



## Message from the Co-Chairs

### **Message from the Executive External Chair, Lakshmi Peddi**

As I approach the conclusion of our term, I have found myself reflecting on the incredible journey I have embarked upon over the past year. It has been a true honour and privilege to serve as the Executive External Chair for the 2023-2024 term, and see how CEYC has developed through the past five years of my tenure.

The City of Edmonton Youth Council (CEYC) has continued to evolve and flourish, thanks to the dedication of each and every one of the youth who are a part of CEYC. Together, we have worked tirelessly to advance our mission of providing meaningful opportunities for youth engagement and advocacy in municipal affairs.

As we reflect on the goals we set at the beginning of our term, our aim was to educate, empower, and provide opportunities. Through our collective efforts, significant strides have been made in each of these areas. These initiatives enriched our community, strengthened our bonds, and nurtured a sense of belonging among our members.

I am immensely grateful for the creativity and resilience demonstrated by each member of our council. Their passion for making a difference in our city is truly inspiring, and it is through the collective efforts of everyone that we have been able to achieve so much.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to my fellow committee members, youth-at-large volunteers, City Council, and community partners for their unwavering support and collaboration throughout the year. Together, we have proven that youth voices matter and that we are not just the leaders of tomorrow, but the leaders of today as well.

As our term comes to a close, I am excited to see the legacy of our collective work continue to thrive, and I do not doubt that the CEYC will continue to grow and empower the youth of Edmonton to make a lasting impact on our community for years to come.

Thank you again to the incredible individuals at CEYC for your commitment to creating positive change in Edmonton. It has been an honour to work alongside each of you.

With gratitude,  
Lakshmi Peddi

### **Message from the Executive Internal Chair, Reetu Arvikar**

I am honoured to have had the opportunity to serve on CEYC for the past four years and on CEYC's executive for the past three. Youth Council is an organization where I truly see the immense dedication and drive youth hold to improve our city. I am incredibly grateful to have led as the youngest Executive Chair in CEYC's history and hope that this encourages even more youth throughout our community to be active members of this city. The work that the youth council does is innovative, effective, and tangible because it is fuelled by passion, hard work, and dedication.

If there is one thing I have learned in my tenure as the Chair over the past two terms, it is that the youth of our city consistently persevere and strive to speak on matters that are

passionate to them. Whether that be speaking directly to City Council to address issues or emphasizing the youth perspective through extensive media coverage. Every term, youth councillors are faced with new and difficult challenges but they never fail to overcome those hurdles with both strength and grace. Not only are youth the future of tomorrow, but they are the change that we need today. I am proud of all the work our members have been so dedicated to in the past years and I am incredibly eager to see how CEYC will continue to empower these voices in the future.

## **Purpose of the Annual Report**

This annual report has been developed to meet the requirements of Bylaw 18156 - Council Committees Bylaw, which sets out the annual reporting requirements for Council Committees. Under Bylaw 18156, all Council Committees will:

- Report to Council at least annually.
- Approve a work plan that aligns with Council's strategic objectives and the Council Committee's mandate, including a reporting of what resources were provided in the previous year and the anticipated resource requirements for the upcoming year.
- Report to Council and during its annual report to Council, a Council Committee must present the work plan as well as a summary of the status of the previous year's work plan.

## **Mandate of City of Edmonton Youth Council (CEYC)**

The mandate of CEYC will be to provide information and advice to Council in relation to issues involving or affecting Youth.

To carry out this mandate, the CEYC may:

- A. research and writes policy proposals for Council's review;
- B. coordinate community events that profile local youth issues;
- C. receive direction from Council on work or reports it requires on youth matters;
- D. develop and maintain relationships with individuals and organizations addressing issues of concern to youth;
- E. promote initiatives to support the well-being of youth;
- F. educate youth on City governance, procedures and policy making;
- G. provide networking opportunities for youth;

- H. consult with City Manager and other organizations supporting youth initiatives;
- I. establish the General Assembly, maintain the registry of individuals participating in the General Assembly, and oversee its meetings;
- J. if requested by Council, recommend individuals for appointment to the City's civic agencies; and
- K. inform Council of initiatives of other levels of government that could affect Youth.

## Mission

Educate and empower youth to provide meaningful input and take action on local issues and municipal politics in Edmonton.

## Goals

1. Mobilize youth on local issues through community, events and projects.
2. Empower youth through education, skill building, and experience.
3. Provide youth with opportunities for meaningful participation in local government.

