

CIVIC YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

2026

**Interns &
Projects**

Edmonton

ADEOLUWA ADEBAYO

Office of Councillor Parmar

I am a Master of Public Health student at the University of Alberta, pursuing a certificate in Health Economic Evaluation. My work centres on program evaluation, health equity and translating evidence into policy.

I bring experience in mixed methods research and participatory action research on youth outcomes. I also have a first author publication in the University of Saskatchewan Undergraduate Research Journal.

I co-founded The Magpie Collective, a youth led civic engagement initiative in Edmonton.



Building Partner Ready Communities: Evaluation Capacity and the Future of City and Community Partnerships in Edmonton

Working with Councillor Thu Parmar's office, I surveyed 25 Edmonton community organizations about their evaluation and outcomes measurement capacity, including where evaluation is straightforward, where it breaks down and what would help.

The central finding is that the biggest barrier is not weak organizations, but a fragmented funding environment that imposes inconsistent and duplicative reporting demands and limits the staff time available for evaluation.

Because the City is one of these funders, it has direct, low cost opportunities to reduce that friction. The work points toward coordination and clarity, rather than new tools or services, as the most useful ways the City can strengthen its community partnerships.

AIMEN KHAN

Edmonton Fire Rescue Services



As a fourth year Bachelor of Education student at the University of Alberta, I have had incredible opportunities to explore my passion for strengthening educational experiences in marginalized communities. Through my work as a technology coach for my faculty, a research assistant investigating literacy education for newcomers, an active volunteer in the Muslim community, and most recently, an intern with Edmonton Fire Rescue Services, I strive to use education as a tool to empower individuals of all backgrounds with the skills and confidence needed to succeed in any facet of life.

Outside of my work, I am passionate about psycho-spiritual health and wellness within the Muslim community, which extends into my writing projects. I have self-published a poetry book and regularly create video content exploring topics in that realm.

Strategic Recommendations for Public Education and Mental Health

For the first five weeks, I shadowed a Fire Prevention Officer, investigating the processes of fire safety education. Using a program evaluation framework from the University of Calgary, I developed a comprehensive recommendations report on how the team can foster access to lifesaving education for underserved communities.

For the rest of my internship, I conducted focus groups with members of the dispatch team, as well as interviewing staff specialized in mental health and peer support. After conducting a qualitative analysis of the data, I developed a recommendations report on addressing systemic barriers to mental health in the Emergency Communications department.

BIA SIDDIQUI

Office of Councillor Tang

As an advocate for community care and equity, I am driven by the belief that strong, supported foundations are essential for a healthy society. My academic background in English literature and my upcoming master's degree in Critical and Cultural Studies at McMaster University inform my pursuit of understanding how power operates and how it can be more equitably redistributed.

I am dedicated to action oriented policy work within municipal and nonprofit sectors. Outside of these pursuits, I love to read and spend time outside in the city or in nature. I am also an artist and poet. I believe creatives are world builders who imagine possibilities beyond our current systems, and that art is a medium that connects us all on a human level.



Routes to Opportunity: Improving Youth Transit Equity and Access in Edmonton

These past few weeks have been an eye opening and profound experience, offering me valuable insight into the intricacies of municipal policy, constituency work and communications.

My primary project centred on youth transit ridership and explored the critical question, “Does ETS allow youth to fully participate in city life?” By engaging with diverse youth across the ward and consulting with City Operations, I gathered firsthand stories that identified key areas for improvement within our public transit system. These insights sparked important conversations about the future of ETS. To transform this research into action, I collaborated with Edmonton Transit Riders and multiple Councillor offices to create the Transit Basics Series, a practical guide designed to improve accessibility and a key tangible outcome of my work.

CAMILO CORTES-VARGAS

Infrastructure Services



I am a political science and economics student at the University of Alberta. I am an avid reader and podcast listener who loves exploring and learning about the history, challenges and solutions connected to a broad range of topics.

My academic and professional interests thrive at the crossroads of public finance, city planning and machine learning, with a passion for pension systems, financial literacy and asset allocation modelling.

This experience has underscored the diverse and multidisciplinary knowledge required to deliver public infrastructure that provides the best services to Edmontonians and stands the test of time.

Delivering the Cities of Tomorrow

Working alongside a dedicated team was a great opportunity to learn how City assets are analyzed to support a rapidly growing Edmonton as it moves toward a population of 1.5 million.

