



## CEYC Annual Report

This report provides highlights and key accomplishments of the City of Edmonton Youth Council (CEYC) during the past six months, September 2022 to March 2023. The City of Edmonton Youth Council provides information and advice to City Council concerning issues involving or affecting youth and educates and empowers youth to provide meaningful input and take action on local issues. The City of Edmonton Youth Council makes progress on their mandate by completing various strategic and collaborative projects on issues identified by youth.

The City of Edmonton Youth Council is a Council Advisory Committee comprised of 20 appointed community members (referred to as voting committee members or VCM) and approximately 90 youth at-large volunteers (YAL). The Youth Council provides opportunities for youth to volunteer and provide meaningful input to shape their city. It is supported by City Administration and appointed City Council Advisors- Councillor Salvador and Councillor Janz.

### 2022-2023 Highlights and Accomplishments

This term CEYC has 113 active volunteers who participate and lead Initiatives, sit on or chair subcommittees, and attend the monthly General Assembly (the general assembly is only mandatory for VCMs). The term runs from September 1, 2022- August 31, 2023. In January 2023, CEYC monthly General Assembly transitioned from online to a hybrid model in the Heritage room of City Hall and is live streamed on Youtube. Some subcommittee meetings and events are also held in person. The return to in-person has fostered greater connection and participation while maintaining the option to attend virtually to be accessible for members who cannot attend in person.

The co-chair model continues to be a success. CEYC comprises students with varying and sometimes shifting responsibilities including school, family, work, and life changes, including transitioning from high school to university. The shared and collaborative

approach to leadership improves the capacity and continuity of the work.

Currently, this model is implemented only in practice with the current CEYC policy requiring a chair and vice chair. Recommendations to move to a co-chair model will go forward in a bylaw amendment request later in the spring/summer.

Adrian Frost, the co-chair of the Internal Subcommittee, shares how this model is beneficial to the CEYC executive:

*From the beginning, the co-chair model helped facilitate a mutually beneficial and effective partnership with my other chair. Even ground allowed us to work nearly seamlessly on many projects while developing our leadership and subcommittee culture. I believe we've excelled in kickstarting the initiatives, the meeting schedule, and the one on one feedback with our committee members.*

## Term highlights:

- Completed, compiled, and presented the demographics survey and recommendations to the Office of the City Clerk
- Mental Health session hosted by the membership wellbeing team and attended by ~20 CEYC members
- In-person team-building events following the General Assembly
- Updated the CEYC presentation for schools and started in-person school visits
- Presentations at the General Assembly from The Warehouse Park Project Team and the District Planning and Zoning Bylaw Renewal Initiative
- Approximately 15 CEYC members attended a special budget information session held by Mayor Sohi, Councilor Janz, and Councilor Salvador
- Six committee members attended a Blanket Exercise hosted by WAVE and facilitated by the Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society.
- Active Instagram account, including a series of posts on Black History Month
- The Anti-racism committee has attended an Anti Racism Summit and has plans to attend one more. In addition, this sub-committee is meeting with the organizers of these anti-racism summits to discuss the possibility of hosting multiple focus groups.
- Retention has been good this term, with 18 of 20 VCMs staying on the Committee.

## Internal Subcommittee Highlights and Work

The Internal Subcommittee has four active initiatives.

Social Media: Working with communications experts to strengthen our ongoing media presence's consistency, continuity, and professionalism. Social media following on Instagram has grown by about 10% since the beginning of the term. Posts have included a book recommendation series, an International Women's Day post, a Black History Month series of posts and stories, and more. There are upcoming content creation workshops which will further develop skills for CEYC.

### Demographics

The CEYC creates surveys and questionnaires distributed amongst CEYC members, where results are analyzed and presented to create awareness and positive change. Three surveys have been conducted, which has impacted the school visits initiative to recruit members from schools across Edmonton to improve representation. There are further considerations in making specific surveys a part of the regular CEYC process (i.e. orientation and the CEYC Executive Summary). Timely responses to the survey have been a challenge and have delayed the work. More methods of putting the surveys in front of the members are being considered.

### Member Well-Being

This initiative intends to improve members' mental health and provide support. Our young team hosted renowned emotional well-being coach Rena Rachar to 20 of our members. This team has been excellent in their ability to adapt to circumstances and adapt on the fly.

### School Visits

Scheduled visits to junior and high schools across Edmonton allow the committee to present on the work of CEYC and recruit members. The first visit is confirmed, with several others in the planning stage. Members work hard to connect with schools, including cold calling and an email campaign. This initiative has gained traction in increasing exposure for the committee. There has been some difficulty finding availability from our members to present during school hours.

