

# EDMONTON'S COMMUNITY LEARNING ACTION PLAN

EDMONTON'S COMMITMENT  
UNESCO GLOBAL NETWORK  
OF LEARNING CITIES  
2021-2031





#### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The City of Edmonton acknowledges the traditional land on which it resides is in Treaty 6 Territory. We thank the diverse Indigenous Peoples whose ancestors' footsteps have marked this territory for centuries, such as the nêhiyaw (Cree), Dené, Anishinaabe (Saulteaux), Nakota Isga (Nakota Sioux) and Niitsitapi (Blackfoot) peoples. We also acknowledge this as the Métis' homeland and the home of the largest communities of Inuit south of the 60<sup>th</sup> parallel. It is a welcoming place for all peoples who come from around the world to share Edmonton as a home. Together, we call upon all of our collective, honoured traditions and spirits to work in building a great city for today and future generations.

## EDMONTON'S COMMITMENT TO UNESCO GLOBAL NETWORK OF LEARNING CITIES

**LOCATED WITHIN THE TREATY 6 TERRITORY, EDMONTON OWES ITS STRENGTH AND VIBRANCY TO THESE LANDS AND THE DIVERSE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WHOSE ANCESTORS' FOOTSTEPS HAVE MARKED THIS TERRITORY FOR CENTURIES. WE ALSO OWE OUR CITY TO THE MANY SETTLERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD WHO MADE THIS PLACE THEIR HOME AND CONTINUE TO DO SO TO THIS DAY.**

With nearly one million people, Edmonton has one of Canada's youngest populations by median age, and is one of the fastest growing cities. With Edmonton's characteristic openness, everyone is encouraged to make our community better, and everyone can play a part in the collective ambition of shaping and transforming their city.

Edmonton's economy is one of the most diverse in Canada, with leadership in technology, artificial intelligence, agribusiness and health sciences. The highly skilled workforce and a unique desire to collaborate drives our success. Home to eight major post-secondary institutions with 100,000 enrolled students, Edmonton is preparing the next generation of leaders in business, arts, culture, science and social innovation.

Edmonton boasts the largest urban parkland in North America, which can be enjoyed in up to 18 hours of sunlight during the summer months. This wondrous nature reinforces why we are striving to be a world leader in protecting the environment for generations to come.

Diversity, rich culture and arts, and a strong social fabric add to Edmonton's strengths. We value quality of life, community safety and a welcoming spirit that embraces new people and new ideas.

As part of this, the city of Edmonton promotes lifelong learning through its relationships and partnerships with other organizations. A large ecosystem of government, post-secondary institutions, school boards, arts, not-for-profits, private business and citizens form an integrated network of a learning city.

Membership in the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities represents a valuable opportunity for our city and our citizens to connect with like-minded cities around the world as we celebrate Edmonton's commitment to lifelong learning and the many opportunities our community offers.

**Edmonton Community Learning Action Plan Steering Committee**

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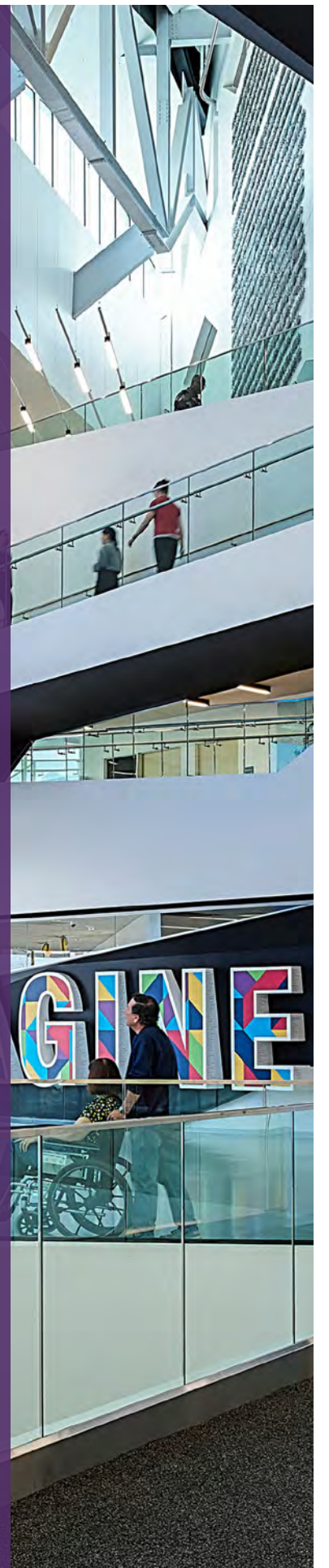
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**EDMONTON  
A LEARNING CITY**



OUR AMBITION IS TO ATTRACT A MILLION MORE PEOPLE OVER THE COMING FEW DECADES — TO OUR CITY OF EAGER LEARNERS, ENERGETICALLY LOOKING TO EMBRACE NEW IDEAS, EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES, AND WAYS OF WORKING AND LEARNING.

## LETTER FROM THE MAYOR & COUNCIL

**IT IS WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM THAT I WRITE TO YOU TODAY WITH MY FORMAL ENDORSEMENT OF EDMONTON'S APPLICATION TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE UNESCO GLOBAL NETWORK OF LEARNING CITIES (GNLC).**



Edmonton is a young, vibrant city with exceptional education opportunities for all. We are highly regarded for our commitment to social inclusion and to collaborative partnerships that form the foundation for our strong ecosystem for learning, development and creative innovation.

Our ambition is to attract a million more people over the coming few decades — to our city of eager learners, energetically looking to embrace new ideas, emerging technologies, and ways of working and learning. These opportunities will see Edmonton continue to be a welcoming and thriving place.

I believe it is our openness, cultural diversity and our curiosity that make Edmonton an excellent candidate for this program. Becoming the first Canadian member of UNESCO's Global Network of Learning Cities is a natural progression for Edmonton, building on our strengths across sectors, including the Edmonton Public Library's City of Learners program that began in 2008. On top of having an internationally recognized K-12 public education system, Edmonton is also home to seven post-secondary institutions. These institutions are hubs for students from around the world, and are dedicated to community engagement, community-based research, teaching and learning. With a strong commitment to collaborating across the system, there are many shared initiatives underway, including the recent partnership between the University of Alberta and the Yellowhead Tribal College for an Indigenous industry relations program.

Edmontonians are committed to addressing the greatest challenges of our time — exemplified by the work of one of the most recent Nobel Laureates, Dr. Michael Houghton, for his work in virology at the University of Alberta. The future of our city, our region, and our global community means it is crucial that we continue to work towards the UN's Sustainability Goals to promote social cohesion, inclusive learning and high quality, equitable education within families and communities. We would look forward to working with the international network of member cities to address these challenges and opportunities, to ensure that future generations are empowered to solve problems and create a stronger, more diversified economy that creates employment opportunities for all.

A strong education that is accessible to everyone and a lifelong commitment to learning are both fundamental to the health and well-being of every successful society. With the development of the Community Learning Action Plan and partnership with community stakeholders, Edmonton is a strong candidate for the Global Network of Learning Cities. Further partnerships and global collaborations will not only expand our own capacity, but will also help demonstrate what is possible to other regions and the world.

Once again, I enthusiastically endorse Edmonton's application to the Global Network of Learning Cities. We are already leaders in education and sustainability, and are ready and willing to continue to collaborate with other municipalities globally as we build our city into a thriving home for two million people.

Amarjeet Sohi - Mayor

A. Sohi



**A VITAL PART OF THIS IS WHAT EDMONTON HAS BUILT, AND CONTINUES TO BUILD AS A LEARNING CITY. A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE OF ALL AGES EMBRACE LIFELONG LEARNING AS FUNDAMENTAL TO THEIR PERSONAL WELL-BEING AND TO THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS AS COMMUNITY MEMBERS.**

## EDMONTON'S HEART IS OUR PEOPLE

**WE WORK TOGETHER TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS WHERE EVERYONE HAS WHAT THEY NEED TO SUCCEED.**

We are inspired by and grateful for our collective ancestors who continue to guide our way. They inspire us to learn, steward this shared place and build the meaning of our lives here.

In Edmonton, we plant ideas. Together, we grow businesses and communities and neighbourhoods. We get stuff done here. Edmontonians see their efforts and ideals reflected back to them in a city that enables and encourages people to connect. This commitment turns new ideas into solutions for our communities, which we take to the world.

Edmonton is a community where we plan our future together.

A vital part of this is what Edmonton has built, and continues to build as a learning city. A place where people of all ages embrace lifelong learning as fundamental to their personal well-being and to their contributions as community members.

### COMMUNITY AND GOVERNANCE

#### SPONSOR

City of Edmonton (City Council and Administration)

#### STEERING COMMITTEE

City of Edmonton

Edmonton Public Library

School Boards / Divisions

Post-Secondary Provosts Coalition

#### COALITION OF SUPPORTERS

Organizations who are champions by sharing data, advising on current strengths and growth opportunities that align with their mandates, and help to promote Edmonton as a learning city.

#### UNESCO LEARNING CITY COMMITMENTS

Empowering individuals and promoting **social inclusion**

Enhancing **economic** development and **cultural prosperity**

Promoting **sustainable development**

Promoting **inclusive learning** in the education system

Revitalizing learning in **families and communities**

Facilitating learning for and in the **workplace**

Extending the use of modern learning **technologies**

Enhancing **quality** in learning

Fostering a **culture of learning** throughout life

Strengthening **political will** and commitment

Improving **governance and participation** of all stakeholders

Boosting **resource mobilization and utilization**

## OUR PEOPLE, OUR COMMUNITY

The traditional Indigenous name of Edmonton is amiskwaciy-wāskahikan, meaning Beaver Hills House in the Cree language. This place was the traditional meeting ground for many Indigenous communities, including the Cree, Saulteaux, Nakota Sioux, Blackfoot and the Métis Peoples. Edmonton became a fur trading hub during the 18th and 19th centuries and has grown into a government, economic and cultural centre for the region.

The City of Edmonton and our community partners are committed to growing healthy relationships with Indigenous governments and communities in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region through initiatives like the **Indigenous Framework**. The University of Alberta is also home to the Faculty of Native Studies, the only faculty of its kind in Canada. Their leading work includes the course, "Indigenous Canada," a free online resource that has been among the most popular in Canada. This commitment to indigenous culture, including teaching and learning is mirrored across our community.

The Edmonton community, which represents approximately one million people, is one of the youngest and fastest growing cities in Canada. Immigrants make up a quarter of the city's population, speaking more than 125 languages and bringing rich cultural traditions for all to experience.

**FOSTERING A CULTURE OF LEARNING IS ESSENTIAL TO SUPPORT THESE GOALS, DRIVE INNOVATION AND TO STAY AT THE FOREFRONT OF TECHNOLOGICAL AND ENTREPRENEURIAL CHANGE.**

## EDMONTON'S STRATEGIC GOALS

**ConnectEdmonton** is Edmonton's strategic plan for 2019 to 2028 and has four strategic goals set by Edmonton's City Council: Healthy City, Urban Places, Regional Prosperity and Climate Resilience. This plan outlines how Edmonton will build prosperity within our Metro Region by driving innovation, competitiveness and relevance for our businesses at the local and global level.

Fostering a culture of learning is essential to support these goals, drive innovation and to stay at the forefront of technological and entrepreneurial change. In fact, one of the ways we measure this strategic goal is to track the percentage of our region's labour force who have attained a certificate or degree as the highest level of education. As of 2015, 56 per cent of the Albertan workforce had a post-secondary education. By 2025, that number is expected to grow to 64 per cent. Education is balanced across genders and by 2025, it is expected that 64.7 per cent of Albertan women and 64.1 per cent of men will have a post-secondary education (**Alberta's Supply Outlook Model, 2019-2028**).

And as a Healthy City, *Edmonton is a neighbourly city with community and personal wellness that embodies and promotes equity for all Edmontonians*. There is a well-established correlation between access to education and individual physical health. Education is not just another door to open; it is a key that opens all the other doors.

**The City Plan** is Edmonton's municipal development and transportation master plan. It provides strategic direction and describes the choices the City of Edmonton has to make to be a healthy, urban and climate resilient city of two million people, all supporting a prosperous region.

**EDMONTON IS READY TO WELCOME THE WORLD. THE FUTURE, FOR ONE MILLION MORE, IS AT HOME IN EDMONTON. EDMONTON IS THE NORTHERNMOST BIG CITY IN NORTH AMERICA AND HAS A KEY LEADERSHIP ROLE TO PLAY IN PROVINCIAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONTEXTS.**



**EDMONTON MUST CONTINUOUSLY STRIVE TO BE A CENTRE OF INNOVATION,** CREATIVITY AND TECHNOLOGY, HARNESSING AND FUELING OUR CITY'S GROWING PASSION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP. EXISTING AND EMERGING PARTNERSHIPS WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR ONGOING PROSPERITY. DELIBERATE EFFORTS MUST BE MADE TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE BUSINESSES, ACADEMIC AND HEALTH INSTITUTIONS, THE ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY CAN MEET, COLLABORATE AND DRIVE ONE ANOTHER ON.

City Plan

## A CITY IN TRANSITION

**WHILE EMBRACING BOTH GROWTH AND A TRANSITIONING OIL AND GAS ECONOMY, EDMONTON HAS MANY LEARNING CITY STRENGTHS THAT MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES TO EMBRACE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES. THIS IS FUNDAMENTAL TO THEIR PERSONAL WELL-BEING AND TO THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS AS COMMUNITY MEMBERS.**

The **Edmonton Census Metropolitan Area** is an economic powerhouse, generating \$95 billion (CAD) in GDP annually. The city is a staging point for large-scale oil sands and mining projects occurring in northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories and is the sixth largest metropolitan region in Canada.

Edmonton's learning city strengths and assets have been built up over many years of strong public support. As an energy sector hub, the Province of Alberta invested a portion of its significant royalties into public education. As a result, Edmonton has some of the finest public primary and secondary schools, universities, colleges and trade and technical schools in the country, as well as an innovative and internationally recognized public library system. This is the foundation of Edmonton as a learning city.

### DIVERSIFYING OUR ECONOMY – EDMONTON'S BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH STRENGTHS.

*I'm particularly pleased I got it while i'm working at the University of Alberta. There are many fine minds and i see, in the time I've been there, a willingness to translate their science into social benefits. I see that all the time. The University of Alberta, with its intellect and its experience, can really generate a vibrant biotech industry.*  
(Dr. Michael Houghton – Transforming Edmonton)

As an indication of this ongoing public sector support for learning, the Alberta Government's Building Skills for Jobs initiative is supporting a transformation of adult learning to focus on providing high quality education, skills and training needed for Alberta's future ([Alberta.ca 2030](http://Alberta.ca 2030)).

### THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA IS LAUNCHING A MICRO-CREDENTIAL PILOT GRAM TO RESKILL OR UPGRADE SKILLS FOR WORKERS.

*Alberta will invest \$5.6M into the program, which will focus on careers in priority sectors and high-demand or emerging industries, including machine learning, artificial intelligence, solar energy, animation, and data privacy and security. Athabasca University has received over \$1M through the program to support the development of three online, on-demand micro-credentials. "We must do everything we can to ensure albertans have access to a wide range of learning options that meet them where they are and lead to great careers when they graduate," said Advanced Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaidis. [alberta.ca](http://alberta.ca)*

**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA VIROLOGIST, DR. MICHAEL HOUGHTON, WAS AWARDED THE 2020 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSIOLOGY OR MEDICINE IN RECOGNITION OF HIS DISCOVERY OF THE HEPATITIS C (HCV) VIRUS.**

University of Alberta Folio

## THE ROLE OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT IN A UNESCO LEARNING CITY

The City of Edmonton has a broad mandate to deliver essential services to the public and create a vibrant city where people want to live and grow. Although the City of Edmonton is not directly an education provider, the government has an important role in setting the conditions and policies that enable day-to-day quality of life of Edmontonians, including work related to economic development, housing, anti-racism, and learning.

The City of Edmonton promotes learning and the strategic goals of inclusive, sustainable economic prosperity and collective health by being a partner, a connector and a catalyst. To give an example, the City of Edmonton does not operate schools, but it does operate a number of unique attractions, including **Fort Edmonton Park** and the **Edmonton Valley Zoo**. These institutions offer tremendous learning opportunities and have staff who are passionate teachers for children and adults alike. Working with the school districts, these attractions become venues for many co-operative programs to support learners.

Edmonton is also fortunate to have public educators who are constantly partnering with the local government to create innovative learning spaces. Programs like **City Hall School** provide opportunities for thousands of kids from preschool to high school to learn about their government and community.

*City Hall School, a partnership with Edmonton Public Schools, is an Inquiring Minds Site – part of the innovative beyond the classroom NETWORK that gives teachers the opportunity to move their classrooms into the rich world beyond the school so that learning becomes deeper. Week-long experiences in such sites as museums, zoos, city halls and nature centres are ideal catalysts for the “habits of mind” that help students to be the creative, curious, thoughtful members of the public that our world needs.*

## OUR PLACE IN THE WORLD

The North Saskatchewan River Valley parks system, also known as the Ribbon of Green, winds its way along the North Saskatchewan River and through the heart of the city. The River Valley is a natural wildlife corridor, featuring natural areas, paved and natural trails, and amenities while also supporting a high level of biodiversity.

The park system encompasses more than 7,300 hectares (18,000 acres) of parkland, making it the largest contiguous area of urban parkland in the country. The park system is made up of more than 30 provincial and municipal parks situated around the river from Devon to Fort Saskatchewan, with trails connecting most of the parks together.

In 1996, the **River Valley Alliance (RVA)** was formed to coordinate the development of the park system across the metropolitan region. Community education programs like the **John Janzen Nature Centre**, summer camp programs at post-secondaries, **Edmonton Valley Zoo**, **Muttart Conservatory**, **River Valley Alliance**, **Aurora Watch**, and **Root for Trees** provide Edmontonians with opportunities to experience nature and learn about sustainability in the context of our natural ecosystems.