This initiative sits at an exciting intersection of capital planning and the upcoming four year municipal budget. My project focused on a jurisdictional scan of Canadian and international municipal funding and delivery mechanisms across a diverse asset portfolio, from parks and recreation complexes to urban movement corridors.

I also explored how geographic information system mapping tools can evaluate service level provision and provide a spatial understanding of asset delivery across Edmonton, Calgary, Copenhagen and Minneapolis.

FLORA NGUYEN

City Operations

My interests lie at the intersection of science, health, policy and sustainability. While my academic background has given me a strong foundation in health sciences, I am interested in learning more about the policies, systems and laws that influence our daily lives and community well being.

I hope to continue bridging the gap between research and action to help others understand and navigate complex systems. I will be graduating from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Science degree and look forward to pursuing postgraduate studies.



A Prevention Based Approach to PPCP Pollution

During my placement with City Operations, I researched pharmaceutical and personal care products, also known as PPCPs, a group of contaminants of emerging concern associated with environmental and public health risks. I explored prevention based municipal strategies to reduce PPCP pollution and developed a communications campaign promoting pharmacy medication take back programs and safe disposal practices.

Beyond my project work, I supported stakeholder engagement activities, contributed to project development discussions and assisted with data coding and analysis. This experience strengthened my understanding of how research, policy, collaboration and public engagement work together to protect and serve our communities.

JEAN-MICHEL GARZON MAHECHA

Office of the Mayor



Politics is about caring. Politics is about people. These phrases anchor everything I do in life.

As the son of Colombian refugees, I was taught to appreciate the little things and to foster that same hope and positivity in others. This lifelong perspective drove me to pursue political science and economics at the University of Alberta.

Whether advocating for student rights at public demonstrations or leading HSMUN at the University of Alberta, my goal is always to be someone people can trust and confide in.

I strive to create spaces and connections that inspire people to care again. This is my ultimate goal, and I hope my time at the Mayor's Office reflects that.

Civic Pursuit: Inside the Mayor's Office

What is the Mayor's Office? Great question.

Because of how fast the office moves, it can be difficult to outline all the amazing work. What better way to showcase the policy, communication, and outreach tasks than through a fun, interactive trivia game?

The trivia highlights my real day-to-day projects, like jurisdictional scans, drafting interview briefs, hosting events, and coordinating stakeholder meetings.

Learning about the decisions made at the highest level of municipal government should be easy and accessible. Civic Pursuit does that.

KAIRAN DHILLON

Office of Councillor Elliott

I am a recent University of Alberta psychology graduate.

My passion lies at the intersection of immigrant and refugee support, mental health accessibility and women's empowerment, with a specific focus on securing equal access to education.

Deeply committed to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, I strive to build sustainable, informed communities and raise awareness of the need for equitable, systemic change.