The Communications and Social Media aspects of the subcommittee are ramping up. There were some challenges in getting it started this year due to transitions between terms, team size, and delay in offering social media training. Steps have been taken to improve efficiency, including developing clear transition processes for the next term.

## Projects Subcommittee Highlights and Work

The Projects Subcommittee has five active initiatives we are working towards; the Clean Up Edmonton initiative, the STEM Training and Workshops initiative, the Urban Planning Info Clips initiative, the Youth Community Involvement webpage initiative and the Clothing Swap Style event. The Projects Subcommittee's goal is to empower youth with resources and create an environment where youth can positively impact their community through different initiatives. A specific focus has been on Youth Advocacy and Engagement and Community Development and Urban Planning. Projects as a sub-committee have continued to remain at a similar size to previous terms and have continued to increase engagement with external organizations and communities.

The Youth Community Involvement Webpage is currently the longest initiative within the subcommittee and has been running for the past three terms. The team aims to create an accessible, centralized web resource where youth can access scholarships, volunteering, and professional development opportunities. This initiative will help remove barriers and resource sharing.

The STEM workshop initiative provides more equitable opportunities for youth to participate and build upon skills from in-person workshops, training, and certification within the STEM fields. The team hopes to assist youth in exploring and navigating their professional spheres more confidently and positively while introducing a greater understanding of mental health issues.

The Urban Planning Info Clips initiative Educate is a series of video essays that inform youth and the general public about important urban planning and city-related topics. The team aims to give youth and fellow Edmontonians a fundamental and valuable understanding of the core concepts of urban planning. Through this, youth can have informed dialogue around key municipal issues and more easily participate in the discourse around issues that directly affect them.

The City Cleanup initiative is the Projects subcommittee's second repeating initiative. After its incredible success last term, we will host another city-wide cleanup event. The team aims to protect the lives of animals as we clean the environment, which will ultimately set an example for youth around the city to do the same and bring us one step closer to a greener and cleaner city.

## Policy Subcommittee Highlights and Work

The Policy Subcommittee currently has three active projects we are working towards. These are the Urban Planning Initiative on Public Transportation, the Anti-Racism Initiative and the Food Waste/Insecurity Initiative.

Engagement- Policy has engaged CEYC through the Food Insecurity Survey and will be further engaging the general public by publicizing our Food Insecurity Survey through the CEYC social media

Policy work-The Urban Planning Initiative has wrapped up data analysis from the 2021-2022 Urban Planning Initiative Survey. This sub-committee is working on its presentation and report for 2022-2023. The Food Insecurity Initiative is currently publicizing its Food Insecurity Survey by contacting schools, using social media, and working on community outreach with local organizations.

The Anti-racism sub-committee has attended an Anti Racism Summit and has plans to attend one more. In addition, this sub-committee is meeting with the organizers of these anti-racism summits to discuss the possibility of hosting multiple focus groups.

Engagement with the City of Edmonton- The Food Insecurity sub-committee has engaged with the city by contacting and creating relations with other organizations. The Anti-Racism Sub-Committee has engaged with the city by attending anti-racism summits and eventually by hosting focus groups.

## Ongoing projects and initiatives for the remainder of the term

- Media Production Skills workshop and content creation bees
- Data analysis workshop
- Diversity and Inclusion Training
- GBA+ Introduction workshop
- Strategic planning to create sustainability for reconciliation and relationship development with the Enoch First Nation Youth Council
- VCM recruitment, including a partnership with the Office of the City Clerks to host information sessions on how to apply and targeted outreach to underrepresented demographics and areas of the city
- Work to embed a demographic survey into the annual process of onboarding new VCMs and YAL

- Other events and engagements, including a STEM workshop and membership bonding events

## Challenges

Due to the demographics of CEYC, some challenges may differ from other advisory committees. For example, many members are in their final year of high school and busy with exams and applications to post-secondary institutions. Furthermore, most CEYC members are students with differing exam schedules between high school and post-secondary, which can cause challenges in timelines and reporting expectations. Recruitment also happened later this term, making aspects of onboarding and planning rushed. This has been addressed for next term and the Office of the City Clerk has worked to move recruitment earlier in the term, which will improve transition planning and onboarding of new members.

# CEYC Food Insecurity Survey 2023

The City of Edmonton Youth Council (CEYC) is an organization led and run by youth ages 13-24. We are governed under City Policy C575B and strive to represent the issues that impact youth most.

The purpose of this survey is to gather information on how food insecurity is impacting Edmontonians and how we, and the City Council, can better address your concerns.

Responses for this survey are completely anonymous, and not all questions are required to be answered.



