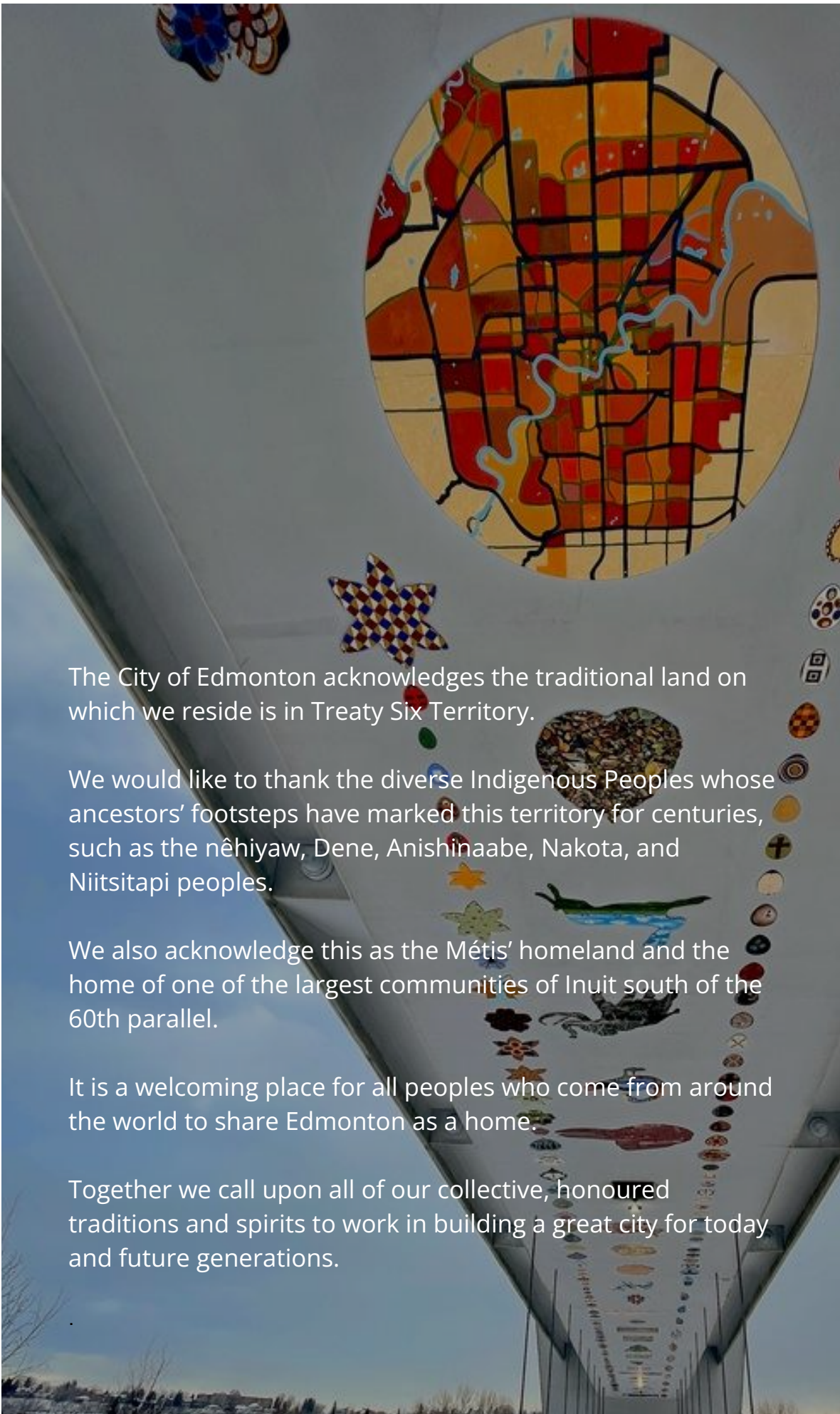




Civic
Youth
Internship

SHOWCASE
July 2025

edmonton.ca/CivicYouthInternship



The City of Edmonton acknowledges the traditional land on which we reside is in Treaty Six Territory.

We would like to thank the diverse Indigenous Peoples whose ancestors' footsteps have marked this territory for centuries, such as the nêhiyaw, Dene, Anishinaabe, Nakota, and Niitsitapi peoples.

We also acknowledge this as the Métis' homeland and the home of one of the largest communities of Inuit south of the 60th parallel.

It is a welcoming place for all peoples who come from around the world to share Edmonton as a home.

Together we call upon all of our collective, honoured traditions and spirits to work in building a great city for today and future generations.