**EDMONTON'S RIVER VALLEY FORMS THE LONGEST STRETCH OF CONNECTED URBAN PARKLAND IN NORTH AMERICA AND HAS THE HIGHEST PER CAPITA AREA OF PARKLAND OF ANY CANADIAN CITY.**

(flyeia.com)



**THE NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER VALLEY PARKS SYSTEM, ALSO KNOWN AS THE RIBBON OF GREEN, WINDS ITS WAY ALONG THE NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER AND THROUGH THE HEART OF THE CITY.**

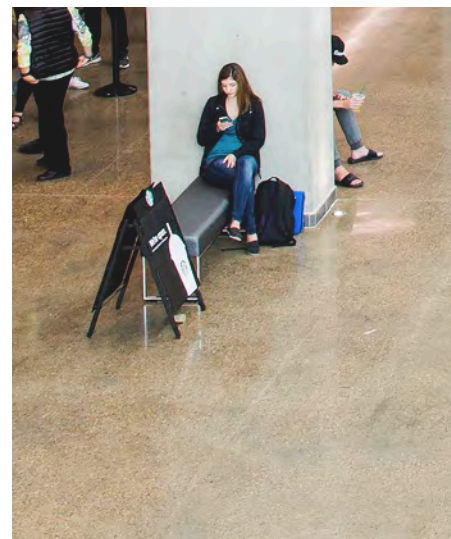


## REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS

Edmonton is located within a 35 minute drive of **Elk Island National Park**, a natural preserve for bison, Elk and more than 250 bird species. The **Beaver Hills Biosphere** is also located close to the city and Elk Island Park. The Biosphere was designated on March 19, 2016 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). This is a global recognition of a collective commitment by the communities within the region to celebrate and advance knowledge, culture, nature and economy together.

As the largest northern city in North America, Edmonton is situated on the edge of the northern boreal forest. Canada's boreal forest covers 270 million hectares and this natural area stores carbon, purifies the air and water, and regulates our climate. Because a large portion of the world's boreal zone lies in Canada, it affects the health of the environment worldwide.

**Jasper National Park** and **Banff National Park** are also easily accessible to Edmontonians. Jasper is the largest national park in the Canadian Rockies and designated as a Dark Sky Preserve by the **Royal Astronomical Society in Canada**. Banff National Park was Canada's first national park and the flagship of the nation's park system. Banff attracts more than three million visitors every year from all over the world. Jasper and Banff are also part of the **Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks UNESCO World Heritage Site**.



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA'S **AURORA WATCH** PROVIDES REAL-TIME MONITORING OF GEOMAGNETIC ACTIVITY IN THE EDMONTON AREA - AS WELL AS THE LARGER ACTIVITY ALBERTA-WIDE. YOU CAN JOIN OVER 80,000 PEOPLE USING THEIR **FREE EMAIL ALERT SERVICE** TO KNOW IF THERE MAY BE AURORA VISIBLE TONIGHT.



EDUCATION IS BALANCED ACROSS GENDERS AND BY 2025, WE EXPECT 64.7 PER CENT OF ALBERTAN WOMEN AND 64.1 PER CENT OF MEN TO HAVE A POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION.



## BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH COLLABORATION, CONNECTION & CURIOSITY

**EDMONTON IS A THRIVING COMMUNITY OF COMMITTED LIFE-LONG LEARNING PARTNERS WORKING ACROSS SECTORS TO SUPPORT INCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL EDMONTONIANS.**

These initiatives reflect our current and aspirational goals for learning through life in support of our city's social, economic and cultural vibrancy.

### ANTI-RACISM

The Edmonton City Council established the **Anti-Racism Advisory Committee** (Bylaw 18970) in 2019 and approved funding of \$300,000 for anti-racism grants program to raise awareness of racism and its impact and have a greater understanding of how to take action to ensure Edmontonians work together to build a diverse, inclusive and equitable city.

In 2020, Edmonton's City Council held virtual hearings that took place over many days. One hundred and forty-two individuals expressed their perspectives about racism and safety in our city. The **Community Safety and Well-being Taskforce** was developed to create actionable recommendations for the Edmonton City Council regarding the future of community safety and well-being in the city that are anti-racist (**Bylaw 19407**). After additional research, community consultations and learning, the task force developed the **Safer for All** report with 14 recommendations that fundamentally address systemic racism in our city. This work is continuing to evolve – all underscored by a deep commitment to seeking out, listening to and learning from diverse voices.

### EQUITY & INCLUSION

The Edmonton Public Library (EPL) has also been a leader in the provision of equitable services. Libraries are open to all, with free library cards which provides access to countless in-person and online resources. EPL has a community-based service model where trained social workers on staff work with people from all backgrounds and walks of life and empower them through literacy, education, connections and social support. EPL is a safe and friendly space where people can find programs for social support to manage life challenges. EPL was awarded a 2015 American Library Association Presidential Citation for the program, and has presented both nationally and internationally on the service.

THESE INITIATIVES REFLECT OUR CURRENT AND ASPIRATIONAL GOALS FOR LEARNING THROUGH LIFE IN SUPPORT OF OUR CITY'S SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL VIBRANCY.

## POVERTY

EndPovertyEdmonton (EPE) is a community initiative working towards prosperity for all through advancing reconciliation, the elimination of racism, livable incomes, affordable housing, accessible and affordable transit, affordable and quality child care, and access to mental health services and addiction supports. EPE is supported by the City of Edmonton, the Edmonton Community Foundation and the United Way of Edmonton.

One in eight Edmontonians, many of them children, live in poverty ([endpovertyedmonton.ca](http://endpovertyedmonton.ca)). The **2021 Vital Signs Report** by the Edmonton Community Foundation highlighted that most low-wage earners are adults. From July 2017 to June 2018, an average of 117,300 adults in Edmonton earned less than a living wage.

Edmonton has a number of not-for-profit organizations that focus on educating the public and supporting initiatives to create a community response to eradicate poverty in our city. Several initiatives have been activated in the city such as the **Poverty Elimination Council Initiative** to ensure the implementation of 18 City-led actions including actively encouraging local employers in all sectors to learn about and implement living wage policies.

EPL is the largest lender of free material that is accessible to all Edmontonians. Millions of items are borrowed each year. In 2020, EPL's board abolished late fees, eliminating the financial barrier some customers face to accessing information and resources.

Not-for-profit organizations mobilize collective action to lift people out of poverty. By educating the public about the realities of poverty, people of all ages are empowered and committed to be part of the solution. The **United Way Alberta Capital Region** reported 10,637 volunteers that committed 393,364 hours of service which resulted in 257,256 people who were supported in 2019.

Educating the public about the realities of poverty also continues in a number of ways such as an **online poverty simulation**. This unique experience helped challenge perceptions, change perspectives and strengthen understanding and empathy. The simulation replicated a month in the life of a family living in poverty and challenged participants to provide basic needs to their family with a limited income.

Initiatives aimed directly at intervening in the early years include programs within inner city elementary and high schools, aimed at increasing high school completion rates. High school completion can mean the difference between living in poverty and not. Removing barriers to learning includes mentoring, nutritional support, success coaching, before and after school programs, family and mental health supports.

The global pandemic has also taken a toll on the workforce, particularly with people who identify as women. Women with children under the age of six account for 66 per cent of the exit from the labour force and other women may be choosing not to go back to work due to childcare responsibilities. About 53 per cent of those living in poverty in Edmonton are women. It is important to understand the intersectional impact of women. For example, racialized women, newcomers and Indigenous women are often more severely impacted by poverty.

The global pandemic also had a greater impact on low income families and children when schools were closed and the world turned to online learning as they lacked access to the technology needed to continue their education. The United Way Alberta Capital Region, the Edmonton Community Foundation, and the Muttart Foundation donated more than 400 Chromebooks to students in April 2020 to address this technology gap.



### UNITED WAY'S ALL IN FOR YOUTH (AIFY) PROGRAM

**1,471** STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES ACCESSED AIFY SUPPORTS, WHICH REPRESENTS **66** PER CENT OF THE POPULATIONS ACROSS THE FIVE SCHOOLS

**51** PER CENT OF STUDENTS WERE MALE AND **49** PER CENT WERE FEMALE

**30** PER CENT OF STUDENTS WERE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

**11** PER CENT OF STUDENTS WERE REFUGEES

**24** PER CENT OF STUDENTS WERE FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS OR INUIT

**13** PER CENT OF STUDENTS HAD SPECIAL NEEDS



A NUMBER OF OTHER **NOT-FOR-PROFIT AGENCIES** ARE ALSO HOLDING MENSTRUAL PRODUCT DRIVES AND CREATING PANTRIES FOR THE COMMUNITY TO ACCESS FREE PERIOD PRODUCTS.

## GENDER EQUALITY AND PERIOD POVERTY

*Two-thirds of females aged 14 to 55 in Canada have had to miss out on an activity due to concerns about not being able to access menstrual hygiene products. (PlanCanada.ca)*

*In April 2021, the City of Edmonton announced that menstrual products would be available for free in all women's and gender-inclusive bathrooms at city-operated facilities. The **Edmonton Public School Board** also announced that period products would be made free in **Edmonton Public Schools**. The **Government of Alberta** committed to provide **\$260,000** to the United Way to distribute free menstrual hygiene products in schools.*

Despite the added pressures faced in 2020 with the global pandemic and economic downturn, the Edmonton area raised a collective total of \$34.4 million to support the region. This figure includes federal and provincial one-time funding of \$9.8 million for COVID-19 relief and \$24.6 million raised through local efforts to support social inclusion, mental health, food security, and technology to low income, women and girls, children and youth, seniors and elders, and racialized communities.

**A CITY THAT LOOKS OUT FOR ITS MOST VULNERABLE IS A CITY THAT SUCCEEDS.**

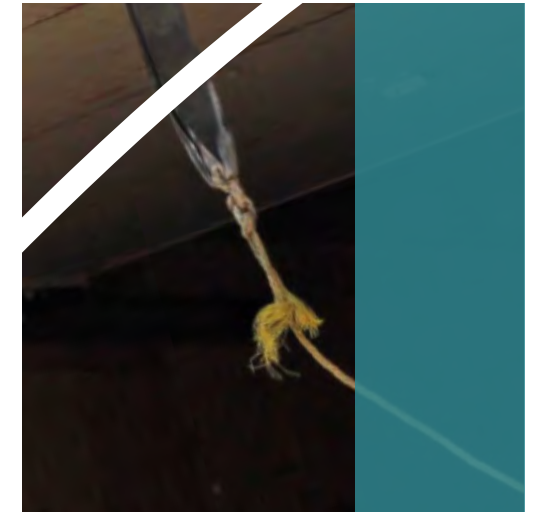
Mayor Don Iveson



**ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY TO SUPPORT LEARNING – ATB DONATES \$100,000 TO GET LAPTOPS TO STUDENTS IN NEED:**

*“Access to technology is something many of us may take for granted, but there are Albertans who don't have access to the same opportunities because they don't have reliable access to digital tools like laptops to do school work from home”*

Rob Yager, CEO & President, United Way Alberta Capital Region (ATB news release, April 20, 2021).





UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA'S INDIGENOUS CANADA, A MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSE (MOOC) IS A FREE COURSE DEVELOPED BY THE FACULTY OF NATIVE STUDIES, CANADA'S ONLY STAND-ALONE FACULTY. ANYONE CAN TAKE INDIGENOUS CANADA THROUGH COURSERA TO LEARN MORE ABOUT INDIGENOUS HISTORIES AND CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN CANADA.

**YELLOWHEAD TRIBAL COLLEGE** IS EDMONTON'S ONLY FIRST NATIONS COLLEGE. THEY PURSUE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE WHILE PRESERVING AND PROMOTING INDIGENOUS CULTURE, LANGUAGES, AND TRADITIONS.



**INDIGENOUS LEARNING**

The **City of Edmonton's Indigenous Framework** is intended to answer the question: "How can the City of Edmonton best support and build strong relationships with Indigenous Peoples in Edmonton?"

On August 23, 1876, the Plains Cree, Woods Cree, Nakota, Saulteaux, and Dene people met with Crown representatives at Fort Carlton to enter into **Treaty No. 6**. For the Indigenous signatories, it was expected to be the beginning of a long successful relationship of peace, shared prosperity, responsibility and fostering of kinship. For over 150 years, Indigenous Peoples have lived through many injustices as evidenced by the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission**.

Indigenous Peoples have experienced significant disparity in the areas of education, health, and justice, and continue to face higher levels of poverty and homelessness. Despite these injustices, Indigenous Peoples have shown strength and resilience from which all Edmontonians can learn. As we continue to learn more about our Indigenous heritage, culture and practices, Elders and Knowledge Keepers are playing a vital role in Edmonton.

In 2021, the City of Edmonton worked with 17 Indigenous matriarchs to rename the 12 geographical wards of the city with traditional Indigenous names. The names were formally used during the 2021 municipal elections and provided an opportunity for the public to learn more about First Nations and the history of Edmonton and incorporate Indigenous words into their everyday language.

The **Indigenous Peoples Experience** at Fort Edmonton Park is an immersive and comprehensive exhibit. The exhibit explores the rich and beautiful cultures of First Nations and Métis Peoples while encouraging visitors to seek out the truths as lived by Indigenous Peoples before and after Canada became a country.

**THE CITY OF EDMONTON'S INDIGENOUS FRAMEWORK IS INTENDED TO ANSWER THE QUESTION: "HOW CAN THE CITY OF EDMONTON BEST SUPPORT AND BUILD STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN EDMONTON?"**

The Edmonton Public Library's **Elder in Residence** Program is another program that connects the public with Indigenous Elders. The Elder in Residence hosts weekly classes and programs centred on Indigenous knowledge and work to ensure that ceremony is an active part of our library system. Through classes, events and ceremonies, the library brings together people from all backgrounds to learn about Indigenous culture, protocol and processes.

**EDMONTON PUBLIC LIBRARY (EPL) COMMUNITY-LED PROGRAMS**

*Voices of Amiskwaciy is an Indigenous Digital Storytelling space that supports the community to create, share, discover and celebrate local Indigenous content online. It has now evolved into a province-wide initiative, Voices of the Land, which EPL continues to lead in concert with the Government of Alberta's Public Library Services Branch and more than 20 public libraries.*

*EPL's PĪYĒSĪW WĀSKĀHIKAN I Thunderbird House at the Stanley A. Milner Library is a dedicated space created in ceremony that supports Indigenous cultural learning with the support of EPL's Elder in Residence. As a community-led library system, PĪYĒSĪW W SK HIKAN will work with local Elders and Knowledge Keepers and Indigenous organizations to offer programming that is welcoming to Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.*

The history and stories of the peoples whose footsteps first marked this territory are crucial to understanding our heritage and respecting the land we live upon. Edmonton is committed to learning about the lasting impacts of residential schools, creating safe spaces for sharing stories and having conversations and creating opportunities to learn about Indigenous culture.



**THE HISTORY AND STORIES OF THE PEOPLES WHOSE FOOTSTEPS FIRST MARKED THIS TERRITORY ARE CRUCIAL TO UNDERSTANDING OUR HERITAGE AND RESPECTING THE LAND WE LIVE UPON.**



**PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

Alberta has more fully inclusive post-secondary opportunities for students with developmental disabilities than any other jurisdiction in the world. **Inclusion Alberta** has been partnering with post-secondary institutions across the province for more than 30 years so students with developmental disabilities can participate in regular programs of study and campus life.

*In 2021, NorQuest College launched the Autism CanTech! program to help youth with autism learn entry-level employability and technical skills for the digital economy in fields such as education, finance, government, software, or healthcare. This unique program takes a holistic approach to making employment in Canada more accessible and inclusive by working with both participants and employers to offer learners an education tailored to their individual needs.*

Currently there are more than 20 Alberta post-secondary institutions that include and support students with developmental disabilities.

### MENTAL HEALTH

Edmonton is a strong supporter of mental health. A free mental health helpline is available 24/7, in more than 170 languages, from any phone. By dialing or texting 211, community members have access to a free, confidential service that provides information and referrals to a wide range of community, social, health and government services. A number of agencies within the city hold awareness campaigns for the public to learn about these free services.

For example, the **Community Mental Health Action Plan** is a partnership of more than 50 organizations working to maximize support and services to all organizations addressing mental health and addiction in Edmonton and Alberta. This includes the implementation of the Mental Health Training Framework and the expansion of 211 across the province.

In the workplace, many employers also offer mental health training programs and awareness "lunch and learn" sessions. The Mental Health Commission of Canada has developed a number of training programs like **The Working Mind** and **Mental Health First Aid**. More than 500,000 Canadians have been trained since 2007. These programs are internationally recognized, and 25 countries are actively teaching these courses ([mhfa.ca](http://mhfa.ca)). The Edmonton Police Service and Edmonton Fire Rescue Services take the **Road to Mental Readiness (R2MR)** course to reduce the stigma of mental health and injury and increase personal and team resiliency. This course focuses on building awareness of mental illness and operational stress injuries.

Mental health and wellness are also part of Alberta's provincial curriculum. The **Edmonton Public School Board**, for example, collaborates with families and community and healthcare partners to create and maintain a culture of wellness in schools. The **Edmonton Catholic School Division** also has an extensive **Mental Health Strategic Plan** that prioritizes building the capacity of students and schools to achieve and maintain positive mental health and well-being.

### GENDER IDENTITY AND EXPRESSION

The **Edmonton Public School Board** was the first school jurisdiction in Alberta to develop a comprehensive stand-alone policy to support sexual and gender minority (LGBTQ) students, staff and families. The school board promotes welcoming, inclusive, safe and healthy working and learning environments for everyone, regardless of a person's actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

The University of Alberta Institute for **Sexual Minorities Studies & Services (ISMSS)** also brings together education, research, policy development, and community services in order to ensure that sexual and gender minorities are recognized and well served by their communities.

