

in action

upstart

Champions for Children and Youth

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Welcome to New Director, Phil Carlton

Tuesday October 12 marked the beginning of a new phase for UpStart when Phil Carlton assumed the position of permanent Director of the initiative.

Phil, with a B.Ed. from the University of Calgary and an M.A. in Curriculum and Administration from Gonzaga University, brings 39 years of experience in the field of education to the position, along with a lifelong commitment to building opportunities for children and youth.

He maintains his passion has always been looking out for at risk children and youth and supporting programming opportunities that will make a difference in children's lives. This will be a guiding force in his work as Director of UpStart, and working with the Council of Champions.

Phil started his career as an elementary physical education specialist at Queen's Park Elementary and at Dr. Gordon Higgins where he also served as Vice Principal. Over the years he served in various capacities within the Calgary Board of Education, including a 13 year tenure as senior leader serving as a director in three administrative areas and a five year term as Director, Community Engagement and Operational Planning.



UpStart's new director Phil Carlton (left) has taken over from Casey Boodt (right) who managed on an interim basis from September 2009.

Thank you to Casey Boott

It has been over a year since Casey Boott accepted the position of Interim Director of **UpStart**. As Interim Director he managed the day-to-day operations of the initiative with a focus on maintaining stability until a permanent replacement was found.

Casey will remain with **UpStart**, providing evaluation support to the school access grants initiative and Calgary AfterSchool steering committee.

In Review

Throughout the year, **UpStart** staff has continued to focus on on-going work. This has involved closing down some of the community tables that were coming to an end, and enhancing and continuing to develop those programs which have been identified as an important focus area.

The following highlights **UpStart's** recent activities:

- Research into the effects of developmental screening and the presence of concerns in infants 6, 12 and 18 months of age and mothers' ability to cope with depression and behavioural screening outcomes (The Cuddles Study) was completed.
- The findings from the Status Report on Children and Youth in Calgary are currently being used as source information to develop a strategy to deal with homeless youth in Calgary in partnership with the Calgary Homeless Foundation.
- The TeenZone pilot project which has been instrumental in understanding the viability of after school hour programming for Calgary youth has concluded. The final report was released in October of 2010, with the evaluation results serving as the impetus to explore the possibility of developing a funders' table for after school hours programming.

- \$1.5 million for School Access Grants from the Ministry of Culture and Community Spirit for critical hours programming was received in the late fall of 2009 and is currently being implemented through a school and community partnership.
- The Faith Strategy which was part of the Critical Hours Initiative has been incorporated into the community development work being undertaken by a United Way Funded Agency.
- The Parenting Task Force has focused its attention through the Community Parenting Program Evaluation Project to design and implement the **UpStart** Parenting Survey so baseline information on parenting program outcomes can be identified.

Moving Forward

While Phil Carlton transitions into the position of Director, and Casey Boott transitions out of his responsibilities as Interim Director, the Council of Champions has set aside December 10 as a half-day planning session which will set the priorities for the Council and **UpStart** for the coming year.

As the direction advances, it will allow **UpStart** to communicate the vision for the work in support of the Council of Champion's priorities. As the vision unfolds, it will be important there is a direct link to United Way's key investment areas of Growing Up Great, Building Strong Neighbourhoods and Moving Out of Poverty.

