



# CITY HALL SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT  
2022–2023

Edmonton

# INQUIRING MINDS CONNECTIONS

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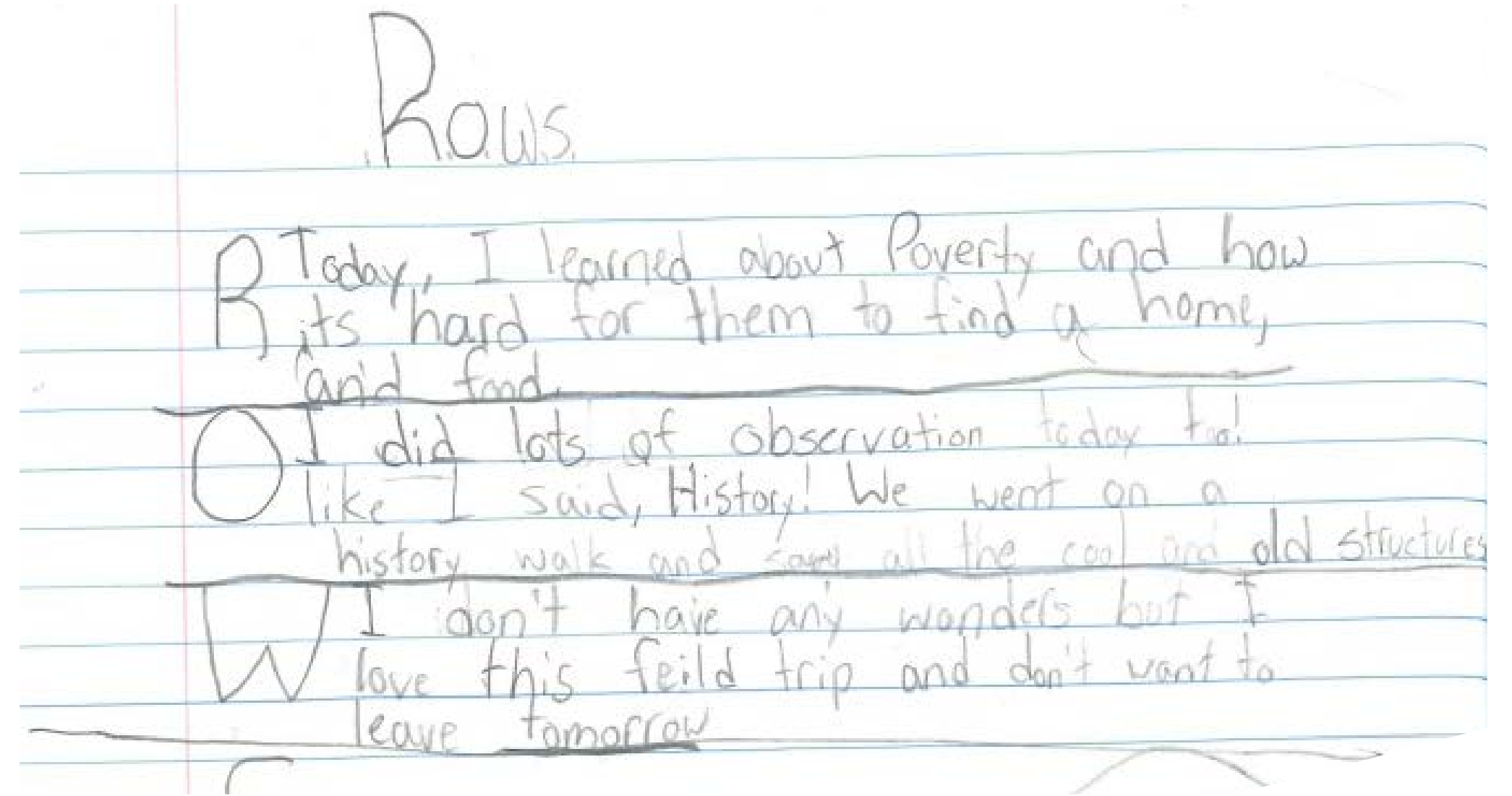
City Hall School is one of Edmonton's 14 [Inquiring Minds Site Schools](#). Site schools offer teachers an opportunity to move their class to a community location for a customized week of immersive, applied learning. During this experience, students are able to meet curriculum expectations through meaningful connections to the community, authentic problem-solving activities, and journaling.

This [Beyond the Classroom Network](#) approach to learning was pioneered by Gillain Kydd over 25 years ago. This program is supported by both the Edmonton Public and Edmonton Catholic School Boards.



"Being a part of City Hall School has fostered curiosity and allowed my kids to be inquisitive. It has taught them the skill of how to ask strong questions. This program has given us the opportunities to be true explorers and learn through investigation."

- Teacher



EDMONTON  
CATHOLIC  
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# HOW CITY HALL SCHOOL CONNECTS

City Hall School was initiated in 2006 to provide a more interactive opportunity for students to learn about municipal government beyond the walls of their classroom. A partnership between the City of Edmonton and Edmonton Public Schools was established by seconding an Edmonton Public School teacher to develop the program. City Hall School offers curriculum related programming in an engaging, year long experience, which is adapted for each class of Grades 1-12 students from both the Edmonton Public and Edmonton Catholic School Boards.