In 2023, the City of Edmonton started a community-based partnership to enhance opportunities for youth mentorship within municipal government. Each year, City Councillors and Executive Leaders who express interest in mentoring youth from equity-deserving communities are matched with a program participant for 10 weeks.

Participating youth get the opportunity to learn more about municipal government, while advancing their skills and building relationships for future opportunities. In addition, interns work with their assigned offices to complete a project during their internship.





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to express our deep gratitude to all of our partner organizations who supported the 2025 Civic Youth Fellowship, without whom this youth initiative would not be possible. Specifically, we would like to thank:

- ★ [Africa Centre](#);
- ★ [ASSIST Community Services Centre](#);
- ★ [Canadian Race Relations Foundation](#);
- ★ [Islamic Family and Social Services Association](#);
- ★ [kihêw waciston - MacEwan University](#); and
- ★ [City of Edmonton](#) staff who supported this endeavour.

We would also like to thank the Councillors and Administrative Offices who opened their doors to welcome the interns this year, as well as those that continued to be great supporters of the program. We are grateful for everyone's continued support for the youth of Edmonton.



Last but certainly not least, we would like to thank all of the interns, past and present, who have participated in the Civic Youth Fellowship program. Your motivation, spirit, resilience and integrity are reflected in Edmonton's bright future.

FOREWORD

From the City of Edmonton's Chief of Staff and Corporate Lead for the High Level Office for Anti-racism and Reconciliation

The City of Edmonton is incredibly honored to be a partner in this initiative. When it comes to the work we do in anti-racism, reconciliation, diversity and equity, youth are the future. As part of the City's commitment to the [Anti-Racism Strategy](#), this program actively opens doors and opportunities for youth from diverse backgrounds across Edmonton.

The Civic Youth Fellowship interns join the City of Edmonton for a period of 10 weeks. We support them to learn as much as they can, expand their networks, and walk away with new understandings about the inner workings of local government. More importantly, this program also allows City staff and leadership to learn from the youth. We get to learn from new perspectives and experiences, and create the space for their voices to inform work across Administration and within the City Council Offices.

I'm incredibly proud of this year's cohort for all they have accomplished with us, and also express immense gratitude to the program alumni who continue to be part of this initiative and mentor each new cohort. While we encourage the youth to connect with as many people as possible while they are here, they are also building a strong, vibrant and diverse network of program participants they can lean on as they move forward in their careers - together.

Thank you to everyone joining us for the Civic Youth Fellowship Showcase. I encourage you all to connect with the youth, explore their projects and hear directly from them about what they have learned or are taking with them - after all, they are the future leaders!

Congratulations to the 2025 Civic Youth Fellowship Cohort! We look forward to seeing where you go from here and hope you remain connected to the program as you venture into your next career and leadership opportunities in municipal government, public or private sectors, and in the community.





2025 Civic Youth Interns

The following highlights the 2025 Civic Youth Fellowship interns. Celebrating who they are, what they have learned during their time with the City and what they are looking forward to sharing with colleagues, friends and family at the 2025 Showcase.

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Mayor and Councillors' Offices



Mariane Kalliny
Mayor Sohi's Office

Edmonton

So... You Wanna Intern in the Mayor's Office?

For my project, I am presenting a poster with a compilation of everything that went on in the Mayor's Office.

My poster includes everything I worked on including briefings, events and Civic Youth Fellowship hangouts, as well as bigger projects.

About Mariane

I am a Coptic Egyptian immigrant who is currently studying Rehabilitation Science.

I am passionate about mental health and providing culturally safe mental health care to vulnerable and marginalized communities.

In my free time, I love music, reading, enjoying nature (especially the beach!) and spending time with my loved ones.





A Day in the Life of a Councillor's Intern

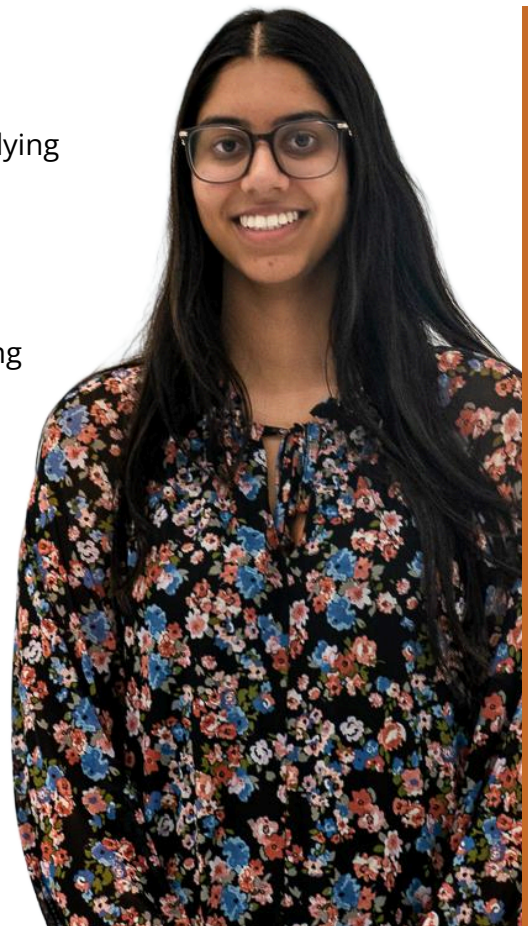
My project offers an immersive look into the dynamic responsibilities within a municipal Council Office. It demonstrates my understanding of local governance, my ability to navigate professional environments, and my proficiency in tasks from policy research and constituent communication to analyzing bylaws for legal implications and conducting bylaw research.