A number of community programs address gender identity and teach acceptance and resilience. Programs are offered for all students, teachers and staff from K-12 and post-secondary institutions. Other programs address systemic discrimination and focus on intersectionality of individuals identifying as 2SLGBTQ+.

**MACEWAN UNIVERSITY'S CENTRE FOR SEXUAL AND GENDER DIVERSITY** SUPPORTS RESEARCH, TEACHING AND SERVICE WORK RELATED TO SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY AND GENDER EXPRESSION ON CAMPUS AND IN THE COMMUNITY. SUPPORTED BY DR. KRISTOPHER WELLS, CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR (TIER II) FOR THE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF SEXUAL AND GENDER MINORITY YOUTH, THE CENTRE HELPS ENSURE MACEWAN HAS INCLUSIVE POLICIES TO ENCOURAGE THE FULL AND EQUITABLE PARTICIPATION OF SEXUAL AND GENDER MINORITIES ON CAMPUS AND IN SOCIETY.



**NORQUEST COLLEGE'S 1000 WOMEN MOVEMENT** REMOVES BARRIERS FOR LEARNERS. CURRENTLY THE MOVEMENT IS SUPPORTING 1000 WOMEN4STEM TO MAKE A **TRANSFORMATIONAL IMPACT ON THE NUMBER OF WOMEN IN STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH) IN ALBERTA.**



**EDMONTON TAKES A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO INNOVATION THAT INCLUDES:**

- HUMAN-CENTERED DESIGN TO DEVELOP NEW SOLUTIONS TO COMPLEX CHALLENGES WITH PEOPLE AT THE HEART OF THE PROCESS;
- LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY AND DATA TO EXPAND SERVICES AND REVEAL INSIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES;
- ESTABLISHING, ALIGNING, AND STRENGTHENING IMPACTFUL RELATIONSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS TO SOLVE CHALLENGES; AND
- POLICY AND PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS AND LEVERAGE MUNICIPAL TOOLS IN CREATIVE WAYS THAT RESULT IN BETTER PROBLEM SOLVING OF COMPLEX ISSUES.

**INNOVATION**

Innovation is critical to achieving Edmonton's goals and objectives, especially in today's social and economic environment.

**Social Innovation and Community Collaborations:**

**RECOVER**, with support from MacEwan University, invites organizations to come together to tackle complex societal problems with a cross discipline approach. With vulnerable populations at the centre of the work, RECOVER seeks to find and test solutions that strengthen inclusion and engage a variety of stakeholders in the system. Understanding the importance of co-creating, MacEwan supports fostering connections in the community, socializing concepts, and supporting community-based prototypes.

**EPL's Community-led Service Model** has established a partnership with Boyle Street Community Services, the Bissell Centre and Homeward Trust to help and empower at-risk Edmontonians through literacy, education, connections and social support. The Robert Tegler Trust Outreach Service is one of the award-winning programs offered through this model that supports people who visit EPL knowing it's a safe and friendly space. Clients of the program find social support and assistance needed to manage challenges and make lasting changes towards a better life.

**Elevating Futures** brings together six Edmonton-based post-secondary institutions (University of Alberta, Concordia University of Edmonton, The King's University, MacEwan University, NAIT, and NorQuest College) to present a first-of-its-kind initiative in Canada that empowers post-secondary students and faculty to address local poverty with a commitment to expand understanding, explore solutions and experience what we can accomplish together.



**INNOVATE EDMONTON**, A MUNICIPAL INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT INNOVATIVE AND NEW BUSINESSES, DELIVERS WEBINARS, GRANTS, OFFICE SPACE AND OTHER SERVICES TO THE CITY.

In terms of economic innovation, Edmonton was ranked #38 on the Tech Talent Top Markets in CBRE Ltd.'s 2021 report on North American tech talent markets and topped all markets with the highest growth this year. This is the first year Edmonton has been ranked in the top 50. The scorecard uses 13 metrics to measure each market's vitality, attractiveness to employers, and attractiveness to prospective employees.

This growth of innovation and talent is due in part to innovative teaching and learning applications in Edmonton's educational system, such as the Massive Open Online Courses that the University of Alberta has been leading since 2013.

**Yellowhead Tribal College and University of Alberta collaborated to co-deliver Indigenous Community Industry Relations Certificate to foster better relationships among government, industry and Indigenous communities. This agreement brings together the knowledge systems of both institutions, their expertise and wisdom in their respective teaching areas, and their desire to work together for the provision of continuing education. (ytc.ab.ca and ualberta.ca/folio).**

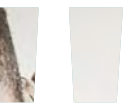
Edmonton is also home to the Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute (AMII), a global leader in machine learning. This research and training organization originated in the computing science department at the University of Alberta and is a global leader in machine intelligence, the intersection between machine learning and artificial intelligence.

Innovate Edmonton, a municipal initiative to support innovative and new businesses, delivers webinars, grants, office space and other services to the city. These supports were recently bolstered with local business grants from the City of Edmonton to help with navigating COVID. Together, these form a strong network of city learning and innovation.

The Edmonton Public Library also works to ensure everyone has equal opportunity to access both hands-on experiences with technology as well as technology training, through its digital literacy classes and **makerspaces** located in library branches throughout the city. High-performance computers are loaded with design software, sound recording studios, 3D printers, vinyl cutting, sewing machines, and light fabrication equipment are all available for public training and use. Since January 2021, during pandemic closures, the EPL Makerspace helped facilitate 901 certifications in 3D printing, vinyl cutting, heat press and recording studios operation.

**THERE'S JUST A QUALITY TO EDMONTON THAT ALLOWS OUT-OF-THE-BOX THINKING TO TAKE ROOT AND THEN TO HAVE PEOPLE RESOURCE AND COME AROUND YOU AND SUPPORT YOU THAT WAY.**

Moréniké Oláòşebikan, CEO of Kemet Advanced Manufacturing Ltd. (CBC, July 12, 2021)



## SENIORS

Within the community, seniors' associations aim to enhance the quality of life and provide support to overall well-being. Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic transformed programming from in-person to online and telephone based. Tailored programming for seniors from dance, to learning to play the ukulele, to singing, to coffee meet ups, were all transferred to online platforms for the duration of the pandemic.

**Age Friendly Edmonton** is an initiative to build a city that values, respects and actively supports the well-being of seniors. An age friendly city is an inclusive place where age is not a barrier to access services, programs, businesses or facilities. Creating an age-friendly city helps everyone.

A number of resources are available to support the seniors activities:

- **Intergenerational Programming:** Connects individuals of any age across generations, allowing them to share, learn and engage with each other.
- **Diversity and Inclusion Toolkit:** Encourages Edmonton's senior serving organizations to contribute to an overall vision of inclusion and reflect the diversity of the community they serve.
- **Meeting Event Guide:** Helps to plan events and meetings that maximize inclusion and participation of all seniors and community members.
- **Toolkit for Inclusion:** Guides senior serving organizations to ensure their facilities, programs and services feel welcoming and inclusive to all seniors.

Indigenous Elders play an important role in Edmonton's community as knowledge keepers. The University of Alberta has appointed Indigenous adjunct professors from the Northwest Territories, Elders and Knowledge Keepers to their newly established **Elders and Knowledge Keepers Program** within its School of Public Health. Concordia University of Edmonton has the **Elders Advisory Council** to ensure Indigenous students feel connected to and culturally and spiritually nourished by their university. Indigenous learners at NorQuest College have two Indigenous community leaders available to support students. The Norquest College **Knowledge Keepers** work with staff, students, and faculty to provide cultural support and guidance.

## NEWCOMERS AND IMMIGRATION

Edmonton is a welcoming city to newcomers from all backgrounds, countries and identities. Every year, more than 12,000 people arrive here from other countries. Immigrants make up a quarter of the city's population and speak more than 125 languages in our city. Organizations focused on newcomers help them learn or refine their English language skills, learn more Canadian culture, support settlement, secure employment, and connect to the community through meaningful learning and social events. Every year, Edmontonians celebrate Heritage Days, a multi-day festival showcasing the different cuisine, arts and traditions that come from around the world and now form the fabric of our city.

Community-based researchers conducted a focused literature review and examined more than 40 policies that affect newcomers, in order to provide context for how to build a city that works well for everyone, and in which everyone has a strong sense of belonging. The State of Immigration and Settlement in Edmonton Annual Report 2021, "**Belonging: Stories of the Dignity and Resilience of Immigrants,**" explores the many strengths newcomers bring and the challenges they experience in our city.

## THE CITY OF EDMONTON HOSTS A NEWCOMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES WITH CANADIAN WORK EXPERIENCE AT THE CITY OF EDMONTON.

The **Edmonton Public Library** also has many free services, resources and materials available in more than 30 languages. Settlement practitioners assist newcomers with common questions about moving to Canada, settling into a new home and offering language practice and conversation circles.

## RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

**DIVERSIONfirst** is a partnership between the Edmonton Police Service (EPS), YMCA of Northern Alberta and Boys and Girls Club Big Brothers Big Sisters (BGCBigS). Together, and with a variety of other community agencies, youth who have committed their first non-violent criminal occurrence are redirected to a restorative justice approach rather than a criminal charge. This program connects youth to organizations focused on improving the lives of youth and their families so they can begin accessing services they need through a customized support program.

Using a restorative justice approach, this program teaches youth the impact of their actions, creates an agreement for them to apologize to the victim and start a self-reflection project that can include developing a resume or starting a creative project. **DIVERSIONfirst** helps youth learn about the connection between their behaviours and the harm caused to themselves, the community, family, and victim(s).

**EDMONTON LIFELONG LEARNERS ASSOCIATION (ELLA)** BEGAN IN 2001 AS A GROUP OF EXTREMELY PASSIONATE LIFELONG LEARNERS. IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA'S FACULTY OF EXTENSION, ELLA IS ENTIRELY RUN BY A DEDICATED GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS. ELLA PROVIDES A VARIETY OF EDUCATIONAL, NON-CREDIT COURSES TO ADULTS AGED 50+. THEIR GOAL IS TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE WHO IS INTERESTED HAS A SAFE AND AFFORDABLE SPACE TO PARTICIPATE. COURSES INCLUDE ART, PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES, LINGUISTICS, CLASSICS, WRITING, HISTORY, MUSIC, CURRENT AFFAIRS, ETHICS, ANTHROPOLOGY, LITERATURE, AND AGING CONCERNS.

**MIGRANTS OF THE PRESENT (AND THE PAST)** ARE CITY-MAKERS WITH TREMENDOUS RESILIENCE, ASSETS AND POTENTIAL; THEY ARE AGENTS OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT, BRINGING VALUE TO OUR ECONOMY AND THE CULTURAL FABRIC OF OUR COMMUNITY (STATE OF IMMIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT, [EDMONTON.CA](http://EDMONTON.CA)).



## ARTS AND CULTURE

Edmonton's creative communities have grown and advanced to become a model of cooperation and resilience. The 10-year **Connections and Exchanges Plan** guides our city's arts and heritage sector in creating a vibrant city to explore and live in. The plan is unique to Edmonton, and provides strong recommendations that infuse the arts into every aspect of the civic landscape.

There is no shortage of cultural learning opportunities in the city, from the history museum Fort Edmonton Park, to the Alberta Legislature, to the Royal Alberta Museum, to the Art Gallery of Alberta and the Telus World of Science. Known as a "festival city," Edmonton hosts more than **50 unique festivals** annually. Some of the festivals include the world-renowned Edmonton International Fringe Festival, Silver Skate, as well as Heritage Days and Cari-West, where visitors can experience learning about cultures through food and performance.

The Edmonton Public Library prides itself on promoting and supporting local creators in the arts sector with programs like **Capital City Press**, a gathering place for the exchange of ideas and education on the craft of writing; **Capital City Records**, a celebration of Edmonton's music scene and its history; and **Capital City Art**, a promotion and celebration of local visual art and artists in Edmonton.

## SPORTS

Edmonton is an active city year round in recreation, sport and active living. A number of local organizations introduce sports to kids and adults alike.

For example, the Edmonton Police Service hosts an annual "cops vs. kids" hockey game in Edmonton's McCauley neighbourhood, an inner city neighbourhood, known for its diversity of residences, businesses and cultures. The friendly game has been hosted every winter for more than 10 years. The game encourages children from low-income families to try on a pair of skates and have some fun on the ice in a friendly hockey game.

Edmonton's **WinterCity Initiative** embraces the cold, long nights and the snow with a tagline of "you can't change winter, but you can change how you feel about it!" With four areas of focus: Winter Life, Winter Design, Winter Economy, and Our Winter Story, this award-winning initiative has inspired a change in the way Edmontonians see our climate, our city and ourselves. A highlight of the initiative is Flying Canoe Volant, a one night winter festival inspired by the legend of La Chasse-galerie by Honoré Beaugrand. This event showcases the culture and traditions of the First Nations, French-Canadian and Métis peoples and celebrates the beauty of the Mill Creek Ravine and the Francophone Quarter in Edmonton.

## FOOD SUSTAINABILITY

**Fresh** is Edmonton's strategy that will help guide Edmonton towards the vision of a resilient food and agriculture system that contributes to the local economy and the overall cultural, financial, social and environmental sustainability of the city. Food education involves the many levels of learning and knowledge transfer around growing, preparing, preserving, enjoying food, and the health benefits derived from food, as well as how communities choose to link food systems into policy and decision-making.

There are learning programs in partnership with key organizations, educational institutions and community projects at the neighbourhood level. Edmontonians can participate in the local food systems by growing, buying and celebrating. A key highlight is the **City Farm** garden in northeast Edmonton, which brings carrots, beets, pumpkins and other vegetables to the surface—along with a sense of the vital importance of food security in our community. City Farm is five-hectares of land that was transformed in 2020 into a giant vegetable plot harvested for community groups who serve people who need food.

THE CITY OF EDMONTON WORKS WITH SUSTAINABLE FOOD EDMONTON TO SUPPORT OVER 80 COMMUNITY GARDEN SITES AND PROMOTE LOCAL, ORGANICALLY GROWN FOOD; HEALTHY AND ACTIVE LIFESTYLES; AND SAFER, MORE VIBRANT AND CONNECTED COMMUNITIES.

## WOMEN AND GIRLS

**The Women's Initiative Edmonton (WAVE)** is a City of Edmonton initiative, supported and endorsed by City Council. WAVE fosters equality, opportunity, access to services, justice and inclusion for women. They create opportunities for people identifying as women and girls to be heard, for diverse perspectives to be embraced, and for gender to be considered in decision-making.

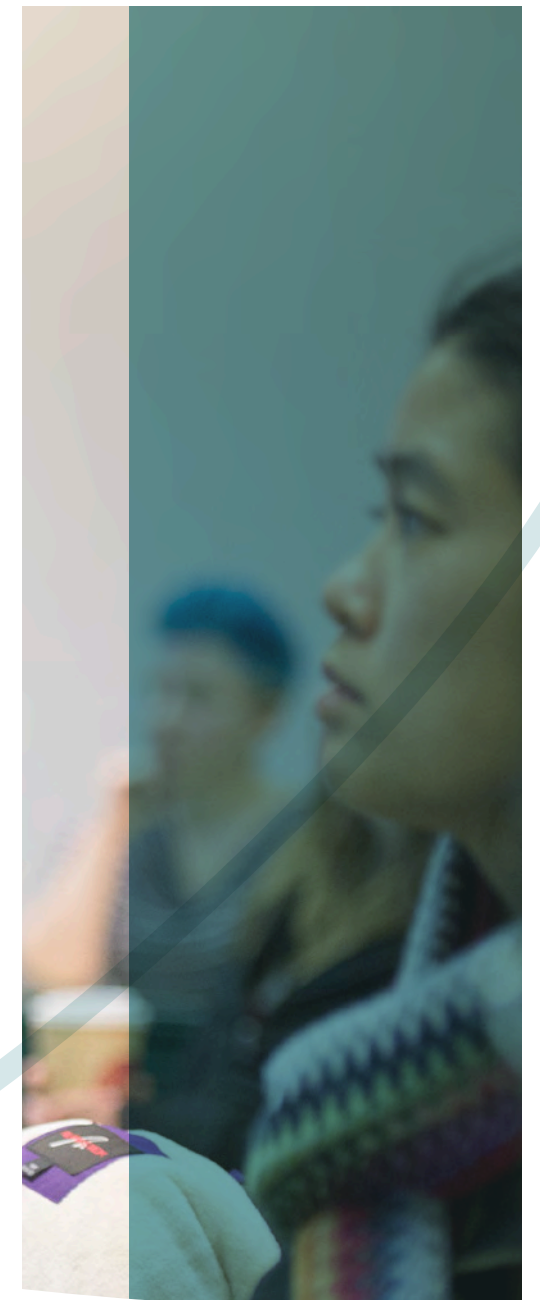
The Community Collaboration Committee to prevent and address sexual violence against women in public spaces released a report, **Edmonton: Safe City** in February 2020. The City of Edmonton hosted the UN Women's Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Conference where 250 leaders and experts from more than 20 countries gathered in Edmonton from October 16 to 19, 2018, to share and discuss evidence-based approaches, leading practices, tools and innovative strategies to make urban public spaces safe and empowering for women and girls.

This work stemmed from previous efforts when the City of Edmonton, in partnership with the Province of Alberta's Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women, joined the United Nations (UN) Women's Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Initiative in 2016 to build safe and inclusive public spaces for women and girls in Edmonton. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of United Nations Women provided a **short video statement** to recognize this partnership.

Community partners are integral to providing women and girls with pathways to financial independence. Women Building Futures is a not-for-profit organization based in Edmonton, empowering women's economic prosperity by removing barriers and providing industry recognized training in the construction trades, maintenance, transportation industries and more. Women are supported to advance and thrive in non-traditional, skilled trades careers. The City of Edmonton's **Camp Inspire** is a firefighting camp designed to share a valuable and rewarding career opportunity for women and gender diverse communities.

