



## **A Public Agenda for Action**

“Every Kid in our Communities of Leeds and Grenville” is a public agenda for action that will result in measurable social change to ensure the best life chances for children and youth. It is a community-wide investment in ensuring healthy starts, reducing risk while strengthening resiliency, and mobilizing the Counties of Leeds and Grenville regarding the well being of children and families both today and in generations to come. Through asset building, we’re working for permanent, long-term change in the well-being of all of our communities’ children and youth.

Every Kid began with the recognition that more focus was needed on child development at the system level to identify and address the best practices for nurturing and supporting the development of our children and youth. This call has been answered by many in our communities, who know that no single agency, group or government department can achieve this alone, and that success requires a generation of highly collaborative work.

The sheer size and scope of the “Every Kid in Our Communities of Leeds and Grenville” coalition is a first for this area. A partnership of more than 50 organizations, agencies, governments, and individuals dedicates itself to creating communities where all children are valued, cared for, and nurtured by the entire community as well as families.

All partners, working together to build both internal and external assets for our children and youth, is what makes improvement possible. Organized into four Focus Windows - Birth to Age 6, Age 6 to Age 12, and Age 12 to Young Adulthood and an Intersection Focus, each of which have Action Groups to carry out specific projects, - Every Kid’s diversity of valuable expertise and dedication gifted by its partners makes this the most comprehensive and inclusive effort of its kind. Every Kid’s Champions and Partners, made up of leaders from every sector of our communities, provides a Counties-wide perspective on needs combined with the knowledge and means to work towards realizing a vision that “every child and youth, from birth to young adulthood, is safe and healthy, an integral, and valued member of our communities”.

Through our families and our communities, we are mobilized to focus on 6 goals, namely that:

- all children have the best start possible
- all children and youth are cared for and safe
- all children are ready for school
- all children and youth are successful at school
- all children and youth are practicing safe and healthy behaviours
- all youth are making successful transitions to adulthood

“Every Kid in Our Communities of Leeds and Grenville” is dedicated to results in all areas, because success in each of them is necessary to achieve the overall vision. Through research, co-operation, and dissemination of knowledge and skills in each unique but interconnected stage of development, we can have an effect throughout a child’s life.

So we invite you to imagine a world where communities are mobilized to identify and work for the best life chances for each and every child. We invite you to imagine communities where all six expected goals are considered possible. The first world is unfolding. Coming together and achieving the second has just begun.

With thanks to The Calgary Children’s Initiative