An Accessible GBV Resource Guide for Marginalized Communities

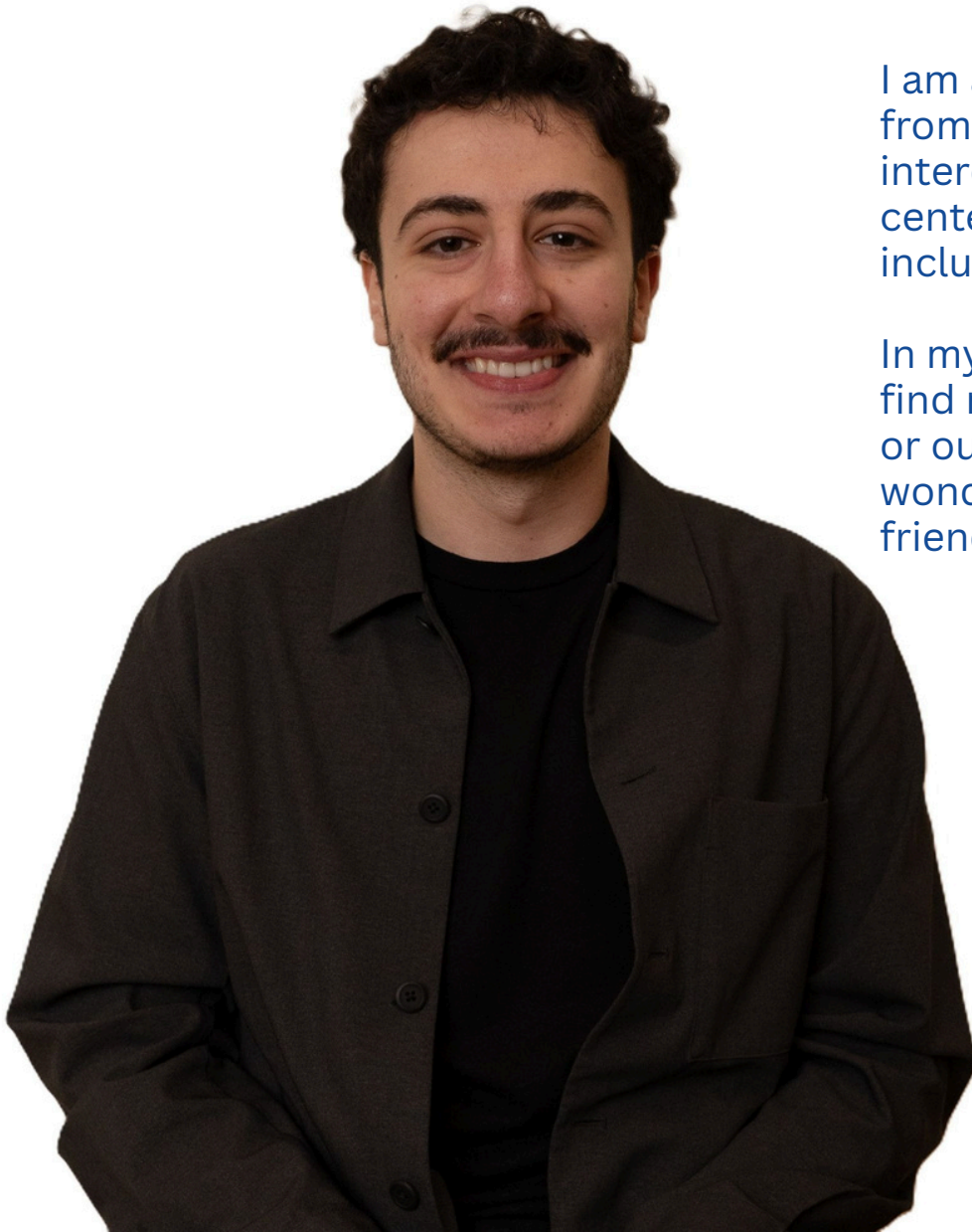
During my time in the office, I developed a comprehensive resource guide designed to connect residents of the Pihêsiwin Ward with essential support services, with a specific focus on gender based violence.

Recognizing that navigating mental health and crisis care can be daunting, particularly for newcomers, immigrants and marginalized communities, I curated a directory of accessible, free and sliding scale services.

My objective was to eliminate financial barriers and help ensure all community members, regardless of their background or economic circumstances, can readily access the professional support and safety they require.

KHALIL KESSEWAN

Urban Planning and Economy



I am a recent science graduate from the University of Alberta interested in health, human-centered cities, and building inclusive communities.

In my free time, you'll usually find me coaching youth soccer or out exploring Edmonton's wonderful river valley with friends and family.

Faith, Community and Public Engagement

The City of Edmonton is dedicated to a public engagement model where decisions are informed by the diverse heritage and lived experiences of its residents. To address gaps in Muslim participation, my project recognizes places of worship as spaces with strong potential for civic engagement. By conducting research and outreach within these spaces, I hoped to expand the City's capacity for inclusive and meaningful engagement.

LAYLA ALHUSSAINY - ليلي الحسيني

Office of Councillor Stevenson

My name is Layla Alhussainy, and I am passionate about community, accessibility, and fried chicken!

I have a Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in Sociology and Religious Studies from the University of Alberta. I also recently completed a Teaching English as a Second Language certificate from the University of Calgary.

I love spending time with my family and friends, cooking, eating, learning, and reading.



The Infill Experience Survey and Other Highlights from My Internship

A major project assigned to me during my internship was the development of an Infill Experience Survey. This involved researching key topics, designing survey questions, mapping infill developments within Ward O-day'min, and creating efficient routes for door to door outreach. I conducted face to face surveys with residents and left survey invitation flyers for households that were unavailable during outreach. The survey was designed to collect resident feedback to support and guide future planning and community efforts in the ward.

