



Profiles of the Calgary Children's Initiative, the Calgary Homeless Foundation and HomeFront

The following is an excerpt from Katherine van Kooy's presentation to the Prime Minister's External Advisory Committee meeting in Calgary on September 27, 2004.

Collaboration with business and multiple levels of government is essential to addressing the challenges facing our city and Calgary has some excellent examples of how effective collaborative effort can be. The Calgary Children's Initiative, the Calgary Homeless Foundation and HomeFront exemplify this partnership model at work.

The **Calgary Children's Initiative (CCI)** collaborates with more than 70 organizations, youth-serving agencies, businesses and individuals. Formed in 1998 by the Calgary United Way, the CCI champions a long-term prevention approach focusing on root conditions impacting children and youth. Utilizing an outcome-based philosophy grounded in relevant research, the CCI has turned some of their initiatives into sustainable action, like the Calgary Learning Village Collaborative.

The Calgary Homeless Foundation has expanded from a private sector initiative to involve three levels of government and numerous non-profit and community-based organizations. Focusing on **research** into the causes and solutions to homelessness and **providing access to housing**, this coordinating agency has over the past six years directed over \$60 million to various projects, completed 45 projects and created 1,394 housing units. This year alone, there is an estimated 2600 homeless people, including families, living in Calgary (a 49 per cent increase from 2002). The four year goal is to build 1,000 transitional units and 2,000 non-market units.

Homefront, initiated in 1994 by a group of leading Calgarians, with assistance from the Action Committee Against Violence and the Alberta Department of Justice and the National Crime Prevention Committee, has grown to 60 agency partners helping reduce domestic violence through a coordinated approach. Working collaboratively with the police service, the court system, the legal community, service agencies and the perpetrators, Homefront has significantly reduced the rate of recidivism (relapse of criminal behaviour).