“City Hall feels like home.”

- Grade 2 student on their fifth day of City Hall School.

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By leaving the classroom and immersing themselves in the rich learning community at City Hall, students develop an understanding of municipal government, citizenship, social responsibility and our city. Students learn that this landmark building is not just the home of civic leadership but also a gathering place for the community.



“My students got to hear and see so much, which impacted their learning and understanding. These opportunities could not be achieved in our classroom. We will continue to use our journal as a collection of what they learn about democracy and their role in our community. I will continue to provide inquiry questions to foster higher level thinking, and create authentic experiences that help students to become actively involved in the democratic process. Our theme of how we can use our voices and actions to impact change will continue to be our BIG question moving forward, and I will facilitate opportunities for students to do so.”

# WHO WE CONNECTED WITH IN 2022/23

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### NAKOTA ISGA

**Meadowlark Christian School,** *Arpita Jacob,* Grade 4/5

### ANIRNIQ

**St Angela School,** *Brynn Merkosky,* Grade 6

### TASTAWIYINIWAK

**St John Bosco School,** *Lana Garcia,* Grade 4

**St Vladimir School,** *Matthew Charrois,* Grade 6

### DENE

**JJ Bowlen School,** *Joseph Filiplic,* Grade 9

**Homesteader School,** *Karen Tang,* Grade 4-6

### O-DAY'MIN

**Holy Child School,** *Helene D'Astous,* Grade 5/6

### MÉTIS

**Avonmore School,** *Kip Matheson,* Grade 6

**Avonmore School,** *Andrea Smola,* Grade 1

**Austin O'Brien School,** *Kailee Smith,* WIN Senior Program

### SIPIWIYINIWAK

**Lynnwood School,** *Virginia Kirchner,* Grade 6

**Kim Hung School,** *Jeff Webster,* Grade 6

**Elmwood School,** *Jamie Aker,* Grade 1

**Michael A Kostek School,** *Dana Lavigne,* Grade 2

### PAPASTEW

**Rideau Park School,** *Jessica Arzt,* Grade 6

### PIHÉSIWIN

**Constable Daniel Woodall School,** *Laura Wenger,* Grade 6

**Constable Daniel Woodall School,** *Dara Craig,* Grade 4

**St Mary School,** *Carla Barnfather,* Grade 3

### IPIHKOOHKANIPIAOHTSI

**Monsignor Fee Otterson School,** *Susan Andre,* Grade 6

**Steinhauer School,** *Michele Rogers,* Grade 6

**Steinhauer School,** *Michelle Johnston,* Grade 3

### KARHIO

**Michael Strembitsky School,** *Tanya Boyko,* Grade 6

### SSPOMITAPI

**St Kateri School,** *Ashley Malkin,* Grade 6

**Jackson Heights School,** *Simone Shirvell,* Grade 2

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# CONNECTING ALL YEAR LONG



At the beginning of the school year, each class was presented with a set of personal journals for the students, a Key to the City, as well as an opportunity to meet Mme Moselle and Sohi Saurus.

The five days students spend at City Hall are the catalyst for a year of engagement and a lifetime of possibilities. The weekly eNewsletter, the City Beat,

provides opportunities for classes to be connected to City of Edmonton issues, events and initiatives throughout the entire year.

The year finishes up with an in-person Citizenship Fair in June, which brings all the schools who participated in City Hall School together at City Hall to showcase their work inspired by their City Hall school experiences.



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“City Hall School changed us by making us think more about our community, and how to be active members in the community. We will always remember that doing one little thing can have a huge impact.”

– Grade 6 student

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# CONNECTING WITH THE CITY

The diversity of our city is reflected in the students who attend City Hall School. Some students are newcomers to Canada, some are enrolled in bilingual or immersion programs, and some are in programs for students with learning and cognitive disabilities. Being able to use the City of Edmonton as a classroom provides real life learning, allowing students to feel and see the many connections around them.

During their five days at City Hall, students learned to appreciate and value their city in a deeper way, particularly when they met people who work hard to ensure a great quality of life for us all. They came to

feel not only a sense of pride about their city, but also a sense of belonging.

The students learned about the history of our city, its growth, and the plan our leaders have for the future. They realize that the future the City is building is for them, creating a strong connection and eagerness to be ambassadors for Edmonton.



“All the students LOVED City Hall School. We were very sad when it was over. The parent volunteers really enjoyed the experience as well. Two parents came for an extra day. They learned many things about our city, and I did too!”