This project highlights the diverse skill set crucial for a fast-paced political office and provides insight into the inner workings of municipal government.

About Gulnaaz

I am a student at the University of Alberta, studying Sociology with a minor in Political Science.

I am passionate about policy, governance and community-building. I love continuously learning to better understand and improve the systems that shape our lives.





Tarik Borno
Councillor Janz's Office

Edmonton

Youth Vote

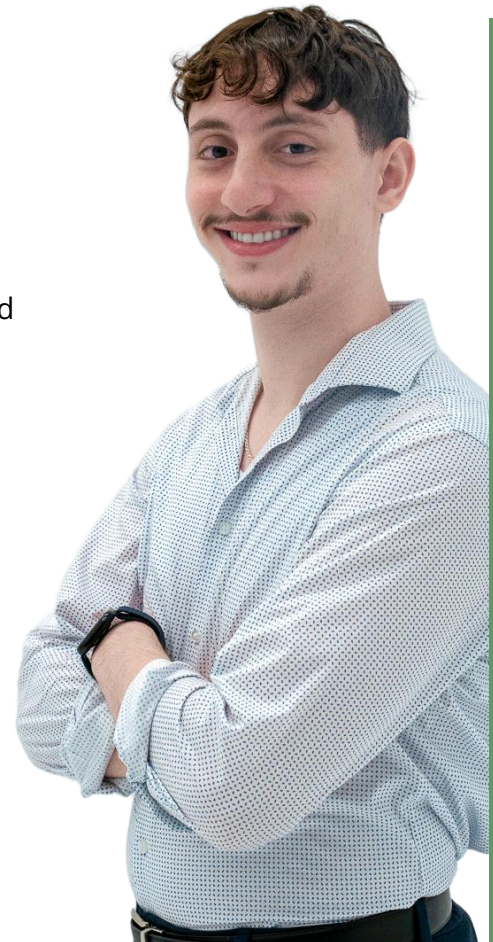
My project covers certain topics and policies that relate to the city - topics like housing, public services and affordability, and the policies in place that affect each item.

These are all related to the importance of youth voting.

About Tarik

I am a Political Science and International Studies student.

My interests are in social justice, urban design and Seoul Fried Chicken.





