



**Message From His Worship
Mayor Don Iveson**



On behalf of City Council and the people of Edmonton, Alberta's Capital City, I welcome everyone to the 2015 Salute to Excellence Performance and Citation Awards.

The Salute to Excellence Awards highlight the achievements of outstanding Edmontonians in the areas of arts and culture, sports and community service. Our city is strengthened by the immense talent, skill and leadership of these individuals and groups. Their contributions provide inspiration and enhance our city's vision to be a welcoming, inclusive and safe place to live.

I congratulate this year's recipients for their passion and enthusiasm in helping to build Edmonton into a great city. I also thank the organizers and sponsors for their time and effort in organizing this annual event. It's important we continue to celebrate the many accomplishments of Edmontonians. In doing so, we enhance Edmonton's reputation as a globally-competitive city.

Best wishes for an enjoyable evening!

Yours truly,

Don Iveson, Mayor



Welcome and Introductions

Rob Smyth, Acting General Manager, Community Services

O Canada

Kaleia Odelle

Greetings from the City of Edmonton

Presentation of Citation Awards

Arts and Culture

Community Service

Sports

Presentation of Performance Awards

Arts and Culture

Sports

Individual

Team

Individual Masters

Reception and Entertainment

Please join us for refreshments* after the ceremony.

**Allergy alert: food may contain traces of nuts or peanuts.*

Citation Awards

The City of Edmonton has earned its reputation as a City of Volunteers. Every facet of life in our city is enriched by the dedication of its citizens in arts and culture, community service, and sports.

Citation Awards honour those individuals or groups who have given significant service and inspiring leadership in these areas.



Susanna Biro

Arts and Culture



Susanna Biro is a gifted leader who has devoted 45 years to Hungarian folk dance instruction, choreography, and performance. She served as the artistic director of the Csárdás Hungarian Folkdance Ensemble for 30 years, and created more than 55 choreographies. Csárdás has averaged 35 performances in Canada annually and performed on multiple occasions in Europe. Biro's involvement led to the formation of the Cifra Ensemble, a Hungarian folk music group that has performed alongside Csárdás since 1994. Biro has provided decades of volunteering to the Canadian Hungarian Cultural Society of Edmonton, the Edmonton Folk Arts Council, and many other organizations. She has also assisted in the administration and development of more than 20 local arts groups.

Harry Farmer

Arts and Culture



The late Harry Farmer was a musical icon who spent 15 years as CFRN's musical director. An arranger, composer, and performer, he played the organ in more than 5000 television and radio broadcasts, and produced more than a dozen programs. His show Recital provided an important platform for emerging artists. Farmer performed as resident pianist at provincial government events for several years, taught choral music and organ techniques, and gave 16 years as the organist of the Grand Lodge of Alberta. He served as the Alberta Opera Society's musical director, Edmonton Boys Choir director, and Edmonton Symphony Orchestra board member. Farmer was an active volunteer with groups that include the Edmonton Musicians Association, Rotary International, and Kiwanis Music Festivals.



Scott Leithead

Arts and Culture



Scott Leithead is the founder and artistic director of the Kokopelli Choir Association and Today's Innovative Music Edmonton (TIME). Under his direction, participation expanded from two to nine choirs and from 45 to 380 singers. Kokopelli has performed as a spotlight choir at major national and international events. Leithead also

established the Brail Tones Choir for adults with disabilities, and has been an active volunteer on national choral and festival boards. He further expanded opportunities for singers by building relationships between his choirs in Edmonton and international groups through sister choir exchange programs, particularly with choirs in Africa. Leithead is in high demand as an adjudicator, clinician, and guest conductor, and works with choirs around the world.

Shawna Lemay

Arts and Culture



Shawna Lemay is an award-winning author whose six books include poetry, novels, and an essay collection. Her latest title is the novel *Rumi and the Red Handbag* (Palimpsest Press). Lemay has received positive reviews across Canada, and has been a highly regarded member of Edmonton's poetry scene for the past two decades. A generous supporter of

other writers, Lemay is active in organizing and promoting events where poetry can be shared. She is the creator and editor of the online poetry and criticism website, *Contemporary Poetries*, and is also the writer and photographer behind the popular weekly blog, *Calm Things*.