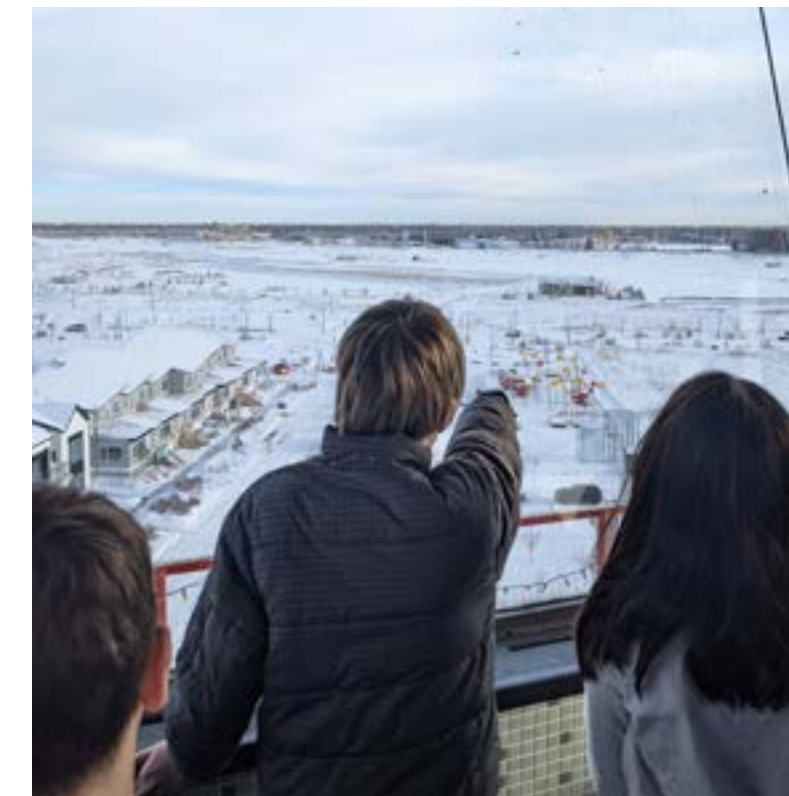
- Teacher





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“After being at City Hall School, I will continue linking people and places within our city with curricular outcomes to create more real-life learning experiences.”

- Teacher

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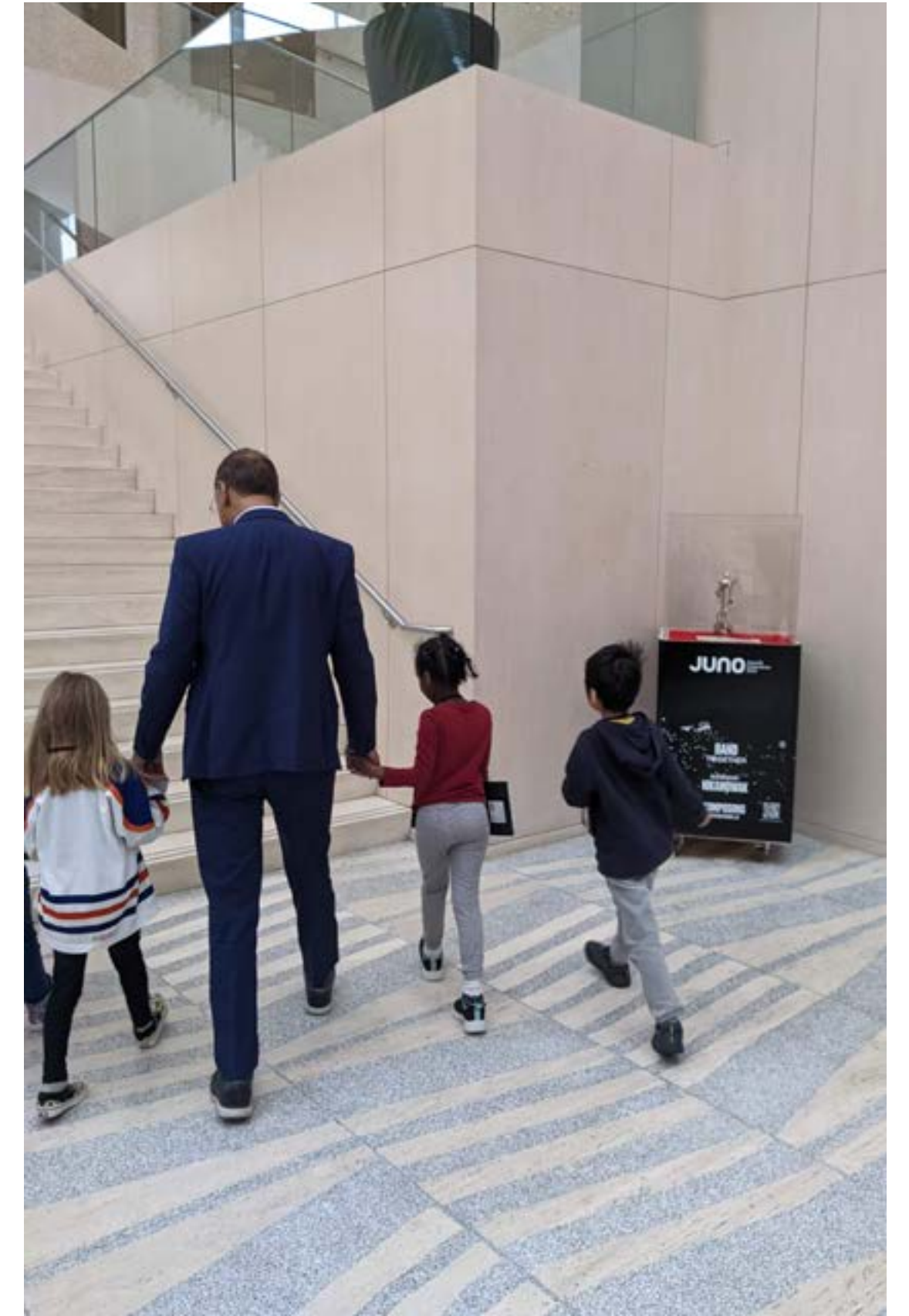
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# CONNECTING WITH CITIZENSHIP

