



CAMPUS CALGARY/ CHEVRON OPEN MINDS

2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT



Calgary Board
of Education

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MISSION

To transform teaching and learning by increasing student engagement through community, funder and educational partnerships.

Overview

PEOPLE. PLACES. PARTNERSHIPS.

Campus Calgary / Open Minds is an experience like no other. It provides opportunities for Calgary students and their teachers to experience an immersive 5-day field study at various vibrant community sites across our city. CC/OM brings the community together to meet the unique learning needs of today's students. Over 165,000 students have engaged in this way of learning since its inception, which all started with an idea and a dream. Don Harvie, a well-known Calgary philanthropist, Gillian Kydd, a science specialist with the Calgary Board of Education, and teacher Angela Rockne worked together to create what eventually became Zoo School. Gillian believed that one week at the Calgary Zoo would be rich with learning and could be a catalyst for a year-long study. Thus, Zoo School was born, bringing students and their teachers into vibrant community settings for immersive week-long field studies.

Since that time, the Calgary Board of Education and the Calgary Catholic School District have collaborated with corporate Calgary and local community venues to bring high-quality and immersive experiences to Calgary students and their teachers. This education model is celebrating its 33rd year of excellence and innovation, bringing personalized learning programs to students. Campus Calgary / Open Minds provides a dynamic learning experience by taking students into the community and connecting them to experts who are passionate about experiential learning.

In 2025-2026, there were 11 Campus Calgary / Open Minds sites and three pilot sites:

- 2School: An Urban Experience at the CBE Education Centre
- City EcoAction School at Ralph Klein Park, Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Reader Rock Garden
- City Hall School at the City of Calgary Municipal Building
- Healthy Living School at Calgary YMCA (Brookfield Residential YMCA at Seton and Shane Homes YMCA at Rocky Ridge)
- ConocoPhillips Hub for Inspired Learning at Werklund Centre (formerly Arts Commons)
- Jube School at the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium
- Library School at Calgary Public Library (Central Library)
- Chevron Open Minds Science School at TELUS Spark Science Centre
- Seed School at The Mustard Seed
- Stampede School at Stampede Park
- Chevron Open Minds Zoo School at Wilder Institute Calgary Zoo
- Contemporary Calgary Art Studio at Contemporary Calgary - Pilot Site
- Outdoor Leadership School at Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park - Pilot Site
- Youth Singers School at Youth Singers Calgary - Pilot Site

This year, 240 teachers and over 6600 students participated in Campus Calgary / Open Minds for a year of inspired learning. Site coordinators continued to use much creativity and innovation to create meaningful and rigorous site-based experiences for classes.

Passionate educators and experts at community sites continued to offer fascinating, educationally rich opportunities that engaged students in hands-on discovery, exploration, and reflection. Each CC/OM site offers a unique lens with which to uncover and examine curriculum. These dynamic experiences continue to make learning meaningful for students because they are engaged in authentic educational activities that allow them to make personal connections that will have lasting impacts. Campus Calgary / Open Minds creates an inquiry driven environment that allows teachers to gain a deeper understanding of students' skills, knowledge, and aptitudes. This enhances critical-thinking and problem-solving skills related to all curricular disciplines, and facilitates a deeper understanding of community, responsibility, cultural awareness, civic pride, and stewardship.

Students gain confidence as learners and engaged thinkers while seeing that they can make a positive impact through enhanced creativity, innovation, and communication. The CC/OM experience truly opens the minds of students giving each one a clearer understanding of their role within a bigger picture. Students become more connected to their community and take up current issues which push their knowledge beyond their local setting to national and global communities.

A Campus Calgary / Open Minds week is a time for students to ask questions, have meaningful conversations with experts in the community, slow down and reflect, journal and to sketch, and to make sense of the world around them. It is not a week in isolation, but rather a week that is a catalyst to a myriad of connections to personal experiences and classroom learning. CC/OM has the potential to be a life-changing

experience for teachers and students. It embraces a life-long and personalized approach to learning, personal management and well-being, literacy development, citizenship, and generates effective relationships with the community at large. Students, teachers, parents, experts, and community organizations learn alongside one another.



The program is unique for its length, prioritization of deep thinking and first-hand experiences that transcend curricular outcomes, time to slow down and reflect, and the ongoing professional learning for teachers. Campus Calgary / Open Minds experiences truly transform learning to its highest levels.

We are doing together what we can't do alone!

PILOT SITES FOR 25-26

It was wonderful to continue to work with our three Campus Calgary / Open Minds pilot sites, Contemporary Calgary Art Studio, Outdoor Leadership School, and Youth Singers School. We continued to work to formalize our Pilot Site structures, including professional learning for pilot teachers, surveys for teachers, Operations Team, students, and pilot site coordinators. Debrief meetings continued to be integral to provide feedback in a timely manner.

