



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.

What is the CARE Strategy?

The CARE Strategy is a **comprehensive framework** which supports a system-wide approach for addressing key issues for children and youth of immigrant families. The CARE Strategy can also be used as an **assessment tool** to identify what is already being accomplished, alternatives for program/service delivery and more effective ways to collaborate. An important function of The CARE Strategy is to provide **common goals** for multi-sectoral partnerships, working towards the well being of children and youth of immigrant families.

Why be involved?

With your involvement we can create conversations about the well-being of children and youth of immigrant families. Through these conversations, we can promote collaborative learnings



CARE Strategy Engagement

We need everyone to be involved! The success of the CARE Strategy will depend upon the involvement of all community sectors including community members, government representatives, organizations that address needs of the children and youth of immigrant families, and funders.

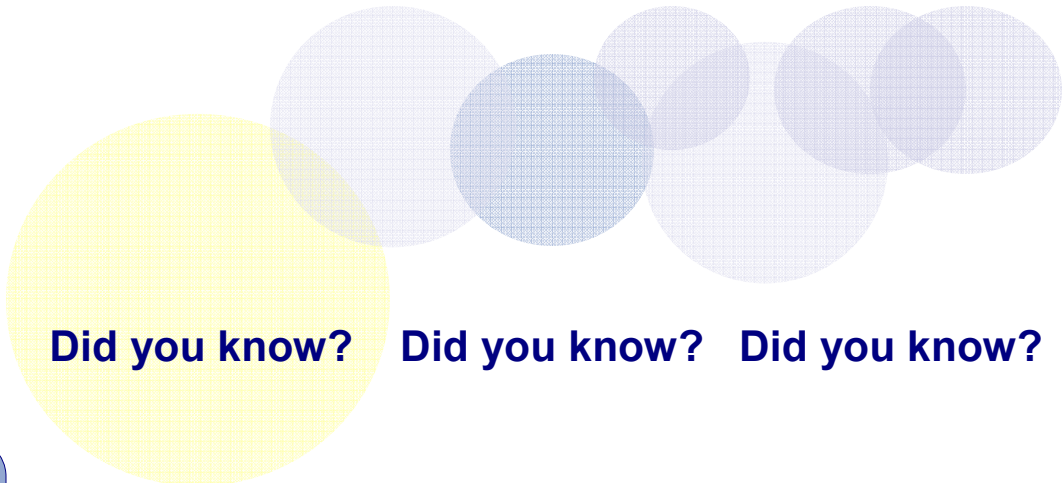
and initiatives. The CARE Strategy is open to your input and through your support is willing to adapt the internal organization to meet your needs.

How to Get Involved

If you have any suggestions or needs that are not yet being met [contact us](#).

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

Youth in Calgary

- Children/youth = 59% of all population growth (adults only 40%)
- Nearly 20,000 additional children and youth - under age 24
- Every new adult in Calgary comes with 1.5 children
- Remove population of adults: Calgary's children - 15th largest city in Canada
- Calgary youth are very active in the volunteer sector. The very large majority (93%) of teens have participated in volunteer activities at some point in time.
- The most prominent reason Calgary youth volunteer is because of a desire to "make a difference in their community" (mentioned by 62%). However, almost as many were asked by family members to volunteer (59%), or were motivated by the idea of gaining personal skills (58%).
- Parents are named by 63% of teens as having the greatest influence in motivating teens to volunteer.

Source - Volunteer Calgary and Upstart - Champions for Children & Youth Presentation

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.



What is Youth Week?

A week jam-packed with events just for youth!

How Much \$\$\$\$?

All events are super cheap or FREE!

Where?

All over Calgary

When? April 25 - May 3, 2009 - Events happen before and after these dates too!!