Learning from people who share their expertise and passion is a special part of the experience. The Mayor and Councillors offer support to City Hall School by connecting with classes to teach, model, and inspire students to appreciate the structure and practice of democracy. When students take on the role of Mayor and City Councillors to stage their own Mock Council, democracy comes to life!

Students also become informed and civically engaged citizens. They learn ways in which they can use their voice to make a positive difference. They learned that they can not only advocate for themselves, but also contribute to helping others in their neighbourhood, as well as the city as a whole.

I learned that I can write more than I thought. To help more because I don't know what they're going through. And try to help the city so it can be clean and also safe for all. I think it's important for other kids to come to City Hall School because they can learn a lot. Prompt: Meet the mayor and all the other important people in city hall school or people who work for the city. And another reason is so that the kids who come they might want to work here.



“I’m not a very political person, so understanding more about our government was very interesting. I’m super thankful I was able to volunteer for this field trip. I learned a lot.”

-Parent Volunteer

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# CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY

Through City Hall School, students have the opportunity to learn more about social responsibility by exploring, discussing and taking actions on many complex topics related to their learning.

Many teams of presenters shared their passion and perspective on issues of poverty, homelessness, reconciliation, inclusivity and equity. The lessons learned at City Hall School stay with students and they are inspired to share what they have learned at their schools, with their families and in their communities.



This week has changed me so much. Now whenever I see some one in need I can not judge them and help them with it human. I know that I can come here for free and that I can go to other places for free. Now I will know how to help with the mustered seed. I know what YEG means and what happens when you go to court. How do they make the ice white I know because I got told. I wish it was two weeks. I can help my city with Accessibility and can call 311 when I need help. I can now help out more.

Thanks you for being willing to show us all this cool stuff I could go on and on about how thankful I am but I will say this, you are awesome

“Getting out of our local community bubble is so impactful so they can learn about others' experiences, what challenges our city is facing, and also see the parts of our city we should be so proud of.”

- Parent

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Something that changed me was the "Hello how are you?" project. It made me realize that I should be more social with people because I may not know what someone feels alone. Even just asking how someone's day was can brighten their mood. I know this because I personally believe that I try to isolate myself from people sometimes. But when someone simply asks how I'm doing, it makes me feel a bit better.



Several classes were recipients of United Way Dentons Make Your Mark grants for student-led projects that take action against local poverty. As students organized and ran donation drives in their school and community, they had the opportunity to share their understanding and passion for helping others. Students learned that little things like sandwiches for the Mustard Seed Community, socks for iHuman or cereal for the Food Bank - can all make a difference. Connecting with "Hello How Are You" also got students thinking about how small acts of connection can make a big difference in combating social isolation.



“Loved exposing my students to things they normally wouldn't see and inspiring them to continue to create change.”

-Teacher

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# CONNECTING WITH CAREER PATHWAYS

The city is our classroom! Whether we have guests come and present in the classroom or we travel to meet these experts, our guests helped curricular topics come to life and inspired students to consider next steps on career pathways of their own. They learned how adults use creative thinking, problem solving, collaboration, communication skills, and design thinking to be successful working independently or on a team.

Students also had the opportunity to conduct small group interviews with some of these guests, giving them an opportunity to learn about a variety of career paths. Students heard many different personal journeys, some that took unexpected turns and detours. All of these experiences taught students to consider their own strengths and interests and understand how these can be applied to a wide range of careers.



