



CITY OF EDMONTON YOUTH COUNCIL

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



CEYC 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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CEYC 2018 ANNUAL REPORT**MESSAGE FROM
THE MAYOR**

On behalf of City Council and the people of Edmonton, congratulations to the City of Edmonton Youth Council on another year of great work.

Edmonton is one of the youngest major cities in Canada, with more than 22 per cent of our population under the age of 25. The passion, enthusiasm and unique perspectives of this fastgrowing demographic play an important role in shaping the future of our city.

Since 1995, the City of Edmonton Youth Council has helped to bring the diverse views, experiences and aspirations of young Edmontonians to light. Over the past year, the Council has demonstrated its commitment to engaging our city's youth in important conversations on topics ranging from mental health to sustainability, social equity and nutrition. In doing so, the Council has helped our city's youth grow as active and engaged citizens who are connected with their municipal government, local organizations and each other.

I thank the members of the City of Edmonton Youth Council for educating and empowering our next generation. Your efforts encourage young Edmontonians to take on important municipal issues and build a brighter future for our city.

I look forward to seeing what you will accomplish in the year ahead!

**DON IVESON**

MAYOR

MESSAGE FROM CHAIR GENNA DIPINTO

Over the past three years, I have witnessed the City of Edmonton Youth Council's tremendous growth as an organization, and the growth of its members, as individuals.



GENNA DIPINTO
CEYC CHAIR

I watched as members gained confidence in their abilities and in the value of their voice. I watched as councillors demonstrated great courage to put forward new ideas and challenge societal norms. I watched as the council became a pointed-to example of diversity, inclusivity and effective advocacy. I watched, and continue to watch, this incredibly bright and motivated group of young people evolve in its advocacy efforts to bring young Edmontonians to the decision-making table. It has been an absolute privilege to work alongside my fellow City of Edmonton Youth Councillors, and I have no doubt that this council will continue to grow and evolve, challenging difficult issues, making room for more people in governance and striving to make our great city the best it can be.

CEYC 2018 ANNUAL REPORT**WHO WE ARE**

The City of Edmonton Youth Council was first approved by City Council in the early 1990s.

Today, the City of Edmonton Youth Council is comprised of up to 20 community volunteers with diverse backgrounds and experiences to provide City Council with a youth perspective and advice on municipal issues. The City of Edmonton Youth Council (CEYC) is an advisory committee to City Council. CEYC contributes to building a society of active and engaged citizens by creating opportunities to connect youth with municipal governance, local organizations, and each other.

OUR MISSION:

Educate and empower youth to provide meaningful input and take action on local issues and municipal politics in Edmonton.

OUR MANDATE:

To provide information and advice to City Council in relation to issues involving or affecting youth.

2017-2018 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

THE CITY OF EDMONTON YOUTH COUNCIL CONSISTED OF 20 VOLUNTEER MEMBERS FOR THE 2017-2018 TERM.

Committee Membership:

- Hania Aamer
- Brianna Abboud
- Ravina Anand
- Shilar Bakayula
- Thomas Banks
- Navneet Chand
- Kunal Chander
- Genna DiPinto (Chair)
- Madison Dube
- Kasey Enokson
- Logan Fechter
- Kaelin Koufogiannakis
- Samuel Goertz
- Sonia Lal
- Sarah Lavimizadeh
- Vivian Mak
- Cheyenne Neufeld
- Joanne Picard
- Amber Sayed
- Armaan Somani (Vice-Chair)



Outgoing Members:

Brianna Abboud, Kunal Chander, Genna DiPinto, Madison Dube, Sonia Lal, Sarah Lavimizadeh, Vivian Mak and Cheyenne Neufeld

We welcome and congratulate new members who will commence their term on September 1, 2018:

Shannon Bertrand, Seth (Cree) Brown-Cardinal, Abigail Issac, Michael DeMarco, Rajah Maggay, Ananya Muralidharan, Stephen Raitz, Robyn Taylor and Audi Visweswaran

City Council Sponsor

Councillor Andrew Knack
Councillor Michael Walters (as of July 2018)

City of Edmonton Project Team

Coordinator, Ian Smith
Director, Elaine Betchinski

CEYC 2018 ANNUAL REPORT**CEYC STRUCTURE**

The City of Edmonton Youth Council is comprised of 20 appointed community members and approximately 50 youth at-large volunteers.

City of Edmonton Youth Council provides opportunities for youth to volunteer and provide meaningful input to shape their city and is supported by Administration and championed by Councillor Knack and Councillor Walters.

This term the City of Edmonton Youth Council had four subcommittees: Health and Wellness, Urban Planning, Social Equity, Engagement and Outreach, and Internal Affairs. Building on past years' success, CEYC retained Youth At Large members to support subcommittees and project teams on an ongoing or project based role.

The CEYC meets as a committee on a monthly basis on the first Wednesday of each month from 5:30 p.m - 8:30 p.m in City Hall. All meetings are open to the public.



