

MEDIA RELEASE



Signposts: A Survey of the Social Issues and Needs of Calgarians

June 28, 2011 – Calgary, AB – United Way of Calgary and Area has once again partnered with The City of Calgary to conduct research in response to Calgary's rapid growth and need for a *comprehensive* community assessment survey, and the results of the research will be publically released June 28.

Dr. Loreen Gilmour, Director of Poverty Initiatives and Research at United Way will be discussing the results with Derek Cook, a research social planner with the City of Calgary starting at 9:00 AM on the second floor of the Kahanoff Building (1202 Centre Street SW).

Dr. Gilmour said the Signposts project was originally initiated in 2006 with the goal to examine and compare Calgary's communities, and then repeated in 2009 to gain a comprehensive look which would guide planners, developers and programmers in addressing the city's diverse needs.

"Researchers gathered information on individual and community quality of life, issues of concern and use and perceived need for community facilities, programs and services," she said. "The city-wide information we have gained allows us to examine the needs of the city as well as to compare the needs between different populations of interest over time."

The survey was broken down into three distinct areas: Community and individual wellness; issues of concern, and service use. Then, trends were identified by comparing the 2009 data against the original 2006 report.

Cook said that although there will not be recommendations coming forward immediately from the survey, it does provide an important means of monitoring issues of concern to Calgarians and what community services they use and need, which allows for longer term planning.

To view Signposts full report, click: (link)

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