

We CARE Calgary

CARE Strategy

VISION

Children and youth of immigrant families in Calgary, will achieve *equitable levels of academic, community involvement and vocational success*, comparable to the general population of children and youth.

Understanding Calgary's CARE Strategy

Calgary's *CARE Strategy* is a comprehensive framework that is the culmination of four (4) years of work, designed to address the challenges facing children and youth of immigrant families.

The Strategy which was developed with inputs from a broad range of stakeholders is founded in four main assumptions, including the fact that whilst many descendants of immigrant families are succeeding, there are still many who continue to experience grave difficulties in adjusting to the realities of a new country. The most significant challenges for this group include academic and cultural well-being, socio-economic and psy-



cho-social realities.

The Strategy focuses on four specific priorities:

- All services affecting children & youth of immigrant families have core cultural competencies that improve accessibility and inclusiveness.
- All services for children and youth of immigrant families are accessible, aligned and coordinated.
- Institutions and organizations will continuously conduct, access and share quality, relevant and current research to inform their decisions regarding policies, practices and services for

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CARE Strategy Guiding Principles

We Believe:

- That children and youth of immigrant families, when given opportunities, will succeed in all facets of life.
- That society, as a whole, will benefit from the well-being of children and youth of immigrant families.
- That the views of children and youth of immigrant families are important and their participation in decision-making enhances programs and services.
- That the cultures and traditions of children and youth of immigrant families must be acknowledged, celebrated and shared.
- In equitable and accessible programs and services for children and youth of immigrant families.
- That a multi-sectoral collaborative approach is needed to cultivate the overall well-being and integration of children and youth of immigrant families.
- That research and knowledge of best practices of services for children and youth of immigrant families must be generated and shared continuously.
- That individuals, families, communities and governments share responsibility for the well-being of children and youth of immigrant families.

Did you know? Did you know? Did you know?

- In 2001, 3.6% of Canada's immigrant population lived in Calgary; the city placed fourth in terms of percentage of Canada's total immigrant population, behind Toronto (37.3%), Vancouver (13.6%) and Montreal (11.4%).
- Calgary's immigrant population (197,410) made up 20.9% of the total population (943,310) in 2001.
- Approximately 157,916 new immigrants came to Calgary between 1985 and 2005
- 48.2% of new immigrants to Calgary in 2005 were male and 51.8% were female.
- **40% of all new immigrants to Calgary in 2005 were between 0 and 25 years of age.**
- 43.2% of all new immigrants in 2005 knew neither English nor French.
- In 2005, over half of all immigrants to Calgary applied under the Skilled Worker Category.
- 53.3% of recent immigrants age 25-44 have a university certificate, diploma, or degree, compared to only 21.6% of the Canadian-born population of the same age.

Source: [Facts about Calgary Immigrants](#). City of Calgary, Community & Neighbourhood Services, Social Policy & Planning Division. 2007

Share the wealth ...*Information is power...*Share the wealth. ..*information is power*

The mission of the CARE Strategy is that *Calgary communities work collaboratively to enhance and coordinate strategies that promote the positive socio-economic, academic and cultural well-being of children and youth from immigrant families*. The Strategy serves not only as a community framework, but as a tool that stakeholders can use to direct their efforts and contributions. In keeping with this *We CARE Calgary* will dedicate at least one page in each Issue to the sharing of relevant information among its stakeholders.

Immigrant Serving Organizations Conference

The Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth (CBFY) has announced plans to host the first Immigrant Service Provider's Conference between February 25 and 27, 2009. The Conference which will be held under the theme, "*Collective Understanding to Collaborative Action*" is expected to "give service providers, policy-makers and government, schools and community representatives, the opportunity to build upon current interests and momentum and collaborate on action plans to help immigrant and refugee children and youth meet challenges that they face in school and in Canadian society".

Chief organizer and Executive Director of the CBFY, Harry Yee noted that main objectives of the Conference are to share best practices of immigrant and refugee youth programs in Alberta, bring different initiatives together to impact policy and institutional change and to establish the platform for the development of a multi-sectoral approach to addressing and advancing the issues of children and youth of immigrant and refugee families in Alberta. He also indicated that the Conference is expected to provide a forum for learning and discussion around the Community University Research Alliances (CURA); a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and the Calgary CARE Strategy, which are two multi-sector initiatives focusing on immigrant children and youth in the province and the relationship which will be developed with similar initiatives within schools, community-based and faith-based organizations.

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If you have something you want to share (upcoming event, success story, vacant positions, useful article, etc.), please send them to the attention of the CARE Strategy Manager at:

Email: care@iscc-calgary.ca

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***The new
source of
power is not
money in the
hands of a few,
but
information in
the hands of
many.***

John Naisbitt, 2000

* * *

The CARE Strategy

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Conference (cont'd from page 3)

...Participants are expected to garner significant benefits from the opportunities to highlight their own experience in the area of working with immigrant and refugee children and youth, develop alliances and share ideas, take advantage of the momentum and increasing interest in the area of working with children and youth of immigrant and refugee families, as well as ensure plans and programs are grounded in best practices and evidence by contributing to the development of the Conference's Action Plan.

For persons interested in learning more about the Conference, please contact Karen McCullaugh at kcm_consulting@msn.com.

Understanding Calgary's CARE Strategy (cont'd from page 1)

children and youth of immigrant families.

- The continuous development of capacities to promote the education of children & youth of immigrant families.

In May 2008, the decision was made to house the CARE Strategy with the Immigrant Sector Council of Calgary (ISCC). The ISCC is a collaborative and multi-sectoral forum that identifies and addresses critical and emerging immigrant issues within the Calgary immigrant serving sector. The Council is comprised of organizations representing settlement service providers, ethno-cultural and multicultural groups, funding bodies, and public sector organizations.

Some key priorities for the CARE Strategy will include a focus on formally establishing the CARE Strategy as a Standing Committee of the ISCC; developing an operational plan and the 3-year Strategic Plan for the CARE Strategy, the development of very specific outcome measurements and a clearly defined communication strategy to ensure relevant stakeholders in and around Calgary are aware of this note-worthy initiative.