



OPEN CITY
OPEN ENGAGEMENT



Everyday Political Citizen

2014 Edmonton Nominees



Everyday Political Citizen

Toronto-based, non-partisan organization Samara launched the Everyday Political Citizen Project to profile and celebrate individuals who work passionately and diligently to affect positive change in their communities.

Canadians from across the country were invited to nominate someone who makes a difference. Nominations were received from across the country by the October 31, 2014, deadline.

Samara's jury of prominent Canadians chose the top adult and top youth nominee on December 3, 2014. But the most important part of the project is the civil "crowd-sourcing" of so many people who are leaders in their communities and who are making a difference for their communities.

This project celebrates these leaders and aims to inspire others to become everyday political citizens.

Edmonton recognizes its everyday leaders

The City of Edmonton has partnered with Samara to promote this project and encourage Edmontonians to nominate people in their communities. There was overwhelming response. A third of the nation's total nominees in 2014 came from Edmonton.

We want to celebrate the everyday leaders who are passionate about building a great city.

The Everyday Political Citizen Project is one more way the City can support engagement with Edmontonians, and align with the City Council's special initiative on Public Engagement and Open City initiative.

To celebrate the local nominees, the City is recognizing these leaders on December 3, 2014 at City Hall.

In the year ahead, the City of Edmonton hopes to work with this group of community leaders to leverage their strengths and knowledge to help improve public engagement in Edmonton and to help inform City decision-making and direction-setting.

2014 Everyday Political Citizen Edmonton Nominees

Nominee: Nicole Chatterton **Shortlist**

Nicole Chatterton is an inspiring, outstanding elementary teacher from Garneau School in Edmonton. Nicole challenges her students to think big, to learn about the world and issues they are passionate about. Most importantly she helps them to discover and recognize their abilities as young people, to make an important difference in their communities.

Nicole gives her students the opportunities, skills and space to understand what democracy is all about and to think about possible solutions to problems that are important to them.

Through her two years with Nicole, my daughter has learned about a number of critical issues and how to take action. She has grown food and explored issues of food security; researched garbage contamination, water, and human rights.

I have witnessed my ten year old daughter grow to be a confident change maker through participating in a unit Nicole developed on social activism, where her students explored ways they could make an impact locally and globally.

Another amazing example of Nicole as an everyday political citizen was exemplified in the work she did with her grade 4-5 class of which my daughter was part of. The whole class worked on a project to build their ideal city, which they called Garneautopia. Through supporting her students to ask critical questions and think through their decisions, the class designed an incredible collaborative community. The city they built together after much deliberation, had a sustainable transport system, vibrant arts and cultural activities, and was inclusive. After the project was over, the students read an article in the Globe and Mail about critical attributes of great cities and discovered what they designed had all of them. An example of what young people can do if given the right opportunities.

"Nick really cares about us and our learning." Lucia Rodriguez-Cavanagh (Age 10)

Nominator: Fiona Cavanagh and Lucia Rodriguez-Cavanagh



Nominee: Nessa Deans **Shortlist**

Nessa Deans is not your average 11 year old. This grade six student exemplifies the Everyday Political Citizen spirit through her involvement in municipal politics and community service. Nessa has already contributed many hours of volunteer work to her community and is developing a keen political compass.

Nessa helped as an assistant at City Hall school, has door knocked on multiple political campaigns, is the unofficial youth ambassador on her community league board, and spent time chipping in at a MP's office. She is also a regular presence at Council and Committee meetings, and volunteers locally at community events, including the "Leader In Me" Symposium, and Allendale Big Bin Event. I'm excited to see all that Nessa will accomplish in her next 11 years!

Nominator: Michael Walters

Nominee: Tim Adams

Tim Adams is a busy guy. He’s a father of two girls and a reporter and producer on Edmonton AM, the morning radio show on CBC. Tim is also the founder and volunteer organizer of Free Footie- a totally free soccer league for kids in the highest needs neighbourhoods of Edmonton. Tim started the league after volunteering to coach at



one of Edmonton’s highest needs schools. He noticed that all his player’s younger siblings had nowhere to play.

While many great organizations help cover fees and equipment, the kids were struggling to get to games or find coaches that understood the challenges they face. So he started the league with 4 teams and 80 kids.

Tim has helped former child soldiers, kids in group-homes and kids who just need a father figure. He’s taken midnight phone calls from players stuck sleeping outside in the winter. He’s gone into abusive homes and helped countless kids who deserve a second chance get jobs, manage their way through the courts, and get re-entered

into school after being suspended. And, of course, he has helped kids find a home on the field, in a pair of cleats.

Six years later there are 66 teams with more than 1,000 kids active. As well as running the league, Tim ensures each player has a free jersey, shorts, shin guards, socks and transportation to and from games. Free Footie also invests in the coaches by sending all their volunteers to free coaching courses. The whole soccer community in Edmonton now rallies behind the kids to ensure they play.

Tim coordinates an army of 200 volunteer coaches, 30 volunteer referees and dozens of sponsors. In many ways, Free Footie has become not just a home for some wonderful kids, but a league that’s united the whole soccer community and the neighborhoods where the kids play. The game of soccer becomes a world completely free of hardship for the kids, where they can control their situation and develop confidence and leadership skills that benefit the rest of their lives.

Tim firmly believes that good things happen when kids are free to play. Through Free Footie, Tim is also turning his sights to soccer as a revitalization tool for higher needs neighbourhoods by flooding the fields with happy kids proudly wearing brightly colored uniforms thereby showing the community that we care about space.

Tim is also a member of the board of directors for REACH Edmonton Council for Safe Communities.

Tim does this as a volunteer, all while looking after two kids and keeping tabs on a crazy golden retriever that eats just about everything.

Nominator: Jan Fox and Jason Darrah

Nominee: Sharif Aminzadah

As the Executive Director for the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers (EMCN), I am nominating Sharif Aminzadah for the Everyday Political Citizen award because of his unending dedication to, organization of, and passion for his work at the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers.

Sharif has been with the agency for almost three and a half years, and throughout his time here, has taken several programs and services that were vulnerable to closure from struggling entities to thriving elements of the agency’s core program make up. As manager of the Nova Plaza location of EMCN, Sharif oversees 22 staff and multiple employment programs.

Through his dedication, meticulous organizational skills, and passion for his work, Sharif is capable of entering into difficult budgetary negotiations with government funders in one moment and in the next skillfully engage with clients and the staff who serve them. Sharif is not only a leader at the office,



but also a leader in his family and community. Supporting a household made up of parents, children, and children’s children,

Sharif acts as a role model to his nieces, nephews, and siblings while navigating complex schedules and supporting the success of his large family. Additionally, Sharif is active in the Ismaili Community, as well as his family’s private business. Sharif deserves recognition for his hard work and dedication because despite his towering presence, his quiet demeanor lends itself to putting the success and accomplishments of others in the spotlight ahead of his own.

Sharif is an invaluable asset to our organization, to his community, and to his family, and for that, his engagement and dedication deserves to be acknowledged.

Nominator: Erick Ambtman



Nominee: Rob Agostinis

Rob lives by the mantra ‘make it happen.’

He is currently and extensively involved in community, sports and City initiatives for the Terwillegar Riverbend and Greater Windermere communities.

He is the founder and past president of the Terwillegar Riverbend Advisory Council, District H Director for the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues and a collaborative member, mentor and volunteer for Brander Garden Rocks, a community group that provides supports and activities for youth in the community.

He is the co-founder of the South West Edmonton Seniors’ Association, a Communications, Civics Director and Ambassador for Carter Crest for the Oak Hills Community League, a member of the Community Well Being Work Group for the

Mayor’s Task Force on Poverty in Edmonton, and involved in several community engagement initiatives with several community leagues and sports associations.

He is the Past President of the St. Mary’s School Parent Association, Past President of the Whitemud Hills Homeowners’ Association, and has volunteered on many political campaigns.

Nominator: Bryan Anderson

Nominee: Tesfaye Ayalew

Tesfaye Ayalew has given much of the last eight years to the creation and success of the Africa Centre, an innovative community organization which seeks to create opportunities for access and full participation of members of the African community in all aspects of society.

The Centre is unique in its pan African approach, permitting the collective advocacy power of having many diverse groups under one roof. Tesfaye has inspired the pan African vision of the Centre, and has worked deliberately to include communities of various linguistic, cultural and religious backgrounds.

Tesfaye and the Africa Centre have supported these diverse groups to cooperate, communicate and work together. For creating a more inclusive, collaborative and rich Edmonton, Tesfaye should be recognized as an Everyday Political Citizen.



Nominator: Michael Walters



Nominee: Joleen Ballendine

Joleen is an actor, improviser and comedian in Edmonton. She has performed and worked with internationally renowned improv company Rapid Fire Theatre for seven years. Joleen has made an impact on various Edmonton communities, by teaching improv theatre to people of all ages.

Her workshops teach positive life skills and build confidence in the student. Her work with at-risk youth has been especially powerful, engaging large groups of students, providing a creative and cathartic social outlet for young students, and giving them a new-found feeling of confidence and independence.

Her classes provide a safe space for troubled students to express themselves without judgement. She has worked with groups such as Boyle Street School, Amiskwiciy Academy, Geri-Actors (seniors), Art Gallery of Alberta public outreach, and at Norquest College Mental Health Week, among many many others.

Nominator: Mike Robertson

Nominee: Marina Banister

From a young age, Marina has always had a passion for volunteering, policy, and youth engagement. At 16 she was elected president of Strathcona High School on a platform that included making recycling bins more accessible. After completing a successful term, Marina won the Griesdorf trophy celebrating outstanding volunteer contributions to the community.



At the age of 17 Marina worked at Northlands in the Volunteer Services department, helping to organize nearly 2000 volunteers at community events. She was also nominated for the YWCA Woman of Distinction award in the youth category. At the age of 18 Marina was elected to be a University of Alberta Student Union Councillor, General Faculty Councillor, as well as the Vice President, External Advocacy for the Faculty of Arts (representing over 6000 students). At the age of 19 she was re-elected to the Student Council and General Faculties Council with her key platform issue of advocating to stop the sale of plastic disposable water bottles on campus. Marina was also elected for the Vice President, Communications position for the Undergraduate Political Science Association where she created a social media feature that enabled students to better get to know their peers and professors.

At her current age of 20, Marina works at the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation with the task of making day-to-day operations more environmentally sustainable and is currently drafting a sustainability policy. She was recently appointed to serve on the City of Edmonton Youth Council for 2014-2015, where her first goal is to set up a Youth Sustainability Subcommittee to write and recommend environmental policy to City Council.