John Estacio

Arts and Culture



John Estacio is a JUNO nominated composer of both national and international distinction. Over the last 25 years, he has created dozens of orchestral works, operas, and scores for the stage and screen including *Filumena*, *Lillian Alling*, and King Arthur's *Camelot*. From 1992 to 1999, he served as the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra's first composer-in-residence. In this position, Estacio's mentorship helped cultivate the musical endeavours of future generations. Every major orchestra in Canada, as well as several in the USA and Europe, has performed Estacio's compositions. His works are frequently recorded and broadcast on international radio and television, and have been played in Carnegie Hall, New York; Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles; and National Centre for the Performing Arts, Beijing.

Jeremy Spurgeon

Arts and Culture



Jeremy Spurgeon studied at the Royal Northern College of Music, in Manchester, and the Geneva Conservatoire. Since coming to Edmonton in 1980, he has served as organist, pianist, and choirmaster at the All Saints' Anglican Cathedral, and principal repetiteur and accompanist for Pro Coro Canada. A founding member of Pro Coro Canada, he has performed regularly with groups that include the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, Richard Eaton Singers, and Edmonton Opera, as well as with ensembles, singers, and instrumentalists in Canada, the USA, Britain, Italy, Switzerland, and Poland. Spurgeon gives his time and talent generously. He often arranges concerts and recitals, and has been influential in fostering music at professional and amateur levels in Edmonton.



Paul Douglas

Community Service



Paul Douglas, president and chief executive officer of PCL Constructors Inc., is a vital volunteer in Edmonton. The Edmonton International Airport Business Advisory Committee, Canadian Council of Chief Executives, and University Hospital Foundation have all benefitted from his leadership and expertise. A key member in establishing

Celebrate Edmonton, Douglas is involved in numerous civic pride-building initiatives. His community service extends internationally through his work as the sole Canadian representative appointed to the High Level Panel on Infrastructure Development for the G20 Summit. His efforts to promote philanthropy at PCL's annual United Way workplace campaign made the company and its employees the largest supporter in the 75-year history of the United Way of the Alberta Capital Region.



Edmonton Emergency Relief Services Society Community Service

Cody Acton, Richard David, Cindi Hache, Gail Hawaleshka,
Audrey Jensen, Charlotte Lepine, Derek McCardell, Lana Stewart
(missing from photo), Lana Vandenberghe



The Edmonton Emergency Relief Services Society (EERSS) is dedicated to ensuring that uninsured people who lose their homes in a fire or other disaster get help. Established in 1986, EERSS provides basic supplies such as household necessities, furniture, and support at no cost, as well as information and referrals. The organization operates Thrift Store and runs the Blanket Alberta in Warmth campaign to assist those experiencing poverty or difficult times. Their work aids clients of organizations such as the Chimo Youth Retreat Centre and Bissell Centre, as well as Albertans facing employment challenges. For the past 12 years, the EERSS has hired trainees as part of the Alberta Job Corps program to help remove barriers to employment.





Howaida Hassan

Community Service



Howaida Hassan is a dedicated volunteer who has served on the Islamic Family and Social Services Association board for 12 years. Her grant applications have yielded more than \$400,000 to support the organization's food bank services, youth program, and Fostering Healthy Families program. Hassan played a significant role in establishing the association's Benevolence Fund, which provides emergency financial assistance to those in desperate situations including homelessness, family violence, and severe illness. Hassan served as secretary on the Malmo School Parent Council and has been chair for the past three years. She assists newcomers to the school system and has raised more than \$9000 by organizing school bazaars.

Lindsay Kelly

Community Service



Lindsay Kelly was chair of the Mental Health Foundation from 2007-2013, and continues to serve as past chair. Under her leadership, the foundation raised awareness of mental health issues among Alberta's key leaders and supported a peer-to-peer program to empower adults and vulnerable youth. Her efforts helped lead to increased funding of more than 70 percent over a six-year period and have transformed lives of Edmonton children, youth, and families. Kelly also volunteers in areas that include addictions, housing, youth at risk, and the arts. She spent three years on the Mayor's Taskforce on Community Safety where she contributed to the successful launch of the City's crime prevention initiative, REACH Edmonton.

Glori Meldrum

Community Service



Glori Meldrum is the founder and chair of Little Warriors, a national charitable organization dedicated to the prevention and treatment of child sexual abuse. Through her efforts more than 12,000 adults have received training to increase awareness of child sexual abuse, share resources, and create roadblocks for sexual predators. After discovering that not a single facility existed to treat victims of child sexual abuse, Meldrum raised two million dollars to establish the Be Brave Ranch, which opened in 2014. It is the first long-term treatment centre where children, ages eight to twelve, can access therapy and learn to heal. The facility provides clinical support to victims and their families for one full year.