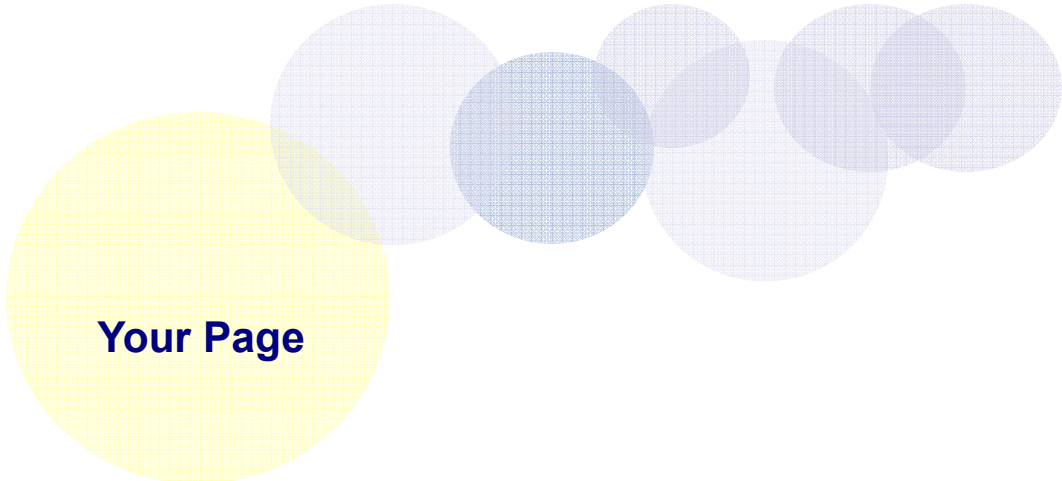
Youth Week Ambassadors

To Register

Email youthweek@cyfc.ca

Call 403-266-5448

Web youthweekcalgary.ca



Your Page

2009 Immigrant of Distinction Youth Scholarships

Immigrant Services Calgary sponsors the **Youth Scholarships** awarded to immigrant youths between the ages of 14 and 25 who have made an outstanding contribution or significant achievement in one or more of the following area: Arts & Culture, Sports, Community and Volunteer Activities and/or Academics. This years recipients were recognized at the Awards Banquet on Thursday, March 12.

Bio's written by: Amy Moniz edited by Mary Anne Morel



Mr. Di Mo

When Di Mo came to Canada from Beijing at the age of 8, learning English was an obstacle. But Di's drive and unrelenting determination to become fluent in a short time frame set the stage for the achievements gained through his commitment in the years following.

Gifted in mathematics, Di has excelled in local, national and international math competitions, achieving two consecutive gold medal wins at the Canadian Mathematics Competition involving more than 20,000 math

students across Canada. His excellence in speech and debate has earned him first place in a provincial speech competition.

As an honor student at the Royal Conservatory of Music studying piano, Di has attained countless accolades and awards including a scholarship and numerous first place awards at the annual Kiwanis Music Festival.

Di is a devoted citizen who volunteers regularly. His continuing volunteer commitment working with youth at the YMCA and his initiation and management of a student-run badminton club are just a few ways Di gives back to his community. His dedication and demonstrated maturity are highly distinguishable and make Di an excellent role model.

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Ms. Valez Lumi

Valez Lumi is truly an inspiration. Forced to flee war-torn Kosovo, Valez and her family escaped to Albania where they lived in a refugee camp hoping for a chance at a better life. At age seven, Valez and her family moved to Canada where she began to realize her own potential.

Once Valez overcame the language barrier and became fluent in English by Grade 6, she excelled academically. She achieved the highest overall average in junior high school as well as the highest average of anyone