This will be the first council she has ever sat on that is not a part of her school and she is excited to see what this opportunity will teach her. She hopes that this is the first step on her way to becoming a future City Councillor - Marina's ultimate long term goal. Sitting on various councils has taught Marina many useful skills such as Robert's Rules of order, policy writing, and advocacy, but beyond any of that, it has taught her the importance of truly consulting and representing the views of her constituents.

Marina is the Everyday Political Citizen and I cannot wait to see the political impacts she makes later in life.

Nominator: Linda Banister

Nominee: Majorie Bencz

Majorie has served as Executive Director of Edmonton’s Food Bank for over 25 years and has also won The Order of Canada. She was one of the initial members Jasper Place Steering Committee whose purpose is to help continue revitalization of the Stony Plain Road area. She inspires others to volunteer for their community and help make it a better place. I only hope that I can accomplish half of what she has done for our city. She is a perfect example of a Everyday Political Citizen.



Nominator: Andrew Knack

Nominee: Stan Blades



Riding: Edmonton StrathconaDr. Stan Blade has impressive experience, being the Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences (ALES) at the University of Alberta, in addition to being named by Alberta Venture as one of “Alberta’s 50 Most Influential People.” He also serves as Vice- Chair on the Board of Trustees of the African Agricultural Technology Foundation and in 2013 he was appointed by the Minister of International Cooperation (Government of Canada) to the governing body of the Canada International Food Security Research Fund. Throughout his extraordinary career Stan has pushed his faculty to interface with policy makers on important research and policy development which is why he deserves to be recognized as an everyday political citizen.

Nominator: Don Iveson

Nominee: Jim Bradshaw

Jim Bradshaw is an enthusiastic and committed resident of Henderson Estates in Edmonton. He supports accountability, transparency in and among communities. He has served on the Ridge Community League executive since 1994, and currently serves as the organization’s President. He has been a member of the Terwillegar Riverbend Advisory Council since 2005, and is a passionate and tireless advocate for the proper use of surplus school sites in Edmonton.



Nominator: Bryan Anderson



Nominee: Chris Buyze

Chris Buyze and Ian O’Donnell have helped lead one of the more challenging community leagues, the Downtown Edmonton Community League (DECL), for years now. Among its many events and accomplishments, DECL created an urban garden for downtown residents, lobbied for quality urban design and LRT alignment and took a strong stance in favour of the downtown arena, at a time when public opinion was heated and mixed. Both Ian and Chris willingly took strong positions in public and before council, arguing for a more walkable, vibrant and high-design downtown.

Nominator: Scott McKeen

Nominee: Jarrett Campbell

Jarrett Campbell represents a growing group of myth-busting political citizens, as someone who is deeply engaged in community as a single man and renter. The thinking used to be that people didn't get involved in community until they were married and bought a home, but Jarrett has been heavily involved in the Oliver Community League, as president, for several years. He's volunteered on political campaigns, presented at public hearings and open houses, as well as helping launch a new community magazine for Oliver and Downtown, called The Yards.



Nominator: Scott McKeen

Nominee: Tim Cartmell

Tim is an active and passionate member of his community of South West Edmonton. He is Vice-President of the Riverbend Terwillegar Advisory Council, which was very heavily involved in the development and design of the Terwillegar Community Recreation Centre. The Council was the primary community engagement group that provided support and feedback to City personnel throughout the project development process.

He is also an engaged member of the Riverbend Community League (where he served as President for a year), member of the City of Edmonton Trails and Pathways Advisory Committee (where he helped provide feedback to the City of Edmonton regarding pathway and recreation aspects of transportation infrastructure projects) and a member of the Capital Health Authority Southwest Community Health Council (whose contributions helped in development of Health-Link, the 408-Link access to quick information telephone service, that assisted in taking some pressure off of emergency rooms in the region).

For his countless contributions and achievements in Edmonton, I am nominating Tim as an Everyday Political Citizen.



Nominator: Bryan Anderson



Nominee: John Collier

John Collier has been a remarkably effective advocate on many levels. His commitment to developing strong and quality biking infrastructure in our city has been unwavering. But perhaps even more remarkable about John is the leadership he has shown in his own community. As President of the Windsor Park Community League in Edmonton he has led his community through a number of very difficult issues. John's remarkable skill is knowing when to listen, when to adapt to the possible, and when not to back down. In so doing he has managed to

lead and facilitate an often deeply divided community to a consensus that can in unity get real results and find innovative solutions that can move the community forward rather than getting stymied by defeat. By finding a way to explore solutions that actually resolve the communities concerns rather than dig in heels on un-winnable battles he has empowered the community to fight for the things that can really give them what they are looking for. This has both allowed the community to stay united, and perhaps more importantly, to win the battles with outside powers that really need winning. As a volunteer he has been willing to wade in to very potentially unpleasant situations with good humour, tenaciousness, and integrity. This leadership has allowed his community to come out the winners in many situations that would otherwise have resulted in internal acrimony, bad decision making, and wasted opportunities.

Nominator: Ben Henderson, Edmonton Councillor

Nominee: Laura Cunningham-Shpeley

As a City Councillor I am always excited to see people in the community showing the qualities of an everyday political citizen. Laura Cunningham-Shpeley, the president of the Ritchie Community League is inspiring to me because she is an articulate advocate for the causes in her community, she consistently works to make her community better: “I have always believed that change comes because people make it happen – and I wasn’t prepared to wait for others to create the kind of community that I wanted to live and to raise my family in”.



Laura has been working to grow the involvement of people in their communities, she has been doing this by hosting events that draw people to the community like their classic car show and Fringe at Ritchie Hall.

“It has been a big focus for us over the past few years – to bring neighbors together, to have wonderful experiences that make them proud to live in this great community”.

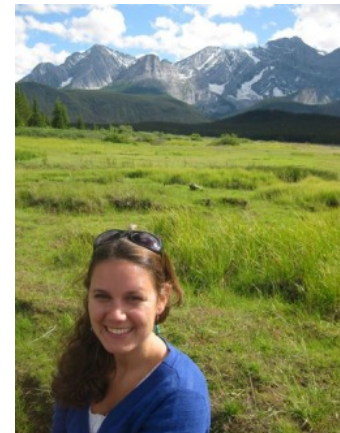
It is statements like this coupled with a zest for life that make Laura an everyday political citizen.

“Being the president of the league has shown me the potential that communities have to do great things”.

Nominator: Mike Nickel

Nominee: Julia Dalman

The Global Café is a safe space that is run for students by students. It is a space that prepares youth to become intentional citizens by fostering relationships with the broader Edmonton community and has them actively engage in democratic processes. Julia Dalman, the Global Café coordinator is a student mentor and community resource person for the student led initiatives. Julia supports the school community by helping students and teachers identify the community supports that are needed for their projects and learning.



Julia founded Insight Education, challenging curriculum with a pilot project that allowed students to direct their own learning. Julia believes that making curriculum relevant to students’ lives is key to encouraging creativity. If students understand why a lesson is related to a real world issue, they are more likely to engage in the material deeply enough to think critically about it. In place of a standard set of lessons, assignments and exams, students were shown their learning outcomes and asked to design community-based projects that would achieve them.

This project-based style of learning is foundational to the Global Café and Julia’s philosophy towards alternative learning opportunities, working towards empowering students to be more engaged learners and citizens.

Julia is also a founding member of ConsentEd, advocating for a world without sexual violence. Julia continues to work with ConsentEd to educate others and raise awareness about sexual rights, gender equality and empowerment. Julia is a passionate activist and is dedicated to making the world a more radical place.

Nominator: Taylor Rubin

Nominee: Don Darnell

Don Darnell is an indispensable advocate, community-builder and problem-solver.

One of his best moments of problem-solving came while volunteering on a local political campaign in Edmonton. He observed door knockers fiddling with clip boards and saw the hours spent by volunteers entering data into computers by hand. To fix the problem, Don created an app to streamline the process for campaign volunteers. This tool has saved countless hours of volunteers' time and has become absolutely invaluable during Edmonton's -20 weather, when holding a pen can be trying.



In addition to his contributions as a problem-solver, Don enriches his community through advocacy and community-building activities. He has led a campaign to minimize light pollution in Edmonton, and has successfully worked to promote sustainable transportation through multiple presentations to Edmonton's City Council. Don is incredibly generous with his knowledge which is demonstrated through his astronomy parties and free cross-country skiing lessons in his neighbourhood.

Nominator: Michael Walters

Nominee: David Dodge

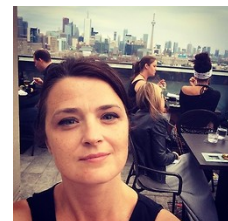


David Dodge is a community man through and through. He is an avid and dedicated individual who uses his passions and his talents to reach out to those around him. With a degree in Forestry from the University of Alberta, David has branched out beyond his discipline into photography, journalism, and activism. He has acted as the Editor of the Borealis magazine, a major Alberta nature magazine; he was the Alberta Executive Producer of Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, and produced the Emerald award winning radio series EcoFile for CKUA. His passion for natural areas and sustainability is further shown through his advocacy for the Net-Zero Energy Coalition. He has championed the importance of communities through participating on the Board of the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues (EFCL) including some time acting as President, and has been President of the Evansdale Community League. On top of all of that, he has coached soccer and basketball leagues, and helped design a "little kickers" soccer program in his community. He has done all of this, and so much more, in his volunteering for almost 20 years in Edmonton. His belief in the electorate, the people, to build a strong city is inspiring, He is a citizen that is a leader in many areas, and his commitment does not go unnoticed.

Nominator: Dave Loken

Nominee: Nicola Doherty

Having worked hard at her own businesses as a stay at home mom, Nicola has been tirelessly working with her provincial government regarding child care and work relationships for moms and dad. Including helping host a talk with Premier Jim Prentice this past July about ideas on where the future of Alberta and parents in the work force can go.



Nominator: Matt Jeneroux

Nominee: Claire Edwards

Claire is an everyday Citizen because she gives back to her community, advocates for human rights and makes change for Edmonton, Alberta and Canada. She knows it's her responsibility to take care of this place, and every day she learns how to do that a little bit better.



She volunteers her time on many advocacy, human rights, social justice causes like Student Voice, networks of political awareness, Youth Council and many more.

She leads a national movement calling for the implementation of elected student trustees on all school boards to give students a larger voice in education policy making. She currently sits as member for the City of Edmonton Youth Council where she actively facilitate connections between city council and youth between the ages of 13 and 23. She is the president of the Student Network for Advocacy and Public Policy at the University of Alberta, a group which seeks to empower young people to solve problems in their communities through policy. She dabbles and sits on the Board of Directors for the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights.

