

GlobalVillage

CALGARY



WELCOME TO GV CALGARY!

PRE-ARRIVAL PACKAGE

WELCOME TO OUR BEAUTIFUL CITY!

Calgary, “ the Heart of the New West,” is located near the foothills of the Rocky Mountains and high plains of the prairies in the southern region of Alberta. Calgary has been acknowledged for the lifestyle it promotes, beauty, security, and clean environment by being voted one of the cleanest and most livable cities in the world. Although Calgary is the largest city in Alberta, it still has a sense of community. “Calgarians”, people who are from Calgary, are known for being friendly, warm and approachable. Let the adventure begin!

ABOUT CALGARY

WHAT TO DO IN THE CITY?

Festivals of Calgary, Activities, and Entertainment

Calgary is conveniently located near the world famous Rocky Mountains, including Banff, and it is an ideal destination for people who enjoy being outside in every season. There are many things to do, such as hiking, camping, mountain climbing or biking, fishing, canoeing or whitewater rafting. Within the city, we have one of the most extensive bicycle and walking path systems in North America. Calgary has numerous beautiful parks, and an abundance of green space, along with many free public sports facilities such as soccer fields, baseball courts, tennis courts. There are also many things to do in Southern Alberta during the winter. You can go skiing or snowboarding, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, outdoor skating, and you can also play hockey. The 1988 Winter Olympics provided Calgary with many excellent winter sports facilities, like Canada Olympic Park (with luge and bobsled tracks) and the Olympic Speed Skating Oval at the University of Calgary.

July in Calgary is an exciting time because of the annual Calgary Stampede. Calgary would not be Calgary without this world famous 10-day festival. Calgary also has an active and diverse arts and entertainment scene, including many great restaurants, several theatre and dance companies, wonderful museums and art galleries. Calgary also has its fair share of theme pubs and nightclubs, including famous country and western clubs. For those who love to shop, there are numerous shopping districts (Kensington, Stephen’s Avenue, and 17th Avenue) and shopping malls.

Calgary attractions include:

- > The Calgary Stampede (ten days in July)
- > Arts & Music (Glenbow Museum, Art Central, New Calgary Library, Canada Music Centre)
- > Calgary Zoo
- > Canada Olympic Park
- > Calgary Flames Hockey
- > Calgary Folk Music Festival (last weekend in July)
- > Shopping Districts (Kensington, Stephen Avenue, 17th Avenue, Inglewood, East Village)
- > Shopping Malls (CrossIron Mills, Sunridge Mall, South Centre Mall, Chinook Centre, Market Mall and more!)

ABOUT CALGARY (Continued)

TIME ZONES

Calgary is on Mountain Time (MT). We are one hour later than Vancouver (Pacific Time) and Victoria, and two hours earlier than Toronto (Eastern Time). In March and November our clocks are adjusted for Daylight Savings Time.

WEATHER

The weather is something that Calgarians love to talk about. Calgary is blessed with a lot of sunshine, more than 300 days per year! Officially it has “the most sunny days in Canada year-round.” Calgary’s location near the Rocky Mountains has a significant effect on the weather here. Due to a rare winter weather pattern called Chinooks, some winter days in Calgary seem more like spring days. Unlike many cities in other parts of Canada, Calgary usually only receives a moderate amount of snowfall. However, two well-known ski resorts located near Calgary (Sunshine and Lake Louise) often have excellent snow conditions that last until springtime.

Temperatures change a lot in any season in Calgary. Spring is a wonderful time to be in Calgary, with high temperatures often reaching 20°C. Summer is warm with lots of sunshine, but not too hot. The average high of summer temperatures is 25-30°C. There is usually a light breeze and very little humidity. It is important to wear sunscreen on sunny days because sunburns can happen very quickly. It’s important to always carry a jacket with you even in summer, as mornings and evening temperatures can drop to around 10°C. Fall is a transitional season in this part of Canada, with the beautiful changing colours of leaves on trees. Average winter temperatures are around 1°C, but the temperature can also fall well below zero in winter. Fortunately, warm Chinook winds across the Rockies help warm things up.

NOTE: *To keep warm and dry, please, dress in layers, cover your head with a toque or hat, and wear gloves or mittens, and boots. In winter, you should dress to feel warm, rather than to look good.*

ELECTRIC VOLTAGE

In North America, the voltage is 120 Volts and the outlets are 2 or 3-prong. You may need an adapter to use electrical equipment from your country. Many electric shops sell either voltage adapters or plastic prong kits that can work with your existing cable.