From certifications to the trades, to empowering female entrepreneurs to creating safe spaces where girls and young women can explore, speak their mind and try new skills, Edmonton has a niche market for every woman to discover her interests and thrive.

FROM CERTIFICATIONS TO THE TRADES, TO EMPOWERING FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS TO CREATING SAFE SPACES WHERE GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN CAN EXPLORE, SPEAK THEIR MIND AND TRY NEW SKILLS, EDMONTON HAS A NICHE MARKET FOR EVERY WOMAN TO DISCOVER HER INTERESTS AND THRIVE.





# CASE STUDIES: LEARNING CITY BEST PRACTICES



## COMMUNITY LEARNING

**AMPLIFIED BY THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC, THE ROLE COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL AGENCIES PLAY IN SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND LIVED EXPERIENCE HAS BECOME INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT IN INFLUENCING DECISION MAKING AND CHALLENGING SOCIAL AND SYSTEMIC NORMS.**

### CITY OF EDMONTON

As a major Canadian city and representative of a strong community, contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is important to Edmonton. While this learning plan focuses on SDG #4 Quality Education and SDG #11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, there are many goals that relate to our learning initiatives across the community. From ending poverty to gender equality to reducing inequalities to climate action; every contribution makes a difference and positive impact in our community.

To this extent, the City of Edmonton has worked with academia and industry partners to become a platinum certified member of the World Council on City Data (WCCD) ISO 37120 Standard. The WCCD program enables, "cities to effectively localize the UN Sustainable Development Goals and be equipped with globally comparable data to calculate progress towards the Global Urban 2030 Agenda." It includes data and benchmark comparisons on indicators in 19 themes from education, economy, governance, housing, safety and transportation and this information supports the City's decision-making around partnerships and innovation. with community organizations for Indigenous students interested in public service. City Hall School, in partnership with Edmonton Public Schools, also provides a week-long, inquiry based, hands-on learning experience for primary and secondary school students.

**AS A MAJOR CANADIAN CITY AND REPRESENTATIVE OF A STRONG COMMUNITY, CONTRIBUTING TO THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) IS IMPORTANT TO EDMONTON.**

For community members interested in environmental sustainability, Root for Trees opens the door for volunteers and students to support the goal of planting two million more trees by 2050 to help build a healthy, climate-resilient city. The City also maintains **Change for Climate** education resources including: Green League community workshops on energy adaptation; an Energy Transition Leadership Network; a Corporate Climate Leaders program for business leaders; and a Sustainability Scholars applied research and learning program for graduate students.



**SOME OF THE CITY OF EDMONTON'S KEY COMMUNITY LEARNING PROGRAMS INCLUDE:**

THE CITY OF EDMONTON PROVIDES HUNDREDS OF COMMUNITY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AND PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN CONVENING COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO TEACH, LISTEN AND LEARN ABOUT ISSUES THAT IMPACT THE DAY-TO-DAY QUALITY OF LIFE OF EDMONTONIANS.

A FEW HIGHLIGHTS THAT ARE DIRECTLY MANAGED BY THE CITY ARE THE INDIGENOUS SUMMER STUDENT PROGRAM AND INDIGENOUS HIGH SCHOOL WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM. THESE PROGRAMS PROVIDE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENTS INTERESTED IN PUBLIC SERVICE. CITY HALL SCHOOL, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS, ALSO PROVIDES A WEEK-LONG, INQUIRY BASED, HANDS-ON LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.

The City of Edmonton is the municipal governing corporation of the geographical region of Edmonton. As Alberta's capital and the northernmost metropolitan city in North America, Edmonton plays a key leadership role in provincial, national and international contexts.

The City recognizes that fostering a culture of learning and collaboration is essential to drive innovation and to stay competitive. The **ConnectEdmonton** strategy shows the City (and the community) where collaboration, strategic actions and partnerships will set transformational changes in motion and make a collective impact on our future according to the four strategic goals of: Healthy City, Urban Places, Regional Prosperity and Climate Resilience.

To support these goals, the City of Edmonton is leading the way in diversity and inclusion through **The Art of Inclusion**. Differences are considered opportunities for individual and organizational growth. The City has also embraced **Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+)** as a way to improve planning and decision-making for the benefit of all Edmontonians. GBA+ is a tool and a process to examine and address how policies, programs, services and practices impact individuals and groups.

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS:**

The City of Edmonton places a high priority on sustainability, hosting the first Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2018. IPCC is a body of the United Nations. In collaboration with a range of **community partners**, Edmonton welcomed more than 800 municipal representatives, scientists and academics from around the world to share the latest scientific research on climate change, and inspire global and regional action within cities to address this complex issue. There was also a series of **community events** with a strong tie-in to schools and post-secondary institutions. The Cities IPCC Legacy Research Grant program continues to support research to aid Edmonton in its science-based climate-related decisions to mitigate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and help the City to adapt to a changing climate.

**Edmonton is also a member of two other international networks:**

- **The UN Safe Cities.** Municipalities aim to address gender-based and sexualized violence and harassment by focusing on the cities' policies, planning, programs, and services, and how they can be changed and applied to increase safety and build safer public spaces.
- **The Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities.** Launched by UNESCO in 2004 and in Canada in 2007, the municipalities undertake initiatives together to eliminate all forms of discrimination with a view to building open and inclusive societies.



THE CITY RECOGNIZES THAT **FOSTERING A CULTURE OF LEARNING AND COLLABORATION IS ESSENTIAL** TO DRIVE INNOVATION AND TO STAY COMPETITIVE.

**EPL IS THE GATHERING PLACE FOR PEOPLE AND IDEAS, ENABLING A LIFETIME OF LEARNING, ENGAGEMENT AND POSSIBILITY FOR EVERY EDMONTONIAN. AS EDMONTON'S LARGEST LENDER OF INFORMATION AND ENTERTAINMENT, ITS GREATEST PASSION IS CREATING CONNECTIONS TO HELP, GROW, INSPIRE AND CHANGE.**

## EDMONTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Edmonton Public Library (EPL) is the gathering place for people and ideas, enabling a lifetime of learning, engagement and possibility for every Edmontonian. As Edmonton's largest lender of information and entertainment, its greatest passion is creating connections to help, grow, inspire and change.

Throughout its history EPL has been committed to diversity and inclusion in the broadest sense – providing open access to a wide range of information and ideas that are freely accessible to all. In 2020, the EPL Board implemented a Diversity and Inclusion Policy that outlines principles for creating and preserving a diverse and inclusive environment for all Edmontonians. It also provides a framework for how EPL understands and supports diversity and inclusion and responds to staff and community needs.

EPL is viewed as one of the most innovative libraries in the world based on the numerous national and international **awards** won as well as many library firsts. Highlights include.

- 🕒 2021 Winner – International Federation of Library Associations Green Award
- 🕒 2021 Winner – American Library Association John Cotton Dana Marketing Award – Milner Library Virtual Open House
- 🕒 2015 Winner – American Library Association Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Projects – Outreach Services
- 🕒 2015 Winner – American Library Association Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Projects – Digital Literacy as a Core Service
- 🕒 2014 Winner – Library of the Year – Library Journal and Gale Cengage Learning. First and only time the award was given to a library outside of the United States

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS:

EPL takes a community-led and collaborative approach, going beyond traditional and physical boundaries to foster relationships and build dynamic, responsive library services. EPL's **community-led service philosophy** is all about understanding community needs and providing services and ways to meet those evolving community needs. At present, EPL is prioritizing programs and services that relate to sustainability as well as equity, diversity and inclusion, with a focus on early and digital literacies.

EPL was named the home of City of Learners in 2014 after several years of stakeholder discussions and community dialogue on how to bring together various learning organizations in Edmonton to promote lifelong learning for all Edmontonians. The initiative was founded on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) holistic view of learning through four pillars: learning to know; learning to do; learning to be; and learning to live together. As home of Edmonton's City of Learners, EPL helps grow engaged, passionate learners. The community-led initiative seeks to work collaboratively and creatively with community partners to incubate, pilot and engage in learning activities for all Edmontonians. The City of Learners partners with formal and informal learning organizations to activate learning and to create inclusive learning opportunities for, with and by Edmontonians.

## SOME OF THE EDMONTON PUBLIC LIBRARY'S KEY COMMUNITY LEARNING PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- 🕒 Tens of thousands of virtual and in-person classes and events delivered annually, ranging from early literacy (Sing, Sign, Laugh and Learn for small children), to English Language Learning (Practice English @ your Library), world-class, thought-provoking speakers series, and classes such as Pikiskwêtan, as part of our growing **Indigenous Services** initiatives
- 🕒 Life Skills classes are offered in partnership with community partners, including Sustainable Kitchen, on a range of topics including composting, gardening, baking, and more. EPL also hosts a Financial Empowerment series, as well as classes on mental health and wellness
- 🕒 **Capital City Records, Capital City Press, and Capital City Art** create opportunities for local and emerging musicians, writers and artists to develop community, connect with local experts, teach their craft, and showcase their work to the public. Opportunities for the public to learn about local music, writing and art, and develop their own skills.
- 🕒 Welcome Baby is an award-winning partnership with local public health centres and Neonatal ICUs in area hospitals to provide a baby's first book and resources that parents can use to start a path to lifelong literacy.
- 🕒 Ready! Set! Read!, in partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, expands Welcome Baby and EPL's commitment to early literacy by delivering new books to children every month from birth to age five.
- 🕒 Makerspace hubs located in libraries around the City offer Edmontonians access to services and equipment such as recording studios, high-end creative workstations, 3D printing, laser cutting, sewing machines, book making and more. The hubs also provide in-person and virtual instruction including classes and equipment certification, such as 3D printing and CNC machining.
- 🕒 The first of its kind in a public institution, EPL's two-storey **Wall** fosters interest in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) learning through interactive, immersive digital experiences.

**||||| epl.ca**

## PUBLIC EDUCATION: KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 12

**THE PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM IN EDMONTON PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN OUR CITY, FOR THEIR EXCELLENCE IN FORMAL PROGRAMMING AND FOR THE ROLE THEY PLAY IN SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND THE LARGER COMMUNITY.**

Under Canada's federal system of government, publicly funded education for children and teenagers is the responsibility of provincial governments. The Government of Alberta delivers public education from early childhood to Grade 12 by establishing local school divisions, mandating a province-wide curriculum, setting provincial standards and funding the school divisions' operating and capital budgets. Each school division is represented by a locally elected board of trustees.

Within Edmonton's borders, three publicly funded school systems are available to support family choice: the Edmonton Public School Division, the ECSD, Edmonton Catholic School Division, and le Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord. Alberta is one of three jurisdictions in Canada to have publicly funded education that is based on the Catholic faith. Catholic schools have the same access to provincial capital and operating dollars as other public school districts and they teach the same curriculum and meet the same educational standard but also offer instruction in and practice of the Catholic faith. In the mid-1990s, following a judgment of the Supreme Court of Canada on language rights, the Government of Alberta began to establish francophone school boards, offering early childhood to Grade 12 education in French to children who have at least one parent whose primary language is French or who meet other specific criteria. The physical boundaries of these three kinds of school authorities often overlap.

The boundaries of Edmonton Public and Edmonton Catholic Schools are the same as the boundaries of the City of Edmonton. Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord (a Francophone school authority) serves a larger area of northern and central Alberta that includes all of Edmonton. Together, these three publicly funded school authorities educate approximately 150,000 students from early childhood to Grade 12 per year. Provincial legislation also allows for the establishment of Charter schools (a school that receives provincial funding but is administered through its own non-profit governance structure instead of being part of a school division) and private schools (schools that are funded through private tuition). However, more than 95 per cent of K - 12 students in Edmonton attend a school operated by one of the three publicly funded school authorities.



WITHIN EDMONTON'S BORDERS, **THREE PUBLICLY FUNDED SCHOOL SYSTEMS ARE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT FAMILY CHOICE:** THE EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION, THE EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOL DIVISION, AND LE CONSEIL SCOLAIRE CENTRE-NORD.





**EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS THE LARGEST SCHOOL DIVISION IN EDMONTON AND THE SECOND LARGEST SCHOOL DIVISION IN ALBERTA. ITS STAFF OF OVER 9,500 SERVES APPROXIMATELY 106,000 STUDENTS IN 212 SCHOOL BUILDINGS.**

**PUBLICLY FUNDED EDUCATION IN EDMONTON IS DISTINGUISHED BY THREE FACTORS:**

**Excellence:** Alberta schools are recognized internationally for their excellence. One widely used measurement for the quality of education systems around the world is the Programme for International Student Assessment by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. According to the results of the **2018 testing**, if Alberta were a country, its students would rank third in reading, fourth in science and thirteenth in mathematics in the world.

**Choice:** In Edmonton, many parents have a choice of school authorities. Within these school systems parents and students are offered a myriad of choices in programs. Residing within a given school boundary gives parents the right to enroll their children in that local school but they have the option of sending their children farther afield to schools that offer specialized programs. In addition to offering the provincially mandated curriculum, these schools offer enriched aspects in a variety of human experience.

**Inclusion:** All three publicly funded school authorities are committed to the principle of inclusion: accommodating differences in students' abilities to communicate, to learn and to adapt to life in the classroom. They all employ or are prepared to employ a variety of different resources (including teaching aids and specialized learning programs) to ensure that all children who are enrolled in their district receive the best education possible.

All three of Edmonton's school districts welcome international students at the high school level. There are more than 700 international students in Edmonton Public Schools and more than 100 in Edmonton Catholic Schools.

**EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

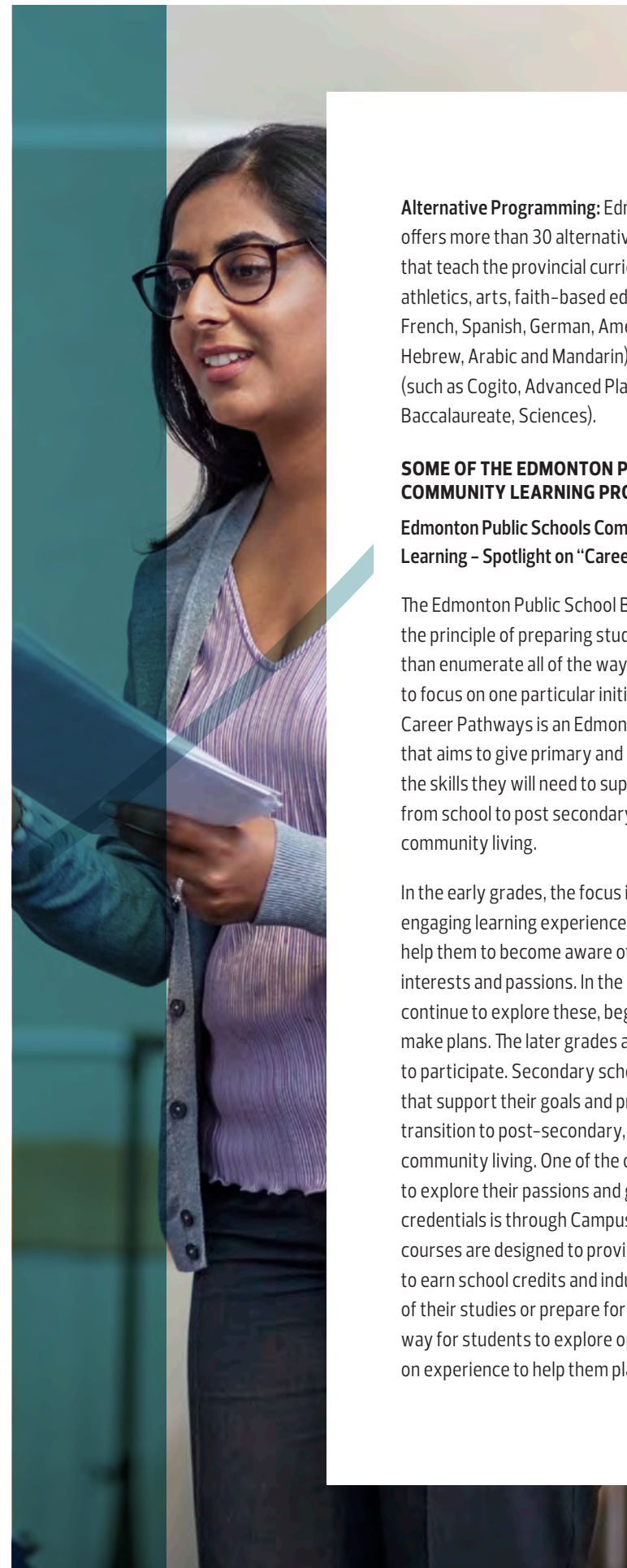
Edmonton Public Schools is the largest school division in Edmonton and the second largest school division in Alberta. Its staff of over 9,500 serves approximately 106,000 students in 212 school buildings. Its nine-member Board of Trustees (each representing a different geographical ward) stewards an annual operating budget of approximately \$1.2 billion (CAD).

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS:**

Schools in the Edmonton Public School Division fall into three broad categories.

**Regular Programming:** Regular programming presents the curriculum required by Alberta Education in a way that is accessible for all learning styles and backgrounds. Schools adjust their delivery to meet student needs, so a school's focus, optional courses and activities will vary. Regardless of individual approaches, all schools help every child live up to their potential by giving them the tools they need to be engaged thinkers and entrepreneurial, ethical members of society.

**Special Education:** Every student is unique, with different strengths and challenges. Edmonton Public Schools offers a range of environments to support all students in their learning and to help nurture their emotional, mental and physical well-being. Edmonton Public Schools is committed to accommodating choice in programming for students with special education needs. There are more than 15 different special education programs offered in approximately 128 schools in the Edmonton Public School Division for students with specialized learning needs. A few of the special education programs offered in Edmonton Public Schools are Deaf and Hard of Hearing (for students with moderate to profound hearing loss), Strategies, Gifted and Talented (for students with advanced intellectual ability), Community Learning Skills (for students who have moderate delays in most or all developmental areas), and Interactions (supporting students with autism spectrum disorder).