Gary Kerr

Sports



Gary Kerr was instrumental in forming the Terwillegar Riverbend Soccer Association, which serves eight community leagues. His leadership and vision helped it grow from a few hundred to more than two thousand players. In 2013, Kerr became the SW Sting Soccer Club director. His efforts saw the club more than triple in size, making it one of the largest competitive youth clubs in Alberta. Over the past decade, Kerr served as either coach or assistant coach for both his sons and dedicated thousands of hours to their teams. As well as playing recreationally, he co-coordinates an annual charity soccer tournament to welcome newcomers to the sport and raise funds to enable underprivileged children to play soccer.



Sandra Orr Sports



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Sandra Orr has dedicated more than 25 years to the sport of darts on provincial, national, and international levels. A volunteer, adjudicator, and coach, she has served on the boards of the National Darts Federation of Canada, Darts Alberta, and the Edmonton Tactics league. Orr has led volunteers in hosting four national dart championships in Edmonton and has coached teams at national and world championships. She created an e-learning platform that now enables dart coaches across Canada to gain certification through the National Dart Coaching Certification Program. A dedicated sport ambassador, Orr's involvement has aided the Canadian Deaf Dart Association and Canada 55 Plus Games.

Arts and Culture Performance Awards

Catalyst Theatre

Cast and Collaborators of *Nevermore*

Cast

Gaelan Beatty
Shannon Blanchet
Beth Graham
Ryan Parker
Garett Ross
Scott Shpeley

Collaborators

Jonathan Christenson, *Artistic Director*
Eva Cairns, *Managing Producer*
Candice Charney
Bretta Gerecke
Laura Krewski
Betty Moulton
Wade Staples
Matthew Skopyk
David Wilson

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Sports Performance Awards – Individual Awards

BOWLING

Tyler Tytgat

2015 Youth Bowling Canada National 5 Pin Championships, Toronto, ON
Gold, Junior Boys

CANOE/KAYAK SLALOM

Ben Hayward

2015 Pan American Games, Toronto, ON
Bronze (Men's)



CYCLING

Evan Burtnik

2014 National Track Cycling Championships, Burnaby, BC

Gold, Kilometre Time Trial (Men's)

Gold, 3 km Pursuit (Men's)

Sidney McGill

2015 National Canadian Mountain Biking Championships, St. Felicien, QC

Gold, Mountain Bike Cross Country (Women's)

Stefan Ritter

2014 National Track Cycling Championships, Burnaby, BC

Gold, Match Sprint (Men's)

Gold, 200m Time Trial (Men's)

Gold, 500m Time Trial (Men's)

DIVING

Ethan Pitman

2015 Junior Elite Diving Nationals, Edmonton, AB

Gold, 3m (Boy's 16-18)

FENCING

Madison Thurgood

2014 Cadet/Junior Canadian National Championships, Toronto, ON

Gold, Cadet Women's Sabre

2015 Cadet/Junior Pan American Championships, Toronto, ON

Silver, Cadet Women's Sabre

2015 Cadet European Circuit, Modling, Austria

Silver, Cadet Women's Sabre

SWIMMING

Josiah Binnema

2015 National Canadian Age Group Championships, Quebec City, QC

Gold, 50m Butterfly (Men's 17-18)

Gold, 100m Butterfly (Men's 17-18)

Richard Funk

2015 National Canadian Swimming Trials, Scarborough, ON

Gold, 50m Breaststroke (Men's)

Gold, 100m Breaststroke (Men's)

2015 Pan American Games, Toronto, ON

Silver, 200m Breaststroke (Men's)

Bronze, 100m Breaststroke (Men's)

Bronze, 4x100m Medley Relay (Men's), Team Canada

**Anders Klein**

2015 National Canadian Swimming Championships, Pointe Claire, QC
Gold, 200m Backstroke Open

Kier Maitland

2015 National Canadian Swimming Trials, Scarborough, ON
Gold, 800m Freestyle (Men's)

2015 Canadian Swimming Championships, Pointe Claire, QC
Gold, 800 Freestyle (Men's)

Lili Margitai

2015 National Canadian Age Group Championships, Quebec City, QC
Gold, 200m Individual Medley (Women's 16-18)
Gold, 400m Individual Medley (Women's 16-18)

Ellie Maradyn

2015 National Canadian Age Group Championships, Quebec City, QC
Gold, 800m Freestyle (Girl's 13)
Gold, 1500m Freestyle (Girl's 13)
Gold, 200m Breaststroke (Girl's 13)
Gold, 400m Individual Medley (Girl's 13)