SAFETY

For a mid-size city, Calgary is considered to be very safe to visit and to live in. You should remember a few things so that you can have a safe and enjoyable experience here.

- Don’t leave your personal belongings alone in school or in other public places, especially expensive, sentimental or valuable items.
- Never walk alone at night, and travel in pairs or groups when possible.
- Be aware of everything around as you move around the city. If you feel uncomfortable, get away from that situation. If you think you are in danger, scream or yell loudly to bring attention to the situation. **Call the Police (dial 911) if you are in danger.**
- Always carry ID with you, such as your passport, international student card, and/or GV student card.

ABOUT CALGARY *(Continued)*

SMOKING AND LIQUOR LAWS

Smoking is not allowed:

- > In public buildings
- > Work places or schools
- > Bus or C-trains shelters
- > Restaurants, bars, or nightclubs (including most outdoor patios)

Smoking is only allowed in outdoor designated smoking areas.

To consume alcohol in Alberta you must be a minimum of 18 years old as a safety precaution. When in pubs or bars, be careful and don't drink too much. Never accept drinks from strangers. Keep your drinks with you when possible. If you must leave your drink, ask a friend to watch it for you.

For more information on the city of Calgary's smoking bylaws, visit the following link:
<http://www.calgary.ca/CSPS/ABS/Pages/Bylaws-by-topic/Bylaws-by-topic.aspx>

PUBLIC TRANSIT

Calgary's public transit system includes regular buses, express buses, small shuttle buses, and an extensive C-Train (light rail transit) system. Public transit allows you to travel safely and conveniently to almost any location in the city.

For more information on routes and fares, please visit Calgarytransit.com.

Students can buy tickets and passes at most convenience stores or supermarkets. Another place to buy tickets is at the main Calgary Transit office, which is downtown at 125 - 7th Avenue S.E. This office is near GV and you may also pick up free bus/C-Train schedules and route map at this location. The Calgary transit website is also an excellent source for information on routes, schedules, and fares. (www.calgarytransit.com)



GENERAL INFO *(Continued)*

PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION AND PASSPORTS

Pubs, bars and clubs in Calgary (and most cities in North America) have very strict rules. In Alberta, you must be 18 years of age to enter these places. In addition, you will usually need to show at least one piece of Identification (ID) prior to entering. It is always best to bring your passport because this is the only ID that is accepted everywhere. You may NOT use a photocopy only. If you have a photocopy of your passport, you will be asked to present another piece of government issued picture ID (like a driver's license from your country that shows your birth date). Some clubs may also have a dress code. A dress code means that there are rules about what you must wear in the club. The Events Coordinator can help provide you with more detailed information about these rules.

CANADIAN MONEY AND BANKING INFORMATION

The currency in Canada is the Canadian dollar (\$CAD). Bills come in \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100, and \$1000. Many stores will not accept \$100 bills, and \$1000 bills are rarely used, so you may need to change them at the bank or at a currency exchange. Here are the names for the different coins:

- > **1 cent coin:** No longer used
- > **5 cent coin:** A Nickel
- > **10 cent coin:** A Dime
- > **25 cent coin:** A Quarter
- > **50 cent coin:** No longer used
- > **\$1 coin:** A Loonie
- > **\$2 coin:** A Toonie

WHERE ARE THE CLOSEST BANKS?

- > **Bank of Montreal (BMO)** - 411 1st Street SE.
- > **TD Canada** - 305 Center Street S.
- > **Scotia Bank** - 225 6th Avenue SW.
- > **CIBC** - 500 Center Street S.
- > **Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)** - 144 4th Avenue SW.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I TIP?

People usually tip restaurant servers, bartenders, taxi drivers, and hair stylists. The usual tip is 15% of the total cost, before taxes.

IS THERE SALES TAX?

When you make a purchase in Calgary, or anywhere else in Alberta, the item may cost more than the ticket price. This is because there is a tax on many products. There is 5% federal tax on many items purchased in Calgary. Alberta is the only province in Canada with no provincial sales tax. An item that is priced at \$1 may actually cost \$1.05 when the tax is added by the cashier.