DIVERSE LEARNERS & CC/OM

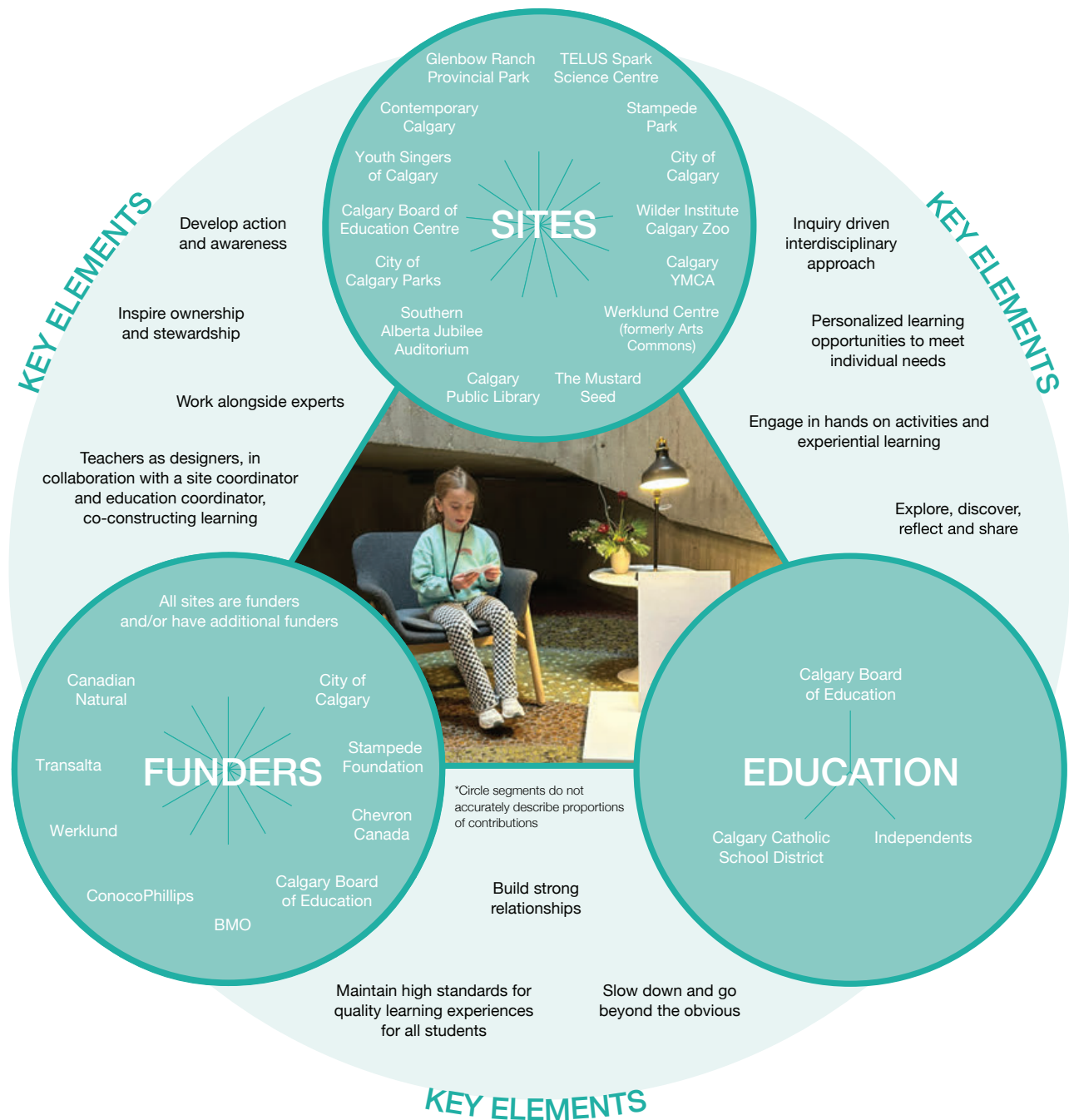
This year there were various Diverse Learners from both CBE and CCSD who participated at sites. CC/OM experiences are for all learners and help strengthen the entire program through ongoing learning and program development.

Community

Support for the Campus Calgary / Open Minds model comes from funding partners, community sites, and education institutions that collectively share the responsibility and privilege of ensuring that the philosophical tenets of the program are upheld. We are indebted to all the partners for their commitment to the success of this innovative way of teaching and learning. Annual contributions to this program from community and education are in excess of **\$1,800,000**.

OPEN MINDS	Chevron Canada Resources	
Zoo School	Wilder Institute Calgary Zoo	Daniel Gregorash, Coordinator Kimbery Koenig, Coordinator
Science School	TELUS Spark	Zack Anderson, Advisory Donna Kipta, Supervisor David Moore, Coordinator
CAMPUS CALGARY		
City Hall School	City of Calgary Calgary Municipal Building	Jenelle deJesus, Coordinator
Stampede School	Stampede Foundation Stampede Park	Aaron Park, Advisory Andrew Morrow, Coordinator Angus Docherty, Coordinator Susan Arthurs, Education Manager
2School: An Urban Experience	Calgary Board of Education	Margeaux Montgomery, Coordinator
ConocoPhillips Hub for Inspired Learning	Werklund Centre	Karen Youngberg, Associate Director of Education Paula Timm, Coordinator
Jube School	Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium	Daniel Pelton, Coordinator
SEED School	The Mustard Seed	Cecily Letendre and Danielle Burns, Coordinators
City EcoAction School	City of Calgary Parks	Leah Elford and Rachelle Gauvin, Coordinators
Healthy Living School	YMCA Calgary	Morgan Fong, Coordinator
Library School	Calgary Public Library	Janice Parker, Coordinator
EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS	Calgary Board of Education	Joanne Pitman, Chief Superintendent Jennifer Turner, Superintendent, School Improvement Garry Tink, Director, Education Partnerships and Campus Calgary / Open Minds Jennifer Meredith and Natasha McKay, CC/OM Operations Team
	Calgary Catholic School District	Bryan Szumlas, Chief Superintendent Kirk Linton, Director, Learning Services Kevin Deforge, Supervisor, Learning Services Marta Albertin, CC/OM Operations Team

Doing Together What We Can't Do Alone



Sharing Our Story

This school year provided opportunities to share and celebrate Campus Calgary / Open Minds story in a variety of ways.