Claire collaborates with he peers, political delegates, not for profits and community to provide opportunities for everyone to have a voice, she insistingly empowers citizens to be a part and shape their City. Claire does it for the love of her City, her social responsibility as a citizen and her immense passion for political matters, and because it is the right thing to do.

Claire is an Everyday Citizen because of her tireless efforts to engage youth and policy decision makers in making Edmonton the most transparent, safe, respectful and livable City. This is my urge to have other public citizens join and stand up with Claire for Edmonton.

Nominator: Ian Smith

Nominee: Mohamed El Saghir

As the Executive Director of the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers (EMCN), I would like to nominate Mohamed El Saghir for the Everyday Political Citizen Recognition because I believe he is an outstanding asset to the city of Edmonton.



Mohamed was not born here, but at a very early age, moved to Canada with his family. Because of his background, he has learned to navigate different cultural circles and bridge the gap between two worlds. This competency has led him into a career of service for immigrants new to Edmonton. His innovation and creativity spark motivation in his colleagues at the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers. Because of his dedication and commitment to supporting the successful settlement and integration of newcomers into our communities, Mohamed has moved steadily up the ranks at EMCN, and now heads a pilot project for unemployed youth at the agency. Because of his dedication and passion for employment-related programming, Mohamed now engages 14 vulnerable youth between 15 and 30 years old, with the aim of bringing them out of unemployment and poverty into successful, sustainable, and retained employment.

Mohamed is a responsible husband and father to two young children, Aaya and Ali, and comes to work every day ready to change the lives of those he serves. Mohamed's smile, spunk, and enthusiasm for life lead him to serve on many committees at EMCN, including most recently the United Way Campaign Committee and heading the Newsletter Committee as Editor of the Gathering Tree, EMCN's quarterly news publication.

Mohamed deserves this recognition for his unending commitment to better the lives of Edmonton's newest community members and engage them in the process of becoming Edmontonians.

Nominator: Erick Ambtman

Nominee: Mayja Embleton

I am nominating my mom, Mayja Embleton, as an Everyday Political Citizen in Edmonton, Alberta.

My mom has taught me that it is very important to vote, even though I am not old enough to vote yet. She volunteered during our municipal election last year and encouraged me to volunteer, too. She spends a lot of time talking to me about how different levels of government work and how decisions are made- from city councils all the way to the federal government. She tells me that it is important to know what is going on, and also to be involved in the community. She takes me to public meetings and open houses, political rallies and city council meetings.

When she saw how interested I was, she told me to keep an open mind about party politics, and she tries to expose me to all the political parties. She called our MP, Linda Duncan, and arranged for me volunteer for an afternoon in her office- which was fun! She took me to a Liberal rally to meet Justin Trudeau, and a groundbreaking ceremony to see Premier Hancock speak. And just this weekend we went to a rally to see Rachel Notley become the new leader for the Alberta NDP.

And my mom doesn't help just me- she also was the chair of School Council for 3 years, and once helped arrange a music festival. She does a lot of fundraising and now she is the vice-president of our community league, so she is always getting involved and helping, wherever she may be.



Nominator: Nessa Deans

Nominee: Derrick Forsythe

Derrick Forsythe led the Queen Mary Park Community League for years as president. But as a citizen he's also run for city council and raised consciousness around infill housing during the campaign. Derrick was instrumental in helping create the North Edge area redevelopment plan. He also appears regularly at council meetings to argue for preserving the integrity and intent of that plan.



Nominator: Scott McKeen



Nominee: Kirsten Goa

Kirsten Goa is a dynamic leader. She is passionate about creating a better world for our children starting with pregnancy, birth and parenting. As a mother of five, including two sets of twins, she has extensive personal parenting experience as well as professional experience as a writer and editor and breastfeeding/parenting counsellor. She is curious and a life-learner seeking opportunities to use my skills and interests to empower individuals, build capacity, foster community and create lasting social change for families. Kirsten is a citizen leader with the Greater Edmonton Alliance, she's a La Leche League Leader, she has volunteered as an educator with the Twin and Triplet club, she is the President of the Breastfeeding Action Committee of Edmonton, and she has also been a volunteer with her local preschool committee and she was a member of the Catholic Network for Women's Equality National Work Group.

Nominator: Jodine Chase



Nominee: Vanessa George

Vanessa spends a lot of her free time volunteering in leadership roles, particularly ones that have an emphasis on animals. She is the 2015 President of her Provincial Technologist association, she also sits on an Advisory committee for the Alberta SPCA. She dedicates time to writing information articles and educating Canadian pet owners, but always seems to have time to make sure her husband, friends and family watch the local news and make sure they're "in the know" with what's going on at home.

After many debates on the power of democracy and voting, she convinced her husband to vote for the first time in last year's municipal election. As a high school student she also campaigned door to door for the PC party with the Honorable Dave Hancock. I truly think Vanessa would make an amazing addition to this team.

Nominator: Anonymous

Nominee: Bruce Gritter

Since arriving in Edmonton in 2001, Bruce Gritter has worked tirelessly to help neighbourhoods and communities in southwest Edmonton flourish. A father of six children, including two foster daughters, Bruce has been involved in a variety of community activities including coaching junior high basketball, writing in the local newspaper, serving on various community boards, helping refugees and foreign workers, launching the Social Justice Network and recovery groups in the church he pastors and much more. Bruce is currently working on opening a new Community Centre in southwest Edmonton.



Nominator: Bryan Anderson



Nominee: Jon Hall

Jon Hall is a force of nature. Jon's record as a community volunteer is lengthy and laudable. Jon has volunteered with the Scouts, the Downtown Farmer's Market, ArtsHab – he chaired the community safety coalition REACH and is now heading the 104th Street community and business association. In the latter position, Jon organized a recent meeting of community residents and businesses who were able to ask questions of City Hall representatives about issues surrounding the new downtown arena and entertainment district.

Nominator: Scott McKeen



Nominee: George Heidt

George Heidt, an educator at one of Edmonton's largest high schools, is a co-founder of GEOMEER, a non-profit society that serves numerous communities across Alberta.

In 2009, concerned about the increasingly apathetic trend in high school fundraising efforts, George, with a high school student, launched Helping Hampers. Helping Hampers connects students and businesses with local families in need, giving them enough necessities to last several months. In its first year the campaign raised \$16,000 in just two weeks, and over the years, it has expanded and raised more than \$210,000 through a network of 105 schools and businesses across Alberta.

George understands the importance of bringing people together to pursue a common goal, and through his mentorship, is creating a whole new generation of everyday political citizens.

Nominator: Michael Walters

Nominee: Natalie Hillbrecht

Natalie Hillbrecht is a dedicated volunteer to the democratic process. She is a tireless supporter of the Liberal party and works every day to promote democratic participation. I had the pleasure to work with her on the University of Calgary Young Liberal Executive many years ago, where her tenacity and positivity helped to grow the club across partisan lines. Since then, she has taken a leadership role at the riding level, serving as Calgary Centre Federal Liberal Association Vice President, and taking her hard working spirit to the Edmonton Centre Federal Liberal Association where she currently serves as vice president.



Natalie has continued to support local candidates, engage new members and promote political participation. Always game for a phone bank, Natalie is a team player with a wealth of knowledge and experience she shares selflessly. Whether you need someone to knock on doors, or spend hours hunched over a computer entering poll data Natalie is there with a smile and a kind word.

Nominator: Sarah Magee



Nominee: Chantal Hitayezu

Chantal is an immigrant from Burundi and Rwanda. She speaks 3 languages (Kinyarwanda, French, and English - which are all the official languages in Rwanda). Chantal works with an organization who houses and supports people with disabilities in Edmonton.

On top of her full-time job, Chantal is an avid volunteer and civic participant.

She supports newcomers in getting connected with the community upon their arrival, she plans African culture events through the Edmonton Arts

Council with the African community of Edmonton and she sits on a community centre Advisory group in the Ormsby Place neighbourhood.

Chantal has many skills and talents that she contributes to our city and has some great ideas about how to make Edmonton a more welcoming and inclusive place.

Nominator: Tricia Boonstra



Nominee: Harold Hornig

Harold should be recognized as an Everyday Political Citizen because of his work as an advocate and community-builder in Edmonton's Terwillegar-Riverbend. He champions the interests and health of his neighborhood as the President of Brookview's Homeowners' Association in Bulyea Heights, and as one of the community liaisons for the City's First Place Program that is building on the community's surplus school sites.

He lends his creativity and communications experience to create and maintain a number of community websites including www.brookview.ca, www.tracspirit.ca, www.whitemudhills.ca and serves

as Communications Director for the Terwillegar Riverbend Advisory Council. Most notably, he has made the community of Brookview safer through the development of an innovative alert system - The Brookview Crier. This alert system emails over 500 residents with information about crime and other community related issues and has recently expanded to serve residents of Whitemud Hills. From all of us in Terwillegar-Riverbend, thank you Harold for your continued leadership, commitment and ingenuity!

Nominator: Bryan Anderson

Nominee: Linda Hut

Linda Hut is not just the City Hall School Coordinator - she is the program's heart and soul. Often seen trekking around City Hall with fifteen or twenty students in tow, Linda supports and nourishes Edmonton's next generation of citizens through City Hall School - a week long, inquiry based, hands on learning experience for Grade 1 – 6 students. Citizenship and social responsibility are topics which are a passion of Linda's and therefore integral to City Hall School.



One day, Linda will take students to meet a City Councillor or visit the Maker Space at the Edmonton Public Library, and the next day she might take them to volunteer at a homeless shelter or meet an urban planner. Whatever the activity for the day, Linda sparks young Edmontonians' interest in municipal issues and government through innovative, creative and enriching speakers, field trips and activities.

Thanks to Linda, students, teachers and parent volunteers come away with not only an increased sense of civic pride but also a richer understanding of civic issues and decision-making. Under Linda's leadership, twenty-four classes are treated to this experience over the course of each and every school year. Their week in City Hall is a catalyst for a year-long connection with the City of Edmonton. Linda visits each class at the beginning of September to distribute City Hall School journals, and keeps them in the City 'loop' through sending weekly newsletters to every City Hall School class all through the school year.

Linda's boundless energy and commitment to citizenship combine to make her one of Edmonton's standout Everyday Political Citizens. Kelta and I are honoured to nominate her and celebrate all that she brings to our community.

Nominator: Jane Purvis



Nominee: Jennifer Huygen

Uttering the word 'politics' is not often met with joy and excitement. Too often political discussions are, or seem to be, confrontational and divisive. So to find someone who challenges every negative stereotype that exists about politics is so refreshing. Jen is someone who does that. She is passionate about Canadian politics and shares her enthusiasm with the people around her. She has worked as a page, a parliamentary guide and a chief electoral officer for her university- all positions that allowed her to promote engagement in politics. She is the type of person who would throw a party to celebrate the Throne Speech or to watch election results roll in. Most of all, Jen is excited and positive about being an active citizen in her community. Jen is an extraordinary Everyday Political Citizen.