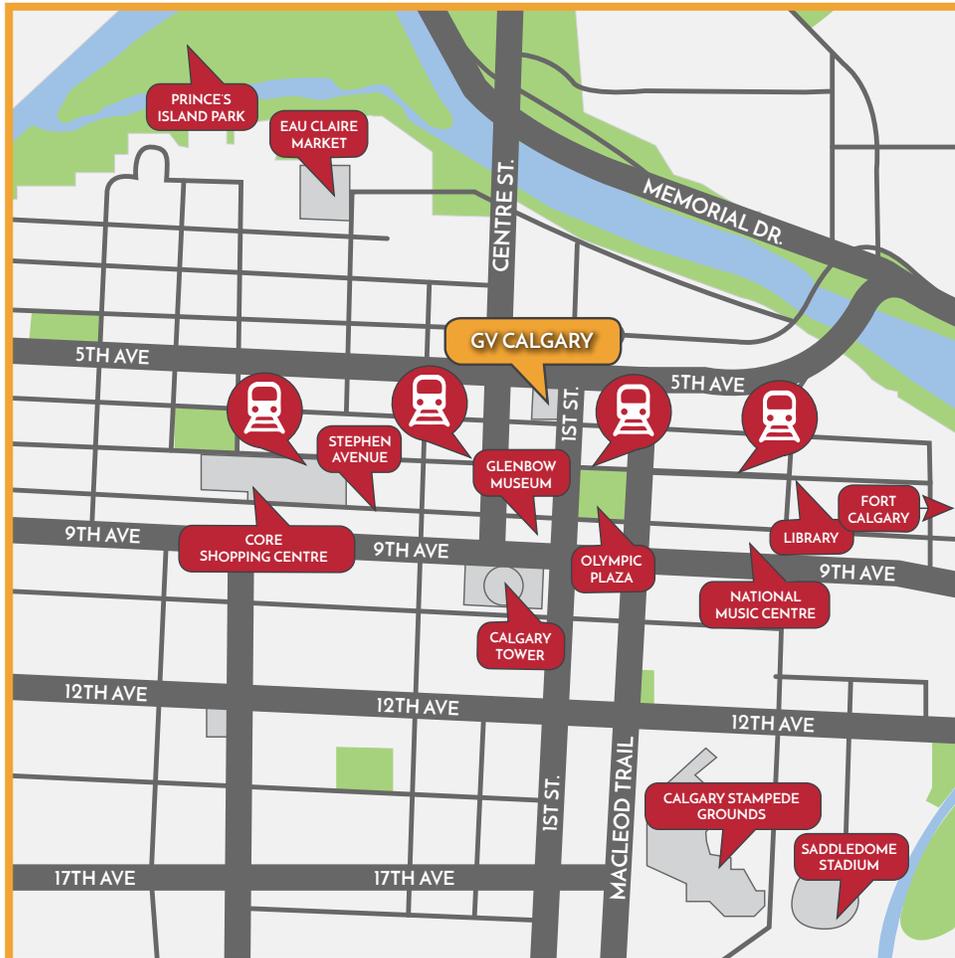
SCHOOL INFORMATION

SCHOOL LOCATION

Our school is conveniently located in downtown Calgary, opposite the park with the "Family of Man" statues. The school is located on three floors of a special heritage building that was completely renovated in 2002.

TRANSPORTATION

GV Calgary is very close to many bus routes on 5th, 6th, and 7th Avenues. It is within two blocks of C-Train stations on 7th Avenue that access both the Blue Line - 69 Street SW/Saddletown route and Red Line - Somerset-Bridlewood/Tuscany route.



GLOBAL VILLAGE CALGARY

North-West Travelers Building
200, 515 1st St. S.E.
Calgary, Alberta T2G 2G6

Tel: 403-543-7300



NOTE:

Once you are settled into your accommodation, this map also provides a few local favourites and tourist spots in red for you to enjoy during your free time!

SCHOOL INFORMATION *(Continued)*

FACILITIES

The school has excellent facilities and services where students feel comfortable and fully enjoy their time at GV Calgary. The facilities include web-enabled classrooms and free wifi provided throughout the school. The 3rd floor lounge is the centre of activity and includes a games table, vending machines, and kitchen facilities. This is where many students relax during breaks and eat lunch. Every Friday, graduating students will receive their completion certificate and the opportunity to take photos with their teachers and classmates. At the end of each month, a student will be recognized for their overall contribution to the school. The student will receive the Student of the Month certificate.

ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS

DAILY SCHEDULE

DAY	SESSIONS	TIME	SUPER INTENSIVE	INTENSIVE	STANDARD
MONDAY TO FRIDAY	Morning Session 1	08:45 – 10:25	30 lessons per week	25 lessons per week	20 lessons per week
	Break	10:25 – 10:40			
	Morning Session 2	10:40 – 12:20			
	Lunch	12:20 – 13:05			
MONDAY TO THURSDAY	Elective 1 (5 lessons)	13:05 – 14:10	30 lessons per week	25 lessons per week	20 lessons per week
	Break	14:10 – 14:25			
	Elective 2 (5 lessons)	14:25 – 15:30			

GENERAL ENGLISH PROGRAM

Many students study in our General English Program (GEP). Our GEP focuses on spoken English, and in our classes you will spend a lot of time talking in pairs and small groups in order to improve your fluency. The morning classes also deal with communicative grammar, which means using correct grammar when you speak. As well, you will focus on functional language. This means using useful, everyday vocabulary and phrases for many different situations. As well, you will practice a variety of other skills in English, including writing, listening and pronunciation. Our afternoon program offers classes to focus on improving in specific areas that focus on either language skills or special interests.

IELTS PREPARATION PROGRAM

We also have several test preparation programs. Our IELTS program prepares students to take either the general or the academic focused IELTS Exam. IELTS is useful for both immigration and entrance to colleges and universities. GV Calgary is an official IELTS Test Centre, so you can take the test right here in the school.

Please register well in advance for this test. Find out more about the IELTS test at www.ieltsccalgary.com

PATHWAYS

Global Village Calgary offers direct pathways to various post-secondary institutions in Canada and the USA, including SAIT and Bow Valley College which are located here in Calgary.

Find out more about GV Pathways at GVENGLISH.COM/PATHWAYS.HTML

SCHOOL INFORMATION *(Continued)*

ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS *(Continued)*

B2 FIRST [FORMERLY FIRST CERTIFICATE IN ENGLISH (FCE)].

The Cambridge Program prepares students to take the B2 First exam.
The Cambridge Exams are taken here at GV Calgary, right after the preparation courses end.

CELTA

GV Calgary also offers teacher training through the Cambridge CELTA program and the GV TESOL Program for international students. [Find out more about CELTA at www.celtacalgary.com](http://www.celtacalgary.com)

BUSINESS ENGLISH PROGRAM (BEP)

If you need to learn English for Business, you might be interested in our Business English Program (BEP). The BEP is an intensive course which prepares students for working in an English-speaking environment or for studying business at a college or university. It can be taken full-time or in combination with either General English or IELTS.

GLOBAL COMPETENCE CERTIFICATE (GCC)

The GCC is a program used in conjunction with English language classes to broaden a student's perspective of the people and cultures of the world. By using classroom, online and a large amount of technology based resources, students will be able to achieve a greater understanding of Self-Awareness, Awareness about Others, Emotional Intelligence and Developing Bridges to Others.

EXAMPLES OF POSSIBLE ELECTIVE COURSES:

LANGUAGE-SKILL FOCUS:

Accent on Pronunciation
Speaking and Vocabulary
Focus on Writing
Grammar Works
Reading and Discussion
And more!

SPECIAL INTEREST COURSES:

Dynamic Speaking and Debates
Mastering Listening and Speaking
Presentations and Public Speaking
Academic Writing
Critical Thinking
And more!

AS YOU CAN SEE, THERE IS A LOT OF VARIETY AT GV CALGARY AND LOTS OF COURSES TO CHOOSE FROM!

GV CALGARY IS ALSO AN ACCREDITED SCHOOL WITH LANGUAGES CANADA (LC) AND INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LANGUAGE CENTRES (IALC).

OUR ACTIVITIES

INTRODUCTION

GV Calgary is proud to offer our students a variety of unique, diverse and fun activities that happen after school and on weekends. These activities include sporting events (to watch or to play), cultural entertainment (live plays and concerts), day sightseeing trips, ski/snowboard trips in winter, and uniquely Canadian activities like curling and ball hockey.

We always try to provide our students with activities that are inexpensive and good value for their money.