Co-founder of Chevron Open Minds awarded Order of Canada - By Lorelei Piotto, former Social Investment Advisor, Chevron Canada

Gillian Kydd, Ph.D, founder of the Chevron Open Minds School program, was recently appointed to the Order of Canada for her innovative work in education. The Order is one of Canada's highest civilian honours and signifies outstanding achievement, dedication to community and service to the country.

Chevron was the first sponsor of the pilot program at the Calgary Zoo in 1993. Once the concept was proven, more sites came on board, Telus Science Centre, and the Glenbow Museum. Over the next few years Chevron supported sites at the Ann and Sandy Cross Conservation Area, Heritage Park in Fort McMurray, and The Rooms in St. John's NL. Chevron Canada funded the program until it sold most of its assets to CNRL in 2025.

Dr. Kydd understood the power of partnerships, and alongside philanthropist and CEO of the Devonian Foundation Don Harvie, initiated mutually beneficial relationships with corporate partners to provide multi-year funding in support of the program. As its first sponsor, Chevron Canada leaders saw the potential in the unique partnership between schools, community sites and businesses. The continuous funding of a community program for almost 30 years is very unusual and Chevron's support helped the innovative, award-winning education program take root across North America and around the world. It is now called the *"Beyond the Classroom Network."*

The Open Minds/Beyond the Classroom concept is both simple and cutting-edge: take students and teachers out of the classroom and into intriguing community sites for a week of deep, rich, hands-on learning. Site resource experts work alongside teachers and students and help facilitate student experiences. They have long periods of time to observe, write, draw, focus and reflect. There are many benefits to this approach. Non-traditional learners thrive in these environments and many of them have a completely different approach to their learning after participating. Teachers experience new ways of teaching and expand their own learning. Community sites see long-term visitor connections being formed, and business leaders see the benefits of investing in education.

"Children begin life as creative, bright problem solvers, learning through real life experiences," said Dr. Kydd. *"How we educate our children is perhaps the most powerful tool that we have to change the world for the better."*

“
At the heart of our work is a belief that stories connect us; to each other, to the places we inhabit, and to a shared sense of responsibility for the communities we are part of.”



Seeing and Sharing Through Art: A Year of Piloting with Students

by Contemporary Calgary Art Studio Education Team

Contemporary Calgary Art Studio is grateful for the opportunity to guide students as they explore the world of art, as a pilot site for the Campus Calgary / Open Minds program. Exploring art is a way for students to also explore themselves and their connections to the world around them. In this past year of site piloting, we explored the big question: *What can art teach us about empathy and understanding others?*



We began with **Wish You Were Here** by Indigenous artist Lauren Crazybull as a starting point for our land acknowledgment. Through close investigation, the students talked about the meaning of identity, expressed their appreciation for the land, and reflected on the emotions present in the work.

We visited the immersive exhibition **Hummingbird Guided Meditation** by Miruna Drăgan and Maggie Tiesenhausen. The students stepped into the hummingbird's world and imagined how the bird might see and move through its surroundings. Afterwards, they wrote sandwich poems imagining a day in the life of a hummingbird. We followed this with a walk along the Bow River, observing the Contemporary Calgary building from a distance, talking about its history and architectural style, and discussing the public art we encountered along the way. This became a chance for the students to see that art is not limited to galleries; it can appear in many forms throughout everyday life. They collected small natural objects like branches, leaves, and pinecones, which they later used to decorate the papier-mâché hummingbird nests they made in the workshop. In making hummingbird nests, they connected art with nature and nature with art.



Our art exploration continued with **Witness**, a large survey exhibition by Black Canadian artist June Clark. The students moved through the artist's memories and saw her experiences from childhood to adulthood: warm family moments, difficult realities, struggle, resistance, gratitude, calmness, and the feelings that come with everyday life. They later created small fabric prints to express the images and moments that stood out to them.



We also added a **Brush Calligraphy** workshop to the week. Our facilitator talked about how writing with a brush can calm you down and lift you up at the same time.

In addition to exploring the artworks, the students also learned about the gallery itself. Our CEO, David, shared stories about Contemporary Calgary and the history of the building. The students talked with gallery attendants to hear what a typical workday in the gallery is like.

Contemporary Calgary continues to bring together artworks and conversations that speak to the moment we are living in. Though exhibitions will keep changing, what we do stays the same: we use art to understand ourselves and the world better, express what matters to us and to stay connected along the way.



