

Edmonton Social Planning Council

the fACTivist

A Quarterly Publication

Fall
2019

IN THIS ISSUE

STRENGTHENING HERITAGE
LANGUAGE LEARNING AMONG
CHILDREN IN NEWCOMER FAMILIES

SOCIAL ISOLATION OF INDIGENOUS
SENIORS

A PROFILE OF POVERTY IN
EDMONTON (UPDATED MAY 2019)

LIVING WAGE EDMONTON 2019

fACT Sheet

Vital Topic - Greenspaces

Vital Topic - Arts in Edmonton



ESPC NEWS

AGM Summary

Summer Student

New Staff

New Board Member Biographies

Lunch and Learn

United Way Bake Sale

The factivist is published four times a year by the Edmonton Social Planning Council. The ESPC is an independent, non-profit, charitable organization focused on social research. Articles, quotes and commentaries reflect the views of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policy of the Edmonton Social Planning Council.

Table of CONTENTS

- 03 Executive Director Update
- 05 Strengthening Heritage Language Learning Among Children in Newcomer Families
- 06 Social Isolation of Indigenous Seniors
- 07 A Profile of Poverty in Edmonton (Updated May 2019)
- 09 Living Wage Edmonton 2019
- 11 fACT Sheet
- 13 Vital Topic - Greenspaces
- 15 Vital Topic - Arts in Edmonton
- 17 ESPC News
- 18 New Board Member Biographies
- 19 About the ESPC/Membership

To be added to our distribution list to receive future newsletters, go to the Subscribe Now button on our website at <http://edmontonsocialplanning.ca>

Usage



This issue of the fACTivist by the Edmonton Social Planning Council is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/).

You are free to:

Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format

Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material

The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms.

Attribution — You must give [appropriate credit](#), provide a link to the license, and [indicate if changes were made](#). You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.

NonCommercial — You may not use the material for [commercial purposes](#).

ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the [same license](#) as the original.

No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or [technological measures](#) that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits.

Executive Director Update



It has been awhile since our previous issue of The fACTivist and we have so much to catch up on. We've been keeping busy with the release of various important publications as well as taking on new research projects. Our updated Living Wage Edmonton and A Profile of Poverty in Edmonton publications took the pulse on the current data for those living on low income in the city and what the current living wage a family would need in order to meet the basic necessities of living. Our report, Social Isolation of Indigenous Seniors, co-published with Age Friendly Edmonton, took a look at barriers Indigenous seniors face in accessing community services and offered recommendations on how to make these services more culturally inclusive.

Of course, our annual Vital Signs report, produced in partnership with Edmonton Community Foundation, drew a lot of interest from the public in its comprehensive check-up on how Edmonton as a community is doing. It touched upon the areas of the Arts, Philanthropy, Green Spaces, and Sports and Recreation. While media coverage placed emphasis on the rise in pessimism felt by Edmontonians when it comes to jobs and the economy, there is still much to celebrate. Our abundant green spaces and flourishing arts sector greatly contribute to a thriving community. I hope you'll take the time to immerse yourself in this one of a kind report!

We publish this edition of The fACTivist heading into uncertain times. With an imminent federal election on the horizon and a new provincial budget expected before the end of the month, the future of a number of important social programs designed to help the most vulnerable is in question. That's why Edmonton Social Planning Council joined a growing coalition of organizations for a new campaign called Keep Alberta Strong. It's calling for the provincial budget to protect current investments in social programs such as the Alberta Child Benefit, affordable transit, affordable housing, and more. You can learn more about it in this issue, including how to add your signature to the petition.

Next year, the Edmonton Social Planning Council will be celebrating its 80th anniversary as an agency and we plan to celebrate all that we have accomplished for our community and look ahead to the next 80 years. Be sure to watch this space for future announcements as they arise!

Susan Morrissey, Executive Director
Edmonton Social Planning Council



Keep Alberta Strong

With a provincial budget expected to be tabled near the end of October, there is a lot of uncertainty within the social services sector about the future of a number of important social programs that help many vulnerable and marginalized Albertans survive and thrive.

In light of this, a growing coalition of organizations – including the Edmonton Social Planning Council – got together to start a new campaign called “Keep Alberta Strong.” They are calling for the provincial government to maintain current investments in the following priority areas:

1. The Alberta Child Benefit
2. Affordable public transportation
3. Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)
4. Affordable, quality childcare
5. Social assistance rates
6. Affordable housing

The consequences of poverty and economic exclusion are well-documented, both in terms of the economic cost to our province (at least \$7 billion each year) and the impact on our social fabric. This is why maintaining investments in programs and initiatives that support vulnerable Albertans and the working poor is vital to ensuring Alberta’s prosperity.

As part of the campaign, a petition is being circulated and signed by Albertans urging these programs be maintained. The goal is to reach at least 1,000 signatures.

Learn more about the campaign and add your signature at

www.keepalbertastrong.ca

[#KeepAlbertaStrong](https://twitter.com/KeepAlbertaStrong)

Strengthening Heritage Language Learning Among Children in Newcomer Families

BY JENN ROSSITER

Did You Know: In Edmonton, 34.3% of residents have a mother tongue other than English or French. Not only this, but 2.2% have no English or French comprehension. This data, taken from the 2016 federal census, shows that the top 5 mother tongue languages in our city (after English) are Tagalog (Filipino), Punjabi, Cantonese, Mandarin, and French. As Canada continues to grow, aiming to welcome more than 350,000 newcomers by 2021, diversity in the languages spoken will continue to change and evolve!

Now imagine going to school as a young newcomer who speaks a language other than English or French, and who likely has a complex background story. No doubt you would find it hard to adapt to the education system and the language. ABC Head Start is an organization in the city that supports young children (pre-kindergarten) and families to help them prepare for mainstream schooling. The organization will implement heritage language learning techniques into their programming, and asked the Edmonton Social Planning Council to report on best practices.

What is a heritage language? These are minority languages spoken at home or learnt as mother tongues. They are often at risk due to the prevalence of dominant language use in social and academic settings (for us, English or French). However, these heritage languages are vital in maintaining diverse communities, identities, and cultures.

Alberta has historically supported progressive language policies in Canada, and currently funds nine heritage language programs in the province. These are, however, based on singular language rather than multilingual curriculum. For ABC Head Start, having young students who speak a variety of languages within one classroom can be a challenge. Luckily, there are numerous techniques and tools available to help instructors in these multilingual settings.

