

Community Services Advisory Board - 2024 Annual Report

Message from the Chair

It has been a wonderful year for the Community Services Advisory Board! The board of 13 members has provided advice to City Council and Administration on priorities for community services, while providing recommendations for the Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) and Community Investment Operating Grant (CIOG) programs.

The board welcomed three new board members in the spring who have been eager to learn and provide recommendations on community services in Edmonton. To welcome new members and thank outgoing members, a volunteer appreciation event was hosted at the Yorath House for both CSAB members and FCSS committee members to recognize all their contributions and achievements. We would also like to thank our previous board members for all their passion, hard work and dedication provided to CSAB over the years.

CSAB also hosted its inaugural Edmonton FCSS Board Chair Networking Event with 39 Board Chairs from agencies funded to provide FCSS programs and services. The event was a great success as it provided an opportunity to learn, connect and build relationships with Board Chairs, while engaging in discussion about current issues with their boards and community services in Edmonton.

On behalf of the Community Services Advisory Board, I would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation to City leaders and staff from the Community Services department for their ongoing willingness to engage, collaborate and be receptive to the recommendations from board members about the future of community services. I would also like to extend our appreciation to Councillor Wright for her guidance and continued support.

It has been a pleasure to lead, empower and provide board governance to the Community Services Advisory Board. I would like to thank all our board members for their continued dedication to improving community services in Edmonton.

- Jenny Albers, Chair Community Services Advisory Board

Purpose of the Annual Report

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

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

Mandate of Community Services Advisory Board (CSAB)

The mandate of CSAB is to provide advice regarding grant funding allocations and to have a key role in developing a long term plan for community services in the City.

Report on 2024 Work Plan Goals and Accomplishments

Goal 1	Affordable Housing and Prevention of Homelessness
Key Results	• Increased understanding of the priorities and current work of the City's Affordable Housing and Prevention of Homelessness Strategy. • Engaged and provided feedback on future strategies for affordable housing, while shared connections and impacts to the local community.
Summary of Progress	• One meeting (June) was focused on this topic. Rachael Putt and Caitlin Beaton from the City provided a presentation to the board and answered questions.

Goal 2	Community Safety and Wellbeing
Key Results	• Increased understanding of the City's Community Safety and Wellbeing Strategy, while engaging and sharing feedback on the strategy.

	- Developed an understanding of the priorities and current work of the Community Services department and other Administration areas, specific to community safety and wellbeing. - Learned from community organizations about the importance and impacts of community safety and wellbeing to their clients and local community.
Summary of Progress	- Three meetings (January, April and November) were focused on this topic. - Matthew Cheung and Nancy Jacobsen from Administration presented on the Safe and Inclusive Spaces Report. The board provided feedback on the approach and importance of connection with the community. - Kelta Coomber from the Community Services Strategy Team presented on the Community Safety and Wellbeing Strategy. - Boyle Street Community Services program presented on digital platforms and how they support community efforts to connect individuals to community services and increase their wellbeing. - Edmonton Age Friendly Alliance presented on the importance of building communities for seniors and ensuring they are represented in community services in Edmonton.

Goal 3	Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)
Key Results	- Provided recommendations on the Edmonton Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) program to increase social inclusion and equity by funding programs and services, community development initiatives and social infrastructure. - Supported the FCSS program's focus on the strategic priority areas identified below and funded programs will report on the identified outcomes as part of their annual reporting. - Healthy Social Emotional Development - Healthy Relationships - Positive Mental Health - Poverty Reduction and Homelessness - The Edmonton FCSS Report will be shared in Spring 2025 with more information about the key results of the program.
Summary of Progress	A 2024 Edmonton FCSS Board Chair Networking Event was held in November at the Prince of Wales Armouries.

	• 39 Board Chairs from agencies funded to provide FCSS programs and services attended the event to engage with other Board Chairs, CSAB members and Administration. • The event provided an opportunity to learn, connect and build relationships and discuss specific issues related to the role of a Board Chair. • An overview of the FCSS program was provided, along with current social services research and current trends. • Board Chairs engaged in active discussion on current issues within their boards and community services in Edmonton. • Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations (ECVO) was in attendance and provided information to Board Chairs about available resources for their board members and volunteers. The following changes were recommended by the FCSS subcommittee and approved by CSAB: • A one year extension of funding to the seven organizations whose funding within the Social Infrastructure / Strong Sector stream was expiring at the end of 2024. This stream supports collaborations, sector support and coordination, research, innovation, learning opportunities and addressing emerging needs and issues. • Supporting the funding of two organizations that approached Edmonton FCSS for funding in 2025 due to changes in funding from another community funder. Both programs advanced belonging and inclusion, as well as community development and collaborative approaches aligned with FCSS priorities and theory of change.
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FCSS Sub-committee Members 2024	
CSAB Members	Community Members
Azumme Degun	Ashton Raeyr
Bette Gray	Bonnie Chan Maier
Francisco Yu	Sarah Barber (United Way representative)
Luke Statt (Chair)	Victoria Smith
Samuel Mammen	
Shaun Percival	
Sheineen Nathoo	

Goal 4	Community Investment Operating Grant (CIOG)
Key Results	• Provided recommendations on the Community Investment Operating Grant, which provides operating assistance to not-for-profit organizations to help them provide programs, services and activities benefiting the residents of Edmonton. • The budget for the 2024 program is \$968,500 with \$484,250 allocated to the Social Services sector and \$484,250 allocated to the Amateur Sport and Active Recreation sector.
Summary of Progress	• Three meetings (January, April and September) were focused on this topic. Provided approval of the 2024 CIOG award recommendations provided by Administration. • For the 2024 program, there was a maximum award of \$15,000 and a minimum award of \$500. • 145 organizations whose primary mandates include Social Services (73 organizations) or Amateur Sport and Active Recreation (72 organizations) sector received operating grants.