Our school also provides a lot of free activities for our students, including:

- > Tours - The National Music Centre, Science Centre, Museums/Galleries
- > Sports - ball hockey, sports day, outdoor soccer, capoeira, yoga, Zumba and foosball
- > Movies at school

OUT OF TOWN TRIPS

Our out of town excursions include trips to Banff, Lake Louise, and the Royal Tyrrell Dinosaur Museum in Drumheller. In winter, we visit famous ski resorts like Sunshine Village and Lake Louise. We also do exciting activities in spring and summer like hiking, horseback riding and the Calgary Stampede. We make an annual trip to Waterton Lakes National Park. These are some of the most picturesque tourist attractions in Alberta. **Prepare to be amazed!**

JULY IN CALGARY

July in Calgary is an exciting time because of the annual Calgary Stampede. The Calgary stampede is the largest Rodeo in the world and lasts a total of 10 days. Our school provides a great opportunity to see the Stampede parade (free), entrance to the midway (amusement rides), rodeo events for a reduced price, and tickets to see the evening show that includes Chuckwagon Races, live musical performance, and fireworks.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Events Coordinator at GV Calgary is easily accessible in the lounge of the school. The Coordinator looks forward to answering students' questions and can provide valuable information about services, activities, and events throughout the city and province of Alberta.



GETTING STARTED AT GV CALGARY

ARRIVING IN CALGARY

IF YOU ARE IN A GLOBAL VILLAGE HOMESTAY AND HAVE ARRANGED AIRPORT PICK-UP:

You should go to the "Arrivals" meeting area when you arrive at the airport in Calgary. This area can be very crowded. Look for a Global Village sign with your name on it. The person holding the sign is your Homestay family.

Please call the Homestay Emergency Number (403-680-8291) or your Homestay family directly, if:

- > You missed your connecting flight OR
- > You have been delayed by immigration Canada OR
- > You cannot find your luggage after looking for more than 30 minutes.

When you call the emergency number, please:

- > Say or spell your name. ("My name is..." or "It's spelled...")
- > Tell us why you are calling. Examples:
 - "I have missed my connecting flight. I will be late. My new flight number and time is..."
 - "I have been delayed by Canada immigration."
 - "I cannot find my driver." (Or luggage or host family)

If you cannot call the emergency number by yourself, please ask someone to help you. For example:

- > Ask the airline staff or an airport official (at the information Booth). There are also friendly people in white cowboy hats and they can help you.
- > Phone your agent to pass on the information.

IF YOU HAVE NOT ARRANGED AIRPORT PICK-UP:

When you arrive, proceed to the limo / taxi area. One of the commissionaires (airport staff) will help you find a driver to take you into the city or can show you where to take public transit, Please note that public transit may involve taking a bus, which could be difficult if you have a lot of luggage.



Calgary Airport "Whitehats" are there to help you if you need it.

IMPORTANT:

It is against Canadian law for airlines to give passenger information to third parties. As a result, without proper flight updates, we will not know which flight you are on. If students are not found after their flights clear, they will need to take a taxi at their own expense to their homestay. The airport reception fee will not be refunded.

FIRST DAY ORIENTATION AND INFORMATION

Please arrive at GV Calgary by 8:30 am.

You will be given the placement test, which includes writing and speaking, and information about the school and its policies. **Make sure you have a pen, pencil and paper with you.**

Every effort will be made to conduct orientation and language testing in order for new students to start classes late in the morning of their first day. However, at busy times of year, it may be that new students will join afternoon classes on their first day.

Our goal is to make you feel welcome and comfortable, and to have you join your international class as soon as possible. Please note that the Orientation Day schedule may vary, depending on season and size of the orientation group.



STUDENT HOMESTAY INFORMATION

YOUR BEDROOM

- > Your bedroom will be completely private with a door that fully closes. It will have a bed and a desk with a lamp on it. There will also be a place for you to hang your clothes and store your belongings.
- > Your Homestay host will respect your privacy and will not go into your bedroom without permission, unless it is absolutely necessary.
- > Students should clean their room and empty the garbage at least once a week.
- > Your Homestay family will give you items like hand soap, towels, pillows, and bed sheets. Most students will have to change their own sheets.
- > Please do not eat or store food in your bedroom as this may attract insects and cause a bad smell.
- > Always treat your Homestay family with respect and recognize that Homestay is different from a hotel. Please discuss your plans with both your Homestay family and the Homestay department.
- > Communication is very important for a positive Homestay experience. Please make sure to talk to your Homestay family about any concerns or questions you might have.