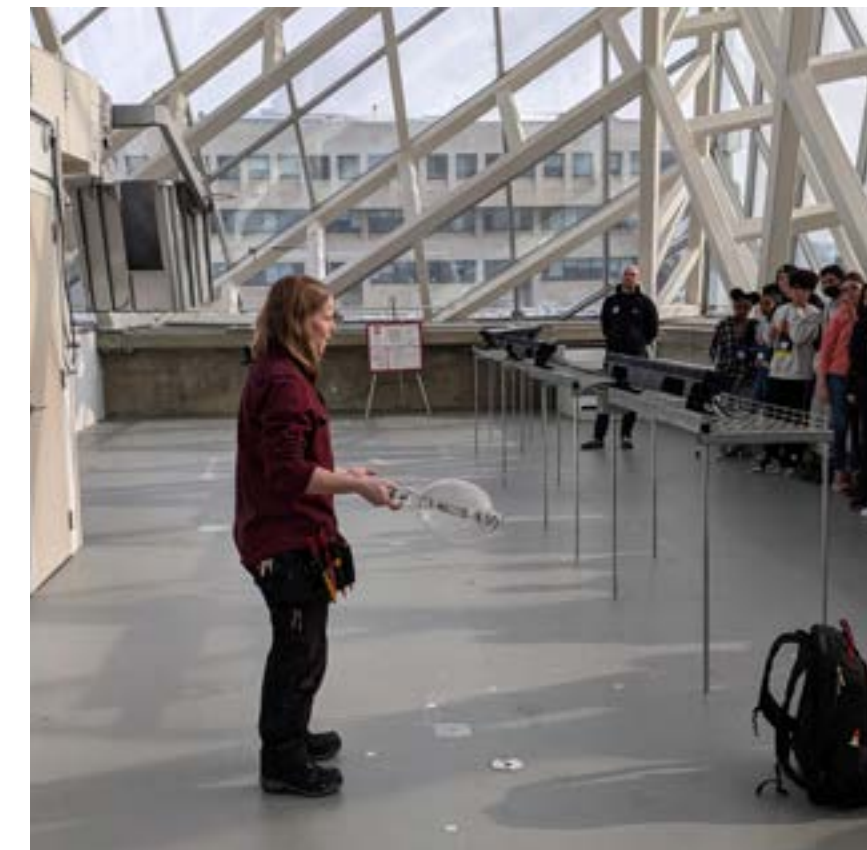
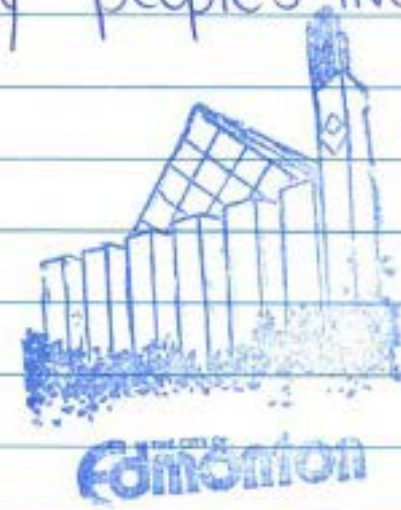
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This week has changed me because now I am interested in law and am now wanting to become a lawyer. Or a judge. Or any job that involves law. I also now know a lot more about mental health, public transit the EPL, trees, what a council meeting looks and sounds like, court and more! I think I may be able to change people's lives by being a loyal lawyer (say that 50 times fast)

I'm so glad you feel inspired to have a job in law. I think you'll make change in many people's lives that way!

Mme Moselle



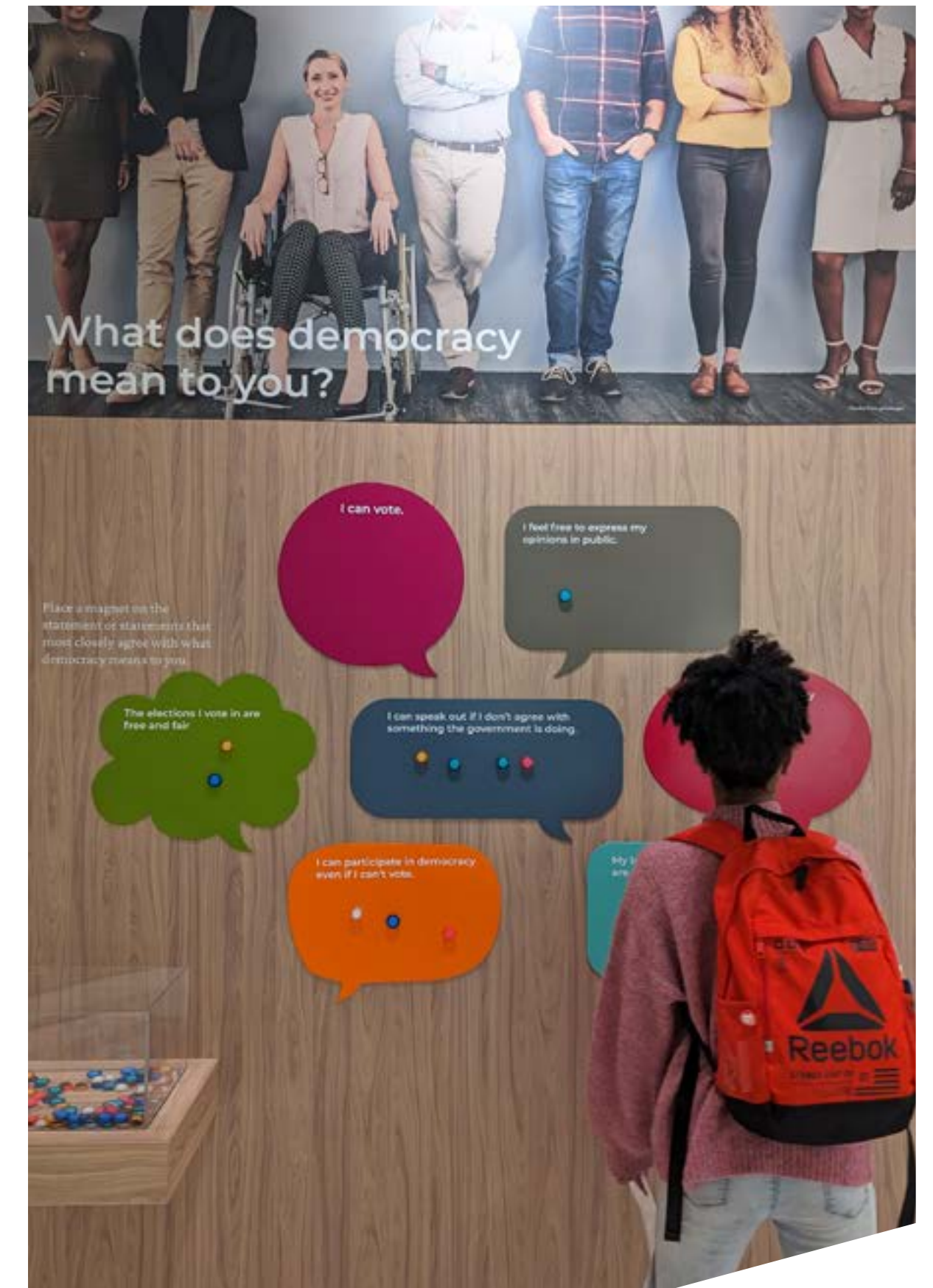
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# CONNECTING WITH CURRICULUM