Operations Team

A Campus Calgary / Open Minds' week is a time to ask questions, have conversations with community experts, to slow down and reflect, to document, to journal, and to sketch. It is not a week in isolation, but rather a week that brings all classroom learning together. Students gain confidence as learners when learning is structured to capitalize on each student's interests, skills, and aptitudes. **All stakeholders benefit from this educational model.**

Representing both CBE and CCSD, the CC/OM Operations Team informs and supports the educational integrity of the program. This team ensures optimal learning by implementing actions designed to meet CC/OM goals and ensuring the program philosophy is preserved at all sites. We really are doing together what we can't do alone!

We represent Campus Calgary / Open Minds within the greater community and keep CC/OM vibrant and sustainable through:

- Professional and personalized educational leadership throughout the CC/OM Year; collaboratively empowering all stakeholders
- Information and Application Workshops, Spring Welcome In-services, Summer Workshops, Fall Pedagogy Sessions, ongoing Professional Learning Workshops (both in-person and virtual)
- School-based planning meetings with teachers and site coordinators
- Site visits with site coordinators, teachers, students, parents, and experts
- Site coordinator planning sessions, professional learning, meetings, and application process
- Calgary City Teachers' Convention session and booth
- Event and conference planning
- Advisory meetings and Advisory committee work
- Education team meetings and district meetings
- Working with pilot sites and ensuring processes are followed for success and mentorship
- Connecting all to a larger Professional Learning Community using social media spaces, including @yycccom on Instagram, connecting and broadening our audience through social media.
- Face-to-Face meetings with CC/OM Advisory and sites
- Stakeholder meetings
- Annual Report, resource development, marketing, and awareness
- Conference presentations
- Consultation with inquiring districts - local and national
- Development of Journey into Journaling Resource to support participating teachers and CC/OM coordinator team
- Professional development opportunities within the school districts and co-taught lessons to classrooms



“ We are continually grateful for the ongoing commitment and support for Campus Calgary / Open Minds.

This field study work impacts students' sense of belonging within the community and their connection to various curricular areas.

Being 'in' various spaces gives them firsthand experiences, showing these are places for them, too. This year, we were reminded once again of the creativity and flexibility of site coordinators, teachers, and volunteers as learning was interrupted in the fall. Thank you to everyone who came together to ensure opportunities were found at different times of the year.”

- Operations Team

Teachers from the Calgary Board of Education, the Calgary Catholic School District, and independent schools all understand the benefits of learning in this way. CC/OM continues to seek new partnerships to ensure continued growth to meet demand. Our CC/OM Operations Team works closely with our CC/OM Advisors to pursue growth in sustainable ways.

Benefits

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

- Provide meaningful professional learning and structures that allow regular exchange of ideas and best practices
- Instill qualities and abilities to be creative thinkers and engaged citizens
- Offer relevant, rigorous, and rich learning opportunities through the process of inquiry and experiential learning within a safe environment
- Inspire to become engaged in interdisciplinary inquiries, personalized for their own passions and interests
- Build and strengthen relationships within the community

FUNDERS

- Meet community investments goals
- Understand and contribute to the needs of community and education
- Increase employee pride and satisfaction
- Seen as organizations that gives back to their community

CAMPUS CALGARY/OPEN MINDS COMMUNITY SITES

- Become engaged partners in the education of Calgary youth
- Provide leadership and expertise
- Increase utilization and access to a broader audiences
- Increase employee pride and satisfaction

PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS

- Ensure resources are utilized sustainably and efficiently
- Build teacher capacity
- Engage public and reinforces the importance of education
- Empower learners to become problem solvers, creative thinkers, and engaged citizens

PARENTS, FAMILIES, AND VOLUNTEERS

- Learning and leading alongside classes
- Acting as experts, connecting to community



“

Campus Calgary / Open Minds provides powerful opportunities our students **to build confidence, perspective, and a stronger sense of connection to their community and city.**

These experiences allow for students to see themselves as active citizens whose voices, choices, and actions help shape the communities around them.”

- Teacher

Advisory



“

These experiences have strengthened our confidence with inquiry-based teaching, especially in using journalling, reflection, and open-ended questions to support deeper thinking.

They have also reinforced the value of real-world learning, where students can make authentic connections beyond the classroom.”

- Teacher



The role of the Campus Calgary / Open Minds Advisory is to provide advice and support the day-to-day work of the Operations Team while anticipating and planning for the future needs of partners at community sites, at schools and education districts, as well as with funding partners.

Advisory Road Map

The Campus Calgary / Open Minds Road Map continued to guide our work this year. With its establishment last year, we have been able to use the clarified focus it provides, with Program Sustainability being at the forefront of this year's work. Other areas of work were: Community Partnerships, Community Knowledge and Reputation, and Sharing Through Story and Data.

Open Minds Trademark

This school year marks the end of Chevron funding for the Open Minds program. This change provided an opportunity for us to get the trademark of Open Minds from Chevron. We are grateful for their long-term commitment to funding the Open Minds program, 30+ plus years of funding education programming in Calgary. We are excited about upcoming changes to program name and structures starting in the 2026-2027 school year.