**Alternative Programming:** Edmonton Public Schools offers more than 30 alternative programming options that teach the provincial curriculum through a focus on athletics, arts, faith-based education, languages (including French, Spanish, German, American Sign Language, Hebrew, Arabic and Mandarin) and teaching philosophies (such as Cogito, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Sciences).

**SOME OF THE EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOL'S KEY COMMUNITY LEARNING PROGRAMS INCLUDE:**

**Edmonton Public Schools Community Learning – Spotlight on “Career Pathways”**

The Edmonton Public School Board (EPSB) is committed to the principle of preparing students for the future. Rather than enumerate all of the ways they do that, it may be best to focus on one particular initiative: Career Pathways. Career Pathways is an Edmonton Public Schools initiative that aims to give primary and secondary schools students the skills they will need to support a successful transition from school to post secondary, the world or work or community living.

In the early grades, the focus is on providing students with engaging learning experiences and opportunities that help them to become aware of their personal strengths, interests and passions. In the middle grades, students continue to explore these, begin to create goals and make plans. The later grades are all about getting ready to participate. Secondary school students select courses that support their goals and prepare them for a successful transition to post-secondary, the world or work, or community living. One of the opportunities students have to explore their passions and gain experience or industry credentials is through Campus EPSB. Campus EPSB courses are designed to provide students with another way to earn school credits and industry credentials, get ahead of their studies or prepare for post-secondary. It's a great way for students to explore opportunities and get hands-on experience to help them plan their next steps.

**IN THE EARLY GRADES, THE FOCUS IS ON PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH ENGAGING LEARNING EXPERIENCES AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT HELP THEM TO BECOME AWARE OF THEIR PERSONAL STRENGTHS, INTERESTS AND PASSIONS.**

**CAMPUS EPSB: HOW DOES IT WORK?**

Campus EPSB allows students to take courses that may not be currently offered at their home school, and immerse themselves in an area of study that excites them for 3–4 blocks of the day at another school or an industry site for one full semester. For example, a student interested in the field of aviation might enrol in the 'Exploring Aviation and Tourism' Campus EPSB course. In this course, students explore careers related to aviation, gain experience and network with industry professionals while working through ground school. In preparation for completing a Private Pilot's License, students will have the opportunity to write the Private Pilot's License Exam (PSTAR), and obtain Industry Canada Restricted Radio Operator Certificate (ROC-A) and Drone Pilot Basic Certificate.

Career exploration in other aviation fields such as ground support, operations, maintenance and travel/tourism will also be investigated. Students completing this course will have the opportunity for hands-on learning experience, gain industry credentials and learn about a variety of career opportunities related to the field of aviation.



## EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

ECSD, Edmonton Catholic School Division is the fourth largest school authority in Alberta and the second largest school authority in Edmonton. Its staff of 4,800 serves 43,000 students in 96 school buildings across the city. It's seven-member Board of Trustees (each elected from a different ward) oversees an annual operating budget of \$512 Million (CAD) and makes policies for staff and students. Edmonton Catholic Schools will enroll non-Catholic students if there is space available in the chosen school.

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS:

One of the hallmarks of ECSD's offerings is they have many programs of choice so students can focus on their passions while following the prescribed Alberta educational curriculum. Their program diversity ranges from early learning to immersion and bilingual language programs to Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs. Students also have the choice of a variety of academies that include a variety of sports, science, all-girls education, and fine arts.

ECSD students can also engage in several dual credit opportunities, which allow them to get a head start on their future by exploring areas of interest in high school. Students are able to enroll in post-secondary courses, earning both secondary and post-secondary credits within their own secondary school setting. These opportunities are available in the Accounting and Business, Administrative Professionals, Aviation, Health Fields, Health Care Aide, Business, General University, Police Studies, and Choral Ensemble.

Edmonton Catholic Schools offers a variety of award winning educational programs for children with special needs related to behavioral or learning challenges through the work of an expansive inclusive education programming department. The Personal Pathways Program, which offers flexible and responsive pathways to meet the needs of students with a continuum of specialized services and supports, as well as the Assistive Technology Strategy, which ensures that student who need augmentative and alternative communication supports have access to equipment, have both received the Alberta School Boards Associations' Award for Excellence and Innovation.

ECSD also offers the internationally celebrated Braided Journeys Program which is committed to assisting student success by cultivating a caring, welcoming, and positive place where Indigenous students see themselves, their contributions, and their culture represented, respected, and celebrated.

Edmonton Catholic Schools is committed to community learning in everything it does. One of the ways this shows up is in the Edmonton Catholic Schools program: One World...One Centre.

Edmonton is a city of immigrants in a nation of immigrants in a world that is becoming ever more multicultural. Many new Edmontonians have school-aged children who want a Catholic, faith-based education and will choose an Edmonton Catholic school. As with many immigrants, these new Edmontonians must overcome a host of barriers to succeed in their new home. Recognizing that the whole family will need a range of support, Edmonton Catholic Schools established a one-stop location where recently arrived families can receive all the services they need, from an individualized assessment of their child's proficiency in reading or math to information on English-as-a-second language support for the parents.



### SOME OF EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' KEY COMMUNITY LEARNING PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' COMMUNITY LEARNING – SPOTLIGHT ON "ONE WORLD... ONE CENTRE"

EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFERS A VARIETY OF AWARD WINNING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS RELATED TO BEHAVIORAL OR LEARNING CHALLENGES THROUGH THE WORK OF AN EXPANSIVE INCLUSIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMMING DEPARTMENT.

## CONSEIL SCOLAIRE CENTRE-NORD

Created in 1994, Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord (CSCN) is the newest school authority to serve Edmontonians. A staff complement of approximately 500 serves 3,700 students in 19 schools across north and central Alberta. Eight of its schools are in the City of Edmonton with another four schools in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region. Its seven member board oversees an annual operating budget of approximately \$59 Million (CAD).

The presence of a specialized school authority for French speakers means that qualified students in Edmonton and the surrounding region can study in French from preschool through high school graduation as part of a publicly funded education program.

Admission to one of CSCN's schools is open to students who meet any of the following criteria intended to establish a strong family connection to the French language. Either French is the first language learned and still understood by one or the other parent, or at least one parent has received her or his elementary education in French in Canada, or a brother or sister of the student has received or is receiving primary or secondary education in French as a first language in Canada.

In other words CSCN is dedicated to instructing students in French as a first language. It should be noted that instruction in French as a second language is part of the standard Alberta curriculum. In addition, both Edmonton Public and Edmonton Catholic Schools offer French immersion: specialized programs of instruction in French but available to students for whom French is not their first language.



EIGHT OF ITS SCHOOLS ARE IN THE CITY OF EDMONTON WITH ANOTHER FOUR SCHOOLS IN THE EDMONTON METROPOLITAN REGION. ITS SEVEN MEMBER BOARD OVERSEES AN ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET OF APPROXIMATELY \$59 MILLION (CAD).





FOR NEARLY EIGHT DECADES, EDMONTON'S MATERIAL PROSPERITY HAS RESTED ON THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY. **THIS WEALTH HAS BEEN INVESTED IN EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, PREPARING EDMONTON FOR AN ECONOMIC TRANSITION.**

## ADVANCED EDUCATION & WORKFORCE TRAINING

**THE EDMONTON METROPOLITAN REGION IS THE YOUNGEST REGION IN CANADA AND HAS BEEN RANKED AS THE BEST COMMUNITY IN THE COUNTRY FOR YOUTH TO WORK ACCORDING TO THE URBAN WORK INDEX. THE POPULATION IS WELL-EDUCATED, GROWING, AND COMMITTED TO TRANSITIONING TO A SUSTAINABLE AND TECH BASED ECONOMY.**

From 2012 to 2016, more than 40,900 students graduated from Alberta's post-secondary institutions with a STEM degree. Post-secondary institutions enrolled more than 91,600 students in STEM programs over the same period and more than 2,600 persons specialized in fields related to: Advanced Manufacturing, Artificial Intelligence, Automation and Robotics, Big Data, Cyber Security, Telecommunications, and Information and Communications Technology.

This is particularly important at this critical juncture in our local history. For nearly eight decades, Edmonton's material prosperity has rested on the oil and gas industry. This wealth has been invested in education and skills development, preparing Edmonton for an economic transition.

### UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

The University of Alberta, from its inception, has had as its ethos a commitment to serve the province of Alberta. More than 100 years ago, the University of Alberta's President Henry Marshall Tory pledged to an, "uplifting of the whole people." The university remains deeply committed to this role as a world-class public education institution that is transformative to the respective groups it serves: students, the community, the province, our country, and the world.

As the province's largest and leading post-secondary institution, the university plays a foundational role in the building of a better province through the generation of new ideas, and as an engine of social, cultural, and economic prosperity.

Ranked among the top universities in the world, the teaching, learning, and discovery at the University of Alberta fundamentally contributes to the well-being of the province and the community it serves, from the development of artificial intelligence to the treatment of acute and chronic diseases that touch all of us. In 2020, University of Alberta virologist Dr. Michael Houghton was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his discovery of a virus that causes Hepatitis C.

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS:

Knowledge translation is a growing imperative for post-secondaries, in relation to the new Performance-Based Funding model being implemented by the Province of Alberta. Ranked as a top 100 international research intensive University, the University of Alberta has focused on Indigenous Initiatives and is currently developing an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Online Programming Strategy.

The Campus Saint-Jean, a French-language multidisciplinary faculty at the University of Alberta, is the only French-language university-degree program west of Manitoba. They provide two college programs (Administration and Tourism), nine bachelor's programs (arts, sciences, administration, nursing and education included) and two Master's programs in Arts or Education.

**THE HUMANITIES 101 PROGRAM** BRINGS TOGETHER A DIVERSE GROUP OF ADULT LEARNERS FOR A FREE NON-CREDIT LEARNING OPPORTUNITY FOR THOSE WHO MAY NOT BE ABLE TO OTHERWISE ACCESS A POST-SECONDARY LEARNING OPPORTUNITY. COURSES ARE OFFERED ACROSS EDMONTON AND ON CAMPUS ON TOPICS THAT INCLUDE WOMEN'S KNOWLEDGE, INDIGENOUS STUDIES, AND THE POLITICS OF FEAR.

The Aboriginal Teacher Education Program (ATEP) offers the same high standard of quality as the main bachelor of Education program in the Faculty of Education but is intended to address the urgent need for Indigenous teachers and teachers everywhere who have the desire and commitment to work with Indigenous students. The program enriches student experience via ongoing involvement with community Elders and the use of local resources to create an environment inclusive of Indigenous ways of knowing and learning.

The Women and Children's Health Research Institute (WCHRI) was founded in 2006 as a partnership between the University of Alberta and Alberta Health Services, with core funding from the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation and the Alberta Women's Health Foundation. WCHRI is the only research institute in Canada to focus on both women's and children's health, including perinatal health.

**SOME OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA'S KEY COMMUNITY LEARNING PROGRAMS INCLUDE:**

The University of Alberta offers Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) for free to anyone interested in learning, including the acclaimed Indigenous Canada MOOC, which explores Indigenous histories and contemporary issues in Canada. The University of Alberta was one of the first Canadian universities to offer these open learning opportunities.

USchool is a program run by the University of Alberta Senate which aims to introduce and connect students in grades 4 through 9 from socially vulnerable, Indigenous (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) and rural communities to the University of Alberta. Classes, with their classroom teachers, attend a week-long immersion experience on campus led by the USchool staff team.

The Humanities 101 program brings together a diverse group of adult learners for a free non-credit learning opportunity for those who may not be able to otherwise access a post-secondary learning opportunity. Courses are offered across Edmonton and on campus on topics that include women's knowledge, Indigenous studies, and the politics of fear.



**MACEWAN UNIVERSITY SERVES PRIMARILY THE GREATER EDMONTON REGION AND NORTHERN ALBERTA BY RESPONDING TO THE LEARNING NEEDS OF BUSINESS, INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES. THROUGH DISTANCE DELIVERY AND ECAMPUSALBERTA, THE UNIVERSITY EXTENDS EDUCATIONAL ACCESS ACROSS CANADA AND INTERNATIONALLY.**

**MACEWAN UNIVERSITY**

MacEwan University supports a culture of research, scholarship and creative activity to inform pedagogy, support economic and community development, enhance learning, create opportunities for innovation, and foster the application and creation of new knowledge.

By incorporating a global focus in its research and teaching, the University aims to provide all researchers and learners with opportunities to develop the skills and attitudes to function successfully in an interconnected world economy and society. The University serves a diverse range of Canadian and international faculty and students, and provides opportunities for knowledge dissemination and study abroad.

**INCLUSIVE EDUCATION**

MacEwan University welcomes more Indigenous learners (six per cent) and first-generation learners (55 per cent) than the national average (four per cent and 40 per cent respectively). MacEwan University self-funded the development of the **kihêw waciston Indigenous Centre**, which is carefully designed to reflect Indigenous culture and values. kihêw waciston is a home away from home for Indigenous students, a space where they can gather, work and grow in a community that honours the distinctive knowledge of Indigenous peoples and supports them on their post-secondary journey.

To support the academic success of Indigenous learners, MacEwan offers the **pimâchisowin Foundation Program**, which is designed to address the gap between learner's high school credentials and the requirements needed to be admitted into a post-secondary program. The program includes cultural support, mentorship and ceremonial events.

**MacEwan's Centre for Sexual and Gender Diversity** supports research, teaching and service work related to sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression on campus and in the community. Supported by Dr. Kristopher Wells, Canada Research Chair (Tier II) for the

**MACEWAN UNIVERSITY PLANS TO GROW FROM STRENGTH AND WILL CONTINUE TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF LEARNERS AND EMPLOYERS. AREAS OF GROWTH INCLUDE ARTS, SCIENCE, NURSING, COMMERCE, DESIGN, SOCIAL WORK, CHILD AND YOUTH CARE, AND FINE ARTS.**

Public Understanding of Sexual and Gender Minority Youth, the Centre helps ensure MacEwan has inclusive policies to encourage the full and equitable participation of sexual and gender minorities on campus and in society.

**SOME OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY'S KEY COMMUNITY LEARNING PROGRAMS INCLUDE:**

At the MacEwan University's **Social Innovation Institute**, students are connected with experts and innovators to support positive change locally, regionally, and globally. We offer programs, provide learning opportunities and host events that help people learn about and engage in social innovation.

MacEwan University maximizes flexibility for students through pathways and a focus on durable skills. By providing unique pathways, learners can transition between post-secondaries and employment while still earning a credential and the ability to seamlessly return to upskill and reskill. MacEwan University plans to grow from strength and will continue to meet the demands of learners and employers. Areas of growth include arts, science, nursing, commerce, design, social work, child and youth care, and fine arts.





IN 2021, NORQUEST COLLEGE EARNED GOLD FOR INTERNATIONALIZATION EXCELLENCE, AND SILVER FOR PROGRAM EXCELLENCE IN OUR EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE PROGRAM FROM COLLEGES AND INSTITUTES CANADA.

## NORQUEST COLLEGE

NorQuest College helps learners make the aspiration attainable. In 2021, NorQuest had 12,112 full-time and part-time credit learners come from 114 countries of birth, speak more than 78 first languages on campus, and 831 credit students self-identify as Indigenous (First Nations, Metis, Inuit), while 713 students use disability services on campus. NorQuest encourages lifelong learning and the average age of students is 28.

A leader in enhancing access to post-secondary education, NorQuest College is renowned for its unique and inclusive learning environment: a true place of belonging. NorQuest College is committed to an inclusive and student-centred education. From Academic Upgrading, to Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada, to University Transfer, to Practical Nursing and Business Administration, there is a place at NorQuest for everyone.

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS:

NorQuest is the largest provider of the **Practical Nurse and Health Care Aide** graduates in Alberta and one of the top 3 in Canada. This is among other diverse programming from **Academic Upgrading** to **Business Administration**.

NorQuest and our industry partners want to chart a path forward by training domestic and international students to fill the skills gap and support every corner of our economy. NorQuest College has developed and launched new programs to meet the demands of the future of work, including:

- Implementing the HyFlex modality for our Business Administration program in 2021 to provide choice and flexibility to students. **HyFlex** is a course delivery mode that allows learners to choose at any given time throughout the course their preferred method of participation by attending in person (face to face), online real-time (synchronously), or online anytime (asynchronously) through recorded video after the actual meeting time.

- Launching the **Machine Learning Analyst Diploma**, which provides flexible, industry-aligned education to help learners enter the artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) workforce.

- Energy Management Diploma**, an interdisciplinary program which focuses on emerging renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and navigating energy policy so that students can support and direct the energy needs of organizations and communities.

- NorQuest's **Educational Assistant certificate** specializes in diversity and inclusion, training students to support children and youth with a variety of learning needs, and helping them to reach their potential.

- Justice Diploma** is a unique offering in the Edmonton region and in Alberta offering electives in areas such as diversity and inclusion, Indigenous justice, youth work, and criminal justice studies.

NorQuest is focused on removing barriers to education and creating a sense of belonging. Some of our special initiatives to support these aims include:

- 1000 Women Annual Fundraiser**, which recognizes the power and potential of women and removes barriers to their successful learning experiences (eg. financial support for childcare). This initiative has raised more than \$3.5 million since 2010. Currently, the initiative is supporting 1000Women4STEM which intends to make a transformational impact on the number of women in STEM.

NORQUEST IS ALSO DEVELOPING NEW MICROCREDENTIALS, INCLUDING THREE EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION MICROCREDENTIALS.