At the beginning of the year, each teacher proposed a big idea or inquiry question that provides the focus of the City Hall School experiences. Through presentations, interviews with experts and site visits, we connect inquiry to curricular outcomes and competencies whenever possible.

Students saw examples of how inquiry happens in everyday life, and learned how problem solving, collaboration and communication are an integral part of many jobs. Connecting curricular outcomes and these real world experiences helps students understand the “why” behind what they are learning in school.



“Parents who volunteered were impressed and thankful for the learning opportunities this provided their children and for themselves. My only regret is that every grade 6 class can't do this every year.”

-Teacher

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# CONNECTING WITH JOURNALING

Students reflect, record, and evaluate new learning and their experiences through the use of a journal as a learning tool. They start using their City Hall School journal in September as they begin an inquiry process, start class projects, and respond to the weekly City Beat eNewsletters.

While at City Hall School, students use their journals to take notes, sketch, collect stickers and reflect upon their experiences. The daily reflection time allows students to clarify and process what they have learned. Teachers can respond to student journal entries to continue a dialogue about the day's events.

By the end of the school year, students are proud to show their work (and stickers) in their journals. They become keepsakes, and evidence of the incredible growth and learning students have done throughout the year.





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City Hall School

We have had an amazing 5 days at City Hall School. On this last day, please write about CHANGE. How has this week changed you? How will you help change your city?

I had so much fun this week and I learned so much fun! City hall school changed the way I look at arts, it changed the way I look at streets, and the way I look at people. It makes me think what if I see someone homeless? I want to know if they have food, if they have a place to go to at night. I don't know a way I can change my city, but I'm sure I can do some community service.

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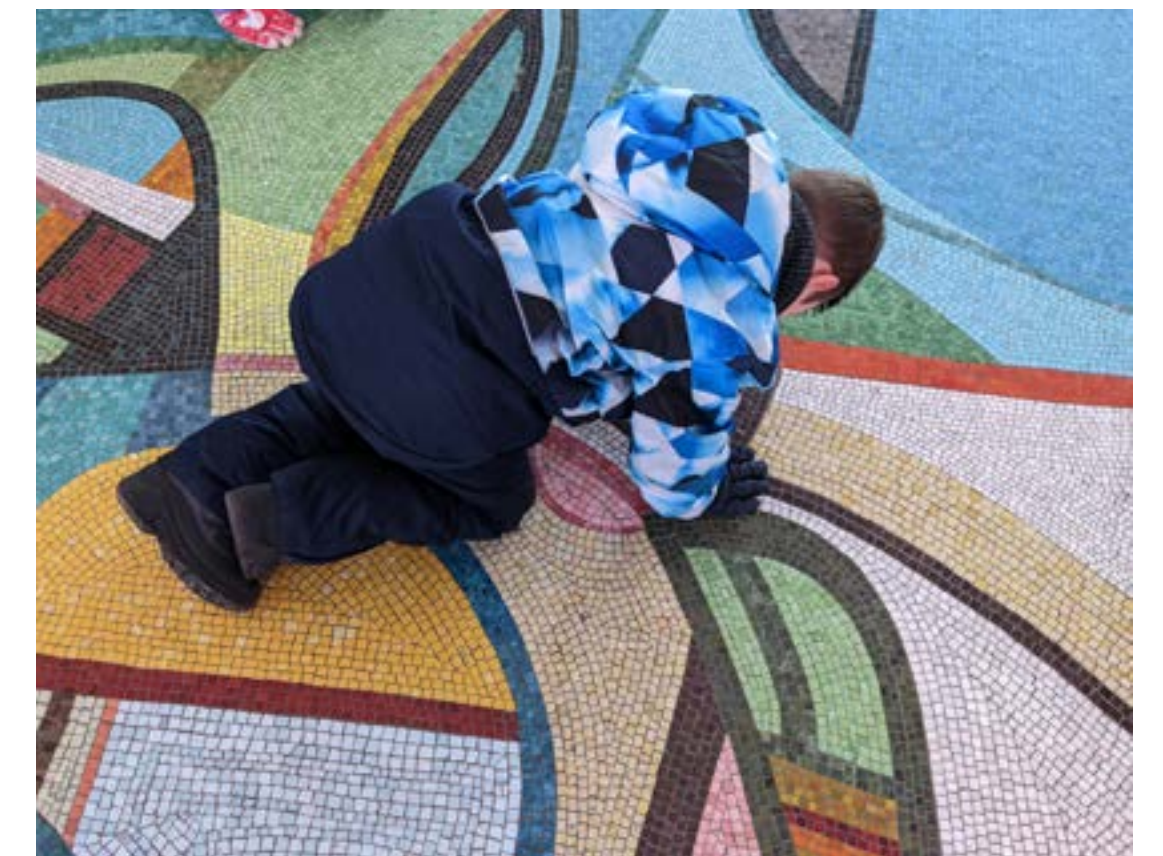
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# CONNECTING WITH THE LAND AND INDIGENOUS WAYS OF KNOWING