Arshjot Kaur
Councillor Knack's Office

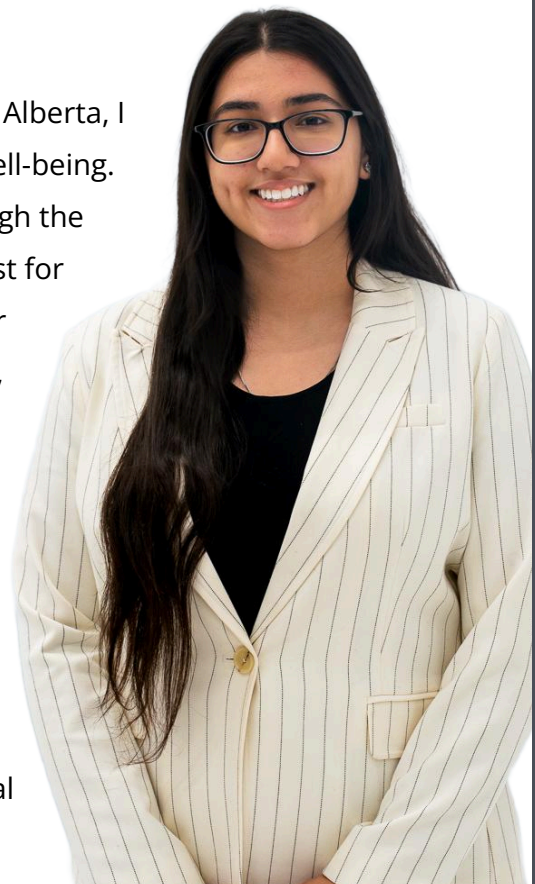
Edmonton

StorySwap: A Community Storytelling Initiative

It has been a wonderful experience seeing firsthand how municipal government works. I had the opportunity to contribute to truly meaningful projects that benefit Edmonton communities! My community storytelling initiative, StorySwap, is the greatest highlight of the internship. This was a truly special event that used storytelling circles and trading cards to help people connect, share their personal experiences, and build empathy across our diverse city - ultimately creating a safe and welcoming space for individuals to share their unique stories and foster understanding among us all. I hope to work towards implementing this initiative within the community, taking it beyond the City and truly highlighting the voices of Edmontonians.

About Arshjot

As a Neuroscience student at the University of Alberta, I am dedicated to contributing to community well-being. I truly believe that fostering connections through the sharing of diverse lived experiences is a catalyst for profound growth. By establishing platforms for community members to share their narratives, we can enhance empathy, strengthen community mental health and dismantle stigmas around critical issues. This conviction drives my pursuit of impactful engagement. Outside of my academic and volunteer work, I am an avid reader of books that offer unique perspectives, as I believe understanding different viewpoints is fundamental to personal and collective growth!



An Analysis of Sustained Utilization of Edmonton's Downtown Bike Grid (2015-2025)

This project evaluates the long-term use of Edmonton's downtown bike grid using ten years of ridership data (2015–2025).

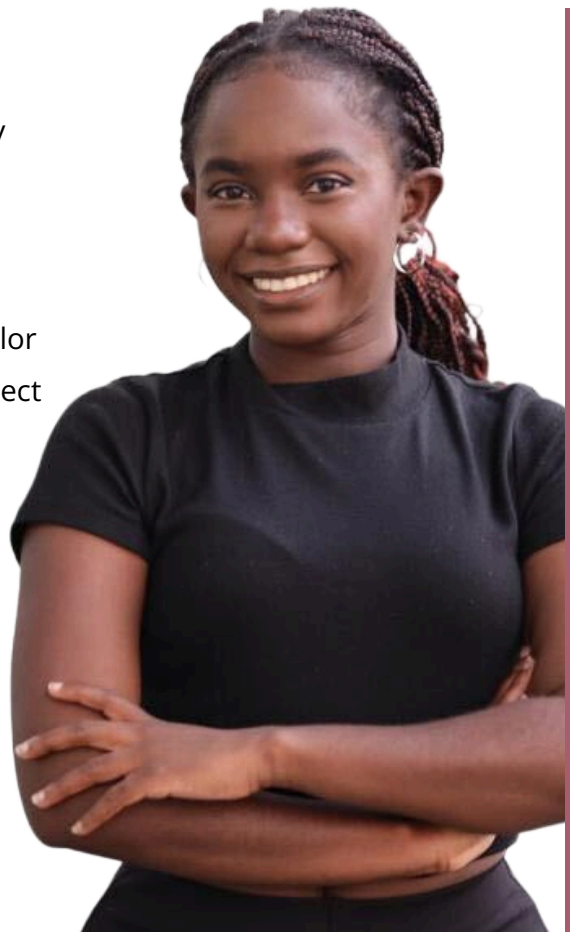
Findings show consistently high seasonal usage, strong recovery from temporary dips and steady year-round ridership - highlighting the grid's enduring role in supporting active, sustainable transportation.

About Esther

I am a passionate advocate for equity, policy transformation and sustainable urban development.

I am currently placed as an intern in Councillor Salvador's office, where she is leading a project focused on the sustained utilization of Edmonton's downtown bike grid.

With experience in local and global advocacy, I bring a systems-thinking approach to community engagement and policy change.





Community Taxation and Development

I'm looking forward to sharing some research I did on Edmonton and Calgary's taxation revenue, as well as my ongoing interest in the bylaw rezoning renewal that was discussed over the period of my internship through public hearings and committee evaluation.

I've been lucky to learn a lot about where Edmonton receives its funding from, how the City spends it, as well as how different perspectives can look at municipal issues through the varied lenses of community, sustainability and affordability.

About Madeline

My name is Madeline and I'm a recent graduate from the University of Alberta!

I've always had a big interest in government, and a lot of interest in housing and affordability. I've enjoyed learning about both through my work at City Hall.

In my spare time, I enjoy gardening, cooking and exploring downtown, especially when the festivals are brightening up Churchill Square!





