



# all in for youth

United for school completion.

*REPORT TO STAKEHOLDERS*

*MARCH 2015, ISSUE IV*



[allinfor youth.com](http://allinfor youth.com)

# BUILDING ON MOMENTUM

The fall of 2014 was an exciting season for the All In for Youth initiative. Multiple requests for additional programming meant expansion, leading to greater impact. New school partners, additional tutoring locations and an increase in success coaches amplified our presence in Calgary schools and helped us reach even more youth. We also shared All In for Youth broadly during United Way's fall campaign, helping to build the momentum of the program by recruiting more volunteers, individual donors and corporate partners.

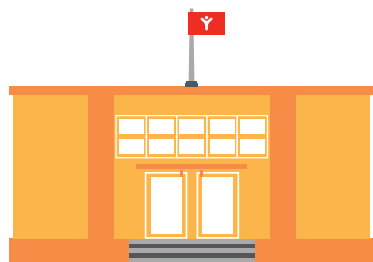
A primary focus at the end of 2014 was gathering feedback from key stakeholders, including youth, agency partners, teachers and other school staff, to enable us to further chart and refine our course for the next phase of the initiative. All the insights proved valuable in preparation for strategic planning sessions in January. We will also be connecting with volunteers for feedback in early 2015.

The last few months of 2014 also saw the All In for Youth team refining the data collection and measurement tools to effectively track the success of the initiative. New strategies to address the unique needs of English Language Learners and Aboriginal Youth also began to be developed.

We started 2015 moving full-steam ahead. The new semester marked the start for new Success Coaches, with a total of 14.5 full-time positions in 12 schools. We've also added a full-time School Liaison, joining current liaison Joan Gauthier in working closely with our school partners. Heather Innes, who comes to us with an extensive background in engagement at United Way and Tim Main, a former Calgary Board of Education teacher and high school administrator, will share the role.

We are excited about the expertise and insights that all of these individuals will add to our team, and look forward to even more fantastic growth and progress in 2015.

Craig Foley,  
Director, All In for Youth



## FALL 2014

Expansion brings All In for Youth programming to even more Calgary schools. Our partner schools grew from 11 to 21 and now include 17 high schools, three alternative learning environments and Bow Valley College.

## SEPTEMBER 2014

### All In for Youth School Summit

Dozens of guidance counselors, career practitioners, principals and other administrators from All In for Youth schools meet at United Way with agency partners to discuss how to best support at-risk students.



# IN CALGARY, 3,000 YOUTH DO NOT COMPLETE HIGH SCHOOL ON TIME EACH YEAR.

All In for Youth is a citywide initiative focused on school completion. We are guided by three principles: Keep youth in school, bring youth back to school and connect youth to future possibilities. Working with schools, government, corporations, agencies and individuals, we are building a system of supports to help youth reach their potential. Our goals are:



**REDUCE THE HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT RATE BY 50% BY 2017**

**3,000 POSITIVE ADULT-YOUTH CONNECTIONS ARE ESTABLISHED BY 2017**



*The cost to the individual and society when a student drops out of school has been well documented but the solution is incredibly difficult. It really takes an all-out war on a number of fronts. My wife and I are thrilled with All In for Youth because it draws together multiple skills and agencies in a concentrated, meaningful solution.*

*– Jim Hill, Individual Donor*

**NOVEMBER 2014**

**New Corporate Partner**

Enerplus commits \$100,000 to All In for Youth.



**DECEMBER 2014**


**Focusing on Systemic Change**

Key stakeholders gather for the first of a series of meetings to discuss and plan how we can maximize our impact by sharing our learning with Government of Alberta ministries and other influential parties.


# MAKING PROGRESS

Measurement Note: All In for Youth data collection aligns with the local school semester schedule. To ensure reporting consistency going forward, the project results reported here reflect only the most recently analyzed complete semester data. These figures are cumulative up to and including June 2014.

## CONNECTING YOUTH TO POSITIVE ADULTS


 **262 students** accessed free math tutoring services at one of three YMCA locations. This project expanded to include two additional community locations in September 2014, opening up critical tutoring opportunities to students in the northwest and north central corridor. While the final numbers from the fall semester are not yet available, we know that tutoring continued to be oversubscribed.


 Big Brothers Big Sisters has successfully matched **83 students** with mentors or career connectors. **90%** of participating youth reported an increase in competency, including interpersonal, critical thinking, employability and academic skills.