Beyond this project, I contributed to social media and communications initiatives, attended community events, tracked and documented committee meeting items and community partners to support engagement, and assisted with general administrative tasks and day to day office operations.

MOATAZ AL OKLAH

Office of Councillor Morgan



I am a student at MacEwan University, majoring in political science with a minor in sociology.

I am interested in public service, community development and policy. More specifically, I care about empowering people and helping them achieve their goals.

This fellowship has shown me how much is already happening in our communities. I want to help make those connections a little easier to find.

Network Synergy Mapping

My project mapped the network of community leagues, religious organizations, cultural organizations and neighbourhood associations in Ward Ipiihkoohkanipiaohtsi to identify shared issues, resource gaps and opportunities for collaboration. My research and data gathering included creating a survey that was sent to more than 40 organizations across the ward.

The next phase of this project involves developing a methodology to identify, analyze and interpret practical solutions from the data. My ultimate aim is to bring these organizations together and connect groups facing similar challenges or those that could pool resources. This will help create stronger community infrastructure.

This project highlights the value of relationship building and direct community engagement in municipal governance. It also offers insight into how a Councillor's office can support grassroots organizing at the neighbourhood level.

MOHIT MAKHIJA

Office of Councillor Wright

Hi! My name is Mohit Makhija, and I recently graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Commerce and a minor in Political Science.

I have a strong interest in transit, housing and community building. I believe these areas can contribute to positive change and growth in a city, and I have been fortunate to learn more about them during my time at City Hall.

In my free time, I enjoy listening to audiobooks and podcasts to learn more about our community and the world. I also enjoy watching and playing sports and baking.



Transit Safety in Sspomitapi

My project explores how residents feel about safety on transit and how measures such as transit peace officers, environmental design and cell service affect their sense of safety.

I engaged with residents through pop up events and door knocking and spoke with them about their experiences. Through this project, I learned what safety means to different people, how Edmonton Transit works to provide a safe environment for all stakeholders, and the importance of public engagement.

I used my research skills and the project findings to develop potential next steps to help ensure transit remains safe for everyone.

I will also highlight some of my experiences working in a Councillor's office, including attending community events, supporting engagement on the upcoming budget and volunteering at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities conference.

MUNACHISO NWANISOBI

Employee and Legal Services



I am an alumna of the University of Alberta, having graduated in 2025 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology, a minor in sociology and certificates in Community Service Learning and International Learning.

I take joy in being part of my community and engaging in community building activities. As a disabled woman of colour especially in spaces like Global Shapers Edmonton (World Economic Forum) where I am stepping in as a Vice-Curator, I am passionate about advocacy and equity, and everything I do reflects that. I value continuous learning and strive to be as educated as possible so I can help those around me.

I am also a co-founder. Alongside three wonderful women, Alex, Iqmat and Marilynn, I am building a youth initiative focused on encouraging civic engagement among marginalized communities and young people. We have several events planned for the summer.

EVP Framework and Job Advertising Board

I completed a research report on the Employer Value Proposition framework that reflected my findings on why an EVP framework is important for the City of Edmonton.

I developed recommendations that reflect the unique marketing needs of the City's lines of business across a variety of areas and fields of work.

I also began updating the job advertising board for the first time in 10 years. This resource will help recruiters and the Talent Attraction and Integration team navigate job advertising more effectively while ensuring it reflects the needs of different lines of business.

NATHAN PEREZ

Corporate Public Engagement

My name is Nathan, and I am in the final semester of my political science honours degree at the University of Alberta.

I am a 1.5 generation Filipino Canadian and deeply passionate about policy and culture, with particular attention to the intersections of art history, political identity and postcolonialism. This past spring, I completed my undergraduate thesis on the politics of architecture.

I enjoy reading, hiking and exploring new parks and art galleries across the city!



Communication Strategies for Youth Engagement

During my time with Corporate Public Engagement, I completed jurisdictional scans on youth engagement frameworks and literature reviews on best practices for communication strategies to increase youth civic participation. The heart of what I discovered is simple: we need to meet young people right where they are! I also had a great time teaming up with my supervisor to create a game for our department town hall to show everyone how public engagement works, and kick-starting research on strategies to increase transparency within the engagement process.