Executive Leadership Team's Offices



Trades Sustainability Using the Global Network Of Learning Cities (GNLC) Principles

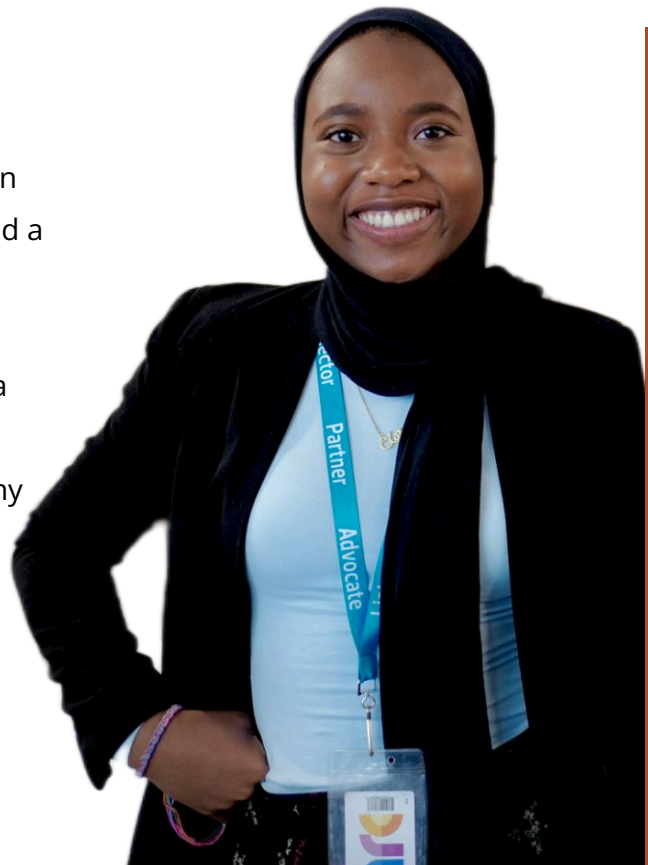
Job sectors, like the trades, are undergoing threats to their sustainability, often because they have an aging workforce and high vacancy rates that are not being replenished by youth. Through my research, I explored the topic of youth disengagement in the trades, especially because as of May 2025, those aged 15-24 years in Edmonton have an unemployment rate of 7.4%.

As a UNESCO Learning City, the City of Edmonton engages in many efforts to increase lifelong-learning and develop sustainably. I believe that much of those efforts could also serve to increase youth participation and enrollment in the trades!

About Afrah

I am an undergrad student at MacEwan University, with a Psychology Major and a Sociology Minor.

I'm an avid reader, painter and matcha enthusiast. I've almost always worked with youth, which is why - naturally - my final project had to explore an issue that impacts them (us) closely!



Inclusive Communications Guide

I created an inclusive communications guide for the communications team to better guide their practices around communicating with diverse and ethnic communities.

About Niyyah

My name is Niyyah and I am a Registered Social Worker.

I am passionate about helping others and giving back to my community in all the ways that I can.

I love to read, write and play basketball!





Rooted in the City

Throughout my Civic Youth Fellowship with the Urban Planning and Economy Department, I worked on four projects exploring how economic development in Edmonton can be more inclusive and equitable.

My work supported Actions 5 and 6 of the Industrial Investment Action Plan by helping to identify key community groups for future engagement, compiling programs and services that support inclusion in industrial development, and exploring global and local examples of economic reconciliation and investment attraction. This included contributing to the Why Edmonton project, which looks at what draws industrial investors to the city.

I've learned that building a truly inclusive city means honouring culture, nurturing connection and creating space where every community feels they belong.

About Nawaal

I'm a forever-curious, culture-loving creative who sees the city as one big design playground.

Being an intern gave me a window into how cities are built and how they can feel more like home for everyone!

I bring heart, fun and a human touch to everything I do because belonging should be built in, not added on.





Yassin Jama
Financial and Corporate Services

Edmonton

EPS Operating Budget Analysis

The project I worked on was a long-term analysis of the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) operating budget, compiling data spanning 35 years. It involved identifying historical funding trends, organizing key financial data and using that context to support understanding of the City's new EPS funding formula.

This work contributed to internal discussions about how population growth, inflation and fiscal constraints shape police funding in Edmonton.

About Yassin

I'm a driven and adaptable intern with a strong interest in public finance, policy and data-driven decision-making.

I take pride in approaching challenges analytically and contributing meaningfully to team objectives. My background includes experience with research, reporting and presenting insights that support organizational goals.

I'm always looking to learn, improve and take on responsibilities that push my capabilities further.





Omer Khan
City Manager and Chief of Staff's Offices

Edmonton

Safety in the City!