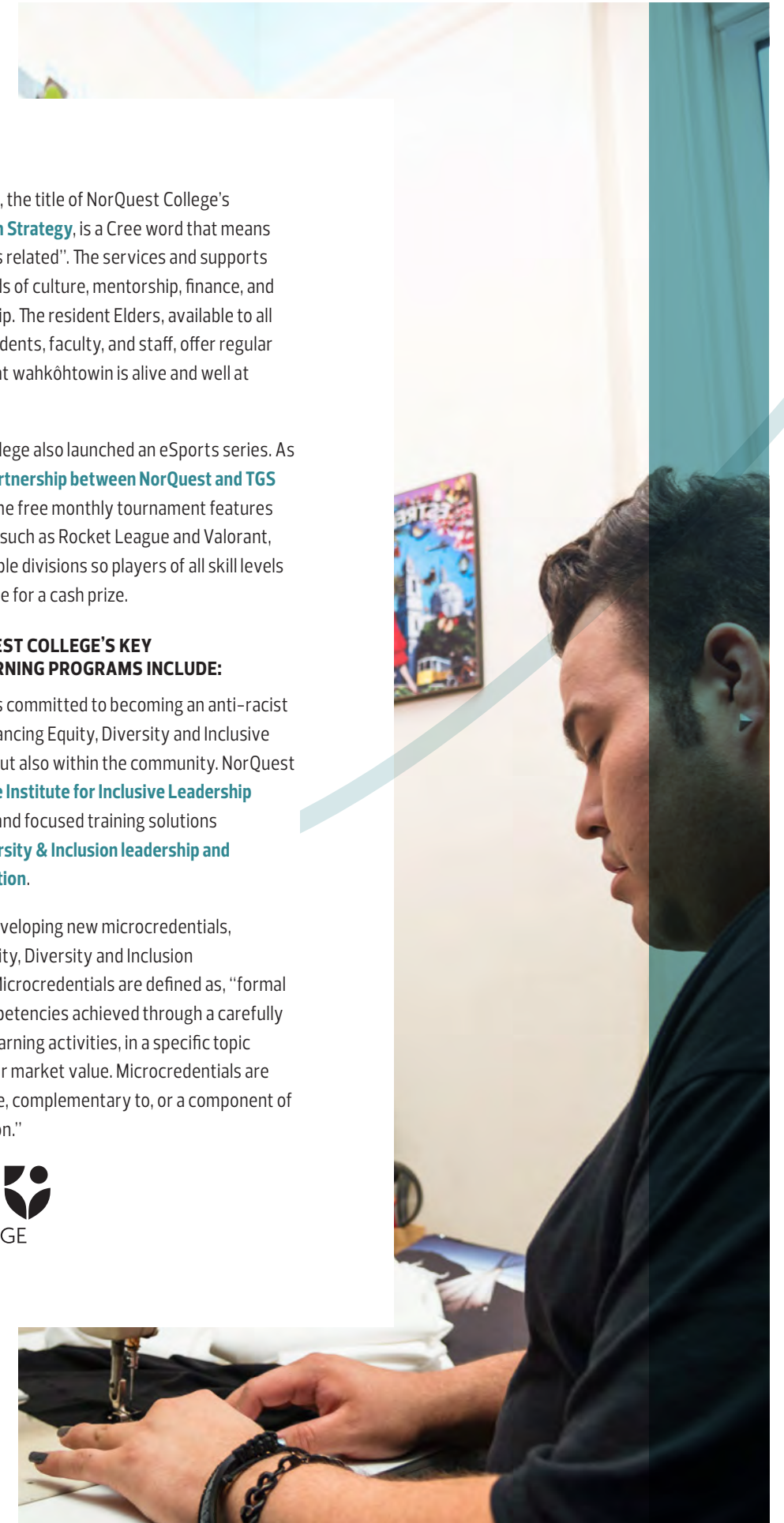
- wahkôhtowin, the title of NorQuest College's **Indigenization Strategy**, is a Cree word that means "everything is related". The services and supports span the needs of culture, mentorship, finance, and companionship. The resident Elders, available to all NorQuest students, faculty, and staff, offer regular reminders that wahkôhtowin is alive and well at the college.
- NorQuest College also launched an eSports series. As part of the **partnership between NorQuest and TGS Esports Inc.**, the free monthly tournament features popular titles such as Rocket League and Valorant, and has multiple divisions so players of all skill levels can participate for a cash prize.

### SOME OF NORQUEST COLLEGE'S KEY COMMUNITY LEARNING PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

NorQuest College is committed to becoming an anti-racist institution and advancing Equity, Diversity and Inclusive within our college but also within the community. NorQuest College's **Colbourne Institute for Inclusive Leadership** offers customized and focused training solutions in the areas of **Diversity & Inclusion leadership and intercultural education**.

NorQuest is also developing new microcredentials, including three Equity, Diversity and Inclusion microcredentials. Microcredentials are defined as, "formal recognition of competencies achieved through a carefully curated series of learning activities, in a specific topic area, that has labour market value. Microcredentials are additional, alternate, complementary to, or a component of a formal qualification."

NORQUEST  
COLLEGE



**NORTHERN ALBERTA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (NAIT)**

NAIT contributes to the economic prosperity of Alberta. This polytechnic works at the intersection of industrial innovation, applied research and workforce development which enables us to be agile and to quickly adapt to meet shifting market demands. NAIT's strong partnerships with industry are critical to ensuring our education is relevant and meets industry's needs for innovation and commercialization, and for highly skilled employees.

NAIT is well-positioned to serve as a leader in Alberta's economic recovery. As it evolves to meet the emerging needs of the province, the success of our students remains the institution's focus. Through the unique polytechnic education model, students learn what they need to be successful on day one in the workplace. Close industry partnerships ensure the curriculum and applied learning opportunities stay at the leading edge of innovation and that the skills taught are valued and sought by employers. As students are prepared for meaningful careers, NAIT is committed to providing robust student support and an inclusive, welcoming environment to ensure students have an exceptional experience.

NAIT has adopted its first Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy. NAIT is committed to fostering an environment where all people feel safe, valued and included. NAIT's commitment is rooted in its promises and values that are the starting point of a journey to create meaningful change.

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS:**

Translating knowledge into practice and applying critical skills to solve real-world, industry-relevant challenges is how our learners master the competencies they need for successful careers. Experiential and work-integrated learning are cornerstones of NAIT's career-specific educational offerings.

In addition to hands-on, technology-based **credit and noncredit programming**, NAIT offers microcredentials, or certifications that recognize specific skills, learning outcomes or competencies that are valued by industry and employers. NAIT's approach to microcredentials recognizes that learning also happens beyond the classroom as part of a student's work and lived experiences.

NAIT is focused on delivering transformational, industry-focused educational and applied research opportunities. NAIT believes innovation and continuous improvement are the key to its success and that of its learners and partners. NAIT evolves its approaches with purpose, leveraging the expertise within our communities, recognizing that translating knowledge into practice and applying critical skills to solve real-world, industry relevant challenges is how learners master the competencies they need for successful careers. This innovation focus can be seen through a recently launched project (thanks to an investment from **Future Skills Centre**) aimed at delivering technology-based, experiential reforestation and reclamation training to Aboriginal youth and adults.

Also this year, NAIT Mathematics educator and scholar Mark Schneider was **awarded a 3M National Teaching Fellowship** linked to his innovative approach to education.

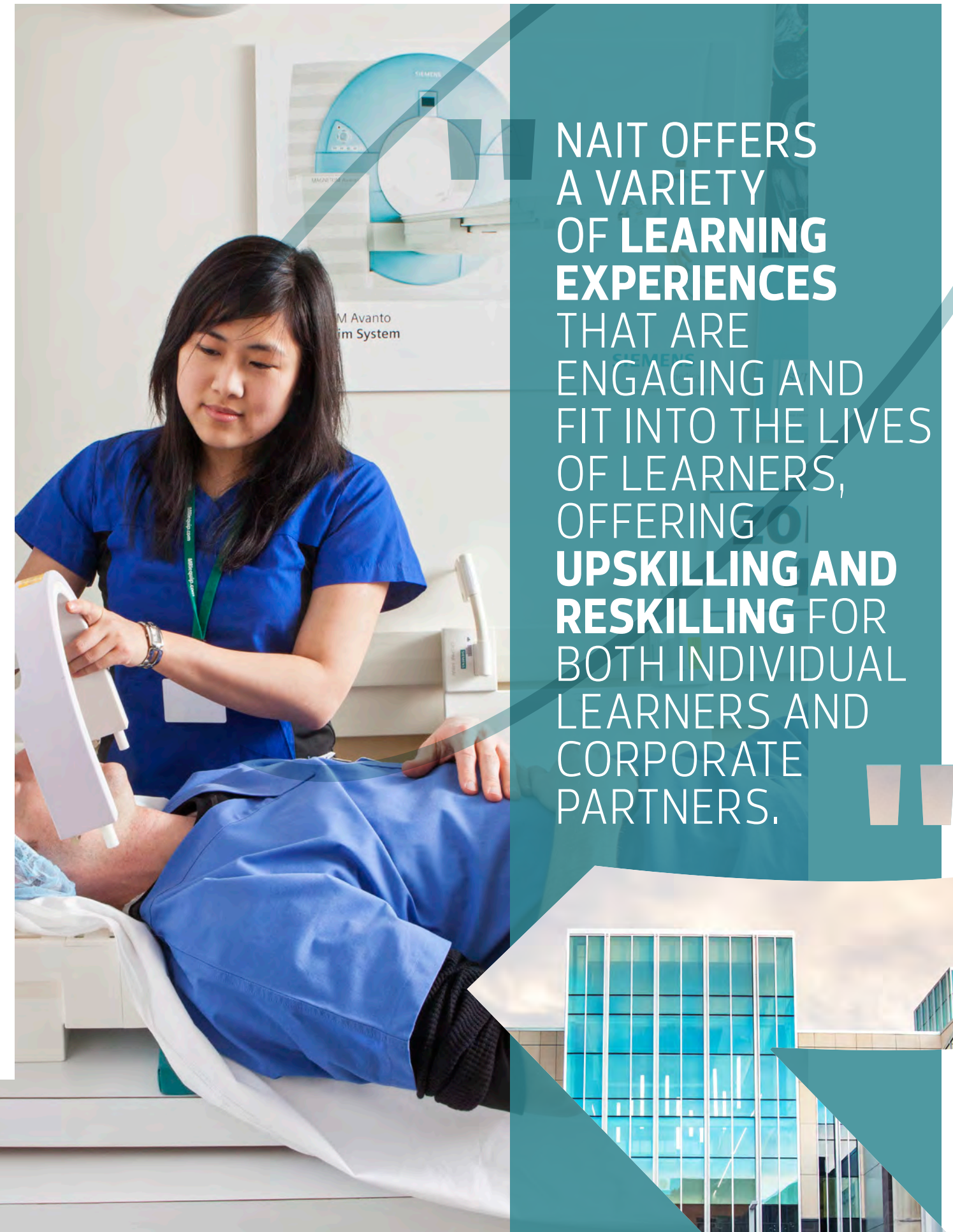
**SOME OF NAIT'S KEY COMMUNITY LEARNING PROGRAMS INCLUDE:**

NAIT offers a variety of learning experiences that are engaging and fit into the lives of learners, offering upskilling and reskilling for both individual learners and corporate partners. Through the health, business, trades and science and technology offerings, learners receive the training they need to thrive in industry.

In addition to diverse credit and apprenticeship offerings, NAIT supports a variety of community upskilling and reskilling opportunities, including about 1,000 unique, industry-relevant courses and 200 unique certificates. Through these continuing education offerings, NAIT serves about 15,000 unique learners each year.



NAIT IS FOCUSED ON DELIVERING TRANSFORMATIONAL, INDUSTRY-FOCUSED EDUCATIONAL AND APPLIED RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES. **NAIT BELIEVES INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT ARE THE KEY TO ITS SUCCESS** AND THAT OF ITS LEARNERS AND PARTNERS.



**NAIT OFFERS A VARIETY OF LEARNING EXPERIENCES THAT ARE ENGAGING AND FIT INTO THE LIVES OF LEARNERS, OFFERING UPSKILLING AND RESKILLING FOR BOTH INDIVIDUAL LEARNERS AND CORPORATE PARTNERS.**



**CUE OFFERS OVER 70 PROGRAMS ACROSS FIVE FACULTIES AT BOTH THE UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE LEVELS, AND HAS GREATLY EXPANDED ITS RESEARCH ACTIVITY AND CAPACITY, AND CONNECTIONS WITH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES.**

**CUE AIMS TO BE CANADA'S PREMINENT SMALL UNIVERSITY** AND CONTINUES TO EVOLVE AS A DYNAMIC, INNOVATIVE, RESPONSIVE AND FORWARD-THINKING POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION WITHIN CAMPUS ALBERTA.

**CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY OF EDMONTON**

Concordia University of Edmonton (CUE) is one of the oldest post-secondary institutions in the province, having served the Edmonton region since 1921. CUE is dedicated to offering accessible high-quality liberal arts, professional programs, science and technology.

CUE offers over 70 programs across five faculties at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and has greatly expanded its research activity and capacity, and connections with local and international communities. With increasing enrolments, CUE is well on track to reach its long-term target of 3,000 Full Load Equivalents (FLEs). CUE is proud of its continued supportive, inclusive campus community, its research and scholarship, and its range of excellent undergraduate and graduate programs, including a new Doctor in Psychology (Psy.D).

CUE aims to be Canada's preminent small university and continues to evolve as a dynamic, innovative, responsive and forward-thinking post-secondary institution within Campus Alberta.

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS:**

Concordia University of Edmonton runs Canada's first and only Centre for Chinese Studies, focusing on Chinese Teachers Professional Development and China Studies. Indigenous Knowledge and Research Centre (IKRC) and a new Indigenous Steering Committee is implementing the Indigenous strategy.

Concordia University of Edmonton is an official Testing Centre for a number of popular language proficiency tests for higher education and global migration. The tests CUE offers include CAEL, CELPIP, Goethe-Institut Exams, and IELTS.

Concordia University of Edmonton offers a Dual Degrees program in Management in partnership with Beijing Foreign Studies University. This exceptional four-year program requires students to complete the first year of their Bachelor of Management degree at CUE before travelling to China for two years to study at the International Business School of Beijing Foreign Studies University. After returning to Edmonton to finish the program, students receive two degrees: A Bachelor of Management from CUE and a Bachelor of Economics or Bachelor of Management from Beijing Foreign Studies University.

Concordia University of Edmonton also offers a Dual Degrees program in Arts in partnership with the Universite de Bretagne Sud in Lorient, France. This unique three-year program allows students to begin their Bachelor of Arts degree in French at CUE, and then complete their final year at the Universite de Bretagne Sud. Students earn two degrees upon completion: A Bachelor of Arts (French) and a Licence Lettres Modernes (the European equivalent).

**SOME OF CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY OF EDMONTON'S KEY COMMUNITY LEARNING PROGRAMS INCLUDE:**

Over 280 lifelong learning extension courses, including a series of human rights courses (dealing with equity, gender, and race), a series of Speak Science Simple courses, and a variety of international language courses.

A special opportunity is the Artificial Intelligence Pathways, a new program built by the partners NorQuest College, Athabasca University, Bow Valley College, CUE, and AMII.

The Centre for Applied Artificial Intelligence's Social Innovation Initiative targets the non-profit sector to ensure they have access to leading AI applications and solutions. The non-profit sector plays an important role in the fabric of our society and it is important that these organizations be included in the benefits that Artificial Intelligence can bring.

### THE KING'S UNIVERSITY

The King's University strives to make a transformative impact on the world. Renewal and reconciliation in every walk of life is possible and The King's University helps to achieve this vision by equipping learners—professors and students alike—to contribute to public good and advancement. The King's University ranks at the top in national surveys of the student experience for its quality of teaching, students' sense of belonging, and students' intellectual engagement. The institution takes business education one step further by integrating a student's faith. Emerging social and environmental concerns require tomorrow's business leaders to find creative solutions.

#### SPECIAL PROGRAMS:

The King's University is positioning itself to equip students as leaders in the task of understanding injustice and working for justice in the world. Through a mix of local and international sociological study, the institution strives to better understand how social movements and theories have and continue to shape our world.

#### SOME OF THE KING'S UNIVERSITY'S KEY COMMUNITY LEARNING PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

**Micah Centre for Justice and Development:** The Micah Centre is an interdisciplinary initiative established at The King's University to foster greater understanding and action among students, faculty, and the community at large around issues of global poverty, peacemaking, and social justice.

**The Centre for Transitions to Sustainability** is an interdisciplinary centre that focuses on how we move beyond critique of current unsustainable practices and propose processes and structures that will be conducive to long term sustainability. The centre has a vision that starts locally and extends globally with a research and public educational component. The King's University is a Christian University, open to all, that has a passion for how all parts of human knowledge can contribute to local and global justice.



THE KING'S UNIVERSITY RANKS AT THE TOP IN NATIONAL SURVEYS OF THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE FOR ITS QUALITY OF TEACHING, STUDENTS' SENSE OF BELONGING, AND STUDENTS' INTELLECTUAL ENGAGEMENT.



### YELLOWHEAD TRIBAL COLLEGE

Yellowhead Tribal College (YTC) was established in 1986 by Yellowhead Tribal Council to meet the educational needs of its member nations (Alexander First Nation, Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, O'Chiese First Nation, and Sunchild First Nation). With a goal to be Visionary Leaders in First Nations Education, YTC's mission is to achieve academic excellence and student success by providing culturally foundational academic programs and services. The college offers academic upgrading, certificates, diplomas, and post-secondary courses and degrees to all adult learners. All programs are supported by and foster First Nations' culture and language.

Yellowhead Tribal College is a member of the First Nation & Adult Higher Education Consortium, a non-profit organization in Western Canada, which coordinates the efforts of its members to provide quality adult and higher education, controlled entirely by people of the First Nations.

#### SPECIAL PROGRAMS:

The University of Alberta and YTC collaborate to co-deliver the Indigenous Community-Industry Relations certificate (ICIR) and the Indigenous Community Engagement citation (ICE).

#### SOME OF YELLOWHEAD TRIBAL COLLEGE'S KEY COMMUNITY LEARNING PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

Yellowhead Tribal College provides students with educational opportunities that respond immediately to community needs. This lays the foundation for graduates to participate fully in 21st-century Canadian society.