Face-to-Face Meetings

Every year, the CC/OM Operations Team and Advisory meet with our sites to discuss updates of the advisory and check in to see areas of support we can offer and to review programming. These are important conversations as they intentionally connect the various stakeholders involved in site schools, such as coordinators, their supervisors, other site personnel who are involved and support the CC/OM programming. Each CC/OM site is unique, bringing with them their own mission, vision, and guiding principles. Ongoing conversations are important to maintaining and supporting the integrity of Campus Calgary / Open Minds.

The Advisory team this year engaged in a variety of activities that have strengthened partnerships and continued to steward the Campus Calgary / Open Minds program.

Thank you to Allison Schulz who served as CC/OM Community Chair and Jennifer Meredith who served as CC/OM Education Chair of the Advisory. We are grateful for your work and your commitment to this complex work. With guidance from Executive Sponsors and Stakeholders, future goals will continue to align with our vision *“Each student experiences personalized learning within a connected community”*.

Thank you to our Advisors for their time and commitment:

Allison Schulz – Calgary Foundation – Community Chair

Jennifer Meredith – Education Chair, CC/OM Operations Team, CBE

Marta Albertin – CC/OM Operations Team, CCSD

Zack Anderson – Site Representative from Open Minds Science School

Kevin DeForge – CCSD

Chris Lough – Community Member

Trish Savill – Community Member

Natasha McKay – CC/OM Operations Team, CBE

Aaron Park – Site Representative from Campus Calgary Stampede School

Garry Tink – CBE



Executive Sponsors:

Jennifer Turner – Superintendent, School Improvement – CBE

Kirk Linton – Director of Learning Services - CCSD

“

These students are so lucky to have a teacher who engages them in such rich, real-world learning.

I watched as you explored alongside them wondering, questioning, and showing them that learning doesn't have an age limit.

Thank you for your passion and enthusiasm for teaching. I only wish I had a teacher like you when I was in school.”

- Parent

“

We hope our students will continue to understand the privilege of being a part of a program such as this, where they get to engage in place-based learning.

We hope to have them develop a stronger sense of appreciation for the opportunities Calgary has to offer!”

- Teacher



The Coordinator Team

The Campus Calgary / Open Minds' Coordinator Team meets regularly alongside the Operations Team for Community of Practice conversations. These conversations focus on effective practice, designing intentional and purposeful tasks, and site-based learning opportunities for classes. Together, we collaborate to consider program opportunities and challenges and to engage together in meaningful collaborative conversations and learning.

This year, our team held seven meetings focused on CC/OM Key Elements, Collaborative Conversations, and Picture Book Study as ongoing throughlines. These gatherings provided valuable opportunities to come together as a Community of Practice, connect and learn about the work happening across different sites, and reflect on our own practices while incorporating new learning.



“
**The coordinators
bring a wealth of
knowledge and create
meaningful opportunities
for rich, real-world learning.**

They help bring the curriculum to life,
foster new professional networks,
and encourage educators and
students alike to take risks and
explore new ideas.”

- Teacher



Each host site shared a learning experience similar to what students would participate in on-site, including activities such as journaling, collaboration, and hands-on exploration. These experiences consistently offered new insights and ideas that coordinators could then adapt and integrate into their own site programming.

Throughout the year, meetings were hosted at Outdoor Leadership School at Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park, 2School: an urban experience at the CBE Education Centre, Zoo School at the Wilder Institute Calgary Zoo, the Calgary Humane Society with Humane Society School (which will pilot next year), ConocoPhillips Hub for Inspired Learning at Werklund Centre, Stampede School at Stampede Park for our application review meeting, and Contemporary Calgary Art Studio.



“
 Everyone involved
 in CC/OM creates a safe
 learning community that
 energizes all participants
 (students and adults)
**creating a
 connection beyond
 the classroom.”**

- Teacher



Professional Learning for Teachers

As part of a Campus Calgary / Open Minds experience, teachers have many Professional Learning opportunities throughout the year. We know that these Campus Calgary / Open Minds' experiences are for students, but they are also very much for teachers. Teachers consistently share that their work with the program results in enduring and meaningful change of practice. This change is the result of many touch points and ongoing communication.

CC/OM INFORMATION SESSIONS

Information Sessions are opportunities for new to CC/OM teachers to learn more about site experiences, the philosophy of our program, application requirements, and the benefits of a field study experience for students and teachers. We hosted two presentations, at Teachers' Convention in the City Hall School classroom and one in April at Sweetgrass Lodge at Stampede Park.

SITE-BASED PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Professional Learning includes Site-Based Experiences such as Spring Inservices, Summer Workshops, and Fall Pedagogy Sessions. The Spring In-service provides an opportunity for teachers to learn about the vibrant community site they will be working with. The Summer Workshop is an immersive experience where teachers are able to step into experiences similar to what they and their students will experience during their field study. The Fall Pedagogy Session provides an opportunity to learn more about the Journey into Journalling resource, sketching techniques, thinking routines, and how using a sketchbook can enhance a CC/OM experience and be beneficial throughout the school years.

PLANNING MEETINGS

Each teacher has a personalized planning meeting at their school with the site coordinator and a member of the Operations Team to discuss their big question, classroom complexities, anticipated curricular connections, and their hopes and dreams for their time on site. At each meeting teachers are given a chance to adapt and/or emphasize certain aspects of their application based on their experience with their students that they have come to know more closely throughout the course of the year. Teachers are also encouraged to engage in journalling opportunities and reflections at school in preparation for their 5-day field study.

