



Dear Friend

Mayor Nenshi proclaimed 7th to 13th November 2020 as the Calgary Police Youth Foundation week. In this week we celebrated six children and youth from Calgary who received a 2020 Chief Youth Courage Award. We also celebrated and recognised renowned Philanthropic Leader, Mr. Dick Haskayne, as our inaugural Philanthropic Leader Award Recipient.

Earlier in the year, I let you know we had to move our planned Chief Youth Courage Award Gala from April and, based on information at that time, optimistically planned to host the Gala on 13th November during Calgary Police Youth Foundation week; as proclaimed by the Mayor and the citizens of Calgary.

Alas, this wasn't to be and, like many other organisations, we moved to a virtual celebration to maintain the safety of our invited guests and all the award recipients young and old.

It truly was an honor to recognise the children and youth who have worked so hard to make good choices based on the learning they gained from the child-youth crime prevention, education and intervention Programs funded by the CPYF and delivered by the Calgary Police Service.

We couldn't celebrate the children without recognising one of Calgary's greatest philanthropists and community leaders, Mr. Dick Haskayne. Dick is known best for his selfless dedication to building a stronger and safer Calgary and a man who has shown us all how to lead with kindness, tenacity and generous spirit.

Calgary Police Youth Foundation week not only allowed us to celebrate the giants among us but also allowed a time for reflection. My heart is full as I think of all the giants among us, ordinary people who have stepped up to help others as the full impact of the pandemic disrupted our lives and changed the world in ways no-one could have imagined.

Over the last few months, we have had to change the way we support children and youth to ensure their continued safety throughout the pandemic. Knowing that one of the leading causes of crime and violence surrounding young children is poverty, we increased our efforts to address food insecurity and provide more practical support for children such as providing access to technology to keep them connected to their schoolwork. With your help we can continue to customise our support to address what is needed now, and in the future, so that we can position children for success in staying safe from crime and victimisation and applying what they learn from the crime prevention, intervention and education Programs delivered by the Calgary Police Service. We want children to be empowered to make good choices guiding their behavior and for all children to know they have support and help available to them all year round.

As infection rates escalate, no-one knows what is ahead for any of us, so I plan to take a lesson from the children and youth who received a Chief Youth Courage Award, and indeed Dick Haskayne, to keep on doing everything I can to keep Calgary's children safe from crime and victimisation and I hope I can count on your support. With kind hearts and generous spirits anything is possible.

Brian Ferguson, Chair of the Board  
Calgary Police Youth Foundation