Nominator: Michaela Mann

Nominee: Elaine Hyshka

Elaine finds time to stay actively involved in public and community life even while pursuing her research as a PhD Candidate at the University of Alberta’s School of Public Health. She is an outstanding volunteer, and has donated her time to numerous municipal, provincial and federal political campaigns. She is passionate about social policy issues, and has flourished as an intelligent and articulate advocate for progressive policies on addictions management as well as building diverse housing options in the City of Edmonton’s mature neighbourhoods.

For her contributions to the community, City of Edmonton and University of Alberta, Elaine should be recognized as an Everyday Political Citizen.



Nominator: Michael Walters

Nominee: Janis Irwin

Janis Irwin is the NDP candidate for the new federal riding of Edmonton Griesbach. A lifelong Albertan who is passionate about her community, she is a proven leader with extensive experience as a high school teacher, vice principal, and a university lecturer.



Currently, Janis manages the senior high social studies curriculum for the province of Alberta. She obtained a bachelor’s degree in education from the University of Alberta, and earned her master’s degree focused on leadership and education from the University of Calgary. Janis is pursuing a PhD in secondary education at the University of Alberta. She has presented her work at various provincial, national, and international conferences.

A dedicated volunteer, Janis believes strongly in serving her community, and promoting active and engaged citizenship. With her proven integrity and passion, Janis will be tireless advocate for the

neighbourhoods that make up Edmonton Griesbach.

Janis enjoys living in the Highlands neighbourhood of the Edmonton Griesbach riding. She is an avid runner and cyclist.

Nominator: Rob Pearson

Nominee: Brad Ison

Brad is an active and enthusiastic member of the Callingwood community in Edmonton. This year, he started his own e-newsletter called the Callingwood Connector to keep the community informed about important issues and events. I am submitting this nomination to recognize Brad’s contributions to the well-being and health of his community.



Nominator: Michael Oshry



Nominee: Sally Issenman

Sally Issenman works very hard to strengthen the democratic and social structures that support our city. She is an advocate for fair voting policies, the health of our environment, the spiritual health of incarcerated people, art and music.

With grace and respect, she works throughout Edmonton connecting with people from all walks of life. She brings her intelligence and compassion to the world in whatever way she can and is also a skilled beekeeper.

Nominator: Trish Webb

Nominee: Todd Janes

The Edmonton arts community would not be where it is without Todd Janes. If there's a arts board or committee, Todd has sat on it. He's not only the Executive Director of *Latitude 53* - Alberta's oldest and largest artist-run gallery - he's a performance artist himself, causing all those who have seen his work to pause and take a second look at beauty of the world around them.



In between throwing some of Edmonton's hippest patio parties and provocative art exhibits, Todd is also a key player in the revitalization of McCauley. His passion for the neighbourhood and compassion for all those who call the area home is apparent in his work with the revitalization committee. Quite simply, Edmonton is a better place with Todd around.

Nominator: Scott McKeen



Nominee: Laura Jefferies

Tough to fit this dynamo into 300 words or less. A community organizer that works across all levels from high to grass roots. Engages her neighbourhood in 'neighbourliness' through dinner clubs, and acts of care and exchange. Engages in food security through permaculture community shares, and skill building. Engages in alternative local economy. Engaged in reviving the workers rights movement. Engaged in politics through community organizing, door-knocking, and campaigning. A regular, across the board amazing woman I am proud to have as a friend. Laura rolls up her sleeves and digs in with purpose. A true advocate for social, environmental, and economic integrity.

Nominator: Lisa Federspiel

Nominee: Jed Johns

Jed Johns is an active, engaged and compassionate young leader. As the former President of the Students' Association of MacEwan University, Jed advocated for programs and services to enhance the student experience by making student government and community engagement accessible.



Jed is involved in his provincial party's constituency association as president, he is the vice-chair of Global Shapers Edmonton, and he is passionate about making Edmonton and Alberta a better place for all.

Jed supports local businesses by shopping local whenever possible. He actively supports the Downtown and Old Strathcona Farmers' Markets, and advocates for continuing to make Edmonton more sustainable, to develop unique and interesting infill projects and to enhance public transit. Jed's day job is with Alberta Aboriginal Relations. As an Aboriginal Albertan, Jed works at Aboriginal Relations because he believes he can help make a difference to his people by advocating for them from within. Jed Johns epitomizes an Everyday Political Citizen.

Nominator: Daniel St. Pierre

Nominee: Tommy Kalita

In addition to his work organizing Cash Mob Edmonton (an outstanding group that organizes events to support and promote locally owned businesses), Tommy is a politically articulate citizen who keeps his finger on the pulse of municipal politics and is able to provide unique insight on issues like in-fill from his background as a mortgage specialist.



Recently he participated in an Edmonton public hearing (discussing in-fill), speaking in support of new zoning laws that would enable higher density housing in mature neighbourhoods in our city.

Tommy's passion for supporting local business and building a great city are the kind of qualities that truly make a difference to everyone he connects with.

Nominator: Liam Peuramaki

Nominee: Muru Khamisi

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Mr. Muru Khamisi , a distinguished community member in Edmonton, for consideration for the Everyday Political Citizen Project.

I have known Muru for over twenty years in various capacities and I am able to think of numerous reasons why I believe Muru deserves this Award. However, due to limited space, I will limit myself to a few key points which I think will strongly support his eligibility.

He has invested countless hours in his community to ensure harmony and cooperation for all residents of Edmonton. Muru continually strives to unite all the African Communities in Edmonton for the purpose of togetherness and civic engagement. His vision is to see all African newcomers successfully integrate into the Canadian society and become productive citizens. His outstanding leadership and tireless efforts in this regard is best illustrated by the establishment of the Africa Centre in Edmonton, which is the first of its kind in the entire North America. Africa Centre focuses on pan-African approach to bring together people from a range of backgrounds that have united to help one another and the broader community.



In addition, Muru has served in the Landlord and Tenant Advisory Board of the City of Edmonton as a member and its chair as well.

Muru is also highly visible personality in the African drumming and music scene of our city. He has performed at the various events: such as the Heritage Festival and for the Queen of England. Through his music and drumming, Muru helps build bridges among people with differing viewpoints or different backgrounds.

Because of these efforts, Muru has earned the respect and gratitude of those for whom and with whom he serves, his community and residents of the City of Edmonton. Muru is involved, dedicated, and caring and these outstanding qualities make him a worthy and deserving candidate for the Everyday Political Citizen Project.

Nominator: Tesfaye Ayalew



Nominee: Paula Kirman

Paula is an organizer in the local peace movement and has used her skills as a writer, photographer, videographer, and musician to document many acts of citizen engagement in Edmonton while also performing at such events. She is a familiar face at rallies, conferences, and events concerning peace, the environment, women’s issues, poverty and housing. Her efforts earned her the Salvos Prelentzos Peace Award in 2012 from Project Ploughshares, given to one person in Edmonton annually for their contributions to peace. She was also received a Daughter of the Year award in September of 2014 for her inspirational leadership and commitment to social justice.

Nominator: Johnny Blackburn

Nominee: Kim Knull

Kim never ceases to amaze in her constant work with the Walk-In Counselling Society of Edmonton and her daily commitment to her community where, for the past 2 years she has relentlessly worked to build a playground for the many children in the south west area. Her work both professionally and personally has placed her in front of the Alberta Government and the City of Edmonton to be a voice for many who can not find their own voice.



Nominator: Matt J



Nominee: Jill Kolodychuk

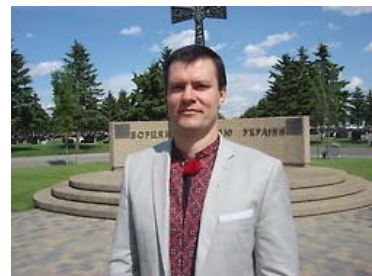
Jill is a community builder with a focus on making a significant contribution in her local community. By leading the Reimagining Petrolia Mall project, she is helping to shape not only her own neighbourhood but the greater Edmonton area.

Her contributions and her energy has influenced the development of a once abandoned strip mall, and her commitment to community engagement ensures that this project will continue to evolve.

Nominator: James Morrissey

Nominee: Serge Kostyuk

Coming from Ukraine 10 years ago, Serge has been actively supporting immigrant settlement and integration, as well as preserving Ukrainian Canadian heritage and contributing to Canadian political and ethno-cultural mosaic. He is actively involved at provincial and federal politics, and is a tireless volunteer. Serge served on Edmonton East Board of Directors of Conservative Party of Canada, and currently is on the Board of Alberta Progressive Conservative Association in Edmonton-Strathcona. As a volunteer, in 2011 he was included in the official delegation of Prime Minister of Canada in his visit to Ukraine.



He was on the Board of the Friends of the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, and currently is an active President of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Edmonton Branch representing 150,000 citizens of Ukrainian descent. In

September he has initiated an ongoing Humanitarian Assistance to Ukraine project, which gathered and shipped over 500 kg of brand new warm clothing to Ukraine to date.

Serge is an Instructor at Lokken College in Edmonton everyday helping unemployed Albertans to develop skills to succeed at workplace. He has completed a doctoral program in Sociology at the University of Saskatchewan, and holds a Diploma of Immigration Consultant from Ashton College. Serge is married and has a 7 year old daughter. Last year he volunteered with her at Homeless Connect event in Edmonton. He makes a difference and leads by example every time he has an opportunity to step in.

Nominator: Nataliya Kostyuk



Nominee: Julie Kusiek

"Julie Kusiek has been very active for a number of years in her community of Queen Alexandra in Edmonton. Her first major endeavour was to organize citizens in her community in support of their local pool which was in danger of being closed. Through her efforts she not only saved the pool but did so in part by significantly raising the number of people in her community that used the facility also thus reconnecting them to the community. After a brief hiatus to have a child, she is now once again organizing her community to deliberate on and then advocate for changes in the transportation network in the community to facilitate safe pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure ad part of their neighbourhood roadway rebuild. The real power of this work is in the ability to create discussion in the neighbourhood on what they want thus guaranteeing community buy in and in so doing empowering her community."

-Ben Henderson

"Julie Kusiek has been a leader in this community in many ways. She has been a friendly present volunteer at all community events and organized many events.