Yellowhead Tribal College is a proud community partner delivering upgrading programs as well as accredited post-secondary courses, certificates, diplomas, and degrees. All programs are supported by and foster First Nations' culture and language.



ALL OF YTC'S COURSES CONTAIN FIRST NATIONS/ABORIGINAL CONTENT; STUDENTS ARE PROVIDED WITH A UNIQUE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE AS THEY GAIN KNOWLEDGE THROUGH ABORIGINAL TEACHING METHODS SUPPORTED BY CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE STUDENT SERVICES.

## ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY

Athabasca University is a comprehensive academic and research university with an open mandate to remove barriers to undergraduate and graduate education. It offers flexible enrolment opportunities for learners regardless of age, gender, culture, income, disability, career and family obligations, geographic location or educational background.

As a distance education university, Athabasca University provides flexibility for lifelong learners who cannot or choose not to undertake in-person post-secondary education. The University offers learners the opportunity to interact with students across Canada and around the world through programs in established and emerging areas. Athabasca University seeks to meet the needs of career professionals, develop research expertise and create knowledge that fosters a global outlook among its graduates.

Athabasca University provides high-quality, interactive learning environments that include a variety of online and other media technologies for individualized and cohort learning.

Similarly, the Athabasca University course designs and technology applications are based on current research in open and distance education, pedagogical advances in lifelong learning and contemporary developments in online learning technologies. The University actively pursues technological innovations that can enhance its teaching, research and administrative functions.



**EDMONTON IN MANY WAYS IS, AND IS CONTINUALLY ASPIRING TO BE, A WELCOMING AND HEALING CITY. EDMONTONIANS SHOW THEIR COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND OPENNESS BY CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER. EDMONTON IS CULTURALLY DIVERSE AND THIS DIVERSITY WILL CONTINUE TO GROW OVER TIME. BEING COMPASSIONATE MEANS HELPING PEOPLE MEET THEIR BASIC NEEDS, PROMOTING HEALTHY LIVING AND CREATING ENJOYABLE SPACES FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES, BACKGROUNDS AND ABILITIES TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES.**

City Plan

**EDMONTON IS EXTREMELY FORTUNATE TO BENEFIT FROM A WELL-FUNDED NETWORK OF SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES AND OTHER LEARNING INSTITUTIONS ADMINISTERED BY THE GOVERNMENT BODIES AND FUNDED PRIMARILY THROUGH TAXES AND RESOURCE REVENUES.**





**OUR VISION IS OUR ASPIRATION FOR EDMONTON IN THE YEAR 2050, EDMONTON'S CREATIVITY AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT ARE LIGHTS TO THE WORLD. THE CITY'S HEART IS OUR PEOPLE. THEY MAKE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE. WE WORK TOGETHER TO CREATE LIVEABILITY FOR ALL, WHERE EVERYONE HAS WHAT THEY NEED TO SUCCEED. WE ARE INSPIRED BY AND GRATEFUL FOR OUR COLLECTIVE ANCESTORS WHO CONTINUE TO GUIDE OUR WAY. THEY INSPIRE US TO LEARN, STEWARD THIS SHARED PLACE AND BUILD THE MEANING OF OUR LIVES.**

ConnectEdmonton 2019-2028







**GOAL 2: SUPPORT THE UN'S 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) – PARTICULARLY:**

**SDG #4: Quality Education:** Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.

**SDG #11: Sustainable Cities & Communities:** Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

**OBJECTIVE (3–5 YEARS):**

Current and ongoing programs are promoted to target audiences.

Formal programs are established for sharing traditional Indigenous knowledge with the community.

Improve equitable access to education and lifelong learning programs.

Increase opportunities for community members to learn about their community and history.

**OBJECTIVE (5–10 YEARS):**

Further improve equitable access to education and learning programs.

Further increase opportunities for Edmontonians to learn about their community and history.



**GOAL 3: BUILD ON OUR CURRENT LEARNING STRENGTHS ACROSS SECTORS AND CONTINUE TO GROW TOGETHER AS INNOVATION PARTNERS.**

**OBJECTIVE (3–5 YEARS):**

Establish regular learning city meetings between government and community partners.

Government and community partners collaborate on learning programs.

**OBJECTIVE (5–10 YEARS):**

Municipal government, post-secondary institutions, and primary educators formally collaborate to build a culture of lifelong learning.



**BUILDING THE STRONGEST ECONOMY POSSIBLE REQUIRES CAREFUL ATTENTION TO WHO IS INCLUDED AND WHO IS BEING LEFT BEHIND.**

Edmonton Economic Action Plan 2021



**GOAL 4: CAPITALIZE ON EMERGING LEARNING CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE EDMONTON REGION.**

**OBJECTIVE (3–5 YEARS):**

Improve access to continuing education and retraining opportunities.

Broaden learning city networks to include economic development partners.

**OBJECTIVE (5–10 YEARS):**

Further improve access to continuing education and retraining opportunities.



**GOAL 5: WORK TOGETHER TO SHARE AND BUILD NETWORKS OF SUPPORTERS.**

**OBJECTIVE (3–5 YEARS):**

Establish annual city-wide celebrations of learning by leveraging the networks of learning city community partners.

**OBJECTIVE (5–10 YEARS):**

Edmonton's reputation as a City of Learners is well-known and recognized nationally.



**GOAL 1: PROMOTE OUR CITY'S LEARNING STRENGTHS LOCALLY, NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY**

ACTION AND PROGRAM	OBJECTIVE (3-5 YEARS)	OBJECTIVE (5-10 YEARS)
<p><b>1</b> 100 Voices, a partnership between the Edmonton Valley Zoo and the school boards, guides preschool students through an exciting learning adventure. Children learn about colours, numbers, letters and also get to explore the zoo, see the shape of alpaca, smell the musk of an elephant, and many more innovative learning activities.</p> <p><b>Lead: City of Edmonton</b></p>	<p>Build awareness locally of Edmonton's lifelong learning opportunities by working with community partners</p>	<p>Municipal government, post secondary institutions, and primary educators formally collaborate to build a culture of lifelong learning.</p>
<p><b>2</b> Capital City Press is a gathering place, both digitally and physically, for the exchange of ideas and education on the craft of writing. It gives Edmonton Public Library the opportunity to showcase and promote notable work from within our community, while also giving Edmontonians a chance to discover fantastic local writers and discuss their creations. Capital City Press aims to help support and grow writing in the community.</p> <p><b>Lead: Edmonton Public Library</b></p>	<p>Build awareness locally of Edmonton's lifelong learning opportunities by working with community partners.</p>	<p>Further increase opportunities for Edmontonians to learn about their community and history.</p>
<p><b>3</b> The Edmonton Public Library's Writer in Residence (WIR) program provides services to aspiring and established writers in Edmonton. Services include individual manuscript consultations, public readings and talks, information on the publishing process and networking with the writing community. The WIR hosts monthly events at various library branches. These sessions bring together writers of all abilities to network, talk about their writing, listen to guest speakers, and provide support and encouragement to each other.</p> <p><b>Lead: Edmonton Public Library</b></p>	<p>Build awareness locally of Edmonton's lifelong learning opportunities by working with community partners.</p>	<p>Edmonton's reputation as a City of Learners is well-known and recognized nationally.</p>
<p><b>4</b> Upon acceptance to the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities, sponsors of this application will promote Edmonton's new membership on social media and organizational websites.</p> <p><b>Lead: All</b></p>	<p>Build awareness locally of Edmonton's lifelong learning opportunities by working with community partners.</p>	<p>Edmonton's reputation as a City of Learners is well-known and recognized nationally.</p>
<p><b>5</b> The Women and Children's Health Research Institute (WCHRI) was founded in 2006 as a partnership between the University of Alberta and Alberta Health Services, with core funding from the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation and the Alberta Women's Health Foundation. WCHRI is the only research institute in Canada to focus on both women's and children's health, including perinatal health.</p> <p><b>Lead: University of Alberta</b></p>	<p>Establish Edmonton as a member of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities.</p>	<p>Lend our expertise as a learning city to other Canadian Cities (as the first GNLC) and to other countries through cluster participation</p>



**GOAL 1: PROMOTE OUR CITY'S LEARNING STRENGTHS LOCALLY, NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY**

ACTION AND PROGRAM	OBJECTIVE (3-5 YEARS)	OBJECTIVE (5-10 YEARS)
<p><b>6</b> 1000 Women removes barriers for learners and recognizes the power and potential of women. This scholarship program is currently focused on making transformational impacts on the number of women in STEM. This movement has raised more than \$3.5M since 2010.</p> <p><b>Lead: NorQuest College</b></p>	<p>Establish Edmonton as a member of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities.</p>	<p>Further improve equitable access to education and learning programs.</p>
<p><b>7</b> Attend one UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities Conference event representing Edmonton by 2026.</p> <p><b>Lead: All</b></p>	<p>Establish Edmonton as a member of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities.</p>	<p>Lend our expertise as a learning city to other Canadian Cities (as the first GNLC) and to other countries through cluster participation</p>
<p><b>8</b> Complete one UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities collaborative activity by 2026.</p> <p><b>Lead: All</b></p>	<p>Establish Edmonton as a member of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities.</p>	<p>Lend our expertise as a learning city to other Canadian Cities (as the first GNLC) and to other countries through cluster participation</p>
<p><b>9</b> Participate in one international collaboration table with the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities for a minimum of a one year period.</p> <p><b>Lead: All</b></p>	<p>Establish Edmonton as a member of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities.</p>	<p>Lend our expertise as a learning city to other Canadian Cities (as the first GNLC) and to other countries through cluster participation</p>
<p><b>10</b> Present our findings and experiences as a member of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities of the GNLC at three national Canadian conferences.</p> <p><b>Lead: All</b></p>	<p>Establish Edmonton as a member of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities.</p>	<p>Lend our expertise as a learning city to other Canadian Cities (as the first GNLC) and to other countries through cluster participation</p>
<p><b>11</b> Support another Canadian city in their application to join the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities.</p> <p><b>Lead: All</b></p>	<p>Establish Edmonton as a member of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities.</p>	<p>Lend our expertise as a learning city to other Canadian Cities (as the first GNLC) and to other countries through cluster participation</p>



**GOAL 2: SUPPORT THE UN'S 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) – PARTICULARLY:**

SDG #4: Quality Education: Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.

SDG #11: Sustainable Cities & Communities: Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

*Although many parts of this plan connect to the intentions of the SDGs, in this section we have drawn direct connections between the actions and programs that closely connect to the intentions of the Sustainable Development Goals.*

ACTION AND PROGRAM	OBJECTIVE (3-5 YEARS)	OBJECTIVE (5-10 YEARS)
<p><b>12</b> The Root for Trees opens the door for volunteers and students to support the city's goal of planting 2 million more trees by 2050 to help build a healthy, climate resilient city. Through this initiative, volunteers learn more about their community and impact on building a better future.</p> <p>SDG #13: Climate Action SDG #15: Life on Land</p> <p><b>Lead: City of Edmonton</b></p>	<p>Current and ongoing programs are promoted to target audiences.</p>	<p>Municipal government, post-secondary institutions, and primary educators formally collaborate to build a culture of lifelong learning.</p>
<p><b>13</b> USchool is a program run by the University of Alberta Senate that aims to introduce and connect students in grades 4 through 9 from socially vulnerable, Indigenous (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) and rural communities to the University of Alberta. Students attend a week-long immersion experience with their classroom teachers on campus led by the USchool staff team.</p> <p>SDG #1: No Poverty SDG #4: Quality Education SDG #10: Reduced Inequalities</p> <p><b>Lead: University of Alberta</b></p>	<p>Current and ongoing programs are promoted to target audiences.</p>	<p>Further improve equitable access to education and learning programs.</p>
<p><b>14</b> Welcome Baby is an award winning partnership with local public health centres to provide new parents with a free package of early literacy and learning information and tools. The "Ready. Set. Read!" program, in partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, supplements this support by delivering new books to children every month from birth to age five.</p> <p>SDG #3: Good Health and Well-Being SDG #4: Quality Education</p> <p><b>Lead: Edmonton Public Library</b></p>	<p>Current and ongoing programs are promoted to target audiences.</p>	<p>Edmonton's reputation as a City of Learners is well-known and recognized nationally.</p>
<p><b>15</b> EndPovertyEdmonton Action 17: Initiate a community dialogue to remove systemic barriers and improve coordination of training and employment opportunities. EndPovertyEdmonton is a community initiative working to end poverty in Edmonton in one generation (30 years).</p> <p>SDG #1: No Poverty SDG #4: Quality Education SDG #11: Sustainable Cities &amp; Communities</p> <p><b>Lead: City of Edmonton</b></p>	<p>Current and ongoing programs are promoted to target audiences.</p>	<p>Further improve equitable access to education and learning programs.</p>



**GOAL 2: SUPPORT THE UN'S 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

ACTION AND PROGRAM	OBJECTIVE (3-5 YEARS)	OBJECTIVE (5-10 YEARS)
<p><b>16</b> The Aboriginal Teacher Education Program (ATEP) offers the same high standard of quality as the main Bachelor of Education program in the Faculty of Education but is intended to address the urgent need for Aboriginal teachers and teachers everywhere who have the desire and commitment to work with Aboriginal students. The program enriches student experience via ongoing involvement with community Elders and the use of local resources to create an environment inclusive of Aboriginal ways of knowing and learning.</p> <p>SDG #4: Quality Education SDG #8: Decent Work &amp; Economic Growth SDG #11: Sustainable Cities &amp; Communities</p> <p><b>Lead: University of Alberta</b></p>	<p>Formal programs are established for sharing traditional Indigenous knowledge with the community.</p>	<p>Further improve equitable access to education and learning programs.</p>
<p><b>17</b> The kihêw waciston Indigenous Centre is carefully designed to reflect Indigenous culture and values. kihêw waciston is a home away from home for MacEwan's University Indigenous students, a space where they can gather, work and grow in a community that honours the distinctive knowledge of Indigenous peoples and supports them on their post-secondary journey.</p> <p>SDG #4: Quality Education SDG #11: Sustainable Cities &amp; Communities</p> <p><b>Lead: MacEwan University</b></p>	<p>Formal programs are established for sharing traditional Indigenous knowledge with the community.</p>	<p>Further increase opportunities for Edmontonians to learn about their community and history.</p>
<p><b>18</b> The pimâchisowin Foundation Program. The program includes cultural support, mentorship and ceremonial events and applied research at the undergraduate level. Unique to the program is the requirement that all students undertake a course in arts and cultural management to ensure students are equipped with the management and leadership skills necessary to contribute to the world's ever-changing industry and job market.</p> <p>SDG #4: Quality Education SDG #8: Decent Work &amp; Economic Growth SDG #11: Sustainable Cities &amp; Communities</p> <p><b>Lead: MacEwan University</b></p>	<p>Formal programs are established for sharing traditional Indigenous knowledge with the community.</p>	<p>Further increase opportunities for Edmontonians to learn about their community and history.</p>
<p><b>19</b> Every signatory of this document has in some form a strategy and framework specifically focused on tackling long-standing inequities faced by Indigenous peoples. For example, wakhôhtowin, NorQuest's Indigenous Strategy, is a Cree word that means "everything is related." The services and supports span the needs of culture, mentorship, finance, and companionship. The resident Elders, available to all NorQuest students, faculty, and staff, offer regular reminders that wakhôhtowin is alive and well at the college. This action commits to the delivery of these strategies in the pursuit of equitable learning.</p> <p>SDG #4: Quality Education SDG #10: Reduced Inequalities</p> <p><b>Lead: All</b></p>	<p>Formal programs are established for sharing traditional Indigenous knowledge with the community.</p>	<p>Further increase opportunities for Edmontonians to learn about their community and history.</p>



**GOAL 2: SUPPORT THE UN'S 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

ACTION AND PROGRAM	OBJECTIVE (3-5 YEARS)	OBJECTIVE (5-10 YEARS)
<p><b>20</b> EndPovertyEdmonton Action 2: Create spaces, events and opportunities to show and grow the talents of Indigenous Edmontonians. EndPovertyEdmonton is a community initiative working to end poverty in Edmonton in one generation (30 years).</p> <p>SDG #1: No Poverty SDG #11: Sustainable Cities &amp; Communities</p> <p><b>Lead: City of Edmonton</b></p>	<p>Formal programs are established for sharing traditional Indigenous knowledge with the community.</p>	<p>Further increase opportunities for Edmontonians to learn about their community and history.</p>
<p><b>21</b> The Robert Tegler Trust Outreach Service works with the Edmonton Public Library's most vulnerable customers to help and empower them through literacy, education, connections and social support. Some people might not access existing social services, but visit the library knowing it's a safe and friendly space. Clients of the program find social support and assistance needed to manage challenges and make lasting changes towards a better life.</p> <p>SDG #1: No Poverty SDG #10: Reduced Inequalities SDG #11: Sustainable Cities &amp; Communities</p> <p><b>Lead: Edmonton Public Library</b></p>	<p>Improve equitable access to education and lifelong learning programs.</p>	<p>Further improve equitable access to education and learning programs.</p>
<p><b>22</b> The Edmonton Public Library goes to great lengths to meet the diverse needs of all Edmontonians. They provide specialized services, collections, and adaptive technologies to support people with disabilities, homebound individuals and older adults.</p> <p>SDG #10: Reduced Inequalities SDG #11: Sustainable Cities &amp; Communities</p> <p><b>Lead: Edmonton Public Library</b></p>	<p>Improve equitable access to education and lifelong learning programs.</p>	<p>Further improve access to continuing education and retraining opportunities.</p>
<p><b>23</b> Campus EPSB is itself part of a larger award winning Edmonton Public Schools initiative that aims to give children from preschool to Grade 12 the skills they will need to succeed after school. Teachers work with partners in the community to expose students to different career options such as business and information technology, or construction, manufacturing and transportation.</p> <p>SDG #11: Sustainable Cities &amp; Communities</p> <p><b>Lead: Edmonton Public School Board (EPSB)</b></p>	<p>Improve equitable access to education and lifelong learning programs.</p>	<p>Municipal government, post-secondary institutions, and primary educators formally collaborate to build a culture of lifelong learning.</p>