	The following changes for the 2025 CIOG program were recommended by Administration and approved by CSAB: • The appeal process will be removed, commencing in 2025. • The grant launched in November 2024 and closed at the end of January 2025, which will result in organizations receiving funds earlier in the year. • The minimum award of \$500 and maximum award of \$15,000 would remain the same for 2025. • An update to the application scoring matrix, specifically for the governance and equity and inclusion sections of the scoring. A matrix specific to each sector will be implemented to ensure the scoring adequately addresses the different ways that the sectors demonstrate governance, equity and inclusion. • A review of Social Services eligibility was conducted and an additional question for the Social Services sector applicants will be added where they can identify their focus area.
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In addition, the following was also completed by CSAB:

- Provided feedback to Edmonton Elections on the proposed accessibility and inclusion strategies to increase engagement in the 2025 Edmonton Election.
- Engaged in a presentation with Edmonton Police Commission member, Shazia Amiri, to learn about the Edmonton Police Commission role and responsibilities.
- Celebrated CSAB and FCSS committee members in a volunteer appreciation event at Yorath House, while building board relations and community connections.

2024 Meeting Summary – Key Topics and Motions Meeting Summary

Meeting	Summary - Key Topics and Motions
January 23, 2024	• Discussion: Public Spaces Bylaw 20700 Council Report • Motion: Draft and submit a letter to City Council regarding Public Spaces Bylaw 50700 • Motion: Request that Council approve to retain the FCSS subcommittee as a subcommittee of CSAB • Motion: 2024CAAB001 - 2024 Community Investment Operating Grant (CIOG) Recommendations
February 27, 2024	• Presentation: Safe & Inclusive Public Spaces Report (M. Cheung, N. Jacobsen)

Attachment 1

	• Chair Presentation: Annual Report, Work Plan and FCSS subcommittee request
March 26, 2024	• Admin Presentation: Affordable Housing & Prevention of Homelessness (R. Putt)
April 23, 2024	• Community Presentation: How Digital Platforms Support Community Efforts to Connect Individuals to Services (Boyle Street Community Services) • Motion: 2024CAAB002 - 2024 Community Investment Operating Grant (CIOG) Recommendations
May 28, 2024	• Admin Presentation: Edmonton Elections - Engagement Regarding Accessibility and Inclusion Strategies (C. Heywood) • Admin Presentation: Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) 2023 Annual Report (J. Smith) • Board Learning Opportunity: Orientation and welcome new board members
June 25, 2024	• Admin Presentation: City Plan to End Homelessness (R. Putt and C. Beaton) • Board Discussion: Review of CSAB's mandate, as per the Office of the City Clerk • Motion: 2024CAAB003 - Social Infrastructure Funding Update and Recommendations • Motion: 2024CAAB004 - FCSS Committee Membership 2024/2025
September 24, 2024	• Community Presentation: Edmonton Police Commission (S. Amiri) • Board Discussion: Meeting Norms and Structures • Motion: 2024CAA005 - Social Infrastructure Funding Recommendation • Motion: 2024CAAB006 - CIOG Program Recommendations
October 22, 2024	• Board Learning Opportunity: Appreciation event at Yorath House • Motion: 2024CAAB007 - FCSS Funding Recommendation - Community Programs
November 26, 2024	• Admin Presentation: Community Safety and Wellbeing Strategy (K. Coomber) • Community Presentation: Edmonton Age Friendly Alliance (S. Hallett and K. Schreiner)

Membership and Appointment Information

Community Services Advisory Board (CSAB) 2024-25 Membership List			
Name	Appointed	Term Ends	Max Term
Jenny Albers - Chair	May 1, 2022	Apr 30, 2026	2030
Azumme Degun	May 1, 2023	Apr 30, 2026	2031
Kanwal Lali	May 1, 2017	Apr 30, 2026	2026
Elizabeth LoPresti	May 1, 2024	Apr 30, 2026	2032
Samuel Mammen	May 1, 2023	Apr 30, 2026	2031
Sheineen Nathoo	May 1, 2024	Apr 30, 2026	2032
Shaun Percival	May 1, 2023	Apr 30, 2026	2031
Ahmed Rana	May 1, 2023	Apr 30, 2026	2031
Bronwyn Reeves	May 1, 2024	Apr 30, 2026	2032
Shane Scott	May 1, 2022	Apr 30, 2026	2030
Luke Statt - Vice Chair	Jul 4, 2022	Apr 30, 2026	2030
Francisco Yu	May 1, 2022	Apr 30, 2026	2030

Reports and Communications

Reports by CSAB to Council:

1. March 5, 2024, City Council, 5.2, OCC02275, Community Services Advisory Board - 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Work Plan
2. March 6, 2024, Community and Public Services Committee, 6.7, Community Services Advisory Board - 2024 Recruitment

Correspondence submitted to Council:

1. Public Spaces Bylaw 20700 - Community Services Advisory Board - February 7, 2024

Concluding Remarks

The Community Services Advisory Board is looking forward to supporting the future of community services in Edmonton. For 2025, the board is excited to continue to focus on City Council's priorities for community services in Edmonton, while allocating community grant funding to support organizations who are supporting our community with preventative programs and services, community development initiatives and social infrastructure. We thank both City Council and Administration for their continued support and dedication for community services in Edmonton.