## Report on 2023 - 2024 Work Plan Goals and Accomplishments

| Goal One   |  |
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| Educate and inform youth and the general public about important city planning and other municipal-related topics |  |
| <b>Key Results</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate youth and fellow Edmontonians a fundamental and valuable understanding of the core concepts of urban planning. Through this, youth can have informed dialogue around key municipal issues and more easily participate in the discourse around issues that directly affect them.</li> <li>• Engage with youth on their experience with city transit and promote youth needs and perspectives within city transit policies and projects.</li> <li>• Create avenues for youth to stay informed of municipal affairs related to their interests, and encourage involvement in municipal processes.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Summary of Progress</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Urban Planning Video Essays</i>: Created and shared via social media a series of video essays that inform youth and the general public</li> </ul>  |

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|  | <p>about important urban planning and city-related topics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Youth Transit Engagement</i>: Collection of data, creation, and presentation of Youth Perspectives on Transit in Edmonton: An Analytical Report of Ongoing Transit Issues From the Youth Lens Presentation and Background.</li> <li>• <i>Social Media</i>: Working with communications experts to strengthen our ongoing media presence's consistency, continuity, and professionalism. Social media has about a 7-10% engagement rate.</li> </ul> |
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| Goal Two   |  |
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| Empower youth through education, skill building, and experience. |  |
| <b>Key Results</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide youth with professional development opportunities which support future contribution and innovation.</li> <li>• Encourage youth participation in creating a greener and more sustainable Edmonton.</li> <li>• Facilitate opportunities for youth both within and outside of CEYC to network and engage with each other.</li> <li>• Keep youth informed of scholarships, volunteering, and professional development opportunities.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Summary of Progress</b>                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>STEM Workshop</i>: Hosted a STEM workshop to provide opportunity for youth to have access to professional development opportunities and provide youth with knowledge, skills, and tools to better navigate professional spheres and opportunity.</li> <li>• <i>Youth City Clean-Up</i>: Hosted a city-wide cleanup event within the River Valley with the aim of promoting a greener and cleaner city. Having youth participate in a clean up event encourages youth to take responsibility for creating a more sustainable Edmonton.</li> <li>• <i>Youth Community Involvement Webpage</i>: The addition and maintenance of "Youth Community Involvement" webpage on the CEYC website, sharing volunteer, scholarship, and professional development opportunities.</li> </ul> |

| Goal Three  |   |
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| Provide youth with opportunities for meaningful participation in local government |   |
| <b>Key Results</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide opportunities for youth in Edmonton to participate and provide insight to CEYC.</li> </ul> |

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|                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Recruit CEYC membership to reflect a diverse array of youth with varying identities and life experiences.</li> <li>● Actively engage with youth outside of CEYC on issues as they pertain to youth experience.</li> <li>● Engage with the City Council on a number of policy related decisions from a youth perspective.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Summary of Progress</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Youth at Large:</i> The inclusion of additional youth to participate in CEYC activities and projects who are not part of the official CEYC recruitment process. Currently, there are roughly 60 YAL.</li> <li>● <i>School Visits:</i> Visits to junior and high schools across Edmonton allow the committee to present on the work of CEYC and recruit members. This initiative has gained traction in increasing exposure for the committee.</li> <li>● <i>Demographics Survey:</i> Annual membership survey considering the demographics of CEYC membership. Data is used to inform what schools CEYC goes to for promotion and informs gaps in the community for recruitment processes.</li> <li>● <i>Engagement Initiative:</i> Wrote a letter to Council on the Public Spaces Bylaw, and had five members speak at Council, providing a youth perspective on the proposed changes. This initiative is ongoing and plans to be responsive to council reports and policy discussions.</li> </ul> |

In addition, the following was also completed by CEYC:

- **May 25, 2023:** Member Wellbeing Event: Anxiety and Burnout
- **Spring 2023:** Hosted Anti-Racism Summits focus groups to gain feedback and insights into W P Wagner's Anti-Racism Summits.
- **Spring 2023:** Social Media workshop with social media consultant, Parados. Content intended to help youth strategize, curate, and promote their social media profiles.
- **June 7, 2023:** Networking opportunity between CEYC and Enoch Youth Advisory Council with Mayor Sohi.
- **October 2023:** Diversity and Inclusion, along with GBA+ training with City Administration.
- **December 2023:** Strategic Planning session with chairs and VCMs.
- **January 2024:** Open conversations: Houselessness
- **February 2024:** Provided youth perspective on Bylaw 20700: Public Spaces Bylaw by speaking to Council and media engagement. Our media coverage included an opinion piece in the Edmonton Journal and interviews on CBC, 630 CHED, and City News.