The most successful way of sharing culture and language in the classroom is through dual-language books (DLBs). These are books that tell the same story in two languages: a minority language and the dominant language. The Edmonton Public Library has a collection of DLBs in languages including Punjabi, Arabic, Korean, Tagalog, and Spanish. These books have been proven to help students navigate language learning at a young age.

As a more general concept, best practice techniques for multilingual classrooms recommend the following:

1. Scaffold language—using a student’s mother tongue and English concurrently to help build vocabulary;
2. Acknowledge and connect student languages help to connect the dots between meanings and terms, and support individual feelings of belonging and identity;
3. Encourage community involvement demonstrates respect, and a key to sustainable language development by encouraging community buy-in to future programs; and
4. Value language and culture support feelings of belonging and identity for newcomers and immigrants both in the classroom and ultimately in society at large.

Embracing diversity in language learning benefits us all, and helps foster connections between different cultures and communities. These research findings will help to improve multilingual curriculum development in ABC Head Start’s programming, and support stronger social integration and appreciation for students from a wide variety of backgrounds.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/notices/supplementary-immigration-levels-2019.html>

<https://www.alberta.ca/international-languages.aspx>

<https://www.epl.ca/dual-language-resources/>

Social Isolation of Indigenous Seniors

BY SANDRA NGO AND ALEXA BYRD

With the senior population in Canada increasing at the fastest rate out of all age groups, those aged 65 and over are expected to become 23% of the population by 2031. Therefore, maximizing the potential of Edmonton's growing senior population is an ongoing concern. Planning services must take into account the diversity of the senior population, being responsive to cultures, varied English language skills, and marginalized individuals.

In partnership with Age Friendly Edmonton, the Edmonton Social Planning Council examined the unique situation of Indigenous seniors in a recently published report, "Social Isolation of Indigenous Seniors." A qualitative descriptive study with Indigenous seniors and service providers was undertaken to explore how Indigenous seniors experience social isolation, what barriers exist in accessing programs meant to combat this isolation, and how best to overcome them.

The report summarizes a history of trauma felt by Indigenous seniors as a result of the residential school system and the Sixties Scoop, the health challenges they face as they age, being more likely to live on lower incomes compared to the rest of the senior population, avoiding interactions with authority figures (e.g. medical checkups, engaging with financial institutions) due to a mistrust in mainstream institutions, challenges with transportation options, and being separated from traditional lands, ceremonies, languages, and customs for prolonged periods of time due to living in an urban area. Systems can be difficult to navigate when accessing resources both at the community and governmental level and many Indigenous peoples have been mistreated by staff of social agencies due to a lack of cultural awareness resulting in a lack of trust in

addition to discriminatory policies and practices.

Based on the data collected and analysis done, the report made a number of recommendations to the community, service providers, and policy makers. They include:

- Respecting and promoting the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples to live without discrimination and have governments engage the broader senior population in cultural awareness and anti-racism movements.
- Establish culturally appropriate long-term care and permanent supportive housing facilities that are Indigenous-lead and equipped to provide opportunities for cultural practices
- Increase historical and cultural awareness among frontline health and social service providers about the impact of colonial violence experienced by Indigenous seniors and how it influences the present day
- Improve infrastructure for seniors as a whole to ensure access to supports such as mental health supports are inclusive to Indigenous seniors, and
- Increase representation of Indigenous peoples as healthcare providers and service providers.

This report will be presented at a conference in Lake Louise (get further details).

You can access the full report on our website at <http://bit.ly/2nrbgLM>

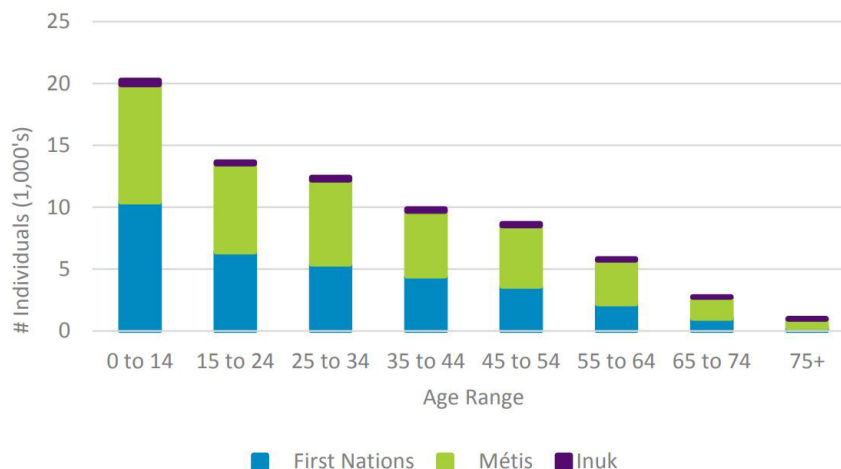


Figure 1. Number individuals identifying as Aboriginal in Edmonton, CMA, Census 2016

A Profile of Poverty in Edmonton (Updated May 2019)

BY SANDRA NGO AND JOHN KOLKMAN

Poverty affects people from all walks of life. The structure of our economy traps people in bad situations and forces some into poverty by constraining choices and limiting options. With the cost of living on the rise, many people have to focus on making ends meet and living day-to-day, rather than planning for the future or their children's future. The stress caused by poverty can lead to negative impacts on mental and emotional health, the ability to make decisions, and even family and neighbourhood cohesion.

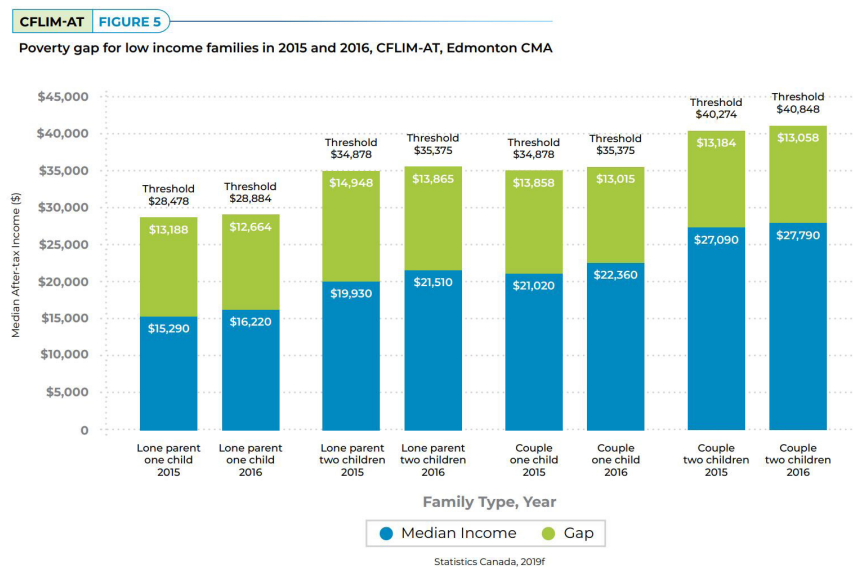
Produced in partnership with EndPovertyEdmonton, the Edmonton Social Planning Council released a 2019 update of our publication, A Profile of Poverty. It reports on the current levels of poverty as experienced by Edmontonians and offers a number of strategies and recommendations based off of "Game Changers" that can drastically reduce and eliminate poverty.