**GOAL 2: SUPPORT THE UN'S 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

ACTION AND PROGRAM	OBJECTIVE (3-5 YEARS)	OBJECTIVE (5-10 YEARS)
<p><b>24</b> One World... One Centre is a one-stop location where recently arrived families can access the services they need, from an individualized assessment of their eight-year olds' proficiency in reading or math to information on English-as-a-second language for the parents.</p> <p>SDG #1: No Poverty SDG #10: Reduced Inequalities SDG #11: Sustainable Cities &amp; Communities</p> <p><b>Lead: Edmonton Catholic School Division</b></p>	<p>Improve equitable access to education and lifelong learning programs.</p>	<p>Further improve equitable access to education and learning programs.</p>
<p><b>25</b> The Campus Saint-Jean, a French-language multidisciplinary faculty at the University of Alberta, is the only French-language university-degree program west of Manitoba. They provide two college programs (Administration and Tourism), nine bachelor's programs (arts, sciences, administration, nursing and education included) and two Master's programs in Arts or Education. The Campus also welcomes space bookings from the community.</p> <p>SDG #4: Quality Education SDG #10: Reduced Inequalities SDG #11: Sustainable Cities &amp; Communities</p> <p><b>Lead: University of Alberta</b></p>	<p>Improve equitable access to education and lifelong learning programs.</p>	<p>Further improve equitable access to education and learning programs.</p>
<p><b>26</b> EndPovertyEdmonton Action 30: Resource and grow the All In for Youth wrap-around initiative in five school sites. This initiative works to ensure that well-trained and well-paid early childhood educators are in place to make the best use of an appropriate curriculum. EndPovertyEdmonton is a community initiative working to end poverty in Edmonton in one generation (30 years).</p> <p>SDG #1: No Poverty SDG #4: Quality Education SDG #10: Reduced Inequalities SDG #11: Sustainable Cities &amp; Communities</p> <p><b>Lead: City of Edmonton</b></p>	<p>Improve equitable access to education and lifelong learning programs.</p>	<p>Further improve access to continuing education and retraining opportunities.</p>



**GOAL 2: SUPPORT THE UN'S 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

ACTION AND PROGRAM	OBJECTIVE (3-5 YEARS)	OBJECTIVE (5-10 YEARS)
<p><b>27</b> Capital City Art (CCA) promotes and celebrates local visual art and artists in Edmonton. The Edmonton Public Library connects Edmontonians with visual art through promotion of local artists, curation of community art in all our locations, classes or events connected to the library's art collections.</p> <p>SDG #11: Sustainable Cities &amp; Communities</p> <p><b>Lead: Edmonton Public Library</b></p>	Increase opportunities for community members to learn about their community and history.	Further increase opportunities for Edmontonians to learn about their community and history.
<p><b>28</b> The Learn Local series are learning opportunities for those wanting to engage more deeply with themes presented by Edmonton Public Library's Forward Thinking Speaker Series. Learn Local facilitates learning, encourages dialogue and builds awareness around current issues.</p> <p>SDG #11: Sustainable Cities &amp; Communities</p> <p><b>Lead: Edmonton Public Library</b></p>	Increase opportunities for community members to learn about their community and history.	Further increase opportunities for Edmontonians to learn about their community and history.
<p><b>29</b> Concordia University of Edmonton runs the Centre for Chinese Studies, which focuses on Chinese Teachers Professional Development and China Studies. It is the only such centre in Canada and provides a unique opportunity for Edmontonians to experience Chinese culture through cross-institutional collaborations across Alberta, Canada and internationally.</p> <p>SDG #4: Quality Education SDG #10: Reduced Inequalities SDG #11: Sustainable Cities &amp; Communities</p> <p><b>Lead: Concordia University of Edmonton</b></p>	Increase opportunities for community members to learn about their community and history.	Further increase opportunities for Edmontonians to learn about their community and history.
<p><b>30</b> The Indigenous Knowledge and Research Centre (IKRC) connects self-declared Indigenous and non-Indigenous students with social and scientific research opportunities. It also allows students to engage in research collaborations with key industry and community partners. The Centre creates a bridge between Indigenous communities, the university, and the research and innovation at the Centre by supporting students and creating an atmosphere of success.</p> <p>SDG #4: Quality Education SDG #10: Reduced Inequalities SDG #11: Sustainable Cities &amp; Communities</p> <p><b>Lead: Concordia University of Edmonton</b></p>	Increase opportunities for community members to learn about their community and history.	Further increase opportunities for Edmontonians to learn about their community and history.
<p><b>31</b> The Micah Centre for Justice and Development is an interdisciplinary initiative established at The King's University to foster greater understanding and action among students, faculty, and the community at large around issues of global poverty, peacemaking, and social justice.</p> <p>SDG #1: No Poverty SDG #4: Quality Education SDG #11: Sustainable Cities &amp; Communities</p> <p><b>Lead: The King's University</b></p>	Increase opportunities for community members to learn about their community and history.	Further improve access to continuing education and retraining opportunities.



**GOAL 3: BUILD ON OUR CURRENT LEARNING STRENGTHS ACROSS SECTORS AND CONTINUE TO GROW TOGETHER AS INNOVATION PARTNERS.**

ACTION AND PROGRAM	OBJECTIVE (3-5 YEARS)	OBJECTIVE (5-10 YEARS)
<p><b>32</b> Senior executives of Edmonton's post-secondary institutions and municipal government hold regular meetings to discuss learning and partnership opportunities.</p> <p><b>Lead: Post-Secondaries, primary educators and City of Edmonton</b></p>	Establish regular learning city meetings between government and community partners.	Municipal government, post-secondary institutions, and primary educators formally collaborate to build a culture of lifelong learning.
<p><b>33</b> Indigenous Summer Student Program and Indigenous High School Work Experience Program, in partnership with Braided Journeys, provides learning opportunities for Indigenous students interested in civil services.</p> <p><b>Lead: City of Edmonton</b></p>	Government and community partners collaborate on learning programs.	Further improve access to continuing education and retraining opportunities.
<p><b>34</b> City Hall School, which is delivered in partnership with Edmonton Public Schools, provides a week-long, inquiry based, hands-on learning experience for Grades 1 to 12.</p> <p><b>Lead: City of Edmonton and Edmonton Public Library</b></p>	Government and community partners collaborate on learning programs.	Further increase opportunities for Edmontonians to learn about their community and history.
<p><b>35</b> The City maintains Change for Climate education resources including: Green League community workshops on energy adaptation; Energy Transition Leadership Network; Corporate Climate Leaders program for business leaders; and Sustainability Scholars, which is a graduate student applied research and learning program.</p> <p><b>Lead: City of Edmonton</b></p>	Government and community partners collaborate on learning programs.	Further increase opportunities for Edmontonians to learn about their community and history.
<p><b>36</b> EPL2Go brings the library to the people, creating pop-up library spaces in city facilities, parks, recreation centres, schools, childcare facilities, hospitals, organizations and institutions. Get a library card (free for all city residents and for Indigenous Persons living on a reserve or a Métis settlement), return a book, play with a robot and take part in a program right in your neighbourhood.</p> <p><b>Lead: Edmonton Public Library</b></p>	Government and community partners collaborate on learning programs.	Further improve equitable access to education and learning programs.
<p><b>37</b> Edmonton Public Library Makerspaces are hubs for all things making and creating. They offer Edmontonians access to services and equipment such as recording studios, high-end creative workstations, 3D printing, laser cutting, sewing machines, book making and more.</p> <p><b>Lead: Edmonton Public Library</b></p>	Government and community partners collaborate on learning programs.	Further improve equitable access to education and learning programs.



**GOAL 3: BUILD ON OUR CURRENT LEARNING STRENGTHS ACROSS SECTORS AND CONTINUE TO GROW TOGETHER AS INNOVATION PARTNERS.**

ACTION AND PROGRAM	OBJECTIVE (3-5 YEARS)	OBJECTIVE (5-10 YEARS)
<p><b>38</b> The City of Learners Speaker Series is an opportunity to build partnerships with learning organizations throughout Edmonton while providing Edmontonians with access to creative, engaging learning opportunities that might be perceived as being difficult or out of reach for many learners.</p> <p><b>Lead: Edmonton Public Library</b></p>	<p>Government and community partners collaborate on learning programs.</p>	<p>Municipal government, post-secondary institutions, and primary educators formally collaborate to build a culture of lifelong learning.</p>
<p><b>39</b> Life Skills classes are offered on a range of topics, in partnership with community partners, with topics such as composting, gardening, baking, and more. The Edmonton Public Library also hosts a Financial Empowerment series, as well as classes on mental health and wellness.</p> <p><b>Lead: Edmonton Public Library</b></p>	<p>Government and community partners collaborate on learning programs.</p>	<p>Municipal government, post-secondary institutions, and primary educators formally collaborate to build a culture of lifelong learning.</p>



**GOAL 4: CAPITALIZE ON EMERGING LEARNING CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE EDMONTON REGION**

ACTION AND PROGRAM	OBJECTIVE (3-5 YEARS)	OBJECTIVE (5-10 YEARS)
<p><b>40</b> The University of Alberta offers Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) for free to anyone interested in learning. This includes the acclaimed Indigenous Canada MOOC. The University of Alberta was one of the first Canadian universities to offer these open learning opportunities.</p> <p><b>Lead: University of Alberta</b></p>	<p>Improve access to continuing education and retraining opportunities.</p>	<p>Further improve access to continuing education and retraining opportunities.</p>
<p><b>41</b> NorQuest College's Colbourne Institute for Inclusive Leadership offers customized and focused training solutions in the areas of diversity and inclusion leadership and intercultural education.</p> <p><b>Lead: NorQuest College</b></p>	<p>Improve access to continuing education and retraining opportunities.</p>	<p>Further improve access to continuing education and retraining opportunities.</p>
<p><b>42</b> The Government of Alberta is launching a micro-credential pilot program to reskill or upgrade skills for workers. Alberta will invest \$5.6M into the program, which will focus on careers in priority sectors and high-demand or emerging industries, including machine learning, artificial intelligence, solar energy, animation, and data privacy and security. Microcredentials are defined as a formal recognition of competencies achieved through a carefully curated series of learning activities, in a specific topic area, that has labour market value.</p> <p><b>Lead: Post-Secondaries</b></p>	<p>Improve access to continuing education and retraining opportunities.</p>	<p>Further improve access to continuing education and retraining opportunities.</p>
<p><b>43</b> Continuous Learning Opportunities are offered at all of Edmonton's post-secondary institutions and are an important part of the province's commitment to learning. For example, Concordia University of Edmonton alone offers more than 280 lifelong learning extension courses, including a series of human rights courses (dealing with equity, gender, and race), a series of Speak Science Simple courses, and a variety of international language courses. This action commits to continuing to deliver and develop continuous learning opportunities.</p> <p><b>Lead: Concordia University of Edmonton</b></p>	<p>Improve access to continuing education and retraining opportunities.</p>	<p>Further improve equitable access to education and learning programs.</p>
<p><b>44</b> Artificial Intelligence Pathways, a new program built by the partners NorQuest College, Athabasca University, Bow Valley College, Concordia University of Edmonton, and AMII (Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute).</p> <p><b>Lead: Multiple</b></p>	<p>Improve access to continuing education and retraining opportunities.</p>	<p>Further improve access to continuing education and retraining opportunities.</p>
<p><b>45</b> The Centre for Transitions to Sustainability is an interdisciplinary centre that focuses on how we move beyond critique of current unsustainable practices and propose processes and structures that will be conducive to long-term sustainability.</p> <p><b>Lead: The King's University</b></p>	<p>Improve access to continuing education and retraining opportunities.</p>	<p>Further improve access to continuing education and retraining opportunities.</p>



**GOAL 4: CAPITALIZE ON EMERGING LEARNING CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE EDMONTON REGION.**

ACTION AND PROGRAM	OBJECTIVE (3-5 YEARS)	OBJECTIVE (5-10 YEARS)
<p><b>46</b> The Third Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) is a consortium of seven telecommunications standards development organizations. The 3500 MHz Band will be auctioned in 5G-friendly millimetre-wave spectrum and will be auctioned in 2021, providing higher speed internet across the country.</p> <p><b>Lead: City of Edmonton</b></p>	<p>Improve access to continuing education and retraining opportunities.</p>	<p>Further improve access to continuing education and retraining opportunities.</p>
<p><b>47</b> Social Innovation Institute, students are connected with experts and innovators to support positive change locally, regionally, and globally. Programs and events offered provide learning opportunities that help people engage in social innovation.</p> <p><b>Lead: MacEwan University</b></p>	<p>Broaden learning city networks to include economic development partners.</p>	<p>Municipal government, post-secondary institutions, and primary educators formally collaborate to build a culture of lifelong learning.</p>
<p><b>48</b> EndPovertyEdmonton Action 33: Support ongoing work and facilitate discussion amongst banks, business support agencies, and post-secondary institutions to address barriers faced by low-income Edmontonians starting and growing a business. EndPovertyEdmonton is a community initiative working to end poverty in Edmonton in one generation (30 years).</p> <p><b>Lead: City of Edmonton</b></p>	<p>Broaden learning city networks to include economic development partners.</p>	<p>Further improve equitable access to education and learning programs.</p>
<p><b>49</b> EndPovertyEdmonton Action 29: Resource a new Early Learning and Care Steering Committee to guide the implementation of an integrated system and strategy for early learning and care in Edmonton. This Steering Committee provides recommendations on the system of centre-based care, day homes, respite care, kinship care, and other forms of care for young children, as well as support for stay-at-home parents and for the people outside children's homes who work with young children. EndPovertyEdmonton is a community initiative working to end poverty in Edmonton in one generation (30 years).</p> <p><b>Lead: City of Edmonton</b></p>	<p>Broaden learning city networks to include economic development partners.</p>	<p>Further improve equitable access to education and learning programs.</p>



**GOAL 5: WORK TOGETHER TO SHARE AND BUILD NETWORKS OF SUPPORTERS.**

ACTION AND PROGRAM	OBJECTIVE (3-5 YEARS)	OBJECTIVE (5-10 YEARS)
<p><b>50</b> The City of Edmonton will convene a group of education and community partners to plan a city-wide celebration of learning, tentatively scheduled for September 2022. The celebration will be tweaked annually as we hear from the community and partners.</p> <p><b>Lead: City of Edmonton</b></p>	<p>Establish annual city-wide celebration of learning by leveraging the networks of learning city community partners.</p>	<p>Edmonton's reputation as a City of Learners is well-known and recognized nationally.</p>
<p><b>51</b> The celebration of learning will have, at minimum, two private partners, two post-secondary partners, two school board partners, and one government partner every year after the first celebration. The first celebration of learning will be sponsored by the signers of this document.</p> <p><b>Lead: City of Edmonton</b></p>	<p>Establish annual city-wide celebration of learning by leveraging the networks of learning city community partners.</p>	<p>Edmonton's reputation as a City of Learners is well-known and recognized nationally.</p>

**THIS IS A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT. UNIVERSAL INDICATORS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED TO DEMONSTRATE THE PROGRESS OF THIS PLAN ALONG STANDARDIZED METRICS.**

## MEASURING THE ACTIONS

**WITH RARE EXCEPTION, THE ACTIONS AND PROGRAMS OUTLINED IN THE PLAN ARE INCORPORATED IN THE LEAD ORGANIZATION'S STRATEGIC PLANS AND HAVE CORRESPONDING DETAILED ACTIVITIES, OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES. PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES ARE MEASURED BOTH ON AN ANNUAL BASIS AND WHEN EACH STAGE OF AN ACTION IS COMPLETED.**

This Community Learning Action Plan brings together many organizations with vast and diverse networks that contribute to the culture of learning in Edmonton every day. This is a collaborative effort. For this reason, universal indicators have been developed to demonstrate the progress of this plan along standardized metrics.

Reporting will aim for completeness of quantitative, qualitative and indicative measurement where possible. For this reason, reporting on the success of the plan will involve a mix of the indicators, organization-specific strategic reporting, and the narrative experiences of Edmontonians.

INDICATOR	ACTIONS
Literacy Rate <b>Source:</b> Alberta Education Annual Report	12, 13, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 50, 51
Numeracy Rate <b>Source:</b> Alberta Education Annual Report	12, 13, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 50, 51
% of Workforce with post-secondary or higher education <b>Source:</b> Alberta Labour Workforce Outlook	21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 50, 51
STEM employment rate <b>Source:</b> Alberta Labour Workforce Outlook	12, 13, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 47, 48, 49
% of Alberta graduates that find work in 12 months <b>Source:</b> Alberta Ministry of Education	12, 13, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 47, 48, 49
Immigration and settlement numbers <b>Source:</b> State of Immigration and Settlement in Edmonton Annual Report	3, 4, 14, 50, 51
Number of languages spoken by new arrivals <b>Source:</b> State of Immigration and Settlement in Edmonton Annual Report	21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46
Number of users enrolled in learning city programs <b>Source:</b> Performance metrics from supporting organizations	1, 2, 3, 4, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39
Visits to website pages identifying Edmonton as a member of UNESCO GNLC <b>Source:</b> Website traffic	5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
Survey and debrief on celebration of learning <b>Source:</b> Survey TBD	50, 51
Survey and debrief of partner cities for UNESCO collaborative project <b>Source:</b> Survey TBD	5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
% of Edmontonians with internet access <b>Source:</b> Canadian Internet Use Survey - StatCan	21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 47, 48, 49







**EDMONTON'S  
COMMUNITY LEARNING  
ACTION PLAN 2021**

EDMONTON'S COMMITMENT  
**UNESCO GLOBAL NETWORK  
OF LEARNING CITIES**

**Edmonton**