WORKSHOPS

Teachers are invited to participate in Professional Learning opportunities throughout the year that are reflective of trends in education and aligned with CC/OM philosophy and key elements. The feedback from participants was valuable and confirmed that we have been very purposeful in creating Professional Learning opportunities that are authentic, responsive, and help to build capacity for teachers.



“
Using opportunities such as the CCOM Professional Learning sessions and the experiences at sites has helped us to **strengthen and develop skills to support dysregulated students while taking care of ourselves.**”

- Teacher



IN-PERSON WORKSHOPS

This year, we offered two in-person workshops, open to all participating teachers and the Campus Calgary / Open Minds' Team.

Our fall workshop on October 2nd, *"Coming to Know and Understand Communities as Places for Learning"* was hosted at both Griffith Woods School and Banting and Best School. Teachers learned new and interesting ways to use their school's community as a place for exploration and community building, and to expand their Campus Calgary / Open Minds experience, making connections between their site and their own school communities. Participants also were provided with many resources about community learning opportunities.

Our winter workshop on March 10th, *"Found Faces: Joyful Found Object Assemblage Puppets, with Artist Jenny Dale"* was hosted at Contemporary Calgary. We had the opportunity to work with local Calgary artist and illustrator Jenny Dale, who led us through an evening of joy and imagination! In this playful workshop, participants transformed everyday found objects into expressive character rod puppets. Using painted papers, cardboard, and found objects, participants designed and built their own rod puppets, discovering how shape and colour can spark characters and stories.

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS

We offered three virtual 45-minute Professional Learning sessions this year that shared a variety of topics. These virtual sessions are shared with teachers as recordings so they are able to watch at their own convenience. These virtual mini-sessions were:

- Coming to Know and Understand Communities as Places for Learning**
ONLINE RESOURCES – After hosting our in-person workshop titled: Coming to Know and Understand Communities as Places for Learning, we offered the opportunity to dig deeper into the resources that were shared more in depth, by members of the CC/OM team.
- Sketchnoting and Icons** – In this workshop we explored sketchnoting – what it is and how it can be used in the classroom and to support Campus Calgary / Open Minds field study experiences. We explored our understanding of how icons can support sketchnoting and how they can connect and deepen students' understanding across various curricular areas. Sketchnotes are a simple way to capture ideas by combining words with basic drawings, symbols, and visual layout. Instead of writing everything in full sentences, learners focus on key ideas and show connections using shapes, arrows, icons, and varied lettering.
- Reflecting and Connecting – Some thinking routines to end the year** – In this workshop we dove into strategies from the Journey into Journaling resource that provided the opportunity to learn about various Thinking Routines that engage both teachers and students. With the throughline of reflecting and connecting, the strategies shared help set intention, build awareness, and connect to new learning and the environments around us. In this workshop we explored four Thinking Routines from Harvard Project Zero – Creating a Space for Learning, Me You Space Time (MYST), Looking Ten Times Two, and Listening Ten Times Two.

All of these workshops offered participants opportunities to learn new skills and have various touch points throughout the year with the Campus Calgary / Open Minds' community.

“

As a new teacher, Community-based learning professional development, using a provocation to anchor our year, and building a journaling practice into my teaching and learning routines have changed how I understand and teach curriculum.

The guiding question stopped being a planning tool and became a lens my students actually used.”

- Teacher



Program Statistics

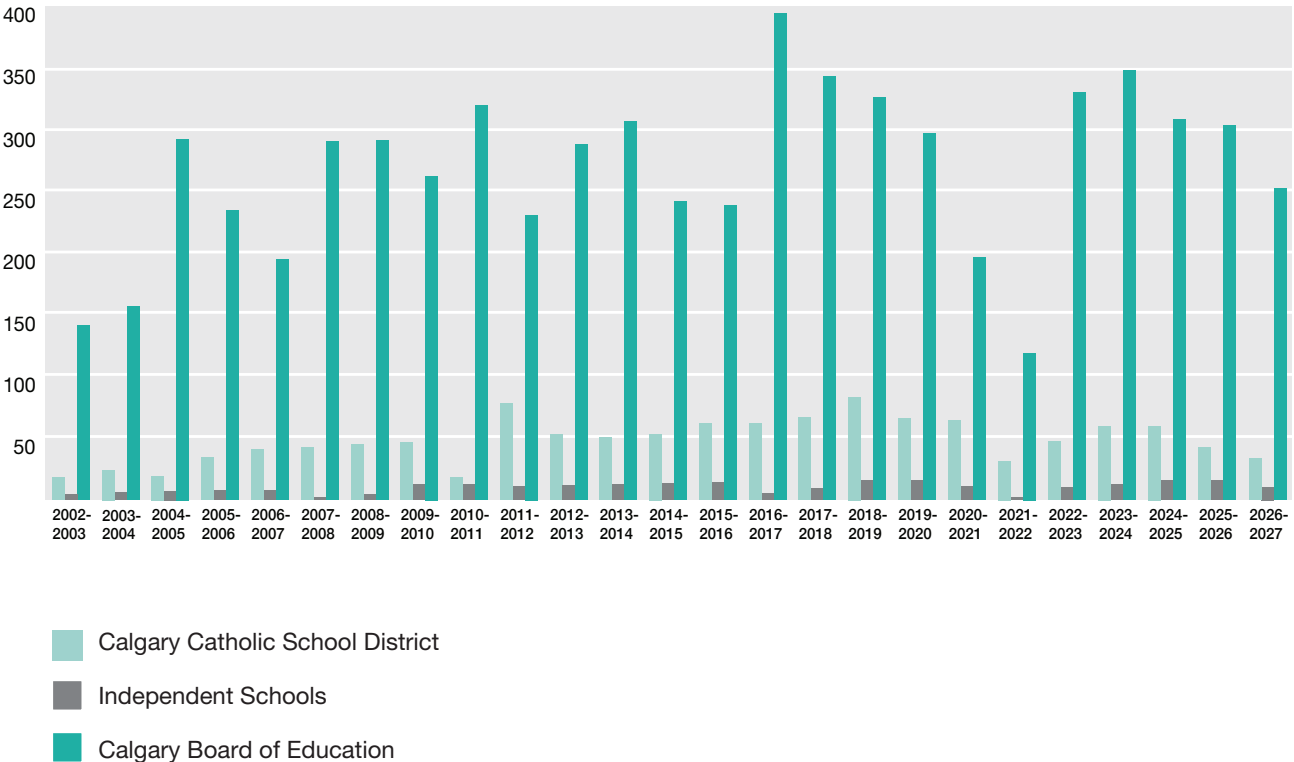
DATA FOR CAMPUS CALGARY / OPEN MINDS PROPOSALS ACCEPTED FOR 2026/27 (AS OF JUNE 2026)