Among the groups at highest risk of poverty are women, children, Indigenous peoples, and some visible minorities. Continuing to include people with lived experiences in decision-making and public consultation related to policies that affect those who live in poverty is an essential step forward.

The major game changers and strategies identified in the report include the following:

- Expand benefits such as the Canada Child Benefit, the Alberta Child Benefit, and the Alberta Family Enhancement Tax Credit to families who are struggling with poverty.
- Increase the earnings exemptions and reduce the clawback rates related to Income Support to reflect levels closer to the AISH program to support earners who wish to return to work.
- Expand on Edmonton's stock of affordable housing for the 1 in 5 households who spend more than 30% of their income on housing.
- Improve the administrative process of the Ride Transit Program so that vulnerable individuals can readily access public transit.
- Expand the availability of Early Learning and Child Care Centres so that all low income families can access \$25/day care for children aged 0 to kindergarten. Eliminate wait lists and concurrent wait list fees, which are prohibitive to low income families.

The full report is available for download on our website at <http://bit.ly/2mVveh0>



AGM 2019 Summary – Held May 23, 2019

BY JUSTINE BASILAN

The 79th Edmonton Social Planning Council Annual General Meeting was held on May 23rd, 2019 at the Edmonton Food Bank Annex. Many thanks to the Edmonton Food Bank for generously donating their Annex facility for our event. The event was well attended by ESPC members, staff, board members, and the general public. The event was hosted by our Board President, Gwen Feeny, with support from our Executive Director, Susan Morrissey, as well as presentations given by various Board Committee Chairs. We released our 2018 Annual Report that outlined all the activities of the Council with updates of research projects planned for the future.

We welcomed five new members to our board, Paula Kirman, Danielle Dolgoy, Naomi Achus, Nicole Smith, and Jalene Anderson-Baron.

We were excited to award the ESPC's "Merit for Advocacy of Social Justice" award to the e4c Youth Housing Program for their exceptional work with providing accommodation and support to Edmonton's youth. Overall, their services merit recognition for their commitment to helping and ensuring their safety and wellness.

Our guest speaker was Henry Motta, COO of Jasper Place Wellness Centre. He spoke about the importance of research and factual data to the operation of a front line agency, and how that information influences the different programs that Jasper Place Wellness Centre offers to better support the community. Overall, he left the audience with the message that data collection is essential in helping meet the needs of our community.

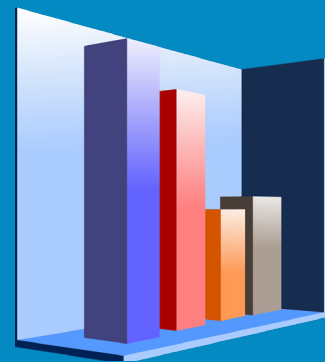
Thank you to all who attended and we look forward to seeing you again next year.

LOOKING FOR RESEARCH ASSISTANCE?

Check our our resource section on our webpage for publications in social policy areas such as:

Housing, Transportation, Health, Education, Food Security, Income Security Programs, Urban Issues, Social Services, Women, Disabilities, Poverty, Immigration, Families, Children and Child Care, Seniors, Indigenous Peoples, Labour Force, Crime and Safety ... and more!

The Edmonton Social Planning Council provides low cost or in some cases free research services to social advocacy organizations in Edmonton. If you or your organization needs a hand finding information about local social issues or related topics, feel free to contact our Research Coordinator, Sandra Ngo by phone at 780.423.2031 or by email at researchcoord@edmontonsocialplanning.ca.



Living Wage Edmonton 2019

BY SANDRA NGO

Living Wage Explained

The living wage is defined as the hourly wage that a primary income earner must make to provide for themselves, their families, and reach basic financial security. In addition to paying for expenses like food, shelter, transportation, and telecommunications, the living wage includes participation in recreation, an extended health and dental plan, and a minor emergency contingency fund. However, it does not include items that would allow families to “get ahead,” such as putting away savings or paying down debt.

A living wage is not the same as the minimum wage, which is the wage mandated by the provincial government that employers must pay all workers. The minimum wage is typically lower than the living wage in many communities across Alberta.

Edmonton Social Planning Council has been calculating Edmonton’s living wage for the last five years and is based on the Canadian Living Wage Framework created by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. These calculations are based on changes in expenses and government benefit programs.

Living Wage Changes in 2019

The living wage for 2019 in Edmonton is \$16.51, marking a slight \$0.03 increase from 2018. This increase was smaller than anticipated due to programs that decrease costs for families, and the indexing of government transfer programs – critical for helping working families stay afloat. Without these changes, the increase would likely have been much higher.

The programs that offset rising costs of living include the increase in affordability of child care due to the Early Learning and Child Care program, affordable public transportation options through the City of Edmonton’s Ride Transit program, improvements to the earned income tax credit through the Canada Worker’s Benefit, and increases to the Canada Child Benefit.

Advocacy Work

Advocacy efforts surrounding the living wage issue continue to show progress with various initiatives. In October 2018, the City of Edmonton adopted Policy C612: Living Wage for City of Edmonton Employees. This policy would see that all City employees would receive

a living wage. This a direct implementation of actions set out by EndPovertyEdmonton’s “A Road Map to Guide Our Journey.”

At the provincial level, ESPC has taken a lead role in helping to establish the Alberta Living Wage Network in 2018. The Network aims to build awareness, encourage the adoption of living wage policies, celebrate living wage employers, and create space for a dynamic and coordinated conversation. The organization’s current work includes the development and implementation of an Alberta-based living wage calculator that can be implemented for any municipality in Alberta.

