



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.

CARE Strategy & Education

Care Strategy will publish quarterly newsletters throughout 2009 with each newsletter focusing on one of four CARE Strategy goals: cultural competency, accessible aligned and coordinated services, research and education systems. September's newsletter will focus on Education systems.

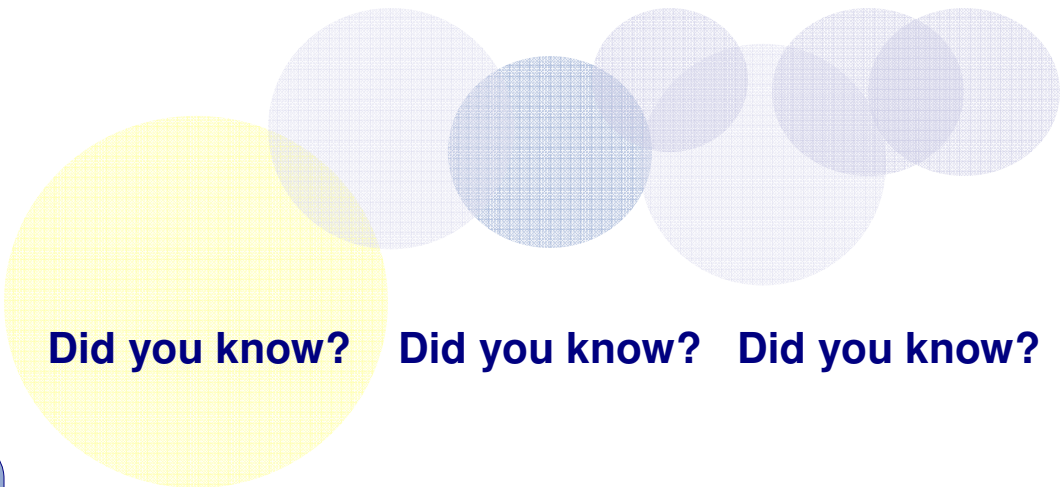
Important Undertaking by The City of Calgary in support of children and youth of immigrant families!

The City of Calgary is the first institution to explore using the CARE Strategy framework to improve how it serves children and youth of immigrant families.

Departments across the corporation have identified their interests, focusing on cultural competencies, accessible and coordinated services, and research. They have undertaken a survey about their needs and a work group is developing a proposed action plan for monthly work sessions of people across departments. The first large group meeting was September 17.

Inside This Issue:

- **Important Undertaking by The City of Calgary**
- **Did you Know?**
- **CARE Strategy & Education in Calgary**
 - **CARE Strategy Standing Committee**
 - **CARE – Faculty of Education, University of Calgary Partnership**
 - **Alberta Education - Inspiring Education Community Café**
 - **Kafe12**
- **Government of Canada Helps Calgary Youth Prepare for Jobs**



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

CARE Strategy

MISSION

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.