 **9 out of 10 participants** also reported increases in the areas of confidence (self-identity, view of future, sense of purpose), connection (awareness of community resources, identification of positive social supports and involvement in community programs) and character (core values, personal values, respect for others and social norms).

## REMOVING BARRIERS IN THE WAY OF YOUTH SUCCESS



 **175 students** received one-to-one, individualized supports from Success Coaches embedded in All In for Youth high schools. In addition to their caseloads, each Success Coach also serves a varying number of drop-in students each month. Many of these students require help meeting basic needs.

 The Navigator project, which connects youth who have dropped out to support and learning options, has connected **66 youth** with a highly specialized school community liaison. Moving forward, the navigator role has evolved, to roll under the Success Coach program, which is in line with All In for Youth's refined focus on preventative interventions.

 **Five students** completed their studies through the Detour program at Bow Valley College as of June 2014, with several more on track to finish during the fall 2014 semester. Detour offers an accelerated, adult learning environment for older youth who face significant barriers to high school completion. **14 new students** were admitted between May 2014 and January 2015, bringing the program total to **28 students**, with intake expected to continue until May 2016.

## HELPING YOUTH REALIZE THEIR FUTURE POSSIBILITIES



✚ More than **300 students** have participated in Career Talks and Tour events. Volunteer interest has been particularly strong for these events, which allowed for a more robust and diverse schedule this past fall.

✚ With expansion into additional schools, All In for Youth contracted The City of Calgary Youth Employment Centre (YEC) to manage and grow the Career Talks and Tour projects. YEC has a strong reputation for delivering career and employment services to the city's youth. They bring **27 years** of experience working with youth, and in designing, delivering and evaluating programs.

✚ In 2015, All In for Youth is piloting career exploration activities with **grade 9 students** at St. Martha Junior High School. This is a proactive measure that reflects All In for Youth's desire to begin impacting students before they reach high school.



## ENGAGING CALGARIANS FOR GREATER SUCCESS

✚ All In for Youth's online volunteer portal went live with the new website, [allinfor youth.com](http://allinfor youth.com), in September 2014. In the first four months, **214 individuals** signed up, received initial screening and were referred to our agency partners for volunteer placement.

✚ Nordstrom celebrated the opening of their first Canadian store, right here in Calgary, by hosting a gala in September in support of All In for Youth and the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation. The event raised more than **\$189,000** with over **2,000 people** in attendance.

✚ Youth Central collected more than **530 youth survey responses** last fall, generating input and feedback from students in All In for Youth schools and other youth groups. Early analysis indicates strong parallels between mainstream student populations and students who have left school and since returned to alternative learning environments. This includes an underlying sense of stress, common reasons for leaving or for staying in school and the types of support desired.

# ONE-ON-ONE SUPPORT FOR SUCCESS

As data from the youth survey suggests, students facing multiple barriers to school completion need an advocate, a supportive adult, a strong role model. This is what they receive when they work with an All In for Youth Success Coach.

Success Coaches offer a different type of connection and assistance. Being employed by a community agency gives Success Coaches connections to needed supplies or services; being within the school means they are easily accessible to youth.

"Success Coaches have the time and capacity to work with youth on goals that are not necessarily academic," says Karen Love, Manager of Education Initiatives at Boys and Girls Clubs of Calgary (BGCC). Success Coaches can also meet with students outside of school hours, on the weekend or even during school breaks. This helps them maintain relationships and continue outreach during times when youth typically fall into bad habits or find themselves in difficult environments.

"Success comes from building relationships and working with youth where they're at, not where we think they're supposed to be," says Karen. Addressing barriers and building confidence in other areas can translate into improved grades and overall progress. "Not coming to school worried lets them focus and makes their lives more manageable," says Karen.

Financial hardship is one of the most common barriers seen by Success Coaches, along with mental health and lack of positive adult/family support. They also see a lot of hidden homelessness – couch surfing youth who are not sure where they will be sleeping from night to night. Almost without exception, students working with Success Coaches face a combination of barriers.

In addition to the long-term supports for those youth they work with, Success Coaches have had more than 2,800 youth come to them for food. They've also provided one-time or walk-in outreach services ranging from packages of toiletries to eye glasses, to more than 330 other youth.

"A lot of what seem like little things are easily overlooked, but they can be huge barriers to success," says Karen. "Something as simple as a \$20 pair of gym shoes can help a student graduate by allowing them to get credit for Phys. Ed."