Site	CBE Applied	CBE Accepted	CCSD Applied	CCSD Accepted	Independent Applied	Independent Accepted	Total Applied	Total Accepted for 2026-27
2school	30	25	0	0	0	0	30	25
City EcoAction School	33	11	6	1	0	0	39	12
City Hall School	25	23	3	2	0	0	28	25
Healthy Living School	16	18	1	2	1	0	18	20
ConocoPhillips Hub for Inspired Learning	18	17	7	8	2	0	28	25
Jubilee Arts	22	6	7	2	2	1	31	9
Library School	13	18	0	2	2	2	15	22
Science School	10	21	1	1	2	2	13	24
SEED School	11	10	4	4	0	0	15	14
Stampede School	31	16	5	5	3	2	39	23
Youth Singers School	4	5	1	1	0	0	5	6
Zoo School	37	23	4	3	0	0	42	26
Pilot - Contemporary Calgary Art Studio	accepted 8 weeks for 26-27 school year (CBE x 6 and CCSD x 2)							
Pilot - Outdoor Leadership School	accepted 8 weeks for 26-27 school year (CBE x 6 and CCSD x 2)							
Pilot - Humane Society School	accepted 4 weeks for 26-27 school year (CBE x 2 and CCSD x 2)							
TOTALS	250	202	39	36	12	7	303	251

CAMPUS CALGARY / OPEN MINDS TEACHER / STUDENT PARTICIPATION 1993 - 2026

Community Site / Organization	Starting Year	Number of Teachers	Number of Students
CBE Education Centre	2010	363	10,164
City of Calgary Parks (Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Ralph Klein Park, Reader Rock Garden)	1997 - 2013 2020	457	14,167
City Hall	2000	676	18,928
Calgary YMCA	2017, 2019	114	3,192
Werklund Centre (formerly Arts Commons)	1999-2001, 2015	224	6,272
Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium	2016	97	2,716
Calgary Public Library	2017	134	3,752
Science Centre / TELUS Spark	1997	778	21,784
The Mustard Seed	2017	102	2,856
Stampede	2003	583	16,324
Wilder Institute Calgary Zoo	1993	871	24,388
Aero Space Museum	2005 - 2017	111	2,997
Contemporary Calgary	2025	8	224
Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park	2025	7	196
Youth Singers of Calgary	2025	10	280
Canada Olympic Park	1997 - 2012	202	5,398
Ann & Sandy Cross Conservation Area	2000-2021	160	4,320
Fire Training Academy	2007-2013	15	390
Glenbow Museum	1996 (on hiatus due to renovation)	672	18,144
Talisman Centre	2006 - 2009	48	1,264
University of Calgary	1997-2017	227	6,129
Vivo for Healthier Generations	2011-2019	131	3,497
Leighton Arts Centre (pilot)	2007	4	110
Reader Rock Garden (pilot)	2007, 2012, 2013	14	378
Camp Riveredge (pilot)	2002-2003	8	216
Manning Foundation (pilot)	2016	4	108
STEM Learning Lab (Social Enterprise and Tinker Schools)	2017-2020	39	1,053
TOTAL		6,059	166,530

APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED TO CAMPUS CALGARY / OPEN MINDS



For the 2026-2027 school year, we are approximately 25% OVERSUBSCRIBED. Demand for the program exceeds our current capacity.