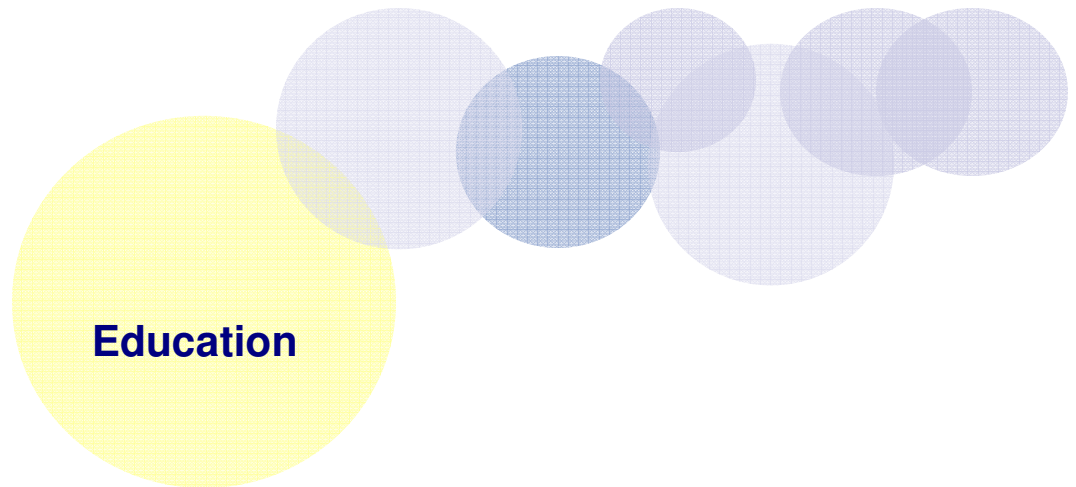
- Calgary Board of Education has 23,000 children and youth students from immigrant families
- Calgary Catholic School District has approximately 20% (8,800) children and youth students from immigrant families
- Calgary Board of Education ESL (English as a Second Language) population increases by about 2000 students per year.
- Calgary Board of Education ESL community is very diverse with over 70 language and cultural groups and students with a variety of complex needs.
- It takes approximately *three to four years in school* for young children learning English to accumulate an English vocabulary size comparable to their English-speaking peers, and even longer for them to produce sentences free of grammatical errors.¹
- It can take from *five to seven years in school* for young children learning English to master complex academic English skills, both spoken and written, that are the same as their peers who speak English as their first language.²
- Some immigrant and refugee families come from oral culture, where storytelling is a more widely used parent-child activity than reading books. This can influence young children's familiarity with literacy.³
<http://education.alberta.ca/media/1093791/earlylearning.pdf>

1,2, 3. (Government of Alberta, (2009), Working with young children who are learning English as a new language)

**International Youth Day
August 12, 2009**



Youth have played a vital role in social change in many countries and it has been seen from time to time. Youth are the key actors for the social change and economic development. To encourage and empower the youth participation incorporating their skills, interest and spirits in the processes and decisions that affect their lives The General Assembly on 17 December 1999 in its resolution 54/120, endorsed the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (Lisbon, 8-12 August 1998) that 12 August be declared International Youth Day



CARE Strategy & Education in Calgary

CARE Strategy “E” strategic priority – Education systems will continuously develop capacities to promote the development of children and youth of immigrant families

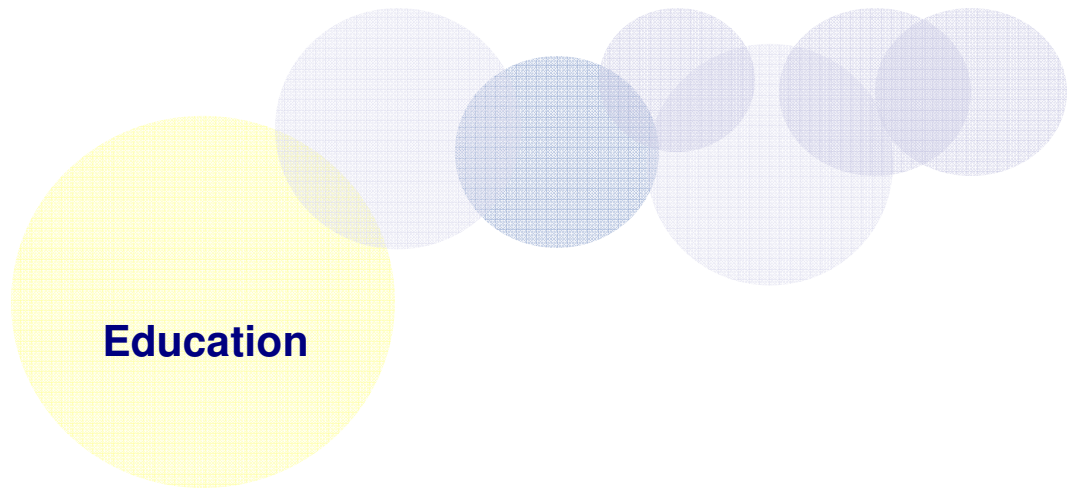
CARE Strategy - Area of Focus for Immigrant Sector Council of Calgary is to develop a supportive role within educational systems.

CARE Strategy is part of the broader community that supports children and youth of immigrant families. Find education related connections here to Calgary Board of Education, Calgary Catholic School District, Coalition to Equal Access to Education, Faculty of Education at the University of Calgary, and Kafe12.

