



MEDIA RELEASE
TRANSFORMATIONAL MILESTONES
MARK ANOTHER GREAT YEAR

May 10, 2010, Calgary: EducationMatters received a second transformational gift in as many years in December 2009; a critical milestone to another successful year announced at their annual Report to Community luncheon today. The gift was pledged over 4 years from Heather & Murray Edwards for \$500,000 towards literacy programs for Calgary's K-12 public education students. Barbara Burggraf, executive director of EducationMatters summed it up, "The Edwards expressed a personal passion for building a strong foundation for literacy in our young students, and we are already making their vision a reality for hundreds of young learners."

In 2009, EducationMatters issued **\$527,447 in program grants and student awards**. Since its inception in 2003, EducationMatters has received **\$6 million** in pledges/contributions from individuals, corporations and institutions exceeding its PLUS campaign goal of \$5 million, and granted over **\$2.6 million** for Calgary's K-12 public education students. EducationMatters has **impacted over 125,000 students and their families**.

"It is gratifying to see the tremendous community response to supporting our mission and vision," said Mike Shaikh, vice chair of the Board of Governors at EducationMatters. "Our tribute gifts have really taken off this past year and our donor based has nearly doubled."

Also, Pat Cochrane, Chair of the CBE Trustees and EducationMatters board member, announced the 2010 recipient of the **Calgary Board of Education's Distinguished Alumni award** is **Doug Mitchell**. A graduate of Crescent Heights High School and national co-chair with Borden Ladner Gervais, Mitchell is a well known Calgary businessman, philanthropist and community leader. The award will officially be presented to Mitchell at the annual dinner event on November 4, hosted by EducationMatters. The dinner is also a fundraiser for EducationMatters' Future Leaders Fund. Last year's event netted \$70,000.

Other 2009 highlights detailed in the Report were the new funds established including the Beverley Hubert Global Citizenship Fund, the Rick Theriault Outstanding Athletic Contribution Award, and the Jim Hoepfner Award for students at Alternative High. EducationMatters issued 41 grants for enhancement programs including dual language books for Connaught School, voice technology equipment for Emily Follensbee School and leadership program supports for Louise Dean Centre. They also managed handed out scholarships from 44 separate funds. The Trust sponsored *Pride in the Properties*, a performing arts initiative involving 11 northeast schools. EducationMatters was honoured with the Calgary's Child Magazine Publisher's Awards of Distinction and a Bravo Award from the Canadian Association of Communicators in Education. As well, the Trust joined a steering committee of Calgary funders, educators and service agencies to roll out an 18-month action plan around *Kafé12*, a community-led initiative to improve high school completion rates in Calgary.

The Report to the Community luncheon was co-emceed by Erika Born and Amy Kim, two elementary students from Dr. J.K. Mulloy School. The meal ended with a performance by 48 drummers and dancers from Monterey Park School which received a grant from EducationMatters grant in 2009 for musical instruments.

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EducationMatters is Calgary's public education trust and engages the Calgary community in supporting Calgary's public education students, now and in the future. The trust is the PLUS that gives student more so they can have the best possible learning experience.

For more information, please contact: Donna Rapp, EducationMatters 403-294-8239 or 616-6277 (cell) or drapp@educationmatters.ca