Other focuses of my time as an intern included supporting the public engagement unit with survey-building and minute-taking. I also prepared presentation slides for CYF-related events, including one for a UN presentation on the program, and volunteered in this year's Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference hosted by the City of Edmonton!

NOUR SALHI

Office of Councillor Janz



As a journalism student at MacEwan University, I am dedicated to social justice and speaking truth to power.

I am deeply involved in advocacy across the city and on campus. I firmly believe it is our duty as Muslims to confront the injustices we see around the world and here at home.

As an Algerian, I am aware of the deep impact colonization has had on my country and my people. I have also recognized this reality here on Turtle Island and hope to apply decolonial practices to my work and actions.

In my experience, local resistance centres around community care, which is why I consider my community and others in everything I do. I hope to continue exploring community based media as a way to repair damage and distrust toward journalism. I want to reclaim narratives that have been taken from us and shine a light on my community and all its vibrancy.

Outside of my work, you can likely find me in a café, in my garden or on a horse.

Breaking News

Many people do not have a clear understanding of municipal government or how it works. Federal and provincial issues often make the headlines, so we can overlook the level of government that has the greatest impact on our day to day lives.

During my time in Councillor Janz's office, I explored municipal issues I am passionate about and used my journalism skills to turn them into articles for the public.

Going into this project, I wanted to be mindful of how media can be inaccessible to many communities, leaving a significant communication gap that often has the greatest impact on newcomers and immigrants.

Drawing on my personal experience translating political developments for my own community, I translated my articles into Arabic. Ideally, I would like to include multiple languages, but this is an important start.

PHOENIX DELIJAM

Housing Action Team

I am a Civic Youth Fellow with the City of Edmonton and a passionate advocate for community development, equity and social impact.

Originally from Afghanistan, I lived in four countries and passed through 15 countries during my immigration journey before making Edmonton home. These experiences gave me firsthand insight into the challenges of displacement, adaptation and rebuilding community in unfamiliar environments. They also shaped my deep appreciation for inclusion, belonging and strong social support systems.

Before coming to Canada, I worked with a nonprofit organization focused on supporting and empowering women in Afghanistan. My work involved community engagement, capacity building and creating opportunities for women of different ages to develop skills, confidence and connections. Following the Taliban's return to power, my colleagues and I shifted our in person activities online so we could continue supporting women in an increasingly restrictive and challenging environment.

These experiences have shaped me into a compassionate, adaptable and community minded leader. My background includes youth engagement, community programming, customer service and public sector work. My interests include housing, economic opportunity, public policy and creating systems that better support people facing barriers. I hope to continue a career dedicated to community leadership, social innovation and expanding opportunities for future generations.



Women's Housing Journey in Edmonton: Identifying Barriers, Bottlenecks and Opportunities

My project explores the housing journey of women fleeing violence in Edmonton, with a focus on identifying the barriers, bottlenecks and service gaps they encounter while seeking safe and stable housing.

Through research, stakeholder engagement and conversations with organizations across the housing sector, I mapped the pathways women navigate from crisis to housing stability.

By highlighting where women become stuck within the system and identifying opportunities for improvement, my project aims to support more effective, accessible and coordinated housing responses for some of Edmonton's most vulnerable residents.

RUFINE-TYFAINE TOMPE

Office of the City Manager - Chief of Staff



I am a second-year Bachelor of Commerce student at MacEwan University, dual majoring in Legal Studies and International Business.

Born in Montreal, raised in Fort McMurray, and coming from a bilingual, immigrant household, I bring a strong background in community leadership and administrative law to my work. This includes serving with Elections Canada, acting as Minister of Public Affairs for the Alberta Youth Parliament, and completing an internship with Traffic Ticket Specialists.

Driven by a lifelong passion for justice, my fellowship experience has deeply expanded my perspective on structural empathy—both for the diverse communities navigating city services and the municipal workers balancing complex public needs.

The Early Warning Human Impact Lens

My project is an anticipatory strategic framework designed for the Chief of Staff's Office to identify silent financial, housing, and social stress in Edmonton neighborhoods before it escalates into an open public crisis.

The framework recognizes that waiting until localized affordability pressures result in acute housing displacement or emergency interventions causes the deepest harm to residents and the highest costs to the City. To drive a more preventative approach, this project outlines how the City Manager's Office can utilize existing municipal service and call data patterns to identify downward structural trends and deploy preventative resources before residents lose their homes.