CARE Strategy Standing Committee

The CARE Strategy Standing Committee of the ISCC has responsibility to contribute to the strategic implementation of the CARE Strategy towards the achievement of equitable levels of academic, community involvement and vocational success for children and youth of immigrant families, comparable to the general population of children and youth. Through participation of public education representatives from Calgary Board of Education, Calgary Catholic School District, and community stakeholders Alberta Employment & Immigration, Alberta Health Services, Calgary and Area Child & Family Services, Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth , Calgary Immigrant Women’s Association, Calgary Catholic Immigration Society, Coalition to Equal Access to Education, United Way of Calgary & Area they take on the role to promote the development of children and youth of immigrant families in Calgary education systems.





CARE – Faculty of Education, University of Calgary Partnership

University of Calgary's Faculty of Education wants CARE's help

They want help to define what cultural competency skills new teachers should have. And their researchers want to understand what research about children and their immigrant families is useful to the community. The first session to convene people from academe and the immigrant serving community will take place in October.

Alberta Education - Inspiring Education Community Café

Inspiring Education: A Dialogue with Albertans is a province-wide initiative of the Minister of Education designed to engage Albertans in extensive discussions about education as a foundation for the future societal and economic success of the province. The initiative takes place in three major phases: the community conversations (ending in June), the provincial conversation in October and the completion of a policy framework (by Spring 2010).

During the first phase, the perspectives and ideas of a wide range of Albertans are being gathered, not only through the large-scale community events being run by the project team, but also through locally hosted conversations and online.

In between the community conversations and the provincial conversation, several policy and governance prototypes are being developed by the Working Committee, using an approach based on generative dialogue and policy analysis, as described in foundational documents provided to members of the Steering and Working Committees at the outset of the initiative. These documents can be found on the *Inspiring Education* website at www.inspiringeducation.alberta.ca.

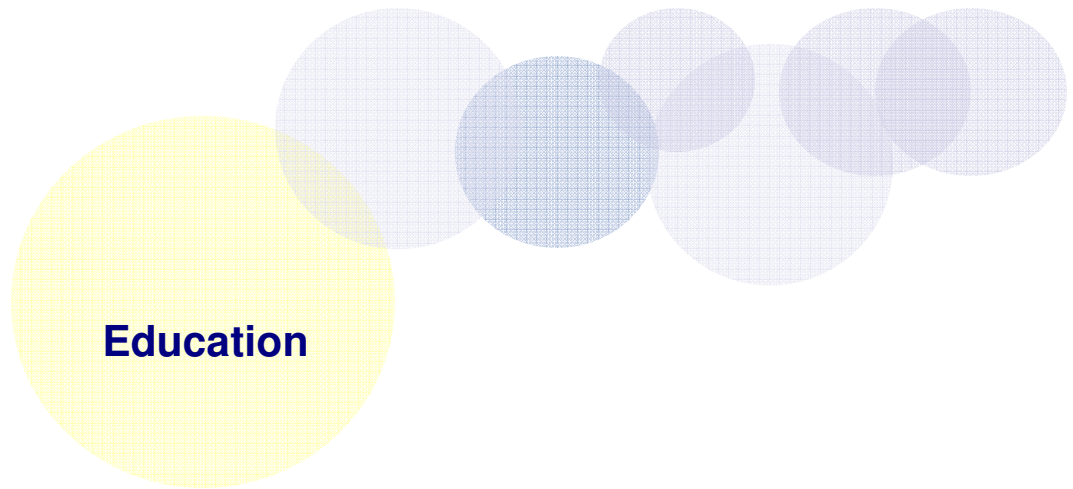
All of the insight and intelligence gathered through the first two phases is being used to develop the policy framework, which will describe the overall direction, principles and long-term goals for education in Alberta over the next two decades.

Inspiring Education is not a traditional government consultation. It is an open dialogue with the community. It challenges all participants to share their ideas and experiences, and it asks them to listen to and consider the perspectives of others. The process uncovers the kind of insight needed to create an education system that will meet the hopes, dreams and aspirations of all Albertans.