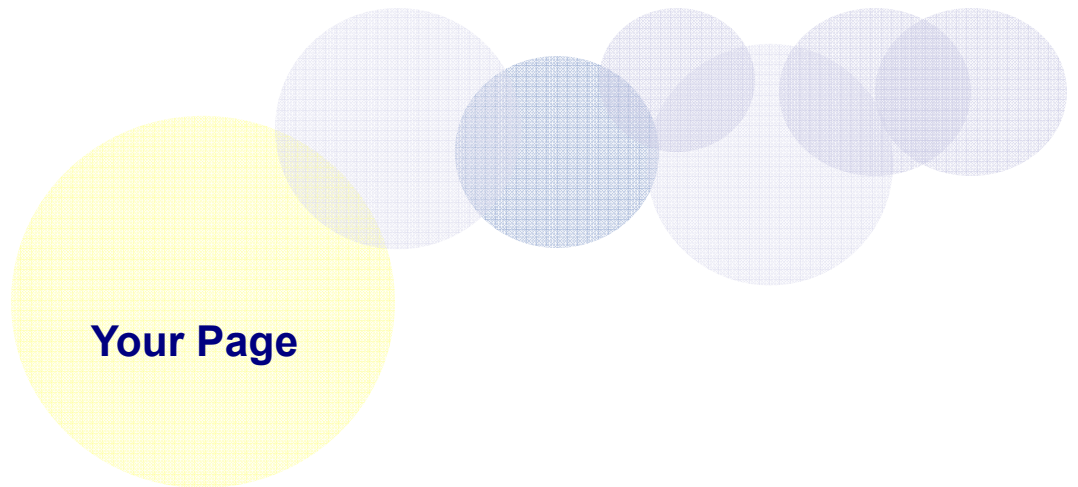
in her Grade 9 class, earning her the Ivan J. McManus scholarship. Now in Grade 11, Valez continues to challenge herself academically.

She has also flourished athletically, making her mark in high-school track and field, swimming and cross country teams; and enjoying volleyball and volunteer score-keeping. She helps create awareness of sports in her school as a contributing member of the Casey Council, promoting athletic programs.

Valez works part-time for the Calgary Public Library and cares for children in her community to help raise money for her family and support her parents who are both enrolled in school.

Her unwavering commitments to her family, her community, and to the fundamental betterment of herself and others like her who have suffered through unspeakable strife, serve as an example to all of us to never give up in the face of adversity.

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



Your Page

2009 Immigrant of Distinction Youth Scholarships

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Ms. Fariha Ahmed

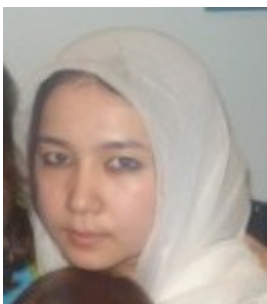
Fariha Ahmed is a shining example of how leadership, dedication and compassion can strengthen a community from the outside in. Her extensive academic and volunteer accomplishments are without a doubt remarkable for this young woman hailing from Bangladesh.

Recognized as the most outstanding student in Grade 11 for her contribution to her school and to the community, Fariha has been a member of the honor role society for three years. Currently enrolled in the International Baccalaureate program, Fariha has joined school committees and clubs aimed at increasing awareness for important local and international causes, advocating for youth in her community, and fundraising for causes at home and abroad, including efforts in Bangladesh, Kenya and Darfur. Fariha explains, "I cannot imagine children like me not getting the basic right of education."

Fariha's extensive volunteer work includes working tirelessly to support LINKages, an organization helping to build intergenerational relationships between students and the elderly. Fariha pairs this with volunteer contributions to both the pediatric and geriatric wards at Peter

Lougheed Hospital.

Awarded with the Alberta Premier's Centennial Medallion for outstanding leadership skills and academic excellence and the Mount Royal Citizenship award, Fariha is a devoted citizen who volunteers for the Mayor's Youth Council and Cal-



Ms. Bani Turkmani

To say that Bani Turkmani has succeeded in achieving her goals is an understatement. Her turbulent journey to Canada is similar to that in a novel. Bani was born in Iran to Afghani parents, who struggled to give a secure education to her and her three siblings. Life was hard for the family and eventually unstable; they were compelled to leave Iran for Azerbaijan after Bani had completed the fifth grade.

She describes this journey as a, "tough thing to do without passports." This transition with her family was a "partly happy, partly sad" journey that took a long time before finally ending in safety. Bani was not able to continue her studies in Azerbaijan and only had a Grade 5 equivalent when she began Grade 11 here in Calgary.

Although she was six years behind her peers, and at times worked two jobs, Bani confidently chipped away at the course requirements for a high school diploma. She first completed the 14 level streams, then the next level of applied courses required for her diploma, while working as a swing manager at a local MacDonald's restaurant. Through each course and each shift, Bani always remained focused on her dream of one day going to university. This dream has now become a reality; Bani has attained admission to university in the fall by completing a full-course load of pure 30 credits. After only three and a half years at Ernest Manning High School, Bani has given herself the opportunity to achieve a higher education. The dedication she has applied to her studies, work and family are honorable. Her story is one of beating the odds with compassion, dedication and fierce determination.