Awards & Achievements

March 2026 – Gillian Kydd, co-founder of CC/OM awarded the Order of Canada

May 2025 – CC/OM nominated for Calgary Awards - Community Organization

March 2025 – Celebrated 25th Anniversary of City Hall School

June 2024 – CC/OM hosts the Beyond the Classroom Conference

May 2024 – Donna Kipta honored with (CASC) Cascade Award for Outstanding Career

June 2023 – Celebrated 25 years of Chevron Open Minds Science School

June 2023 – CC/OM Operations Team attends Harvard Project Zero Classroom Conference

June 2023 – 20 years of Campus Calgary Stampede School

April 2023 – Celebrated 30 years of Campus Calgary / Open Minds, and 30 years of Chevron Open Minds Zoo School

June 2020 – 10 years of Campus Calgary 2School: An Urban Experience

June 2020 – 20 years of Campus Calgary City Hall School

June 2018 – Celebrated 25 years of Campus Calgary / Open Minds

June 2018 – CC/OM hosted the Beyond the Classroom Conference

June 2018 – Proclamation from The City of Calgary for the 25th Anniversary of Campus Calgary / Open Minds.

April 2017 – Chevron Nominated for AFP Generosity of Spirit Award

March 2017 – Calgary Board of Education Lighthouse Award 2017: Chevron Science School at TELUS Spark

April 2016 – 100 000 Student Celebration

April 4-8, 2016 – Mayor Nenshi proclaims this to be Campus Calgary/ Open Minds Week

June, 2015 – Cenovus, CBE Lighthouse Award, Campus Calgary, Healthy Living School at Vivo

May, 2015 - Arts Commons, CBE Lighthouse Award, Campus Calgary, Hub for Inspired Learning

June, 2013 – Chevron, CBE Lighthouse Award, Open Minds Zoo School, Museum School and Science School

September, 2012 – Global Best Award for Building Learning Communities, International Partnership Network, Durban, South Africa

June, 2012 – Encana EcoAction School, CBE Lighthouse Award

January, 2012 – Mayor's Excellence Award, Calgary Partnerships in Education Foundation

September, 2008 – Global Best Award for Building Learning Communities, International Partnership Network, Helsinki, Finland

November 19 – 23, 2007 – Mayor Bronconnier proclaims this to be Campus Calgary/Open Minds Week

2007 Heritage Awareness Award – City Hall School for exceptional and innovative achievement in the heritage field

2007 – Woman of Vision Award – Gillian Kydd, program founder

2006 Calgary Board of Education Lighthouse Award: Stampede School

2006 SIGTEL – online learning award. First place project – Calgary Stampede and Treaty 7 First Nations, a historical perspective. International society for technology in education

2005 Mayor's Excellence Award – Calgary Partnerships in Education Foundation – Chevron Open Minds: Special Settings

2004 Canadian Environmental Award (Silver) – Petro-Canada Bird School

2004 Mayor's Excellence Award – Calgary Partnerships in Education Foundation – Stampede School: Curriculum Enhancement & Development

2003 Alberta School Boards Association – Premier's Award for School Board Innovation & Excellence – Campus Calgary/Open Minds (Finalist)

2003 City Hall School – Calgary Heritage Award for Heritage Education

2002 City Hall School – CH2M-Hill Sustainable Community Award, The Federation of Canadian Municipalities

2002 Mayor's Excellence Award – Calgary Partnerships in Education Foundation – City Hall School: Professional Development

Calgary Awards 2001 – City Hall School – Community Achievement Awards - Honorable Mention: Education

The Emerald Awards 2001 – Education – Petro-Canada Bird School – (Finalist)

The Calgary Awards 2001 – Environmental Achievement: Individual – Cathy Cochrane for Petro-Canada Bird School

Alberta Association for Supervision & Curriculum Development: Innovative Practice Award 2001 – Gillian Kydd

Global, Environmental & Outdoor Education Council: Appreciation of Service Award 2001 – Campus Calgary/Chevron Open Minds

Museums Alberta 2000 – Award of Merit

Calgary Board of Education Lighthouse Award 2000 – Chevron Zoo School

Pan Canadian Learning Innovation Award 2000 – Campus Calgary/Chevron Open Minds (Honorable Mention)

Conference Board of Canada – Broad Community Collaboration Award 1999 – Campus Calgary/Chevron Open Minds

Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching 1999 – Awarded to Lindsay Johnston – Site Coordinator at Chevron Science Centre School

Royal Bank Partners in Education Award – 1999

Canadian Association of Zoos & Aquariums – 1998 Tom Baines Award – Chevron Zoo School

Museums Alberta – 1998 Recognition of Contributing Organization – Chevron Glenbow Museum School

Financial Post Award for Business and the Arts 1997 – Chevron Canada Resources for Chevron Open Minds Program

Calgary Downtown Merchants Award 1997 – Chevron Open Minds

The Calgary Awards – 1997 Citizen of the Year – Donald Harvie of the Devonian Foundation for his work on Campus Calgary/Chevron Open Minds

American Association of Science & Technology: Honor Role of Teachers – Sue McIntyre, participant in Chevron Science Centre School

American Zoological Association Award 1997 – Chevron Zoo School

Mayor's Environmental Award 1997 – Chevron Zoo School

Celebrating Partners

We continue to celebrate the many partners that contribute to the incredible experience of Campus Calgary / Open Minds and that make these opportunities possible to all stakeholders.

We truly are doing **together** what we can't do alone!



Vision: Each student experiences personalized learning within a connected community.



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