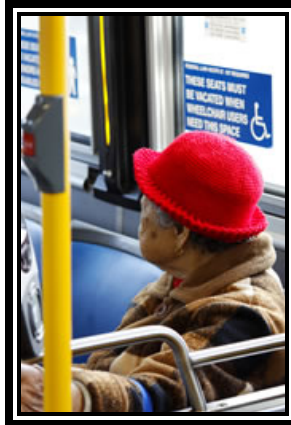




Getting Around- *Steering toward a vision*



Building the best assisted seniors transportation system in North America. It's a lofty goal - set by stakeholders concerned about the isolation of elderly residents as documented in Vital Signs - but one The Calgary Foundation is helping to realize.

"That has been guiding our vision and our work as it pertains to seniors, and we've been supporting a number of initiatives in the community that work toward that vision," says Dan Thorburn, Vice-President, Grants and Community Initiatives.

Those include Seniors Social Link: a program organized by the Calgary Seniors Resource Centre, in which Calgary Motor Dealers Association members make their courtesy shuttles and drivers available during down times to transport low-income and/or isolated seniors to social and recreational activities; and Bus Buddies: a program coordinated by ElderNet and Calgary Family Services, which pairs volunteers with seniors as they ride the bus or C-train.

In both cases, the Calgary Foundation has provided funding for a pilot program, about \$70,000 to the former and \$40,000 to the latter. But just as important is the leadership the foundation provides as interested organizations move toward the goal, independently and in teams, says Thorburn.

"We actively look for and encourage proposals. We don't just sit here and wait for them to come through the door," he notes. "This is such a huge vision - it has so many pieces that have to be worked out by so many different groups. Part of our role is to make more organizations aware of this vision so they can see how it aligns with what they're doing, and we can support them in doing what needs to be done."

* Story is contributed by Community Foundations of Canada – to see more impact stories from across Canada visit <http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/nr-2009-impact-stories-e.html>