(not shared) Switch account



\* Required

1. What is your age? \*

Your answer

2. Are you a parent/guardian? \*

Yes

No

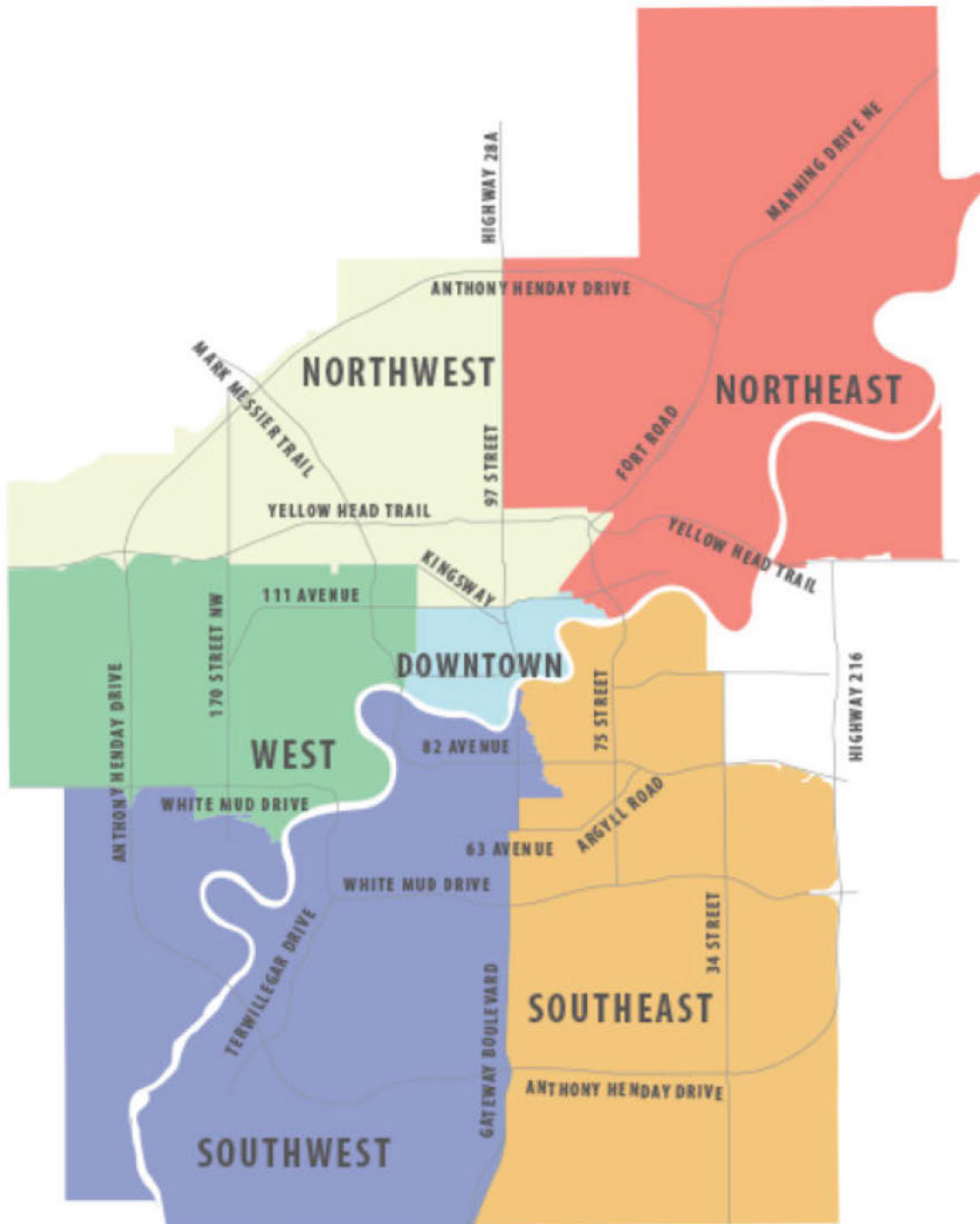
I prefer not to answer

3. If you are a student (whether in junior high, high school or university), which school do you attend?

Your answer



4 In which area of Edmonton do you currently reside? \*



- Northeast
- Northwest
- West
- Southwest





Southeast

Downtown

5. How many people live in your household? (Enter number)

Your answer

6. How many people in your household are currently employed?

Your answer

7. How often does your household gets groceries?

Everyday

Twice a week

Once a week

Once every two weeks

Other:



8. Compared to two years ago, to what extent has your food security changed? \*

No change

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Major change

9. If there was a change, was it an improvement, or has your situation declined? \*

Significantly improved

Slightly improved

No change

Slightly worsened

Significantly worsened



10. If there was a change in your level of food security over the last two years, which of the following played a role?

- Change in income
- Availability of nutritious food items in grocery stores
- Grocery store prices
- Change in family size
- Other:

11. Is there anything else you would like to indicate?

Your answer

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