My project is all about looking at the perception of safety in Edmonton and how the City of Edmonton can help Edmontonians feel safer!

I also have a draft proposal for a bylaw amendment to prevent vape stores from being opened in close proximity to schools, modelling after the zoning restrictions for cannabis stores.

About Omer

I am an undergraduate student looking to gain experience in the world of public health and safety!

I am a 20-year-old, second generation Pakistani-Canadian who has a passion for building social communities for children. I am also passionate about re-shaping public health in places where it is not a priority.



Building Communities Through Partnership and Policy

During my fellowship with Community Services, I contributed to initiatives that enhanced the City's partnerships with non-profit and community organizations. My work involved supporting non-profits through policy, equitable programming, community safety efforts and creating a marketing guide for a community of practice. This was all aimed at supporting equity and strengthening connections across Edmonton.

My fellowship experience deepened my commitment to civic engagement, helped me build skills and enabled me to add my perspective to foster positive change within municipal governance.

About Yasmin

I am a Bachelor of Business Administration student at NAIT, specializing in management and marketing. Driven by my passion for equity, storytelling and community engagement, I have contributed to community infrastructure programs at PrairiesCan and developed marketing strategies for a local mental health organization. As the founder and project manager of the Nourishment Nook at the Glenrose Hospital, I lead a retail collective that supports local vendors and patient well-being - which earned me the Project Manager of the Year award from Enactus Canada.





Constructing Communities

During my time with the Integrated Infrastructure Services Department, I worked to build bridges between complex infrastructure projects and the public. My role involved a mix of digital and community engagement initiatives, from designing website wireframes that showcase key projects to crafting informative communication plans. I identified strategic communication gaps and worked to fill them through targeted media outreach.

Another focus of my time here was stakeholder relations, particularly for LRT projects. I collaborated directly with stakeholders on in-person business outreach, tracking engagement data and ensuring proactive communication to keep businesses informed about construction progress. The ultimate goal for these initiatives was to ensure Edmontonians stay informed and engaged in building our city's future.

About Lance

I am currently a third year Industrial Design student at the University of Alberta. I have a background in architectural and construction drafting.

My strong passion for all things building and infrastructure stems from a lifetime of experiences growing up across Edmonton. This background allows me to bring a unique, younger perspective to the table, helping to build a stronger future for our city.





Building Bridges: From Policy to Community Empowerment

During my 2025 Civic Youth Fellowship with the City of Edmonton, I spearheaded initiatives that championed equity and inclusion, directly impacting community services. My contributions were pivotal in the CRC Equity Plan, where I was instrumental in bridging the gap and bringing vital Indigenous voices to the forefront of policy development. I also played a key role in the 2SLGBTQIA+ Action Plan, ensuring its framework was enriched by diverse perspectives. Beyond policy, I actively fostered community through the Non-Profit Policy Development (NFP), crafting policies to empower local organizations. A highlight was hosting a special event for the Department Strategy Section (DSS), Communications and Engagement teams, a testament to my ability to unite diverse groups and cultivate strong team dynamics.

About Hinauri

I am a proud alumna of the 2025 Civic Youth Fellowship. I gained valuable experience in the Community Services Department. I contributed to initiatives focused on uplifting Indigenous communities, advocating for 2SLGBTQIA+ rights, supporting non-profit organizations through policy development and designing special events. My fellowship experience deepened my commitment to civic engagement and equity, as well as policy development. It provided me with strong, transferable skills as I pursue my goals of becoming a Canadian diplomat and serving as the International President of the Global Indigenous Youth Council (GIYC).

