

# Kafé12

## an organic community connection



In 2008, 300 Calgarians launched the Kafé12 community engagement movement to improve high school completion rates. From that pivotal event, 60 community members formed three working groups: Policy, Partnerships and Public Awareness. In June 2009, those groups reconvened to share priorities, which were translated into an 18 month plan. That fall, a dedicated steering committee met to address key action items including supporting at least one pilot program, building a clearing house, engaging the youth voice and keeping connected to stakeholders. All were remarkable accomplishments.



But the real accomplishments of Kafé12 are less tangible.

High school completion is the foundation for success in lifelong learning. Through Kafé12 a civic culture is evolving in an organic way through engagement of community leaders, service agencies, business and government, literacy and mentoring coalitions, school systems and educators, concerned citizens and the students themselves.

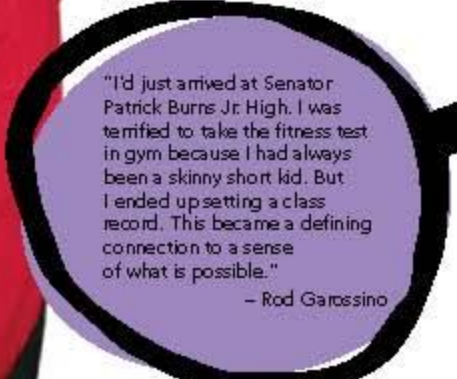


"A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead

The conversations about improving high school completion rates are morphing into ideas which are turning into actions. Kafé12 is keeping the issue top of mind and reaching individuals and organizations who make things happen.

By 2020, Kafé12 supporters hope to proclaim that Calgary's high school completion rates are at 90 per cent.



"I'd just arrived at Senator Patrick Burns Jr. High. I was terrified to take the fitness test in gym because I had always been a skinny short kid. But I ended up setting a class record. This became a defining connection to a sense of what is possible."

- Rod Garossino