Ryder McGinnis

2015 National Canadian Age Group Championships, Quebec City, QC
Gold, 50m Breaststroke (Men's 17-18)

Kyla Nelson

2015 National Canadian Age Group Championships, Quebec City, QC
Gold, 200m Freestyle (Girl's 12 and under)

Josh Nordstrom

2015 Canadian Age Group Championships, Quebec City, QC
Gold, 50m Backstroke (Boy's 13 and under)
Gold, 100m Backstroke (Boy's 13 and under)
Gold, 100m Butterfly (Boy's 13 and under)
Bronze, 200m Freestyle (Boy's 13 and under)

WRESTLING**Mike Asselstine**

2015 Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Wrestling Championships,
Edmonton, AB
Gold, 61 kg (Men's)

Hayley Thomas

2015 Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Wrestling Championships,
Edmonton, AB
Gold, 51 kg (Women's)

Team Awards

BASEBALL

Team Canada Baseball

2015 Pan American Games, Toronto, ON

Silver (Women's)

Nicole Luchanski

Heidi Northcott

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BASKETBALL

Team Canada Basketball

2015 Pan American Games, Toronto, ON

Gold (Women's)

Katherine Plouffe

Michelle Plouffe

CURLING

2014 Team Alberta Junior Women

2014 M&M Meats Canadian Junior Curling Championships, Liverpool, NS

Gold, Junior Women Curling (20 and under)

2014 World Junior Curling Championships, Flims, Switzerland

Gold, Junior Women Curling (20 and under)

Keely Brown

Amanda-Dawn Coderre

Taylor McDonald

Kelsey Rocque

Claire Tully

2015 Team Alberta Junior Women

2015 M&M Meats Canadian Junior Curling Championships,
Cornerbrook, NF

Gold, Junior Women Curling (20 and under)

2015 World Junior Curling Championships, Tallinn, Estonia

Gold, Junior Women Curling (20 and under)

Amanda-Dawn Coderre

Jessica Iles

Holly Jamieson

Kelsey Rocque

Danielle Schmiemann

University of Alberta Golden Bears Curling Team

2015 Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Curling Championships,
Waterloo, ON

Gold, Men's

David Aho
Evan Asmussen
Jason Ginter
Andrew O'Dell
Brayden Power
Thomas Scoffin
Rob Krepps, *Head Coach*
Garry Coderre, *Associate Coach*
Amanda Coderre, *Assistant Coach*
Dana Ferguson, *Assistant Coach*
Jeff Hoffart, *Assistant Coach*

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University of Alberta Golden Bears Curling Team

2015 Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Curling Championships,
Waterloo, ON

Gold, Women's

Jesse Iles
Holly Jamieson
Alison Kotylak
Taylor McDonald
Kelsey Rocque
Danielle Schmiemann
Taylore Theroux
Claire Tully
Rob Krepps, *Head Coach*
Garry Coderre, *Associate Coach*
Amanda Coderre, *Assistant Coach*
Dana Ferguson, *Assistant Coach*
Jeff Hoffart, *Assistant Coach*

DIVING

Edmonton Springboard and Platform Diving Club

2015 Junior Elite Diving Nationals, Edmonton, AB

Gold, 3m Synchronized (Women's 14-18)

Tanya Boychuk
Elaena Dick

FENCING

Sergei Sabre Club

2014 Senior National Championships, Richmond, BC
Gold, Sr. Women's Sabre Team

Meredith Giroux
Marina Guintchitskaia
Marissa Ponich
Madison Thurgood
Siarhei Kazimirski, *Coach*

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GOALBALL

Alberta Sports and Recreation Association for the Blind

2015 Parapan Am Games, Toronto, ON
Bronze (Men's)

Blair Nesbitt

HOCKEY

University of Alberta Golden Bears Hockey Team

2015 Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) University Cup, Halifax, NS
Gold, National Hockey Championships (Men's)

Colin Archer
Dylan Bredo
Thomas Carr
Tanner Clarkson
Jesse Craige
Jamie Crooks
Zack Dailey
Ryan Demharter
Joshua Derko
James Dobrowolski
Brett Ferguson
T.J. Foster
Jordan Hickmott
Riley Kieser
Levko Koper
Johnny Lazo
Stephane Legault
Kurtis Mucha
Drew Nichol
Joel Ostman
Rhett Rachinski
Kruise Reddick