The full report is available for download on our website at <http://bit.ly/32cnVRK>



Susan Morrissey, ESPC Executive Director, participates in the NDP’s call to add more balanced voices to the government’s minimum wage review panel.

Living in low income poses significant challenges. This fACTsheet compiles a list of a number of programs and benefits implemented by all three orders of government to assist individuals and families.

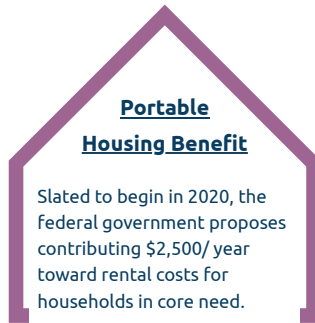


Impact of Benefits on Low and Modest Income Edmontonians

AFFORDABLE HOUSING INVESTMENTS



Core housing need -
Households that spend more than 30% of pre-tax income on shelter costs.



Shovel Ready

An initiative by the Edmonton Non-Profit Housing Provider Working Group is seeking \$1.1 billion in funding from the federal and provincial government to build **5,000** additional units in the next 5 years.

48,550 households in Edmonton were considered to be in core housing need.



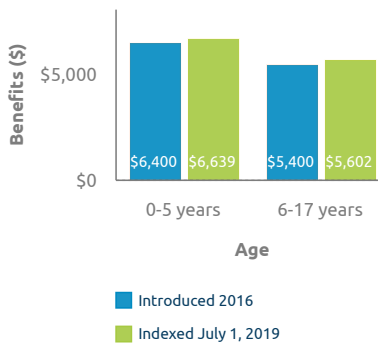
Close to half (**22,350**) spent **50% or more** of their income on shelter

CHILD & FAMILY BENEFITS

The Canadian Income Survey conducted by Statistics Canada found a **50% reduction** in the Alberta child poverty rate – the biggest decline across all provinces, due to the indexing of the *Canada Child Benefit* and *Alberta Child Benefit* that increased the amounts received per year.



Canada Child Benefit



First introduced in 2016, the maximum Canada Child Benefit was \$6,400 per child per year for children aged 0-5 years and \$5,400 for 6-17 years. With indexing on July 1, 2019, the respective benefits increase to \$6,639 and \$5,602 per year.

Alberta Child Benefit

Introduced in 2016 and indexed since inception. Maximum benefit amounts received by:

	Families with working income	vs. without working income
one child	\$1,956	\$1,155
increasing to		
four or more children	\$4,998	\$2,886

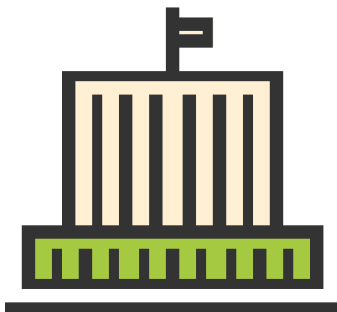
CHILD CARE INVESTMENTS

In 2017, the provincial government introduced a

\$25 per day

child care program in two phases in 2017-2018. When combined with the existing child care subsidy, most of the differential between the subsidy and \$25/day was covered for low and modest income parents needing affordable child care.

PROVINCIAL INCOME SUPPORT PROGRAMS



Effective January 1, 2019,
the provincial government enacted

BILL 26

The Bill indexed AISH, Income Support, and the Alberta Seniors Benefit to the cost of living, and gave a one-time increase of \$100 per month to AISH payments.

CANADA WORKER'S BENEFIT (CWB)

Starting this year, the federal government strengthened an earned income tax credit (previously called the Working Income Tax Benefit) to supplement the earnings of low income workers and improves work incentives for low income Canadians.



- Unlike the Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit which is only available to low income working families with children, **the CWB is available to all low income working Canadians regardless of family status.**
- Under the enhancements, a low income person earning \$15,000 per year would see their benefits almost **double** to just over \$1,000 per year.

ALBERTA MINIMUM WAGE

On October 1, 2018, Alberta's hourly minimum wage was increased to

\$15.00 per hour

from \$10.20 per hour and a differential for liquor servers was eliminated. As of June 26, 2019, the minimum wage for those under 18 years of age has been reduced to \$13.00 per hour. Alberta's minimum wage is currently the

highest

in Canada.

RIDE TRANSIT PASS

Persons in households with incomes less than the Low Income Cutoff + 10% are eligible for a

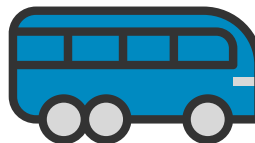
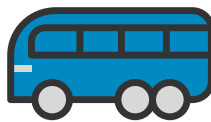
\$35 per month

transit pass.

Starting June 2019, those with incomes between 10% and 25% above the Low Income Cut-Off became eligible for a

\$50 per month

transit pass.



The Ride Transit Pass is a partnership between the City of Edmonton and the Government of Alberta.

Vital Topic



VitalSigns.



GREEN SPACES in EDMONTON

Edmonton Vital Signs is an annual checkup conducted by Edmonton Community Foundation, in partnership with Edmonton Social Planning Council, to measure how the community is doing. Vital Topics are a quick but comprehensive look at issues that are timely and important to Edmonton.

What do you mean by *green*?

NATURAL AREA: spaces identified for the conservation, preservation and/or restoration of natural features, biodiversity, or ecological processes with a relatively low level of human maintenance.

GREEN SPACE: spaces featuring vegetation and other natural elements that range in size, public accessibility, and human management.

PARK: An actively maintained, publicly accessible green space that may contain natural and man-made materials.



Edmonton Parks

Edmonton has **7 hectares of parkland/1,000 people.**

- Parks are **within 400 metres of anywhere in downtown Edmonton**, although connections are not always convenient, accessible, or pleasant.
- The Edmonton metro region has **17 off-leash dog parks and 5 boat docks** to launch non-motorized watercraft.
- (INiW) River Lot 1100 on Queen Elizabeth park road opened in 2018 and showcases permanent **art installations by six Indigenous artists** telling the story of this place.

DID YOU KNOW?

The North Saskatchewan's muddy appearance, is due to the silts it transports. **Water quality testing indicates it is safe for a variety of recreational uses including swimming and tubing**, although users should be cautious in the spring and fall during heavy flow rates.



The Ribbon of Green

The North Saskatchewan River Valley, a loosely connected strip of land covering **18,000 acres**,

- is the largest urban park in Canada,
- has 160 kilometres of maintained pathways and 20 major parks,
- has been protected in some form since 1915 in response to the devastating flood when the North Saskatchewan River rose 42 feet.

