



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Calgary Board of Education students launch a hotline for people in isolation.

April 10, Calgary, Alta- Students in the CBE's Recreational Leadership program have created a hotline, Joy4All, to bring joy to Albertans in isolation.

Jamie Anderson, In Good Health Coordinator at Ever Active Schools, is the teacher in the Recreational Leadership program. He initially challenged his students to find a way to help seniors in isolation feel a little less lonely.

"Recreational Leadership develops employability skills, offers unique credit-earning opportunities, and prepares youth for volunteer and job opportunities. We were supposed to provide spring break programs at the Central Library but had to cancel that volunteer opportunity in response to public health measures. We still wanted to offer a volunteer project, but also recognized that the needs of the community were quickly changing.

"Many folks are experiencing barriers to connection to others, so the students decided to bring messages of joy to phone lines to reach as many people as possible through the voices of youth."

Starting April 10, people interested in the student-run service can call local and toll-free hotline numbers to hear pre-recorded messages of kindness, jokes, stories and more. Joy4All is also encouraging children and youth to submit their own written and recorded messages to encourage kindness, creativity and joy.

Ali Ahmad, 16, is one of 21 students behind Joy4All. He said the hotline is one way to make a difference during a public health crisis. "Through this project, we will be able to show our appreciation to people that are self-isolating and give them something they can always look forward to in their day. Hopefully, it can lighten the mood and help save lives."

To hear a message from Joy4All, call (403) 209-4300 or 1-877-JOY-4ALL. To submit a message, visit joy4all.ca or [@joy4allproject](https://www.instagram.com/joy4allproject) on Instagram.

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Photo caption:

Jamie Anderson, centre, explains a concept to the first cohort of students in the Recreational Leadership program at the Calgary Central Library on Tuesday, April 23, 2019. Anderson teaches the Recreational Leadership program, a partnership between the Calgary Board of Education, City of Calgary, Calgary Public Library and Ever Active Schools, which provides youth with pathways to employment.