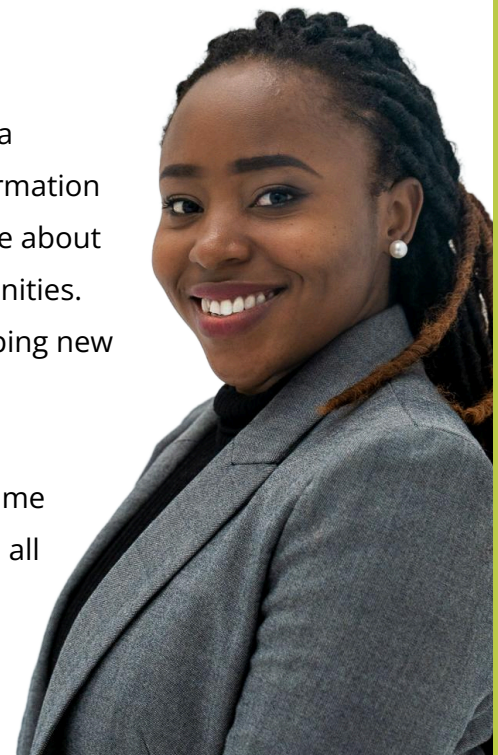


Best Practices for the Use of Generative AI in the Public Sector

I completed a literature review with relevant articles and resources about Indigenous workplace learning, career development and the employee experience. My findings were consolidated into a brief presentation providing insights, themes, gaps and recommendations into how Indigenous learning and career development can be supported at the City of Edmonton. I also completed research on the best practices for the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the recruitment and selection process, including improving efficiency at the City. I reviewed Canadian and global legislative trends on the use of AI in recruitment, with a focus on enhancing diversification and bias reduction. I consolidated my key findings, high-level insights and trends into a draft report, providing potential areas where AI could offer the most immediate impact to the recruitment process, alongside recommendations in line with best practices.

About Nwabuaku

I am a second year graduate student at Concordia University, studying for a Master's degree in Information Systems Assurance Management. I am passionate about continuous learning and embracing new opportunities. Although my foundation is in accounting, developing new skills and understanding the impact of emerging technologies, like generative AI, has opened my eyes to limitless possibilities. What motivates me is my commitment to making a positive impact in all that I do. When I'm not studying, I'm engaged in volunteering and connecting with people in different communities.





Jam Sanchez
City Manager and Chief of Staff's Offices

Edmonton

Filipino Community Gaps and Challenges Mapping, and Filipinos in Edmonton Guide

I created a mapping document that outlines the Filipino community's existing gaps and challenges, as identified in the 2023 Filipino Conversation Report. I illustrated their connection to the Corporate Anti-Racism Action Plan, as laid out by Administration, to address systemic racism within the city.

In addition, I created a brochure that contains information about the City's resources and services that can help Filipino newcomers, entrepreneurs and the general community. I connected with Filipino organizations to help disseminate the brochures within their network and spaces.

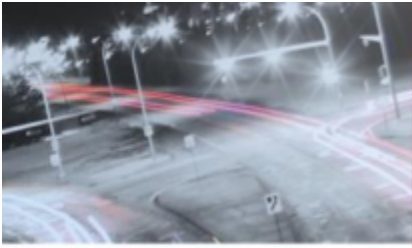
About Jam

My name is Jam. I graduated from King's University with a Politics-History-Economics Degree.

I'm a life-long learner and I strive to amplify underrepresented voices in our society.

In my free time, I love to cook, hike, camp and play basketball.





DATS and Community Outreach

My project is about collaboration, community outreach and DATS, and how they fit together.

About Lily

My name is Lily Semonis.

I am 22 years old and I love listening to music, reading books and hanging out with friends and family.



EFRS Reintegration Program Evaluation and Awareness

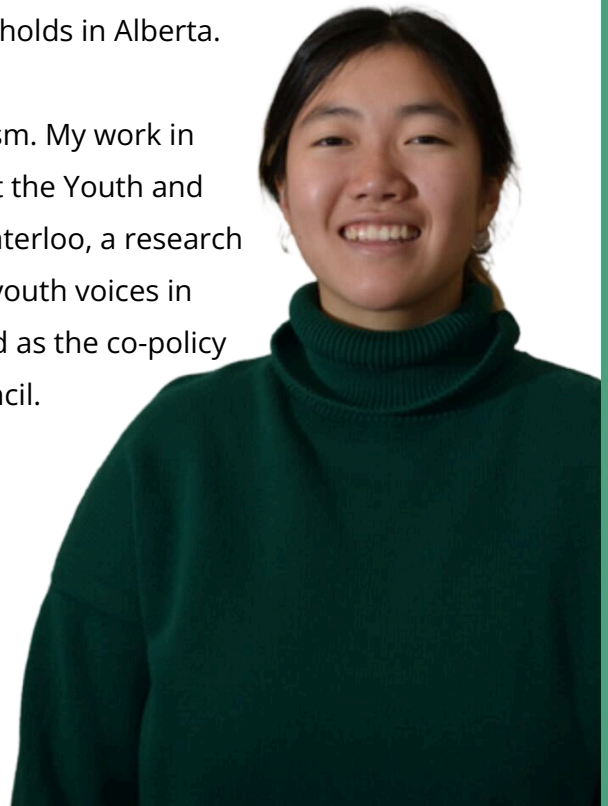
My project was an evaluation of the reintegration program at Edmonton Fire Rescue Services and its effectiveness on assisting firefighters in their return to work through a peer-facilitated exposure program. It also included supplementary materials to allow for a reintegration program specific to fire fighting across Canada and for its establishment in different provinces/cities. The main focus of my work was on the health and wellbeing of firefighters, highlighting the areas of growth that still need to be targeted within first-responder wellness programs as a whole.