3 kinds of natural habitat exist in Edmonton

FORESTS: These areas are largely filled with aspen and balsam poplars and some evergreens.

WETLANDS: Marshes are the most common type of wetland found in Edmonton. Marshes are in depressions, often surrounded by water-based plants, willows and other shrubs.

RIVERINE: The banks of the North Saskatchewan River, its tributary creeks, and the slopes of both the river valley and ravines.

DID YOU KNOW?

The historic **Holowach Tree is the oldest standing horse chestnut in Edmonton**. It was planted on April 30, 1910 by Ukrainian pioneer Sam Holowach. It can be found off Jasper Avenue between 105 and 106 Streets.

No kidding... GOATS – Edmonton employs almost **200 goats to eat weeds in Rundle Park**. Edmontonians who want to see them at work can attend a "Meet and Bleat."



Green Space is good for us.

There is evidence that accessing urban green spaces can provide:

- psychological relaxation and stress reduction,
- improved social cohesion and psychological attachment to the home area,
- immune system benefits,
- enhanced physical activity,
- reduced exposures to noise, air pollution and excessive heat.

BIGGEST PARKS BY AREA (m²)

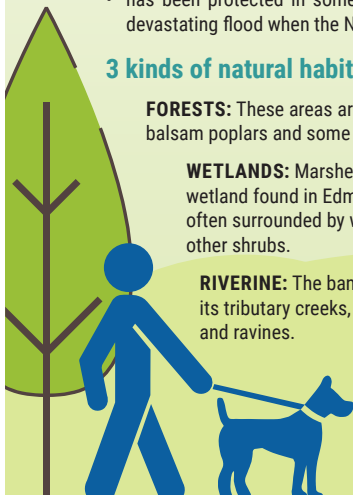
Whitemud Park
3,949,337

Terwillegar Park
1,736,951

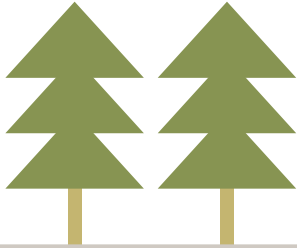
Whitemud Ravine Nature Reserve
1,472,291

THE SMALLEST PARK

is called 'Stony Plain F', at a mere **15.4 m²** and located in Glenora.



SOURCES FOR THESE STATISTICS ARE AVAILABLE AT ecfoundation.org



Challenges for Parks

- **Inadequate funding** for park maintenance, programming, and repairs.
- **Increasing damage** from extreme weather.
- Parks used as **alternative housing** by people experiencing homelessness.
- **Growing demand for trails** and off-leash dog parks.
- **Demand for unstructured gathering spaces** and areas for unstructured play.
- **Accommodating an aging population.**

Edmonton's Park Use

In a 2017 perception survey of Edmontonians, in the past year:

82% used their **NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK**

64% used a **RIVER VALLEY PARK**

According to BREATHE part of Edmonton's Green Network Strategy (2016):

- 90% of Edmontonians said they used green spaces to **enjoy nature**,
- 86% believe **trees are the most important feature** of open spaces,
- 81% **used green spaces for wellness** and,
- 65% used them for **celebration**.



Wildlife/Habitat

Edmonton is host to almost 50 species of mammals, more than 150 species of birds, 5 species of amphibians, 2 species of reptiles and approximately 30 species of fish.

- **40 species** of wildlife are **at-risk** in Edmonton.
- WILDNorth admits almost **3,000 injured or orphaned** wild animals from the Edmonton region. **95% are displaced due to human activity and practices.**

In Greater Edmonton the most common injured or orphaned species are:

- mallard ducks
- white-tailed prairie hares
- black-billed magpies
- American robins
- red squirrels
- Canada geese



Ways you can Help Wildlife

- **Keep pets on a leash** or contained when outside.
- **Do not feed birds bread** or other unnatural food.
- **Keep garbage contained** and secure to avoid encouraging unwanted wildlife behaviour.
- **Cover windows to avoid a reflective surface**, to reduce bird window strikes.
- **Do not assume an animal is orphaned** until you have monitored it for some time and contacted a professional for advice.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Natural areas provide food for pollinators when crops are not yet flowering. Pollinators are essential to many types of foods we eat.

Native bees in Alberta are pollen-collecting bees.



THE BUZZZZ ON BEES

ECF@WORK

Prince's Charities Canada (PCC) received \$37,000 for Beekeeping Clubs in partnership with Northlands.

Participants learn to care for beehives and harvest honey. Youth develop a connection to nature, experience a form of food production, and understand the importance of preserving our ecosystems.

Alberta is home to more than **300 native species of bees** but most of these are solitary bees (non-aggressive).

The Honeybee is not native to Alberta.

The City of Edmonton has been trying to

increase natural areas since 1995 by leaving grassy areas uncut and monitoring for noxious weeds.

Beyond the River Valley

Just east of Edmonton is Beaver Hills Biosphere which was named a UNESCO biosphere in 2016. The landscape contains wetlands, lakes and forests, and is home to a variety of animals. This area includes Elk Island National Park, several provincial parks, and protected areas that are situated within this ecologically-significant region.

Visitation to Elk Island National Park has nearly doubled in a decade, from 185,000 visitors in 2009 to **more than 360,000 visitors in 2018.**

ECF@WORK

Edmonton and Area Land Trust (EALT) received \$50,000/yr for 2017, 2018, and 2019 to help build the organization. EALT's mandate is to conserve natural areas in Edmonton and the surrounding region. **In 11 years they have secured 12 natural areas totalling 2,243 acres.**

WILD MYTHS:

MYTH: *Nestlings can not be returned to the nest once the scent of people is on them.*

FACT: Parent birds will not reject nestlings as almost all birds have no sense of smell.

MYTH: *If you find a baby hare, porcupine or deer fawn alone, you can assume it's orphaned.*

FACT: It is normal for mothers of these species to leave their young alone during the day and will return at night to nurse the young.

MYTH: *I should be afraid of coyotes.*

FACT: Coyotes are a natural part of our urban ecosystem and serious conflicts with people are **extremely rare**. Though they normally stay away from people, avoid habituating them to human food sources and keep small pets close. Should you encounter a coyote that seems a little too curious, face the animal, make yourself appear large, and be loud and aggressive by shouting and clapping. We can live in harmony with this important species.