“CEYC has been the best part of the year for me. I have always looked forward to going to meetings and spending time with those who have similar interests! CEYC has helped me open up and be more comfortable to talk in front of people. I am looking forward to another year of great success!”

– AHDITHYA VISWESWARAN, YOUTH AT LARGE MEMBER



ACCOMPLISHMENTS



ILLUMINATE

The #MeToo and #Time'sUp movements inspired youth in Edmonton to post messages of solidarity across social media. Building on this momentum, CEYC and the Women's Advocacy Voice of Edmonton brought these bold leaders away from the keyboard and on to the stage for International Women's Day.

City of Edmonton Youth Council's first Illuminate was a speaking event open to women and non-binary people to speak about their experiences with gender discrimination, violence or inequality in their personal or professional lives, as well as their experiences surrounding gender and identity. Presenters were as follows:

- Asmaa Ali: (She/Her) Age 20
- Natasha Wurtz: (She/Her) Age 20
- Mak Miller: (They/Them) Age 17
- Simran Dhillon: (She/Her) Age 17
- Mika Burns: (She/Her) Age 20
- Shay Lewis: (She/Her) Age 21
- Michelle Behr: (They/Them) Age 21
- Nesochi Ihejirika: (She/Her) Age 18
- Rebeca Muñoz-Ortiz: (She/Her) Age 17
- Astha Burande: (She/Her) Age 18



SPOTLIGHTYEG

The SpotlightYEG Project was an initiative put on by the Health and Wellness Subcommittee in collaboration with the Social Equity Subcommittee. This event gave young artists an opportunity to showcase their art in a safe, supportive environment and share their understandings of how art can connect to mental health and stigma reduction. Through this event, the City of Edmonton Youth Council was hoping to bring awareness to the importance of the arts in promoting a positive and healthy awareness of mental health.

“I’m glad I decided to sit in on CEYC’s projects this year because the work the council does is absolutely spectacular. It’s truly remarkable to see how youth can be at the forefront of social action. Furthermore, it’s a pleasure to surround yourself with people who are engaged and excited to make change happen.”

—JOHN CHRISTY JOHNSON, YOUTH AT LARGE MEMBER

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



BUILDING BRIDGES

Building Bridges is an interactive youth resources and awareness toolkit that contained handcrafted symbols representative of various issues surrounding inequality. The toolkit linked to an original online database of local youth resources and involvement opportunities. The toolkits were delivered by Social Equity Subcommittee members to numerous high schools, Edmonton Public Libraries, and youth non-for-profit organizations around the city.

SUPPORTING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION ROUNDTABLE

The Supporting Diversity Roundtable was held by the Social Equity subcommittee to discuss important topics affecting youth and youth driven organizations within our city. Information was collected and shared with the City of Edmonton Youth Council members along with Subcommittees, to ensure that policies, projects and events are working to support all youth in our year's work. Many youth and youth workers attended to contribute their thoughts about the intersectionality of issues that youth face.

YOUTH AWARDS

The Youth Awards project was a way to recognize young people in Edmonton who do so much to make our city a great one and to foster those contributions moving forward. In recognizing young people for their contributions in athletics, academics, fine arts, and community service we seek to honour the contributions that have been made and to encourage others to make a difference in their city. Applications for the Youth Awards received great success with over 50 applications received for the Fall 2018 ceremony.

MUNICIPAL YOUTH VOTE ANALYSIS

The Municipal Youth Vote Analysis project was undertaken after the fall 2017 municipal election to gauge how youth turned out to vote. The purpose was to determine what factors led to their decision to vote or not to vote. The survey received 162 responses and from this the project team broke the responses down into categories and crafted an Information Report that was presented to the Community and Public Services Committee of City Council on August 15th, 2018.



CHANGE FOR CLIMATE: SUSTAINABILITY OF TOMORROW

In March 2018, delegates from around the world attended the IPCC Cities and Climate Change Conference. In parallel to the conference, public events were held on the EPCOR stage. The CEYC had the opportunity to plan and host a Pecha Kucha night with Edmonton's NextGen which brought together eight young people to share their stories on climate change and spark conversation about sustainability within Edmonton's youth community. Presenters were as follows:

Kabir Nadkarni: Equity at the Global Commons: Climate Change as the Defining Human Rights Conflict of the 21st Century

Ronak Patel: Embracing Change

Jason R. Wang: The Circles of Sustainability: How can I... change the world?

Elizabeth Gierl: Learning how to be an Environmentalist

Ann Normand: Forestry: Sustainable Innovation

Danielle Koleyak: Transforming to a Resilient City

Kecia Kerr: #LoveYourHeadwaters and Mitigate Climate Change

Dustin Bajer: Biophilic Cities: Partnering with Nature to Create Climate Ready Cities

The fast paced presentation kept the audience enthralled and contributed to continuing conversation surrounding how the next generation will tackle the evolving challenge of climate change.