Given the structured timeline of the fellowship, the final deliverable is intentionally focused on providing a Strategic Handover Roadmap and an actionable framework blueprint rather than an end-to-end technical tool. While the project lays out the groundwork for future proactive data visualization concepts—such as gradient heat maps—to help guide corporate planning, direct community surveys were out of scope for this phase. Instead, the roadmap provides a foundational blueprint for permanent staff to carry forward, outlining how the City can eventually coordinate cross-branch data with qualitative community realities to capture hidden neighbourhood vulnerabilities.

SUHANA SAMSHOOD

Safe and Healthy Communities

Hello/Salaam! I am a community leader, youth advocate and recent Criminology graduate from MacEwan University. My passion lies in prison programming and re-entry initiatives for youth and adults, in addition to advocating for incarcerated Muslims.

My work extends into the community, where I volunteered extensively with BGCBigs, correctional facilities, and community organizations focusing on youth development and relationship building.

I am committed to cross cultural understandings and strong community connections, which are vital to addressing systemic barriers. I continue to focus my work at the intersection of criminology, human rights and municipal community building.

I am always on the lookout for a great meal or a new trail to explore!



Muslim Youth Reintegration: Current State Analysis

Throughout these 10 weeks, I had the chance to pursue a passion project and conduct a research initiative analyzing Edmonton and National reintegration organizations and models to better support Muslim youth.

My work included a high level National Jurisdictional Scan and a Local Organizational Map focused on post release support and Muslim-centred programming.

This project allowed me to engage with recognized community organizations, learn more about existing service gaps, align my work with City strategies and contribute to ongoing discussions about reintegration in Edmonton.

With support from my team, I was able to grow my network, learn from amazing leaders and strengthen my skill set. This internship experience has been the highlight of my professional and academic career.

TAZAKKA ADIE

Community Services - Anti-Racism



I am an Indonesian student currently studying neuroscience at the University of Alberta.

I have always been interested in the intersection of health care, science and policy, which drives me to approach complex problems through a systems lens.

My research background has trained me to question every assumption, while my grassroots organizing experience serves as a constant reminder that communities often hold the most meaningful answers to our collective challenges.

In my free time, I enjoy playing tennis, hiking and cooking!

Breaking the Loop: Preventing Youth Radicalization and Hate Crimes

As the prevalence of hate crimes continues to rise, my work with the Anti Racism Team explored how youth radicalization can manifest as violence.

In alignment with the Anti Racism Strategy, my project looks beyond the surface by exploring youth risk factors, demographics, niche online spaces, motivations behind extremist rhetoric, municipal hate crime responses and opportunities for artificial intelligence tools.

An individual child's struggle can often point to a larger, overlooked societal issue. While the sporadic nature of these incidents presents a major challenge, there are tangible opportunities for earlier prevention and intervention.

Through consultations with City staff and community organizations, I worked to piece together the intricate puzzle of youth radicalization.

UEL CHIAMAKA CHIEMEZU NSOFOR

Service Design- Communications and Business Intelligence

My name is Uel Chiamaka Chiemezu Nsofor, a commerce student, and more. I study international business with honours to show, and everywhere I worked, I put in the work to grow.

