in the Jewish value of arevut—our shared responsibility for one another—this program responds to a deep and important need within our community.



Calgary Hillel had a great year, beginning with our inaugural **Roots and Rising Shabbaton**, which brought together students from Winnipeg, Saskatchewan, and Edmonton for a meaningful weekend of Jewish learning, connection, and celebration in Calgary, culminating in participation in the **Walk with Israel**.

Hillel continued to provide vibrant and engaging programming, including our popular **Bagel Brunches**, thought-provoking speakers such as **Casey Babb** and **Loay Alshareef**, holiday celebrations, social events, **Faculty Student Mixer**, and our annual **Matzah Ball**. These initiatives created countless opportunities for student connection and deepening Jewish identity.

Together, these programs helped ensure a strong and visible Jewish presence at both the University of Calgary and Mount Royal University. We are incredibly proud of the momentum we have built and look forward to an even more impactful year ahead.



JAC (Jewish Adult Calgary) continues to be the hub for Jewish adults post-graduation through age 40, creating meaningful opportunities for connection, leadership development, and community engagement. In 2026, JAC expanded its programming through **JAC Fit**, offering a variety of wellness and recreation opportunities including hiking, boxing, rock climbing, and other social fitness experiences. Participation continued to grow, with many first-time attendees engaging in Jewish community life through these programs.

The After Work Collective also continued to thrive as a monthly networking and professional development series, bringing together young Jewish professionals to explore topics such as artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship, leadership, career advancement, and financial wellness. Our series of **Downtown Bagel Brunches** have become a hotspot for mingling and networking. Through these initiatives, JAC remains committed to fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and connected community for Calgary's next generation of Jewish leaders.



As Calgary's **Life & Legacy**® program concludes its seventh year, the culture of legacy giving continues to inspire, strengthen, and flourish. Through 728 legacy commitments valued at an estimated \$20.4 million, community members have made a powerful investment in the future of Jewish Calgary and beyond. These commitments represent more than financial support – they reflect a shared vision and enduring dedication to Jewish life, learning, and community. Together, we are building a strong and vibrant foundation that will sustain and enrich Jewish generations for years to come.

In 2026, the **Community Relations Committee** (CRC) focused on strengthening community resilience, leadership, and engagement through a wide range of educational and relationship-building initiatives. CRC partnered with **StandWithUs** to deliver a leadership education series for community leaders, equipping participants with tools and knowledge to respond to contemporary challenges facing the Jewish community. Federation also convened regular schools and shuls meetings, bringing together leaders from across Calgary's Jewish institutions to address shared concerns, coordinate responses, and strengthen collaboration. Recognizing the importance of building bridges beyond the Jewish community, CRC expanded its engagement with interfaith partners, fostering dialogue, understanding, and cooperation on issues of mutual concern.

A highlight of the year was the community-wide town hall held in February in partnership with the Calgary contingent of the **Courageous Canada Initiative through the Shalom Hartman Institute**. The event brought together community members for meaningful discussion and reflection on the challenges and opportunities facing Canadian society and the Jewish community. Through education, collaboration, and community engagement, CRC continues to strengthen connections within and beyond the Jewish community while ensuring Jewish perspectives remain part of important civic conversations.

Israel and Overseas. Calgary Jewish Federation is proud to be part of the **Coast-to-Coast Partnership2Gether** (P2G) initiative, supporting the Etzba HaGalil region in northern Israel. While many residents had begun returning home and rebuilding their lives following the devastation of October 7, communities were only starting to regain a sense of normalcy when the conflict with Iran brought renewed uncertainty. Once again, families were forced into shelters, highlighting the ongoing challenges faced by our partners in northern Israel. We remain committed to standing with and supporting our extended Israeli family during these difficult times.

Through our partnership with **Jewish Agency for Israel** (JAFI), we hosted a delegation of **Israeli Emissaries** (*Shlichim*), strengthening connections between our communities and fostering meaningful engagement with Israel.

That connection was powerfully reflected at our **Walk with Israel** and **October 7 Remembrance Ceremony**, which brought together more than 1,000 participants in solidarity, remembrance, and support for Israel and the Jewish people. Through these initiatives, Calgary's Jewish community continues to demonstrate its commitment to Israel, providing connection, support, and hope during a period of profound challenge and resilience.