At City Hall School, students learn that Edmonton has been a gathering place, a travelling route and a place to call home for Indigenous Peoples for thousands of years. Throughout the year, we discuss and explore the fact that we are all Treaty People.

We connect with Indigenous languages and meanings – for example amiskwaciwâskahikan, meaning 'Beaver Hill House' in Cree. Students also have the opportunity to learn firsthand about the historical and cultural meanings behind Edmonton's newly amended Wards with Indigenous names and about EPL's Thunderbird House (PĪYĒSĪW WÂSKÂHIKAN) at the Stanley Milner Library. Several classes were able to visit and be inspired by the art at ᐃᓃᓃ (INĪW) River Lot 11<sup>∞</sup> Indigenous Art Park and the Tawatinâ Bridge.

Throughout the year, students were given the opportunity to deepen their understanding of Indigenous Peoples and traditional ways of knowing. From Orange Shirt Day, to Metis Week, to National Indigenous Peoples Day in June, students were encouraged to use their voices to share their new knowledge and understanding with others.



# THANKS TO OUR TEAM OF CONNECTORS

There are so many individuals who have shown tremendous support for City Hall School in a variety of ways. It would be impossible to name them all. The following people are those who shared their passion and time with our students.

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

Tim Cartmell, Sarah Hamilton, Michael Janz, Andrew Knack, Aaron Paquette, Karen Principe, Jennifer Rice, Erin Rutherford, Ashley Salvador, Anne Stevenson, Amarjeet Sohi, Keren Tang, Jo-Anne Wright

## OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Andre Corbould

## OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

Aileen Giesbrecht

## CITY OPERATIONS

Erin Isaac, Stephen Jump – *Community Gardens*

Jennifer Bird – *Electrician*

Ray Burgess – *Safety & HVAC*

Kyle, Rob, Kale, Eden, Erin, JJ, Tyson, Vince – *Transit Peace Officer*

Shenae Borschneck, Camryn Marcichiw, Yolanda Pyrdol, George Szilagyi, Katelynne Webb – *Urban Forestry*

Mike Simpson – *Waste Services*

## COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

311 Staff – *Citizen and New Arrival Information Centre*

Sarah Giourmetakis – *Snow and Ice*

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

Wendy Keiller – *Age Friendly Edmonton*

Jennifer C., Brett – *Animal Care and Control*

David Jenkinson, Debbie Mainwaring, Lindy Mair, Ann McCluskey, Jackie Scott – *City Hall Tour Guides*

Jenny Baker, Alex Haskin, Meshkin Makari, Leah Mayer, Jenny Paterson, Nicole Poirier, Sarah Ridley, Kim Simkin – *Civic Events and Festivals*

Natasha Shaw, Greg Witt – *Commonwealth Rec Centre*

Annett Kamenz – *Coronation Park Sports and Recreation Centre*

Sheena Abar-Iyamu – *Hello, How Are You?*

Peter Daly – *Pest Management*

Christine Causing – *Women's Advocacy Voice of Edmonton*

## EMPLOYEE SERVICES

John Dowds – *City Chaplain*

## EDMONTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Michelle R., Elliott, Kat, Elvira, Audrey, Zohreh, Renee, Erin, Janice – *Stanley Milner Staff*