*A few of the All In for Youth Success Coaches*

*Success Coaches have proven to be one of the most impactful programs offered through All In for Youth. This has led to rapid expansion, with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Calgary and school district partners working together to identify schools where the impact would be most beneficial. As of February 2015, there are 14.5 Success Coaches working in 12 Calgary schools.*

# ALEXIS' STORY

Tattooed in a looping script across Alexis' collarbone is a single word: strength. It serves as a source of inspiration to the 21-year old; a daily reminder of how far she's come, and how close she is to accomplishing what too many voices along the way told her wasn't possible.

A bright child who struggled to fit in, Alexis recalls being picked on for her appearance, for her hearing problems and for not knowing her biological father. Frequent moves made it hard for her to connect with peers, and she had few friends. As her hearing deteriorated and Alexis began to experience depression, she found it harder to pay attention and do well in school. When her mother remarried, Alexis began to act out. She stole and got into fights at school and with family.

"It was too much change at once. Mentally and emotionally I didn't know how to handle it," Alexis explains. When she was 11, Alexis was sent into foster care in Edmonton. Eventually, her grandparents adopted her and she moved to Calgary, hoping for a fresh start.



*"It was too much change at once. Mentally and emotionally I didn't know how to handle it."*

In Calgary, Alexis again struggled to fit in. When her grandfather got sick, Alexis stopped taking her medications and began using drugs. At 16, she was kicked out of high school. Determined to finish, Alexis enrolled at Discovering Choices. She started to get clean. Then her grandfather died and she began working longer hours and nights to help her grandmother with the bills, missing more and more school.

Alexis felt discouraged. When she learned about Detour, she found hope. "In Detour, I'm an individual, not just part of a faceless mass of students, which is motivating," she says. Through the program, she receives a stipend, which reduces her financial stress, and individualized supports including a Success Coach and a mentor, who are helping Alexis learn more about herself and plan her future.

Alexis is on track to earn her diploma in a year, and envisions becoming a licensed practical nurse (LPN), with an interest in getting into mental health and someday being a counselor. She's even checking out universities and programs in Saskatoon, Edmonton and Calgary.

"It's not easy, and I have a lot of work left to do, but I am more determined, because I have a lot at stake," Alexis says. "I'm learning what I actually need and where I'm going, and that is giving me the drive keep going."

# ALL IN FOR YOUTH PARTNERS

## School Partners

Bishop Grandin High School  
Bishop McNally High School  
Bishop O'Byrne High School  
Bowness High School  
Central Memorial High School  
Chinook Learning Services, including Encore  
Crescent Heights High School  
Discovering Choices  
Father Lacombe High School  
Forest Lawn High School  
Jack James High School  
James Fowler High School  
John G. Diefenbaker High School  
Lord Beaverbrook High School  
Notre Dame High School  
Robert Thirsk High School  
Sir Winston Churchill High School  
St. Anne Academic Centre  
St. Francis High School  
St. Mary's High School

## Key Community Partners

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Calgary  
Boys & Girls Clubs of Calgary  
Burns Memorial Fund  
Calgary Board of Education  
Calgary Catholic School District  
Junior Achievement of Southern Alberta  
The City of Calgary Youth Employment Centre  
United Way of Calgary and Area  
YMCA Calgary  
Youth Central

## Education and System Partners

Alberta Education  
Alberta Health Services  
Bow Valley College  
Calgary Police Service  
SAIT Polytechnic  
Community Agencies

## Government Partners

Alberta Government  
Government of Canada  
The City of Calgary

## Founding Corporate Partners

Devon Canada Corporation  
Fluor  
Imperial

## Corporate Partners

We would like to thank all of the generous corporate donors who have supported All In for Youth. The following corporate donors have contributed \$50,000 or more to the initiative:

Canadian Pacific  
Enerplus  
Macquarie Capital Markets Canada Ltd.  
Nordstrom  
Shaw Charity Classic  
Trilogy Energy Corporation  
Vista Projects

## Individual Philanthropists

We would like to thank all of the generous individual donors who have supported All In for Youth. The following individual donors have contributed \$100,000 or more to the initiative:

Bill and Nancy Andrew  
David and Leslie Bissett  
The Borgland Family  
Rick Braund  
The Carrera Foundation  
Michael and Heather Culbert  
Lorne and Patricia Gordon  
Jim and Susan Hill  
Bob and Michele Michaleski  
Poelzer Family Foundation  
Mike and Sue Rose  
Bill and Sharon Siebens  
Mac and Susan Van Wielingen  
Two Anonymous Donors



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**Building a great city for all.**



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