

Introduction

REACH Edmonton is a community based, not for profit organization that emerged out of the Mayor's Taskforce on Community Safety. Its goal is to make Edmonton a safer community in one generation by focusing on crime prevention programs and initiatives. It is doing so by implementing the nine recommendations in the REACH Report.

Founded in June 2010, REACH is membership driven, coordinated by a Board of Directors, and has a total of over 200 members, encompassing 83 organizations and over 120 citizens. In its second year of existence, REACH is making a real difference. REACH is involved in over 30 crime prevention and community safety projects.

Vision

A city in which every Edmontonian contributes to a community where everyone is safe and feels safe.



MAJOR SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

SCHOOLS AS COMMUNITY HUBS - REACH is partnering with Edmonton Public and Catholic Schools and other community organizations, to run 6 school hubs. Each hub provides programs and support tailored to the unique needs of vulnerable youth and families in the immediate community. This initiative offers an exciting new model of how schools can come to life as a hub of connection. REACH administers SACH funding from the Government of Alberta's Safe Communities Innovation Fund and provides the funder with ongoing reports.

REACH's role is to coordinate the SACH partnerships, facilitating communication and linkages. REACH gathers and promote key learning's, identifies gaps and measures success, ensuring that each SACH team learns from the others.

THE REACH IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE INITIATIVE (RIRI) - is a partnership between REACH and four immigrant/refugee agencies in Edmonton. RIRI recognizes that traditional North American responses to family violence are often not appropriate for refugee and immigrant families because all cultural contexts aren't taken into consideration.

RIRI engages with the community by providing a variety of innovative and successful programs that include Healing Circle, Youth Ambassadors and Men's Corner. REACH provides reports to the Province and coordinates the partnership.

THE REACH ABORIGINAL LEADERSHIP CIRCLE (RALC) - offers programs to Aboriginal youth and adults – programs that honor Aboriginal history and have a strong foundation in Aboriginal culture. They teach both traditional knowledge and practical skills youth will need to become resilient leaders. The REACH Aboriginal Leadership Circle is made up of leaders from Edmonton's Urban Aboriginal community.

YOUTH PROGRAMS - REACH partners with a number of groups and agencies in Edmonton to support innovative youth initiatives. **Step Up Step In** addresses youth violence with events in the community and at schools. Art REACH involves 2 **E4C** programs at the Kids in the Hall Bistro for at risk youth and E4C Art Start provided to young children in non-school hours. **Youth Speak Edmonton** offers a safe, non-judgmental environment for conversation by adolescents and parents about youth crime and change.

REACH also works with **Youth Action on Addiction**, an advisory team of diverse young people, to focus on youth and addiction prevention. REACH is also an active supporter of the **Edmonton Youth Justice Committees**, which sees volunteers work with youth who are first or second time offenders of non-violent crimes. The youth are referred to an alternative measures program, where volunteers discuss with them the decisions that lead up to the crime.

Opportunities and Challenges

VIOLENCE REDUCTION ACTION PLAN (VRAP)

In August of 2011, REACH worked closely with the City of Edmonton and EPS to create and implement the Violence Reduction Action Plan. REACH's VRAP role includes the following three actions:

24/7 - Enhanced funding from the City of Edmonton allowed REACH to continue developing the 24/7 service delivery model. It is a model for more coordinated and integrated delivery of support, prevention and intervention services, by inner city front-line agencies on a 24/7 basis.

A critical success factor and key component of the 24/7 initiative is the implementation of a Real Time Information Sharing System (RTISS). Working with a large group of front line organizations REACH produced a detailed business case for this component of the 24/7 Service Delivery Model. The first phase of pilot implementation is planned for November 2012.



24/7 Initiative

INJERA - Another action in the Plan has REACH continuing to support and seek sustainable funding for the innovative INJERA Coalition Initiative which is aimed at building trust and understanding and strengthening relationships the Edmonton Police Service and ethno-cultural groups. Originally piloted in the Central McDougall and Queen Mary Park neighbourhoods, INJERA saw 4 community animators recruited to play a bridging role between Edmonton Police and 4 immigrant communities in these inner city neighbourhoods. Initial feedback from both police officers and citizens about this program has been extremely positive.

Opportunities and Challenges

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS - Working closely with the EPS, and the City of Edmonton, REACH is taking the lead in coordinating, creating and implementing a public engagement program that fosters conversations in the community about public safety and the Violence Reduction Plan.

The Community Conversation sessions also seek to identify and engage neighbourhood and community leaders who will be involved in initiatives that focus on a preventative approach to community safety.



Outreach



Community Conversations

Approved 2013 Budget (\$000)

	2011 Actual	2012 Budget	2013 Budget	\$ Change '12-'13	% Change '12-'13
Expenditure & Transfers					
Personnel	830	830	830	-	-
Communicating	221	250	250	-	-
Creating	40	30	30	-	-
Catalyzing	140	1,150	1,150	-	-
Connecting	125	136	136	-	-
General and Administrative	176	196	196	-	-
Total Expenditure & Transfers	1,532	2,592	2,592	-	-
Net Operating Requirement	\$ 1,532	\$ 2,592	\$ 2,592	\$ -	-

Where the Budget will be spent

