



Federation of Calgary Communities
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE

The Federation of Calgary Communities Launches “Building Safe Communities” Program

Calgary, January 10, 2012 – A new door is opening at The Federation of Calgary Communities with the launch of a new program titled “Building Safe Communities,” following The Calgary Community Block Watch Council closing its doors. The highlight of the Building Safe Communities program is a pilot safety initiative launching in three communities: Crescent Heights, Rosscarrock and Southwood, with emphasis on crime prevention through community engagement. This new community engagement program will support both community associations and their residents to develop tools and initiatives that help create safe and caring communities. “This is an exciting pilot project where neighbours will work together to reduce crime and increase feelings of safety in their own neighbourhoods,” says Leslie Evans, Executive Director of the Federation of Calgary Communities.

Building Safe Communities also includes a virtual resource centre housing numerous safety and crime prevention tools such as tip sheets, safety audits, needs assessments, and more, for both community groups and individuals. “These resources will help to enable citizens of Calgary to develop the capacity to create safe neighbourhoods through individual and group initiatives focusing on preventing and reducing crime,” says Evans.

Those communities not part of the Building Safe Communities pilot projects will have access to the information, tools and resources on the virtual resource center. The Federation will also highlight key findings and successes of the pilot communities to assist others in their own crime prevention and safety plans. As the initial pilot initiatives progress, a second wave of community associations will be selected to start new initiatives in their communities.

For the past five decades The Federation of Calgary Communities’ mission has been to improve neighbourhood life in Calgary by providing services and programs that create, support and sustain vital and representative community associations. When The Federation was incorporated in 1961 there were 47 community associations in operation in Calgary; today there are 149. Community associations can be the anchor for community life but they need support to effectively operate in today’s competitive not-for-profit world. To assist them to be the best they can be they need a support organization that can work on their behalf. The Federation of Calgary Communities is that organization.

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