SOURCES FOR THESE STATISTICS ARE AVAILABLE AT ecfoundation.org



Vital Topic

ARTS IN EDMONTON

Unless otherwise stated, "Edmonton" refers to Census Metropolitan Area and not solely the City of Edmonton.



Edmonton Vital Signs is an annual check-up conducted by Edmonton Community Foundation, in partnership with Edmonton Social Planning Council, to measure how the community is doing. We will also be focusing on individual issues. VITAL TOPICS, that are timely and important to Edmonton. Watch for these in each issue of Legacy in Action, and for the full issue of Vital Signs in October 2019.

For the purposes of this document, this is what is referred to when discussing arts and arts organizations.

ARTS include a wide variety of creative disciplines including:

- **literature** (including drama, poetry, and prose),
- **performing arts** (including dance, music, and theatre),
- **and media and visual arts** (including drawing, painting, filmmaking, architecture, ceramics, sculpting, and photography).

ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

There are many types of arts organizations that have various structures. Organizations may have artists that are paid (professional) or unpaid (voluntary), be privately or publicly funded, or be considered a for-profit or non-profit. The structure of the organization does not necessarily denote the quality of the work or the commitment of the artists.

Why Arts are Important

Research shows that:

- **Where the arts thrive, there is also likely to be a vibrant, thriving economy.** Neighbourhoods are livelier, communities are revitalized, tourists and residents are attracted to the area.
- **There is a correlation between engagement in the arts and other types of civic engagement.** Adults who attend art galleries, attend live performances, or read literature are more likely than non-attenders or non-readers to vote, volunteer, and take part in community events.

IN A 2018 LEGER POLL:
79% of Edmontonians agree that Edmonton is a city that values the arts

Public Engagement in the arts

DID YOU KNOW?

- **76.3%** of Albertans attended an arts event in 2018
- **Attendance at arts events** presented by Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA) operational grant recipients **exceeds the population of the province.**

According to a survey done by PACE (Professional Arts Coalition of Edmonton), organizations reported holding 11,727 days of arts events in the Edmonton region in 2016.

- This represents roughly **30 arts events per day.**
- Arts and cultural festivals and live art performance accounted for **over 90% of total event attendance.**

DID YOU KNOW?

The Kiwanis Music Festival in Edmonton began in 1908 and was one of the first competitive musical festivals in Canada. It features over 1,700 performers including choirs, bands, Aboriginal dancing, theatre performers, and more. This year will be its 111th year.



Health and Arts

There is a lot of evidence that art is good for your physical and mental health. Art therapy can help with self-expression, manage pain, and even reduce fatigue, stress, or anxiety.

In 2018-2019, the Health Arts Society of Alberta (HASA) will perform over 400 concerts for elders in care across the province. The concerts bring professional musicians in Alberta to care and retirement homes.

The McMullen Gallery at University Hospital in Edmonton runs the "Artist on the Wards" program, a free service that caters to the adult patients in the hospital. It provides therapeutic literary, musical, and visual arts programming. In addition, the gallery sees 1,200-1,500 visitors per exhibition.

Arts Education in Edmonton

Both EPSB and ECSD offer focused arts education in addition to regular curriculum.

MORE THAN 10,000 INDIVIDUALS OVER THE AGE OF 15 IN THE CITY OF EDMONTON HAVE STUDIED VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS AT A POST-SECONDARY LEVEL. **OF THOSE 6,680 ARE FEMALE AND 4,300 ARE MALE.**

ONLY ABOUT ONE QUARTER of those working in the arts in Canada have graduated from post-secondary arts education.

6,680 FEMALE

4,300 MALE

SOURCES FOR THESE STATISTICS ARE AVAILABLE AT ecfoundation.org

Individuals Working in the arts

- Often work part-time, **SUPPLEMENTING THEIR INCOME** with work outside the arts.
- **OFTEN HAVE A LOWER INCOME.** Since 2008 real wages have only increased 6.7% compared to 10% for Canadian economy. Income from writing has decreased by 27% from 2014 to 2017.
- **FACE A HIGH TURNOVER RATE OF 13.3%**
Higher than the all-industry average of 7.1%.

Top three categories of self-employment:

65.4%

OF PHOTOGRAPHERS

65.1%

OF MUSICIANS
AND SINGERS

63.9%

OF PAINTERS,
SCULPTORS AND
OTHER VISUAL
ARTISTS

35.8% OF ARTISTS

IN EDMONTON ARE SELF-EMPLOYED.

In **EDMONTON NON-PROFIT ARTS ORGANIZATIONS**
2/3rds are part-time employees or contractors.



Equity in the arts has a long way to go

WOMEN MAKE UP 51% OF THE 650,000 ARTS WORKERS IN CANADA BUT, REPRESENT ONLY 25% OF ARTISTIC DIRECTORS. MINORITY WOMEN ARE MORE LIKELY TO HAVE CONTRACT POSITIONS AND LESS LIKELY TO BE IN FULL-TIME POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP.

A 2016 study found that of more than 2,300 theatre awards, the largest and highest-profile awards are most often given to men.

72% of directing awards were given to men

62% of playwriting awards were given to men

According to a 2015 survey with the Canadian Actors Equity Association:

48% of racially diverse members of the Canadian Actors Equity Association did not feel adequately represented in live performance, as compared to 9% of white members

27% of members who were hard of hearing or living with a disability earned less than \$20,000 per year, as compared to 18% of able-bodied members in theatre or live performances

According to Best Practice Recommendations in Achieving Equity in Canadian Theatre, there is a link between women as artistic directors, directors, playwrights, and roles for women actors. Increasing women's representation in one area will have a positive effect on the others.

Economic Impact

The Edmonton arts sector contributes **\$78 million** to the local economy, providing more than 1,540 full-time job equivalents and generating \$59 million worth of income.

REALITY CHECK: Non-profit organizations are as adept at balancing a budget as for-profit organizations, and are well managed and stable.

FOR 2018, THE ALBERTA GOVERNMENT PROVIDED **\$101 MILLION FOR ARTS AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES, ONLY 0.18% OF THE TOTAL BUDGET.**

- According to Statistics Canada data: Non-profit and for-profit performing arts companies as a whole had a positive operating margin in 2016.

- Non-profit performing arts companies tended to spend a larger proportion of their operating expenses on salaries, wages, commissions and benefits.

Volunteerism in the arts

Volunteers are an important part of the arts in Edmonton. Volunteers provided the equivalent of an estimated 220 full-time jobs to assist arts organizations in 2016.