Hockey, continued

Jordan Rowley
Luke Siemens
Jarrett Toll
Travis Toomey
Mitchell Topping
Brennan Yadlowski
Ian Herbers, *Coach*
Sean Brown, *Assistant Coach*
Fernando Pisani, *Assistant Coach*
Lee Zalasky, *Assistant Coach*

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LAWN BOWLING

Commonwealth Lawn Bowling Club

2015 Canadian Championships, Toronto, ON

Gold, Triples (Men's)

Keith Johnson
Paul Maskell
Roy Riege

RUGBY

Team Canada Rugby

2015 Pan American Games, Toronto, ON

Gold (Women's)

Jen Kish

SITTING VOLLEYBALL

Team Canada Sitting Volleyball

2015 Parapan Am Games, Toronto, ON

Bronze (Women's)

Angelena Dolezar
Katelyn Wright

Team Canada Sitting Volleyball

2015 Parapan Am Games, Toronto, ON

Bronze (Men's)

Ray Gauthier
Austin Hinchey
Douglas Learoyd

SWIMMING

Edmonton Keyano Swim Club

2015 Canadian Age Group Championships, Quebec City, QC
Silver, 4x100m Medley Relay (Men's 16-18)

Josiah Binnema
Gregory Farmer
Mackenzie Flowers
Caleb VanderLeek

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Edmonton Keyano Swim Club

2015 Canadian Swimming Championships, Pointe Claire, QC
Gold, 800m Freestyle Relay (Women's)

Alexandra Aitchison
Devon Bibault
Georgia Kidd
Jennifer Morgan

Edmonton Keyano Swim Club

2015 National Canadian Swimming Championships, Pointe Claire, QC
Gold, 400m Medley Relay (Men's)

Adam Best
Josiah Binnema
Joe Byram
Nick Kostiuik

Excel Synchro Club

2015 Union Americana de Natacion (UANA) Pan American Junior
Championships, Calgary, AB
Gold, Junior (Women's 16-18)

Gwen McGuire

University of Alberta Golden Bears 4x100 Freestyle Swim Team

2015 Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Championships, Victoria, BC
Gold, 4x100m Freestyle Race, (Men's)

Josiah Binnema
Joe Bryan
Nick Kostiuik
Tom Krywitsky
Nathan Kindrachuk, *Coach*
Colleen Marchese, *Coach*

VOLLEYBALL

University of Alberta Golden Bears Volleyball Team

2015 Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Volleyball Championships,
Saskatoon, SK

Gold, Men's

Taylor Arnett
Ryley Barnes
Cole Burkart
Arran Chambers
Ian Cooper
Michael Goertz
John Goranson
George Hobern
Chris Jones
Reed May
Alex McMullin
Chris Morrow
Ryan Nickifor
David Ponich
Kevin Proudfoot
Aidan Saladana
Clark Spencer
Brandon Sutherland
Chris Towe
Brett Walsh
Brenan Yao
Terry Danyluk, *Coach*
Jace Barros, *Assistant Coach*
Brock Davidiuk, *Assistant Coach*
Dale Johns, *Assistant Coach*

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Masters Individual Awards

TENNIS

Mary Manley

2015 Steve Stevens Senior National Championships, Montreal, QC

Gold, Singles (Women's 55+)

Gold, Doubles (Women's 55+)

TRACK AND FIELD

Arnold Nett

2015 National Senior Games, Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN

Gold, Triple Jump (Men's 80-84 years)

Gold, Long Jump (Men's 80-84 years)

2015–2016 *Salute to Excellence* Council and Standing Committees

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Bert Almon	Todd Janes
Kate Bailey	Lesley MacDonald
Heather Bedford-Clooney	Colleen Marchese
Dennis Belair	Vince Paniak
Louise Bentley	Melinda Pinfold
Lyle Best	Ann Marie Reinson
Gregory Bounds	Sol Rolingher
Sine Chadi	Skip Smiley
Ruth Collins-Nakai	Glenn Sommerville
Catherine Crowston	Kent Sutherland
Brian Dompe	Jetske Sybesma
Derek Drager	Sue Trigg
Susan Green	Liz Tweddle
Krishna Gupta	Dale Wilkie
Matt Gutsch	

Recipients are selected independently by the Salute to Excellence Council, which is supported through the Community Services Department of the City of Edmonton.

Rob Smyth

Acting General Manager, Community Services

Lyall Brenneis

Branch Manager, Community Strategies & Development

Elaine Betchinski

Director, Communities of Interest

Donna Bradley-Bobey

Coordinator, Salute to Excellence Awards Program

Carissa Lamoureux, Lynda Leeder Paull, Kristen Poeter

Program Support