The first time I heard of her was from an article in the local paper talking about creating a friendlier community by simply starting to say "Hi" to your neighbors. She reminds us of simple little things each person can do to build community. She has recently built and taken on a new project called QA Crossroads which is gaining initiative and will have a huge impact in our Queen Alexandra neighborhood.

She has built QA Crossroads campaign, promoted it and grown it into a widely recognized initiative without ever giving up on it. She has boundless energy, creativity and love for her community. Besides raising three girls she is also raising a community. Thank you Julie."

-Sonya Salamon

"She started many very effective groups and actions in our Queen Alexandra, our inner city community, in Edmonton :e.g. Friends of Scona Pool , which saved the local pool , Play Groups for kids, Holiday Celebrations and just stared local road redesign/ renovation action: Q-Roads and many others..."

-Iga Speur

Nominators: Sonya Salamon, Iga Speur and Ben Henderson, Edmonton Councillor

Julie is a young parent of three children. She is very active about her community, juggling a few community projects at a time. She is not only active herself, but actively involves neighbours in community events. When we receive her emails, we feel that she is passionate about our community, and we feel that we must participate as well—and we do! (Such as going to meetings with the city representatives, for example.) It is a usual thing for her to invite mothers with their children to her back yard to socialize. Julie has an incredible network of friends, because she is friendly, active, keeps her eyes open, passionate about her neighbourhood, worries about ecology and the right things for children. She and her husband grow vegetables and berries in their small front yard on a busy street.

Nominator: Svetlana Troitskaia

Nominee: Pauline Lipkewich

Pauline Lipkewich is passionate about helping others. If it is through volunteering with the Parent Council at her children’s school for the past 5 years, volunteering with professional associations, mentoring young professionals aspiring to build their careers or assisting with her local church or with local community events, Pauline’s commitment to serving others shines through. Most recently, Pauline heard Martin Burt, #1 Influencer in the World on Poverty Eradication; speak in Salt Lake City, UT in July 2014. A brief introduction after that speech led to further conversations and in October 2014, Martin traveled to Edmonton, and provided half a day of inspiration and tangible action-planning to business and civic leaders in Edmonton. In Edmonton, the Mayor’s Task Force to Eliminate Poverty is taking on the challenge of helping over 100,000 citizens, including 30-35,000 children, in the region to pull themselves out of poverty.



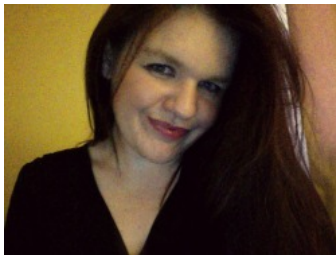
Through Pauline and LeadershipSmarts, the professional services firm she represents, the Mayor’s Task Force, and many other organizations including big oil companies, many levels of government and numerous others, are learning how to improve their results by changing behaviors for good. By helping individuals improve their communication, accountability, influence and adaptability skills, the world is getting better – one life at a time.

Pauline is dedicated, honest, loyal and has tremendous integrity, but the reason that she should be recognized as an “Everyday Citizen” is because of her passion for service, for helping others get better than they ever dreamed possible, and for the results she’s accomplished.

Nominator: Eileen Lipkewich-Differenz

Nominee: Jaddah Loder

My older cousin Jaddah and I grew up like sisters. She has been actively engaged in the community as long as I can remember. When she was growing up in St. Lawrence, NL, her main involvement was Regional Economic Development. The difference with Jaddah is that she didn’t just take a personal interest, she created



opportunities for other young people to get involved and lead by example. She hosted discussions, organized events, and created programs to make our area a better place - all before she was 18 years old! I can remember her getting excused early from high school to go to Marystown for an announcement about energy discovery by the Premier. She questioned him directly and ended up on the front page of the paper.

Although she has left our little town, she hasn’t changed. She continued to be involved with community economic development on a national level after she left St. Lawrence. Now, Jaddah works as an event consultant in Edmonton. The events she works on are her way of creating opportunities for people to interact with their communities.

The last project that she showed me was called imagiNation150 Edmonton. It’s an organization that working towards creating a citizen-led movement of conversation and participation for Canada’s 150th birthday in 2017. She built imagiNation150 Edmonton from the bottom up, even learning computer code to create the type of website she wanted. I’ve seen the work she has done for that project and her passion is clear in every last part of it.

Her devotion to creating a better country has been a constant source of inspiration for me. I have just started my career as a teacher. Jaddah has shown me how important my role, as a leader, is in shaping the community around me.

Nominator: Danielle Isaacs

Nominee: Rod Loyola

Rod is inspired by Nelson Mandela who told people to be better, work smarter and give more of themselves for the common good. To that end, Rod support minorities (both visible and otherwise) by taking part in community events. He understands discrimination as he has experienced it first-hand as a refugee.

He works hard as the President of the Non-academic Support Staff union at the University of Alberta to get members involved and to speak up for their rights. He is active in provincial politics (having run for the leader of the Alberta NDP and is seeking an MLA position in Edmonton-Ellerslie) as well as in community organizations. He is an inspiration to those of us who know and work with him. He has a young family and is working to instill his beliefs and morals to them.



Nominator: Liz Adolf

Nominee: Masood Makarechian



Masood Makarechian is a passionate volunteer, dedicated to making his community a better place for everyone. He served on the City of Edmonton Trails Advisory Committee, and then went on to spend six years on the Transit Advisory Committee, including several terms as Chair. During this time, he led a subcommittee to implement transit service to the airport known as route 747. It is amazing to chat with people on the bus who praise the new service, not knowing about volunteers like Masood who made it possible.

Community having a voice in policy and development decisions that affect them is key to Masood’s passion for engagement. He has volunteered both as a Board member and as Chair of the Aspen Gardens Community League. Masood is currently the Vice Chair on the South West Area Council which brings together representation from a multitude of Leagues in South West Edmonton. And for the past few years he has been the chair of the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues, bringing together all leagues in the city.

Masood’s passion for engaging community voice was evident in his work with the South Edmonton Campus Coalition, bringing the voice of nine communities affected by development plans being implemented by the University of Alberta. The months of dialogue increased understanding of community concerns, University intention and resulted in a signed Memorandum of Understanding for all parties.

The responsibility to make our community, our city and our country representative of the needs and interests of the public fuels Masood’s passion for being part of dialogue and processes that move conversations and decision making from “Me” to “We”. Whether speaking with city council or neighbors at the playground, Masood welcomes opportunities for dialogue about public interests, public policy, and how together, we can make decisions for the public good.

Nominator: Ilene Fleming

Nominee: Kemoh Mansaray

In my work as City Councillor I have been privileged to see and hear about the ongoing community involvement of Kemoh. I believe he embodies the spirit of these awards, as someone who helps empower numerous marginalized groups. His example is one our whole City would be well suited to follow.



Kemoh Mansaray was born in Sierra Leone and came to Edmonton, Alberta in 2002 and he is a father of three. He received a Diploma in Nursing in 2008 and a Bachelor’s Degree in Applied Human Service Administration in 2012 from Grant MacEwan University. Since his immigration to Canada, Kemoh has been working with the vulnerable and mentally challenged individuals which led him to pursue a career in nursing. His passion to work in the medical field stems from personal help he received from medical professionals working for Red Cross and Medicine Sans Frontiers during the 12 years of civil war in Sierra Leone. Kemoh has committed his last few years to helping his Sierra Leonean community especially the Koinadugu Descendant Union (KDU) in the area of health sensitization and healthy family living. He is a community leader and youth mentor and is actively involved with the sub groups and organizations within the Sierra Leonean community particularly, the KDU in Edmonton. Kemoh is a Board Member of the Edmonton Multicultural Coalition.

Nominator: Amarjeet Sohi, City Councilor Edmonton

Kemoh is a father of two and holds a diploma in nursing and bachelor in applied human service Administration. He is a community man who dedicate most of his time helping immigrant communities. He is the president of the Sierra Leone community in Edmonton, board member of the Edmonton multicultural coalition, chair of the Clareview multicultural centre. He helps to encourage immigrants to get involved in their communities, and he is an inspiration for all African immigrants in Edmonton. He actively encouraged us to get involved in civic elections.

Nominator: Iyesatu Jalloh

Nominee: Donna Marshall

Donna Marshall is a citizen with a heart for the community. An active and enthusiastic community member, Donna Marshall puts her soul into the work that she does. She has sat on the committees of the Kilkenny community league, Area Council 17, Community Advisory Committee, and the Northeast Community Festival Committee, and is the chair of the Parent Association Committee. She worked hard to get a spray park at J.A. Fife School, which children and parents are now able to enjoy in the summer.

In her positions on these committees Donna models leadership, ensuring that others in the community are able to express their ideas, their concerns, and that everyone involved is treated with respect. She is well known in the community, and is looked to for information on the happenings in the community, for ideas, and for encouragement.

On top of her tireless commitment to her community, Donna is a dedicated mother, and has been an inspiration for other parents in the community to volunteer their time at their children’s school and with community functions. Her involvement, and her encouragement to get others to become involved, has increased community relationships and connections, and has made the community of Kilkenny a positive place to live.



Nominator: Dave Loken



Nominee: Sherri Martinez

Sherri Martinez has been the President of the Terwillegar Riverbend Advisory Council (TRAC) since 2003, providing vision and guidance to various community partners and projects. She has volunteered in support of various Southwest community projects such as playgrounds and events, served as part of the executive board of Brookview Community League, attended numerous Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues meetings and events and committed herself to focusing on vital community issues, such as transportation.

Nominator: Bryan Anderson

Nominee: Cameron McCoy

Cameron is a fantastic community leader, working to get more MacEwan University students involved in their campus and their world. He led a city-wide campaign to get more students to vote in the municipal elections, “Your City, Your Vote,” in 2013. He has continued that work in his role as President of the Students’ Association of MacEwan University. He is spearheading the creation of a student-operated building at MacEwan University and increasing student involvement in the Edmonton community, as well as increasing the voice students have on the provincial and national stage.



Nominator: Duncan Wojtaszek



Nominee: Lindsey McNeill

Lindsey is a force to be reckoned with. Not only is she an accomplished actor, screen writer and producer, but she is a tireless advocate for local filmmakers. Her preferred genre, horror, may seem to be an odd choice for someone who, as she puts it, “looks like Jane Austen”. However, she is at the top of her game and is considered by many in the industry as a role model for women involved in horror film production.

She’s peerless in her tenacity and compassion for others, and is dedicated to building a thriving film industry in Edmonton. She is a true leader, and most certainly an Everyday Political Citizen.

Nominator: Lesley Vaage



Nominee: Shireen Mears

I would like to nominate my very good friend Shireen Mears. She is an amazing asset to this city we call home. She tirelessly volunteers for the Knottwood Community League, organizing drop in mom and tot groups, parenting seminars, community mapping, skating lessons for children, parties, and served on the Board for the cooperative Playschool. She believes in people and is always there for her community and her family.