2009 Immigrant of Distinction Youth Scholarships

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Ms. Ana Angela Lopez

Born in Mexico, Ana Angela Lopez Quiroz immigrated to England with her family and later moved to Canada in 2003. Watching her father's study of science and observing his work in the laboratory, Ana Angela became interested in the field, and eventually her keen interest and determination landed her a summer position with the University of Calgary Faculty Of Science. Her passion for science has won her numerous awards including three consecutive gold medals at the Calgary Youth Science Fair.

Ana Angela is currently enrolled in the International Baccalaureate program, where her commitment to knowledge and the pursuit of learning is further evidenced by her status as an honor role student and contribution to her school's honor society.

Fluent in English, Spanish and French, Ana Angela earned the best academic average in French in junior high school and currently serves as president of the Spanish club. Her devotion to helping new immigrants is unparalleled, generously devoting her time to teaching new immigrant children English and immigrant adults about Canadian norms and culture.

Ana Angela is passionate about sports and a decorated martial artist, specializing in karate. Adding to her athletic accolades are her accomplishments in cross-country, track and field, badminton, swimming and wrestling.

"Leaders...

...have to learn to be lonely thinkers

...must learn not to be afraid

...have to make a personal commitment to excellence

...must show courage in failure and humility in success

...must allow others to grow

...must match learning with compassion

...have to learn to recognize that privilege comes with obligation".

Shri C.K. Prahalad, Professor, University of Michigan



CARE Strategy and Education

The Minister's Forum

CARE Strategy will be participating in Phase III of the Minister's Forum to help determine the direction of the Department of Education in addressing Special Education. On June 8th and 9th The Minister's Forum will be held in Edmonton. Although the forum is full, Albertans are still able to participate remotely by signing in on the webcast. Please [register](#) for the Forum by **May 1, 2009** if you would like to participate remotely.

The Minister's Forum is setting the Direction for Special Education in Alberta and has included a comprehensive public consultation process to ensure that Albertans have an opportunity to share their input for the development of the new special education framework. The consultation has been structured in three phases:

Phase 1 – where Albertans offered their insights for Vision and Principles for the new framework.

Phase 2 – where Albertans shared their input regarding the elements for the new framework and advice for moving forward.

Phase 3 – where Albertans are invited to discuss the framework as we move towards implementation.

The Minister's Forum is an opportunity for all Albertans to discuss the new framework as we embark together on our journey in championing and moving forward this system re-design. During our first two consultation phases, we heard that we must make systemic changes where all students are provided the level of supports they require to have a meaningful educational experience. Fundamental to changing our practices is a shift in attitude – from thinking of special education as a separate part of our school system to building one inclusive education system that meets the needs of all students.

Visit the [Alberta Education](#) website for more information regarding this forum.

Name Change

Alberta Mentor Foundation for Youth has
been changed to:



mpower
YOUTH MENTORING

[more information](#)

Volunteer Opportunity

Sudanese Learning Centre needs your help!

- Do you want to make a difference in a child's life?
- Do you want to help improve a child's academic and social skills?

[sign up here](#)



CARE Strategy and Mental Health

Receive the children
in reverence; educate
them in love, let them
go forth in freedom.

Rudolf Steiner



The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health with the Mental Health Commission of Canada have just completed a report entitled “**Understanding the issues, best practice and options for service development to meet the needs of ethno-cultural groups, immigrants, refugees, and racialized groups**”. This report seeks to understand the issues related to mental health services in Canada for ethno-racial and immigrant populations. It acknowledges what services are currently available and where the gaps are. The report also explores what the barriers and facilitators of care are for these populations. The MHCC is currently developing a National Strategy for mental health and this report will be a part of that.

At the conclusion of this report are several recommendations. It is imperative that we receive feedback on these recommendations to ensure we have not missed pertinent information. This [link](#) will take you to the report and to the e-consultation where you can respond to the recommendations. Please forward this link to anyone you believe would be interested in this topic and who can respond to the recommendations. This e-consultation will be available online until late April 2009.

Contact The CARE Strategy

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