



in **action** upstart

Champions for Children and Youth

UpStart Staff

Director

PHIL CARLTON

Team Manager

KATY DOUCETTE

Strategy Leads

NANCY DUTTON

NICOLE GENEREUX

MARGARET JEV

Communications Specialist

JOY SCHMIT

Community Planner AYES

JOANNE PINNOW

Executive Assistant

ROSALIE WOOD

Director's Update

UpStart has had a busy few months this spring, and it appears the balance of the year will be filled with some exciting work as the initiative continues to build its momentum.

While the balance of this newsletter will focus on recent achievements of UpStart, there are a few items I wish to cover.

I have been meeting individually with members of the Council of Champions to discuss the implementation of the Strive framework in the Calgary context. Our team has been developing the membership for our four priority teams:

- ❖ Early Years / School Readiness
- ❖ High School Completion
- ❖ Aboriginal Youth & Education Strategy (AYES)
- ❖ School Community Collaboration.

AYES was added as the fourth priority due to a reorganization within United Way's Community Investment and Collaboration Team, and the outcomes associated with AYES are a fit with the UpStart Framework.

On September 23, Jeff Edmondson, Executive Director of Strive, will spend a day with the Council of Champions and the Priority Team members to offer insight and guidance to our work together.

The future of the initiative is looking bright, and as a team, we are all excited about how this new framework will enhance the lives of future generations of children in our city. I encourage you to read a recent Stanford Social Innovation Review article on Collective Impact and the success of Strive.

Have a great summer!

All the best,
Phil Carlton

Early Childhood Education and Care Calgary Forum

UpStart co-hosted the Early Childhood Education and Care forum on May 2 and 3, with the Muttart Foundation to further discussion of early childhood education and care in Alberta.

More than 60 stakeholders, with interests and knowledge in the area spent the first day in discussion and critical reviewing information, analysis and ideas presented in The Muttart Foundation's discussion paper *In the Best Interests of Children and Families: A Discussion of Early Childhood Education and Care in Alberta*. The second day focused specifically on possible next steps for Calgary and Area stakeholders, and specifically on the role of UpStart.

Small table discussion groups were merged into larger ones, and participants were asked to identify the group's top

recommendation for UpStart moving forward and why. As groups reported back, there was a common agreement that UpStart's role is to work with other provincial champions, such as Success by 6 to lay the groundwork and provide ongoing support for a provincial framework or agenda in Alberta.

Groups collectively reasoned that by working together, champions and advocates can build momentum and move beyond talk to work with both government and community to create change.

The Council of Champions reviewed the group recommendations on June 23 at their quarterly meeting, and gave the UpStart staff direction to move forward with action.

CLVC Receives United Way Centraide Award



Joanne Gibson (second from right), accepts Community Builder Award at United Way Canada - Centraide National Conference.

The Calgary Learning Village Collaborative (CLVC) was recently honoured with the United Way Canada - Centraide 2011 Community Builder Award at the organization's annual convention hosted in Calgary. The project, which is generously supported by Clay and Vi Riddell, has built the foundation for a strong community-based network of services that is greatly benefitting the greater Forest Lawn area.

The Community Builder Award recognizes a group project that impacts communities in Canada, and that are based on inclusive, participatory and consensus-building approaches.

The CLVC is a collaborative network, under the School Community Collaboration priority, of education, health, social, recreation and cultural services coordinated in the Greater Forest Lawn area. It originated in 2001 when United Way's Calgary Children's Initiative and a small group of school principals and service providers came together to address shared concerns about the challenges facing students and their families in the Greater Forest Lawn area of Calgary.

Since its inception in 2001, the initiative has achieved significant results in reaching out and engaging parents and children in what their communities have to offer – including opportunities for them to be involved in community building.



United Way
Calgary and Area

A United Way initiative directed by community leaders.

UpStart Champions for Children and Youth
Suite #600, 1202 Centre Street S.E., Calgary, Alberta T2G 5A5 T 403-231-6287

Our newsletter is published several times each year, distributed primarily via email, and available on our website.