MEALTIME

- > Please advise your Host Family of any food allergies.
- > It is important to tell your hosts the foods that you like and the foods that you don't like. Do not worry; they will not be upset to hear that there is something that you do not like. But you must keep in mind that hosts will cook their own ethnic style food.
- > Students usually prepare their own breakfast and lunch. Your Host Family will provide you with food to prepare your lunch; you can take your lunch to school on weekdays. Canadian lunch is usually sandwiches, fruit and a drink.
- > Families may have snacks for you between meals.
- > Students may also wish to purchase specialty foods/brand name items at their own expense.
- > In North America, the biggest meal of the day is usually the evening meal. This should be a well-balanced meal. Breakfast is the smallest meal. Possible breakfast choices can include cereal, toast, eggs, or fruit.
- > You should phone your host (by a set agreed upon time, for example, 5:00) to tell them if you are not going to be home for dinner. If you come home late for dinner, your host will leave food in the fridge that you can heat up in the microwave.

SMOKING

For health, hygiene and fire safety reasons, smoking is not permitted in any of our Global Village Homestays. Some Homestay families will allow smoking outside. If you are a smoker, think of giving up for your health's sake, and making this another positive part of your stay in Canada!

STUDENT HOMESTAY INFORMATION *(Continued)*

LAUNDRY

- > Students are usually responsible for washing their own clothes. You should make sure that you fully understand how to use the machine. If you are not sure, ask your Homestay family.
- > Some hosts may feel that their machine may be difficult to use and will therefore want to do it themselves.
- > It is normal for students to do their laundry once a week.
- > You should only do the laundry if you can do a full basket. This is because it takes a lot of electricity to run the washing machine. Hosts will not want you to use it if you only have a few pieces of clothing to wash.
- > Please put your own laundry in a basket or keep it in your room.

WASHROOM

- > Students are responsible for their own toiletries such as: bath soap, toothpaste, shampoo, make-up, lotions, deodorant, etc.
- > Many families in Canada do not have large hot water tanks; therefore, some hosts may ask you to take showers for no longer than ten minutes. This is because you might run out of hot water and will have to wait for the water to heat up again.
- > Please make sure you close the shower door or curtain, so water does not get on the floor. Canadian bathrooms do not have drains in the floor.
- > The floor can get very slippery. For safety reasons, please dry the floor and sink area after every use so that others will not slip.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

- > It is common for most houses in North America to take part in an energy conservation program.
- > Here are some common ways to save energy:
 - Turn lights out when you are not in a room
 - Turn off the TV, radio, computer and any other electrical appliance when not in use.
 - Keep showers to a reasonable length (10 minutes as a maximum)
- > Most families in Calgary recycle - hosts may have separate places to put paper, tin cans, and plastic items. Your host will explain this to you after you arrive.

STUDENT HOMESTAY INFORMATION *(Continued)*

HOUSE KEYS

You will get a key to your Homestay house. It is important that you take special care of the house key because it is a way of getting into the house and your host trusts you with it. Please make sure you lock the door when you leave the home. This is very important for safety reasons. Please make sure to return the key before you leave your Homestay to go back to your country.

HOUSE GUESTS

If you wish to invite a guest to visit your Homestay, you must ask your hosts for permission in advance. Guests are not permitted to sleep overnight in Homestay without permission from the host. If you plan to stay away from the house overnight, then please inform your host at a reasonable hour, and in advance, so that they will not expect you.

EXTENDING YOUR HOMESTAY

Please contact us if you think you will want to stay in Homestay for a longer time than you have pre-booked. If you want to extend your time in Homestay you must inform and pay the school at least 3 weeks in advance.

**WE HOPE YOUR TIME IN HOMESTAY
IS A GREAT ONE!**

**PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO TALK TO US AT ANYTIME
REGARDING ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS YOU MAY HAVE.
WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU.**

**Please come to see us as we have Homestay staff available in the school,
or contact us at 403-543-7300 during business hours.**

**GLOBAL VILLAGE CALGARY
515 1st Street SE, Suite 200 Calgary, AB T2G 2G6 Canada
Tel: 1-403-543-7300**

www.gvenglish.com Email: calgary@gvenglish.com