



MEDIA ADVISORY: Albertans called on to mentor children and youth in 2019

January is #MentoringMonth and January 17th is International Day of Mentoring

(January 17, 2019) Across Alberta, volunteers are needed to help address the more than 3000 children and youth currently waiting to be matched with mentors. Mentoring organizations and champions from across Alberta are sending out a rallying cry for caring Albertans to become mentors for these kids in one-on-one, group, and school settings.

This January, as #MentoringMonth celebrates mentors of children and youth across North America, the Alberta Mentoring Partnership, government, school and community partners are highlighting the critical impact that volunteer mentors have on the lives of young people. All Albertans are being called on to volunteer for as little as one hour a week to change the life of a young person and the future of their community.

“We each have what it takes to make a real, lasting difference in the life of a child or youth, by showing up and being a consistent, caring presence,” says Jacquie Boyd, Executive Director of Youth HQ. “There are far too many kids here in our community who are still waiting for someone to share their challenges and achievements with, to laugh and have fun with, to encourage their hopes and dreams, and to open their eyes to a broader world of possibilities.”

In celebration of #MentoringMonth, Albertans are asked to recommit themselves to their community by becoming mentors for young people in need of caring, supportive relationships. Research has shown that children and youth who have the support of a mentoring relationship do better in school, go on to successful careers, give back to their communities, and live happier, healthier lives. [According to 2016 Population Lab Research on Alberta youth:](#)

- 92% of Mentees said mentoring increased their hope for the future
- 89% of Mentees said mentoring increased their social skills
- 81% of Mentees said mentoring helped them stay in school

Albertans can visit www.albertamentors.ca to find a mentoring opportunity in their community from over 120 different mentoring programs organized by schools and community agencies.

Speakers available for comment in our community:

Local mentees and mentors are available across Alberta through community mentoring agencies to appear on your television or radio program, or in your publication. To coordinate an interview in our community, please contact:

Jacquie Boyd
Executive Director, Youth HQ
403-342-6500 ext. 105
jacquieb@youthhq.ca

For all other communities, we are happy to facilitate a mentor or mentee speaker. Please connect with the Alberta Mentoring Partnership: Michael Janz, Michael.janz@albertamentors.ca, 780-288-9866

About Mentoring Month: Across North America, in conjunction with MENTOR (The USA-based National Mentoring Partnership) and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada (BBBSC), the Alberta Mentoring Partnership (AMP) is coordinating a province-wide, grassroots campaign to raise the awareness of mentoring and recruit volunteer mentors for young people in mentoring agencies and schools. For more information visit albertamentors.ca/mentoring-month

About the Alberta Mentoring Partnership: The Alberta Mentoring Partnership is dedicated to the success of mentoring organizations, schools and programs across the province. We advance mentoring by offering tools and resources to help mentoring organizations start a mentoring program, improve delivery, and recruit and train mentors. albertamentors.ca/

About Youth HQ: Youth HQ, along with its affiliates, Boys and Girls Club of Red Deer & District and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Red Deer & District, offer numerous programs and services that support children, youth and families. We all need to ensure our children and youth have accessible, barrier-free, safe places to go. Youth HQ thanks our community and sponsors that enable us to do so. This is your place ...