## FINANCIAL & CORPORATE SERVICES

Iain Gillis, Claire Laing, Logan Moran, Stephen Nachtegaele – *Open Data*

## INTEGRATED INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

Tom Lumsden – *Blatchford*

Ryan Teplitsky – *Bridge Engineers*

## URBAN PLANNING AND THE ECONOMY

Heather Wheeliker, Wai Tse Ramirez – *Change for Climate*

Daniel Boric, Jordan Brown, Marco Melfi – *City Planners*

Ian Hosler – *Jane's Walk*

Alanna Young – *Mapping and GIS*

## AFFILIATES

Bobbi Belsek, Sheri Klassen – *Accessibility Advisory Committee*

Joseph Legaspi, Melissa Radu – *Edmonton Convention Centre*

Kyla Fisher, Elaine Yip – *Edmonton Heritage Council*

Titilope Sonuga – *Poet Laureate*

## OTHER SPECIAL GUESTS

Linda Hut – *1881 Schoolhouse*

David Ulliac – *Associated Engineering*

Patty Milligan – *Beekeeper*

Devyn Rudd – *BPTec Engineering*

Erin Koenig – *Canadian Diplomat*

Tamisan Bencz-Knight – *Edmonton's Food Bank*

Luc Tellier – *Citadel Theatre*

Zoe Redford, Luc Surette – *CIMA Engineering*

Tony Te – *Colliers Project Leaders*

Dan Phan – *Dotdash Meredith*

Jill Robertson – *Dialog Design and the Funicular*

Alene Mutala, Lisa Turchansky – *ECSD Trustees*

Susan Padget – *Edmonton's Food Bank*

Dawn Hancock, Julie Kusiek, Jan Sawyer, Saadiq Sumar – *EPSB Trustees*

Mike Hingston – *Edmontonia Trading Cards*

Staff at Fire Station 1

Hallway Cafe Staff

Jason Blower – *Hello YEG/ Snow Alligator*

HOPE Mission Van Staff

Sean Arceta, Annysa Baldeo, Scott Gudbranson, Al McKee, Delilah Turner – *iHuman*

Carolina Roemmich – *Kidmonton*

Judge Dixon, Judge Roy – *Law Courts*

Teresa McGrath, Bryan Mwaka – *Mustard Seed*

Claire Coleman, Sarah Lingo – *Nashville Sister City Buddy Classes*

Veronika Ilich – *Next Gen Men*

Amanda Bachard – *Oilers Entertainment Group*

Security Team – *Paladin Security*

Ron Hrynchuk – *Retired Forensic Scientist*

Josh Harnack, Nathan Panousis – *Rice Howard Way Artists*

Kristine Archibald – *River Valley Alliance*

Jeremiah Levine – *SACE*

Paula Simons – *Senator*

Dustin Bajer – *Shrubscriber*

Deacon Michael, Father Tesfu – *St Benedict Chapel*

Curtis Cardinal – *Tee Pee Treats*

Julia Molaro, Michelle Ponich – *Valley Line LRT, Reverb Communications*

Areezah Jiwa, Funmi Omole, Julianne Threlfall, Charlotte Wray – *WAVE*

Stephanie Jolly – *Sound School at the Winspear*

School at the Legislature Staff

Enessa Habib – *YEG Honeycomb*

Michael Hrycun – *YESS*

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## CONNECT WITH US

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## Student responses to 'How has CHS changed you?'

- + I learned that Edmonton is not just another city, it's a whole 'nother world where everyone matters.
- + The people I met at City Hall School made me believe in myself, trust myself and know I can follow my heart and dreams.
- + It changed how I thought about government for our city. I used to think it was a bunch of adults making up their minds but now I know that EVERYONE has a chance to be a part of what happens in our government. It's called democracy.
- + I am now more grateful for what I have and want to support people who aren't as lucky as me.
- + I was inspired to keep on dreaming and thinking about ways to have everyone included and one day it will be a reality.
- + I learned about respect and thinking how someone else might feel...treating them the way you want to be treated.
- + I noticed so many places in our city that have Indigenous connections for us. I know that we are all Treaty People. I want to learn more.
- + I learned that even though there is a pandemic and a war in the Ukraine and bad news, there is hope in all the helpers.
- + I understand that there are different views to a problem like there are different views to art. It is important to give people space to say their view.
- + It changed me because now I realize how special and lucky we are to live in a unique city with a great quality of life.
- + I love my journal and will keep on writing in it and learning about my city even though City Hall School is over.
- + I learned that your words make your world.
- + I found out that we have a lot of beautiful public art all over our city. Maybe one day it will be my art.
- + I was a newcomer this year and City Hall School made me feel like Edmonton is my home now. I want to tell more newcomers about this city.
- + It changed my mindset on things I scarcely knew about. Now I care about things I never cared about before. I feel more kind, more helpful and more caring. I love that feeling.
- + I know that the Mayor and Councillors work really hard to listen, learn and decide. I might want to be a city leader one day.
- + Even though I am just in Grade One, I can make a difference.
- + I want to be a more sustainable person and use my voice tell others that climate change is serious.
- + I learned about so many career pathways and that sometimes you start with one job in your plan and the plan can change.
- + It has changed me by teaching me about all the teamwork involved in everything around me. I wonder what teams I will be on.
- + I learned that Mayor Sohi is trying to build an Edmonton for Everyone.
- + I want to help make our city a better place. When I am 18 (in 6 years) I will vote and volunteer.
- + Making those sandwiches with my class changed me. It felt so great to help others. I learned that small things can make a big difference.
- + I learned that community is important. Everyone can help build community and make lonely people feel like they belong.
- + I found out that there are so many caring people who care about helping people who are houseless or going through tough times.