"I worked with a group of talented team who all had a similar goal in mind: to make projects that recognized and empowered youth. I met so many other people who were passionate in empowering youth and unexpectedly made a group of good friends in the process!"

ALICIA TAM, YOUTH AT LARGE MEMBER

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



DOWNTOWN DISCOVERIES: BIKE LANE TOURS

On a sunny Saturday morning in June, members of the Urban Planning Subcommittee partnered with the City of Edmonton Bike Lane Street Team to host a tour of Edmonton's downtown bike lanes. The tour began at Alex Decoteau Park and travelled through the bike grid, shared use paths, and the Legislature Grounds. The objective of the tour was to both bring people out to enjoy downtown Edmonton and educate them on features of bike travel such as bike boxes, navigating crosswalks, and proper signalling. Councillor Knack and Councillor McKeen joined the team for the ride, as well as members of the Edmonton Police Service and many other community members.

CITYLAB 2.0

The Urban Planning Subcommittee worked with City of Edmonton staff over the course of this past term to develop CityLab 2.0: an active collaboration between the City Planning Branch and youth members of CEYC. Opportunities include collecting feedback on current projects, creating placemaking initiatives, and other ideas related to the City of Edmonton's long term goals. A trial run is set to launch in October 2018 to help guide the Urban Planning Subcommittee's projects in collaboration with City priorities.

MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN ENGAGEMENT

This term the Urban Planning Subcommittee developed a working relationship with the team at the City of Edmonton responsible for the new Municipal Development Plan. This document will guide Edmonton's economic development, transportation network, and urban built form over the next several decades in accordance with the City's Vision 2050 goals. Over the next few years of engagement with the public regarding this document, CEYC is committed to ensuring that diverse youth perspectives are considered in producing the final outcome. The Urban Planning Subcommittee will help guide discussions surrounding how to most effectively engage with youth during this process.



"My time on the subcommittee has been well spent. The experience of planning events, outreaching and networking have given me transferable skills that I can take with me in my future career. Although some events have turned out better than others, I am proud of the work that Urban Planning did on each and every project."

CAROLYN HUANG, YOUTH AT LARGE MEMBER

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



NEWTRITION

The Newtrition Competition encourages healthy eating among Edmonton youth. We had young people from across the city submit original and healthy recipes with photos of their dishes. These creative recipe ideas were then featured in CEYC's first official cookbook. Our hope was that the project would encourage healthy eating choices and conversations around food in a fun, engaging way.

YEGBY YOUTH

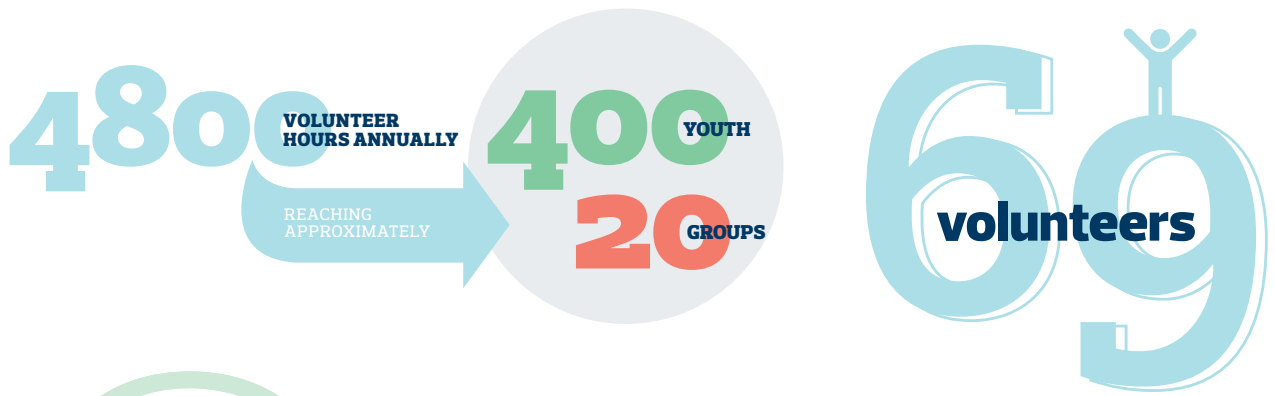
YEGbyYouth is an online platform in which youth across the city share their stories and inspire others to make a positive difference in their communities. In 2017-18, we shared a dozen stories which highlighted issues of community building, mental health awareness, immigrant settlement, urban

planning, and arts and culture. These stories are published and shared on the YEGbyYouth Facebook page and earned thousands of views between September 2018 to July 2018. YEGbyYouth connects its featured participants both to the work of Youth Council and with a larger network of young citizens.

AMPLIFY: JACK REGIONAL SUMMIT

Through an invitation from Jack.org UAlberta, a chapter of a national non-profit dedicated to transforming narratives around mental health, CEYC members attended Amplify: Jack Regional Summit. CEYC members served as panelists, answering questions and discussing topics related to youth mental health and advocacy in Edmonton.

CEYC 2018 ANNUAL REPORT
IMPACT





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