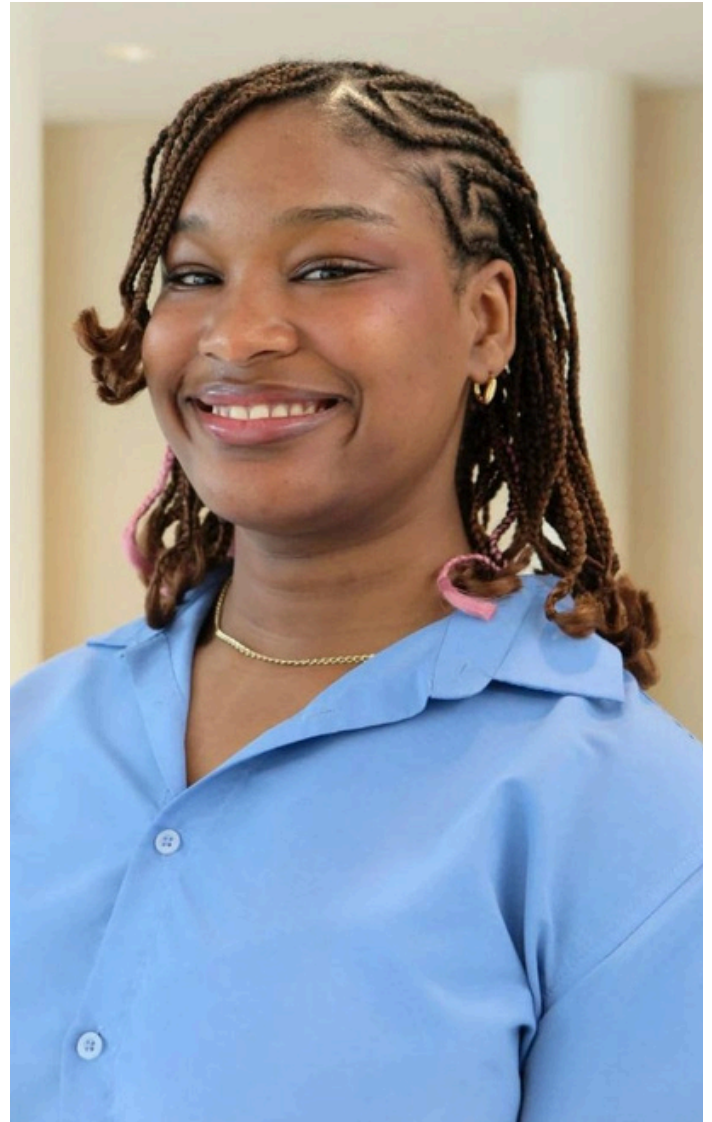
I am a Civic Youth Fellow with the City today, collecting data and research to help shape the way programs come to light.

I have placed in case competitions and been recognized for my craft, and every time I show up, I give more than half. I am finding my footing in French and in Igbo too.

I have led events, built Enactus from the ground, Held VP roles and presidencies and kept turning things around.

My interests live in music, culture and stories told, communities worth building and futures worth being bold.

I am Chiamaka, a researcher, organizer and dreamer in stride, showing up with purpose, with data and with pride.



The Digital Front Door

During this fellowship, I analyzed the intersection of digital policy and user experience to help ensure our city's digital infrastructure serves every resident, regardless of their level of digital literacy.

Through website usability and data analysis, I identified critical equity gaps where residents with low digital literacy routinely face barriers on current City platforms.

To address these challenges, I worked to visualize equitable customer portals and update rigid backend policy frameworks.

This work shifts the City's digital strategy away from baseline technological efficiency and toward true service effectiveness. The goal is to create a more intuitive, plain language and equitable digital front door that provides equal access to vital civic resources.

WASSIM ALTAWASHI

Office of Councillor Salvador



I am a Bachelor of Science student at the University of Alberta with a strong interest in health, law, public policies and how systems shape people's lives. My academic background in biology and related sciences has strengthened my curiosity about how communities stay healthy, supported and connected, just like cells in a tissue.

I have always enjoyed making a positive impact on others, and volunteering has been a meaningful part of my life, especially supporting newcomers and youth as they find their way and make transitions easier. My strengths come from real experience working with people, staying organized, communicating clearly and showing up with patience and energy.

I am passionate about youth development and the role young people play in shaping stronger communities. Outside of school and work, I love exploring new places, learning about & drinking coffee, and finding small moments to connect with everything around me. My goal is simple: to keep learning, contributing and making a positive impact, especially for those starting a new life, just as I once did.

Roots, Resilience and Public Service: A New Journey to City Hall For a Greener Future

During my Civic Youth Fellowship, I explored how Edmonton can strengthen its response to Dutch elm disease, focusing on detection, community awareness and the long term protection of our urban forest. During my time working in Councillor Salvador's office, I learned about various municipal topics, and I have been involved in several community engagement activities. This deepened my understanding of municipal services. As a new Edmontonian who found his path to City Hall through community involvement and volunteering, this fellowship represents a meaningful milestone in my civic and professional journey.

I also had the opportunity to serve as a volunteer ambassador at the 2026 Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference and Trade Show in Edmonton, welcoming municipal leaders from across Canada and contributing to a national conversation about city building.

Stay in touch



antiracismstrategy@edmonton.ca



www.edmonton.ca/CivicYouthFellowship



City of Edmonton
17th Floor, Edmonton Tower
10111 – 104 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB T5J 0J4