An average of 52,000 people volunteer each year to assist the arts in Alberta.

If volunteers were paid \$15 per hour, their labour would be worth more than \$28.5 million, equivalent to approximately 14% of the total revenue for the sector in the province.

Public Art

The City of Edmonton Percent for Art program allocates 1% of the eligible construction budget of any publicly accessible municipal project for the acquisition of art.

- As of January, 2019 there are **233** pieces of completed public art, and **29** are in progress.

THE AFA CARES FOR THE LARGEST PROVINCIAL PUBLIC ART COLLECTION WITH **9,049 ARTWORKS.** AS OF MARCH 31, 2018 IT IS VALUED AT \$16,370,749.

SOURCES FOR THESE STATISTICS ARE AVAILABLE AT ecfoundation.org

Summer Student

Over the summer months, we were pleased to have **Jack Cherniawsky** in our office as our research assistant.

Jack is in his fourth year at the University of Alberta, where he is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in the School of Urban and Regional Planning. During his time with us, he gathered data for various publications dedicated to the topics of affordable housing, green spaces, recreation services, and others.

Jack's previous academic and professional research has focused on land use, urban design, and public policy. He has also worked with the City of Edmonton in both the Urban Planning and Youth Recreation Departments and has a keen interest in helping create vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive communities.

New Staff

Jenn Rossiter joined the Edmonton Social Planning Council in April 2019 as the Project Coordinator, Research Services and Capacity Building. In her role, she is working closely with the City of Edmonton-funded FCSS agencies to support capacity building in the social services sector.

Jenn has an MA in International Development Studies from York University where she studied child protection policies and informal child care practices. Prior to joining ESPC, she worked at the University of Alberta's Faculty of Native Studies.

Brett Lambert joined the Edmonton Social Planning Council in August 2019 as the new Community Engagement Coordinator. In his role, he is working on various communications activities as well as planning for ESPC's 80th anniversary celebrations in 2020 (stay tuned!).

Brett has a Diploma in Journalism from Grant MacEwan as well as a Bachelor of Arts and Master's degree in Library and Information Studies at the University of Alberta. Prior to joining ESPC, he worked in a number of communications roles at the University of Alberta as well as non-profit organizations such as Native Counselling Services of Alberta and Public Interest Alberta.

Upcoming Events

Be sure to join us for these upcoming events. Stay tuned to our website and social media channels for further updates.

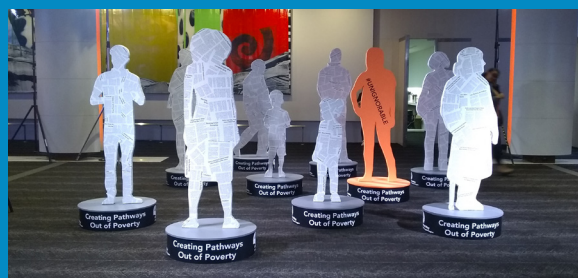
Lunch and Learn:

If Not You... Then Who? Becoming a Foster, Adoptive, and Respite Caregiver in Alberta

November 19, 2019 at 12 pm,
Edmonton Public Library's
Enterprise Square Branch

United Way Bake Sale:

November 27, 2019, 8:30 am to
4:30 pm, Edmonton Social Planning
Council (Suite 200, 10544 – 106 Ave)
By Donation



Poverty is #UNIGNORABLE United Way
Capital Region fundraiser launch

New Board Member Biographies

We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our Board of Directors.

Naomi Achus

Naomi Achus is originally from Winnipeg and relocated to Edmonton in 1996 prior to the advent of the Red River Flood. Since then, Naomi has obtained a Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) in Political Science with a specialization in Public Policy from York University. She also received a Master of Arts Degree in Political Science from McMaster University, a Certificate in Project Management from Grant MacEwan University and Prosci Change Management Certification. Professionally, Naomi started with the Government of Alberta in 2008 and has held roles across four departments, which include portfolios such as infrastructure, agriculture, health and environment and parks. She currently works in Alberta Environment and Parks as a Legislation Project Manager and as acting Senior Manager, Business Development and Performance. Naomi is also active in her community and helped to found a community league in her neighborhood of Chappelle as the area develops. She looks forward to volunteering further with the ESPC.

Jalene Anderson-Baron

Jalene Anderson-Baron is a proud Edmontonian with extensive experience in Edmonton's social sector, including previous roles at the Bissell Centre, the Inner City Health and Wellness Program, and the Addiction and Mental Health Research Lab at the University of Alberta. Presently, she is a Policy and Research Analyst with Capital Region Housing. Jalene completed her MA in 2016, where her research explored the impacts of affordable housing shortages on Housing First programs in Alberta. Her published research has looked at both policy and practice pertaining to homelessness, Housing First, harm reduction and service provision for socially marginalized populations. Her current interests focus on policy and innovation in the Canadian social housing sector. When she isn't reading or writing, Jalene can be found enjoying Edmonton's bike paths and bakeries, walking her dog, or spending time with her family.

Danielle Dolgoy

Danielle Dolgoy was born and raised in Edmonton. With an undergraduate degree in Humanities and Art History from Carleton University in Ottawa, and a Graduate Diploma in Communications and Media Studies from Concordia University in Montreal, Danielle has seen

how folks live in many other parts of Canada, and along with her Montrealer husband, made the decision to return to Edmonton in 2013. She has worked in areas of ESL and newcomer settlement, career counselling, arts administration, events management, funds development, and organizational operations. Last year she cobbled together her 15 years of non-profit management and received her Project Management Professional (PMP) designation. One of many daughters, Danielle carries on many of the traditional family recipes her mother and grandmothers have shared with her. She is passionate about food security, food literacy, and the importance of eating together.

Paula Kirman

Paula Kirman is an award-winning writer, photographer, filmmaker, musician, and activist. She has documented Edmonton's activist scene for over a decade at her blog RadicalCitizenMedia.com; produced the community access program *From the Ground Up* which aired on Shaw TV for three years; and her photography was part of a three-person exhibit at Visual Arts Alberta called "Art + Activism" during the latter part of 2016. Paula has been the editor of *Boyle McCauley News*, an inner-city community newspaper, since 2006 and works with numerous non-profit groups as a social media and website consultant. Paula co-organized the Edmonton Women's March in 2017, which saw 4,000 people attend. She is the former Secretary of the Edmonton Interfaith Centre for Education and Action, President of Project Ploughshares Edmonton, and an organizer with the Edmonton Coalition Against War & Racism. In May 2018, she received the Social Justice Advocacy Award from the ESPC, and in December 2016, she received the Human Rights Champion Award from the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights for being a pioneering media artist and community organizer.