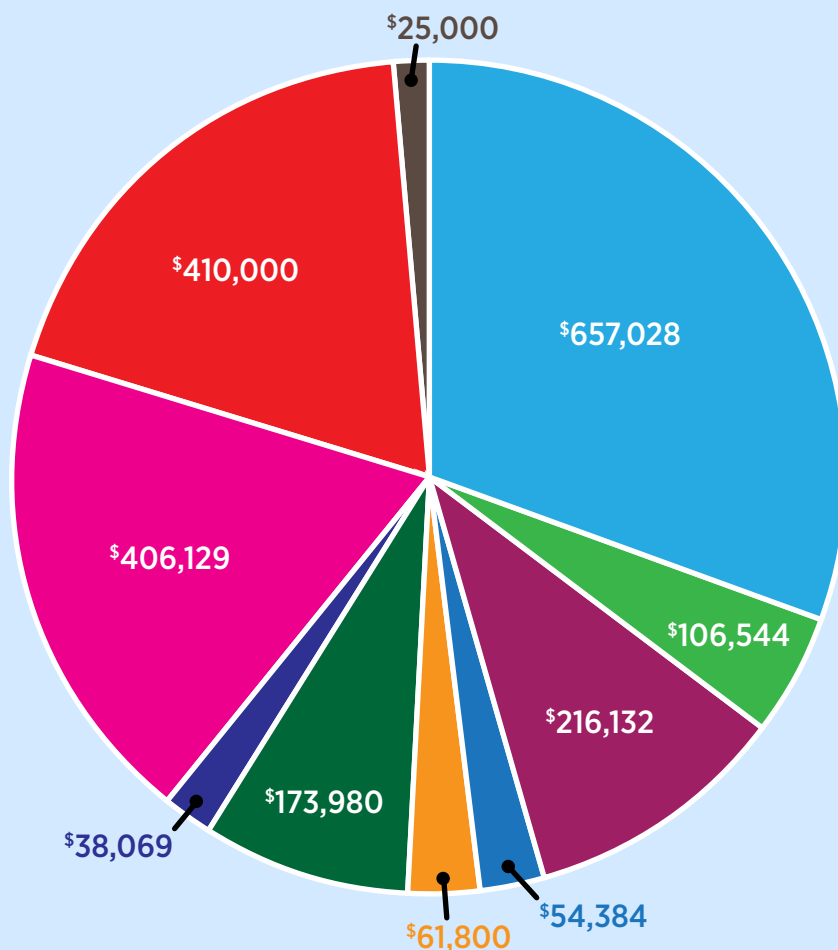
Jewish Communities Across Canada and Abroad.

Whether providing emergency assistance to vulnerable Jewish communities, supporting victims of terror, combating antisemitism, or helping strengthen Jewish life around the world, your donations have a direct impact. Through our partners, including the **Jewish Agency for Israel** (JAFI), funds support critical services such as trauma counseling, emergency relief, resilience programming, support for displaced families, and initiatives that strengthen Jewish identity and community worldwide.

Our Partners at Home. UJA donations continue to strengthen Jewish life throughout Calgary by supporting a broad network of community agencies and programs. Funding helps provide student enrichment and learning support, seniors' services, arts and cultural initiatives, teen engagement, chaplaincy and basic needs assistance, mental health and wellness programming, security enhancements, and high-quality Jewish education. Together, these investments help ensure a vibrant, caring, and resilient Jewish community for generations to come.

Funding Allocations 2025-2026

Funds raised from the annual UJA Campaign support educational and identity building programs, services for the vulnerable, and capacity building for a strong Jewish community in Calgary, Israel, and around the world.



Allocation of Funds by Service Area:

Jewish Education

**Youth, Young Adults,
and Young Professionals**

Support for the Vulnerable

Jewish Culture

**Holocaust Commemoration
and Education**

**Outreach, Engagement,
Community Relations**

Active and Engaged Seniors

National, Israel, and Overseas

JCC Community Living Room

Mikvah

Allocations are determined by a committee of community volunteers. The allocations listed above do not include: Federation administrative overhead, annual campaign (UJA) expenses, designated gifts, and special campaigns.

UJA
2025

Total raised	Donors
\$2,958,215	833

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