I personally have learned much from this amazing woman, and I know the community has been changed by her amazing mind and heart. She never truly gets the recognition she deserves and this would be an awesome way to show her the community cares and appreciates all her years of hard work and service.

Nominator: Ali Hathaway

Nominee: Deborah Merriam

Deb Merriam is a community builder who builds on direct and indirect political actions in her everyday volunteer work. My main driver for nomination is her fantastic work building and promoting the 2013 municipal [election questionnaire](#). It was ambitious to ask all candidates five questions about local, environmental issues and more ambitious to process them all. Deb worked as part of a team, but humbly did a huge amount of the work.

In addition, Deb volunteers building community through Green Drinks, workshops, Resilience Fair and is the force behind [Critical Lass in Edmonton](#).



She sees the importance of building community connections with everyday actions and how that makes an everyday political shift.

Nominator: Hannah MacDonald



Nominee: Jane Molstad

Jane loves Edmonton. More specifically, McCauley. She is the neighbourhood’s Revitalization Coordinator and thanks to her, and the team of volunteers behind her, she’s started to turn around one of Edmonton’s poorest neighbourhoods. McCauley has had the largest property tax increase in Edmonton last year. This means things are starting to turn.

She’s successfully battled a less-than-cooperative community league, all while keeping her head up and her spirits high. She’s built a community garden and one of Canada’s first orchards in an old school yard. She publishes a community safety newspaper that is distributed to the whole neighbourhood every year and organizes multiple large-item garbage pickups to keep our alley’s clear of clutter. She takes on every task with an enthusiasm that makes all around her want to push a little bit harder, and in my mind is true example of a community leader.

Nominator: Amy McBain

Nominee: Zulfiya Mirzoera

Zulfiya has been active in the Edmonton Multicultural Coalition even though she just recently became a member. Besides volunteering for various events, she has also participated in the Coalition’s Food Security initiative as a Community Animator engaging members of her Tajik ethnic community here in Edmonton. Zulfiya has also been busy organizing the Tajik community in Edmonton and through her hard work has been successful in registering the Tajik community as a society.

Nominator: Michael Barton



Nominee: Nathan Mison

Nathan Mison embodies what I think the Everyday Political Citizen project is all about. He is one of Edmonton’s best networkers always focusing on a common vision of improving Edmonton. He’s done tireless work for non-profits, which is where I met him as a board member for a local charity. He is the president of his community league, and has worked on the campaign for members running for city council. He is an outspoken advocate for how great Edmonton is, and what people can do to make it better!

Nominator: Charles Rothman

Nominee: Sarim Mirza

The Centre for Public Involvement (CPI) has benefited from the work of many amazing volunteers and participants over the years. One volunteer in particular stands out as an exceptional political citizen: Sarim Mirza.

Sarim joined the CPI team as a Community Service Learning (CSL) student through one of his classes. At the time, CPI was leading a Citizens’ Jury project in partnership with the City of Edmonton’s Office of the City Clerk. The Citizens’ Jury was part of a broad citizen engagement project to explore the options for internet voting in Edmonton. Sarim contributed to the event as a note taker and facilitator, and brought positive energy and enthusiasm to all his tasks.

Once the project was over and Sarim had completed his required work for the placement, he offered to stay on as a volunteer; we were thrilled! For more than a year Sarim has worked at CPI on a weekly basis to support a wide range of projects and tasks that promote civic engagement. He always arrives ready to work hard and with an energy that is contagious to everyone who works with him.

CPI is not the only place that benefits from his contributions. Sarim is a volunteer with the Peer Support Centre on campus, is on the Board of Directors for an organization called DEEP (Defy Enmity and Encourage Peace), is the Chief Advocacy Officer for SeniorsCare, is a full time student in his third year of a Bachelors of Science program, and works as a research assistant at the University of Alberta.

He is excited to share ideas and explores different views on social questions with respect and curiosity. Sarim deserves recognition for his humble and sincere leadership and for demonstrating his on-going commitment to community engagement. He is a model Everyday Political Citizen!

Nominator: The Centre for Public Involvement



Nominee: Russ Miyagawa

Russ has been an anchor for our community league since before I got involved. He is not loud or overly opinionated, and does not even use many words at board meetings. However, when he does speak, he is very well spoken, has facts and good analysis to back up his thinking, and is respectful of all others at the table.

He is willing to help do whatever it takes to keep the league functioning and has become an expert at virtually every task and role over the years. He is our go-to by-laws and society rules expert. I have a tremendous amount of respect for Russ and all that he does for our community, even though the work that he does may go largely unnoticed by many other community members simply because he does what needs to be done without getting into the spotlight.

Nominator: Julie Kusiek

Nominee: Anita Moore

In 2012, thousands of Edmontonians were contacted to consider participating in Edmonton’s Citizens’ Panel on Food and Agriculture. Anita Moore was one of those citizens who responded to the invitation contribute. The Citizens’ Panel – a public involvement initiative led by the Centre for Public Involvement (CPI) and the City of Edmonton – brought together a representative group of citizens in the development of Edmonton’s Urban Food Strategy. This was the beginning of Anita’s ongoing relationship with the CPI and her increased participation as an everyday citizen.



As a long-term member of the City of Edmonton Community Services Advisory Board, Anita had experience in citizen engagement going into the Panel. However, she describes her experience on Panel as “vastly different” from anything she had done before. As a panelist, Anita, learned about different perspectives on urban food and engaged in deliberation with her neighbours. Anita and her fellow panelists collectively proposed recommendations to City Council that were used to develop ‘Fresh’—Edmonton’s Urban Food Strategy.

Since then, Anita has continued to champion citizen participation. She volunteered to serve as a facilitator for the Citizens’ Panel on Energy and Climate Change, which ran for six Saturdays in 2013. She describes the importance of her role as a facilitator in this project, as creating a safe space for citizens to share their ideas. In her words: “These are people that council may never come into contact with, but who are a true representation of the average citizen who is dedicated to making our community a better place.”

Anita’s commitment to community engagement and to empowering her neighbours to contribute to important conversations for their city, are the reasons that we at CPI believe that Anita deserves to be recognized as an exceptional Everyday Political Citizen!

Nominator: The Centre for Public Involvement

Nominee: Jelena Mrdjenovich

Jelena Mrdjenovi who boxes out of the Panther Gym in Edmonton, Alberta. She choose to box there so that she can work with young boys and girls and inner city youth who will benefit from learning life skills from a six-time world champion.

She continues to work even though she is in a field that has little recognition, even though she is a champion in the city of Champions.

Nominator: Rita DeLongchamp Osborne



Nominee: Karan Nikhanj

Karan believes it is critical to invest in meaningful relationships in order to build and nourish a community. That’s why he’s spent the better part of 10 years working as an active member in and advocate for his community of Twin Brooks in Edmonton. Since 2005, he has held diverse positions of leadership in the Twin Brooks Community League including President, Social Director and Chairperson of Capital Projects. He has worked diligently to strengthen and maintain relationships between key community stakeholders including community residents, schools, civil society organizations, City Councillors and elected officials at the provincial and federal levels.

He is a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition of his contributions in the community, and I would now like to nominate him as an Everyday Political Citizen for his outstanding achievements.

Nominator: Bryan Anderson

Nominee: Conrad Nobert

Conrad has a passion for bikes. He also has an astute political sense. When the residents of Edmonton did not react positively to the installation of new bicycle infrastructure last year in mature neighbourhoods, he saw an opportunity to combine his two passions.

Conrad recognized the need to amplify the voice of cyclists, as citizens were grappling with the new infrastructure. To do so, Conrad has brought the bike community together, under the banner of the Edmonton Bike Coalition. He has



worked tirelessly with local leaders to communicate the importance of a high quality bicycle infrastructure plan and of prioritizing high-quality bike routes in the City’s core neighbourhoods, where they are desired by residents and where rates of use are high.

For thinking fearlessly and taking initiative, Conrad should be recognized as an Everyday Political Citizen.

Nominator: Michael Walters

Nominee: Ian O’Donnell

Chris Buyze and Ian O’Donnell have helped lead one of the more challenging community leagues, the Downtown Edmonton Community League (DECL), for years now.

Among its many events and accomplishments, DECL created an urban garden for downtown residents, lobbied for quality urban design and LRT alignment and took a strong stance in favour of the downtown arena, at a time when public opinion was heated and mixed.

Both Ian and Chris willingly took strong positions in public and before council, arguing for a more walkable, vibrant and high-design downtown.

Nominator: Scott McKeen



Nominee: Brianna Olson

I passionately recommend Brianna Olson as an Everyday Political Citizen because she exemplifies an Aboriginal woman with strength and perseverance who is a role-model, not just to the Aboriginal community, but to all Edmontonians who strive to make a difference in their city.

Despite her young age, Ms. Olson has worked for iHuman as a registered Social Worker for almost eight years.



She was the youngest social work student ever admitted to her diploma program at the age of 19. Since that time, she has established a reputation as a role model for many peers in the social services sector, as well as youth aspiring to be social workers themselves.

Brianna is passionately dedicated to helping Edmonton’s most marginalized youth navigate the social service system. She demonstrates an ability to bridge the gaps in the system by exemplifying professional ethics with truly compassionate practice. Her level of ethics and professionalism is unequivocal. Ms. Olson’s understanding of the legacy of intergenerational trauma, addictions and mental illness as concurrent challenges for this population enables her to speak knowledgeably with social service agencies and government offices advocating for our clients. She is especially competent in facilitating the needs of young moms who exhibit high-risk behaviours.

Ms. Olson is an exceptionally bright light. Despite tremendous difficulty advocating within a broken system, she maintains a compassionate approach and spirit with our clients. She honours her First Nations culture in every interaction and relationship that she encounters. I believe, through her humanity, positive changes will be made in the lives of all youth who are blessed to have her advocating on their behalf. Furthermore, I believe she will succeed through her work in changing policy to be more empathetic and responsive in a dignified manner. I am honoured to work with her.