As participant at the *Inspiring Education* Community Cafes, CARE Strategy together with other Albertans provided feedback in the spring and summer and learned about Alberta Education shared vision and values.

This was the second Calgary Community Conversation, as well as the ninth large-scale public event of *Inspiring Education's* first phase, where 131 members of the Calgary community gathered for a conversation at the University of Calgary. In attendance was a cross-section of participants from three distinct groups. One group was composed of individuals who signed up to attend; another was composed of representatives of stakeholder organizations and others who were invited to attend; and the last was composed of members of the public who were randomly selected. Click on the link for details about the Inspiring Education Calgary Community Café June 17/09 Summary <http://www.inspiringeducation.alberta.ca/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=fe2QD8kvhz8%3d&tabid=103>

Continued on page 5



Alberta Education - Inspiring Education Community Café

Continued from page 4

The Inspiring Education Forum, October 18-20 in Edmonton will continue to feed into the policy-making process, and opinions will continue to inform the work of the project's Steering Committee and the Ministry of Education Participation is free and several registration options are available for the event at <http://www.inspiringeducation.alberta.ca>. Education focused Calgary organizations, institutions, groups and community stakeholders will be attending Inspiring Education Forum *A Dialogue with Albertans*, Edmonton, from Oct 18-20.

Keynote speakers at the *Inspiring Education Forum* include:

- **Dr. Jennifer James**, a cultural anthropologist specializing in the human face of technological change and the development of cultural intelligence.
- **Dr. Mark Milliron**, who explores leadership development, future trends, learning strategies, and the human side of technology change.
- **Daniel H. Pink**, the author of a trio of provocative, bestselling books on the changing world of work, including *A Whole New Mind: Why Right Brainers Will Rule the Future*.
-

To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make
you something else is the greatest accomplishment.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson



Stakeholders

Government of Canada Helps Calgary Youth Prepare for Jobs

CALGARY, ALBERTA - (Marketwire - Sept. 24, 2009) - Local youth who face barriers to employment will get employability skills and work experience through the Government of Canada's support for a local employment project. Mr. Deepak Obhrai, Member of Parliament for Calgary East, made the announcement today on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development.

"In today's environment, it is more important than ever that all Canadians develop the skills needed to participate and succeed in the job market," said Mr. Obhrai. "By supporting this project, we are helping Calgary youth develop the skills, knowledge and work experience they need to reach their full potential."

The Centre for Newcomers will receive \$1,371,386 in federal Skills Link funding to support its Youth Possibilities Program, which will help 140 youth facing employment barriers develop life and job skills to ease their transition to work or return to school.

"The Centre for Newcomers will provide an experiential learning environment that is supportive and encouraging. Young adults will develop essential life and employment skills such as decision making, effective communication, job search techniques and career planning. They will explore their strengths and dreams and learn to make and follow through on plans," said Ms. Carol Simpson, Employment Services Manager. "Through this program, they will acquire skills to secure jobs and succeed in their chosen careers."

Skills Link focuses on helping youth facing barriers to employment, such as single parents, Aboriginal youth, young persons with disabilities, recent immigrants, youth living in rural and remote areas, and youth who have dropped out of high school.

The federal government is working with the provinces and territories, community organizations and other stakeholders to provide Canadians with the training, skills and opportunities they need to participate in the workforce and contribute to their communities.

Skills Link is part of the Government of Canada's strategy to create the best educated, most skilled and most flexible workforce in the world. The Government underscored its commitment to this strategy in Canada's Economic Action Plan. A key component of the Plan is to create more and better opportunities for Canadian workers through skills development. To learn more about Canada's Economic Action Plan, visit www.actionplan.gc.ca.

The Skills Link program is delivered by Service Canada, which provides one-stop personalized services for Government of Canada programs, services and benefits. For more information about this program, call 1 800 O-Canada, visit servicecanada.gc.ca or drop by your local Service Canada Centre.

We CARE Calgary will dedicate at least one page in each Issue to the sharing of relevant information among its stakeholders. If you have something you want to share (upcoming event, success story, vacant positions, useful article, etc.), on **YOUR PAGE**, please send them to the attention of the CARE Strategy Manager at: care@iscc-calgary.ca