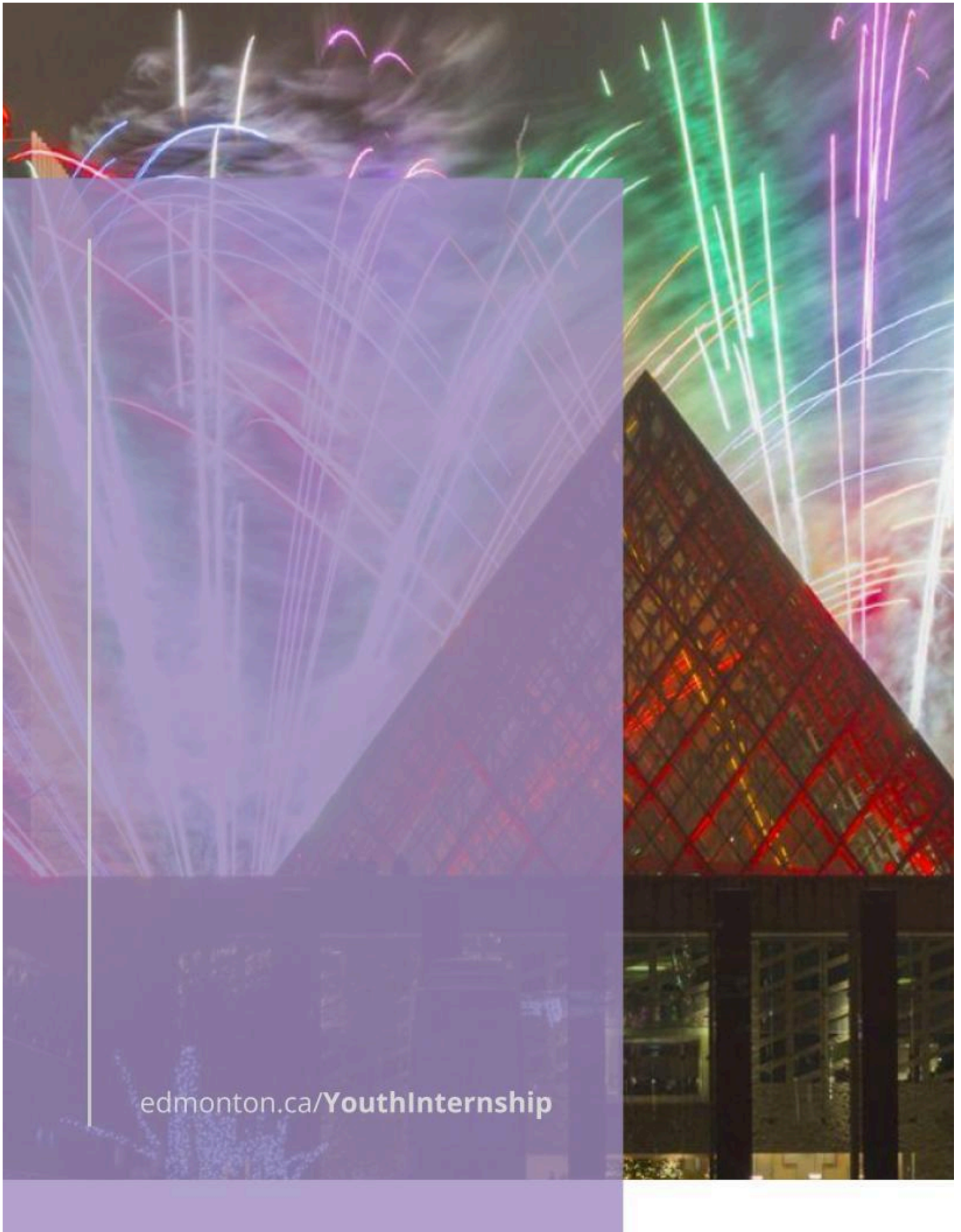
About Ellen

I am a neuroscience student at the UofA who hopes to go into medical policy in the future, specifically targeting the opioid crisis and the effects of addictions as well as lack of accessibility for low-income households in Alberta.

I am passionate about youth social activism. My work in youth change-making includes working at the Youth and Innovation Project at the University of Waterloo, a research group that focuses on the integration of youth voices in stakeholder conversations in Canada, and as the co-policy chair of the City of Edmonton Youth Council.

I am also someone who loves innovation. I work within the Faculty of Science at the Student Innovation Centre, the Shack (a physics-centred maker space) and for the STEAM focused non-profit Shad Canada.





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