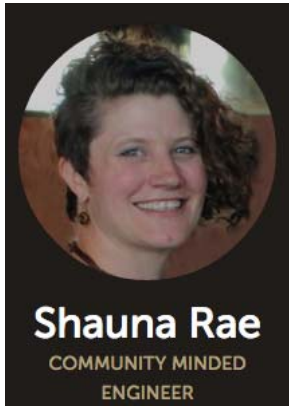
Nominator: Toscha Turner

Nominee: Sarah Pollock

Sarah is an amazing person and supporter of people in both the local and global community. For almost 10 years she has been supporting and managing an orphanage in Tanzania which thanks to her guidance is now home to over 50 children. She connects this work to local schools and community groups and helps Edmontonians become global citizens. Here at home, Sarah works as a nurse at the HIV clinic and also volunteers her time through Catholic Social Services helping a Somali family that has recently immigrated. She also sits on the board of the [Ainembabazi Children’s Project](#) and has advised numerous university student trips to conduct health promotion projects in Tanzania. She is also involved in numerous activist and social justice causes such as Take Back the Night. Sarah is an amazing political citizen because she helps people understand their linkage to people all around the world and builds connections that empower on both sides.



Nominator: Kenzie Gordon



Nominee: Shauna Rae

I would like to nominate Shauna Rae for her tireless dedication to the #Ski2LRT project in Edmonton.

Ski 2 LRT aims to improve winter access to major transit hubs and allow people to enjoy winter a little more. The pilot project seeks to place a ski rack at Century Park LRT. The station sits at the end of the longest stretch of track on the line. There are many skiable snow belts that approach the transit center. Think bike racks, for skis. She has already secured funding for the project by working with City Officials and community groups. She hopes to see ski racks at all ski accessible transportation hubs.

She does this work for no reason other than she is a community champion interested in sustainable living. Edmonton needs more people like Shauna.

Nominator: Salma Kaida



Nominee: Gary Redmond

Gary Redmond has worked in emergency management for more than 20 years. He’s an expert in mediation, including experience brokering between oil companies and landowners. He used this keen talent for mediation and community organizing when his local neighbourhood was facing the loss of the little green space they have left in their already dense community. Gary pulled together a neighbourhood association to commence talks with the City of Edmonton and had the astute ability to negotiate and develop a win-win strategy for all those involved. For those reasons, Gary deserves to be recognized as an everyday political citizen.

Nominator: Michael Walters

Nominee: Ida Richards

Ida believes that an informed citizenry and eternal vigilance emboldens and enriches both governments and citizens.

She has worked for decades to mobilize others to advocate for issues that she believes need addressing - from traffic safety and development proposals to preserving bio-diversity and creating walkable communities.

She has the passion, energy and vision to organize groups of concerned citizens to work with decision-makers and elected officials. Most recently, she has worked with other concerned citizens to advocate for 800-1000 acres of land that forms the Whitemud Blackmud Triangle to be named a Heritage Preserve. She is also leading a group of approximately seventy residents of Twin Brooks as we seek to convince City of Edmonton Executive and Administrative staff to change their minds about building 39 condo units on the 0.8 hectare of land, on which a Catholic Elementary school was to be built.

Ida continues to work with others - be it citizens, elected officials, or businesses - to make communities safer, healthier and happier. For that, I am nominating Ida as an Everyday Political Citizen.



Nominator: Bryan Anderson

Nominee: Dave Rumbold

Dave is a highly experienced and committed volunteer.

He is currently President of the Riverbend Community League, has led fundraising efforts for the Terwillegar Riverbend Advisory Council (helping to raise over \$144 000 for the Terwillegar Community Recreation Centre!) and is an active fundraiser for the United Way.

He is also deeply interested in politics, and has been an active member of diverse political campaigns and associations. He is the Social Chair of the Edmonton Riverbend Conservative Riding Association and has donated his time to the Edmonton Whitemud PC Association in a number of roles including President, VP Policy and Co-VP Community Networking. He contributed to Stephen Mandel's most recent campaign in the Edmonton by-election, was on the Edmonton Whitemud PC Association Election Team for the 2012 provincial election, and contributed to Dave Hancock's re-election campaign. For his diverse community and political contributions, I nominate Dave as an Everyday Political Citizen.



Nominator: Bryan Anderson

Nominee: Werner Schmidt

Werner has a long history of leadership in politics. In 1971 he was elected leader of the Alberta Social Credit Party. He later became a driving force in the Reform Party and in 1993 was elected as the Member of Parliament for the riding of Okanagan Centre. He was re-elected in 1997 in the newly founded riding of Kelowna and continued to serve as their MP until 2006. During his time as MP he was a member of many standing committees such as Industry, Natural Resources and Government Operations; Industry, Natural Resources, Science and Technology; Human Resources Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities; Procedure and House Affairs; and the joint committee for the Scrutiny of Regulations, to name a few.

Werner retired from Parliament in 2006. He moved back to Alberta shortly after and became active on the Edmonton Leduc Conservative Association board. He is a valued



director, bringing his vast experience and tremendous energy to every meeting and event. He is always the first to volunteer to knock on doors and connect with Edmontonians, inspiring them to become involved.

While Werner is technically retired, he is constantly meeting with individuals in the federal and provincial circuits, inspiring them to be innovators and leaders to our community.

After more than 40 years of being actively involved in politics, Werner is perhaps making the biggest impact on our country now, inspiring, guiding and empowering another generation to become ethical leaders.

Nominator: Elisabeth Hughes

Nominee: Elke Siebels

It is a privilege to recognize Elke for all her many hours of hard work and service to the community. There are so many things that Elke does to make Spruce Avenue a stronger community.

As the community's chair person of Neighborhood Watch she has made residents more aware of the need to be vigilant and aware of their surroundings.



She has established a good working relationship with the community's EPS liason officer Constable Shane Wruth.

She has reached out to many residents in the community to offer support and information about crime watch.

You will often see her patrolling the neighborhood on her own and alerting residents of garage doors left open or other potential opportunities for a crime to occur.

She takes the time to send updated information to residents to insure they are aware of any criminal activity. We know her diligence and attention to detail makes for a safer community.

Elke has also been known to stop a crime in progress. At a recent garage sale that she and her husband Don were holding she stayed off a theft and sent the would be thieves running. As they departed she wheeled one of her sale items, a soap dispenser, through the back window of their get away vehicle. I am very positive that they may think twice about approaching a couple of seniors who are holding a garage sale.

Also we would like to thank her for her involvement in recognizing residents for their front yards. This involves countless hours keeping a watchful eye on front yards in different stages of development. We know that it is important to recognize individuals for their efforts in making this community a pleasant place in which to live. Elke is one of the busiest people that I have the privilege of knowing but despite this she is always available to lend a helping hand whether it is to help with the annual garage sale, deliver flyers or help with the annual Harvest Fest and membership drive.

Our community is definitely so much better because of her support and involvement.

Nominator: Bev Esslinger

Nominee: Nazima Sohni Uppal

Nzima's entire adult career has been dedicated to positively promoting and representing ethnocultural leadership and information and entertainment. Below is just a bit of what she has done:

She has been honoured as a young community leader who gives back, raises awareness of culture, and is excelling in doing so. For example, she is this year's recipient of the "CTV Heritage Hero Award," formerly the "CTV Citizen of the Year", that is presented to a person who has demonstrated a long-term commitment to promoting awareness, understanding and appreciation for cultural diversity. Each year one individual who truly exemplifies this mission is honoured.

Her work as radio producer and personality at 101.7 World FM definitely adds to her contributions as a community leader. Sundays, noon to 3:00 pm Naz produces and hosts The Sunday Program. It explores news and



music from all across the South Asian Diaspora. Another Radio South Asia exclusive offering, Naz at Night is a show that fuses choice cuts of music with the South Asian Canadian experience and lifestyle. Music comprises current Pakistani joints, Bollywood blasts, Remounts and Remixes, Urban Desi drives, Indian Hip Hop & Pop, and concussive Club Music. Airing every Monday to Thursday night from 11:00 pm to midnight, Naz expertly guides listeners across and beyond the boundaries of language, geography, genre, and ethnicity. Her work on the OMNI television program, Culture Avenue, focused attention on events and celebrations from various ethno-cultural communities in Alberta. Episode One for instance has cultural celebrations covering a host of communities ranging from the Oktoberfest, to the Cheremosh Dancers to a Gujarati festival and a performance by an African-Canadian child artist. Culture Avenue aimed to enable ethnic communities to see

themselves as they celebrate culture and have a voice of their own. Naz’s stories have reached both the Alberta and the Ontario versions of the show.

Naz also regularly writes for SUHAAG Magazine, the leading fashion, lifestyle and wedding magazine in Canada that caters to the prospering Canadian South Asian community. With over 400, full colour, glossy pages, Suhaag magazine features editorial that appeals to a wide range of individuals including newly engaged couples, their families and friends.

Nominator: Hatima Illahi

Nominee: Elaine Solez

Elaine has worked diligently for many years on behalf of her community of Windsor Park in the City of Edmonton. As an older community close to the University of Alberta it has been under redevelopment pressure for many years.

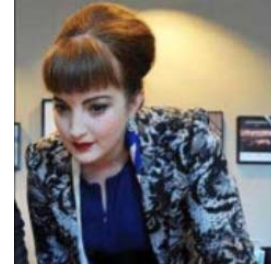
By becoming involved early on with her own community league as well as volunteering for the planning and development committee for the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues Elaine has been a strong and progressive voice sheperding her community and the collected voice of the larger City’s diverse community concerns through the changes that are inevitable in a growing city. She has done this both with a sense of balance and a courage to stand up against reaction when necessary. It is this combination of reason and tenacity that has allowed her to leave a subtle but significant legacy in the way our mature neighbourhoods in Edmonton are adapting to (and ultimately embracing) change.



Nominator: Ben Henderson, Edmonton Councillor

Nominee: Dr. Cristina Stasia

Dr. Stasia not only models political citizenry by engaging in politics and political campaigns, as well as sitting on the City of Edmonton’s WAVE committee; but also works to engage other citizens, particularly females, in discussion and action around politics.



Sitting in her class just this past week, we discussed barriers to female participation and engagement in politics and she ended with strong, encouraging and inspirational words for us to become involved, not only in the campus Student Union, but to consider ourselves and our peers as viable and valuable candidates for our community and country’s political atmosphere.

I am continually inspired by her fearlessness, her passion and her tireless efforts to create change and to work within the social and political systems we currently have to establish equality and to promote engaged citizenry.

Dr. Stasia isn’t just a wonderful female role model and everyday political citizen, she is an everyday superhero that deserves more recognition in her field and in our brilliant community for the work she does and the change she inspires.

Nominee: Amy Stevens

As the Executive Director of the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, I am nominating Amy Stevens for the Everyday Political Citizen recognition because each and every day, Amy strives to make a difference in her community.

Amy is the Coordinator of Fund Development at the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers (EMCN), and in this capacity demonstrates her unique knack for connecting with individuals from every walk of life. Starting at EMCN as a front line program facilitator, I quickly recognized Amy’s capacity to affect change within our



organization. Her enthusiasm, drive, and pure grit have allowed her to build strong relationships and a funding program for EMCN like no other. Her biggest achievement to date at the agency has been bringing EMCN’s annual event, the RISE Awards from a small, community-based event, to a 500-person gala that plays host to corporate executives, government officials, and individuals from diverse public and private sectors.