Nicole Smith

Nicole Smith is the Director of Research and Community Engagement with Sage Seniors Association (Sage). She has a Master's degree in Educational Policy Studies, and has experience working in the public, private, and non-profit sectors, including time spent as an adult educator and secondary and post-secondary teacher. In her current role with Sage, Nicole's research has focused on the role that community-based organizations can play in meeting the needs of a growing, and increasingly diverse, seniors population.

About the Edmonton Social Planning Council

2019-2020 Board of Directors

Gwen Feeny – President
Vanessa Zembal – Treasurer
Naomi Achus
Jalene Anderson-Baron
Danielle Dolgoy
Zaharo Hassan
Paula Kirman
Peter Schalk
Nicole Smith
Dave Trautman
Ben Whynot
Theresa Vladicka

Staff Members

Susan Morrissey, Executive Director
Justine Basilan, Executive Assistant
John Kolkman, Research Associate
Brett Lambert, Community Engagement Coordinator
Sandra Ngo, Research Coordinator
Jenn Rossiter, Project Coordinator | Research Services and Capacity Building

The **Edmonton Social Planning Council** is an independent, non-profit, non-partisan social research organization, with registered charitable status. Our focus is social research, particularly in the areas of low income and poverty. ESPC is a source of knowledge and expertise on social issues within our community.

We are dedicated to encouraging the adoption of equitable social policy, supporting the work of other organizations who are striving to improve the lives of Edmontonians, and educating the public regarding the social issues that impact them on a daily basis.

Our Vision - *A community in which all people are full and valued participants.*

Our Mission - *Through rigorous research, detailed analysis, and community engagement, we deepen community understanding of social planning issues, influence policy, and spark collaborative actions that lead to positive social change.*

Become a Member

The strength of our voice is dependent upon the support of people and organizations concerned about social issues—people like you. By getting involved with the Edmonton Social Planning Council, you add your voice to our message of positive social development and policy change.

Membership has its benefits:

- To be a part of making Edmonton a community in which all people are full and valued participants.
- To make it possible for us to distribute our material freely and widely.
- To have a say in the direction of the organization.
- To be eligible to serve on the board of directors.
- To stay informed by receiving our newsletters, fact sheets and other publications.

Annual Membership Fees

- Small organizations (budget < \$1M) - **\$50.00**
- Larger organizations (budget > \$1 M) - **\$75.00**
- Individuals - **\$25.00**
- Senior/Limited Income/Students - **\$5.00**
- Associate (non-voting) - **\$15.00**

[To become a member, visit edmontonsocialplanning.ca](http://edmontonsocialplanning.ca)

Register and pay for your membership online by clicking on the button in the category you wish to purchase or;

Print out a membership form and mail it to our office, along with a cheque or money order made out to the Edmonton Social Planning Council

*Online payments are processed using PayPal. If you choose to pay online, you will be directed to the PayPal payment page after you fill out and submit your membership form. **PayPal** is a secure and trusted site for paying online using credit card or Interac email money transfer. **You will not be required to sign up for a PayPal account.**

Donations

The ESPC relies on the generosity of individual donors to support our ongoing research and public education.

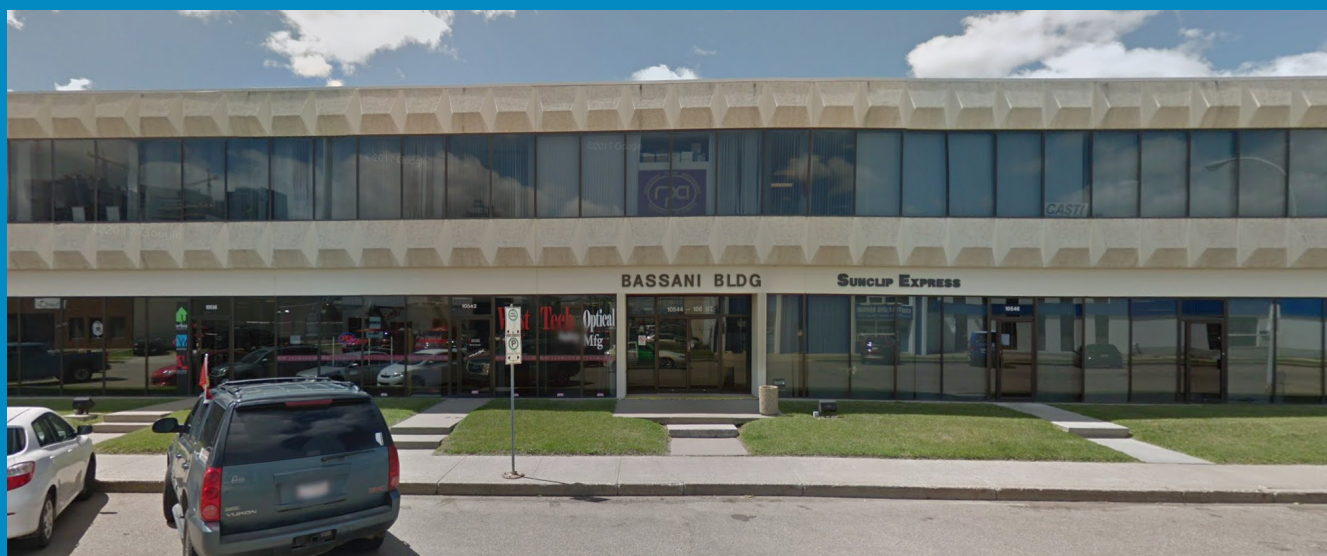
(Registered Charitable Tax #10728 31 94 RP 0001)

Financial contributions are fully tax deductible and you will receive a registered charitable tax receipt.

Your donation helps us do our work. It keeps our social research current and comprehensive. It allows us to take on bigger projects and make a greater impact in the community. It strengthens our voice—your voice, and the voices of those who lack the opportunity to speak for themselves.

To donate please go to:

<https://edmontonsocialplanning.ca/index.php/support-us>



Edmonton Social Planning Council

200 -10544 106 Street NW

Edmonton, AB T5H 2X6

T: 780.423.2031

F: 780.425.6244

E: info@edmontonsocialplanning.ca

W: edmontonsocialplanning.ca



CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

@EDMONTONSPC