- **February 17, 2024:** Indigenous Youth Artistry Spotlight - CEYC hosted an event at the Stanley Milner Library downtown featuring art by an Indigenous Youth and Dialogue with an Indigenous Elder in a reconciliatory effort.

## 2023 Meeting Summary – Key Topics and Motions Meeting Summary

| Meeting               | Summary - Key Topics and Motions  |
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| <b>Standing Items</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Councillor Updates</li> <li>● Chair Updates</li> <li>● Administration Updates</li> <li>● Subcommittee Chair Updates (Projects, Policy, Internal)</li> </ul>  |
| <b>May</b>            | <p><b>Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Member Wellbeing Event</li> </ul> <p><b>Presentations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Internal Presentation:</i> Demographics Survey of CEYC members</li> </ul>   |
| <b>June</b>           | <p><b>Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mayor Sohi’s Welcome Remarks and Q&amp;A</li> <li>● Networking with Enoch Youth Advisory Council</li> </ul> <p><b>Presentations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● External Presentation: Enoch Youth Advisory Council</li> </ul>   |
| <b>September</b>      | <p><b>Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Election for VCM executive positions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Speeches and voting for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Co-Chairs, Internal Subcommittee, Projects Subcommittee, and Policy Subcommittee.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |
| <b>October</b>        | <p><b>Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Election for VCM executive positions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Speeches and voting for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Co-Chairs positions for Internal Subcommittee, Projects Subcommittee, and Policy Subcommittee</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● Subcommittee purpose and recruitment</li> </ul> |
| <b>November</b>       | <p><b>Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Initiative Proposal:</i> Youth Community Involvement Webpage</li> </ul>   |

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|                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subcommittee participant selection</li> <li>• Indigenous allyship and reconciliation</li> <li>• Social media platform strategy</li> <li>• Recognition awards</li> </ul> <p><b>Presentations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Administration Presentation:</i> Governance Review and Bylaw Amendments - Office of the City Clerks</li> </ul> <p><b>Motions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Passed:</i> To approve the Youth Community Involvement Webpage initiative.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>December</b> | <p><b>Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Initiative Proposal:</i> CEYC Handbook</li> <li>• <i>Initiative Proposal:</i> Membership Wellbeing</li> <li>• <i>Initiative Proposal:</i> Seminar on Life Skills</li> <li>• <i>Initiative Proposal:</i> Clothing Drive/Swap</li> <li>• CEYC's use of social media, world events response</li> </ul> <p><b>Presentations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Administration Presentation:</i> The City Plan</li> </ul> <p><b>Motions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Passed:</i> To approve the CEYC Handbook initiative</li> <li>• <i>Passed:</i> To approve the Membership Wellbeing initiative</li> <li>• <i>Passed:</i> To approve the Seminar on Life Skills initiative</li> <li>• <i>Passed:</i> To approve the Clothing Swap/Drive initiative</li> </ul>  |
| <b>January</b>  | <p><b>Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Initiative Proposal:</i> Social Media initiative</li> <li>• <i>Initiative Proposal:</i> Council Networking initiative</li> <li>• <i>Initiative Proposal:</i> Youth Clean-Up initiative</li> <li>• <i>Initiative Proposal:</i> Anti-Racism initiative</li> <li>• <i>Initiative Proposal:</i> Policy Engagement initiative</li> <li>• <i>Initiative Proposal:</i> Community Safety initiative</li> <li>• Reconciliation Event: Indigenous Youth Artistry Spotlight</li> </ul> <p><b>Motions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Passed:</i> To approve the Social Media initiative</li> <li>• <i>Passed:</i> To approve the Council Networking initiative</li> <li>• <i>Passed:</i> To approve the Youth Clean-Up initiative</li> <li>• <i>Passed:</i> To approve the Anti-Racism initiative</li> <li>• <i>Passed:</i> To approve the Policy Engagement initiative</li> <li>• <i>Passed:</i> To approve the Community Safety initiative</li> </ul> |
| <b>February</b> | <p><b>Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CEYC's response to external affairs procedure</li> </ul>   |

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|              | <p><b>Presentations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Policy Subcommittee Presentation:</i> Public Spaces Bylaw</li> <li>• <i>External Presenter (Neurolim):</i> Seminar on Life Skills initiative</li> </ul> <p><b>Motions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Passed:</i> To approve CEYC's Public Spaces Bylaw response letter.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>March</b> | <p><b>Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Event Tracking Forms</li> <li>• CEYC response to external affairs procedure, continuation</li> </ul>  |
| <b>April</b> | <p><b>Presentations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Administration Presentation:</i> Priority Growth Area Rezoning</li> <li>• <i>Administration Presentation:</i> Community Safety and Wellbeing</li> </ul> <p><b>Motions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Passed:</i> To approve a working group to continue drafting CEYC's External Affairs Response procedure with the aim of bringing it back to the May General Assembly for further discussion and/or approval.</li> </ul> |