Her first year coordinating the event, Amy secured former politician and founder of his namesake foundation, Stephen Lewis, as the event’s keynote speaker, an unexpected feat given the caliber of the awards in previous years. In her private life, Amy has been an active member of society as well. From leading sports teams, to volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, and serving as Vice President Foundations and Secretary of the Housing Association for her women’s fraternity, Amy is committed to driving growth in her community.

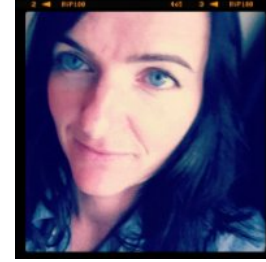
Currently, Amy navigates the precarious balance of working full-time while completing her Masters of Business Administration at the University of Alberta in the evenings. Recently, Amy was awarded a spot on the Alberta School of Business’ MBA Games Team, which will compete in a national event in Hamilton in the New Year.

Amy is motivated, committed, kind, and authentic. She demonstrates passionate for every challenge she undertakes and sparks the same passion in those around her. Amy deserves this recognition not only for her past and current demonstrations of political citizenship, but also for the potential she holds to continue this engagement in all aspects of her life in the future.

Nominator: Erick Ambtman

Nominee: Carla Stolte

Carla Stolte is a very community-minded person. Currently the president of the Westmount Community League, she has been involved in many community events and volunteered countless hours for various causes in the short period of time that I have known her through volunteering at the community league.



Nominator: Nicolas Brown

Westmount Community League president Carla Stolte is a force of nature. A recent meeting in Westmount on neighbourhood renewal attracted more than 400 people. Stolte also diplomatically led her community through a sometimes divisive survey on street lights.

She also sat as a community volunteer on the city’s infill action plan. She is a mom of young children and yet gives hours and hours each week to building a collaborative, engaged and inclusive neighbourhood.

Nominator: Scott McKeen

Nominee: Kim Street

and wife in the community. She is actively involved with parent council and is always willing to volunteer within the community at many events. Her hard work and determination is one of the key aspects which allow the many events within the Edmonton-McClung community to be carried out with success. I strongly recommend that you nominate her for this project.

(Kim is pictured left in “GAP” shirt)



Nominator: David Xiao

Nominee: Jennifer Summerfeldt



Jen is a remarkable woman. An advocate for health, human rights, and compassionate birth. She is working at a policy level towards cultural shifts that empower women in the birthing process. She is interested in dignity. Compassionate care, and informed choice. Jen has worked with hundreds of women one on one. She volunteers her time on the MCAN board to develop initiatives, campaigns and programs to advance maternity care in Alberta. She is a great champion for women!

Nominator: Lisa Federspiel

Nominee: Lynette Thompson

Lynette has volunteered in her community for close to 30 years. She was a founding member of the Castle Downs Recreation Society, formed in 1986. The focus of the CDRS was to establish a vision for the future of recreation facilities in Castle Downs.

Castle Downs has accomplished great things in relation to these priorities and Lynette has been a community leader/activist in all of these accomplishments – development of the Castle Downs Recreation Centre that opened in 1989 including ice arenas and community space, two major park developments (the first in 1996 and the second in 2010/11), the skateboard park that opened in 2005, and the Castle Downs Family YMCA the opened in 1998.

All of these accomplishments involved working with politicians and the political process at the municipal, provincial and federal levels of government. In doing this, one of Lynette’s greatest strengths is creating positive relationships with elected officials – City Councillors, MLAs and Members of Parliament. She carries this into her



leadership role at the “grassroots community level” in working with others in the community.

In 2005, during Alberta’s “Centennial”, she was one of a number of “Ambassadors” appointed by the Province of Alberta to celebrate the province and its citizens.

Lynnette’s commitment to the community and society has taken her into political campaigns for City Councillors and provincial MLAs. She has done this over many election cycles. While she is advocating for someone she also carries the message “Make sure you vote – it’s important.”

In summary, Lynnette is a community advocate who has inspired everyone with her dedication to building a vibrant community. Her respect for everyone and her commitment to positive relationships make her a great “Everyday Political Citizen.”

Nominator: Bev Esslinger

Nominee: Sue Trigg

Sue Trigg is a remarkable community builder who has quietly made a difference in South West Edmonton for decades.

She has been volunteering in Edmonton since 1970, working in schools, sports leagues, professional organizations, supporting causes, and participating in and leading different community groups.

Sue has served on the Riverbend Community League Board for 29 years, and she has filled every role that exists there. One of the Community League board members said “I find that we are like the Oilers in the 1980’s – we, on the Board. all elevate our game when we are in the presence of the ‘great one’”. It is due to Sue’s efforts that Riverbend Community League has so many special events and is such a strong organization.

She is the founder and organizer of popular community events like the Riverbend Plant Sale, Taste of Riverbend, Art in Our Park and the Riverbend Winter Festival. Sue is also a founding member of the Terwillegar Riverbend Advisory Council, and she has held board positions on various recreational and sports committees. In addition to all her other year-round pursuits, Sue coordinates donations of Christmas trees, hampers and gifts for local families in need.

I could write a whole page about the specific things that Sue has done and the recognition she has received over the years, but I want to finish by mentioning what I believe to be Sue’s greatest accomplishment in this community – she has mentored and nurtured generations of community contributors and leaders who will carry the torch in the future and continue to enhance the quality of life in our shared community.

Nominator: Bryan Anderson



Nominee: Mike Van Boom

Mike Van Boom is the new community league president in McCauley. Mike’s volunteerism is noteworthy because he stepped up to the plate at a particularly controversial, raucous time in McCauley. The previous community league board and its stance in opposition to the social service agencies and churches in McCauley ran afoul of residents who see McCauley as an inclusive and friendly community. Mike and others helped organize a group of like-minded people who attended the



community league AGM and replaced the controversial board. Ever since, Mike has been working to build new bridges and coalitions of support in McCauley. Social disorder is still an issue for the community, but Mike's leadership is about reducing the problems through collaboration and support, rather than confrontation and eviction.

Nominator: Scott McKeen

Nominee: Sandra Woitas

Sandra B. Woitas, LL.D (Hon) is an extraordinary model of an everyday political citizen and has received many awards to prove it! Most recently, in 2014 she received an honorary doctor of laws degree from the University of Alberta. She is a long time educator, exceptional leader and tireless advocate in the Edmonton community and beyond for those who really need a hand up! Sandra has fixated on the needs of Alberta's most disadvantaged children and families by spreading the word about the impact of poverty and successful interventions. As former Director of the City Centre Education Project with Edmonton Public Schools, Sandra worked collaboratively with seven inner city schools to ensure students have access to the necessary resources to realize their full potential. From 2004-2009, she was seconded to Alberta Education/Children and Youth Services as part of the cross ministry Family Violence and Anti-Bullying Initiative. During that time, she spoke to thousands of educators, parents, youth and community members on the issue of bullying and, in collaboration with the Alberta Mental Health Board, she was the co-lead on assisting 18 school jurisdictions in piloting site-based, integrated mental health services for children and youth. Currently, Sandra is Director of the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation which was launched in 2010. The Foundation's role is to raise the profile of Edmonton Public Schools, advocate for public education, build strong partnerships, and raise friends and funds to enhance teaching and learning. The current priority is to fund full-day Kindergarten programs for marginalized children at schools that reside in socially vulnerable neighbourhoods. Presently, full-day Kindergarten classrooms have been established in six schools: Calder, Beacon Heights, Lauderdale, Mee-Yah-Noh, Princeton and Tipaskan. The goal is to support 15 schools, so Sandra and the Foundation's Board of Governors continue to focus on the nine schools still on the waiting list.



Nominator: Dr. Louise Hayes

Nominee: Peggy Wright

I am nominating Peggy Wright to be acknowledged as an everyday political citizen. Peggy's involvement in politics began at a very young age. In fact, while she was still a child, her father, Keith Wright and Grant Notley started the New Democrat Youth of Alberta. Peggy has continued to be involved in virtually every NDP election campaign in this province for decades. She has gone door-to-door, phoned for volunteers and supporters, planned and organized fundraisers. She is the President of the Beverly Clareview NDP Constituency association, she has served as an official on the Alberta NDP executive in several capacities. She has been a tireless volunteer for many candidates, including myself. On our campaign in 2012, we started calling Peggy "the Glue" because she truly held us all together as we worked countless hours. She is a dedicated teacher and is driven by her passion for building a better world for the next generation.



Nominator: Deron Bilous

Nominee: Gita Sharma

Dr. Gita Sharma is an incredibly accomplished researcher whose passions extend naturally into social, political and economic issues at a local, regional, national and international level. Dr. Sharma brings together community leaders and political representatives at all levels, helping create a platform to move issues of community health forward as a motivated community doing what is best locally. For that reason, Dr. Sharma deserves to be recognized as an everyday political citizen.



Nominator: Steve Young

Nominee: Joe Yurkovich

Joseph Yurkovich is an engaged and contributing member of South West Edmonton. He served as Vice-Chair for the Terwillegar Riverbend Advisory Council for almost 10 years before he undertook his current role as legal counsel for the organization. He is a member of the City of Edmonton’s Terwillegar Footbridge and West-end Trails Project Community Advisory Committee, where he represents the Riverbend Community League and Edmonton Mountain Bike Alliance.



He has also been known to volunteer for political activities and associations as he has done as a Director of the Edmonton Whitemud Progressive Conservative Association since 1996, and as President from 2001-2005. He has also contributed to the Progressive Conservative Association of Alberta as Vice-President (2005-2012) and Northern Alberta Finance Chair (2011-2014).

Nominator: Bryan Anderson

Nominee: The Zhang Family

The Centre for Public Involvement (CPI) first met the Zhang family in 2012 when they participated in Edmonton’s Citizens’ Panel on Food and Agriculture. This was their first civic engagement experience in Canada after immigrating to Edmonton. They offered their time, professional knowledge, and personal experiences to the Citizens’ Panel. Furthermore, the daughter, Alyssa, volunteered to assist with translation for all five full-day sessions.



Their participation was inspiring to see. Not only did they step forward to engage in their community and share their ideas, but they were supportive of each other to ensure that language would not present a barrier to full participation. They exemplify how ordinary citizens can contribute to political decisions in their community!

Nominator: The Centre for Public Involvement

For more information on the Everyday Political Citizen, visit:
www.edmonton.ca/EPCitizen