## Membership and Appointment Information

| City of Edmonton Youth Council (CEYC)<br>2023-24 Membership List |                 |              |          |
|--|-----------------|--------------|----------|
| Name of Appointee  | First Appointed | Term Ends    | Max Term |
| Sayem Ali Ahmed  | Sep 1, 2021     | Aug 31, 2024 | 2029     |
| Reetu Arvikar - Co-Chair   | Oct 19, 2020    | Aug 31, 2024 | 2028     |
| Thomas Beschell  | Sep 1, 2021     | Aug 31, 2024 | 2029     |
| Kenton Francis Cardinal  | Sep 1, 2023     | Aug 31, 2024 | 2031     |
| Jarod Chiasson   | Sep 1, 2022     | Aug 31, 2024 | 2030     |
| Speena Dalal   | Sep 1, 2023     | Aug 31, 2024 | 2031     |
| Adrian Frost   | Sep 1, 2022     | Aug 31, 2024 | 2030     |
| Alain Humura   | Sep 1, 2022     | Aug 31, 2024 | 2030     |

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|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|------|
| Ryan Jacques             | Sep 1, 2019  | Aug 31, 2024 | 2027 |
| Harsehaj Kaur            | Sep 1, 2023  | Aug 31, 2024 | 2031 |
| Ben Magalnick            | Sep 1, 2022  | Aug 31, 2024 | 2030 |
| Dominic Mao              | Sep 1, 2022  | Aug 31, 2024 | 2030 |
| Lakshmi Peddi - Co-Chair | Oct 19, 2020 | Aug 31, 2024 | 2028 |
| Angelina Raina           | Sep 1, 2022  | Aug 31, 2024 | 2030 |
| Moneek Sandhu            | Sep 1, 2022  | Aug 31, 2024 | 2030 |
| Irshad Sayed             | Oct 19, 2020 | Aug 31, 2024 | 2028 |
| Hansen Shu               | Sep 1, 2021  | Aug 31, 2024 | 2029 |
| Pram Thennakoonwela      | Oct 19, 2020 | Aug 31, 2024 | 2028 |
| Emily Yang               | Sep 1, 2023  | Aug 31, 2024 | 2031 |
| David Yao                | Sep 1, 2022  | Aug 31, 2024 | 2030 |

## Reports and Communications

### Reports by CEYC to Council:

1. EXT02022 - Youth Perspectives on Transit in Edmonton: An Analytical Report of Ongoing Transit Issues From the Youth Lens Presentation and Background, - September 25, 2023

### Correspondence submitted to Council:

1. Bylaw 20700: Public Spaces Bylaw, Submitted February 9, 2024, Item 6.1 for February 14, 2024, City Council (Non-Regular).

### CEYC requests to speak to a Standing Committee of Council:

1. February 14, 2024, City Council (Non-Regular), Item 6.1, Bylaw 20700: Public Spaces Bylaw, 5 members spoke.

## Concluding Remarks

The CEYC's accomplishments throughout the past year have undoubtedly been impressive. Regardless of who holds the executive chair position, the hard work of the 20 Voting Committee Members, our 6 subcommittee co-chairs, and the over 60 Youth-at-Large members are the force that make CEYC the welcoming and driven advisory committee it is today. It has been truly inspiring to witness the growth and collaboration that has flourished within our council.

Our goals to mobilize youth, empower youth, and provide meaningful opportunities for participation in local government are consistently met every year. From advocating for important municipal issues to empowering youth through education and engagement, we have made a tangible impact on our community and demonstrated the power of youth voices in shaping the future of Edmonton. Whether this be through our Indigenous Youth Artistry Spotlight event or our STEM workshops, youth councillors strive to make meaningful and tangible impacts in a variety of sectors of the city. Our networking expands beyond simply CEYC members, we continue to build reconciliation efforts through our collaboration with the Enoch Cree Youth Council and carry out school visits to further expand our council's demographic. The success of these initiatives not only gives back to our local community but provides the youth of Edmonton a place to connect, bond, and be inspired by like-minded individuals.

Each year, we strive to accomplish our mission, to educate and empower youth to provide meaningful youth input and take action on local issues and municipal politics. The CEYC has been representing the views of youth aged 13-23 since 1995 and we are more than eager to witness the impactful work CEYC will continue to achieve in the future!

The City of Edmonton Youth Council's Executive Co-Chairs,  
Reetu Arvikar & Lakshmi Peddi